

## THE LIST OF HOLY CROSS CLERGY 1906-1981

Rev. P. O'REILLY P.P.	R.I.P.	Most Rev. P. MURPHY D.D. P.T.	
Rev. S. McHUGH	R.I.P.	Rev. D. O'KEEFFE P.P.	
Rev. R. McELLIGOTT	R.I.P.	Rev. M. ROCHE	R.I.P.
Rev. C. McNEEVE	R.I.P.	Rev. M. PRENDERGAST P.P.	
Rev. P. SMITH	R.I.P.	Rev. J. HASELER P.P.	
Rev. P. DONLEAVY	R.I.P.	Rev. E. PAINE	R.I.P.
Rev. M. KENNEDY	R.I.P.	Rev. T. ARRIVOLI P.P.	
Rev. P. McINTYRE	R.I.P.	Most Rev. D. CREMIN D.D. P.P.	
Rev. A. PEGREM	R.I.P.	Rev. J. HATTON	R.I.P.
Rt. Rev. Mgr. R. COLLENDER P.P.	R.I.P.	Most Rev. J. CARROLL	
Rev. R. FORD P.P.		D.D. D.C.L. C.M.G. P.P.	
Rev. J. O'DONNELL		Rev. M. BAULMAN	R.I.P.
Very Rev. Mgr. J. McCOSKER P.P. (RTD)		Rev. P. HARRINGTON P.P.	
Rev. P. FLANAGAN	R.I.P.	Rev. J. DUCK P.P.	
Rev. R. FUNCHEON P.P.		Rev. B. YATES	
Rev. K. BUSH P.P.		Rev. J. HEAPS P.P.	
Rev. J. PURCELL P.P. (RTD)		Rev. N. MOLLOY P.P.	
Rev. M. CREHAN	R.I.P.	Rev. P. QUILTY	
Rev. L. MURPHY P.P.		Rev. M. MURRAY	
Rev. J. O'DONOVAN P.P.		Rev. J. McCAFFERY A.D.M.	
Rev. J. McSWEENEY P.P.		Rev. T. SULLIVAN	
Rev. G. WALLINGTON P.P.			

## LIST OF RELIGIOUS SISTERS FROM HOLY CROSS PARISH & HOLY CROSS COLLEGE

Sr. M. Thecla Kerwick, R.S.M. former Superior General	Sr. M. Casimir Callachor, R.S.M. (R.I.P.)
Sr. M. Anselm Gaudry, R.S.M. Superior General	Sr. Colleen Maron, R.S.M.
Sr. M. Xavier McLenaghan R.S.M. (R.I.P.)	Sr. Gonzaga Stanley, R.S.M.
Sr. M. Fabian Sharp, R.S.M. (R.I.P.)	Sr. Margaret Brady, R.S.M.
Sr. Veronica Mary Power, R.S.M.	Sr. Marie Butcher, R.S.M.
Sr. Thérèse Gaudry, R.S.M.	Sr. Ailsa Mackinnon, R.S.M.
Sr. Cecily Gaudry, R.S.M.	Sr. Caroline Ryan, R.S.M.
Sr. Rosemary Crumlin, R.S.M.	Sr. Kathleen Kerwick, L.C.M. (R.I.P.)
Sr. Dorothy May Hawke, R.S.M.	Sr. Veronica McColgan, Marist
Sr. Monica Musgrave, R.S.M.	Sr. Perpetua McColgan, Marist
Sr. M. Theresita Weston, R.S.M. (R.I.P.)	Sr. Phyllis Ryan, Brigidine
Sr. M. St. Jude Cashman, R.S.M.	Sr. Claire O'Hara, L.S.P. (R.I.P.)
	Sr. Kathleen Burns R.S.M. (R.I.P.)

# Holy Cross Woollahra



1906 — 1981



*I have chosen and sanctified this house,  
says the Lord,*

*That my name may remain in it for all time.*

2 Chron (7 : 16)

Line drawings: Linda Remedios

*Pictured:*

1. Holy Cross College
2. Holy Cross Junior School
3. Brothers Monastery — now part of Holy Cross Senior College



## A Parish is Born



T was not until well into the nineteenth century that the Catholic Church gained a secure foothold in the colony of N.S.W. In 1836, Governor Bourke placed all religions on an equal footing and the way was clear for the newly appointed John Bede Polding as first Bishop of Sydney. During his forty-two years of office, there was built up a well organized Christian Church in Australia.

In the Sydney Diocese, the Church spread west and south of St. Mary's. Between the Cathedral and the coast, there was an area of hilly sandstone country that gave on to a series of magnificent beaches, rugged cliffs and jutting headlands. This terrain stretched from Botany Bay to Port Jackson. The Gospel spread but intermittently into this bushy area through occasional masses offered in homes of early settlers.

A new era in the history of the Catholic Church in the eastern suburbs began in 1879 with the arrival of the Irish Franciscan Fathers to take charge of the area known as Waverley, described as four miles from the G.P.O. and extending from the village of Watson's Bay to Botany Bay. They took over the existing parishes of St. Charles' (Waverley), St. Joseph's (Edgecliff), St. Anthony's (Watsons Bay) and the area that later became St. Anne's (Bondi Beach).

In 1906, the parish of Holy Cross was cut off from areas administered by the Franciscans, in Waverley, Woollahra and Bondi. This was the result of a notable increase in population owing to the extension of the tram service to Newland Street, to Denham Street and finally to the Beach. Increased transport led to the migration of a number of Catholic families to the beach areas. Thus, thanks to the zeal of the Friars and to the strong Irish faith of the inner city parishes, there was a nucleus of virile catholicity in the Waverley area, when Father Peter O'Reilly was appointed to the new parochial district of Bondi, to commence on Sunday, 25th March, 1906.



# The Parish Priests of Holy Cross

*To the degree of their authority and in the name of their bishop, priests exercise the office of Christ the Head and the Shepherd. Thus they gather God's family together as a brotherhood of living unity, and lead it through Christ and in the Spirit, to God the Father.*

Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests. — Ch. 2 : 6.



**Reverend Peter O'Reilly, P.P. 1906-1931.**

Father O'Reilly brought to his parish in 1906, a consuming zeal and vibrant faith. His brother Right Reverend Monsignor T. O'Reilly was parish priest of Parramatta and two of his nieces were Sisters of Mercy. With great courage — his parish numbered eighty families and there was no church, no presbytery, no school and very little money — he quickly embarked on a building project. Meantime he lived, first at Watson's Bay, on the outskirts of the parish, then with the Cunningham family in Edgecliff Road. Later a move was made to a three-

storied house (still standing) at the corner of Paul Street and Woodstock Street. At this period Father kept a horse and sulky for visitation of his wide spread parish.

For some months, Sunday Mass was celebrated in a Scouts Hall in Bathurst Street. To ensure the education of the children in the Faith, Father O'Reilly saw the need of a religious order to take on this important work. Hence he invited the Parramatta Sisters of Mercy, as later on he introduced the Marist Brothers, to administer the future schools of Holy Cross.

With limited resources, the new pastor erected in 1907 a building to serve the double purpose of church and school. This building was enlarged in two stages till it was aligned with Adelaide Street and served its double purpose till a school was built in Grafton Street, some ten years later, the architect being Mr. Stan Roarty of Bellevue Hill.

Meanwhile, the Sisters of Mercy, in addition to staffing the parish school, enlarged the educational facilities of the parish by building on Edgecliff Road a convent and a school — Holy Cross College, which was opened in 1908. Within the next ten years the College building was extended to twice the original size.

Thus there was ample provision for the education of girls and small boys. In 1928, Father O'Reilly approached the Marist Brothers to administer a primary school for boys. For this purpose, he built a four-

roomed school in Paul Street and purchased a beautiful old property, "Ben Eden" as a residence for the Brothers.

The parish at this time possessed facilities for the education of 800 children.

Throughout this pioneering stage Holy Cross had become an outstanding parish. Father's constant plea was that each family would have at least one member at Mass each morning. Thus Holy Cross was to become the "morning Mass parish" and also the "rosary parish". Rev. P. M. Lynch C.SsR had preached a memorable mission in the early months of parish history, preceding it by a family visitation, leaving in every home a set of rosary beads.

A good parish spirit built up, fostered by the leisurely gathering of parishioners after Mass on Sundays and the companionable walks to and fro in the days before the family motor car and the government bus. Fund raising, too, through bazaars, gypsy-teas, euchre parties and dances at Paddington Town Hall, provided abundant opportunities for building up friendly, happy relationships.

Father O'Reilly lived to see the Silver Jubilee of the parish on the 15th March, 1931. On the occasion of the Jubilee, an address to him made this interesting statement:—

*"Twenty-five years have passed since this parish was established and placed under your capable and zealous administration. We rejoice with you that you have been spared to witness in this quarter of a century such a development of Catholicity, that, where one extensive sparsely populated parish once claimed your tireless care, five parishes now flourish requiring the ministrations of ten priests."*

Father Peter O'Reilly died a month after this jubilee. His dedicated ministry of 25 years has left an indelible memory of a great and much loved priest. At his requiem on 18th April, 1931, Reverend Doctor Sheehy described him as "a great preacher, an honest, sincere man, beloved by all in every parish where he was known".



**Monsignor Richard Collender, P.P., P.A., V.G. 1931-1958.**

Monsignor Richard Collender succeeded Father O'Reilly as a parish priest of Holy Cross in 1931 after twenty-seven years of priestly service at St. Peter's, Surry Hills. Here he was to spend another twenty-seven years. During this long period of fifty-four years he proved himself "an outstanding builder, a zealous and charitable pastor and a universal friend".

A man of vision with the tact and sensitivity to co-operate with others in giving substance to his ideals, he was, too, most Christlike in his solicitude for the sick, especially during the distressing outbreak of the world epidemic of 'flu after World War I, and in his tender devotion to the poor during the Depression. Even well into the night it was not at all unusual to see the familiar dark-robed priest on his bicycle on an errand of mercy to an ill or bereaved parishioner. His wisdom, open-mindedness and generous acceptance of the views of others made him, in the words of Monsignor O'Haran, "the philosopher and guide of the clergy in their assemblage".

When he was called from Surry Hills, he left behind him one of the best equipped parishes in the Archdiocese – with a fine Church, consecrated and free of debt, and with flourishing schools under the care of the Parramatta Sisters of Mercy and the De La Salle Brothers. It is interesting to note that from the Sisters of Mercy at Surry Hills had come the first teachers to his new parish at Holy Cross some twenty-five years previously.

The years at Woollahra showed no diminution of energy or inspiration. Within the first decade, he engaged the services of Architect Austin McKay, the designer of the Surry Hills Church, for drawing up plans for a similar Church at Woollahra. The parish had outgrown the original building and so, on the 15th October, 1939, the foundation stone of the present Church was laid by His Grace, Archbishop Gilroy. As the inscription tells us, the building was erected "in honorem sanctissimae crucis". This dedication was beautifully and sensitively carried out in the magnificent stained glass windows that illustrated so many moving incidents in the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.

It was at this time, too, that Monsignor Collender gave support to the "Ladies of the Grail", who had come from Holland to set up their youth apostolate in Australia. It was thus from Holy Cross parish that they won their first "Grail Girls" whom they trained to work amongst the youth in the cause of Christ.

In 1941, Monsignor celebrated his Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee, which was marked in the parish by a beautifully prepared "Pageant of the Years 1891-1941". His Grace Archbishop Gilroy in his address at the pageant, asked the girls to pray daily that God would spare their pastor "in health and strength for a long time to the people of Woollahra and to the Archdiocese of Sydney".

Throughout his ministry, despite the many calls made on him in other fields, Monsignor Collender always showed a fatherly interest in the schools and was a well-known figure in First Communion classes, basketball finals, school dances, ex-students' balls and re-unions. In the wider field of the Archdiocese, his wisdom and pastoral concern won for him posts of honour and responsibility – Diocesan Consultor for Archbishop Kelly, Vicar General, Founding Chaplain of the Knights of the Southern Cross, Director of the Catholic Press.

He died at the age of ninety, leaving behind him monuments of devoted love for Christ, the Church, his adopted country and for all under his pastoral care. But as his nephew, Father O'Donovan, P.P., S.T.L., said: "he would be happiest to be remembered as a good and faithful priest who had a tremendous respect for the Church's authority". Cardinal (then Archbishop) Freeman wrote of him: "He was blessed with many years of priesthood – years that were characterized by cautious judgment, firmness of opinion, and a restless energy that belied his age. He was ever grateful for the gift of priesthood and he strove to show his gratitude by the zeal which constantly activated him in life, and by the faith that sustained him in death".



**Most Reverend James P. Carroll, D.D., D.C.L., C.M.G., P.P.**

Third in the trio of great parish priests is His Grace, Most Rev. J. Carroll. He was appointed to Holy Cross at the end of 1958, six months after the death of Monsignor Collender.

Where his predecessors were Irish born, James Carroll was born in Enmore and had his early schooling there. After his secondary education at the Christian Brothers, Lewisham, he proceeded to priestly studies at Springwood and Manly, and at the Irish College, Rome, where he was ordained by Cardinal Marchetti on 30th May, 1931. In 1933 he gained a Doctorate in Canon Law and on his return to Australia was on the teaching staff of both Springwood and Manly seminaries. In 1944 he was appointed parish priest of Enmore. Five years later he was made Domestic Prelate and in 1954 was consecrated bishop at St. Mary's Cathedral by Archbishop Carboni. No doubt in his home territory at Enmore, his parishioners were very proud of their erstwhile parishioner and loved parish priest, now Most Rev. J. Carroll, P.P., D.C.L., D.D.

In 1955, conscious of the plight of Catholic children in his inner city parish, Bishop Carroll built one of the best equipped Kindergarten schools in the Archdiocese, which was placed under the efficient and motherly care of Sr. M. Justinian, Sister of Mercy.

Three years later, the parish celebrated His Lordship's Silver Jubilee with great éclat. It is interesting to note that at the concert given by the Enmore children, a String Ensemble from Holy Cross College, Woollahra, was one of the items. Within a few months it was the turn of Holy Cross parish to welcome Enmore's distinguished pastor to take the place of their much loved Monsignor Collender.

Arriving at Holy Cross at the end of 1958, Bishop Carroll soon found a mammoth educational task awaiting him. Despite his many demanding commitments to the Archdiocese as auxiliary Bishop to His Eminence, Cardinal Gilroy, he gave himself immediately to the task of meeting the requirements of education at every stage – kindergarten to H.S.C.

The early sixties saw the implementation of the Wyndham Report and a consequent rationalisation of a number of small intermediate high schools. The result was a marked increase of enrolments both in Holy Cross College and Holy Cross Primary School. With his usual insight in matters of education, His Lordship with the help and co-operation of the Sisters, and the expertise of Architects Hirst and Kennedy, and Builders Goodwin & Sons, drew up an overall development plan to be completed in three stages. In less than a decade, the parish saw the completion of the plan that resulted in the splendid school buildings on both sides of Edge-cliff Road. During this period, too, His Lordship was honoured by Pope Paul VI with the title and extra burdens of the office of Archbishop.

Despite his many Archdiocesan pre-occupations and pressing parish business, His Grace has always shown a close and cordial interest in the schools, and has graciously endeavoured to be present at school activities – the First Communion Masses, annual prize-givings, sporting finals, picnics, ex-students' functions. For these and countless other kindnesses, His Grace has won the affection and gratitude of students, ex-students and teaching staffs.

His Grace's devotion to the work of education has not limited his vision in other fields, especially in the strengthening of the bonds of brotherhood with the other Churches in the area. With his assistant priests he has built up a cordial relationship, the strength of which may be gauged by the fact that his name is inscribed on the foundation stone of the Church in the Market Place with that of Rev. Keith Doust of the Uniting Church.

True to the Vatican Council's directions for the renewal of the liturgy, Archbishop Carroll has refurbished the parish Church without altering any major structures. The result has been very enriching and has enhanced the carrying of the liturgy in the spirit of the liturgical renewal.

Over the years, parochial matters have not limited his vision in the wider field of education in the Archdiocese, in N.S.W. and in the Commonwealth. He has borne the burdens of Catholic Education in his office of Episcopal Vicar of Education and as Chairman of the Catholic Education Commission – a permanent body which co-ordinates Catholic Education in N.S.W. and negotiates with governments and other public bodies, and develops educational policies acceptable to Catholic education authorities in N.S.W.

Thus in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia, the tireless, self-sacrificing work of Archbishop Carroll will have grateful recognition. It is, perhaps, to His Grace more than to any other single person, that the achievement of a more just recognition of the rights of Catholics for financial support for their educational systems is due. For this achievement, all Catholics, and in a special way, his own parishioners owe a generous tribute of appreciation.

It is a matter of great joy that in this, the fiftieth year of his priesthood, we can gratefully acknowledge the immense benefits he has bestowed on Holy Cross and on the Church, in the Archdiocese and in Australia.

**Ad multos annos!**

## Catechists — Catechetical Works

Catechists from Holy Cross Parish have been giving instructions at Bellevue Hill State School since 1942 when the school was founded.

The method of instruction was originally arranged by one of the priests but in the period 1959-1960, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine initiated a more structured procedure which has since been updated in four stages to meet current requirements. As late as 1963, the priest was assisted by two teachers – Mary M. Lynn (R.I.P.), the other Irene White.

As further catechists became involved, the work passed over completely into the hands of lay catechists. After completing the training course, the team was increased to four members – Josephine Denning, Cecily O'Mara, Cath Kofod (R.I.P.) and Mary Prothero.

Since 1980 each class has had its own teacher, and now a group of eight has been formed – Helen Boyd, Lorraine Bell, Maureen Brian, Eileen Keane, Stella Smith, Lilian Appleton, Pearl Dixon, and Rema Flannery – assisted by a non-teaching secretary Mary Prothero. Meetings are held twice a term at the Presbytery.



# Religious Brothers and Sisters

## The Story of Seventy-five Years

*"The Church's involvement in the field of education is demonstrated especially by the Catholic school. No less than other schools does the Catholic school pursue cultural goals and the natural development of youth. But it has several distinctive purposes. It aims to create for the school community an atmosphere enlivened by the gospel spirit of freedom and charity."*

*Second Vatican Council, Declaration on Christian Education, "Gravissimum Educationis". 8.*

### THE MARIST BROTHERS (1928-1964).

The Marist Brothers' story began in 1927 when Father Peter O'Reilly, P.P. gained permission from Brother Brendan (Provincial) for a group of brothers to take charge of a school to be built in Paul Street on a property, "Ben Eden", at a cost of \$12,394.00. The building was soon erected, and the old residence on the site was renovated at a projected cost of \$8,000 as a residence for the brothers.

In 1928, Brothers Barnabas, Anastatius and Joseph set up a primary school with an initial enrolment of 80 boys, which in the next decade increased to 230.

In a short time, secondary pupils were admitted and the original four rooms were partitioned to accommodate the extra classes. These were transferred in 1957 to Bondi Beach, where a new girls' school had been built leaving the original girls' school for the secondary boys. In 1964 the Christian Brothers replaced the Marist Brothers both in Paul Street and at Bondi Beach.

### THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS (1964-1969).

In the re-organization of schools following the adoption of the Wyndham Plan, the Christian Brothers, in 1964, took over the Holy Cross primary school at Paul Street and it became a feeder school to St. Anne's, Bondi Beach which had also been handed over to the Christian Brothers. Later, in 1964, when the Catholic Education Office resolved that third and fourth class boys remain with the Sisters' schools, only two classes were left at Paul Street. Hence it was decided that this small primary school was not viable and thus Holy Cross Boys' Primary School was closed down in 1969. As Holy Cross College girls' school was in need of additional accommodation, the two senior classes moved to the vacated school in Paul Street in 1970.

Thus ended a very happy association of both brotherhoods with the primary boys' school of Holy Cross parish.

### THE SISTERS OF MERCY (1906-)

The history of the Sisters of Mercy at Holy Cross spans the seventy-five years of the parish story.

It was as early as October 1906 that the Parramatta Sisters of Mercy, at the invitation of Father O'Reilly, began their association with the parish of Holy Cross. Each Sunday, two Sisters travelled from the Mercy Convent at Surry Hills and attended Mass in the Scouts Hall, Bathurst Street, and after Mass, gathered the children together for instructions in their Faith. Thanks to the energy and intrepidity of Father O'Reilly, a church was built within fourteen months of his appointment. Regular schooling forthwith began in the church till the erection of a primary school in Grafton Street some ten years later. This building is currently the Woollahra-Waverley Arts Centre.

Meanwhile, in 1908, the Trustees of the Sisters of Mercy built a convent in Edgecliff Road, and, before the end of the year opened "Holy Cross College" with an enrolment of two students. Some idea of the stage of development of Woollahra at the time may be gauged from the convent chronicle entry for the 8th September, 1908, which notes that Cardinal Moran had difficulty in ploughing across the sandhill between Edgecliff Road and the new building, when he came to celebrate the first Mass.

Thus, by 1908, there were two "convent" schools – a primary school in the church, and "Holy Cross College". Sister M. de Pazzi Dolan was the first Superior of the convent and the first principal of the parish school, while Sister M. de Chantal McCrone was the first principal of the College. Some fifty years later, the latter relinquished its primary department, which was incorporated into the parish Primary School under the name of "Holy Cross Junior School".

Over the years both the boys and girls schools flourished as excellent educational establishments and produced some fine scholars. The girls schools experienced a major physical development in the sixties, in no small degree due to the foresight and whole-hearted support of His Grace, Archbishop Carroll. The extensions of the College, utilising the tennis court area, and the beautiful Primary School on the site of the former Fletcher Foundry, are the "monumentum aere perennius" to His Grace's deep interest in education.

A further development of the school complex was the movement of the two senior classes of the College to the vacant boys school in Paul Street. The enrolment of the schools is currently nine hundred and fifty pupils.

## Sodalities of the Parish

We of Holy Cross have seen many changes in our devotional life. The senior members of the Parish family will remember very well the Sodalities which flourished . . . not so many years ago! For the young school girl, it was the Holy Angels with the distinctive red cloak and veil worn on the First Friday of each month. The senior student joined the Children of Mary Sodality, again wearing regalia, and usually remained as a member through the teenage years. Thus it seemed quite natural for the ladies of the Parish to feel strongly drawn to their Sodality of The Sacred Heart.

All these Sodalities asked of their members, and indeed received from them, a self discipline of giving and commitment. For it required that members attend a specific Mass each month, sitting in allotted pews, and returning in the evening or afternoon for Devotions and Benediction.

The Fourth Sunday of the month was set aside for a Holy Hour. Usually held late afternoon, it consisted of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, sermon, hymns and private prayer. A weekly Devotion to the Mother of Perpetual Succour was held each Saturday evening. The shrine is still loved and a centre of devotion before and after Mass.



**HOLY  
NAME SOCIETY  
HOLY CROSS  
PARISH**

The Holy Name Society was introduced into the Archdiocese in 1933.

In 1934, the Society came to Holy Cross, its first spiritual Director being Father James Fitzpatrick and its first President Mr. Tom Kerwick.

In the pre-Vatican II period one Sunday a month was set aside for the Holy Name Society. This Society was an Association of a religious character: its dual benefits were inspiration and help for the individual, union and strength for the whole.

The Society was very fortunate in the ensuing years to have had among its Spiritual Directors, Fathers P. Flanagan, D. O'Keefe, J. Haseler, E. Paine and M. Baulman.

Its development was marked by a strong membership growth which reached its peak in the early fifties. That enthusiasm was carried by members into other Parish activities, e.g. St. Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary and the monthly Nocturnal Vigil of the Blessed Sacrament.

Numbered among its Presidents were Messrs. Michael Dolan, Frank Read, John Brown and Bon Andersen.

However, as the decrees of post-Vatican II gained acceptance within the Church, the membership of the Society declined until its cessation in the mid-sixties.

The Catholic Women's League held its inaugural meeting in February 1968 at Holy Cross. This was in response to an address given by Mrs. W. Chandler a short time before, at the request of Father Peter Harrington.

Over the next six years, the League became actively involved in charitable works: hospital visitation, Meals on Wheels, welcoming migrants to the parish, assisting in the care of aborigines at the centre conducted by Sr. M. Oliver, R.S.M. at Surry Hills. In addition, the ladies in the C.W.L. were ever at the service of their own parish, attending to suppers on social occasions and for ecumenical services. They also contributed to adult education by inviting guest speakers and arranging seminars on topics of religious or cultural interest.

The League lived a fruitful and active life for some six years, closing down in 1973 owing to lack of support.

## The Liturgy

Like most parishes, Holy Cross has seen in the last fifteen years sweeping changes in the liturgy. The most notable change, perhaps, is in the celebration of Mass. From the first tentative steps in Dialogue Mass, we now find ourselves alternately singing, standing, sitting, kneeling. The celebrant faces the people and prays in a language we understand. Pulpit and communion rails have disappeared and lay readers, commentators and cantors take part.

Recently introduced has been the order of acolyte, represented in our parish by Jack O'Brien and Richard Gates. The prayers of the Mass have been simplified and the vestments changed in pattern and adornment. Birettas have gone (as have, in the main, ladies' hats). Home Masses are encouraged and many families have accepted the privilege joyfully.

Administration of the sacraments has taken on new and meaningful forms: Communion is taken standing and, optionally, in the hand, and sometimes under both species; confessionals have been altered in accordance with the new rite of Reconciliation. We have welcomed a new member to the Church with Baptism during Mass — the first being Stephen Oakey. The last rites, or Blessing of the Sick, are administered more frequently and in groups in the Church. A welcome change has been made in the Requiem Mass in the positive and joyful note of resurrection which does much to soften the sadness of the occasion.

The parish, too, has enjoyed the experience of the liturgical dance. The children of the junior school have combined symbolic movements and dance in their Christmas and Easter pageants with prayerful and devotional effect.

Perhaps some may look back with nostalgia to the days of sodalities, frequent Benedictions, rosaries and the "silent" Mass. But would we want to go back to the time when we did not turn to each other during Mass with the beautiful greeting: "Christ's peace be with you"?

## The Legion of Mary

For close on thirty years, Holy Cross Parish was served by the Legion of Mary, that world-wide apostolic association whose motto, "To Jesus through Mary" tells its story.

Our Lady of Ransom Praesidium was established in Holy Cross in April, 1942 and till 1971 was a very active group in the life of the Parish. A variety of good works brought consolation and spiritual enrichment to the sick, the lonely, the bereaved and to the members themselves.

The Junior Praesidium drawn from Holy Cross College and Holy Cross Primary School achieved the proud record of having met a thousand times.

### St. Vincent de Paul Conference

The parish deeply appreciates the dedicated work of the members of the Conference whose mission of mercy to those in need is carried out so unobtrusively and sensitively in the spirit of the Gospel.

## Ecumenism

"Co-operation among all Christians vividly expresses that bond which already unites them." (Decree on Ecumenism 2 : 12).

Holy Cross has been outstanding in its response to the Vatican Council in the promotion of the ecumenical spirit. For many years there has been a cordial and warm relationship between the Christian communities of the Eastern suburbs, especially with the Methodists of Waverley-East Sydney Mission. This bond has been strengthened by "the exciting concept" and the resultant building of "The Church in the Market Place" in 1973 as a "focal point of united Christian witness". Here the various churches have been generously invited to gather their own congregations on a regular basis, Thursday being allotted to Holy Cross for the celebration of midday Mass each week.

In the area of community welfare, Reverend Ronald Coleman and Father Peter Harrington in 1970 conceived the idea of the "Eastern Community Help Organization", known as "ECHO". The implementation of this concept was made possible within the project of "The Church in the Market Place", which included in its complex a referral centre for those in need of spiritual or temporal assistance, available to all denominations.

In addition, there has been a happy co-operation between the churches of our area in ecumenical services to mark the great liturgical feasts of Christmas and Pentecost. This union of Faith and "Christian outreach" is surely an indication of spiritual vitality and social concern that we hope will continue to flourish in our eastern region.

## A LIVING PARISH



Holy Cross has never been a Church in isolation — for the Parish of Holy Cross is its people and its works.

This occasion — our 75th Anniversary — is a proper time to thank those who have worked at our spiritual and social growth — our education.

And what talents there were — and what talents there are. Those with the *vision* to build Parish schools and two churches.

Those with the *courage* to take on seemingly impossible debts; those with the *spirit* of the Sisters of Mercy, the Marist Brothers and the Christian Brothers who taught our children. The *dedicated* parents who supported the schools and gave thousands a Catholic education.

The *faithful* Priests.

The *tireless* Sodalties.

Each generation, each year brought its changes and challenges and more recently the difficulty of coping with new liturgy and rituals left many of us bemused and some floundering.

Besides — the Ecumenical quest was upon us. As our Parish Lenten Groups gathered over the four past years, they grew in numbers to over one hundred. They have included those from neighbouring Parishes, those of different faiths to share our thoughts and for us to be favoured by their joining.

Hopefully, gradually, we at Holy Cross aspire to see a little more clearly Christ in our neighbour.

And the next 75 years?

Perhaps in its simplest terms two things — one; let us do the next good thing well and with faith, and then — leave the strategy to God.