

Life is a gift from God we develop a culture of developing love and care. An act of passion for us for the most needy, every one who has innate dignity.

The early Sisters built the hospital with nothing but passion to love. Today's staff continue their Mission. You can 'do a job' but it is much harder to be with and sit with another. It is a powerful ministry and a powerful message. It is also reliant upon a community of support. Many volunteer their time and money. "We are your hospital – here to care for you, volunteers who come and support, the Catholic community of Sydney support the mission of St Vincent's Hospital."

Past Friends President Garry O'Meally moved a vote of thanks, referring to the roles, models and heroes of the past who inspire us today.

**Pauline Garland**

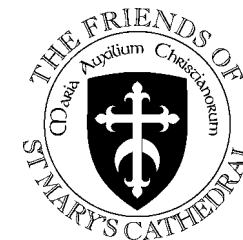


**The Friends of St Mary's Cathedral Incorporated**  
St Mary's Road, Sydney NSW 2000  
Tel: 9220 0400



# NEWSLETTER

**AUGUST 2009**



**St Mary's Cathedral**  
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# Dean's Report

Dear Friends of St Mary's Cathedral,

2009 is quietly slipping by and it will seem no time that Christmas is upon us bringing all the richness and activity this season adds to the musical and liturgical life of the Cathedral.

The work of conservation and restoration of the Cathedral is ongoing and its continuance is largely due to the generosity of our many benefactors, without which many of the projects would not have been attempted, let alone brought to desired conclusion. Much needed restoration work to the roof of the Cathedral is now underway following on our latest appeal.

Because of the generosity of Ms June Baker, a statue of the Virgin and Child which graced the facade of the Old St Mary's Cathedral that survived the fire in 1865 has been returned and restored. This statue was executed by Dom Eugene Gourbeillon OSB (1814-1895), a French Benedictine Priest and sculptor then stationed in Sydney, and from 1912 stood for eighty years in the garden of a Point Piper home. It now stands by the north-west walkway outside the Cathedral.

On Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> August I was delighted to attend the Annual Luncheon of the Friends of St Mary's Cathedral at Parliament House and to meet up with old acquaintances. I am very grateful to the Friends for their support and encouragement in the pastoral work and wider ministry of the Cathedral. It is my sincere hope that the circle of Friends will continue to grow and prosper.

**Paul Hilder**

✦ **Save the Date!** Friends Annual Mass & AGM is **November 16<sup>th</sup>**



Mr Hales spoke on the theme 'How we do it? Who are we? and Why are we here?' He spoke of care that is motivated by love when people are the most vulnerable in life.

What is it like when someone walks through our door? Our distinctive Catholic charism is not foremost to heal but a desire to bring comfort and give a reason to hope. In this is the Christian vocation. Hope is central to that.

Mr Hales also spoke of the profound moment of walking the journey with people. "What makes our health care different is we have a passion for caring about patients. This is what makes it distinctive and different - when a patient feels more loved as a result of the experience." What is Catholic? The commandment to love defines a Catholic.

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### **Mark Hales' speech to the Friends at Parliament House**

This year the Friends were welcomed by Parliamentary Host Greg Donnelly MLC. He gave an address of welcome referring to the recent encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI on the principle of love in truth. Where we desire the person's good while also the good of all of us, this is where the good of social community well being is sought. The culture of the city of Sydney, he said, is very much influenced by St Mary's Cathedral and the Friends have a role to play in educating and informing others in these matters.

The guest speaker was Mark Hales from St Vincent's and Mater Health. Catholic Health, he said, is influenced by the vision of the Sisters of Charity and Mercy at Mater.

### **President's Report**

You will now be aware that the Flower Festival Committee has joined with the committee of The Friends of St Mary's Cathedral, bringing with them experience, energy and a deep commitment to the Cathedral and its activities. On behalf of The Friends I extend a warm welcome to the members of the Flower Festival. We have already held our first committee meeting under the new arrangements and the benefit of bringing the two committees together became immediately apparent.

The Annual Luncheon at Parliament House was a great success. Our guest speaker Mark Hale, Director of Mission at St Vincent's Hospital, delivered a powerful and impressive speech that focused not only on providing the most up-to-date, state of the art healthcare but just as importantly their mission to bring the healing and loving ministry of Christ to all they serve. It was a remarkable speech. A speech that gave those attending, pride in our religion and the continuing mission of Christianity.

Can I remind you that seats are still available on The Friends bus trip to St Mary's Towers at the Retreat Centre at Douglas Park to be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September. We have booked a 48 seat coach that will depart St Mary's Cathedral at 9.30am, driving straight to St Mary's Towers for lunch and a tour of the centre, returning to St Mary's Cathedral by 5pm. The charge for the day, including the coach charter and lunch is only \$50. We look forward to you joining us on what promises to be a very pleasant day.

**Michael Douglas**



## The Next Generation

'Embrace', the young adults group at St Mary's Cathedral, has been participating actively in the life of the parish for a few years now. The group consists of young adults from all over the world, aged between 18 to 35 years.

Members of Embrace have been serving our parish as ushers, altar servers and readers. They have previously assisted with festivals at the Cathedral and produce the annual 'Way of the Cross' on Good Fridays at Hyde Park. Last year they formed the St Mary's Cathedral Youth Choir who sings at the youth Mass on Sundays.

Outside of the parish, Embrace assists St Vincent de Paul Society with pastoral activities such as Night Patrol and has partnership with Little Sisters of the Poor retirement village for care of the elderly.

Early last year some of the youth have taken up the role of St Mary's Cathedral Tour Guides. The tour of our magnificent and historical Cathedral has been an old tradition. Unfortunately, the recent refurbishments of the site interrupted the tours and the activity was suspended for some time. We now look forward to the continuation of this tradition by the youth.

**Marcella Yudo**

