

February 2007

Number 8

Included in this edition:

*Opening of St Patrick's Church, Colebrook*

*The Renaissance of St Patrick's Colebrook (continued)*

Welcome to the eighth edition of the Friends Newsletter.

We devote this entire issue to the 150th anniversary of St Patrick's Church, Colebrook, in Tasmania, on Sunday 21 January 2007. In this Newsletter we have recounted the original report of the 'Opening of St. Patrick's Church Jerusalem', which appeared in The Tasmanian Daily News for Saturday, 24 January 1857.

To be ready for this significant celebration much work was needed. As reported to you in earlier editions, the rood screen was restored and reinstated, and a new forward altar was designed, constructed and installed. The conservation of the chancel floor and furnishings is detailed in this edition.

It was such a blessing that builder Bob Voss had recently been able to seal the perimeter doors, and you can imagine just how much dirt, vegetation, birds and mice had such easy access to the church for 150 years, not to mention the spiders and their webs and the moths and other insects. Movement in the church structure had also exposed small areas of the roof to the open air, creating an avenue for further debris to fall in, especially in the sacristy and chancel.

The movement is to be addressed and remediated this year, as documented in our Conservation Management Plan.

We began the cleaning process early in December and continued with a small team of Friends in January. Walls were swept and cobwebs, where accessible, were removed. The brass was polished and the linen starched. There was much washing down, polishing and vacuuming. We received welcome support from Mary Loré, Gail Hughes-Gage and Mary-Anne Munnings of Colebrook to whom we are indebted.

The outside of the building proved to be somewhat neglected as well. We have an extensive and comprehensive landscape management plan nearing completion for the grounds and for the integration of the cemetery, but there were some inappropriate large bushes against the building that needed removal straight away. Andy Beven of St John's, Richmond, raked, clipped, weeded and swept. The resident village lawn mowers (pictured), had eaten the grass which, despite the drought conditions, was tinged with green after the much needed rains. Friend of Pugin Derek Loré and his son Peter, from



Bathurst NSW, made amazing changes around the Church, and Fran Callan removed all of the swallow's nests that were tucked around the front door and in the window ledges behind the screens that protect the windows.



*Mary Loré, Brian Andrews, Derek Loré & Peter Loré with Jude's little dog Lucette, having a well deserved break during cleaning up.*

Some twelve months earlier, Most Rev. Adrian Doyle (Archbishop of Hobart and a Patron of the Pugin Foundation) had agreed to celebrate the Mass for this significant occasion. He was joined on the day by Most Rev. Geoffrey Jarrett, Bishop of Lismore and Pugin Foundation Board member, and Fr Terry Rush, Parish Priest and Friend of Pugin. As Archbishop Doyle mentioned in his sermon, for many of the over 200 attending the celebrations, it had the feel of 'coming home', particularly for the present Colebrook community, members of the community from former years and their ancestors who lived in the community decades ago.

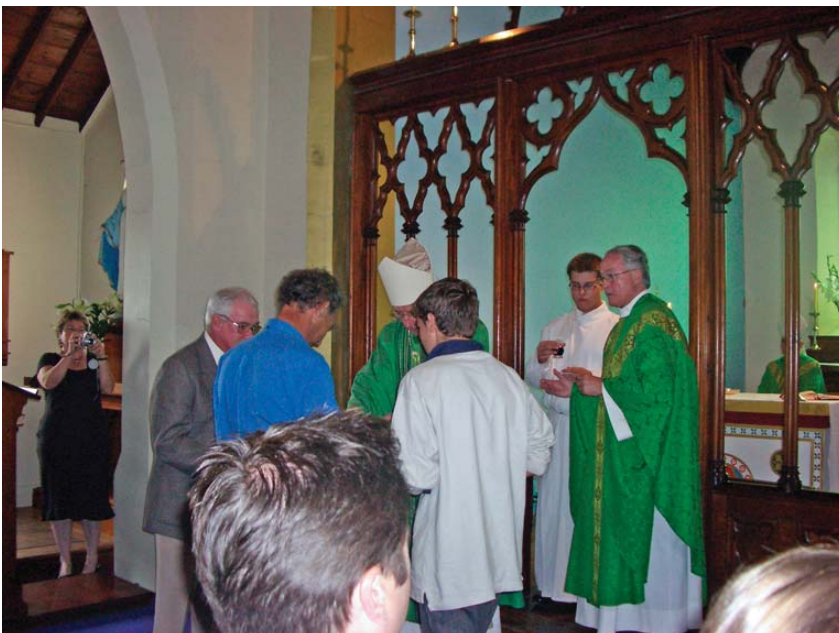
Archbishop Doyle acknowledged the foresight of his predecessor Bishop Robert William Willson and the way in which his very close friendship with Pugin had 'ensured that people who were doing it tough, would have some of the most beautiful and appropriate locations and symbols to assist them in their worship and the living of their faith.' He added: 'Today we remember the fidelity and loyalty, the generosity and the vision of all those members of the Catholic and local community who dreamed of having a church here in their locality.'

The Archbishop acknowledged the dedication of Executive Officer Brian Andrews and the support in particular of the Pugin Foundation who are valuing and preserving many of the faith initiatives of the past.



*Hon William Cox (Patron) with Tom Hazell (Chairman).*

The Colebrook Community and the Richmond Parish were joined in the celebrations by Hon. William Cox AC, Governor of Tasmania and a Patron of the Pugin Foundation, and his wife Jocelyn Cox, members of the Board of the Pugin Foundation: Allan Myers QC with his wife Maria



*The Offertory Procession: Michael & Christopher Munnings, Eddie Dandy, Fr Terry Rush, Archbishop Adrian Doyle and Josh.*



(Melbourne), Dr Jane Lennon AM with her husband John Taylor (Brisbane), Tom Hazell AO Chairman (Melbourne), Nick Callinan with his wife Libby (Melbourne), and Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett (Lismore). Many Friends of Pugin came from across Tasmania and Mainland Australia. Don Spongberg came from Sydney and Daniel Drew and Ann Knight came from Melbourne for the day. Michael Polley MHA, Speaker of the Tasmanian House of Assembly, and Tony Bisdee, Mayor of the Southern Midlands Council, supported the celebrations. We received so many 'if only we could be there' apologies. Without the vision, generosity and hard work of the Board and the marvellous enthusiasm of our Patrons and Friends, the Richmond Parish and the Colebrook Community, Pugin's vision for the faithful in the antipodes could not be realized in this beautiful valley.

group gave everyone present an opportunity to rejoice in a very special day, to catch up and renew acquaintances and to meet those involved in the conservation of St Patrick's Church. Special thanks are given to Tom Hazell, Chairman of the Pugin Foundation, who generously paid for the luncheon.

We finished our celebrations with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the church, led by Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett. As with the Mass, Benediction was accompanied by organist Nico Bester, and a group of singers, including members of the Tasmanian Gregorian Schola, facilitated by Friend of Pugin Mark Tuckett. Our singers, servers and the many who helped behind the scenes strengthened the Foundation's identity with the past enabling us to move forward to many future celebrations in Colebrook and beyond.



*Archbishop Adrian Doyle chatting at lunch.*

The Mass was followed by an abundant and delicious luncheon in the Colebrook Memorial Hall prepared and served by the Colebrook Progress Association. So much effort and dedication from this marvellous

In this issue you will find some of the photographs of this wonderful occasion.

A larger collection of images will be on our website by the end of March, together with Archbishop Doyle's sermon. I will take this opportunity to bring to your attention that we are in the process of a major overhaul and upgrade of our website. It was time to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the site after a seven-month period, so, in order to bring you best practice for the many Friends all over the world, we commenced this refurbishment and enhancement at the start of February. It will most likely take another month for this to be accomplished.

With kind regards,  
**Jude Andrews**  
*Administrative Officer*

*Friend of Pugin Maria Myers with Jane Lennon (Board).*



*Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett (Board) with Friends of Pugin Daniel Drew and Richard Burgess.*





*Michael Polley.*



*Friend of Pugin Richard Burgess with  
Nicholas Callinan (Board).*



*Friends of Pugin Jocelyn Cox, Kevin and Kerry Morgan.*



*Friends of Pugin Shirley Kerin and Betty Vincent.*



*Friend of Pugin Don Spongberg  
chats with Brian Andrews  
(Executive Officer).*



*Archbishop Adrian  
Doyle (Patron),  
Allan Myers (Board)  
and Friend of Pugin  
Ann Knight.*





*Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett and Fr Terry Rush at Benediction*

## *The Opening of St Patrick's Church*

We reproduce below a report, entitled 'Opening of St. Patrick's Church Jerusalem', which appeared in The Tasmanian Daily News for Saturday, 24 January 1857.

'On Wednesday, the 21st instant, this beautiful newly erected edifice was finally dedicated to divine service.

It is built with freestone, in picked and drafted ashlar with tooled dressings; and consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, sacristy and north porch, affording accommodation for over 400 worshippers. In the chancel there are an enriched carved screen, sedilia, and piscina, and in the porch there is a proper stone stoup for holy water.

The style of the building is that of the decorated period of Christian architecture. The east window is of three lights, with good tracery. The aisle windows are in couplets, as also are the quatre-foil lights to the clerestory. The belfry is pierced with three openings in two heights, surmounted by a gilt cross. Each gable also is furnished with an enriched stone cross. The site is a very favourable one, commanding a view of the entire district of Jerusalem.

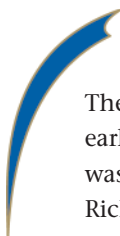
The 21st of January, 1857, will be a day long to be remembered by the Catholics of Jerusalem and its

vicinity, and by all who had the happiness of sharing the holy gladness which every faithful Christian present upon the occasion must have felt.

Every circumstance connected with that day, recalls to mind the days of faith and Christian love, the exquisitely wrought Gothic temple, the crowds of faithful worshippers assembled from far and near—the mitred bishop with his devoted clergy—the newly erected altar, the mystic sacrifice of the New Law—the holy incense, the emblem of prayer and devotion, the first time ascending from the hallowed ground—all proclaimed that the Spouse of Christ is ever beautiful and attractive, that her beauty, though ever ancient, is always new, and that her strength is ever fresh and vigorous.

The new church is dedicated to the tutelage of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, and, whilst it is a noble expression of the holy faith of which he was the herald in that distant and beloved land, we may well hope that his fostering care and tutelary spirit will ever guard and watch over its holy sanctuary.

By the indefatigable and heroic zeal of the good pastor, the Rev. W.J. Dunne, aided by the generous contributions of Christian piety, the good work has been successfully completed. St. Patrick's Church has had many a kind and charitable friend, but there is one whose munificent charity merits the deepest and most heartfelt remembrance—Mr. Michael McGuire of Jerusalem.



The weather was fortunately most auspicious. At an early hour of the morning the township of Jerusalem was enlivened by a large assemblage of the people of Richmond, Oatlands, Brighton and Green Ponds.

Previously to the celebration of the divine mysteries, the church was blessed by the Rev. W.J. Dunne, assisted by three of the clergy; and then, for the first time, the church-bell, the symbol of Christian joy, pealed forth its sweet and solemn accents, which joyously re-echoed from the neighbouring hills.

The Mass was sung by the Rev. M. O'Callaghan, assisted by the Rev. W.J. Dunne. After the gospel his Lordship, the Right Rev. Dr. Willson, preached an eloquent sermon on the Christian priesthood, and the mystic sacrifice of the Mass, which, as foretold by the Prophet Malachy, should be offered "from the rising to the setting of the sun".

The Rev. G. Hunter presided over the choir. In the sanctuary we noticed the Rev. Messrs. Keoghan, Ryan, Hogan, Fitzgerald, and Lucas.

Amongst the laity were present Charles Eardley Wilmot Esq.,—Police Magistrate, Richmond, the hon. H.F. Anstey, W.H.A., and Lady, W. Villeneuve Smith, Esq., H. Cassidy, Esq., and family, D. Stanfield, and W. Kearney, Esq., Mr. H. Hunter, &c., &c.

After divine worship a large number of the visitors with the Bishop and clergy, were sumptuously entertained at a plentiful dejeuner, provided by the Catholics of Jerusalem.'

## *The Renaissance of St Patrick's, Colebrook*

Continuing our news of conservation activities, we report on works carried out in the chancel in anticipation of the 150th anniversary.

### *Floors Rehabilitation*

In due course all carpet will be removed from the church and the floors conservatively rehabilitated. Because the carpet had been laid beneath the incomplete screen in the early 1970s it was necessary to remove the carpet in the chancel in order for the restored screen to be correctly reinstalled.

Removal of the chancel carpet revealed a number of important aspects of the original flooring

- The floorboards were generally in very good condition. Patches of the floor had been renewed in the late 1890s as a result of damage caused by the fall of the bellcote and, with it, the chancel roof.
- A return section of the upper step level alongside the sedilia (clergy seats) had been removed when the carpet was installed.

*The unrestored chancel floor beside the sedilia showing the 'shadow' of the missing step.*



Based on this evidence a replacement step was made and installed, and the entire chancel floor was cleaned, rehabilitated and lightly waxed, bringing out the beautiful patina of the wood and revealing the adze marks on the floorboards.

Reinstatement of the missing step is particularly important because it has restored the logical level in front of the sedilia, something destroyed by carpeting the area and removal of the step.



*The reinstated step.*

### *Sedilia*

The cedar sedilia, part of the original Pugin design, were partly disassembled, tightened, reassembled and given a renewed finish to match the restored rood screen, while respecting the original patina. In the process it was discovered that the moulded front edge of the seat was made of teak, not a nineteenth-century Tasmanian furniture material. Furniture conservator Tony Colman regards its origin as likely being timber salvaged from the breaking up of Royal Navy warships in Hobart, an industry of the time, making it a fascinating link to an aspect of Tasmania's past.



*The restored sedilia.*

### *Piscina*

This is a local copy of a Pugin-designed exemplar piscina in English limestone, brought out by Bishop Willson in 1844 and replicated both here and in St John the Evangelist's Church, Richmond. Like the rest of the stonework inside



*The piscina stripped of paint.*

the church it was originally unpainted, but has had a number of coats of paint over the past 150 years.

Heritage Tasmania's advice is that paint can never be fully removed from stonework without damage to the stone. Accordingly, we will not be attempting, in general, to remove the paint, but rather reinstating the first paint scheme on the stonework throughout the church. The

exception is the piscina, a small stand-alone stone furnishing, where tiny remnants of paint would not be visually disturbing. Therefore the piscina has been largely and carefully stripped of paint without damaging the fabric. The wall surrounding it will eventually be repainted in its original colour.

### *The 1920s altar*

This is the third altar to have been installed in the chancel. The original, a painted and gilded wooden altar, was designed by eminent Hobart architect Henry Hunter. It was replaced in 1883 by a painted wooden altar designed by Irish immigrant Patrick Sheehy. The 1883 altar was damaged in 1895 by the fall of the bellcote and eventually replaced in the 1920s by the present one.

During the late 1960s this altar was divided, the altar proper being brought forward from the gradines and tabernacle, to permit celebration of Mass facing the people. A fascia was made to support the gradines and tabernacle. At some stage the top of the tabernacle was removed and lost.

The restoration of the altar has consisted of the following:

- Removal of the fascia
- Re-integrating the altar, gradines and tabernacle
- Making and installing a replica of the missing tabernacle top, based on photographic evidence and measurements
- Cleaning and polishing the woodwork
- Re-installation of the conserved altar against the chancel east wall



*The restored 1920s altar.*

## *New Friends of Pugin*

We welcome:

Mr Joshua Martin  
Mrs Pat & Mr Robert Scanlon  
Mr Dominic Cudmore  
Mr Thomas Hazell AO  
Mrs Margareta Lajunen

Bassendean, Western Australia  
Rosetta, Tasmania  
Hunters Hill, New South Wales  
Carlton, Victoria  
Hobart, Tasmania

## *Donations*

Our thanks to:

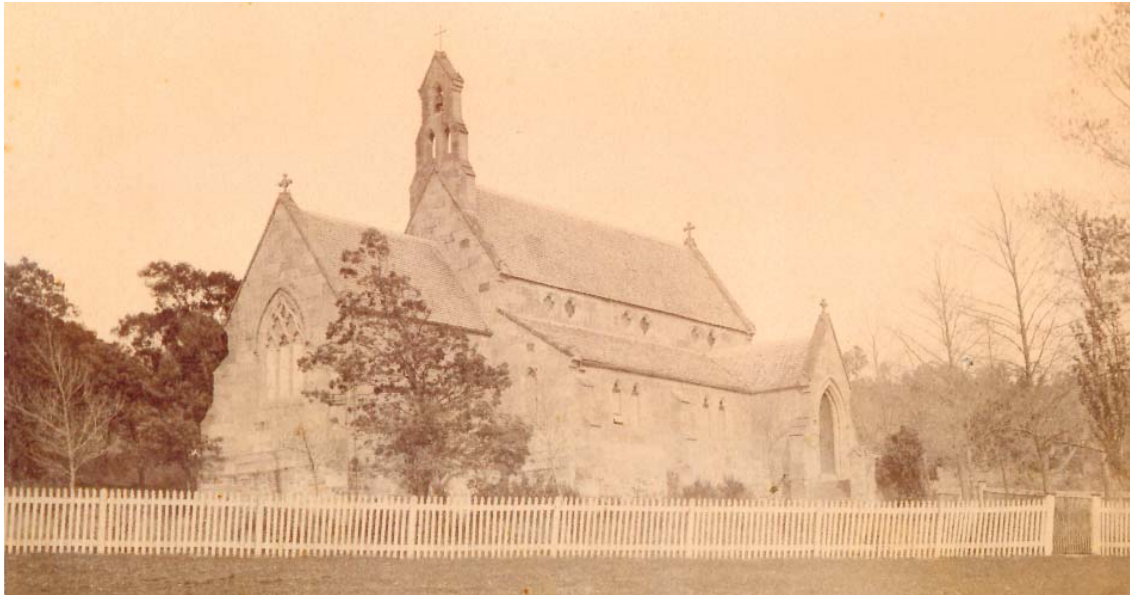
Mr Dominic Cudmore for his kind donation

And particularly:

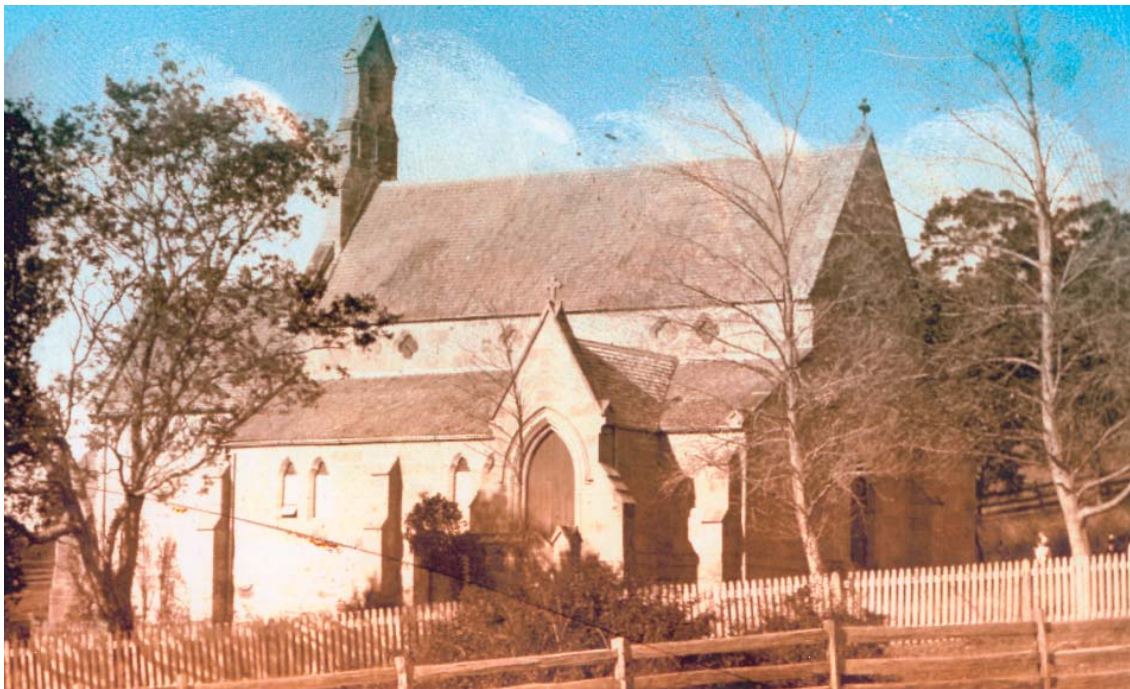
Mr Thomas Hazell for the generous donation of \$1,400 for the 150th celebrations of St Patrick's Church, Colebrook.

Mrs Margareta Lajunen of Rugs & Kilims, Elizabeth Street, Hobart, for the generous donation of an exquisite hand-made runner, valued at \$900, for behind the new forward altar.





*St Patrick's, early 1890s. (Archdiocese of Hobart Archives)*



*St Patrick's, early 1890s, from a hand-tinted lantern slide. (Archdiocese of Hobart Archives)*

*A panoramic view of Colebrook village, February 2007.*

