

**FOUNDATION OF IBVM IN SYDNEY**

**- RANDWICK**

**&**

**OPENING OF NORMANHURST.**

being

- \* an account of the "early days" in Randwick and Normanhurst - probably written about 1942.

. o .

**ORIGINAL:**

Description:      Written in small exercise book with burgundy "water marked" cover.

Location:          IBVM Central Archives in Mary's Mount

**FLOPPY DISK - MSDOS.W4W**

Name of IBVM File                      FOUNDSYD.doc

Name of School File                    FOUNDSYD.doc

*(The following account is handwritten in a small exercise book (burgundy "watermarked" cover) and titled "An account of the Foundation of I.B.V.M. in Sydney in 1892 in Randwick first, later on over to Elamang in Kirribilli: then in 1898 it was founded in Normanhurst". [The dates given in this title do not coincide with the research undertaken by Anne Anderson in 1992 which are given below for interest.]*

*The original of this document is now (1993) held in the IBVM Central Archives in Mary's Mount. This is an unabridged copy of the original - transcribed by Yvonne Lamerand IBVM in 1993.)*

### I.B.V.M. FOUNDATION IN SYDNEY

#### **RANDWICK:**

- \* January 13th 1892 - founding group of sisters arrived and stayed with Walshe family at Avonmore 26-42 The Avenue Randwick.
- \* January 18th - moved into Selbourne, Alston Road, Randwick.
- \* After Corpus Christi - moved into Aston Hall, corner of Avoca and Stanley Streets, Randwick.
- \* July - ready for boarders.

#### **NORMANHURST:**

- \* November 1896 - site at Hornsby South purchased?
- \* October 1897 - Boarders moved into Hornsby. (Foundation stone in main building dated 28.02.1897)

#### **KIRRIBILLI:**

- \* August 25th 1901 - finalised tenancy of "Kanimbla" in Fitzroy St. Milson's Point
- \* September 4th 1901 - moved to "Kanimbla".
- \* February 1902 - first Mass at Fernhill 57 (Upper) Pitt Street, Kirribilli.
- \* November 16th 1907 - took possession of Elamang . Carabella St., Kirribilli and moved in December 11th

*(This list of dates was researched by Anne Anderson IBVM in 1992.)*

### SYDNEY

Foundation of Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary 4th September 1892.

*(Author: M. Benedicta Fallon ? - 21.02.1942)*

Four nuns came from Ballarat to begin the work. M. M. Dorothea Frizelle, M. M. Bernard Burke, M. M. Patricia Ochiltree. Mother Gonzaga, M. M. Aloysius Macken and Sister Columba, then only a maid, had already come to Sydney and were staying with Mrs. John Walsh at her home.

The four nuns came to Sydney in the R.M.S. Austral. She could not go to her place at the Quay, for another large ship was in her Berth. She had to anchor down the Bay for some time.

Visitors for the Passengers came down in a launch. Those for the Nuns were, Dr. P. V. Dwyer, Josephine Fallon, Willie Fallon, just 13, dressed in an Eton suit, which was at that time the Riverview Uniform. He looked just like a St. Aloysius.

As the launch remained, Josephine, who was anxious to get back to town, was taken by a gentleman in his gondola, the rower dressed in white, with a broad crimson sash round his waist. It was such a pretty sight as they went down the Harbour, indeed quite Venetian.

At the Quay, Mr. and Mrs. Fallon put the nuns in cars, to take them out to Selborne, the house in Randwick which was taken for them.

That day Horderns' carrier brought the furniture, beds, bedding, etc. He said the goods were marked P.O.D. which meant they should be paid for before he could deliver them. As they had not a penny to give him, he promptly took all back.

Meantime Dr. O'Haran came to inspect ~~the~~ goods, to find nothing there, so he disturbed the peace at Horderns' Emporium.

At about 7.30 the lorry arrived back. The nuns settled up the beds, and an altar for Mass, very crude of course, but what was necessary.

On 21st., Feast of St. Agnes, Cardinal Moran said Mass, assisted by W. O'Haran. For his thanksgiving, W. O'H. asked for a cushion for him to kneel on. Of course there was no cushion, so they gave him a bit of a mattress, the sort that is divided into three parts and there he knelt. They both went home for their breakfast.

The Cardinal gave a piano. M. M. Benedicta's sister, Mrs. Sam Bowler, gave her a Gasper de Salo Violin, which is in use to-day. She bought a 'cello for ~~£5~~ £5. Mr. Gladstone Bell who saw it a short time ago, said it is now worth ~~£~~ £80 at the least.

An amusing episode is told of the three players on these instruments. M. Patricia, the violin, M. Benedicta, the 'cello, Mrs. Val Heaton at the piano. Mrs. H. said she wished they could practise the obligatos to Gounod's Ave Maria and she would come down to sing it. She came, the instruments were well tuned and the singing began. She sang on, oblivious of time and tune. The obligatos stopped playing!!! but she went on to the end, without realising that the other two were silent!!

Selborne was down at the very end of Alison Road. A very lonely place, too far for any children to come down from Randwick. The ones who came were driven down every day. Four senior girls, Nellie Riley, Mary V. Riley, Flora Rayner and Mary Farrelly. Four juniors, Lorna Payten, Doris Payten, May Kelly and Polly Rayner. After six months there, they found a suitable place up in Randwick, beside the Little Sister of the Poor, called Aston Hall.

Every day M. M. Dorothea and M. Patricia went out searching for a suitable house before they found Aston. They wore heavy circular cloaks that came from Rathfarnham, and coal scuttle bonnets, both most uncomfortable. It would be hard to tell which was the most penitential. Poor M. M. Patricia had new ill-fitting shoes, to add to her suffering. Just like our dear Holy Mother Mary Ward had.

Aston Hall was a stone, two storey building. First floor - a large room used as Reception room; a small one behind it for priest's breakfast. A Hall straight through from front door to back door. At the opposite side of it was a long room divided in two by folding doors. The school was in this. Second floor upstairs - the Chapel was over the Reception room and the same size; (with) a little room behind it (used as) a sacristy. Over the school were smaller rooms, used as dormitories and cells.

Maud Heaton ( M. M. Philomena), Esmey Mann (Burfitt) were our first two boarders and Nora Floyd just four, whose mother had to go to the hospital. She slept in M. M. Xaveria's room just curtained off. One night, she was ill and M. M. X. had to hurry out to her relief. Next morning Nora asked M. M. Dorothea who was the girl who came to her last night? Oh! said Mother, that's a girl we call Jane. Later, Nora sang in a sort of refrain, "you're the girl what's called Jane" much to M. M. X's distress.

Next need was a dormitory, for several were asking for admission and there was no accommodation for them.

Richard Dennehy, Architect, built the large wooden dormitory using the splendid wood, Kauri Pine which is proof against all insects that destroy wood, white ant, borers, etc

Into this dormitory came Maud and Esmey. Maud and Mary Rogers from Gulf of Carpentaria, Eileen and Mary Dennehy, Winnie Meldrum, Lily Bacon, Mary and Sara Curtin, Nora Floyd and Jeanne Roth. And Miss Sara Gabbett. This dormitory is now the Hall in Normanhurst, though it was first a dormitory there.

Day Pupils - 2 Paytens, 2 Rayners, G. Tracy, Daisy Ives (Protestant - afterwards a Catholic); Petre and Edgar Becket and Irene sometimes; Nellie and Mary Riley. Other boarders at this time were Maud and Mary Rogers from Croydon round Gulf of Carpentaria, Mary and Eileen Dennehy, Winnie Meldrum (now a Sister of Mercy in Waitara), Lily Bacon, Mary and Sara Curtin (Mary became a Sister of Mercy at Monte. St. Angelo, she died very soon after), Nora Floyd, Jeanne Roth.

The Day pupils were over in the small partition in the Dormitory. M. M. Benedicta had care of them with Sara Gabbett as help. Sara died 1930.

In 1893 M. M. Hilda Benson and M. M. Magdalen Fagan came to begin a Primary School. M. Ellen (?) and Bridget Callinan and K. Molloy (then only a secular, now M. M. Dolores) to teach. M. M. Magdalen in charge. This school only lasted for about 12 months, then the M.S.C. Priests took it down to Randwick Presbytery.

On Saturdays the junior Day Pupils came for modelling. Sister got beautiful clay from the Pottery. After they made the articles, they sent them to the pottery to be baked. Of course the children loved dabbling in the clay - all by Petre. He would not soil his fingers, clean though it was. He enjoyed watching the workers. The modelling room was in the stables, a splendid room it was.

In 1893 M. M. Berchmans Lyons and M. M. Loyola Grano and M. M. Alocoque Butler came and in 1895 M. Xaveria French and M. M. Dorothea Walker took care of the Boarders. M. M. X. as Mistress; M. M. P. assistant. M. M. Benedicta, the music.

The M.S.C. Priests were chaplains, the first one Fr. Treand; later Fr. Emile Merg, Fr. Douze, Fr. Toutblanc, Fr. Beauteemps. This last one day brought his Kanaka boys - five of them about 15 years, one, a grown man, was a Fijian. They all had beautiful voices, singing many hymns during Mass, not in unison but well harmonised.

After their breakfast the nuns asked if the children (ours) would play for them. They were delighted saying "Oh yes". One boy, the 15 year old, was fascinated watching the 'cello. He wondered would Sister teach it to him. He knew the violin, for he had a little orchestra himself, but there was no 'cello. He would come up next day for the lesson. He came, but he did not touch the instrument then. He just watched keenly where Sister put her fingers on the different strings, asking "why the change of fingers?", noting the bowing, bridge, tail piece, pegs, every bit of the 'cello. Then he took up the bow producing such a wonderful tone, he played straight away their own hymns to Our Lady. Never before or since did Sister teach one who learned so rapidly. Like the Maoris, the Kanakas are innately musical.

The community at Randwick had some very good friends then:

Dr. O'Haran	gave a chalice; vestments; altar stone; cruets; candle sticks; alb; cincture; amices; book stand for Missal.
Fr. Treand	Two pictures of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.
M. M. Aloysius Mackin	6 yds. linen for guimpes; 2 caps; 2 albs - long and short; 2 under altar cloths; 2 Communion towels; 2 palls; 3 corporals; 2 1/2 doz. purifiers; 2 doz. lavabos; 10 too.
Mr. & Mrs. John Walsh	A good cow and fodder for two months; some fowls and chickens; Art Muslin curtains for parlour.
Dr. Higgins	Gold chalice and monstrance to M. M. Dorothea specially.
Fr. Ryan SJ	A cow "Mollie" giving 15 qts. per day.
Mrs. D. Curtin	A chest of tea; a side of bacon and some linen.
Mr. P. E. Fallon	4 cases of good table wine.
Mrs. P. E. Fallon	A sewing machine with all modern improvements. (Sr. Gerard has it in use now, in splendid order.)
Cardinal Moran	A good piano; £50 for our half year's rent.
Dr. Moore	Cheque for £10.
Mary's Mount	Odds and ends; statue of the Sacred Heart; one of Our Lady of Lourdes; one of St. Joseph; altar linen from Dawson Street.
Mrs. Payten	6 hens and 1 rooster; other fowls and a turkey.
Mrs. E. Heaton	2 pr. of ducks.

Mrs. Fulham	a poor charwoman gave 2/6 (half her day's wages).
Mrs. Tracy	A beautiful ivory crucifix for the altar.
Misses McCarthy	A pair of brass candlesticks - lily branch.
Mrs. Hepburn Sen.	A striking 8-day clock.
Mr. John Walsh	Another fine cow - Lady jersey.
Mrs. J. E. Mann	7 fine turkeys.
M. M. Xavier	£5.
Mr. Curtin	St. Bernard dog with pedigree. "Monk" is family name; dog to be called "Barry".
Fr. Morrough	A great big black dog called "Hector", only 2 months old - a half St. Bernard.
M. M. Gonzaga	Glacier paper for windows and £10.

There are a few interesting episodes in connection with Hector. M. M. Xavier was his guardian, fed him, groomed him, etc. He was a great big ungainly monster. One day he was playing with her and in the exuberance of his fun, he rolled on her knocking her down the terrace. Whisper! she wept - for we were all witnesses of the desecration.

Another time, M. M. Dorothea and M. M. Benedicta went by train to the city. They had not noticed Hector following them and when they got into the tram, he got in lower down and to the horror of all in the tram, he jumped over all the seats till he came to the nuns. M. M. D. intending to elude him got into a handsome cab. He jumped on in front of them. When they got out, he followed them to the oculist and lay outside his door. They took a cab home, he in front!

At the beginning of 1898 Mother M. Kilian Ball came to be Superior of Randwick. M. M. Dorothea left to found Normanhurst, taking with her M. M. Benedicta, M. M. Agnes, M. M. Patricia, M. M. Xaviera, M. J. Dorothea, M. M. Loyola, M. M. Berchmans, M. M. Dolores, Sr. Bruno, Sr. Dolours; later M. M. Augustine and Sr. Columba and M. M. Boniface, M. M. B. Joseph.

The owner of Aston sold it to the Little Sisters of the Poor who lived next door. They wanted it for their Novitiate.

Then ours had to go elsewhere. M. M. K. chose Milson's Point, first to Kunimbla in Fitzroy St. then to Fern Hill in Carabella Street; after six years, she went back to Ballarat and M. M. Dorothea became her successor. Later on she secured Kirribilli where they now live. When M. M. J. Dorothea became superior she built the new part there and the Church. M. M. de Sales Young's money paid for altar, sanctuary, flooring of sanctuary.

Now Kirribilli is just beautiful as I write - Feb. 21st, 1942.

\* \* \* \* \*

### NORMANHURST FOUNDED JANUARY 1898

Mr. Frank Coffee was on the lookout for property to suit us. Early in January he called up Mother Gonzaga, who was then at Randwick to come at once by train to Wahroonga, where he would meet her and drive her over.

When she came, a large rainbow spread over the whole plot. She took that as a happy omen and called it "Rainbow land". M. M. Aloysius Mackin was her companion.

Mr. J. F. Hennessey Senior was called to be architect. Mr. Fanning, Clerk of Works. Mr. (Blank), builder, who told M. M. Dorothea, that he had given the work to his son, to be his first effort. As it was his first, he

lost £500, which the father saw, but left him free, to learn his lesson of experience. He presented M. M. Dorothea with this loss. Mr. Coffee fenced in the whole 22 acres and the orchard, which he planted with fruit trees. He also planted the other trees round the grounds.

Mr. Hennessey drew up his plans, submitting them to M. M. Gonzaga and M. M. Dorothea. The foundation stone was laid on February 28th (1897) by Cardinal Moran, but he was ill at the time and Dr. Higgins really officiated. Just at that very time, water pipes were put in to the road outside, but only just as far as our place. That was a boon to the builders, otherwise they would have had to cart the water from Wahroonga, which would have added considerably to the expense.

In October the nuns gave a fortnight's holiday instead of at Michaelmas on Oct. 11th M. M. Dorothea, M. M. Benedicta, K. Molloy (M. M. Dolores) and Sr. Dolours went up to Normanhurst.

The men were still working, but it was decided that the nuns coming there would make them hurry on a bit. They put in a few doors to secure their safety and a big plasterer slept in the little dairy to be their protection for all round was nothing but bush.

It was necessary to hold out a disc to get the trains to stop at our station and, of course, there was not a single house down there.

M. M. Dorothea and M. Benedicta slept on mattresses on the floor of the community room. K. Molloy and Sr. Dolours on floor of big St. Aloysius Dormitory. We all kept locked doors at night.

The men were urged to get ready the room for the Chapel first (*this was St. Philomena's dormitory above the front verandah*) and then the big St. Aloysius Dormitory.

Just before or rather after, the men left each evening, M. Benedicta had to sweep up all their shavings, etc. to get ready for Mass.

The altar was just a long table covered with the three linen cloths and for an antependium, a piece of white crepe, certainly a very crude erection.

First Mass was said by Fr. Kirby for we belonged to the Pymble parish, his parish then on October 17th (1897) at 7.30. Present at it were: M. M. Dorothea, Mother Gonzaga, M. M. Aloysius, M. Benedicta, M. Agnes, K. Molloy (*later M. M. Dolores*), Sr. Dolours, Mr Frank Coffee, Mrs. Coffee, Eva, Mildred (*Coffee-Kelly*), Holly (*Coffee-Hughes*), young Frank (*Coffee*), Leo (*Coffee*), Jack (*Coffee*), and Adolf (*Coffee*). While Mass was going on Adolf went back to Wahroonga and brought the food for breakfast - quite hot.

Mrs. Coffee had everything ready for the meal in the children's dining room. Fr. Kirby joined in and all had a comfortable breakfast.

As the men were still working in the Chapel, the Blessed Sacrament could not be reserved there till October 25th, the second feast of Blessed Margaret Mary. Then Our Lord came to stay with us.

Fr. Kirby drove over every morning for Mass in his little sulky at 7.30. The fence was broken open just where the gate is now. Two cheap wooden gates were put in.

The children came back towards the end of October. They had classes down below the Bush House, where there were plum trees that gave them shade. The nuns came there to teach them and escape the noise of hammering.

About 20 boarders amongst them Eileen Curtin, Esme (*Mrs. Burfitt*) and Eva (*Mrs. Moran*) Mann, Eileen and Mary Dennehy (*relations of the Dowdens*), Madolin, Kathleen and Boss Crommelin, Winnie and Issie Meldrum, Nellie (*Mrs. Davis*) and Annie (*M. M. Evangelist*) Riley, Nora Floyd, Jeanne Roth, Maud Heaton (*M. M. Philomena*), Mildren and Holly Coffee, May Kelly (*Mrs. Polin*), Beatrice Curtin (*Mrs. Turner*), (*Leila Donnelly* - *M. M. Agatha*, *Josie Toohey* - *Mrs. Dormer*).

The tabernacle used for reserving the Blessed Sacrament was the white wooden one (*in 1958 given to the Columban Fathers*) now sometimes used to support the Monstrance at the Red Arbor on Corpus Christi at the procession. The support used at Yellow Arbor is a brass one, with 6 candle sticks attached, which was given to M. Benedicta in memory of her sister, Mrs. Doherty - Teresa R.I.P.

A professional carpenter was now called in to make the altar. He first made the top long board the prescribed length; secondly he did the front antependium with the three arches just as it is now. The angels I.H.S. and painting were done later; later still, the Reredos with its six arches, three each side of the tabernacle with the larger one behind the tabernacle - higher up with metal trimming all round it. He also made a canopy to cover the Monstrance at Benediction and Exposition. The tall peaked one that was there till 1941 finished off with the small wooden cross. Mr. Paulet was the name of the carpenter. He was a Protestant then, but later was received into the Church. He said he watched our nuns going into the Chapel, noticed the look and attitude of reverence as they entered, their profound genuflection before their prayer, fully realising the Divine Presence there, in the tabernacle, that he had actually made. Grace came to him then and he followed it. One time in later years he came to visit Normanhurst asking to see any of the nuns who knew him and leave to visit the Chapel.

Up to this the only means of getting light was by using kerosene. In the Senior Study (*large Reception Room containing tower bay window*) there were six hanging lamps, three each side of the room with very elegant porcelain bowls under them. The light was good and much softer and more soothing to the eyes than the electric light. M. M. Loyola Grano had care of the lamps, lighting and cleaning them. Lamps were in the Chapel, against the wall like the two behind the Organ and in the children's dining room, the present class room and Red Parlour.

The children's pantry was outside the back door where the bath room is now. The children's baths, three of them, were up in top Dressing room, screened off from each other by strong curtains. Hot and cold water - the hot came from the heater in the third bathroom, it was lighted by or rather with chips. (*The tank for these baths was so heavy that the builders had to put the two iron pillars into the Reception room to support the roof.*)

Lizzie Hinchy did the lighting and watching of baths. A story is told that she measured just how much hot water could be used for each bath!!

In the little two story building at the end of the big building, some choir nuns slept upstairs. M. M. Dorothea and S. M. Ignatius Tobin had the two cells. In the room outside, the other nuns slept, 5 beds were there. One nun was in children's St. Aloysius dormitory - M. Patricia Ochiltree; another up in the top Dormitory where the Juniors slept - M. M. Magdalen Fagan. (*The nuns' refectory was where the Annexe is now, adjacent to the Boarders' dining room. This little two story building must have been above it. A little stairway went up where the "Parlour Pantry" is now [1957] - the washing-up area for Boarders' Dining Room [1993].*)

Over in the Cottage, rented then from Mr. Mutch, the following Choir Nuns slept - M. M. Fidelis (*Woodward - she entered only in 1907, so this must have been about 1915*), M. Margaret (*Clonan*), M. Agnes, M. Augustine (*Fynn*), M. M. Stanislaus (*Mornane*) and Lay Sisters.

Downstairs under this Dormitory was the Children's refectory.

Nuns had a small room near the Laundry for their refectory.

The Chapel was upstairs over the Children's refectory, the sacristy was the other side of the corridor. The priest vested there and came in through the top door to say Mass.

Along the walls each side of the Chapel were Cedar benches, long enough to hold three children. The down in front of the organ, were three smaller benches to hold two children. Paulet made these benches. In the top one of the middle set, Mrs. John Toohey and a maid came over from Wahroonga on Sundays for Mass that she might hurry back home to let the other hear Mass in Pymble.

For Confession the Nuns knelt in the doorway between the Community room and the sacristy. The doorway was filled in by a leather screen. The priest sat in the sacristy just at the screen. The children knelt out on the passage at the other door to go to Confession.

The Communion rail, now at the end of the Chapel with cushion on it was the one used. The communicants went up two by two turning away each side to allow the others to follow. The little stiff cards were used instead of gold plate, now these are only used for the sick. The Communion cloths were the two with drawn thread crosses made by Kathleen Byrne.

Senior Study. Large single desks made at Horderns with a chair for each desk.

The Altar of our Lady stood between the Apse and window. A small statue on it, now in passage going to Chapel. An Altar of the Sacred Heart on a sort of press, in it were kept vases, cloths, etc. for the two altars. A fairly large crucifix hung over the mantelpiece on one side wall and a picture of the Angel Guardian.

In the Apse at one side hung a large case with a hinged glass front that could be opened. In it were the names of the Apostleship of Study degrees. Fr. Nulty distributed the Badges using prayers in special Apostleship book.

The Apostleship of Study meetings were held on the Sunday before the First Friday and new enrolments made then. E. de M. (Enfant de Marie - Child of Mary) Meetings held on First Sunday, M. M. Dorothea was their directress.

Junior School in two rooms with folding doors between. Children's lavatories where they are now and shoe room too. Nuns' bath and lavatory at the end of St. Anne's - three other lavatories on passage leading out to yard past scullery.

Depository in half of dairy i.e. depository one side, dairy the other. A covered shed just outside Kitchen back door held potato bags and other vegetables - a long table for cleaning knives, shoes, etc.

Laundry along back wall of Kitchen heated by Kitchen fire. Three troughs, a boiler lighted underneath with chips. Drying lines on the bit of green just outside.

Shed for coal and beside it little room where maids had their meals. Men had theirs in back part going in other door.

Fowl houses just below drying ground. Cow house for milking - where it is; also stable; piggery, where it is now.

### **1903 First Corpus Christi Procession**

*(Details written on a single page - duplicates much of account recorded in Exercise Book:*

*[The procession on Corpus Christi for the first time in 1903. We borrowed the Canopy from the Vincentians in Ashfield. Their sacristan brought it up and showed how to put it up. It was a nice old one, made of Moire, strong silk, grown cream with age. It was worked in coloured silks.*

*Mr. and Mrs. George Bryant went to Rome that year and while there got our own beautiful Canopy made. It is of first class Roman Satin, lined with silk throughout.*

*There are four pendants hanging down each side and two at each end. These emblems on each pendant is worked in pure gold. Each pendant has a different emblem on it, one being the IBVM crest.*

*The Canopy, 6 feet long, hangs on nickel poles; rather on rods fastened on to the four poles at the four corners of the canopy, with strong white cords. On top of each pole is a gold Fleur de Lis screwed down on nickel long pins that are keeping all in place. They gave a nice finish to the whole. Inside, there are four white silk ribbons to tie the whole and keep it steady.])*

Only the poor children from Waitara with their teachers came to the procession - no audience.

The Canopy for the first procession was borrowed from the Vincentians of Ashfield; their sacristan brought it up and showed how it was to be settled. Mr. P. E. Fallon was at one pole, Mr. J. F. Hennessy. A second one, Mr. J. G. Hennessey. Mr. George Bryant, third and Mr. Austin Callaghan, fourth. Mr. P. W. Fallon was Cross Bearer leading procession.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryant went to Rome towards the end of that year and while there got our own beautiful canopy with its specially embroidered emblems done in pure gold. The gold is still fresh, as is also the satin of which the canopy is made. Only the lining of the top long piece perished. Teresa Fallon and Sophie Foy sent the canopy down to Leichardt nuns to have it relined. It was these nuns who asked where we got it, how long ago? They said the satin was surely Roman and the gold was pure gold to have lasted perfect so long.

The greatest care has to be taken in putting the Canopy away. Sheets of wadding are put along and the pendants - four each side laid down on it. The two pendants at the top and 2 at the end with more wadding under them. The poles and side rods are nickel. They were made at Stewart McPhersons hardware store. They are rolled up in blankets to be put in canopy press in top dormitory to keep from damp.

Only one priest and his assistant officiated. It was Father Kirby, who got us this privilege of the procession. The first of the Benedictions was given in an improvised Arbor, just where yellow arbor is now. The second - in the Arbor over near the road, where it is now. Third - Benediction in Senior Study where it finished with Te Deum and Tantum, etc.

At that time, M. M. Teresita had the decorating of the "yellow" arbor. M. M. Augustine the "red" one near the road, which she called "Barebones" for nothing grew on it and M. M. Benedicta the one in the Study.

However the crowd of visitors, the poor folk from Waitara, Thornleigh grew too numerous to fit in the study. It was necessary to have the last Benediction in the Hall on the Orchestra platform. Now in 1940 the Hall is packed tight, the Priest with Canopy Bearers, carrying the Blessed Sacrament came in through door at the outer side of the Hall to put the monstrance up on the throne prepared for it. This altar was specially made for it by Mr. McIlwraith, decorating done by M. M. Michael in shades of gold which against the brown big stage curtain, is very pleasing.

The procession is now ever so long. Our own nuns, 8 or 9 Sisters of Mercy from Waitara, 80 or 100 E. de M's. from Waitara, Thornleigh, etc; 100 children from those two places, added to our own 70; 100 Holy Name men, all walk, three abreast in the middle of the path, right round the grounds.

The celebrant carrying the Monstrance downstairs from the Chapel, two nuns begin singing the O Salutaris in Chapel, continuing it as they pass down the sacristy stairs.

At the step of verandah, the Canopy Bearers have the Canopy ready for the priest to walk in under it. Two lanterns in which are wax candles, (not too long bits), stand or rather walk along beside the Bearers. All the priests walk behind the nuns in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The celebrant wears Olga's latest Cope gift, the Deacon and Subdeacon wear the Dalmatics given to M. Benedicta for her Golden Jubilee.

The singers then begin Sweet Sacrament Divine, then Pange Lingua to be repeated over and over till "yellow" arbor is reached, then straight away begin the Tantum.

The ten or twelve Flower Strewers walk in front of the Canopy strewing flowers. Turning round to face the Blessed Sacrament they kiss the flowers, before they throw some petals; they walk along again and after about ten steps, they turn again and throw petals, repeating this all the way round. At the front of the "yellow arbor, kneel 8 little Knights of the Blessed Sacrament, with pretty crimson cloaks and some more tiny girls with petals in wee bags.

Immediately after the Divine Praises are said, the Lauda Sion is begun and the Procession moves along the other path to "Barebones", now a thing of beauty in lovely red drapery and lots of flowers. The procession moves in on the green grass in front of arbor and from there sing Tantum, after Praises. They begin "Jesus, my Lord, my God, etc." continuing right round to Hall and into it. Canopy follows in to door of Hall, then



Flo Buckley	Small 3-branch altar candlesticks; statue of St. John Berchmans; brass pedestal lamp before Our Lady.
Nellie Riley	Green plush altar cover.
Ethel Polin (R.I.P.)	Dark red altar cover.
Eileen Curtin	Grey green altar cover.
Werbie Riley	Pair silver vases the flat stands.
Eileen Brewer	1 silver centre vase.
Nora Floyd	Red mass missal and £150.
Ethel Rieharos, Ei Bourke}	Stations of the Cross
Enid Goldrick, Kathleen Hollingdale, }	(these were beauties; they were sent to our Convent at
Joan Gibson, Margery Ryan. }	Nedlands W.A.)
Mrs. Guerin	Stations of the Cross (purchased by M. M. J. Dorothea from gift).
Eva Mann (Moran)	Coarse Mechlin torchon lace altar fall; limerick lace veil for
Our	Lady given as Golden Jubilee gift to M. M. Benedicta.
Mrs. F. Coffee	Brussels lace fall for altar.
Josie Toohey (Dormer)	1 pair brass runner candlesticks.
Mollie Hernon	Limerick lace fall for altar.
Lorna Baker (M. M. F. Joseph)	1 pair small brass vases.
Patricia Paul	Long silky lace fall for altar.
Dorrie Bourke & Flo Lynch	Benediction cope (now worn out).
Joan Doherty	White humeral veil with pale yellow lining.
S. Gerard's brother	Humeral veil with orange lining.
Mrs. Mulligan	Angel Holy Water and pedestal.
Mrs. Esme Burfitt (Mann)	Brass paschal candlestick and candle. (The old one of polished Maori pine wood was given to Fr. House.)
Mr. Pudig (Audrey's father)	Brown altar rails.
Countess Ei Freehill	24 Queensland maple benches that now fill the chapel. She gave them in memory of M. Mary Dorothea who died in 1931 R.I.P.
M. M. Pia Codys aunt	2 long, plain linen altar cloths.
M. Teresa Gertrude	Best damask altar cloth - Irish linen.
Eva Moran (Mann)	5 Best damask altar cloths - French make from Cenacle Convent.
Madge Hogan	Little silver bell (used when taking communion to sick).
Mary Dougall Ley & other children	Tall 5-branch candlestick; Lily leap set of runners; gong.
Olive Sears	Light weight cope (now in use).
Mrs. J. L. Murphy	Pair brass stands to raise up vases (lowest set).
Marnie Hogan	Pair brass stands to raise up vases (tallest set).
Florence Forbes (M. M. Elizabeth's sister)	Pair brass stands to raise up vases (medium set).
Mena, Mollie & Lalie McAlary	Large silver chalice (every day use).
Countess Ei Freehill	Two white dalmatics for Deacon and Sub-deacon - used during Corpus Christi procession (bought by M. M. Benedicta from money given to her as Jubilee gift of £20.)
Major Stabbach	Altar Mass charts (made in Palestine - where he got them;) of exquisite Mother of Pearl, broad frames. (He gave them in thanks at the time of the First Communion of his little daughter, prepared so carefully by our nuns.)
M. M. Canice	Silk cinctures for each colour of vestments worn. (The priest wears one daily to suit the colour of the vestments.)
(Irish Eucharistic Congress used Fallon's Altar Wines, brought over to Eire by Dr. Joe Dwyer. Their reply is fastened in this book to show its authenticity.)	
Kathleen Byrne Rodgers	Best set of green vestments.
Eva Moran	Sunday Mass charts; everyday charts with brown frames.
Mr. Stan Roarty (R.I.P.)	Arches and Pillars in front of Sanctuary (put up under the direction of M. M. J. Dorothea.)

Four tall black candlesticks topped with brass cups (used beside catafalque on which nun's coffin is laid.)

\* \* \* \* \*

### The founding of the Loreto Free Library in Woolloomooloo

*(Typed paragraph in book is given first in this account.)*

At the Old Girls' reunion in May 1937, Eva Moran casually remarked to one of the nuns that it was a good gathering, to which the nun agreed, adding that she often wished they were engaged in some work for the poor. Nothing more was said at the time, as someone interrupted the conversation. But, later, as the gathering was dispersing, Eva approached the same nun, saying: "You think out something and I'll get it going before I leave for England next month." The nun talked it over with the Superior, but before any decision was made, Eva herself arrived with a plan for a Free Library for children.

*(Here continues hand written account.)*

On many days Eva Moran, driving near St. Mary's Basilica, saw a number of poor little children of Woolloomooloo running about the streets after they came out of school. Eva wished she could get something to occupy and amuse them at that time. But she would have to get a house of some sort. Not at all an easy matter there. She looked about and the only one was a small two storey one just big enough for a start. She paid the rent for it, 25/- a week, for the first six months.

She consulted some Past Pupils, told them of her desire and asked them if they would help her to attain it. Mollie Hollingdale, Mollie Curtin, Eileen Hughes, May Polin, Clare Curtin, Olive and Clare Sears, Bessie Butler, Mollie and Lee Martin all expressed themselves glad to join her.

The house was, as you could guess, filthy dirty. A charwoman was go to wash and scrub off the first dirt and it took some scrubbing. When she had gone, Mollie G, Clare and Olive Sears got scrubbing brushes and worked on those floors till they were what they considered clean!!

Then they got some story books from former pupils. Begged some crockery for the helper's meal, afternoon tea on the Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays that the Library would be open.

They begged

- a couple of tables and three or four chairs.
- an electric heater to boil water for the tea, add for washing children's hands (before they could touch books or work).
- a hand sewing machine for the dressmaking (Later Mr. Fred Mann gave a pedal machine.)
- a few floor rungs and books from everyone.

a carpenter to put up some shelves for books and under the shelves, a cupboard to hold crockery, etc.  
a couple of tin washing basins and some common soap.

They wanted to give it a name. What about "Loreto Free Library".  
Eva, M Hollingdale, Mollie Curtin, Eileen Hughes and Bessie Butler drove up to Normanhurst to ask Mother Superior's approval of the scheme. She heartily approved of it all - name and work. So did all the nuns who were interested in the venture. (M. M. Oliver took special interest.) It was agreed at that visit to ask Kirribilli to join in. They were quite willing to do so.

Not only do the children read at the Library, but sew by hand and with the machine (though only a hand machine at first) making their own frocks taught by Bessie Butler. They learn painting with coloured crayons; playing games; building with blocks; sewing with coloured wool on fancy cards; listening to stories being read to them - some of these are of Our Lord's own baby days and of Our Lady, too; being prepared for Confession, (even taking them in to the confessional); being prepared for Holy Communion, (getting white frocks for the poorer ones. After Communion, a beautiful breakfast in St. Mary's Hall.)

All the priests and the Archbishop have commented on the refining effect our girls have on those poor little rough ones. New, they speak and act so reverently towards the priests.

In the Library Clare Sears always keeps bowls of beautiful flowers. Those children love flowers and when leaving in the afternoons ask Clare to give them those to take home - their mothers love to get them.

The last set of our girls just leaving school join on to the helpers on whatever days are assigned to them. The Kirribilli past pupils are very faithful to their appointed days too, taking up whatever posts are allotted to them.

The children in the house made ever so many nice little frocks for the "loo children" as they call them, before Christmas. These were distributed by Mollie C. etc. to the most needy ones. When the country girls are sending their gifts of clothes for the Waitara Babes, which is their Charity, they put in some beautifully finished off frocks for 'loo. The Heffernan girls are specially faithful. Meg Brodie made several tunics and bloomers to match for the children too. A Christmas tree is now a settled thing there and don't they love it.

Just now they have to store all their books until the war is over. Our nuns at Kirribilli kindly offered to take in all the cases and they are many. Otherwise they would have to sell them and possibly get very little for them and it is too far to bring them to Normanhurst. Kirribilli is much nearer to 11 Corfu Street.

As well as sewing, Bessie has taught them plain knitting. They made three knitted quilts for small beds, which they sent home to Eva. She gave them to the Superintendent of the Catholic Women's Association who was surprised that those children could produce such perfect work. She wrote to tell them of her surprise and to thank them. Now these quilts or rugs are keeping some of the poor little Russian Refugees warm.

Just a week ago one little girl wrote to Mollie Curtin telling how lonely she was, not able to get her book. They have settled that a woman fond of children would give them a book when she gets them. This was only proposed for later use.

The Kirribilli Past Students have given donations at various times. £5 a few months ago. The Foundation members from there were Marie Coogan, Beatrice Polin, Mollie Veech, Madeleine Page.

*(Here ends the manuscript .)*

\*\*\*\*\*



