



A Postscript to the Cathedral Centennial Project 2005

His Excellency, the Auxiliary Bishop,
Archdiocese of Esztergom-Budapest, Hungary.

8th April 2006

Your Excellency,

You will not know me, but I am Chancellor of the Diocese of Christchurch, New Zealand. I am writing because a predecessor of yours was very kind to me on a visit to Hungary in March 2000. I found myself welcomed at the railway station, given accommodation at the Cardinal's Palace, and assigned an English-speaking deacon as companion and guide for my stay.

The purpose of my visit was to explore the possibility of having a European artist provide a set of 'Stations of the Cross' to commemorate the centennial of our Cathedral. To this end, a number of artists were brought together at your Bishops' Centre, together with a priest who seemed to be their mentor and spokesman. I was shown samples of the artists' work, and costs, shipping and other matters were discussed. I had previously had similar discussions with studios in Italy and Germany.

All along, however, our hope had been that we might find an artist in New Zealand capable of such a project, thus continuing a policy of having local artists contribute to the on-going beautification of our Cathedral. As it happened, the commission was eventually offered to a Christchurch artist, and his 'Way of the Cross' was subsequently unveiled on the 100th anniversary of the Cathedral's dedication, 12th February 2005.

I enclose a copy of a book published to commemorate the Centennial Project. I would be grateful if it could be forwarded to the priest who brought the Budapest artists together. I cannot recall his name now, but I was indebted to him as I was to your predecessor, and I trust that the book may be seen as an expression of my thanks. I offer it also as an example of how a non-Catholic sculptor in the New World interprets the passion and death of the Lord. Hopefully, the priest concerned will find it of interest.

Yours sincerely,

Monsignor J.M. Harrington P.A.



NEWSLETTER



FRIENDS OF THE CATHEDRAL

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CENTENNIAL MEMENTO

We are indebted to a subcommittee of the Cathedral Trust for bringing into being 'Way of the Cross', a fine publication on the 'Stations of the Cross' erected to commemorate the Cathedral's centenary.

The booklet includes background material on the traditional Catholic devotion of the 'Stations' together with a short history of the Centennial Project, and fourteen original poems by Bernadette Hall opposite images of the Llew Summers' sculptures photographed by Bridgit Anderson.

'Way of the Cross' was launched in the Cathedral on Sunday April 2nd, and may be purchased there and at art galleries and other selected outlets. It is priced at \$25.00 per copy.

From the beginning, Christians have wished to make the actual journey Jesus made in the course of his passion, but for most it was an unrealisable dream. In the Middle Ages some churches had chapels to commemorate the passion of Jesus, and from these the Franciscans fostered the devotion that came to be called the 'Stations of the Cross'. The Latin word 'statio' implies either 'standing still' or 'gathering at a place'.



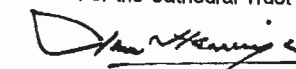
While countless churches around the world have 'Stations', Rome has long had 'Station' churches as well. While originating in the cult of the martyrs, the practice eventually evolved into a gathering of the clergy and faithful about the Pope for a procession to a particular church where the Eucharist would be celebrated. Pope St Gregory the Great standardised the churches that would be used for this purpose, and in time the 'Stations' were restricted to the Lenten season.

The practice of the Lenten 'Stations' has become popular again in recent decades, even though the Popes have ceased to preside over the daily 'Stations'. However, since the time of Blessed John XXIII, the Popes have travelled to Santa Sabina, the first of the 'Station' churches, to receive and distribute the ashes on Ash Wednesday.

Some of the churches display various relics and artistic treasures on the occasion of their being a 'Station' church, and the 'Station' pilgrimages are an opportunity for people to see the most ancient churches in Rome, including some rarely open to the public. The schedule for the next day's 'Station' is posted on the current day's church, and throughout the Lenten season the prayers of people from around the world are joined to those of the pilgrims in a spirit of penitence and conversion.

Hopefully, that same spirit of penitence and conversion has come to those who made the 'Way of the Cross' this Lent in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

For the Cathedral Trust


Monsignor J.M. Harrington



*A very happy Easter
and every blessing to the 'Friends of the Cathedral'.*

'Friends of the Cathedral' Newsletter: Cathedral House, PO Box 4544, Christchurch.

Planned Giving people call them 'Special Prospects'. They are people who have done well and have a higher profile than most. Above all they can be expected to be generous givers.

There were 'Special Prospects' around in Bishop Grimes' day. They were dotted throughout the Diocese, and their names duly appeared on the marble plaque naming the Founders and Benefactors of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Among them were Patrick Hanrahan of Dromore, and Cyril White of 'The Peaks' Hawarden.

CATHEDRAL CONNECTIONS a series of personal memories

Patrick Hanrahan, a baker, came from Ballynunnery in County Kilkenny, Ireland; Elizabeth from Ballynevin in County Waterford. They married in July 1871 at Carrick on Suir, Tipperary and arrived at Lyttelton, New Zealand in August of 1872 aboard the Merope. They lived first in the Addington immigration barracks before Patrick found work as a baker at Leeston.

About 1875 Patrick and Elizabeth and two young sons moved to the rapidly growing sawmilling and farming centre of Oxford where Patrick built a bakery on the main street of East Oxford (still standing in 2004). He also became involved with contracting and forming roads in the Oxford area. A further five sons and one daughter, Johanna, were born in Oxford. Johanna died when only a few months old in 1883. The two youngest sons, Tom and Jim, were both later to become priests of the Christchurch Diocese.

About 1885 parts of the large pastoral runs south of the Rakaia river were being sold as farms, and Patrick was able to realise his ambition to own his own farm when he bought 725 acres at Dromore, 10 miles north of Ashburton. He also established a bakery business in The Triangle, Ashburton. This business was destroyed by fire in the 1890's. Patrick then built a new bakery, The Post Office Bakery, and established two of his sons in it. Patrick and Elizabeth moved to the Dromore farm, named Waterford, and bought more land in the area.

The family were dedicated Catholics, Patrick teaching Sunday School while living in Ashburton and thinking nothing of driving the 20 mile round trip in horse and gig to church every Sunday, and twice a day during missions. Patrick and Elizabeth were no strangers to appeals for church buildings as the church became established in Canterbury. They had arrived in Leeston after Fr Chervier built the first Leeston church but their move to Oxford in 1875 coincided with the celebration of the first Mass there in August that year and a request to Fr Chervier for a church. It was left to the first Rangiora parish priest, Fr Nicholas Binsfeld SM, to raise the money in the local community for Oxford's Sacred Heart Church, which was opened in 1879.

The move to Ashburton in 1886 saw them in a new parish with a large debt and another church building appeal under way. The first parish priest Fr Edmond Coffey, stung a jibe from Archbishop Redwood about the Ashburton tent (the first church had to be extended with canvas when there was a large congregation). He had built a presbytery and commenced a new church within a year of his



arrival. By the time the Hanrahan family arrived in Ashburton the parish was hopelessly in debt, Fr Coffey had returned to Ireland and Fr Stephen Chastagnon was in charge.

The struggle to clear the parish debt continued for many years, Fr Chastagnon even canvassing for funds in France. When Bishop Grimes began collecting for the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament the parish situation coloured the thinking of parishioners and the then parish priest, Dean James O'Donnell. As well as paying the debt, the parish had funded the removal of the large convent building across town, the establishment of a school and construction of two churches in outlying areas. Dean O'Donnell saw a new presbytery as being urgent and the church, which had been damaged in an earthquake, also required replacing.

Ashburton was noticeably slow to contribute as a parish to the Cathedral fund, not taking part in the 1901 fundraising bazaar and voting 45 to 4 against contributing 750 pounds in additional funds in 1904 when Bishop Grimes asked for 2,000 pounds. The fact there were about 50 abstentions at that meeting may have indicated some sympathy for the Bishop but an unwillingness to go against their parish priest. However, individual parishioners did contribute, Patrick Hanrahan among them. The records show that in the first year of the appeal, 1889, he gave 50 pounds, with other amounts in later years. A total of 1,600 pounds or about 3% of the total cost was given to the Cathedral fund from Ashburton.

Elizabeth Hanrahan died in 1909. After her death Patrick travelled widely, even returning to Ireland in 1915, after the outbreak of World War One, for the ordination of his son Tom. Patrick died in 1925.

Michael Hanrahan

My grandfather was C.T. White whose name is among the Founders of the Cathedral. Cyril Thomas White, along with his wife, Elizabeth, and two children, arrived from England in 1884. In 1887, the family, by now three children moved to The Peaks district, west of Hawarden, just a year after a 'chapel' had been constructed in Hawarden. Masses were irregular apparently, but by the mid 1890's there was a priest who sometimes was stationed at Hawarden.

Cyril came from an old English Catholic family, very devout and consisting of nine brothers and sisters. His three sisters all became nuns, and one brother, a priest, later became the first mitred Abbot since the Reformation of his order, the Canons Regular of the Lateran, - Abbot Henry White. Apparently he was largely responsible for building two Catholic Churches in London, the first at Stoud Green and the second at Eltham.

By 1899, Cyril White as Chairman of the Hawarden Parish Group worked hard in having a Parish Priest appointed to Hawarden. This group also proposed having the existing 'chapel' enlarged to its present size and went ahead in getting an attractive presbytery constructed. (This still stands but now in private hands). A letter written by Cyril still exists which was written to Bishop Grimes in 1899, in which the resolutions to carry out this work was proposed by the Parish Group.

Despite the Church members being predominantly Irish at the time, an English priest was selected to become the first Parish Priest of Hawarden, a Fr Price of around 29 years of age, and he and my grandfather worked as a team during the following years. Having established the church at Hawarden, Saint Raphael's in 1900, they then built a church in Waiau, in 1902. and Cheviot also in 1902. The church in Hanmer followed in 1904.

During this time, my grandparents brought up a family of 11 children, while breaking in farmland and extending their landholding. He was also in demand by the wider community, probably because of his having enjoyed an education in England and having some experience in business in a family concern prior to emigration. He was instrumental in establishing the Peaks school, and acted as Chairman of the School Committee for some years. He was also Chairman of the Hurunui Domain Board and Director of the North Canterbury Co-operative Association, Vice President, then President of the local branch of the local Farmers Union.

Following his retirement in Christchurch, Elizabeth and Cyril retired to Selwyn Street in Beckenham, where Cyril volunteered to act as Sacristan at the newly set up Saint Peter's Church in 1926 until his death in 1932.

Alice Clayton