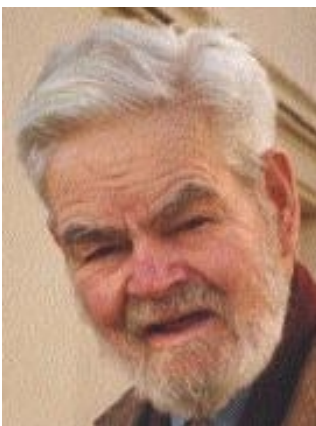
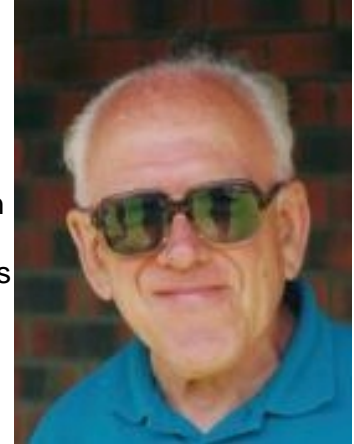


VIA Volunteers in Action March 2008

Dear Volunteers in Action,

I wish you all Easter joy. May Christ continue to rise in your hearts and minds and bring his Easter gift of peace to you. I hope you had a wonderful Easter. As in many parishes, we certainly rejoiced with the Baptism of new members into the Church. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming so close to us in the Easter readings, not as a ghost, but truly as flesh and bones (Lk 24:39). You are truly bone of our bones, and flesh of our flesh, our firstborn Brother risen victorious over death.

Pallottines into glory. This Easter two of our confreres returned to God to enjoy the reward of their labours. **Fr Gerhard Christoph** died on the 8th March at Nazareth House in Geraldton after much suffering. Fr Gerhard was an inspiration to me when I began youth ministry at Pallotti College, Millgrove, in 1968. He arrived from Germany in 1961 to teach Scripture and History of Philosophy, just at the time when the Novitiate had shifted from Sydney to Millgrove, with humble beginnings at Montserrat. In 1963 when Pallotti College was being built, besides his teaching Pallottine students and the development of youth camps and young leaders, Gerhard landscaped and developed the drainage system around the College. In 1969 he was posted to Tardun where he did magnificent work with the young people in his charge, and with adult Aborigines, encouraging, with the help of Aboriginal elders, the expression of their culture in painting, dance, arts and crafts. The students at Wandalgu went by bus to secondary college and competed in local footy and netball competitions on the weekends. He cared for lay missionaries and was indefatigable in his outdoor development work, planting trees down the main drive to Wandalgu. One of his legacies was an aboriginal tree behind the main altar done by Olive Boddington. Gerhard also applied to Germany for lay missionaries and for sports equipment for the mission. He suffered a severe stroke in 2001 and was hospitalised in Geraldton, a time of great suffering for him. Gerhard was greatly loved by those he ministered to. He was generous, deeply caring and spiritual. May he rest in peace.



Br Pat Bicknell died March 18th at Corpus Christi Hostel, Clayton, on the eve of the Feast of St Joseph, his ideal as a brother. Pat had served in the Second World War in PNG. He worked at Myers as a cabinet maker and then joined the Pallottines at Kew, doing magnificent work on the sacristy press and the pews in the Shrine. Pat went to Beagle Bay, worked at Balgo and other missions. As cook he was linked to the studentate at Strathfield, Millgrove, and then at Kew. Pat loved music and sang heartily, he had a great compassion for the poor and often invited in those he met on the road. He was anointed by Fr Eugene on the afternoon of the 18th and received it with a strong and joyful song. Later that day he gave up his spirit to the Lord.

Preparations for our Pallottine Youth Encounter (PYE)

and WYD are progressing well. Our Pallottine Icon, a large copy of Mary, Queen of Apostles, is complete. The Homestay team have done great work to accommodate the growing number of pilgrims. The rest of the Pallottine Support Group, responsible for Registration and PR, Events, Youth Formation, Health and Safety, Transport, Finance and Catering, have been meeting monthly for 18 months. The deadline for registration is 10th May, but to get a seat on the bus you must hurry. **The Training of guides and pilgrims** will commence after the Easter holidays. The pace is quickening and we're getting ready for any eventuality. **PYE Support Group meets again on April 7th at 7.30pm.**





At our **Training Weekend for PYE** at Millgrove, **May 16-18th** we will put the finishing touches to our preparation for July 4th -9th. Fr Zenon our Pallottine Vice General, Fr Daniel, a Brazilian Pallottine, a number of Australian Pallottines and 2 priests and a deacon from New York and Canada are coming to our PYE. **July 4th is the start of our Pallottine Youth Encounter at Millgrove.** It will highlight aspects of Pallottine spirituality adapted to and by our PYE young adults, such as: In the Cenacle - catching the fire of the Spirit; Contemplation in Action; Vincent's Charism - the UAC ...; Pilgrims are coming from Canada, America, Poland, Singapore, India, Russia and Africa. It will be a great mix, an international flavour and a

fantastic cultural experience.

"Silence and the uncluttering of the mind is most important for people living busy lives. Inside of ourselves we shouldn't be running all the time. How important it is to protect the spirit from ambushes of busyness and schedules." (Thomas Merton)

The love of God sees us in every situation and seeks our good. His inscrutable love seeks our awakening." (Merton).

Karaoke Night April 19th 7.30pm at St Christopher's Hall. The PYE and the Parents Association of St Christophers are jointly hosting a Karaoke Night to raise funds for WYD 08.

St Vincent Pallotti's Birthday will be celebrated on April 19th – 20th at all Masses at St Christopher's. Vincent was born in Rome 21st April 1795 at a time when ordinary people were clamouring for a say in the government of their lives. He listened to that call and gave them a role and a title as apostles, collaborating and sharing in the work as equals. He was ahead of his time and his charism is most relevant for today.

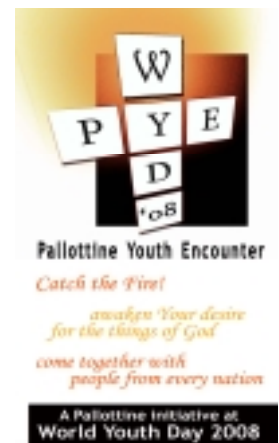
The Feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles, patron of the Pallottine Family, will be celebrated on Saturday 10th May at Syndal at 10.00am, and at 2.00pm at Pallottine Community, Kew. Fittingly it is also Mothers' Day.

The journey of the Cross and Icon which our parish is engaged in will be on May 2nd at our Lady of Good Counsel, Cotham Rd., Deepdene. Our music ministry is responsible for a 5.30-6.30pm segment, but the organisers are looking for more volunteers.

Congratulations to our new UAC Executive Officer, Patrick Caruacan who takes over after the great work of Patricia Heywood. He will be part of the team assessing **applications for our UAC Scholarship Fund.** People engaged in a variety of pastoral works can apply for a grant. Applications close 21st April. For more information ring 9853 8506.

The Pallottine Aboriginal Fund, initiated by Fr Michael McMahon in 2000 to fund scholarships for Aboriginal students, has borne great fruit. Already in 7 short years 2 people have graduated as doctors, 4 are completing their medical degree, 5 have graduated as teachers, 2 in social work, 2 in science, 1 in modern music, 2 in law and 1 in media studies. In 2008 about \$140,000 will be distributed. Both these funds express Vincent Pallotti's vision of all called to the apostolate. They certainly go a long way to equipping our people for ministry.

Please pray for healing for Fr Michael McMahon who is ill. Michael has great expertise in many areas and the Lord still has much service for him to do. Pray also for Pallottine vocations. We pray regularly each Sunday for Pallottine vocations as well as for two vocations from our parish: Michael Magat who is preparing to be a Dominican and Kieran Gill who has begun his novitiate for the Jesuits. The WYD are having a vocations stall. If you have photos of involvement with the Pallottines that could express our vision, could you forward them to Fr Ray Hevern. Please pray for our preparation for PYE / WYD. You are an important part of this venture. God bless you all. **Fr Pat**



PS. **Still like to receive my VIA?** If so: **1.** please email me: frp.jackson@syndalcatholic.org.au.

2. No email! please let me know: 03 9802 8538 and you will continue to be on my hard copy posting list.

God reward you. **Fr Pat**