

ST CLEMENT OF ROME PARISH

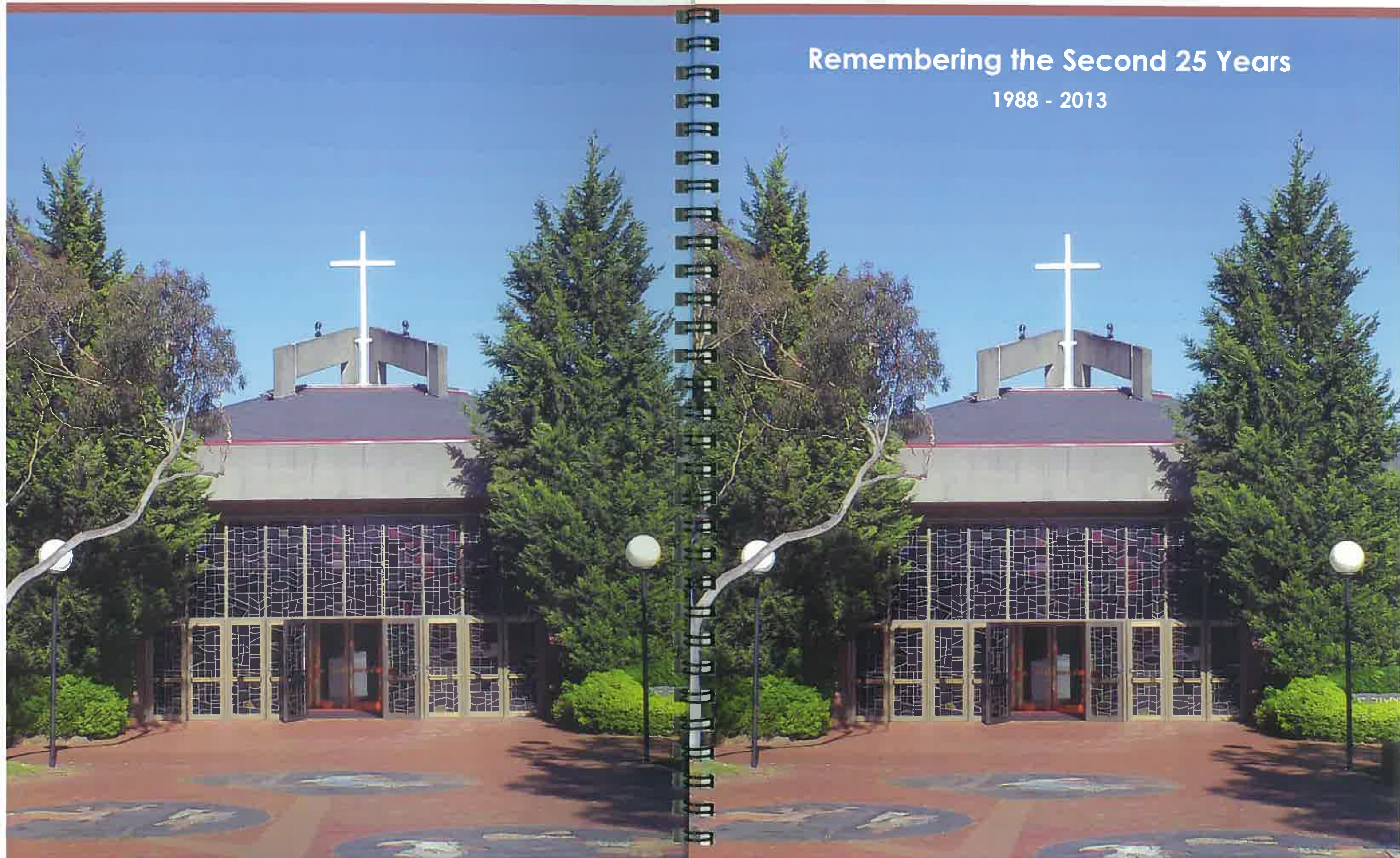


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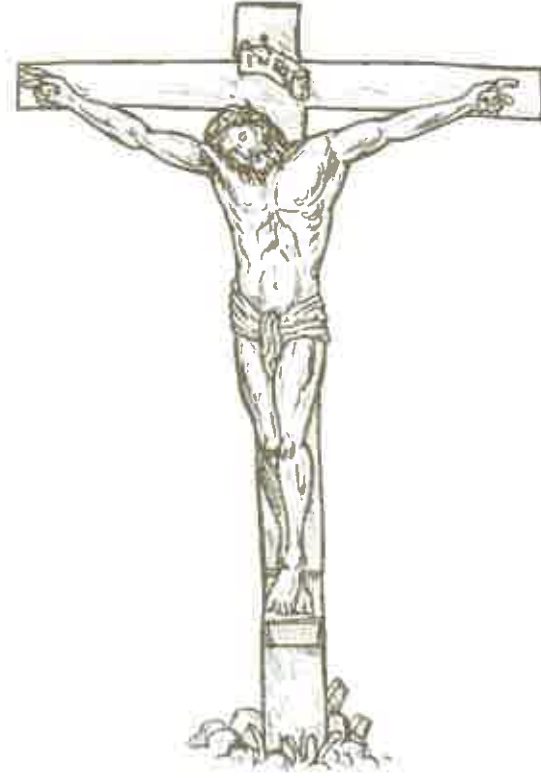
Remembering the Second 25 Years

1988 - 2013



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Parish Creed

At St Clement's we believe that we should love one another as Jesus taught us.

We believe that God has given us many gifts and talents to share with each other.

We believe Jesus shows His love for us through our friends and our family by our sharing, talking, celebrating, forgiving and loving.

We believe that we are called to be a reconciling people.

We believe we should always be looking for the best in people and that we should be able to understand and forgive our own mistakes and the mistakes of others.

We believe that when we come together to celebrate the Eucharist we confirm our commitment to our faith community.

We believe that we come together as one to celebrate our many different cultures and beliefs.

We acknowledge and respect the people that make up our multicultural community.

We believe we have a responsibility to spread Jesus' good news of compassion, tolerance and respect for all the people in our lives.

July 2014

Parish Priests, Assistant Parish Priests, Italian Pastors and School Principals

Time Line	Parish Priest	Assistant	Italian Priest	School Principal
1984	Fr Len Egan			Tony Carroll
1985	Mons A Rebeschini (Jan >)			Tony Carroll
1988	Mons A Rebeschini			Tony Carroll
1989	Mons A Rebeschini (>Apr)		Fr Anthony Fregolent	Mary Penny
1990	Jim Briglia (Apr >)		Fr Bruno Morotti	Mary Penny
1991	Jim Briglia		Fr Luciano Ferracin	Mary Penny
1992	Jim Briglia		Fr Mario Sambiase	Mary Penny
1993	Jim Briglia (> May) / Bren Donohue (Jun >)	Brian Quin (Nov >)	Fr Luigi Sabbadin	Mary Penny
1994	Bren Donohue	Brian Quin		Mary Penny
1995	Bren Donohue	Brian Quin		Mary Penny
1996	Bren Donohue	Brian Quin		Mary Penny
1997	Bren Donohue	Brian Quin		Mary Penny
1998	Bren Donohue	Brendan Reed (Jan >)		Mary Penny
1999	Bren Donohue	Brendan Reed		Annette Broadfoot
2000	Bren Donohue	Brendan Reed		Annette Broadfoot
2001	Bren Donohue	Brendan Reed		Annette Broadfoot
2002	Bren Donohue	Brendan Reed		Annette Broadfoot
2003	Bren Donohue	Brendan Reed		Annette Broadfoot
2004	Bren Donohue	Brendan Reed		Annette Broadfoot
2005	Bren Donohue	Brendan Reed		Annette Broadfoot
2006	Bren Donohue	Brendan Reed (> Jun)		Annette Broadfoot
2007	Bren Donohue	Brendan Reed (> Jun)		Annette Broadfoot
2008	Bren Donohue (> Aug) / Fr Greg Reynolds (Aug >)			Annette Broadfoot
2009	Fr Wahid Riad (Jan >)		Fr Vito Pegolo	Annette Broadfoot
2010	Fr Wahid Riad			Chris Atley (Acting)
2011	Fr Wahid Riad			Chris Atley (Acting)
2012	Fr Wahid Riad			Michael Heenan
2013	Fr Wahid Riad	Fr Paul Newton (Aug-Dec) Priest in Residence		Michael Heenan

Chapter 1

1988 to 2013 - A Church in a Changing Society

Recognising the traditional owners of the land

Eddie Koiki Mabo (c 29 June 1936 – 21 January 1992) was an Australian man from the Torres Strait Islands known for his role in campaigning for Indigenous land rights and for his role in a landmark decision of the High Court of Australia which over turned the legal doctrine of *terra nullius*, "land belonging to nothing, no one", which characterised Australian law with regards to land and title. The High Court's decision reinforced the status of Australia's first citizens and their ownership of the land on which we live.

It is now accepted custom to recognise the Traditional Owners of the land where a building is situated. Bulleen is within the area where the Wurundjeri people, who are members of the Kulin Nation lived.

The St Vincent de Paul Society uses the following prayer at its meetings:

We pray that the St. Vincent de Paul Society may be a place to which the first peoples of Australia are welcomed and deeply respected. May the elders past and present be blessed and honoured. May the sacred land be always etched into our hearts and our history. We recognise the past and present with both sadness and hope. With your help we look forward to finding a future together based on justice, faith and respect. May all of us strive to listen and learn from each other as we walk together in a spirit of faith and reconciliation.

Society continues to change

From this writer's point of view the biggest societal change over the last 25 years has been the development of the Internet. Radio, telephone and television have converged. Government has imposed the digital era. Desktop computers have been miniaturised and Apple products have become a 'must have' fashion item while Bill Gates' Microsoft has continued to maintain ground in the software arena. We can be connected to each other and around the world 24/7 if we choose. It is hard to believe that the latest iPhone 5 has more computing and connectivity power than computers of a decade ago.

So what else has changed?

- On September 11, 2001 we saw the horror of the New York twin towers being destroyed. The World was introduced to global terrorism.
- Australian Armed Forces had been present in Afghanistan since 2000 and they were to be withdrawn by the end of 2013. Australian Armed Forces did not even spend that length of time in Vietnam.
- Islamic extremists, rightly or wrongly, have been blamed for generating the global terrorism and we have witnessed the relentless 'rise' of Islam worldwide.
- 36-year-old Diana, Princess of Wales (nee Spencer), died in a car crash on August 31st, 1997. Her wedding to the Prince of Wales on July 29th 1981 was held at St Paul's Cathedral and seen by a global television audience of over 750 million. Diana was the mother of princes William and Harry, who are respectively second and third in the line of succession to the British throne. Throughout her lifetime, Diana's life was a 'golden time' for British royalty.
- Holden and Ford sales/production have continued to plummet. Sales are now one quarter of what they were 25 years ago. This year Ford announced that as of 2015 it would not be producing cars in Australia.
- Motorists are buying smaller, fuel-efficient, safety oriented four cylinder cars and the sport utility vehicle (SUV) is now the vehicle of choice.
- Although more young people are completing Year 12, unemployment rates for the 20-25 year age group continue to climb.

- Governments are elected and then rejected by the population. Bulleen has been stable with it's representatives – with Mr Kevin Andrews, MP representing the Liberal Party for the federal seat of Menzies for the last 22 years. The current member for Bulleen Mr Nick Kotsiris, MHR succeeded David Perrin who served from 1985 to 1999.
- Australian cricket enjoyed a 'golden era' during the 1990s and early 2000. Though in 2014 they won the Ashes... again!
- The VFL became the AFL in 1990 and the AFL has pursued a national competition with at least one club situated in every State capital except Hobart.
- The Australian tennis open commenced in 1905. The Australian Open typically has very high attendance, second only to the US Open. It was also the first Grand Slam tournament to feature indoor play during wet weather or extreme heat with its two primary courts, the Rod Laver Arena and Hisense Arena, equipped with retractable roofs.
- In 2000 Sydney hosted the Olympic Games.
- In 2006 Melbourne hosted the Commonwealth Games.

Much closer to home...

- At the Local Government level the City of Doncaster and Templestowe was amalgamated with part of Wonga Park to become the City of Manningham in 1995.
 - According to 2011 Census the population of Bulleen is 10,868.
 - The average age of the Bulleen population is 43 years, 6 years above the Australian average.
 - 57% of people living in Bulleen were born in Australia, Italy 8.8%, China 5.8%, Greece 4.5%, Malaysia 1.9%, and Vietnam 1.6%.
 - 49.1% of people speak English as their first language, 12.9% Italian, 9.9% Greek, 6.1% Cantonese, 5.9% Mandarin, 1.8% Arabic.
 - The religious make up of Bulleen is 38.4% Catholic, 17.9% No Religion, 14.2% Eastern Orthodox, 5.9% Anglican, 4.5% Buddhism.
 - 58.4% of people are married, 27.5% have never married and 5.4% are divorced.
- Bulleen Shopping Centre became Bulleen Plaza and remains the major retail centre for Bulleen.
- Many houses built 40 or 50 years ago are being renovated or knocked down to be replaced by much larger houses.
- Manningham, like many local governments is pursuing a policy of higher density living closer to community centres. Doncaster Hill is becoming a reality. New unit developments are catering for smaller households and people choosing to live alone.
- Manningham and Thompsons roads are still major thoroughfares but Bulleen Road has continued to carry heavy trucks wanting to move between the Northern Ring road (that stops at Greensborough) to the Eastern Freeway. Eastlink opened in June 2008, extending the Eastern Freeway from Springvale Road to Frankston and beyond to the Mornington Peninsula.

What's been happening at St Clement of Rome...

- Life went on and the community grew older. Our children moved out, the community became one of 'empty nesters'.
- The Liturgy Group continued to provide faithful service for special events. The Bereavement Group supported the Parish Priest and grieving families simply by being there.
- The Italian community regularly came together, not only for Mass, but also for social events at the Veneto Club and as the Italian Catholic Federation in the Clifton Centre.

- A succession of pastoral associates – Trudy Deluise, Susie Adams, Franca Waters and more recently Cecilia Tan have worked with the various Parish Priests to enrich the pastoral life of the Parish.
- The Parish has always had an Office Secretary. Kerri Marett succeeded Maureen Clifton and Bernadine De Silva is currently filling that role.
- Mass times changed to include a Saturday Vigil.
- The 8am Mass was dropped, the 9:30am Mass was moved to 9am, the 11am became the Italian Mass and now we also have a 5:30pm Mass on Sunday afternoon.
- In the late 1990s Fr Bren decided to build the Piazza. The eventual layout incorporated the artistic and beautiful murals designed by Des White. Donations from sponsors, the Manningham City Council and families who bought a brick realised the \$80,000 to construct the Piazza. The result is the Parish asset that we have today.
- In the early 2000s the Manningham City Council decided against all it's policies to name the road beside the Church and school as Egan Drive. The council had never named a road, building or place after a person still living until that time.
- Around the mid 2000s Farther Bren proposed a substantial renovation to the Church but it was not pursued.
- In July 2001 the Parish subdivided approximately one hectare of land bordering Manningham Road. The sale raised \$2.57m of which \$1.2m went to the school to relocate to the south side of the Church. The balance was retained by the Parish (excluding a generous donation to the Archdiocese) and was eventually used for the 2010/11 refurbishment.
- The Parish Council has been the responsibility of the Parish Priest. Some Councils have been more successful than others, but generally speaking Parish Council members who've been consulted have felt that the Priest would do what he wanted to in spite of his Council. Perhaps Parish Priests could have an autocratic style of leadership?

Various parishioners have said that the early community vitality that existed at St Clement of Rome appears to be slowly diminishing. Certainly the people who were here at the time of the Parish was established are now fifty years older and are less active participants in parish life. They have seen their own children, the younger generation move out and new families move in. The general (anecdotal) observation is that parishioners don't have great memories – could that be because they've grown older or the relationship with the current Priest is different to the relationship they had with previous priests?



Chapter 2 Reflections Fr Bren Donohue, Pastor Emeritus

The History of St Clement of Rome: the Second 25 years

Worship

Separate Masses in English and Italian languages were continued. On special occasions and important feasts Masses combining both languages were introduced, not the repetition of texts in each language but the texts shared between both languages.

School class participation in Sunday Masses was introduced. They were planned and managed by parents and overseen by the Religious Education Co ordinator and the Parish Pastoral Associate.

Whole school Liturgies celebrated major feasts and seasons.

For the Junior Grades, Class liturgies based on Scripture and related stories established prayer as a normal part of life and learning. The Christian understanding of God and the importance of metaphor and symbolism rubbed off on them. For these students a Catholic imagination and therefore Catholic identity was in the making.

Community

As Mary Penny's successor, Annette Broadfoot was appointed School Principal in 1995. Annette accepted the brief to promote solidarity between the Parish and the Parish School, to take steps to support the numerous and joint activities which celebrate community. With this in mind she made imaginative and practical contributions to the Parish Leadership Team, and their programs. She and her husband Gerard became identified as parishioners.

Stewardship

The original school was built and opened in 1962 and subsequently extended in a piecemeal manner required extensive redevelopment keeping in mind contemporary learning needs. It soon became clear we could not afford what was required. We were at wits end. The deputy principal suggested we could raise sufficient funds by selling some of the playground along Manningham Road. The architects, Architectus were engaged and we went ahead with their concept, which involved the demolition of most of the old school. The three remaining classrooms of the old school were to be used for the before and after school Programme and as a St Vincent de Paul Conference storeroom. The very first step in the project was to find a place for priests to live. Providentially the house in Summit Drive became available. The former presbytery became the School Administration. The remodeling of the former presbytery for school Administration and 65 Summit Drive for a priest residence was an integral part of the overall plan effected by Architectus. The need of the whole parish was kept in mind and the Maureen Clifton Centre (named after the much-loved Parish secretary was conceived for both Parish and Parish School use). In the first drawings the Centre was to be located on the South side of the church.

Use of the vacant and sloping land on the East side of the relatively new Junior School (1985) for the new classrooms, library, parish centre and courtyard enabled the whole project to take place. All visitors to the parish liked the village feel of the site.

Adult Formation

The Leadership Team (comprising School and Parish personnel) conducted Open Forums. Some of the topics discussed were Marriage and Marriage Preparation, The Sacraments of Initiation, Scripture, Faith and Secular Society. One practical decision, which arose from the Forums, was to make more use of Scripture to determine the spirit and shape the conversation of parish meetings. GodStart and the RCIA were given impetus by the Forums.

Each year the School selected a clear Scriptural theme for each level. It was part of a plan to return to the sources of Catholic Christian faith. The emphasis on Scripture arose from Fr Frank O'Loughlin's Forum talk on the re-grounding of faith required by living in a secular society.

Parish Life and Identity was enhanced by its membership of the Yarra Deanery. Deaneries were introduced by Archbishop Little mid 1990 to initiate and facilitate the sharing of pastoral resources between several parishes (13 in the Yarra Deanery). Trudy Deluise was the first Deanery Coordinator, Susie Adams succeeded her and after her Charles Belnaves. Several opportunities for Adult Faith Formation were created by the Deanery. Talks and events introduced us to the customs, rights and plights of the Aboriginal people: the Deanery Walk was an enlightening event. The Review of Parish Leadership begun in 1993 and conducted by the Deaneries was a huge endeavor. With the steady decline of priests its findings remain useful. Perhaps that kind of research is now conducted by the Offices of the Bishops' Information Commission of the Australian Catholic University.

The Sydney inspired SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB promoted by the Deanery and held at the Veneto Club, was an important additional adult formation opportunity.

Concurrent with this reaching beyond the borders of parishes for pastoral purposes, people became more mobile and were able to choose what Parish they went to for Sunday Mass. They chose on the basis of the welcome they received, the quality of the sermon and singing, a sense of belonging and engagement in society.

Works like Hospitality Group (Barbara Smith) and Refugee Support (Pat McInerney) became part of the essence of being a parish.

Chapter 3 Reflections and Memories

I was at Bulleen from 1998-2006. During that time I was officially a 'priest in residence' while I was working full time at the Catholic Education Office, Melbourne. Bulleen was my residence and Fr Bren and the parish were extremely hospitable to me during those years. I did manage to find time to be part of the Parish Liturgy Group, the RCIA and the Parish Leadership Team. They were good years.

Rev Brendan J Reed

Parish Priest
The Parishes of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Deepdene and All Hallows, Balwyn



I was appointed to St Clement of Rome, Bulleen in January 1978 and stayed there for four years, which was a little unusual as curates seemed to only last a year or so at that time.

I do remember First Communions with families as people had the option of having a Family Mass or being in a larger group. As I remember it most opted for a family group.

Michael Elligate

Parish Priest
St Carthages, Parkville



Chapter 4 Reflections

Fr Wahid Riad, Parish Priest

Congratulations St Clement of Rome Parish community on your Golden Jubilee – 1963 - 2013. The 50th Anniversary of the Parish! What a change for the whole area of Bulleen over the last 50 years. The Bulleen area has gone from orchards to a booming city. Fr John Spillane was the pioneering priest for the area with Fr John Fraser being the first Parish Priest of St Clement of Rome – a brand new Parish, arriving in 1963. I am grateful to all the Parish Priests and Assistant Priests who have served the Parish over the last 50 years. Each contributed in his own way and applied his personal gifts to Parish life. Many of those Priests who served at St Clement of Rome have since died and we fondly remember them, especially Fr Len Egan – whose funeral was at St Clement of Rome in 2013.

To the Priests who are still alive we thank them for their great contributions to the Parish. Not forgetting, of course, the wonderful contribution of the Scalabrinian Fathers, especially Fr Vito Pegolo, and all the others who have blessed us over the years. We give thanks to God for their dedication and holiness. I had the privilege of attending the 1966 St Clement of Rome Graduation Reunion last Sunday, the 20th October 2013, with Sister Mary Stainsby, RSM, (Sr Marquita). Coming back with our own first Grade 6 graduates from the school, most them attending – what a wonderful group of people and fine young citizens. Our great school of St Clement of Rome and all our principals and teachers have been a blessing for the Parish over the years.

Personally speaking, I have been at St Clement of Rome for nearly five years after being at St Augustine's Church in the City for twelve years. It was a big change for me as well as the parishioners of St Clement of Rome. From Inner Melbourne to suburban Bulleen with a school attached and parishioners living in the area. *Plenty of fresh air! What a change!!* From a full on charismatic Church with great music ministry and young people clapping and singing aloud and praying in tongues and full of the fire of the Holy Spirit to a more gentle and mature people in church at Bulleen. I did a lot of weddings at St Augustine's, being a bluestone church in Bourke Street, Melbourne to St Clement of Rome Church where not many weddings took place due to the age of the Parish congregation and choice for buildings. It was not easy leaving St Augustine's with plenty of tears at the last farewell Mass there, but I was ready for the next chapter of my life.

I arrived at St Clement in January 2009 – *full of great expectations!!* Fr Bren Donohue had been the Parish Priest before me – but had retired a few months earlier. My first impressions of St Clement of Rome, was: what a lovely Church and facilities, especially the Clifton Centre, Piazza, and what a lovely school with Annette Broadfoot as Principal with her wonderful teaching team. People were very welcoming and happy to have a Parish Priest at last. After celebrating the first few Masses at St Clement of Rome I was wondering where all the Parish youth and children of the school were. I wanted to bring some passion, enthusiasm and joy into the liturgy to attract the youth and all the children. It has been challenging to say the least.

In my first year at St Clement of Rome I started visiting every home in the Parish that was a great experience for the people and me. I could not sustain and continue this contact, as I got very busy in the life of the Parish. Ever since I came to Bulleen I wanted to gather everybody back to the Parish of St Clement of Rome – those who have gone to other parishes around the area and those who have stopped going to Mass. I love the people of Bulleen and I want them to be happy and blessed. I do not want anyone to be lost in this life or eternity. I desire with all my heart that everyone would put God first in their lives and worship Him and thank Him and praise Him and gather together every Sunday as the special family of St Clement of Rome, Bulleen. I love the children of St Clement of Rome school and I know they love me too. How I wish their parents would bring them to Church regularly to be protected and blessed, always. During the last five years I had the privilege to refurbish the St Clement of Rome Church to make it more beautiful and attractive for worship. The lovely gymnasium was also built during this time – courtesy of the then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd's special projects for the community. The appointment of Mr Michael Heenan as the new School Principal of St Clement of Rome School and the process of selection was a great highlight. The introduction of the 5.30pm Sunday evening Mass for the youth and children has been a great blessing with more to come.

I am very proud of St Clement of Rome, Bulleen and pray that the next 50 years will build on the last 50. Congratulations St Clement of Rome Parish, Bulleen, on your Golden Jubilee and every Blessing for the future.

Chapter 5 The School and Parish Centre Building History

Theo Eversteyn and Chris Attley, Deputy Principal, St Clement of Rome Primary School

July 2001-March 2003

It became clear in the late 1990s that the classrooms and all associated buildings at St Clement of Rome needed some major work done to bring them into the 21st century. The classrooms which had been built in the 1960s were outdated and in need of updating. The question was how to make this transition keeping in mind both our educational vision and financial constraints.

The principal at the time was Annette Broadfoot. It was her deputy principal, Brendan Chadwick who asked the question: "What if we sold the land at the front?" It was a watershed moment. To imagine that the parish land could be sold was a very innovative idea. Liaising with Roman Catholic Trust, the Diocesan Building Advisory Service (DBAS) in conjunction with the project architects was something of a coup and new, untested lines of communication had to be brokered.

The frontage of the school, at this time, was on Manningham Road and it was this portion of land, which sold successfully on July 11th 2001 for \$2,570,000. From these funds the parish made a very generous contribution of \$1.2 million. This money together with a number of loans enabled a building program that was to last two years. Architectus led by John Wood won the contract with builders Contract Control. With his team of professionals and the extraordinary cooperation of the entire school and parish community, the amazing transformation was made possible. The parish/school building committee, which followed the project through, was Fr Bren Donohue, Mr Theo Eversteyn, Ms Annette Broadfoot and Ms Chris Attley

The staged, extensive building program for the school and parish community commenced in 2001. For the Parish, the program meant that the presbytery was converted to the school's new administration building and the presbytery moved to a newly renovated site on Summit Drive. The well-situated presbytery was purchased for \$265,000. A new Parish centre for administration and meetings was built adjoining the school library. The entire senior and middle schools were demolished except for two rooms, which are now underneath the Clifton centre, and the junior school was extended and renovated with new toilets and an access ramp. The school building program included a double storey building with eight classrooms, office space for teachers and shared middle areas for classroom use. These new classrooms fronted onto Egan Drive and were built on the site of the junior school adventure playground. There was also a brand new library with an adjoining teacher planning room and library office. For both parish and school, a new community area was built to host school and parish functions. This beautiful area was for some years called the multipurpose room or MPC. This didn't seem to be the right name for this lovely shared space. When our long serving, much loved parish secretary died in 2005 'the MPC' became the Maureen Patricia Clifton Centre. Some things are just meant to be!

For six months, the school and Parish together, operated out of one small room with one telephone to share. The staged program saw every single room in the school systematically packed, stored and then months later unpacked in its new home. The junior school moved three times; teachers traipsed to a two cubicle toilet facility behind the church; all classes assembled in the piazza every afternoon to be walked by teachers across Manningham Road and over to the Plaza; the spare block was one of the play areas. What amazing patience and generosity of spirit! The entire process was achieved with great cooperation and good humour. The cost \$4.1m. Grounds and services were developed as well. The result is a beautiful series of modern buildings and learning spaces that have been established in a very lovely treed environment.

2009-2010

Six years later the school applied for and won a grant as part of the "Building Education Revolution". With a \$2.5m grant our wonderful basketball stadium was built. This project was again lead by Architectus with builders Melb Com. At the same time the school successfully applied for a National School Pride grant. This money was used to install interactive whiteboards in every classroom as well as the library, revolutionising life in the classroom. At the click of a button the interactive whiteboards brought the outside world into every learning space. Outside, the laying of artificial grass provided the children with three new play areas.

St Clement of Rome - Church Refurbishment 2010/11

Fr Wahid Riad officially arrived at St Clement of Rome, Bulleen, on 7 January 2009 (according to his "Letter of Appointment" by the Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart, DD). After "getting his feet under the desk", Fr Wahid soon realised that the Treasury had sufficient money in it to undertake a significant refurbishment of the Church. What he didn't know, and failed to research and understand, was that Fr Bren Donohue had attempted to refurbish the Church some years earlier and had to abandon the project because of parishioner dissatisfaction and opposition to change.

In late 2009/early 2010 Fr Wahid, along with some parishioners, developed a "concept plan/schedule of works" that included fixing the leaking roof, installing a new ceiling, upgrading the lighting and the sound system, modifying the sanctuary, remodeling the reconciliation rooms, upgrading the heating, and polishing the pews, re-carpeting the altar and carpeting aisles. Of course, as with any renovation project, "other things" emerged as needing attention as the project evolved.

During February 2010 schematic plans of the Church refurbishment were displayed in the Church entry and parishioners were "invited to attend a meeting to discuss the proposed refurbishment plans of the Church on Tuesday, 23 February at 1.30pm in Clifton Centre - All Welcome". (As advertised in various Parish Bulletins during February 2010.) Fr Wahid sought nominations from interested parishioners and established a Building Committee. The Building Committee assisted Fr Riad in the lead up to the refurbishment works commencing.

The "concept schedule of works" was advertised to a number of architectural firms, selected in consultation with the Archdiocesan Building Group, and Payne Pattenden Architects Pty Ltd was chosen as the architect and project manager of the refurbishment. Dennis Payne became the "chief contact" and presented the concepts and ideas to the Building Committee. The Building Committee "sifted and sorted" them for relevance, acceptability, affordability and presentation.



Once the "concept schedule of works" was finalised a brief was advertised to a number of building companies and Concept Builders Pty Ltd was chosen as "the builder". It immediately became clear that the Parish's renovation expectations exceeded the budget and some "paring back" of the proposed works had to be undertaken. These included deleting landscaping around the Church and some environmental sustainability initiatives. Again, the Building Committee was an important adviser to Fr Wahid in this process.

The Builder was due to commence work early June but "problems" immediately emerged with unions and having two builders (Concept and the builders of the sports stadium) on site at the same time. This was partially addressed by Concept restricting its work to inside the Church. Of course, while these works were proceeding the St Clement of Rome School still had to keep operating.

Concept Builders "took over" the Church in July 2010 and it immediately became a "work site" out of bounds to parishioners. The Church was decommissioned as a Church for the duration of the refurbishment. The builder's first actions were to remove the pews (which were all attached to the floor with brackets and screws), strip



any carpet and cover the altar and tabernacle stand. The builders then removed the old peeling ply ceiling to expose the frame to attach the new ceiling panels to. The cross was left exposed for the duration of the refurbishment. An immediate issue for the builder was lighting. The fluorescent lights along the beams provided some lighting.

As the workmen removed the old ceiling and paneling along the concrete beams protecting the fluorescent lights asbestos cement sheet was identified. This immediately triggered an asbestos audit that stopped work for several days. Eventually an Asbestos Clearance Certificate was issued on 23 September 2010.

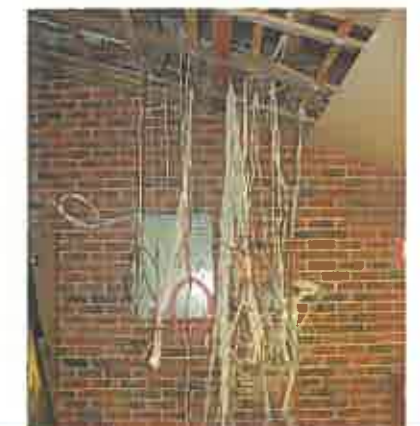
The photograph above shows the wood frame along the concrete beams from which the asbestos sheet cement was removed. (Of course, once asbestos is identified on a building site it has to be exhaustively checked. Plumbing, electrical wiring, the ceiling cavity and the sacristy were checked.) Once the frame to which the original ceiling paneling was exposed the Builders were able to determine its capability to support the new ceiling.

While the Church was de-commissioned Masses and Liturgies were conducted in the Clifton Centre. Fr Wahid and Fr Vito were the usual celebrants. The "atmosphere" was lighter and more convivial because blinds could be opened and at the end of Mass parishioners had only one way out - past the Priest.



Most of November 2010 to February 2011 was consumed attaching the one centimeter thick ply panels to the ceiling frame and installing the lighting and sound system. The down lights (which have a guaranteed life of ten years) and spotlights were individually installed and directed. Of course, with all that electrical "stuff" in the ceiling there is plenty of cabling in the ceiling cavity. The "light well" behind the altar, above the Crucifix, was in a particularly bad state of repair. Water had leaked through the roof and the perspex was brittle and cracked. The veneer lining was stained and peeling. The decision was eventually taken to replace the perspex with a polycarbonate "sandwich".

The polycarbonate has since been reinforced with additional timber supports to stop it vibrating in high winds.



Open Day – Sunday, 2 March 2011.

Until this Sunday the Church had been “out of bounds” to parishioners. This was the first opportunity to experience the openness and improved lighting. After inspecting the Church “shell” parishioners enjoyed a barbecue on the Piazza.



While the new ceiling was being installed roof plumbers checked the tiles for possible leakage points. The tiles were cleaned, broken tiles replaced and ridge tiles repointed. However, during January and February 2011 Melbourne experienced some torrential rainstorms with high winds from various directions. Disaster – the roof still leaked and the new ceiling panels were getting wet!

Then someone noticed that the angle of the tiles was around 16°. For a tile roof to operate effectively it has to have a slope of around 25°. So the Church had originally been built with a tile roof that did not comply with Building Standards. Further, because the roof is an external feature and the Church is subject to a Heritage Overlay according to the City of Manningham's Planning Scheme, a Town Planning Permit was required to change the tiles. Some research and the bituminous sheet covering was decided upon with the assistance of Manningham City Council's Heritage Adviser. (The roof replacement was one of “those features” that were not budgeted for at the start of the refurbishment process.)

The Church surrounds were not totally neglected during the refurbishment process. Fr Wahid managed, with the assistance of generous parishioners to landscape the area outside the Baptismal Sanctuary. The paved area has plumbing and electrical connections for the next stage of the development of this area.

The grounds around the Church are still to be completed when the budget extends to it. (Strange how landscaping is always left to the last – like an “add on”!)

The Church refurbishment was approaching completion. The photograph to the left (taken immediately outside the Baptismal Room) shows a very relieved Fr Wahid being complimented by Mr Dennis Payne, the Architect for the project.

The Church refurbishment was coming to completion. The builders had steam cleaned the inside walls of the Church. The polished pews were reinstalled and carpet laid over the Sanctuary and in the aisles. A hearing loop was installed in the centre two section of the Church. And everything worked as it should – especially the lights and sound system!

On Sunday, 2 April 2011, Archbishop Denis Hart, DD concelebrated the reopening of the Church with Fr Wahid Riad, Parish Priest, Monsignor Tony Ireland, Fr Bren Donohue (P.E.), Fr Vito and a number of other Clergy.

And so endeth this version of the St Clement of Rome church 2010/11 refurbishment.



Chapter 7

History of St Clement of Rome Primary School

Chris Attley, Deputy Principal

Sister Marquita was the first principal of St Clement of Rome. The school was opened in 1962 with St Clement classes being held in the Supper Room of St John's School Primary School in Heidelberg. It began with 84 students in Years Prep, 1 and 2. The following year the school commenced on its present site in Bulleen, comprising years Prep - 3.



1962 saw the first sod of earth turned to begin the building of the St Clement of Rome Church/School. 120 children were enrolled for the beginning of the 1963 school year. The church and school shared the same building for 8 years! The dedication and commitment of community members during this time placed the parish community of St Clement of Rome in good stead for the future.

Soon there was need for many more classrooms and a new presbytery. In May 1965, Archbishop Simmonds officially opened three new classrooms and blessed the new presbytery. The community was very generous and understood that education was very important for the Catholic children in their community.



During the 1970s, the school grew rapidly as families made the Bulleen area their home. The land had changed from paddocks and orchards in the early 60s to middle suburbia. Bulleen was full of young families beginning their new lives in this community. When Sister Marquita completed her term as principal in 1972 there were over 700 enrolments in the school, from Prep - Year 6. She began with 2 teachers and ended her time as principal with 24 teachers on staff.

There was a large Italian community and a number of other nationalities; the beginning of the diverse cultural mix that we know today. With enrolment over 700, the principal at the time, Mr Tony Carroll commented, “We were bursting at the seams!” He was a driving force and under him the school became part of the wider community. Accommodating the great numbers of children who wanted to come to St Clement of Rome was a major problem and more and more classrooms were needed.

During the latter part of the 70's Italian as a community language was taught throughout the school and it was one of the first schools in Victoria to provide this for its students. LOTE (Language other than English) is still taught at St Clement of Rome today. The children have Italian and Chinese classes from Prep to Year 6.

The 1980s saw peak enrolment of over 800 students. The parish had grown to more than 2,000 Catholic families and St Clement of Rome was a busy, forward thinking community. More classrooms were needed and the Junior School was added on the land facing Balwyn Road, which is now known as Egan Drive, named after parish priest, Fr Len Egan. The Junior and the Senior School were now separated by the church, presbytery and car park. The two learning areas were quite a distance apart both having their own play areas as well as other facilities.

During the 80s a computer program was established at St Clement of Rome. Again it was one of the first schools to introduce computers into its curriculum. Many visitors from other schools came to see the program in operation. Tony Carroll had lead the school with great skill and foresight, always investigating new ideas in education and incorporating these into the curriculum to provide the children with the best possible educational opportunities.

In 1988, Mary Penny became the third principal of St Clement of Rome. She brought with her many new ideas and the school continued to develop and grow. There were many specialist areas - art, physical education, drama, library and music. St Clement of Rome was part of Asia Education and

became a magnet school. The curriculum now included studies of Asian countries and their diverse culture.

Annette Broadfoot became principal in 1999. She brought with her many new and innovative ideas that added colour and creativity to the curriculum. Annette saw the need to update the buildings and facilities and a building program was undertaken to provide the school community with new rooms and play areas. There were many, many moves from building to building during this time.

This extensive building program added a new 2-storey building, which now houses Year 3-6. This building is adjacent to the Junior Building. The school learning community is now in the one area of the grounds. Also added was a new library and resource area. The Maureen Clifton Centre, a gathering space for the school and parish was added close to the church and more recently, a new basketball stadium, which is used by the school and the community. Apartment blocks have replaced the old school buildings, which were on Manningham Road, and our address is now Egan Drive.

The Houses of our school have been named after some very important people in our school's history:

- Marquita - Gold House is named after the first principal – Sister Marquita.
- Carroll - Blue House after Mr Tony Carroll the second principal.
- Lynch - Green House is named after Frank Lynch who worked tirelessly in the parish and for the St Vincent de Paul Society.
- Donohue - Red House is named after Fr Bren Donohue who was parish priest for many years.

Mr Michael Heenan is the current principal and has great vision for the future learning community of St Clement of Rome. He is committed to providing a quality Catholic Education for the community of Bulleen.

The buildings and grounds may have greatly changed over the last 50 years, but the spirit of the staff has remained constant. Some of the teachers have taught generations of children in some families. A few of the children who attended as students have returned as teachers. The teachers at St Clement of Rome strive to provide great learning experiences for all of the students. Some staff members have seen the many changes that the school has undergone in the past. Some of these teachers have worked at St Clement of Rome for over 35 years and have given so much to the school community through their dedication to the children and to the school community. The staff had used their expertise and skills to enhance the education of their pupils. This has been very evident in the Whole School Events that have taken place every year. These events have been varied and some of the work is displayed around the school – the mosaic in the courtyard, the artwork that won the School Community award in 2011 in the CEO Art show and the sculptures in the Peace Garden.

St Clement of Rome School continues to be a very welcoming community. It values the work and great support it receives from the members of the school community. There are many opportunities for families to participate in the everyday life of the school. They are able to share and celebrate the learning of their children on many special occasions throughout the year. St Clement of Rome Feast Day is just one of the days where the school comes together to celebrate and try to live out the school motto "LOVE ONE ANOTHER".

The many changes that have taken place will take the school well into the 21st century and serve many of the children and grandchildren of the first community of St Clement of Rome that was built on such a firm foundation.

Many teachers have given many years to St Clement of Rome however some of them have been at the school for the greatest part of their teaching careers. It is important to acknowledge in particular: Mrs Sue James – 36 years, Mrs Michelina Ucci - 36 years, Ms Dzintra Plume – 35 years.



Mr Michael Heenan (current principal) and Sister Marquita (first principal)

Chapter 8 Remembering The Past Twenty Five Years

Colette Brown

During the recent discussions about the Parish celebrations for our 50th year, I thought it would be good if some of the original parishioners were able to join us. I was astounded at the response I got from them and realised that our ties are still very strong, even though many people have moved from the area or the Parish. This led me to think about our involvement with the Parish over the last 50 years.

Many of us moved to this "new" suburb in the 60s into our brand new triple fronted brick veneers – these were the popular choice at the time. The downside was that MMBW sewerage had not yet been connected, there were no made roads or footpaths and public transport consisted of one bus that ran between Heidelberg and Box Hill, and another that took 50 minutes to get to town (no freeway then). These buses ran once an hour. Nearest set of shops was in Burgundy Street and there was a one lane wide bridge connecting us to Heidelberg. Fortunately the baker and the milkman delivered to our homes each day. All houses in that era came with a set of gumboots at the front and back door because of the mud – and cows could be seen grazing at our back fences. Two car households were not the norm. Mums didn't need to go to aerobic/pilates classes (not that they were available) – we got our workouts just getting from "A to B".

As soon as your eldest started school the commitment began in earnest. Most of us appeared on Enrolment Day confident that we wouldn't be asked to help because we had young children at home. We discovered that so did everybody else!!! So we were coerced into tuck shop duty – most days the tuck shop looked like a crèche, as many of us had at least one toddler and most likely a baby. Eventually you were promoted to the tuck shop committee – this involved one meeting a month and being "officer in charge" on your designated day. For the meetings, usually one mum picked up several others. Meetings finished around 10ish, but as it took at least a half hour chat as each mum are dropped off. If you were last drop off you got home around 2 am. We certainly relished our time "off the leash".

As our kids grew older and we weren't so housebound, a Social Club was formed. They organised a Dinner Dance each year. We had no trouble filling the Great Hall at the Heidelberg Civic Centre. One memorable night the band walked off at 9.30 (I don't know that I ever knew the reason). A parishioner, who managed a reception venue and who fortunately had a good voice, sang the brackets for the rest of the evening. It became a bit of a sing-along. Those were the days when we could sing and dance at the same time!!!! We had a great night. Later on, when the need arose, we organised Debutante Balls. The Social Club kept us busy with theatre nights, basket dances and of course there was the annual Parish picnic.

We had a thriving Majellan Group. The St. Vincent de Paul Conference was very active. This group began in the 60s and disbanded about 2005 because all remaining members were over 80 and they had been unable to recruit any new members. During this time a small group of our members prevailed upon "the powers that be" to buy a warehouse in Kew – this dedicated group then painted the place, fitted it up as a store and between them acted as manager (on a roster system – each of them doing one day a week) until the store became financial enough to pay a full time manager. At one stage it was the best revenue raiser in Victoria. So strong is that affiliation with the Kew store that some of our senior parishioners still volunteer there on a weekly basis. This group also managed to get the hierarchy to fund the building of two units in Kew to be used as emergency housing for families in need. These units are still in operation.

In the late 60s a group of our dads decided to form a cricket club so their sons could move into it when they were old enough to play. Yarralean was a new estate at the time, so they named it the Yarralean Cricket Club. When the sons were old enough, there was no way the dads were going to give up, so they formed another team for the boys. Some of the dads played till they were well into their 50's!! Yarralean Cricket Club still survives.

Around now the teenagers were looking for some sort of social activity – so the kids themselves formed a group – St Clement of Rome Youth Club Organisation, affectionately known as SCYCO (they thought this sounded trendy). They met weekly in one of the schoolrooms with a bit of parental supervision. This group survived for several years. When they were looking for something a little more sophisticated the parishioners organised a monthly dance, which they held at what was then known as the Bulleen/Templestowe Basketball Stadium in Thompsons Road. This required more

dedicated supervision. Parents were encouraged to drop off and pick up their kids and become involved. It was a very popular night and eventually became so well known that kids came from near and far. Parents who were never sighted again dropped them. The organisers had some redress with the Parish kids but none at all with the strangers. The crowds attending were so large it became apparent that professional supervision (e.g. bouncers!!) was needed and so it closed down – but it had fulfilled a need.

Our kids moved onto secondary school, did their tertiary studies and in time a great majority of them married at St Clement of Rome. True and lasting friendships were formed during these years. Many of these original groups still meet regularly – some weekly, some monthly and for those we don't see so often, we keep up with their news "on the grapevine".



Remembering The Past Twenty Five Years

John Bruce

1988. Where was I in 1988 and what was I doing? Patricia and I moved to Bulleen in November 1973 when Catherine was 18 months old. David was born two years later. They both enjoyed St Clement of Rome School where Tony Carroll was Principal. Of course that was the "old school" – but only the location has changed, not the "ethos" of the school. In 1988 I was working in the City for the Department of Planning. Catherine and David were at Our Lady's, Heidelberg and Marcellin, respectively.

During the late '80s until 1993 Monsignor Rebeschini and Fr Jim Briglia were Parish Priests at St Clement of Rome. I don't know whether I'm losing my memory but I simply can't remember this period. Obviously, "life" went on.

Fr Brian Quinn arrived at St Clement of Rome in late 1993. A young Priest, full of vitality and a love for budgerigars. As Patricia and I were also interested in breeding budgies (not the "show kind", but rather "pretty birds") we swapped some of our stock – with varying degrees of success. Fr Brian's birds were housed in the glass room off the current teachers amenity room in the School Office (the then presbytery).

Somewhere around this early 1990s period the Parish started an Antioch Group. It attracted a range of age groups of young men and women. The Group participated in prayer meetings and arranged liturgies for weekend Masses. Of course, parental supervision was required most of the time and as few parents showed interest the Group eventually "folded". That was rather sad!

During the mid-90s I worked in South-West Victoria and when I returned I stood for, and was elected to the newly amalgamated Manningham City Council. This took me out of Parish life for a decade. I still read and acted as an Extraordinary Minister when I could, but I couldn't get involved in other Parish activities.

I was on Manningham Council for three terms until 2005 and enjoyed maintaining that link between my Church, Local Government and other faith communities. As a Councillor and Mayor I felt that I was following Ted Ajani and Bill Davies (who were also mayors). The opportunity for St Clement of Rome to host inter-faith events was realised several times and they were well supported by the St Clement of Rome community. In fact, in terms of a Parish supporting inter-faith events I always felt that St Clement of Rome "did it better" than any other faith. Perhaps I was biased!

Once released from the responsibilities of being an elected councillor I re-engaged with the Knights of the Southern Cross VIC and my Parish. Around 2007 Bob Stewart from the Balwyn SVDP Conference asked Fr Bren if any of St Clement of Rome parishioners would like to join Conferences around his area. Around 30 parishioners "put their hands up" which far exceeded Bob's needs. So Fr Bren was left with a group of willing parishioners with nothing to do. Fr Bren then thought that setting up a "Seniors Ministry" to help older people was a good idea. Some good works resulted. But the Ministry was also easy to abuse and "well off" people started calling on it. It's a bit unfair to be asking volunteers to undertake tasks around a house when there's a new Mercedes Benz sitting in the garage! The Seniors Ministry eventually "folded" and the 30 parishioners were again left with nothing to do.

Then Bob Stewart again asked if St Clement of Rome parishioners could help him assist people in need in the Parish. Through a series of events, Bob and Poolo Jothy from the Eastern Region nurtured the former Seniors Ministry people to become Vincentians. So the St Clement of Rome Bulleen Conference was resurrected with about ten members and fifteen affiliates. I was a bit slow stepping back and found myself as President of the Conference. I am truly humbled and in awe of the Executive Members of the Conference and privileged to work with the members and Affiliates who give their time so freely to assist people who are the Conference's "friends in need".

Fr Wahid arrived at Bulleen in January 2009. His charismatic approach to celebrating liturgies didn't appeal to everyone. St Greg's and St John's offered parishioners a more conservative liturgical celebration. Many felt that repeating an Alleluia several times over was unnecessary. However, I've seen Parish priests pass through St Clement of Rome and it's my Church so I'm not leaving – for any Priest. Charismatic or not!

The story of the refurbishment of the St Clement of Rome Church is told elsewhere in this "History". Planning for the refurbishment took almost a year. A group of parishioners wanted to project manage the refurbishment – something the Archdiocese would never allow. The broader Parish community engaged in the planning and, I felt, had the necessary input into the plans. The refurbishment, to my mind, was about modernising and "brightening up" the Church and making it an "inviting place" where people would want to go to celebrate a liturgy. I think the final result speaks for itself!

Just as an aside, "things" never go quite as expected. Several months after the refurbishment was completed (late Spring of 2011) Melbourne experienced exceptionally strong winds. On a Saturday night the new polycarbonate skylight above the Crucifix blew out of its frame and landed in the schoolyard at the back of the Parish house. Later on the Saturday night it rained. The rain must have been horizontal, because very little got into the Church on the new carpet. The polycarbonate skylight was put back in place, reinforced, on the Monday. That was a close call!

St Clement of Rome has (from my observations) been fortunate to have an efficient and effective Parish Finance Committee. Theo Eversteyn preceded the current Finance Committee Chairman, Rocco Gagliardi and there always seems to be ready number of parishioners willing to serve on the Committee. As the only Parish Committee required by Canon Law I think that St Clement of Rome Parish has been well served. Again, I count it as a privilege to be serving on the Parish Finance Committee with such a dedicated group of Catholic people.

I can't remember when I first started as an Extraordinary Minister for Holy Communion and reading at Mass. I am reasonably sure that it was during Fr Egan's time as Parish Priest. Then, lately I have been assisting Erika McKeon to set up for Mass, on my part at the First and third Saturday Vigil Mass. There has always been someone (*the ubiquitous "someone"*) to draw up the rosters and I know that Christine Lansberg is currently doing a fantastic job. The people who draw up rosters, assist at Mass and set up for liturgies contribute so much as volunteers.

How "times" have changed! I wonder how "times" will change over the next 25/50 years?

Remembering The Past Twenty Five Years

Mark and Mary Gregor

A few reflections over 25 years 1988 – 2013

- 1st Communion Classes in the room under the Presbytery
- Confirmation Classes in the room under the Presbytery
- Parish Council Meetings in the room under the Presbytery
- Parish Council Agenda Meetings with Fr. Briglia – discussing football, cricket, parish events and then the agenda
- Thanksgiving Campaigns and Parish Forums
- Choir practice every 3rd Tuesday – sharing stories, laughter and good fun with Marjorie Frew, Karen Farrell, Lesley Marett, Toni Rossi, Paul Sammut, Pauline Cowhey, Imelda, Joan Clement, Steve Clement and others. Marjorie Frew leading and encouraging the choir in its musicality. Karen Farrell adapting the written music to match the choir's vocal range.
- Sunday Mass at 8.30am; Sunday Mass at 9.45am; Sunday Mass at 9.00am
- Mass was conducted in the Clifton Centre while the church refurbishment was underway
- Frank Lynch collected the St Vincent de Paul money donations every Sunday after Mass
- Dinner Dances at the Fogolar Furlan Club in Thornbury
- Church packed for Midnight Mass at Christmas
- Extended family and friends gathered for family weddings in the church
- The building of the piazza; putting individual names on bricks in the piazza; prayers and ceremonies on the piazza
- The welcoming smiles from the 'greeters' before Sunday Mass



Remembering The Past Twenty Five Years

Sal Pulia

My wife and I arrived in Bulleen in February, 1972 with four children. First thing we did was visit the Parish Priest Fr Fraser at St Clement of Rome in Bulleen to enrol our first three children at the school. He informed us that there was vacancy for only two of the children. We told him that the children had already started the school year at another Church in East Brunswick, and it would be impossible to split them in two separate schools so far away from each other, he somehow found room for the third child as well. We were very grateful for his kindness. Once we had settled in we became very involved in the Parish, especially my wife Teresa.

At that time I had a catering business, which kept me busy seven days a week. Sunday was the day when all the family went to Mass. At that time Mass was held in the Parish School of St Clement of Rome.

In early June, 1972 Fr Fraser asked us whether we would be interested in catering for the lunch after the official opening ceremony of the Church on Sunday, 17th July, 1972. The ceremony and blessing of the Church would be conducted by the Archbishop of Melbourne, Cardinal J. R. Knox. We said it would be a great honour to do it, especially as we would have the opportunity of meeting Cardinal Knox in person.

The opening day was a great success! Fr Fraser was beaming from ear to ear with satisfaction. Fr Fraser wanted the whole Parish included in the celebrations of the opening of the Church, as well as the liturgical and religious ceremonies. He asked us to prepare supper for the Parish. The parties were to be held over two evenings in the following week. Tuesday night for the men of the parish and Wednesday night for the Ladies. It was decided that the big open space in the basement of the Bulleen Shopping Centre was the ideal venue. And so the empty basement was converted into a reception centre to accommodate nearly 1000 men on the Tuesday night and 750 women on the following Wednesday night.

The one thing I remember clearly of those two nights is that the men cleaned up all the sandwiches, party pies and sausage rolls and some of the cream cakes. But, guess what? The following night, the women, not to be outdone by the men, cleaned up all the cream cakes and the Italian cannoli, but left most of the sandwiches and some of the party pies and sausage rolls. Two very successful nights. For us it was and still remains an exciting and unforgettable week to have been involved in the social side of the opening of our Church.

In future years, after having sold the catering business, I became more involved in the Parish. After the arrival of Fr Egan, I was a member of the Parish Education Board and also a member of the Italian Catholic Federation, St Clement of Rome branch, of which I was also the President for a couple of years. I was one of the few people involved with Fr Egan in the establishment of the Italian Seniors Club of the Parish. The Veneto Club at our request was happy to provide a room for meetings and activities on a weekly basis and lunch once a month at a modest cost. Once the Club was up and running Mrs Elsa Dal Sasso was handed over the task of continuing as Secretary. Today the Italian Seniors are still meeting at the Veneto Club.

Teresa, my wife involved herself in the school tuck shop of which she was the Treasurer for a number of years. She was also the President of the Majellan Group.

Our children as they grew up became involved in the Youth Group activities of the Parish. They were busy but very happy times for the whole family. We have seen many changes over the years and wish for the Parish every success for next 50 years.

Remembering The Past Twenty Five Years

Oriella Romanin

An Italian Mass

One of the most important aspects of pastoral care within the parish of St Clement of Rome has to be the introduction in 1975 by Fr Egan of the Italian Mass. At that stage, about 50% of parishioners were Italian speaking with young families. As an offshoot of the Italian Mass, the Bulleen Section of the Italian Catholic Federation was established a year later in 1976. Both the Italian Mass and the Italian Catholic Federation flourished under the guidance of the Scalabrinian Fathers, an order founded in Italy by the Blessed Giovanni Scalabrini for the spiritual care of migrants. The Scalabrinian Fathers had been asked to come to St Clement of Rome for the Italian Mass and they still do to this day. Likewise, the Italian Catholic Federation that was started in 1976 is still active in our parish.

Fr Vito Pegolo was the first Italian chaplain of St Clement of Rome; others that came to this parish for several years were Fr Anthony Fregolent, Fr Bruno Morotti, Fr Luciano Ferracin, Fr Mario Sambiasi and Fr Luigi Sabbadin. Under their pastoral care the Italian Catholic Federation went from strength to strength and also had a very active youth group. Both groups were instrumental in establishing a church choir; liturgical plays at Christmas and Good Friday, dinner dances in the school hall, picnics in Banksia Park and Birrarung Park in addition, of course, to their regular meetings for spiritual enrichment. The youth group is now extinct but the Italian Catholic Federation is still very active under the guidance of Fr Vito Pegolo who returned to St Clement of Rome after many years spent in other States and parishes. The church choir is also still going and one regular social activity very popular with the Italian parishioners are the fundraising Sunday lunches and the New Year's Eve basket dance at the Maureen Clifton Centre.

Overall, one can rightfully affirm that at St Clement of Rome the Italian born, thanks to the leadership of its parish priests and the many Scalabrinian chaplains that have ministered to their spiritual needs in their first language, has always been a keen parishioner of St Clement of Rome participating in all its events, while enjoying a smooth transition of migration from a stable Catholic environment, peculiar to the small townships and villages of their origins, to a multicultural environment of various creeds like the City of Manningham.



Christmas Play at Clement of Rome (circa 1990)

Chapter 9
Parish Organisations
The St Clement of Rome Craft Group
Oriella Romanin

Marcella Costa, Valentina Zaccaria and Olga Rech are three parishioners of St Clement of Rome who for a number of years went to craft classes at the Doncaster parish of St Peter and Paul and loved it.

In 2008 Marcella had surgery for cancer and fully recovered. Thankful of the positive outcome from her battle with such a scary illness, Marcella wished to do something for the local community and thought of sharing with others her love for art and craft. At that time she was also wondering, along with Valentina and Olga, why a craft group such as the one they were attending at Doncaster could not be established in Bulleen. They approached the then Parish Priest,

Fr Bren Donohue, explained their plan, and he offered them a room under the Maureen Clifton Centre.

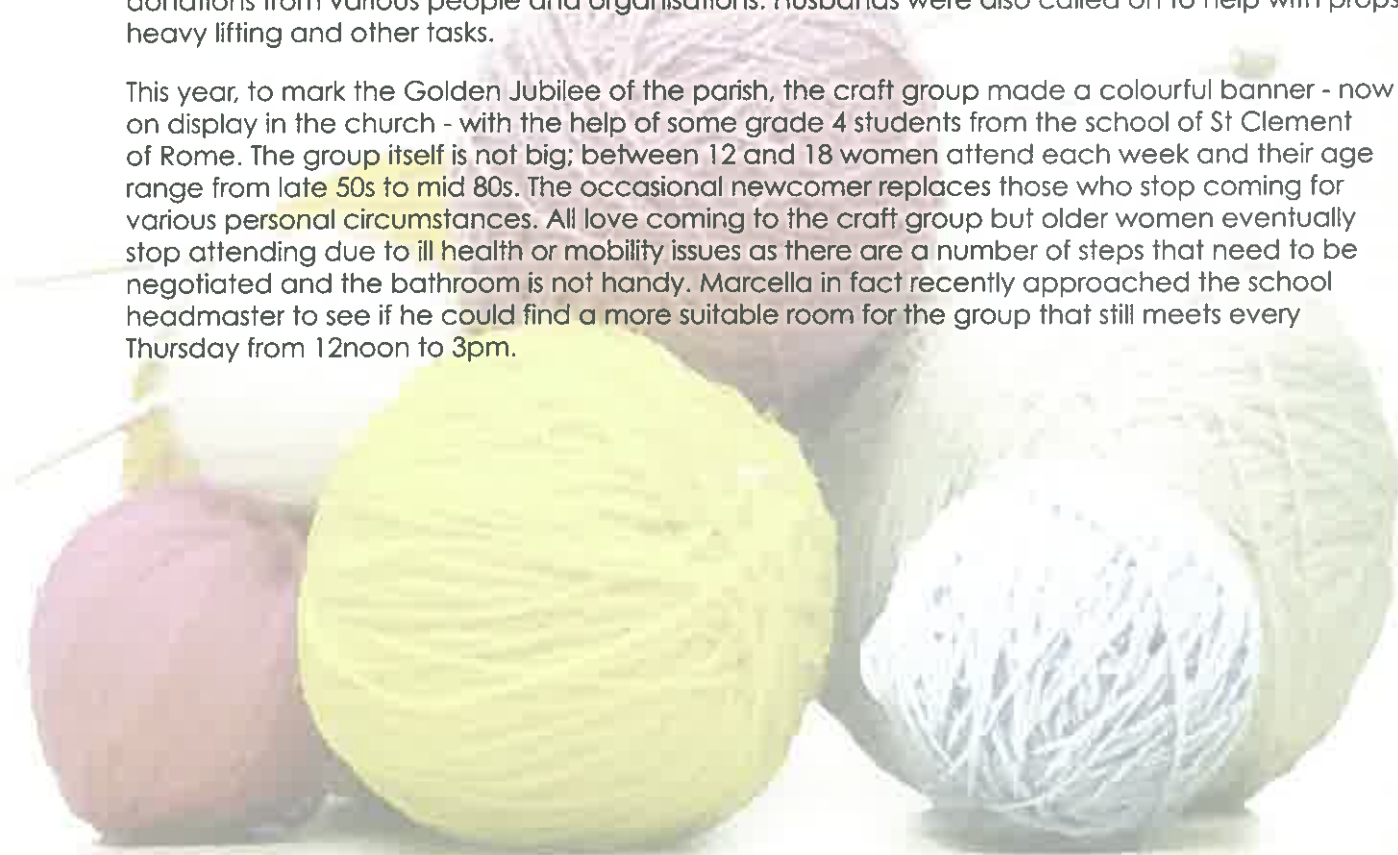
On the 14th of August 2008 the first group of women from the parish of St Clement of Rome met to do craft. Most of Italian background, they paid \$2.50 per week to cover costs of tea, coffee and biscuits and spent three hours from 12noon till 3pm – making beautiful objects which they then sell twice a year at a market stall within the Bulleen Plaza. The money raised is used to cover costs of materials, to fund a couple of outings per year and the remainder is given to the parish.

Their enthusiasm helped them get through the first few months when most things were lacking, but they willingly supplied cups and saucers, tea coffee and sugar and everything else they needed from their own home, until a steady flow of useful supplies started to come to the group via donations from various people and organisations. Husbands were also called on to help with props, heavy lifting and other tasks.

This year, to mark the Golden Jubilee of the parish, the craft group made a colourful banner - now on display in the church - with the help of some grade 4 students from the school of St Clement of Rome. The group itself is not big; between 12 and 18 women attend each week and their age range from late 50s to mid 80s. The occasional newcomer replaces those who stop coming for various personal circumstances. All love coming to the craft group but older women eventually stop attending due to ill health or mobility issues as there are a number of steps that need to be negotiated and the bathroom is not handy. Marcella in fact recently approached the school headmaster to see if he could find a more suitable room for the group that still meets every Thursday from 12noon to 3pm.



Marcella Costa and
Valentine Zaccaria



Parish Organisations
The St Clement of Rome Genealogy Group
Graham Thiesz

In January 1989 Fr Brian Quinn arrived at St Clement of Rome as assistant to Fr Jim Briglia who at that time was Parish Priest. Fr Brian already had an interest in genealogy and became friendly with Marion and Bill Scott who were "near professionals" in the chasing up of family history. A while later when Father was in at the Public Records Office doing research into his family he bumped into another St Clement of Rome parishioner who was also researching his family and Father suggested it may be worthwhile to start up a group as he was sure that the Scotts would be happy to participate and obviously there were others who would join.

In 1993 the group held their first meeting in the dining room in the old presbytery – now the school office and staff room. It wasn't long before we moved to the meeting room under the old presbytery and later still to the meeting room in the Parish Centre. In those early years we would have approximately 10 at a meeting. Unfortunately in 1994 Fr Brian was appointed to the St John of God Church in Winchelsea so we lost his knowledge and his support of the group.

During the late 90s the parish published a quarterly newspaper called "The Link" and parishioners submitted their family stories with many being published with great delight. We think that because of these stories and the exposure they got that we increased our membership but we were never a large group. It seemed that whenever we attracted new people, they found what they were looking for, and we never saw them again. Of course, never saw them again meaning at a meeting, but saw them at church or around Bulleen. They would always stop to discuss what they were following up in their family research or new information they had uncovered.

Over the years we have had guest speakers who enlightened us on obscure sources of information, others who have written their family history and explained how to structure a book and a woman and her daughter who were able to date old family photos from the clothing that our relatives were wearing. A great source of information that was only emerging when we first started was the internet and nowadays so much information can be accessed via the internet and via old newspapers that are available online.

There are some marvelous stories that have come to light because of the research of members. One of the group didn't know who his grandparents were so he started with researching them and then started working backwards – which is the correct thing to do – to his great grandparents and to cousins and aunts and uncles only to discover that one of them had already completed the family tree back to the 1700s. He very gladly accepted their research without any feeling of guilt whatsoever.

Another of our members has written a family history and had the book published - quite an achievement! Several have drawn extensive family trees. All have enjoyed themselves. Once you start researching and have success in finding new ancestors it becomes more addictive, and of course, some you are proud to acknowledge. Others, well ????? - but they are all part of who you are and how your family developed.

It must be remembered that the Genealogy Group, as a whole, are well into their 70s and 80s. Quite a few have passed away; others have moved away from Bulleen and some have just left the Parish.

Nowadays there are only a few who dabble occasionally in research and so the group has disbanded and no longer holds meetings.

Parish Organisations

The Italian Catholic Federation of Bulleen

Ugo Romanin - President, Italian Catholic Federation, Bulleen



IGNEM VENI MITTERE

I met the Scalabrinian Fathers in 1960 shortly after my arrival in Australia as a migrant. At that stage they were in Fitzroy and established the Italian Catholic Federation (similar to the Catholic Action in Italy) a lay organisation whose purpose was to help fellow migrants maintain their faith and cultural values in their transition to a foreign land with a foreign language. Meeting the Scalabrinian Fathers and becoming one of the founders of the Italian Catholic Federation, which they established in Australia, gave me a sense of the value of our cultural roots and the faith that I was born into and that my parents strongly believed in. The Scalabrinians knew that if one's faith and culture are maintained and strengthened throughout his or her life's journey then the thousands of migrants coming to Australia by the boatloads would be able to face life in a different country as a more positive experience.

The Australian Church of the 60s did not promptly recognise the need to celebrate Mass in the migrants' languages and the Italian Catholic Federation was instrumental in asking that in the parishes with a branch of the FCI and a large number on Italian parishioners an Italian Mass be introduced on a regular basis. That's why soon after my move to Bulleen together with other Italians already established in the parish we approached Fr Egan and asked if he would consider having an Italian Mass at St Clement of Rome. He promptly accepted the idea. He was a parish priest of broad views and vision, he also understood the needs of migrants and held their needs on the same level as those of the local community.

The start of the Italian Mass in 1975 had a huge success from the beginning attracting also Italian Catholics from nearby parishes and in 1976 started the local branch of the Italian Catholic Federation. Those years were full of activities and enthusiasm. We had also a youth group which thrived under the Scalabrinians Fr Anthony Fregolent and Fr Luciano Ferracin. Most of those young people are now married with children and a number of them still live in this parish.

It's been 38 years since the Italian Mass was established and looking around us during Mass we notice that most of the congregation has white hair; nonetheless, Mass is still well attended. The Italian Catholic Federation is still going although with a much smaller number of ageing members. We now meet only once a month, we organise Sunday lunches every 1-2 months in the Clifton Centre for up to 100 parishioners and the choir still sings every Sunday.

All this was made possible by the far-sightedness of Fr Egan and all other parish priests that followed him and by the Italian chaplaincy of the Scalabrinian Fathers.



Top to bottom (LR):
 1. Fr Bren with parishioners 2. FCI Youth Group at St Clement of Rome (circa 1990)
 3. Genealogy Group 4. Craft Group 5. Ugo Romanin as Pontious Pilate during the Via Crucis Play (circa 1990) 6. New Year Eve celebrations in the St Clement of Rom School hall (circa 1990)

Parish Organisations

The St Clement of Rome Pastoral Care Group

Barbara Smith

During the last twenty-five years the Pastoral Care Group has been involved in many Parish activities – baby-sitting, minor household repairs, hospitality, caring, nursing care, sitting with people who are ill, emergency catering, bereavement support or visiting and later accompanying bereaved people to a counseling group.

We have helped with refreshments during forums and after Interfaith Council Prayers, and International Women's Day Prayers held at St Clement of Rome, Bulleen.

For years we transported crockery to homes to help with refreshments after a funeral, but after completing the Clifton Centre we have every "thing" on hand for such events.

Luncheons for seniors commenced in 1996 and continued until 2007 when interest waned.

In 2013, due to age and smaller numbers in our group, we concentrate on helping with refreshments after Funeral Masses, Parish celebrations and visits to the sick and provision of food as required.

We have a list of very willing helpers who provide sandwiches but that list has been shortened due to age, health and people moving away from Bulleen.

Parish Organisations

St Vincent de Paul Conference

John R Bruce - Conference President

The first four decades of the history of the St Vincent de Paul, Bulleen, Conference has been captured in the document, "History of Bulleen SVDP Conference – 1960 to 2006" written and edited by C. Brown, 11 Warringal Street, Bulleen, VIC. 3105. The history is the reflections of Charlie Stroud, Des O'Meara, John Brown, Peter Cody and Frank Lynch. The Parish is indebted to Collette Brown for producing that history and all the Members of the Conference who made it so successful.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

That history records that the Conference distributed about \$4,000 in aid per year after 2000; sent about \$8,000 to their twin conferences; helped many people, some simply by listening to them; and observed that although their clients were in a need situation through no fault of their own, to a parent, they always loved their children.

The Conference continued with the Bread Run that had a team of fourteen parishioners delivering bread from Baker's Delight in Bulleen Plaza to Ozanam House and the Sisters of Charity each Saturday evening. Towards mid 2007 we were advised that Ozanam House and the Sisters of Charity no longer needed the bread.

Around 2005/06 arising out of the August 2005 Thanksgiving Campaign Fr Bren Donohue initiated a Seniors Ministry. The intention was that parishioners would assist needy people in whatever way they could – be it by taking them shopping; doing some gardening; housework; or, even small carpentering works. About thirty parishioners volunteered for the Ministry. Eventually it was acknowledged that the Ministry was duplicating Local Government and other not-for-profit services and it was discontinued. However the majority of the members of the Ministry were still looking for a meaningful social justice Ministry.

In April 2007 a steering group consisting of Charlie Stroud, Bob Stewart, Theo Eversteyn, Geoff Chappell and Fr Bren was formed to re-establish the Bulleen St Vincent De Paul Conference. (After the Bulleen Conference had gone into recess in 2005, Bob Stewart, from the Greythorn Conference, had been servicing clients (now known as "friends in need") in the Bulleen area.)

The steering group under the guidance of Bob Stewart decided that it would be best for volunteers to assist Greythorn Conference to visit clients in the areas of Bulleen and Fitzroy to gain experience. Members of the steering committee contacted all participants on the Bread Run and Seniors Ministry who responded enthusiastically with a roster being drawn up in late 2007 and commencing in early 2008 and ran for approximately for two years to February 2010.

Without Bob Stewart's energy, enthusiasm, experience of the Society and leadership the Conference would not be in the position that it is today (approaching the end of 2013). Bob Stewart and Paolo Jothy, the President of the Camberwell Region together attended Conference meetings during the first six months to help re-establish the Conference.

The Conference resumed in February 2010 with twenty-five Members. With the previous two years experience the Conference was able "to hit the ground running". Fr Wahid Riad has been the spiritual leader and supporter of the Conference.

The Conference's resources are:

- First and foremost, the Members and the Parish Priest, Fr Wahid Riad and various associates in the Parish Office
- Funding, initially provided by SVDP Head Office, then reinforced by the Conference's Winter and Christmas Appeals and takings from the St Clement of Rome Poor Box. The funding is used to purchase food vouchers (redeemable at Coles stores) from SVDP Head Office and pay energy and communication accounts/bills for our friends in need

- SVDP Head Office, the Camberwell Regional Council (chaired by Poolo Joothy), the East Kew Vinnies Store, Eastern Emergency Relief and the removalists
- The teachers and students of St Clement of Rome Primary School
- TELSTRA by providing vouchers and Phone Away cards
- Phillip Webb and Associates by providing Christmas hampers
- It's many generous supporters, especially the local Italian community
- Welfare organisations operating in Manningham, especially DONCARE.

Unlike the earlier Conference the 2010 Conference –

- Did not get involved in bread runs
- In most circumstances confined visits to *friends in need* to Fridays
- Did not get involved in assisting people in the Inner Suburbs

The 2010 Conference has been "twinned" with a Conference in India and actively supports it by making donations to its continued operation.

The current Conference also supports the Society's "Adopt A Student" program that provides donations for the education of students in overseas countries.

In its own back yard, the 2010 Conference is now supporting between forty and fifty *friends in need* each year. These are –

- Single mothers
- Families that have fallen on "*hard times*"
- *Friends in need* with varying disabilities
- Single people looking for work
- And lately, people seeking refuge and/or asylum in Australia

When Conference Members visit *friends in need* they always visit in pairs. That's one of the two Golden Rules:

- Never visit alone; and
- Never make judgments about the *friends in need* we're visiting

The Conference has been meeting on the third Sunday of each month invariably in the Clifton Centre. Fr Wahid usually makes it to part of the meeting. Conference meetings are important to reinforce the SVDP ethos, convey the latest news from Head Office and share our experiences of dealing with our *friends in need*.

Generally, in the community, we speak about inflation and increasing costs. The Conference's Budget for 2012/13 will be about \$14,000. It has increased since when we started in 2010 and will undoubtedly continue to increase. The Conference Members, to a person, would like to assist our *friends in need* more, but that's just not possible. Knowing the resources at our disposal is so important to work smarter to help our *friends in need*.

The Conference has been blessed to have an experienced and capable Executive that has "*steered it to what it is today*". The Secretary maintains the "*pulse*" of visitations and the Treasurer oversees the Conference's finances. The Vice-President prepares the visitation rosters. They carry the President.

The 2010 St Vincent de Paul Conference is still "*youthful*" and yet to etch its place in the history of the St Clement of Rome Parish. The future will do that!

Chapter 10 The Golden Jubilee - 2013

Golden Jubilee Dinner Dance at The Veneto Club

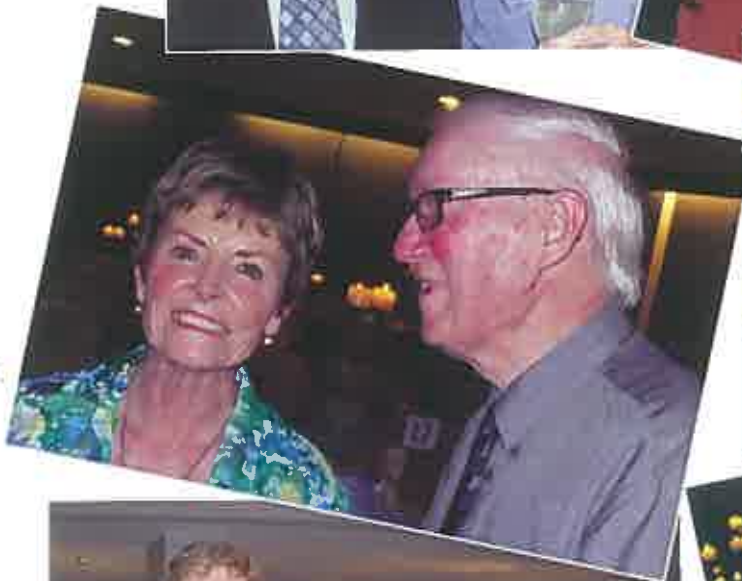
The "lead up" to the festivities of the weekend of 22/24 November 2013 took many months of planning. The Jubilee Dinner Dance & Jubilee Mass Committee met on numerous occasions to plan the events. The Committee comprised Fr Wahid Riad, representatives from St Clement of Rome School, Ms Ollie Grimes and Tania Vesnaver, and parishioners Collette Brown, John Bruce, Rocco Gagliardi, Mark Gregor, Erika McKeon, Ugo Romanin and Elsa Waters. Very early in 2013 the Committee decided to engage the band, AIRPLAY, to entertain us at the Dinner Dance at the Veneto Club.

The Dinner Dance at the Veneto Club was attended by 340 people with some Special Guests, namely, Kevin Andrews, M.P, Member for Menzies and his wife Margaret; Fathers Bren Donohue, PE and Fr Brendan Reed; Cr Jim Grivokostopoulos, Mayor of Manningham, and Councilor Jennifer Yang (immediate past Mayor). Cr Jim Grivokostopoulos presented Fr Wahid with a plaque from the Council to commemorate the Parish's Golden Jubilee.

The night was memorable for the lack of speeches, a beautiful three course meal, plenty of "catching up" with old friends, and young and old wearing themselves out on the dance floor as AIRPLAY built up the entertainment energy as the night progressed. Although the night formally finished at 11.30 P.M. many attendees seemed reluctant to go home and were still "*catching up*" with old friends way past mid-night. What a great evening!

This "little" summary would not be complete without mentioning the generous donations from Crema Constructions, Tobin Brothers Funerals, the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) and Francis and Gloria Ng.





Top to bottom (LR):
 1. Fr Riad, Mary and Mark Gregor 2. Theo Eversteyn and Kevin Andrews 3. Rocco Gagliardi and Pam Mitchell 4. Viv and Paul Sammut with Cr Jennifer Yang 5. Lesley Marrett and Des White 6. Roland and Erika McKeon 7. Theo and Irene Eversteyn and Rita Gagliardi 8. Cr Jennifer Yang and Margaret Andrews 9. Michael Heenan (School Principal) and friends

Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Golden Jubilee Mass

Archbishop Denis Hart

On Sunday, 24 November 2013 we celebrated the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

The Golden Jubilee Mass was held at 2.00pm and was concelebrated with six priests with the Most Reverend Denis J Hart, DD, Archbishop of Melbourne the Principal Celebrant. The children from St Clement of Rome School and the St Clement of Rome Italian Choir sang during the Mass.

Archbishop Hart delivered the Homily outlining the history of the St Clement of Rome Parish from its humble beginnings at the "dry cleaners" to the beautiful church that we enjoy our liturgies in today.



At the Offertory (L to R):
 Fr Paul Newton, Fr Gian Tran, Fr Vito Pegolo, Archbishop Hart, Rev Fr Gian Tran PP, Fr Wahid Riad and Wayne Edwards.



Archbishop Denis Hart's Homily

Introduction

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Congratulations on your Golden Jubilee. I rejoice at being with you on this significant Feast of Christ the King, who shows that he is leader of our hearts and Lord of all, as we conclude the Year of Faith given us by Pope Benedict XVI and as we remember with great thanksgiving the long history of Saint Clement's parish, thanking God for its many blessings and cherishing precious memories.

Homily

Dear Brothers and Sisters, The last words of the Gospel we have just read: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" and the Lord's reassuring response: "Today you will be with me in paradise."

We gather to thank God for the Golden Jubilee of this parish formed in 1963. The market gardens established by the Venier and Negri families for the previous twenty years, by that time had given way to a golf range and a derelict drive-in theatre. Farms and orchards were sub-divided. From the laundry in which Fr Spillane used to hear confessions and say Mass, Saint Clement's has developed into this magnificent refurbished church.

So many groups provide stimulus to faith and witness, provide for liturgy and worship, tackle the challenges of administration, reach out to the community and provide hospitality and exercise a dedicated service and outreach.

The strong Italian community for which Fr Vito Pegolo gives such dedicated care is an integral part of the parish and a tangible expression of the strong faith and family life which have made Saint Clement's such a significant place.

Through a succession of parish priests and assistants right through to the present the parish has been well served; from Fr Fraser, your founding pastor, to the twelve years of indefatigable visiting, pastoral care and leadership of Fr Len Egan, to Monsignor Rebeschini, Fr Jim Briglia and the loving, whimsical care of Fr Bren Donohue and finally, Fr Wahid Riad your present pastor. The Scalabrinian community in the important outreach has always given admirable support to Italians and families. Other priests and so many others in parish and school have done a sterling work in carrying the mission of the Gospel forward.

Today is a moment of memory and tribute, but also a moment of new beginning. The promise of paradise is one to be lived by us on earth in desire; our faith, our prayer, our Christian living, our example and outreach into the community, our Christ-like attitude to others are the test whereby we show that Jesus is king of our hearts and it is the faith that comes from the apostles which nurtures us.

May the faith in which Saint Clement of Rome shared so articulately and which he promoted so graciously be our faith as we live the message of the Gospel in the years to come. Congratulations to all at St Clement.

After the Golden Jubilee Mass parishioners and visitors celebrated in the Clifton Centre enjoying afternoon tea. If there had been 500 people at the Mass, about 300 must have stayed on for afternoon tea. The Italian Catholic Federation and the St Clement of Rome school turned on a very adequate spread and everyone enjoyed themselves. The afternoon could have been a follow on from the dinner dance with old and not so old acquaintances being renewed and a good time being had by all.





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The Publication was –

Edited by Leo Morison

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