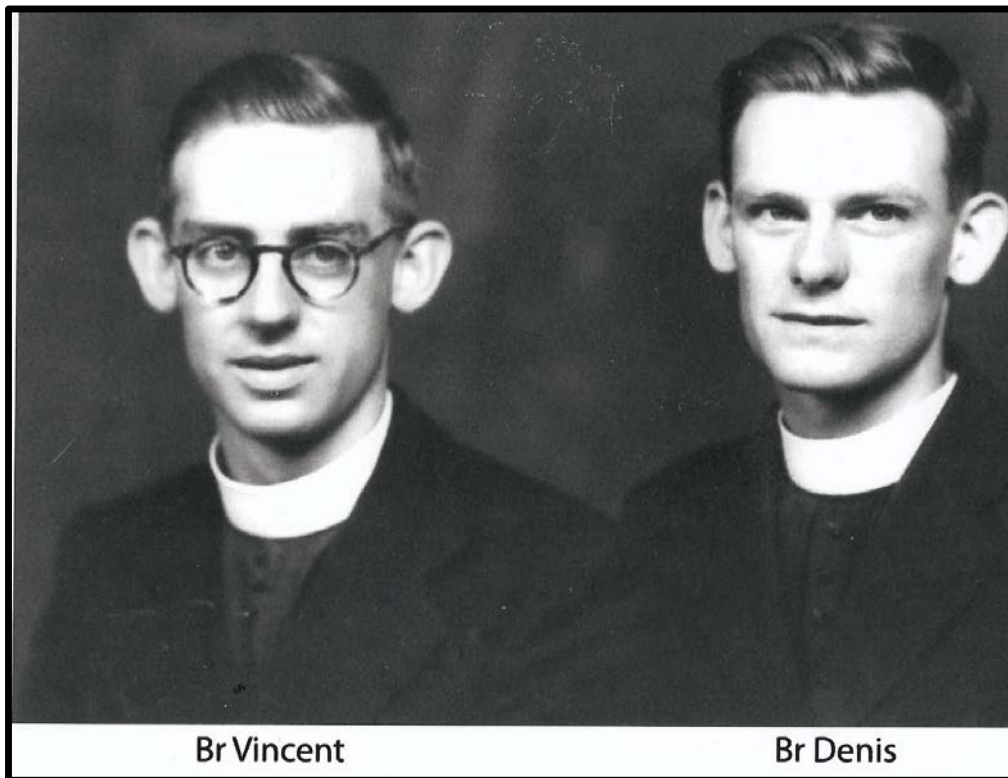


MASS OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF
**BROTHER
VINCENT COTTER FSC**
(James Leonard)

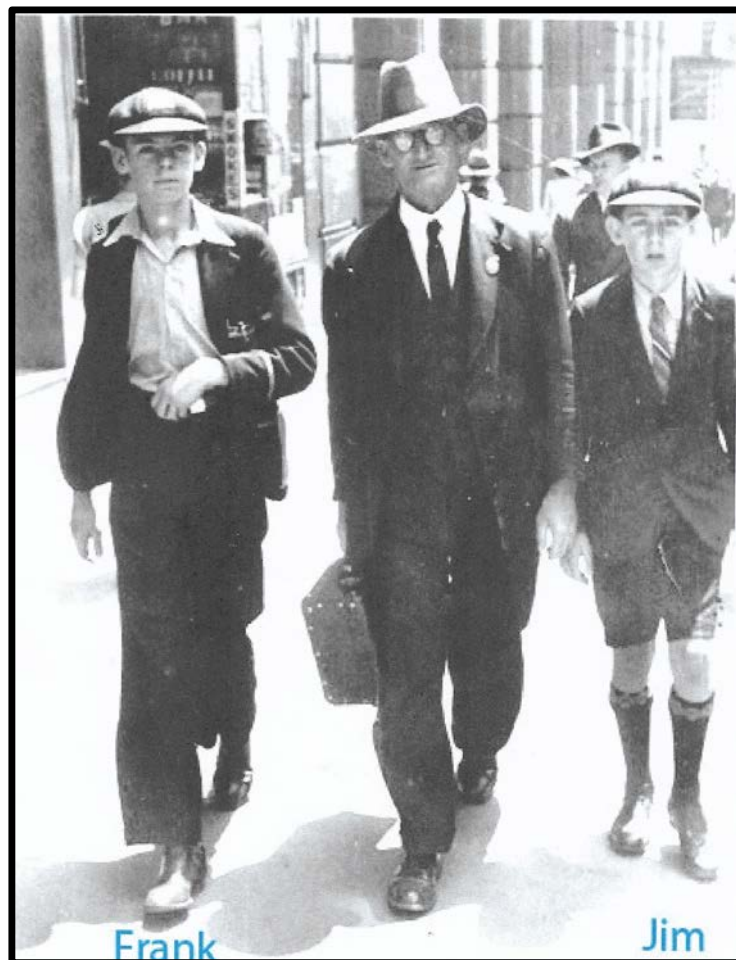


Tuesday 7 April 2020
De La Salle Brothers' Community Karlaminda, Kensington
Celebrant: Fr John Kelliher MSC



Br Vincent

Br Denis



Frank

Jim

BR VINCENT EDMUND COTTER FSC (James Leonard)

Born 29 September 1926
Son of John and Mary Cotter

Reception of the Habit 31 January 1943
First Profession 2 February 1944
Perpetual Profession January 1949
Entered Eternal Life 5 April 2020

Community and Ministry Appointments

Cronulla	1945 – 1966
Marrickville	1967 – 1968
Castle Hill	1969 – 1970
Henley Beach	1971 – 1981
Castle Hill	1981 – 2003
Cronulla	2003 – 2012
Karlaminda	2012 – 2017
St Joseph's Nursing Home Kensington	2017



Welcome

Br David Hawke FSC Visitor

Entrance Hymn

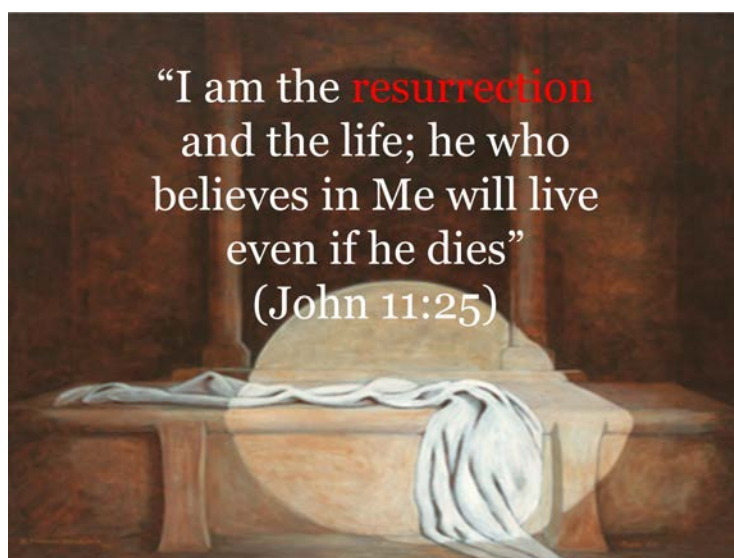
Strong and Constant

Frank Andersen MSC

I will be your God who walks with you!
You will be always within my hand!
Take your heart and give it all to me!
Strong and constant is my love!
Strong and constant is my love!

Should you wander far away from me
I will search for you in every land!
Should you call, then you will truly know:
Strong and constant is my love!
Strong and constant is my love!

When you know sorrow within your life,
I will come I will embrace your heart!
Through your pain you will discover me!
Strong and constant is my love!
Strong and constant is my love!



INTRODUCTORY RITES

Fr John: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Fr John: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.
And with your spirit.

Please be seated

Fr John: In 1943, Brother Vincent was received into the Brothers of the
Christian Schools. In all the years since, he has given life to the
Lasallian community through his fidelity to God, his commitment
to his Brothers and his service to God's people. We welcome
him for the last time to this sacred place of worship. We
reverence his body in gratitude for his many years among us.

Reverencing the Body

Fr John: In the waters of Baptism, Brother Vincent died with Christ and
rose with him to new life. May he now share with him eternal
glory.
Amen.

Sprinkling of the coffin with holy water.

Placing of the Pall

Br Paul and Br Raymond

Fr John: On the day of his Baptism, Brother Vincent was clothed
in Christ. By his word and example he lived with Christian
dignity. May Christ now enfold him in His love and bring
him to eternal life.
Amen.

Placing of Symbols

Br David: As we gather to commend Brother Vincent to our God of love, we place on his coffin some symbols of his life of fidelity and service.

The Crucifix

Br Max: We place the crucifix on his coffin, a sign of both his deep faith and of the suffering that he experienced during his life's journey.

The Rule

Br Colin: As we place the Rule on the coffin, we recall that Brother Vincent was a devoted and loyal member of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Prayer Book and Rosary Beads

Br William: A precious aspect of his life was his devotion to prayer. Brother Vincent prayed daily seeking God in his own experience and bringing God to all those he loved and for whom he had special care.

Br David: May Brother Vincent be welcomed into the company of those whom he loved and taught, and all those who were touched by his life.
Amen.

Words of Remembrance

Br Gerard Rummery FSC

Opening Prayer

All loving God, we pray for Brother Vincent who responded to your call to give of himself to others by following in the way of Saint John Baptist de La Salle as a Brother of the Christian Schools. May those whose lives have been touched by his ministry be able to respond as generously as he did in all circumstances of life. We pray that you will welcome Vincent home and take him into your loving care forever. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading

2 Corinthians 4:7-15

Br Colin

A reading from the second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

We are only the earthenware jars that hold this treasure, to make it clear that such an overwhelming power comes from God and not from us. We are in difficulties on all sides, but never cornered; we see no answer to our problems, but never despair; we have been persecuted, but never deserted; knocked down, but never killed; always, wherever we may be, we carry with us in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus, too, may always be seen in our body. Indeed, while we are still alive, we are consigned to our death every day, for the sake of Jesus, so that in our mortal flesh the life of Jesus, too, may be openly shown. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

But as we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture – *I believed, and therefore I spoke* – we too believe and therefore we too speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd

Brian Boniwell

The Lord is my Shepherd, and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.
Over the mountains, the waters and by-ways,
valleys and highways, he's waiting for me.

I want to go to meet him there,
to lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my Shepherd and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.

And while on the journey to where we are going,
He promised to be there to help us along.
And over the mountains we'll walk on together,
to know all the wonders he's given to me.

I want to go to meet him there,
to lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my Shepherd and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
Happy are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labours
for their good deeds go before them.
Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus exclaimed, "I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

"Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

Fr John Kelliher MSC



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Fr John: Loving God, we gather to celebrate the life and death of our brother Vincent, remembering that you invite us to present our prayers and needs to you.

Br Rory: We pray for Brother Vincent. May God reward him with peace and joy for his life of love and witness, for his deep faith and loyalty to the Church and for the support and friendship he gave to others. With faith we pray:
Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Br Rory: We pray for Brother Vincent's nieces, nephews, and his relatives and friends. May they be comforted in their sorrow by the Lord who brought consolation and peace to so many during his life on earth. With faith we pray:
Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Br Rory: We pray in thanksgiving for all who cared for Brother Vincent at St Joseph's Nursing Home. We pray that God will reward each of them for their love, generosity and care. With faith we pray:
Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Br Paul: Brother Vincent touched the lives of many people in the various spheres of his life – as Brother, teacher, mentor and friend. May we be inspired to live the values of the Gospel as exemplified by him. With faith we pray:
Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Br Paul: We pray for the De La Salle Brothers. May Mary, Queen and Mother of the Christian Schools and Saint John Baptist de La Salle continue to guide the Brothers in their lives. With faith we pray:
Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Br Paul: We pray for the deceased members of Brother Vincent's family, especially his brother, Br Denis, and the deceased members of the De La Salle Brothers. May they receive the crown of eternal life. With faith we pray:
Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Fr John: God our comforter and strength, hear these prayers we offer for our brother Vincent, and grant him the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Offerings

As you gather us, O God, at your holy altar to farewell our brother Vincent, grant we pray that what we offer with praise and petition may strengthen us all in charity and faith. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Mystery of Faith

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

Communion Hymn

We Walk By Faith

Marty Haugen

We walk by faith, and not by sight:
No gracious words we hear
Of him who spoke
As none e'er spoke
Yet we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side,
Nor follow where he trod;
Yet in his promise we rejoice
And cry "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
And may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near,
And seek where you are found.

That when our life of faith is done
In realms of clearer light
We may behold you as you are
In full and endless sight.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God, your Son Jesus Christ gave his life as a way to you. Our brother Vincent has responded and tried to imitate the life of Jesus. May he be welcomed into your Kingdom to be with you forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL COMMENDATION

Fr John: Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our brother Vincent. May our farewell express our affection for him; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

*The coffin is sprinkled with
holy water and incensed.*

Let us pray with confidence to God, who gives life to all things, that God will raise up Brother Vincent's mortal body to the perfection and the company of the saints.

May Christ the Good Shepherd lead Vincent safely home to be at peace with our loving God and may he be happy for ever with all the saints.

Song of Farewell

Br Gerard: Saints of God, come to his aid, come to meet him angels of the Lord!

Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.

Br Gerard: May Christ who called you, take you to himself. May angels lead you to Abraham's side!

Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.

Br Gerard: Give him eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine on him for ever.

Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.

ICEL Text of Funerals. Music of Philip Duffy 1977

Prayer of Commendation

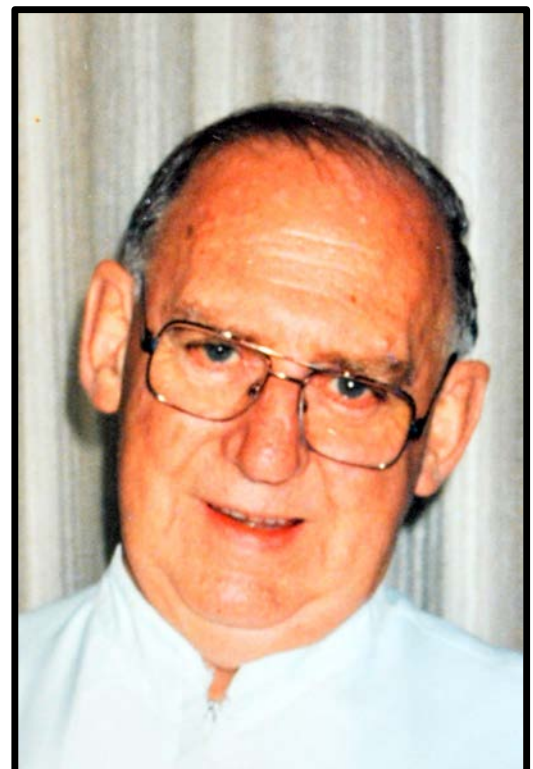
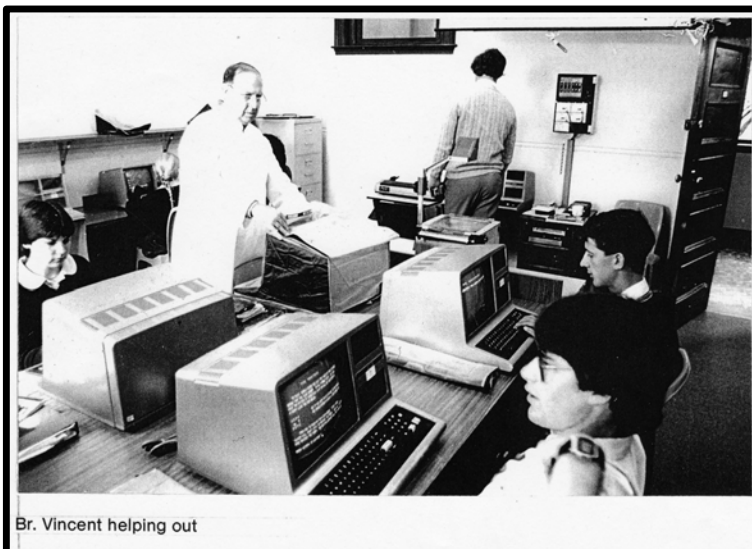
Fr John: Into your hands, God of mercies, we commend our brother Vincent in the sure hope that, together with all who have died with Christ, he will rise with him on the last day.

We give thanks for the blessings, which you have bestowed upon Vincent in this life; they are signs to us of your goodness and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.

Merciful Lord, turn towards us and listen to our prayers: open the gates of paradise to your servant Vincent and help us who remain to comfort one another with the assurances of faith, until we all meet in Christ and are with you and with our brother Vincent, forever.

Amen.

In peace, let us take our brother to his place of rest. May the angels lead him into paradise. May the martyrs come to welcome him and take him into the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem.



Recessional Hymn

Be Not Afraid

Bob Dufford SJ

You shall cross the barren desert
But you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
Though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
And all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

Be not afraid, I go before you always.
Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters in the sea,
You shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames
You shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the power
Of hell and death is at your side,
Know that I am with you through it all.

Be not afraid, I go before you always.
Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.
Blessed are you who weep and
Mourn for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you all because of me,
Blessed, blessed are you.

Be not afraid, I go before you always.
Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

AT THE GRAVESIDE

Invitation to Prayer

We are gathered here today in this sacred space, the final resting place for many of the Brothers. It was fitting that on the first Easter morning in a place similar to this that news of Jesus' Resurrection was first heard. As we come today to place the body of our brother Vincent in this grave, may you, loving God, in your goodness open our minds and hearts so that we may believe in the good news of Christ's triumph over death.

Prayer over the Place of Committal

God of mercy and compassion, bless this grave in which we place the body of our beloved brother Vincent. May your angels watch over it and through the victory of Jesus over death, make it a place of hope. Welcome Brother Vincent into your presence and may he rejoice in you with your saints forever. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

*The Grave and coffin are sprinkled with
holy water.*

Prayer of Committal

Because God has chosen to call our brother Vincent from this life to himself, we commit his body to the earth for we are dust and unto dust we shall return. But the Lord Jesus Christ will change our mortal bodies to be like his in glory, for he is risen, the firstborn from the dead. So let us commend our brother to the Lord, that the Lord may embrace him in peace and raise up his body on the last day.

As the coffin is being lowered into the grave, the Salve Regina is sung.

Salve Regina

Salve Regina, mater misericordiae,
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevae.
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.
Eia, ergo, advocato nostra,
illos tuos misericordes oculus ad nos converte.
Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

Concluding Prayer

God of all consolation, grant that the light of faith may guide our earthly journey, so that we may reach the joys you have prepared for us which are beyond all our imagining. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto Brother Vincent, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon him.

May Brother Vincent rest in peace.
Amen.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.

May the love of God and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ bless and console us and gently wipe away every tear from our eyes: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Dismissal

Br David: Mary, Queen and Mother of the Christian Schools.
Pray for us.

Br David: Saint John Baptist de La Salle.
Pray for us.

Br David: Live Jesus in our hearts!
Forever.



"Only an ardent zeal for the salvation of the young can be sufficient reason to decide to sacrifice and spend your life for their education. The life of grace that they will live on earth will be a prelude to that which for them and for you will be perpetuated in glory."

St John Baptist de La Salle
(Meditation for the Time of Retreat 9.3)

