

# Notre Dame Priory

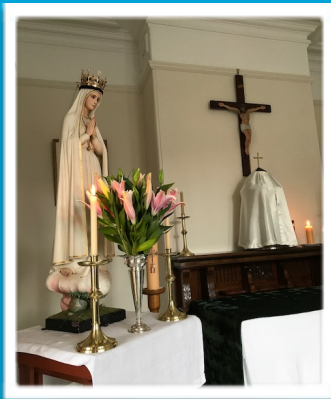
## Newsletter

MAY 2017

QUODCUMQUE DIXERIT VOBIS FACITE

ISSUE THREE

*Centenary of Fatima  
celebrations at the  
Priory*



## MARY and JOSEPH Take Possession Of Their Priory

Two major events in which our community took part marked the life of the archdiocese of Hobart this month of May.

On the 12<sup>th</sup>, the mortal remains of our first bishop, Robert William Willson (1794-1886), having been returned from Nottingham, England, were solemnly reinterred in the crypt of Hobart Cathedral. The next day, 13<sup>th</sup> May, centenary of the first apparition of Our Lady in Fatima, Archbishop Porteous solemnly consecrated all of Tasmania to her Immaculate Heart. This event, which cannot fail to have far-reaching consequences on the entire island, was attended by a great number of faithful in the cathedral. Later that same day in our humble house chapel, Father Prior pronounced a similar act of consecration of the Priory to the Immaculate Heart.

Providentially that same day arrived to us as a gift from friends in the North, a lovely statue of St Joseph. Up till then, we had been making do with a very small statue of the saint which Father Prior had received at the time of his clothing with the Benedictine habit in 1985. But now, our chapel is blessed to have a beautiful, tall statue of the saint next to the image of his Immaculate Spouse.

Both these events were preceded by a visit from the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima, brought to us by Fr Gerard Ryan on the 11<sup>th</sup>. We were blessed to be the first stop Our Lady made on her tour of Tasmania. Here is the text of the consecration used by Father Prior on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May:

*O Virgin most pure, Immaculate Spouse of the Holy Spirit, Mother of God and Mother of each one of us. Thou who, at the Wedding Feast of Cana, didst manifest Thy maternal Heart, revealing to us the compassion Thou hast for all our needs, moving us to turn to Jesus, and commanding us to do all that He shall tell us to do. Immaculate Daughter of the Father, who didst visit our earth a century ago at Fatima to warn us of impending dangers and invite us to return to God through prayer and penance.*

*Spotless Lily of purity, who dost call us to place ourselves under Thine Immaculate mantle, we come to Thee today, our Mother, our Queen, our Mistress. O Star of the Sea, Glorious Gate of Heaven, open to us the ways to Life.*

*In our lowliness, in our need, in our poverty, we come to Thee. Feeble members of the Mystical Body of Christ, brethren united in this house of prayer dedicated to Thee, invoked as the wonderful Lady of Cana, we present ourselves to Thee today as Thy children, and each one of us humbly, sincerely, affectionately and gratefully consecrates Himself to Thine Immaculate Heart.*

*Keep watch, Mother undefiled, over this community which looks to Thee for its guidance and sustenance. Protect it as a whole, that it may take firm root, in the place Thou hast chosen, in this land of the Southern Cross, that it may grow, blossom, prosper and bear abundant fruit for the glory of Thy Divine Son, and for the salvation of many souls.*

*Cast a maternal glance over each one of us here today, as well as over those whom Thou dost*

*know will one day be among our own, and upon all our families, friends and benefactors. Guide us along the paths of profound conversion of life. Strengthen us to make reparation for the countless sins which offend Thine Immaculate Heart, in particular the public rejection of Thy Divine Son and His Kingship over society, the sins against life through abortion, euthanasia and contraception, the sins of impurity and immodesty which cause so much pain to Thy virginal Heart. Never allow any one of us to stray from the only way which is Jesus Thy Son. Never permit that we be separated from Him again by sin.*

*Lead us, o Mystical Rose, along the paths of sanctity, so that we may give forth in every place, the sweet fragrance of the virtues of Christ. Mother of Monks, give birth to many strong and holy vocations, help us to grow always in a life of continual prayer, self-denial and labour. Grant, O Mother of Divine Grace, Mediatrix of all God's gifts, that our community may contribute to the conversion of Tasmania and to the reign of the Prince of Peace in our broken world. Light a fire in our hearts, a fire of love for Jesus, of zeal for the salvation of souls, an inextinguishable fire that will spread and set ablaze this land and all who dwell in it.*

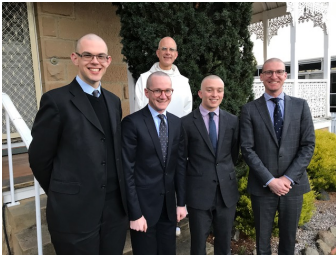
*Lead us, with all those we hold dear and with the legions of souls we long to bring back to God, to that heavenly kingdom where, in the bosom of the blessed Trinity, Thou shalt ever be, after Jesus Thy Son, our life, our sweetness and our joy.*

*Amen.*

# Letter from Father Prior

Beloved Friends,

As you may know, I was privileged to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 26 April to 6 May. It was truly a time of grace. There were only fifteen pilgrims in our group: seven from Australia, seven from the US and one from Northern Ireland. As my journal and some photos are available on our website, I will not expand on that here, except to say that it was truly moving to visit these places where Christ lived and wrought our redemption. The highlight for all the pilgrims was undoubtedly the Holy Mass offered in the Holy Sepulchre, over the very spot where the body of Our Lord was laid and rose from the dead. Words cannot express the honour nor the profound gratitude I feel for this blessing.



The big news at the Priory is that we have moved into the second phase of our foundation. Four of our candidates have completed their time of aspirancy and have now entered the community. Tomas Cannavo from Adelaide, Alec Hobbs and Graham Leach from Brisbane, and David McMahon from Sydney were welcomed as postulants on 24<sup>th</sup> May, feast of Mary Help of Christians, principal patroness of Australia. We hope to have a distinctive postulant's garb made in the coming weeks, but in the meantime, the new postulants can be recognised by the shortness of their hair... Even though of course there is no official commitment on their behalf, this is a significant step. Postulancy is, for all practical purposes, a "warmup" for novitiate. A postulant does just about everything a novice does, except that he does not yet have the monastic habit. So what do novices do?

They strive to become saints, of course, but on the practical level, this means that they attend the Divine Office, learning the chant, the rubrics, the monastic customs. In addition to the Conventual Mass, we chant the entire Benedictine office from Lauds to Compline each day, and will add Matins in the coming months in such a way that the postulants will be eased into, and learn to love, this nocturnal praise of the Divine Majesty. Each day in the Chapter Room after Prime, a passage from the Rule of our holy Father St Benedict is read and commentated on. The study of Latin moves forward with the help of Dr David Daintree who comes once a week to the Priory to check up on and stir up progress in the knowledge of the sacred language of the Church in which we listen to the Word of God and pray, using the very same words generation of monks used for so many centuries. Another one of our priorities at this stage is the study of the catechism. Even though they know it fairly well, and will study theology later on, it is a prerequisite that they be well versed in it before entering the novitiate. Finally, as part of their *lectio divina*, the postulants will soon be starting the systematic study of the psalter, that is the 150 psalms which are our daily bread at the Divine Office. And then of course, there are the many daily household tasks such as cooking, cleaning, washing, sacristy, listing books for the future library, preparing newsletters, thanking donors, etc.

Many are asking if there has been progress on identifying and purchasing a piece of land for building the future monastery. The answer is yes! But it is too early, due to legal red tape, to make a public announcement. In the meantime, my advisors are helping prepare a major fundraising campaign to finance the purchase and the constructions that will be required. I am very grateful that over the first three months of our existence, donations have nearly matched our current expenses. However, there is nothing to spare, so we must now find ways of reaching more people in order to be able to move forward. Are you able to send us contact details of people who might be interested in our work? If so, the easiest way to do this would be to send an email to [newsletter@notredamemonastery.org](mailto:newsletter@notredamemonastery.org). As we approach Pentecost, the brethren assure you of their daily remembrance at the Divine Office and in their prayer to Our Lady, especially *Fr Pius Mary Noonan, O.S.B.* through the recitation of her holy Rosary. Through Her Immaculate Heart,

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For information, send an email to: [info@notredamemonastery.org](mailto:info@notredamemonastery.org)

**To make a donation:**

**Via bank transfer:** Commonwealth Bank of Australia - Account name:  
Notre Dame Priory BSB: 062-654 Account number: 1024 4562

**Via cheque:** In Australian dollars, make payable to "Notre Dame Priory" and send to:  
Notre Dame Priory, 3 Bay Road (post box on Lowelly), Lindisfarne, Tasmania 7015, Australia

In US dollars, make payable to "Notre Dame Priory" and send to:  
Notre Dame Priory, % 1202 Park Hills Court, Louisville, KY, 40207, USA.