

# Serving Faithfully

Newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force  
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## From the Vicar General Monsignor Peter O'Keefe AM VG EV

**D**ear Friends of the Military Diocese

Controversy about matters in life often challenges us to further explore the truth!

In this case while the matter primarily concerns the place and role of the chaplain in the American Armed Services (see article: Role of Chaplains, page 3), the same controversy rears its head within the Australian context from time to time and therefore it is opportune for our Catholic Military Diocese to again articulate the place and role of Catholic Chaplains serving in the Australian Defence Force.

Father McCarthy of Brockton Massachusetts states that 'The military chaplaincy is a major spiritual and moral problem in the church.' He takes the position that the Church, in permitting chaplains to belong to the Armed Services, is moving logically from the teaching of Jesus to active participation in activities of war, killing, maiming, murder, deceit and violence.

The Catholic Diocese of the ADF stands firmly alongside the response of Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Catholic Archdiocese of the Military Services USA, in vigorously defending the role of the military chaplain who, as a member of the military, provides a sacred, essential and unique ministry to members of the Defence Force and their families, more than often in harm's way. The Church describes military members as 'ministers of the security and freedoms of peoples because, if they carry out their duties properly, they also truly contribute to stabilizing peace'. (*Gaudium et Spes*, n.79).

In April 1986 Pope St John Paul II promulgated the Apostolic Constitution *Spirituali Militum Curae*, which structured the Church's provision of spiritual assistance to the Armed Forces through the creation of Military Ordinariates (Military Dioceses) throughout the world, headed by a Chief Pastor (the Military Bishop), whose mandate is essentially to provide concrete and specific forms of pastoral care to his nation's Armed Services. This unique provision of pastoral care to the military is underpinned by the Church's two fundamental values – Value for Persons and Value for Peace.

The Church considers the Christian soldiers, sailors and airmen as 'Christifidels' (members of Christ's faithful people) who must be supported spiritually and pastorally in their military service. To this end the establishment of Military Diocese enables the Military Bishop to effectively provide the ministry of the chaplain. The chaplain supports Catholic military members in living out their baptismal vocation as members of the Church through authentic military service as 'custodians of security'. The Church is called to be the 'salt, light and leaven' within the military. In putting people first, the chaplain gives priority to the Christian soldier's on-going spiritual and human growth through an understanding and practice of the faith, the formation of conscience and understanding of humanitarian law.

Recently, Pope Francis stated that 'As more members of the armed forces endure both physical and emotional scars from conflicts raging around the world' he called upon military chaplains 'to tend to their wounds with the healing balm of the sacraments.'

'The role of the military chaplain is to accompany and support military members in their journey, bringing a consoling and fraternal presence.' The Pope went on, 'You can pour on the wounds of these persons the balm of the word of God, which relieves pain and infuses hope; and you can offer them the grace of the Eucharist and of Reconciliation, which nourishes and regenerates the afflicted soul.'

The Pope concluded: 'An essential task for chaplains is to pray. Without prayer one cannot do all that humanity, the Church and God asks of you at this time'.

The Military Diocese of Australia states it this way: *Our mission is to ensure that the pastoral care of all those associated with Australia's defence is provided at the highest possible level. This requires chaplains to be both holy and dedicated, thoroughly trained professional members of the Armed Services. It is a unique and challenging ministry. In simple terms, we are dedicated to 'serving those who serve'.*

Please pray for your chaplains and encourage them in every way.

### Duntroon Chapel 50th Anniversary



A thanksgiving Service was held to mark the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the ANZAC Memorial Chapel in Duntroon, Canberra, which was constructed by Royal Australian Engineers. The Chapel is unusual in that it contains two chapels under the one roof, one for Catholic ceremonies and one for Anglican and other Protestant denominations. It serves as a

religious centre for both the Royal Military College and the Australian Defence Force Academy and has a rich history.

As part of the Thanksgiving Service, two new artworks commissioned for the Chapel were unveiled in the presence of the artist, Alan Pomeroy. The icon of 'Mary Help of Christians' was gifted to the Catholic Chapel. It was

unveiled by LTCOL Micah Batt, DSM, CO RMC-Duntroon and blessed by Fr Damien Ellis, RMC-Duntroon Catholic Chaplain.

The image of 'The Conversion of St Paul' was gifted to the Anglican/Protestant Chapel and was unveiled by BRIG Mark Brewer, CSC and Bar, Commandant RMC-Australia.

It was a moving service bringing together the Chaplains from each denomination. It was held in the central Narthex to include everyone.

There is a lamp in the Narthex called the Deployment Lamp that is always alight while there are military personnel deployed overseas.



## Defence Chefs give a helping hand (Chaplain Paul Stuart RAN)

On the Victorian Mornington Peninsula, the Western Port Catholic Parish embraces four Catholic schools: St Brendan's Somerville, St Mary's Hastings, St Joseph's Crib Point and Padua College Tyabb Campus. Ms Anne-Marie Houlihan, who manages the Family School Partnership on behalf of the cluster, said that her role is, 'Creating relationships and opportunities to work with community groups.' This was recently in evidence at the Western Port Cluster Community Cooking Night hosted by Padua College.



*WOML-C John McInerney preparing*

The activity involved 35 volunteers and staff, from the four schools, who cooked 153 containers of nutritious meals. These were frozen by the college for use by families experiencing the death of a loved one, the welcoming of a new baby, or having long-term and serious illnesses and other challenges that face families in everyday life.

Warrant Officer-Marine Logistics Chef John McInerney, who is a parent of a Prep student at St Brendan's Somerville, organised fellow catering instructors from the ADF

School of Catering based in HMAS Cerberus to help with this worthy cause. This involved cooking lasagne, spaghetti



*Montage showing the ADF chefs working with fellow volunteers*

Bolognese, sausage rolls, soups, casseroles, risotto, chilli con carne, curries and zucchini slices.

Anne-Marie Houlihan said, 'It was a fantastic night and we are looking at ways of getting them (the chefs) involved with cooking and our students.'

HMAS Cerberus is the Navy's training establishment for new recruits and for many other category trainees including some Army and Air Force trainees/members on course (including Catering). HMAS Cerberus is very much a tri-service establishment spread over 1,500 hectares 70km from Melbourne. At any one time there are on average 800 trainees onboard and annual throughput is about 6,000.



As with all trainees, perhaps the greatest challenge is helping young people transfer from a care-free, relatively independent and somewhat self-oriented way of life to a military, regimented, team-oriented and altruistic lifestyle.

It works for many enlisted volunteers but not for all and the Chaplains are among those staff that are called upon to counsel and support trainees under stress who think about and may discharge at their own request. All trainees receive from the Chaplains 'Character Training' and spiritual services (such as Sunday Masses), that encourage and instruct on ethical and resilient behaviour.

The Catholic Chaplain is Fr Paul Stuart RAN, STL who has been at HMAS Cerberus since 2013. He was ordained in Melbourne in 1992 and served in the parishes of Hastings, Deepdene and Essendon, and as chaplain to a variety of hospitals and colleges. In 1997, he graduated with a Licentiate (Masters) in Dogmatic Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Back in Melbourne in 1999, Fr. Stuart was appointed Dean of Students and Studies of Corpus Christi Seminary and Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese. This was followed by full-time doctoral studies with the John Paul II Institute which awards its degrees through the Pontifical Lateran University.



*Chaplain Paul Stuart*

Fr Stuart entered full-time Navy chaplaincy in 2005. However, Navy could not employ him immediately, so Bishop Davis sought for his employment at the Army Recruit School Kapooka to meet a pressing need. Army agreed readily to this novel arrangements, an initiative that was highly successful.

In 2009 Fr Stuart was posted to the RAN's Officer Training College at HMAS Creswell, followed by transfer to the Fleet and joining HMAS ANZAC in 2012 for deployment duties. In 2013 Fr Stuart was posted as the chaplain to the Navy's Recruit School HMAS Cerberus and subsequently has taken on the role of Coordination Chaplain at HMAS Cerberus.

### ***Serving Faithfully***

is a newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force.

It is published quarterly by the Catholic Military Ordinariate of the Australian Defence Force.

The Diocese is composed of members of the Australian Defence Force and their families wherever they may be serving.

Its people are scattered widely across Australia and overseas.

***Serving Faithfully*** aims to be a means of sharing events and experiences from across the whole Diocese.

Articles are welcome to be submitted for publication and should be addressed to

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*Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Catholic Military Ordinariate*

## The Role of Chaplains

Recently, in the United States there has been controversy about the place of chaplains within its Defense Forces. The issue was raised by the Melkite Greek priest Father Emmanuel Charles McCarthy of Brockton Massachusetts.



Father McCarthy

Father McCarthy supports the provision of pastoral care to service members; but he considers that sanctioning the killing of people in combat presents a conflict of interest for chaplains as they are part of the military structure and are paid for their service.

In an interview with the US Catholic News Service in April he said, 'Being a commissioned officer in the military makes it impossible for that priest to maintain his objectivity when preaching the Gospel, which should include the message that killing any human is an act of evil.'

He further expanded by saying, 'The military chaplaincy is a major spiritual and moral problem in the church. The big untruth of Christianity: Catholicism, Orthodoxy, Protestantism, evangelicals ... is that one can move logically from the teaching of Jesus to participating in the activities of war: killing, maiming, murder, deceit, etc. It can't be done.'

'My primary vocation, even before being ordained, has been to call the churches back to following what is there in the Gospel, Jesus' teachings of nonviolent love of friends and enemies,' Father McCarthy said. 'The church exists to save souls. Nothing is more important than that.'

Father McCarthy contends that if priests and bishops were really doing their job as men of God, they would advise members of their flock not to go into the military. He has been calling for the 'nonviolent love of friends and enemies' since the 1960s, when he became the original director of the Program for the Study and Practice of Nonviolent Conflict Resolution at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA has vigorously defended the role of military chaplains. He does not consider that chaplains have a conflict of interest in serving in the Navy, Army or Air Force. Furthermore, he believes that the presence



Archbishop Broglio

of chaplains provides a moral check for leaders in combat planning and gives the Catholic Church access to the people who are making life and death decisions involving wartime combat. The archbishop also said that men and women who serve are provided with a moral compass by having a chaplain within the ranks.

### Views of Australian Chaplains

Chaplain Stephane Sarazin, of RAAF Base Amberley considers that the main role of the chaplains is to enhance personal and professional well-being of ADF personnel. He said, 'We are a unique resource, ministering to both the sacred and secular needs. We participate in force generation requirements, especially during the readying period while in-country; and we contribute to the operational effectiveness of the ADF while on deployment by providing the spiritual and pastoral needs of the personnel and their families.'

Chaplain Paul Stuart of HMAS Cerberus strongly supports the role of Military Chaplains. He considers that they can and do facilitate the 'saving of souls' twofold: by facilitating the return of 'prodigal sons and daughters' in the military to the Church and her sacraments after years of their estrangement; and also by the welcoming of the un-baptised into the family of the Church because of the witness, ministry, activities and presence of a priest in uniform in the military.

He also added, 'In significant numbers in the Army, and to a smaller degree in the Navy, I have supported soldiers and sailors being Baptised into the Church and those Catholics who had left the Church returning to complete the Sacraments of Initiation (receiving Confirmation for example). This has occurred all because a priest was with them in the Army unit or Navy warship.'

Chaplain Joel Vegara of the 1st Recruit Training Battalion Kapooka said, 'I see military chaplaincy as a vocation within a vocation. It is very different from running a normal parish community. A military chaplain is a shepherd to any denomination, including those who have no faith or belief. Establishing a good relationship with soldiers and winning their trust is very important. Military chaplaincy is a call within a call to reach people, to save souls and to bring Jesus, in times of war or peace.'

Chaplain Garth Mayger of School of Signals, Simpson Barracks, Watsonia states that, 'Chaplains are on the ground to serve the Church in providing a moral light in the midst of this human tragedy. As the shepherd of Christ, they are very intimately caught up with the moral conflict and humanitarian concerns faced by Defence members in war. They strive to provide a moral light and the sacraments, strengthening faith and giving compassionate care for those engaged in wartime conflict. At times they provide a moral check to their people where the path is not clearly illumined by Christ.'

Chaplain Lionel Orreal of the 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment said, 'A chaplain who walks alongside the members of defence forces, proclaiming the Gospel to ensure the opportunities are there for the work of the Holy Spirit, is precisely what they are called to do as part of their vocation.'

'As a soldier of faith, I was willing to give or take life for my country. As a Chaplain, I am willing to be there wherever our country decides to deploy soldiers to ensure the presence of our Risen Lord', he said.

### A gift in your Will

Making a gift to the Catholic Military Ordinariate is a meaningful way to fund the education of future priests and deacons and to support our clergy in providing spiritual guidance to our service men and women and their families.

To make a bequest, you should consult your solicitor or trustee company. It may be sufficient to make an addition or amendment to an existing will by adding a codicil.

A useful website for more information is: [includecharity.com.au](http://includecharity.com.au)

## A Family Reunited (Warrant Officer David Wood RAE, [Ret'd] and Chaplain Kim Kuchel)



*Roslyn's grave at Terendak*

Roslyn Wood died in Terendak Military Hospital Malaysia on 23 July 1964 at two years of age, following complications from an immunisation received in Australia. She was subsequently buried in the Military Cemetery within the Terendak Military Base near Malacca.

At that time I was a member of 2nd Field Troop RAE attached to 11 Independent Field Sqn RE. This was a two-year posting and allowed for wives and children to accompany their husbands and fathers.

During the early sixties, there was no option available to return Roslyn to Australia for reinterment. However, that changed in May 2015 when the then Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced that the Government would offer repatriation of those Australians service men and dependants interred in the Terendak Military Cemetery and Singapore Kranji Cemetery.

After consulting with Roslyn's siblings, Dave Jr and Kate, my wife Judy and I quickly accepted the Government's offer. This then started a period of consultation with the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG), and I became liaison person



*Ramp Ceremony at RAAF Richmond for 33 service members and dependants 22 June 2016*

between the family and Barry Hampson from the OAWG.

As we had already had a burial service in Malaysia, we were given the choice of location for Roslyn's reinterment or re-burial in Australia. Judy and I went to Mount Thompson Memorial Gardens in Brisbane to select a site for the reinterment.

Once the site was selected, the information on its location was sent to OAWG, which then finalised the necessary paper work with Mt Thompson's Family Advisory Staff, in particular Mrs Jodie Flynn who provided invaluable information and direction in all things needed to be completed before Roslyn's return and reinterment

The family was kept fully informed of the progress on Roslyn's return, and we were given the names of OAWG members who would act for Family Liaison, Media Liaison, as well as an Army Chaplain.

There were many emails between OAWG, Mt Thompson and the family detailing the process of repatriation,

for example ensuring that Roslyn's name was spelt correctly, copy of death certificate, etc.

With all this completed, OAWG arranged travel for the family to attend at RAAF Base Richmond NSW for the Repatriation Ceremony and Memorial Service at the Base. Our nominated Chaplain, Kim Kuchel, also travelled with the family.

The return of 33 service personnel and dependants was one of the largest such repatriations in Australia's history. Two RAAF C-17 Globemaster aircraft landed at RAAF Richmond in Sydney at 10:30 am on Thursday 2 June, where a formal military ceremony was held.

Chaplain Kim's presence during the Ramp Ceremony and the personal reflection and grieving time were much appreciated by the family. When the doors to the hanger were opened following the Memorial Service, the presence of 33 black hearses ready to receive their allotted casket for journeys to their respective locations for final reinterment was a very emotional sight for all.

Roslyn's reinterment took place on Tuesday 14 June, and much time was spent with Chaplain Kim organising the service and preparing for her final resting place.

On behalf of the Wood family we acknowledge the great efforts of all who made the repatriation of the remains of the 33 Australians possible – finally our loved ones are home.

### Lutheran Chaplain Kim Kuchel

In 2004 after a leading from God's Spirit I made an application to serve as a Reserve Chaplain in the Army. Three years later I was finally accepted and, over the next 18 months, I undertook the necessary training to become a fully-trained Army Chaplain. During my Reserve service, I served as a chaplain to 16th Battalion Royal Western Australia Regiment, Western Australia University Regiment and 13th Combat Service Support Battalion. I also had the privilege of serving the soldiers from Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Australia while on OP RAMSI in the Solomon Islands.

In 2013 I prayerfully made the decision to seek a fulltime chaplaincy. This culminated in my move to Sydney.

Upon learning that the Wood family would be coming to Richmond Air Base for the Ramp Ceremony I sought their permission to attend with them at Roslyn's coffin. This request was warmly received and permission given. By this time I had struck up a warm friendship with David and Judy and my presence was both welcome and comforting to them.



*Chaplain Kim Kuchel with Judy and David Wood*



*The Wood family together after 51 years*

Following the bearing in of the remains of Roslyn, a time was given to the family to quietly grieve together. It was during this time that I was able to pray with the family and for them. This was a very special time for all of us.

A week later I flew to Queensland to lead the final part of the reinterment. On the day before, I was invited for a meal at David and Judy's home. It was during this time that we talked about their life in the Defence Force, their wonderful children and the loss of little Roslyn. Three books were given to me on the conflict in Malaya and Vietnam, all intending to deepen my appreciation of the work of sappers and those who fought.

The service the next day went well. David carried the cremated remains of Roslyn from the waiting room to the final resting place near the military section of the Crematorium. We prayed, we listened and we cried as Roslyn's remains were finally laid to rest in the land of her birth.

A wonderful privilege was then extended to me: a promise that if I was ever in Brisbane again I would make the trip out to the Wood's place and share another meal.



*David and Judy Wood flanked by children Kate and Dave Jr at the reinterment site*

It has been a wonderful blessing to be able to support the men and women of the Australian Defence Force.

Following the Ramp Ceremony at RAAF Richmond many people, including veterans wearing medals, watched the moving motorcade of 33 hearses driving with police motorcycle escorts along Hawkesbury Valley Way with green lights through to Parramatta. As the procession passed people respectfully clapped and waved.

Local undertakers JW Chandlers of Guardian Funerals provided the 33 hearses free with the vehicles being drawn from Victoria, Queensland, and NSW.

For a report of 2 June from The Border Mail, see: [tinyurl.com/opreunite](http://tinyurl.com/opreunite)

Vice Chief of the ADF, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, AO, CSC, RAN, and Australian Army soldiers from Lavarack Barracks in Townsville flew to Malaysia to escort the Australians home. For a moving video clip of the Ramp Ceremony at Tabung Air Force Base Kuala Lumpur, see: [video.army.gov.au/play/4697](http://video.army.gov.au/play/4697)

## Vocations Prayer

**Creator God,  
 Life is your gift to me.  
 Through Baptism  
 you invite me to grow  
 into a very real, full and loving person,  
 and to share the gift of my life in service to others.  
 Be with me  
 as I choose each day  
 to show your presence  
 in our world.**

**Give me  
 the courage and generosity to respond to  
 your love, your call.  
 I pray especially  
 for those who serve you  
 as Priests, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters.  
 Keep them close to you.  
 Open the minds and hearts of many others,  
 to accept the challenge  
 to build your Kingdom. Amen.**

## ADFA cadets lend a helping hand (Deacon John Lim)

**M**ilitary and civilian members of the Australian Defence Force Academy Catholics and Friends (ACAF) headed by Officer Cadet Daniel Mahon, together with their chaplain Deacon John Lim, went to HOME in Queanbeyan to help with gardening, cleaning and maintenance. HOME is a community imitative providing a home for 19 men and women who live with enduring mental illness.



*Officer Cadet (Army) Lachlan Chadwick, Officer Cadet (Army) Nicholas Woods, Officer Cadet (Air Force) Nicholas Eberl*

This was the second time members of ACAF had done this activity in their response to the Year of Mercy. Such activities help potential officers to develop personal values of service and respect for others, which are integral in the wider ADF.

This is part of the ACAF Community Outreach Program initiated this year to expose members to the benefits of community service, such as compassion and humility, while providing help.

*(Article courtesy of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn 'Catholic Voice', June 2016.)*

### About Deacon John Lim

Chaplain Lim emigrated from Malaysia in 1988 with his family. He holds a Bachelor of Theology and was ordained as a Permanent Deacon in the Catholic Church in December 2002.



*Chaplain Lim and the AFAC team with some HOME residents*

He is married to Anne and they have three adult children and one granddaughter. This is his story:

'Deacon John, the Army needs chaplains and I reckon you'd make a pretty good one.' That was told to me on my ordination day by a fellow parishioner, John Jarvis, a retired army reservist. 'I'm 50 – too old, and I dislike uniforms!' was my immediate response.

Six years later, I was full-time Army Chaplain in the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

Chaplains are to minister across denominations and faiths and to the un-churched. I draw inspiration and direction from Blessed Mother Teresa : 'I've always said that we should help a Hindu become a better Hindu, a Muslim become a better Muslim, a Catholic become a better Catholic.'

In my six years in RMC and currently as Chaplain in ADFA, I am constantly inspired to see Cadets grow and mature in person, character and faith. It is also continuously full of surprises. It has led me to do things I never dreamt possible, especially at my stage in life! I have paddled against 2m high waves, swum down rapids, crawled in and out of caves and canyons and stomped around in marshlands with my back pack, happily donating my blood to mosquitoes and leeches!

On one outing, I found myself dangling from a 10cm piece of rope about a hundred metres (that's what the instructors told me) from the ground off Dog Face Cliff in the Blue Mountains! 'What on earth in heaven's name am I doing!' I said to myself before clamouring over the cliff! After abseiling about what seemed like eternity, I finally reached terra firma. As I took time to let the adrenalin drain, I reflected on the experience.

My life held by that piece of rope, I realised how vulnerable and fragile life can be and yet, how important it is to trust God that all will be well. It also taught me how important it is to trust others especially the instructors and the team who rigged up the abseiling system!

I have just placed my life in the hands of these people and they respected and valued that trust. As Deacons, we have people's faith entrusted into our hands and I cannot help but treasure and value that trust with the utmost care. We hold a person's soul in our hands and that is an awesome responsibility! And God entrusts us with that responsibility! 'A man can have no greater love than to lay his life down for his friends.' John 15:13.

I often reflect on this. As ministers of the Word, we preach this from the pulpit but our soldiers consciously live it daily!



*Chaplain John Lim*

## Chaplain Kevin O'Sullivan Admission to Candidacy for Permanent Diaconate

In the last issue of *Serving Faithfully*, Pastoral Assistant Kevin O'Sullivan was featured in an article on his deployment on exercise in the Philippines. In this issue, he is back home at RAAF Base Amberley where he has been supporting service members and families for the past three years.

After 20 years in the Air Force, Warrant Officer O'Sullivan was located in Canberra as the RAAF posting delegate within the intelligence, security and discipline mustering. In February 2008 he was commissioned as Pilot Officer as a 'chaplain-in-training' and posted out to undertake five years of civil schooling at the Catholic Theological College in Melbourne under the in-service ADF chaplaincy training scheme. This included pastoral formation, which was undertaken at St Anthony's Parish in Alphington in Melbourne.

The RAAF newspaper *Air Force* of 3 April 2008 reported that PLTOFF O'Sullivan said he came from a strong Catholic background and the career change was something he had thought about for a long time. 'I have had interactions with the chaplains over a long time. I have been fortunate because the lay chaplaincy scheme, to be headed up by Chaplain Peter O'Keefe, has been approved but not introduced to the ADF as yet. So, in a sense, I am the trailblazer. It's something I wanted to do for a while.'

At that time Chaplain O'Sullivan reflected: 'I have always been very people-focused, especially from 2003 where I was a counsellor with the Alcohol Rehabilitation and Education Program at 3 Combat Support Hospital at RAAF Base Richmond.'

In 2008 he also said, 'I am unsure if the married diaconate is where I am being called, however, this may still yet be my vocational calling.'

Much can happen in eight years! On Sunday 5 June Pastoral Assistant O'Sullivan was formally admitted as a candidate for Holy Orders as a Deacon at Christ the King Church, Graceville, Brisbane, the parish church where the



Mrs Denise O'Sullivan, Chaplain Kevin O'Sullivan, Vicar General Mgr Peter O'Keefe AM following the ceremony at Christ the King Church, Graceville, Brisbane, 5 June 2016

O'Sullivan's residence. The occasion recognised that the Church officially accepted him as a candidate for Holy Orders

Although deacons have been ordained since the second and third century, in more recent times they have been associated primarily with seminarians who have spent a year or two working as transitional deacons before being ordained priests.

On 29 September 1964 the bishops at the Second Vatican Council approved the restoration of the permanent diaconate. Subsequently, on 18 June 1967 Pope Paul VI issued an Apostolic Letter, *General Norms for Restoring the Permanent Diaconate in the Latin Church*.

As a minister of **Word**, Deacon O'Sullivan will proclaim the Gospel, preach, and teach in the name of the Church; as a minister of **Sacrament**, he will baptise, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages, and conduct funeral services; and as a minister of **Charity**, he will identify the needs of others, then marshal the Church's resources to meet those needs.

## Fromelles Commemoration



Monsignor Glynn Murphy OAM

The Fromelles battlefield in the Somme was the location of the first action involving the AIF on the Western Front. Although the battle lasted less than a day it is remembered as the worst day that Australia has experienced in any war. The 5th Division suffered 5,533 casualties, with 1,917 killed.

Three Catholic Chaplains were in the attack: Fr King, 8 Brigade, Fr Kennedy, 14 Brigade and Fr Gilbert MSC, 15 Brigade. Before the battle and in the open the chaplains celebrated Mass and heard confessions.

All these chaplains performed well in ministering to the troops. Fr Kennedy was mentioned in despatches and received the Distinguished Service Order. Fr Gilbert was decorated with the Military Cross. Later, Fr King became Senior Chaplain (RC)

at AIF HQ. At the war's end King George V invested him as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

About 2,500 Australians were at the 19 July centenary commemoration ceremonies at the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery. This included a headstone dedication at the graves of six Australians lost in the battle.

The ceremony was followed at 5.15pm by the national commemorative service at VC Corner, the centrepiece of which is a sculpture titled *Cobbers*, depicting one Digger carrying another across his shoulders.



*Cobbers' Statue*

Australian Army Director-General of Chaplaincy, Mgr Glynn Murphy, in leading prayers at the Fromelles commemoration said, 'We remember in sorrow the hundreds upon hundreds of Australians killed in the Battle of Fromelles who have no graves because of the devastation of artillery warfare. May Australians always seek to build a society worthy of a generation lost to us.'

## Pozieres Honour for Australian Couple



*Proud couple Barry Gracey and Yvonne Gracey-Hall wearing their Légion d'honneur*

One hundred years ago the 1st, 2nd and 4th Australian Divisions took part in a bloody battle, which eventually resulted in allied occupation of the small German-fortified village of Pozieres in the

Somme battlefield. In the seven weeks of fighting at Pozieres and the nearby Mouquet Farm the three Australian divisions lost 6,800 men.

On the centenary of the commencement of the battle on 23 July 2016 in the village of Pozieres, Australian couple Yvonne Gracey-Hall and Barry Gracey were awarded France's highest honour, the Chevalier (Knight) of the Légion d'honneur. This was the first time it had been presented jointly to a couple. To mark the centenary, the couple also put 7,000 white crosses in the fields of Pozieres – one for every man that died. It was the first time that 4,112 Men have ever had a cross.

Yvonne served in Vietnam and was married to Major John Hall who subsequently died prematurely as a result of blast injuries he experienced there. Barry had lengthy army service of 28 years.



*Brigadier-General Francois Loeuillet presenting the Légion d'honneur to Yvonne Gracey-Hall and Barry Hall at Pozieres on 23 July 2016*

In 2005 the couple commenced an annual visit to Pozieres to join in commemoration of the battle. In 2010, however, this did not occur as a result of Barry having a medical condition. In a phone call to the Mayor of Pozieres, Barry was told that the anniversary activity had been cancelled as the village could not afford to pay for it. So Barry and Yvonne formed the Pozieres Remembrance Association with 11 Army mates. Barry walked 140km along the NSW coast and raised \$13,000 for the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Barry and Yvonne have been made Honorary Citizens of Pozieres and were married there. An example of the support they have provided for the village is the repair of all stained glass windows in the church, which were damaged by vandals. Barry wrote to Cardinal Pell and asked for permission to contact bishops and churches for support to fix the

windows. This was given and Cardinal Pell also made a donation, With money received, the windows were restored and surplus funds were used to provide some much-needed heating for the Church.

At Pozieres a site known as the Windmill was purchased by the Australian Government on the suggestion of Charles Bean. He said that it marked a ridge more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth. Significantly, on 11 November 1993 soil from the Windmill site was scattered over the coffin of Australia's Unknown Soldier in the Hall of Memory during his funeral at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

In 2014 a farmer decided to sell his land around the Windmill. As a proposal by the Mayor to build a Memorial Park did not proceed, the Pozieres Association took on this and two other projects.

- **Purchase the land surrounding the Windmill site:** this has been achieved. Fund raising of \$250,000 is now required to establish gardens and a Memorial Wall listing all the soldiers names who were killed at Pozieres.
- **Arrange for twinning of Pozieres with an Australian city:** this occurred in 2015 with Ku-ring-ai Council in Sydney.
- **Build a new school for Pozieres:** the Camp Gallipoli Foundation has taken on this task, under the patronage of General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of NSW. A plaque was laid this year where the school will be built.

After the couple return from their current stay in Pozieres, fund raising will commence with the aim of having sufficient money to complete the Windmill garden and commemorative wall. For this purpose the Pozieres Association is selling bricks for \$50 that will be endorsed with the buyer's name and used in the construction of the Park. For details see: [www.pozieresremembered.com.au](http://www.pozieresremembered.com.au)

The Mayor of Pozieres, M. Bernard Delattre, recommended the couple for an Order Nationale de Merit. However, President Hollande upgraded it to the Légion d'honneur. On the day of presentation of this honour, the Mayor was presented with an Honorary Order of Australia by Australian Ambassador to France, Stephen Brady AO CVO.



*Portion of the 7,000 crosses in the fields of Pozieres*



*Australian Ambassador Stephen Brady presenting the OAM to Mayor Bernard Delattre, watched by The Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Veterans Affairs*