



Not from the Pulpit: Mary Rossi



What a temptation – to sit and write a few hundred words of intellectual (even if its theological) twaddle. Then a voice says “Mary: from one Mary to another, for God’s sake just be honest”.

Yes, Mary Mackillop, I’ll try. We need you, here and now. Our church is in crisis, our priesthood bloodied by scandals, their parishioners seeking reassurance and guidance from those who are as confounded as we are.

Mary, you have suffered it all. Overcoming a fragile body, critical, even hostile fellow Catholics, and clergy. You stepped outside your narrow circle of friends, embraced members of other faiths. You challenged your church and its leaders to confront their own hypocrisy. Would we, at this critical period of our beloved church, have the same courage?

You are our first Australian Saint - and a Woman! In this age when women are still struggling to be heard, this is a joyous recognition. You had one driving motif : "Never see a need without doing something about it".

May we, men and women together, be inspired to do just that.

Parish Notices

Parish Council

Recently I took the decision to disband the Parish Council. All councillors came with good intent and worked hard but, sometimes, despite the best of intentions and efforts things go awry. The sum of the parts just wasn’t working well. After several resignations, including that of the chair, it was time for a fresh start.

Lay leadership will be an increasing feature of our Church, as it must. The journey will sometimes be complex and involve risks, but we will continue to push ahead. Over the coming months I will be taking time to discern what can be learnt and how to apply this in finding ways to empower lay ownership of our parish life.

To the Parish Councillors, and indeed all who work tirelessly within our Parish, I offer you many thanks for your contribution.

With blessings

Andrew Bullen



The Cardoner Project – Campus Mass

Sun 6 Aug at St Mary’s 6pm

The Parish welcomes the Cardoner Project to the Youth Mass. The team from Two Wolves Abroad will give a brief presentation after Mass followed by a BBQ in the RDC.



Charitable Works Fund Appeal – August 15/16

The second CWF appeal for 2017 is next weekend. The CWF is a centralized fund that supports charitable and pastoral programs that extend beyond the limits of any single parish. Your donation will go a long way towards fulfilling the CWF’s mission by providing services and support to people living with HIV/AIDS, physical and mental disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers, family and youth services, the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and others. Donations of \$2 or more are 100% tax deductible. Envelopes will be at the back of the church. We ask for your generous support of this appeal.

Bookending Australia's history

Andrew Hamilton SJ | 11 July 2017 | Reprinted from Eureka Street with permission



In manorial houses bookends were impressive in their own right, ready to bear the weight of expectation that was placed on their lords. The carvings, the shields and the embossing matched the conviction, embodied in the texts and documents housed between them that this was no ordinary house, the history held between the bookends no ordinary history.

Modern Australian history is bookended by the arrival of white settlers in which indigenous Australians were expelled to the margins, and by the arrival of people seeking protection who were themselves expelled to the margins on Manus island and Nauru.

Between these bookends lie the events, the people, the relationships, the enterprises and the experiences that compose the story of Australia. They include acts of courage and cowardice, wisdom and stupidity, selfishness and generosity, nobility and barbarism. There are incidents that evoke shame and others that arouse pride.

There is a history of sin and a history of grace, and both intermingle in the story of what has mattered to Australians over more than two centuries.

The bookends themselves, though, are a bit shonky: four-by-two off-cuts nailed together. Not ideal for supporting proudly the heft of the history that lies between them. They are flawed pillars that question the order and the seriousness of the history they hold together. They need fixing.

The arrival of the first fleet was a masterly feat of organisation and initiative, followed by all the hardships, hard work and muddle involved in building and sustaining a colony. But its foundations were the dispossession of the original inhabitants and the disruption of their lives and cultures.

The inevitable conflict of interest between the indigenous original inhabitants and the newcomers was seasoned by great acts of generosity on both sides, but was resolved in favour of the colonisers' interests. Violent resistance was crushed with overwhelming force and virtual impunity.

Eventually indigenous Australians won some protection at the cost of free movement on their ancestral lands and vulnerability to catastrophic policies based on racial ideology. The disproportionate number of incarcerated indigenous Australians is an emblem of this history. This bookend is made of wormwood. We Australians are still coming to terms with the consequences of invasion, settlement and exclusion of indigenous Australians. Among the descendants of the later arrivals is a will for reconciliation, but not if it costs.

Indigenous Australians desire recognition that they are the original Australians, but insist that it must be accompanied by measures that give them an assured voice in shaping the policies, laws and administrative regulations that affect their lives.

The first bookend leaves a double inheritance of the readiness to do what it takes in order to secure interests without respect for people who are in the way, and an uneasiness in the presence of indigenous Australians that the nation was built at such a cost to them and to their cultures.

The second bookend is the way in which we have dealt with people who have come to us seeking protection from persecution. It displays the same readiness to do what it takes to secure perceived interests, and to inflict suffering on some in order to deter others. No excess of cruelty, it has seemed, could sate the cry to be tough on asylum seekers. Manus Island is the emblem of this policy. Australians respond to it with the same ambivalence they feel before indigenous people, alternating between satisfaction that governments are doing what it takes and occasional shame when the whips and scars of the policy are seen close up. This bookend is made from the wood of the upas tree.

These two bookends need fixing because both involve a policy designed to advantage one group by treating another group brutally. This has corrupted Australian society and has had fatal consequences both for the persons affected and for the majority group.

In the case of indigenous Australians it left behind discriminatory regulations, denial of freedoms and mixed defensiveness and shame. In the case of people seeking protection it has left a legacy of depriving minority groups of the protection of law and a fractured sense of community. Left unaddressed these poisons can leach further into Australian society.

To address them will be difficult. The first thing is to attend to the story of our relationships to indigenous Australians and to refugees, not seeking condemnation or exoneration, but giving weight particularly to the human experience of the people who were participants and affected in this history. This will lead to apology, to reflection on how to make amends, and to the evolution of policies and administration that respect the humanity of those in Australia before our boats arrived and those who came by boat afterwards to seek protection. Then will our history be decently bookended.

Parish Notices (cont)

Catechist needed

Year 5 at Cammeray Public School is in desperate need, currently they are without a catechist. Please contact the Parish office if you can help on 8918 4101 or clairel@northsydney Catholics.com

Ecology Matters

'Guarding the Galilee' will be showing on Friday August 11th at the North Sydney Community Centre. More information on the Parish website: www.northsydneycentre.com.au/events

Parish Retreat 26 Aug – 23 Sept

The First Spiritual Exercises are a form of the Spiritual Exercises that is offered in four inner peace retreats. The first retreat (Inner Peace in Divine Love) is built around unconditional love of God. At its heart this retreat brings you into a lover's relationship with God, where each desires to give and receive from the other. Remembering the gifts you have been given from God, you are led into movements of gratitude and a desire to serve. Brochures are available at the back of the churches or on the Parish website: www.northsydney Catholics.com For more information: kay.hooper@bigpond.com. Bookings: www.trybooking.com/QVCZ



Media Release - Australian Bishops Conference

"Call for Australia to ensure safety of those seeking asylum in our region"

To view the full statement, go to the the parish website: www.northsydney Catholics.com

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

[Dn 7:9-10. 13-14](#)

The ancient one takes his throne.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 96:1-2. 5-6. 9. R. vv.1. 9.](#)

Second Reading

[2 Pt 1:16-19](#)

Peter tells of the glory of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

[Mt 17:5](#)

Gospel

[Mt 17:1-9](#)

The Transfiguration.

In Our Prayers

Baptisms

Elizabeth Hand, Clancy Hay, Marco Hocking, Remy Hocking, Walter Cook, Anouk de Nadjitein, Isobel Walsh, Josephine van Cappelle, Amir Pakdoost

Sick

Andrew Dyer, Sr Natalina Todeschini, Margaret McDonald, Frances Boyle, Brian McClosky, Craig Chase, Rosa Maria Santos, Vedran Simunovic, Rosa Pessaro, Bruce Horsfield, Juliana Siow, Veronica Johnson, Tony Breslin, John Goldrick, Kitty O'Connor, Gavin O'Connor, Barry Collis

Recently Deceased

Bill Peatey, Lalla (Billie) Pearman, Judith Coates, John Lynch, Florence Joyce O'Neill, Fr Kevin Penry SJ- 24 July 2017, Aged 84, Carmel Anderson, Eileen O'Hare, Cate O'Beirne- 25 July, Geelong, Carmel Anderson, Terence Tang (SAC 1986),

Anniversaries

Terence (Terry) Curtis, Anna Frith, Cecil Smith SJ, John Ramsay SJ, Kevin Cavanagh, Michael Meagher, Kevin Larkin