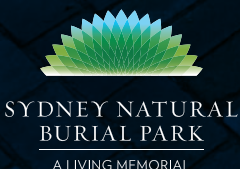


# THE JOURNEY



Conservation Connect: Cemetery Regulations  
A Face Lifts Sacred Heart  
The Catholic Mass: Music and Hymns





Welcome to the first newsletter of 2011, and my first as CEO of Catholic Cemeteries & Crematoria.

I would firstly like to thank Michael McMahon, who over the two and a half years of his tenure, was active in contributing to the growth of the Funeral Directors industry both in NSW and Australia. He was focused on improving and developing new initiatives in the Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria facilities and the service and support that is given to families and funeral directors.

In the four months since I have joined I have met some of you, and I look forward to meeting more of you over the course of the year. It was great to have the opportunity to have a casual drink at the Christmas function. Thank you to those who attended.

It is my wish for 2011 that we focus on finding new ways of helping Funeral Directors support families, and importantly, let all in the Catholic Community and beyond know about the facilities that are available through our cemeteries.

I welcome your contributions so please don't hesitate to contact me directly on [peter@catholiccemeteries.org.au](mailto:peter@catholiccemeteries.org.au).



Peter O'Meara (CEO)

## A FACE LIFTS SACRED HEART

The Sacred Heart chapel at Rookwood cemetery is undergoing an extensive internal restoration and is currently closed. Renovations include new timber paneling to the internal walls, construction of a vestibule area and new carpet in the chapel.

A chapel control room will be opened and there will be a complete upgrade of all lighting and electronic equipment. It will include a new state of the art 46" plasma screen to play the much requested DVD and Powerpoint presentations (within the guidelines to ensure the Mass or service continues to be an act of worship and prayer).

To ensure an easier experience outside, the Barnet Avenue car park will be reconfigured to accommodate more parking spaces and transformed through extensive landscaping to reflect a more peaceful setting.

The Sacred Heart Chapel was built in 1928 and located near Mortuary Station 3 where caskets were received. A communal prayer service by a Priest would be conducted in Sacred Heart over all the caskets delivered on a particular day. As the popularity of motor cars and motor hearses increased after the Second World War, the patronage of funeral trains declined and the service was finally discontinued in 1948.

By the early 1990's, the demand for monthly Masses and funeral services was steadily increasing and the building was refurbished and again in use as a chapel in 1994.

The chapel comfortably seats approximately two hundred people and the works are expected to be completed by the end of March this year.



## Upcoming Events

Mothers Day Mass, Sunday 7th of May, Rookwood  
All are welcome and encourage you and your families to attend.

## THE CATHOLIC MASS: MUSIC AND HYMNS

Music is a very powerful medium within the funeral rite to console, strengthen and unify mourners in faith and love. It should help create a spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and our share in that victory, therefore the selection of music should be chosen carefully. Here are some guidelines to assist families.

The **Processional Hymn** should be something familiar to the entire congregation to sing, a Hymn to bring people together in faith.

At a celebration of the Eucharist, instrumental music is preferable at the **Presentation of the Gifts**, though a hymn reflecting the action of presenting the gifts of bread and wine may be sung.

A **communion hymn** should be familiar and easy for the congregation to sing for example a hymn with a repetitive chorus.

The **'Song of Farewell'** may be sung during the sprinkling with holy water and incensing of the coffin. It can also be done in silence.

The **final hymn** may be replaced with suitable instrumental music. If a hymn is chosen, it should speak of our faith in the resurrection and eternal life.

Choosing hymns that were the deceased person's favourites are often not appropriate for the occasion. They may be more fitting to play and listen to at smaller, intimate gatherings to commemorate the person, such as at the vigil celebration, the night before the funeral.

### 5 MINUTES WITH ...



PETER O'MEARA

#### *How did you come to start working in the industry?*

Most of my career has been spent working in the funds management industry but I also had a 20 year association on boards in the not for profit sector mainly in Sport. It was through this association I learnt about the position and decided to make the career change which I have thoroughly enjoyed over the last 4 months.

#### *What makes you passionate about your work?*

I think fundamentally it's about working with people and spending time understanding the role and what you can do to improve things. As a leader of any organisation you need to spend time thinking about what needs to change what needs to stay the same and what we can do better. If we all think that way our business and the service we provide has to improve.

#### *What do you hope to achieve in your role at CCC?*

Whilst it's early days yet I hope to bring some fresh ideas and thoughts to how we serve our families, the church and suppliers better.

#### *What's your favorite thing to do when not working?*

Watching and going to Rugby, travelling and spending time with family and friends.

#### *Thought for the day?*

Be proactive and make a difference, if you're not on the edge of your seat, you're taking up too much room.

### DON'T FORGET

The Mother of Mercy Chapel & Crematorium is available to all families with a service conducted by a minister of a registered religion. The Crematorium is now open to those who wish to conduct their service in the historic chapel of St Michael the Archangel or the more contemporary Mausoleum of the Resurrection chapel.

## CONSERVATION CONNECT: CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Within the Catholic Cemeteries, Rules and Regulations are designed to protect three key groups: the interred, their family and visitors and the cemetery management staff.

### Those who are interred

These individuals are entitled, even after they have died, to a respectful burial, to the care and maintenance of their interment spaces, to a holy and beautiful environment, in recognition of our belief that cemeteries are 'resting places' as we await as a community of faith for the final resurrection.

### The surviving family and visitors

This includes those who have purchased spaces for future use, those who have family or friends interred or simply those who utilise our cemeteries as places for prayer or reflection. It includes those who visit to service operations or general business.

### Cemetery & church staff

All concerned who come to the cemeteries to render services either on behalf of families or cemetery management.

Rules and Regulations are designed to chart a course of mutual cooperation and protection for individuals within these three groups. They help sanctify the living memories of those buried within the cemeteries and create an environment within the cemeteries that nurtures faith and brings consolation. The enforcement of the rules assists in protecting the cemeteries, creating and preserving their beauty, and ensuring that the interests of all concerned parties are equally addressed.

*Rules and Regulations are intended not as restraining, but rather as defining an orderly plan of operation, care and permanent maintenance.*

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT ...

### NEW MEMORIAL WALL TO COMMEMORATE SAINT MARY MACKILLOP



In an ongoing effort to contribute to the commemoration of Blessed Mary MacKillop, canonised in October 2010, Catholic Cemeteries & Crematoria recently launched the Saint Mary MacKillop Memorial Wall at Gore Hill Memorial, where Australia's first saint was originally laid to rest from 1909 until 1914.

Located in a new quiet and peaceful quarter in the St Joseph's Sister's area of the cemetery, the wall is a wonderful site to visit with its sculpted bronze panels, visually depicting the life of Mary MacKillop and the interesting circumstances that led to her recent sainthood.

The Saint Mary MacKillop Memorial Wall is just one of a number of improvements being made to the original Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery, which includes the engagement of a Heritage Architect who is overseeing the project.

The changes to the cemetery and the construction of the Memorial Wall will position it as a historical site for reflection and prayer, a significant destination for Catholic pilgrims – local, Australian and international alike – and will offer local Sydney residents the opportunity to hold funeral services for loved ones in a beautiful and historic location. Within the wall, 212 spots are available for the placement of cremated remains (four of which have already been accounted for since the wall's launch) where lives can be commemorated in the spirit of Mary MacKillop.

This launch of the Saint Mary MacKillop Memorial Wall is another conservation initiative on the part of Catholic Cemeteries & Crematoria to bring Australian burials into the Millennium.

NSW Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, officially unveiled the wall at Gore Hill cemetery, before it was blessed by the Most Rev David Walker, Bishop of Broken Bay. The ceremony took place in the presence of Lane Cove Councillor and Trustee of the Gore Hill Cemetery, Win Gaffney as well as the Mayor of Willoughby, Patrick Reilly.

In his address, Chairman of the Catholic Cemeteries Board, Mr. Peter Ward, emphasised the importance of the restoration of Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery, marked by the launch of the Mary MacKillop wall, which was also contributed to financially by the NSW Government.

'The Mary MacKillop Memorial wall is a fitting memorial to Australia's first saint, a sacred and special site for Catholics and its launch is a mark of significance in the history of Mary MacKillop and the history of Sydney', Peter Ward said.

*We have received numerous enquiries based on the publicity received from the launch. Please recommend that any of your families who may be interested in the limited spaces contact the Catholic office directly, (02) 9649 6423.*



## STAFF NOTICE BOARD

### Welcome

Aziz Nahouh – Maintenance  
Mitchell Ramsey – Maintenance  
Joel Patterson – Maintenance

### Departures

Ingo Zacharias – Accounts