

## Rostrevor's Heritage



From the 1942 Annual: Senior Boarders.

The photo is taken in the Valley looking SSW. The building in the back ground is the back of the old Chapel cum theatre and the entrance to the underground changerooms is evident.

### The Chapel

*'Amid all the demands for meeting the domestic, educational and sporting needs of the new school the provision of a chapel held a high priority.'*

So wrote **Br John Bourke** in his book "The Rostrevor Story". The first Chapel at Rostrevor College was built over the coolroom of the original residence which was dug into the bank of the creek by the second owner of Rostrevor House, Ross Smith Reid, for storing fruit from the orchard. It was a fine weatherboard structure and the coolroom below became the boarder's locker room. The locker room then became a sports change room and served the College well, right up until 1998, when it was demolished to make way for the new Admin and Student Services wing. Many a Rostrevor footballer ran from the Valley change room to do battle on the Big Memorial Oval.

The first Chapel was only to be a temporary arrangement. The Brothers took possession of the Rostrevor property in February 1923 and the transition from CBC to Rostrevor did not take place until the start of Term Two, 1923, as the classrooms were fitted out and the Chapel completed, as

a priority, before the students took residence. The temporary arrangement lasted 16 years until the present Chapel was built. After 1939 the de-commissioned Chapel was used as an overflow dormitory, a classroom, a library and a picture theatre before receiving a major facelift to be transformed into a Drama Theatre/ Picture Theatre in 1967. It too was demolished to make way for the 1998 Admin and Student Services wing.

**Br Ignatius Leonard Mackey** is sometimes called the 'second founder of Rostrevor' because of his guidance during the Great Depression. Br Mackey is also well remembered for his generous donation of the funds to build the Chapel.

In 1937 the Province offered Rostrevor £5,000 for the building of a new Chapel. It is not evident in College records if this money was forthcoming but the 1939 Annual thanks Br Mackey for his generous donation of a bequest from his father for the purpose of building the Chapel. The building and its fit out cost in the vicinity of £6,600 of which donations were received from parents and friends totalling £1,175.

Br Mackey wrote, 'Through a happy mischance the final plans for the Chapel were lost. The designer, Mr J



From the 1923 Annual: The interior of the new Chapel



From the 1939 Annual: The interior of the new Chapel at the Opening Ceremony



The interior of the Chapel during the 2008 Year 12 Graduation Ceremony

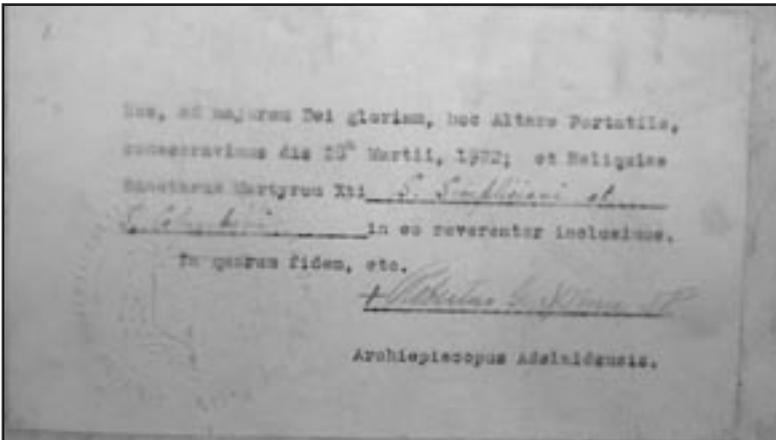
McDonough, set to work and has improved considerably on the first design. Considerations of cost compelled us to forgo our original

intention of using Sydney freestone; in its stead we are using Basket Range stone, with Tapley's Hill bluestone in the base. Not only has this brought the

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From the 1967 Annual: The exterior of the renovated theatre (original Chapel)



The inscription on the Altar stone



The detail of the Ecce homo on the original altar gates. The gates were retained in storage after the 1983 Chapel renovation



Br Ignatius Leonard Mackey

building within our reach, but we have obtained a more beautiful effect.'

The Foundation Stone was blessed and placed in position by Archbishop Killian on 20 November 1938. The Chapel was blessed and officially opened by Monsignor Hourigan, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese, on 4 June 1939.

Among the 1,000 strong congregation present at the opening ceremony were 3 old boy priests Father M Bayard PP, P Kelly and Xavier Bates CP.

The 1939 Annual reported 'Both exteriorly and interiorly ornament has been deliberately sacrificed so that dignity and reverence may be expressed by the simple beauty line and proportion. The altar of Carrara marble, relieved by panels of Moroccan onyx, is an effective focus of interest. The reredos is panelled with green marble and the tabernacle is surmounted by a canopy and a Cross of white marble. The altar table is supported by columns of Brazilian onyx, which frame a marble bas-relief representing the Last Supper.

The sanctuary is floored with jarrah parquetry and is enriched with two stained glass windows representing the Assumption and St Joseph, the patron of the Chapel. The altar rails are of white marble and are furnished with brass gates, each containing a

representation of the Ecce Homo. (The *Ecce homo* is a standard component of cycles illustrating the *Passion and Life of Christ* in art.)

...The pews are of Pacific maple. ... The Stations of the Cross in bas-relief have been recessed into the walls and coloured in keeping with the whole of the Chapel. The floor is polished tallow-wood ... The sacristy doors are of Pacific maple.'

## Relic Hunters

Early in 2008, Rostrevor Religious Education Coordinator, Michael Romeo and Director of Ministry and Spirituality, Br John Ahern, were going through the cupboards in the sacristies of the Chapel, in somewhat of a stocktake exercise, when they uncovered an altar stone inscribed with the following,

*'We for the greater glory of God have consecrated this portable altar on the 28th March 1922 and we have reverently included the relics of the holy martyrs of Christ, St Simplician and St Columban.'*

*Robert Spence OP*

*Archbishop of Adelaide*

The stone with its relics, we assume, are from the original altar stone made for the 'temporary Chapel' in 1922, hence the portable altar reference.

This is quite a significant discovery of two confirmed relics of Saints.

**Saint Simplician** (d. August 13, 400) succeeded Saint Ambrose as bishop of Milan in 397. He was already an old man by that time. He was considered responsible for the conversion of Augustine of Hippo, who praised him for his learning and zeal.

**St. Columban** (Feastday: November 23b: 559? d: 615) was a great missionary abbot and founded monastic centers in France, Switzerland, and Italy that became centres of evangelization and learning



Staff member Michael Romeo and Br John Ahern examine the Altar stone and the Chalice which they uncovered stored in the Chapel

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for the whole area. He was a monk of the monastery of Bangor in north Ireland, founded by St. Comgall, one of the notable monastic founders of Ireland. The St. Columban's Missionary Society took its name from him, recognizing in him a missionary genius with a uniquely Irish spirit.

While there is provision for an altar stone in the current Chapel altar, there is no such stone or customary relic.

In the same exercise, Michael and Br John made closer inspection of a very old chalice and discovered an inscription on it which read 'Pray for the Soul of Francis Murphy, First Bishop of Adelaide 1844 C.A.R. 1881.

**Bishop Francis Murphy** was born in Navan, County Meath, Ireland. He arrived in Sydney in July 1838 with other priests whom he had induced to follow his example. Almost immediately, because of the impending departure of Bishop John Bede Polding, he was appointed vicar-general with jurisdiction over the whole of Australia.

In 1843 he was designated by Pope Gregory XVI to the new see of Adelaide. On 8 September 1844 he was consecrated in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, by Archbishop Polding assisted by Bishop Robert Willson and by Archdeacon John McEncroe, thus becoming the first Bishop consecrated in Australasia. The Bishop sailed for Adelaide in the *Mary White* in October with one priest and two schoolteachers. On 26 December he wrote from Adelaide, 'I found my Mission utterly destitute of church, chapel or school. He built St Patrick's Cathedral as well as 12 churches and 6 chapels and commenced the building of St Francis Xavier's Cathedral. He died in 1858 and is buried in the Cathedral grounds.

The presence of the 1881 chalice in the Rostrevor Chapel is attributed to its migration from CBC Wakefield St with the opening of the new Chapel in 1923.

The Rostrevor Chapel received major renovations in 1983 at which time the altar rails and gates were removed, the



*From the 1940 Annual: The Rostrevor Chapel Altar*

stained glass windows were installed, including the Edmund Rice icon, a striking red carpet was laid and the second altar, lecturn and altar furniture currently used, were added.

In July 2008 the carpet was replaced with a customised design of red with a pattern of black Celtic Crosses.

The Chapel is used daily for Student Liturgies and is in big demand for weddings across weekends, sometimes accommodating three weddings on a weekend.

## ROCA Annual Dinner 2008



*Brian Clancey ('78), Greg Browne ('78), Tim Guidera ('78), Richard Wald ('78), Guy Benham ('78), Mick Carey ('78), Martin Rooney ('78)*



*Pat Gentilcore ('78), Joe Del Duce ('78)*



*Phillip Donato ('78), John Capaldo ('78), Eric Andreoni ('78)*



*Peter Mulraney ('69), Rory Malone ('70), Vince McCabe ('70)*



*Marco De Corso ('70), Denis Pedler ('75), Paul Mulraney ('70)*



*Noel Cave ('75), Fabio Finocchiaro ('75)*



*Peter Marker ('66), Wally Hearn ('66), D'arcy Walsh ('63)*



*Back: Steven Mele ('98), Damien Pedron ('98), Mario Mazzone ('98), Domenic Gelonese ('98), Damian Donato ('98). Front: Anthony Terminello ('98), David Centofanti ('98), Davide La Scala ('98)*