

‘WHAT HAS CHANGED IN 175 YEARS?’ - HOMILY – 5 NOVEMBER 2017

In May 1843 Archbishop Polding arrived in Brisbane to see for himself what it was like. Based in Sydney as bishop, it was several years before he came north on visitation. He brought Passionist priests with him to establish a mission to Aborigines. He decided on Stradbroke Island. While here, he saw the pastoral need for Brisbane town as well. On returning to Sydney, he organised for two priests for Brisbane, by December of the same year.

IS THIS JUST HISTORY, MERELY THE PAST FOR A FEW INTERESTED?

In today's Gospel,

***“The greatest among you will be your servant.
All who exalt themselves will be humbled,
and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”***

The Gospel continues with Jesus challenging religious leaders as hypocrites and blind guides. It is confronting language. And not just then - for all time.

Next year, in 2018, we commemorate the 175 years.

HOW DO WE DO THIS HUMBLY?

**HOW DO WE LOOK BACK OVER 175 YEARS, AND LOOK AT OURSELVES TODAY,
AND LOOK AHEAD?**

HOW DO WE LOOK WITH EYES OF HUMBLE STUDENTS?

The Gospel today reminds us:

***“But you are not to be called rabbi,
for you have one teacher, and you are all students.
And call no one your father on earth,
for you have one Father—the one in heaven.
Nor are you to be called instructors,
for you have one instructor, the Messiah.”***

WITHOUT BURDENING OTHERS?

BY PRACTISING WHAT WE TEACH (AND PRACTISING WHAT WE LEARN)?

BY REFLECTING IN A SPIRIT OF SERVICE?

By recognising God as our Father, Christ as our Teacher.

Today's Gospel reminds us:

***“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat;
therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it;
but do not do as they do, for they do not practise what they teach.
They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear,
and lay them on the shoulders of others;
but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them.”***

SOME CHURCH ISSUES -

As we reflect back on Brisbane and Stradbroke Island in the 1840s
We can see important issues that still influence us today, including:

1. THE MEANING OF CHURCH

HOW DID CATHOLICS KEEP THEIR FAITH ALIVE WITHOUT SEEING A PRIEST FOR 20 YEARS?

HOW DID THEY SHARE WITH OTHERS?

WHEN FOUR PASSIONIST CONGREGATION PRIESTS ARRIVED TO WORK ON STRADBROKE ISLAND, OFF BRISBANE, WERE THEY CONSTRAINED BY A EUROPEAN UNDERSTANDING OF CHURCH?

WHEN DIOCESAN AND RELIGIOUS PRIESTS ARRIVED TO PASTOR IN BRISBANE TOWN, WHAT WAS THEIR UNDERSTANDING?

2. THE MEANING AND MODELS OF MISSION

The Duncan family arrived on 13th June 1846.

WHAT WAS THEIR EARLY CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY AND CHURCH?

HOW DID W.A. DUNCAN SHAPE THE EARLY CHURCH IN EDUCATION, MUSIC AND EDUCATION?

HOW DID HE SHAPE SOCIETY AS A CUSTOMS OFFICER, A JOURNALIST, A BUSINESSMAN?

WHAT WAS HIS MODEL OF MISSION?

The early Brisbane priests travelled to where people lived in the bush.

They did not remain only in Brisbane and Ipswich,

Their pastoral outreach is recorded in the baptismal and marriage registers of the time.

3. PREPARATION FOR MISSION

HOW DID THEY PREPARE FOR COLONIAL LIFE?

4. WILLINGNESS TO SPEND TIME WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES,

And understanding their languages, beliefs, spirituality, social systems,

way of life, connection to creation, art, song, leisure, work, ceremony, territory.

5. CULTURAL APPRECIATION

6. LEVELS OF CHURCH AUTHORITY?

FOR THE FOUR PASSIONIST PRIESTS, HOW DID THEY COPE WITH 4 LEVELS OF RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY?

Fr Vaccari was Mission leader, with responsibility from the Sacred Congregation for Propaganda.

YET HOW DID THAT WORK WITH THE ARCHBISHOP IN SYDNEY AND WITH HIS OWN RELIGIOUS CONGREGATION AND HIS AUTHORITY WITH THE THREE OTHER PRIESTS?

7. INCULTURATION IN LITURGY AND CHURCH PRACTICE

Baptism was a particular issue.

8. EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

The early school boards of Brisbane and Ipswich Catholic schools are named.

WHY DID THEY SEE EDUCATION AS SO IMPORTANT?

HOW WAS THE EDUCATION MODEL ON STRADBROKE ISLAND DIFFERENT FROM BRISBANE AND WHY?

9. ISOLATION

10. ECUMENICAL DIALOGUE

The 1840s in Brisbane were not an easy time for Catholics.

TRYING TO UNDERSTAND

As students, and called to humility, let us ponder life then. Today for those on the **LEFT-HAND SIDE** of the church, you are invited to think what questions you might ask those who formed our Brisbane church in the 1840s.

For those on the **RIGHT-HAND SIDE** of our congregation today, place yourselves as best you can in the frame of thinking of the 1840s. How would explain your decisions and challenges?

WHAT WOULD NELLIE SAY TO US?

An Aboriginal woman whose 2 children, John aged 6 and Albert aged 3, were baptised in June 1844 at Dunwich on Stradbroke Island. The father of the children, Dick Smith, an Irishman, presented them. Joseph Daps, an Englishman, was the Godfather.

WHAT WOULD W.A. DUNCAN SAY TO US?

Newly arrived in 1846 from Sydney. Not only about education, media, business, governance, vision and music but also about family life as a husband and father of two children.

WHAT WOULD FR JAMES HANLY SAY TO US?

He was only some months newly ordained when he was sent to Brisbane in 1843. He was the constant while other priests served with him at times, and sometimes he was the only priest.

WHAT WOULD CAROLINE CHISHOLM SAY TO US?

She visited Brisbane in 1845, looking for positions for immigrant girls and women.

WHAT WAS HER IMPRESSION OF THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN 1845 AND HOW WOULD SHE HELP US TO LISTEN AND LEARN FROM THEM?

WHO ELSE COULD WE ASK?

WHAT WOULD WE ASK OF THE PEOPLE LISTED BELOW IN 1845?

In 1845 an application in Brisbane Town was signed by those intending to worship in Catholic service at the chapel. There were three groupings,

- Those within five miles of the Temporary chapel,
- Those within one mile of the Chapel,

- Those residing at the Military Barracks of Brisbane Town.

REMEMBERING - BY NAME - THE THREE GROUPS IN PRAYER

Let us remember each of them in prayer.

WITHIN 5 MILES:

G. S. Le Breton, Mary Le Breton, Bridget Frawley,
 Thomas Gallaher, Bridget Callagh, William Fitzpatrick, Jane Fitzpatrick,
 G. H. Fitzpatrick, Tim Corbett, Jeremiah Scanlan, Margaret Scanlan,
 H. McCrohon, Catherine McCrohon, John Gallagher, Michael Farrell,
 Catherine Farrell, William Wilson, Hinck Lynch, John Lynch,

WITHIN 1 MILE:

Jane Lynch, Ellen Jackson, Eliza Cullen, Govly O'Pourke,
 John Casim, Mary Casim, Patrick Carboy, JC Bellinger, John Conway,
 Mary Conway, William Kavanagh, Margaret Kavanagh, James Smith,
 Bridget Smith, Thos Hayse, Ellen Hayse, William Sheahan, Ellen Sheahan,
 Patt Geary, William Daron, Sarah Daron, Michael Slevin, Ellener Slevin,
 B. Coleman, Cathrin Smith, Mary Coleman, Ellen Doyle, Romeo,
 Connelly Hughes, Charles Pugh, Catherine Pugh, Henry Savary, Catherine Savary,
 Henry Smith, Winifred Clarke, Edw. Cosgrove, Michael Doyle, Ellen Doyle,
 Bridget Ramsey, Charles Foley, Johanna Foley, Julia Ann Foley, Robt Nully,
 David Bunton, Cera Bunton, Elizabeth Bell, John Gibbons, Robt Bowland,
 Catherine Bowland, John Howard, Mary Howard, Eliza Crabbe, Mary Brennan,
 Thomas Connor, Mary Broom, John Brennan, Elizabeth Brennan,
 Elizabeth Sommers, George Sommers, Mat Prendergast, Elizabeth Prendergast,
 Luis Prendergast, James McCauliff, Edward Hughes, Henry Hughes, Henry Hughes,
 James Beechey, M.A. Williams, Margaret Connor, Owen Sweney, H.W. Lyons,
 Mary Mallon, Catherine Price, Margaret Lacy, William Cook, Lawrence Corcoran,
 Bernard McCann, James Cannavon, Patk Doyle, James Farrell, Michael Daly,
 John McCabe, Pierre Richarde, Edw. King, Charles Sloane, Henry Fabyr,
 Patrick Kelly, Patrick Kelly, William Shillard, Hugh Feeney, Edward Feeney,
 Eliza Feeney, Wm John Clarke, Anna Clarke, Isabelle Newton, Honorah Foley,
 Margaret Sears, Timothy Duffy, John Kelly, Mary Kelly, Martin Byrne,
 Scholastica Bryne, Michael Sheehan, Margaret Sheehan, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick,
 Thomas Stuart, Mary Cox, John Moore

RESIDING AT THE MILITARY BARRACKS:

Ind. Kelsoh 58th Regt, Patrick Monaghan Capt 58th Regt, Hugh Gallagher,
 John Galvin, John Moore, Pat Smith, James Darnetty, Owen Murray, Richard Iman,
 H. Murphy, Matthew Lynch, Simon Garretty, Pat Doran, Patt Brown,
 Timothy Jerrett, Thomas Lyons, Owen Cummins, James Doran, Andrew Johnson,
 John Reeve, Thomas Rielly, William Healy, Thomas Caulfield, James Cole,
 John Hughs, Pat Mc Donald, Ellen Reevey, Mary Easton, Mary Ann Easton.

Next year, in 2018, we will have a prepared dialogue between the 1840s and 2018 Catholics.
 Thank you to parishioners who will prepare this for us.

**WHAT HAS CHANGED? WHAT IS DIFFERENT? WHAT IS NEW?
WHAT IS SIMILAR? WHAT IS THE SAME?**

Let us pray.

Fr Gerry

[Fr. Gerry Hefferan – What has changed in 175 years? – 5 November 2017]

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/110517.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook05112017>]



“St Stephen's church situated in Elizabeth Street is in the centre of a panoramic view of Brisbane in 1862. Behind the church is the Brisbane River and Kangaroo Point. The panorama was taken from near the Observatory on Wickham Terrace.

The church was designed by Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin, an eminent British architect, and built by Andrew Petrie during 1849 and 1850. The chapel was opened for public worship on 12 May 1850.”

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