

April 2012

Number 67

*Included in this edition:*

- *The Pugin Bi-centenary Festival*
- *Bi-centenary Organ Appeal*

Welcome to the sixty-seventh Friends Newsletter.

The beginning of March was a very exciting time for the Pugin Foundation as, after months of intensive preparation, we celebrated the bi-centenary of Pugin's birth with a highly successful Pugin Festival. We welcomed Friends of Pugin and Directors of the Foundation who had come from New Zealand, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and from across Tasmania for the occasion.

Celebrations started on the evening of Thursday 1 March, the actual bi-centenary day, with a free illustrated public lecture to a capacity audience on 'Pugin's Tasmanian Legacy' by our Executive Officer Brian Andrews in the new St Mary's Cathedral Centre, Hobart. Our thanks to Friends of Pugin Kevin Morgan and Robert Scanlon for helping with the arrangement of the seating.

On Friday evening 2 March we were treated to an organ recital in St Mary's Cathedral by Dom Alban Nunn OSB, a monk of Ealing Abbey. London. Dom Alban had generously offered around a year earlier to give a recital and in fact composed a special work in honour of the bi-centenary which had its premiere on the night. Entitled 'Tessera', it was inspired by Pugin's encaustic tile designs. Regarding this work a reviewer in the Hobart *Mercury* noted that the 'four-part work contrasted bold heraldic fanfares with shimmering melodies'. Much appreciated assistance with navigating the complexities of the Cathedral lighting system and security was kindly provided by Friend of Pugin Mark Tuckett. This recital was the first of several

Festival events recorded by ABC Classic FM for broadcast, probably in September around the anniversary of Pugin's death.

We had two concerts on the Saturday, one in St John's, Richmond, and later in St Mary's Cathedral. The first, by the Hobart Chamber Orchestra, was directed by noted Australian violinist Peter Tanfield who had enthusiastically offered to be involved more than a year before the Festival. This turned out to be doubly generous because by the time of our celebrations Peter had barely recovered from a badly broken wrist which had prevented him from playing the violin for many months.



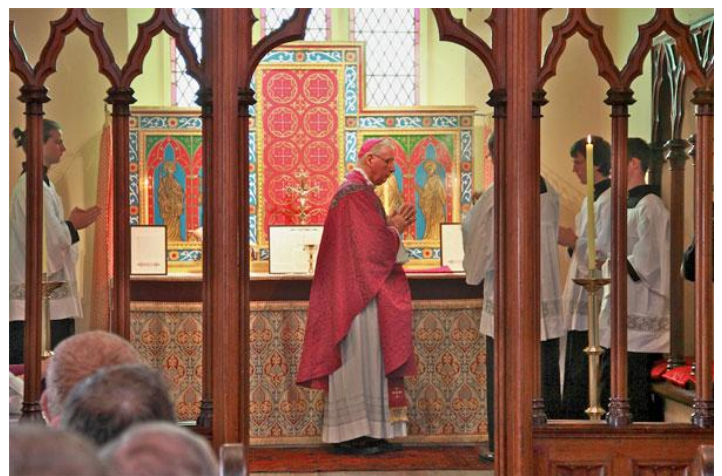
*The Hobart Chamber Orchestra in concert in St John's Church, Richmond (Image: Jane Lennon)*

The greatly appreciated evening concert was given by the Choir of Newman College within the University of Melbourne directed by Dr Gary Ekkel. Their visit to Hobart to sing at the bi-

centenary Mass had been funded by Friends of Pugin Allan and Maria Myers, so the concert was a splendid bonus. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Allan and Maria for this exceptionally generous gesture. The concert was also recorded by ABC Classic FM.

The centrepiece of our celebrations was a Missa Cantata in the Extraordinary Form celebrated by Foundation Director Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett in Pugin's St Patrick's, Church Colebrook, on Sunday 4 March. Our heartfelt thanks to Bishop Jarrett for offering twelve months ago to celebrate the bi-centenary Mass in this form when other, more ambitious, plans had unexpectedly come unstuck. For this very special way of honouring Pugin with the liturgy he knew and loved, the Mass setting was William Byrd's *Mass for Five Voices* with the Propers in Sarum and Gregorian chant, all sung by the Newman choir under the direction of Gary Ekkel with Newman College organist David Macfarlane. As Bishop Jarrett put it in his homily:

In this place, with arch and aisle and pillar and screen, we commemorate the birth of its architect in liturgy and music, in solemn rite and sacrament. In the unity of faith and continuity of Catholic worship, if Pugin were to find himself kneeling with us at this altar we may imagine him entirely at home, the lapse of time between his place and time and ours dissolved in an instant recognition of this scene, and absorption within the action in which we are at present engaged.



*The Bi-centenary Mass (Images: Mishka Gora)*

Gary Ekkel wrote to us recently, commenting: 'It was a wonderful experience for the choir – very few of them had sung in a full Latin Mass before, let alone in a place designed by Pugin. I have had lots of positive comments from the singers.'





. There are so many to thank for their special contributions to the day. Friends of Pugin Michael and Penny Wadsley spent two days hard work cutting grass and tidying up both in the church surrounds and in the adjoining cemetery. The appearance of the area on the day was an absolute credit to their exertions and we are most grateful. Likewise, Friend of Pugin Mark Tuckett had done a splendid job of cleaning the church itself for the Mass, and our thanks to him. We augmented the Colebrook Pugin furnishings for the occasion with an 1854 ciborium and an 1847 paten, kindly loaned by Sr Carmel Hall MSS, the Archdiocesan archivist, as well as an 1847 processional cross and an 1854 brass missal stand from St John's, Richmond. The stand was beautifully polished by parishioner Michelle Thompson.

The new Pugin-designed High Altar received its crowning glory in the form of a beautiful set of altar cloths and altar linen made by Friend of Pugin Anna Greener and embroidered by her with red foliated crosses copied from examples in Pugin's 1844 *Glossary of Ecclesiastical Ornament and Costume*. She also made a set of communion cloths and came up with a most innovative solution to the task of attaching them to the original wooden buttons on the lower rear face of the rood screen. We are particularly grateful for this generous donation from Anna and Simon Greener, and we note that their two sons Aidan and Bede served with dignity at the Mass.



*An embroidered cross by Anna Greener (Image: Brian Andrews)*



*Dr Gary Ekkel conducts the Newman College Choir during the Bi-centenary Mass (Image: Mishka Gora)*

Our thanks are extended to Friend of Pugin John Maidment for being pivotal in arranging for a small pipe organ to be placed in the church for the Mass. The instrument, by Launceston organ builder Hans Meijer, was loaned by Hans for the occasion and we thank him this generous act and for transporting it to and from Colebrook.

The Mass was beautifully photographed pro bono by Friend of Pugin Mishka Gora, as was the luncheon afterwards, and we thank her for making the images available to the Foundation. You can enjoy the fruits of her work in this Newsletter. The Mass was also recorded by ABS Classic FM and filmed by the ABC as part of material it is putting together on Pugin and his bi-centenary for its religious program *Compass*. This will most likely go to air in September 2012.



*Gary Ekkel chats with the ABC Compass production and recording crew after the Mass (Image: Mishka Gora)*



*Friend of Pugin Dick Burgess, at left, in conversation with Foundation Executive Officer Brian Andrews at the conclusion of the Mass (Image: Mishka Gora)*

Following the Mass there was a delightful luncheon in the Colebrook village hall. It was prepared and served by St John's, Richmond, parishioners, to whom our thanks and especially to Sue Harmsen for arranging it all.



*Above: Friends of Pugin Michael McKenna, at left, with Fr Don Richardson from Sydney; below: former Pugin Foundation directors Nick Callinan, at left, and Allan Myers, both from Victoria (Images: Mishka Gora)*



*Friends of Pugin John Maidment and Maria Myers, both from Victoria, at the luncheon (Image: Mishka Gora)*





*Friend of Pugin Nicholas Beveridge from New Zealand with Fr Richardson. At right, members of the Newman College Choir and, at the very back, Friend of Pugin Anna Greener (Image: Mishka Gora)*



*Libby Callinan from Victoria, at left, with local Friend of Pugin Mary Loré (Image: Mishka Gora)*



*Pugin Foundation Director Dr Jane Lennon from Queensland with a Newman College Choir member (Image: Mishka Gora)*



*Bishop Jarrett launches the Bi-centenary Organ Appeal in the Colebrook village hall (Image: Mishka Gora)*

At the luncheon our Bi-centenary Organ Appeal was launched by Bishop Jarrett. There are details later in the Newsletter. We are grateful to Friends of Pugin Kerry and Kevin Morgan and Robert and Pat Scanlon of Hobart for helping with transport to and from Colebrook on the day.

The final recital for the Festival, two works for unaccompanied violin by J.S. Bach performed by Peter Tanfield, took place after the luncheon in the splendid acoustics of St Patrick's Church.



*Peter Tanfield performs in St Patrick's, Colebrook (Image: Ceri Brose)*

The recital was introduced on behalf of the Foundation by Director Dr Jane Lennon who had travelled down from Brisbane for the Festival and gave the welcome at three of the musical events. Special thanks to Jane. This recital to a capacity audience went off literally with a bang! About two thirds of the way through the performance a lightning strike during an intense local thunderstorm knocked out the power in the district

for several hours. Unperturbed, Peter completed the recital without lights, and we are just grateful that it hadn't happened before or during the Mass, which would have been disastrous.

Finally, we express our thanks and gratitude to all who helped to make the Pugin Festival such a wonderful success.

With kind regards,

Jude Andrews  
Administrative Officer

## *Bi-centenary Organ Appeal*

As abovementioned, the Appeal was launched during the Pugin Festival and there has already been a promising response. We thank the following for particularly generous donations:

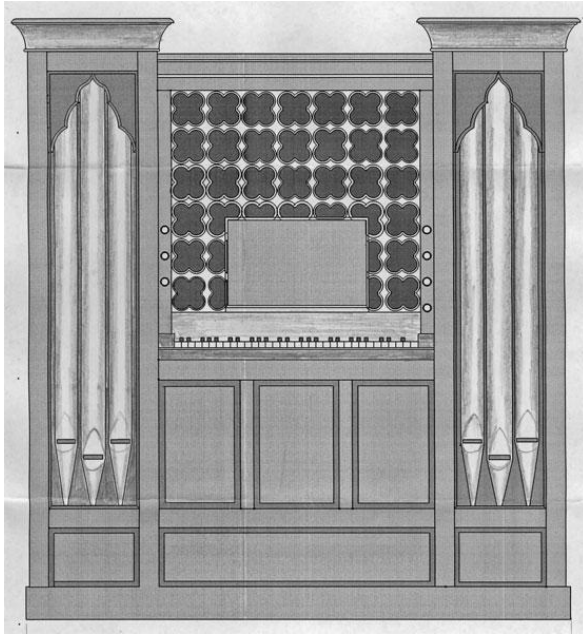
Maria and Allan Myers  
Derek and Mary Loré  
John and Frances Coll  
Geoff Morgan

The specification for the single manual mechanical action organ was prepared by Friend of Pugin John Maidment, Chairman of the Organ Historical Trust of Australia. It is:

Open Diapason 8  
Stopped Diapason 8  
Principal 4  
Chimney Flute 4  
Fifteenth 2  
Principal 4 and Fifteenth 2 will be divided into treble and bass.

The instrument will make extensive use of Tasmanian native timbers and its façade will feature a detail based on the organ which once stood in Pugin's home, The Grange, Ramsgate.





This instrument will play a vital role in generating funds needed for the ongoing maintenance and other costs. To safeguard the investment made by the Foundation in its ongoing program to restore St Patrick's, Colebrook, in accordance with the letter and spirit of Pugin's intentions, we strongly urge our Friends of Pugin to do all they can to bring this project speedily to fruition.

## *New Friends of Pugin*

We welcome:

Mrs Caroline Cherney  
Mr Gary Lancaster

*Taroona, Tasmania*  
*Glen Iris, Victoria*

*Above: Hans Meijer's design for the Bi-centenary Organ case; below: the organ in Pugin's house*

