Serving Faithfully

Newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force
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From the Vicar General

Year of Consecrated Life



ope Francis announced that 2015 will be a year dedicated to the promotion of consecrated life, and is asking the church's religious sisters, brothers and priests to 'wake up the world' with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope.

As members of the Military Diocese many of us have known and indeed know religious sisters, brothers and priests. These have taught us in schools, been present in our parishes, and many religious priests have served with us in the ADF as chaplains. One of our religious priests, Fr Bryan Pipins SJ, has just completed his deployed service in Afghanistan. (See article on page 6)

As members of the Diocese, we can celebrate this Year of Consecrated Life in three ways:

- **1. Thanks, Praise and Prayer**: Thanking God for these dedicated religious and praying for them frequently that they may wake up the world,
- **2. Prayer for Vocations**: Praying for increased vocations to religious orders and congregations of sisters, brothers and priests is a service to our Church community. Pray for our chaplains as they pray for us.
- **Universal call to Holiness:** Each one of us is called to be consecrated to God, as the call to Holiness is a universal call.

Pope Francis also makes the point very clearly that consecrated life is not reserved just for a privileged few. To be consecrated is not only for the bishops, nuns, missionaries and priests. **IT'S FOR EVERYONE**. Being consecrated to God is a process of becoming holy; becoming more Godlike; and striving to live the values of the Gospel.



ADF Chaplains during their annual retreat at The Hermitage Marist Centre Mittagong 2014

Our Bishop: We continue to pray for our Bishop Max at this time. The allegation that lead to his standing aside in June 2014 unfortunately is still before the court. It is a most difficult time for him. He would most certainly appreciate our prayers and thoughts.

100 Years of ANZACS

n 25th April we do well to ponder the legacy bequeathed to us by the original ANZACs. In the 1999 Blamey Oration, I tried to illustrate what I saw as the essence of the ANZAC spirit— *Courage, Determination, Selfbelief, Humour in Adversity, Ingenuity, Respect for Results not Rank, and all glued together by the bond of mateship.* These values and virtues come from the heart, mind and spirit and owe much to those three maiden aunts— Faith, Hope and Charity. *Major General Peter R Phillips AO MC KCSG [Papal] [Ret'd], Chair Catholic Military Ordinariate Finance Council*



t's 6.00am on the morning of 25th April 1915. Soldiers from the Australian 1st Divisional Signal Company are crowded into a lifeboat being towed towards the shores of the Gallipoli Peninsula, the ships visible in the distance.

The faces of the soldiers reveal the mix of emotions that must have marked the moment: excitement, expectation, anxiety, apprehension and fear as they prepared for their imminent landing at Anzac Cove.

For some this would be the last photo of them alive before they faced the Turkish forces that lay in wait. For others it would be the start of one of the most arduous events in Australia's history and a campaign that would continue till the eventual withdrawal of the Anzacs completed on 20 December of 1915.

The political manoeuvring and flawed military strategy that brought them here, halfway across the world, to free the vital supply routes between Russia in the east and their allies Britain and France in the

west that had been blocked and mined by the Central Powers, may ultimately have been a failed campaign. Transcending the outcome, however, was the courage, tenacity and determination shown by ordinary volunteer soldiers to fight on regardless of the odds and the hardships.

Their spirit was echoed in other theatres of conflict during the First World War, most especially in the trenches of the Western Front, but Gallipoli stands as a pivotal event for Australia and New Zealand – the moment that helped define the national identity of both countries, united in battles and brought together under the enduring acronym of ANZAC.

It is their spirit of mateship and duty that we continue to celebrate each year - values that resonate a century after the above photo was taken on that fateful morning in April.

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Image A02781 courtesy Australian War Memorial

Death of Fr James Sayers

Your prayers are sought for Fr James Sayers who died on 18 February 2015. He was formerly Parish Priest of Clearview in the Archdiocese of Adelaide for almost 30 years. Fr James was a former Army Reserve chaplain for many years and also served full-time in the RAN, seeing service in Vietnam.

Kemal Ataturk Memorial



Kemal Ataturk Memorial Anzac Parade, Canberra

he Kemal Ataturk Memorial lies at the top of Anzac Parade Canberra, just below the Australian War Memorial . This site was dedicated on 25 April 1985 following agreement by the Australian and Turkish governments on a series of commemorative gestures to acknowledge the 70th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing.

Kemal Ataturk commanded the Turkish forces at Gallipoli, and later became the founder and first president of modern Turkey. This Memorial honours him, as well as the heroism and sacrifice of both the ANZAC and Turkish troops who took part in the bitterly fought campaign.

Soil from Anzac Cove in Turkey was placed beneath the dedication plaque. Surrounding the Memorial are pine trees—*Pinus halepensis*—grown from seed collected from the Gallipoli 'lone pine'. The Battle of Lone Pine at Gallipoli takes its name from the pine tree which stood in this area of the battlefield on 25 April, but was soon shot to pieces. Later in the war, seeds were collected from the area and sent to Australia where a pine tree, cultivated from those seeds, now stands near the Australian War Memorial.

The crescent-shaped wall of the memorial was inspired by the symbol of the crescent and five-pointed star on the Turkish flag. Located on the wall is a bronze likeness of Ataturk, a gift from the Turkish Government.

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Kemal Ataturk bust and comforting words—a gift from the Turkish Government



Father John Fahey, DSO, MID

(Article by Brigadier Alan Hodges AM [Ret'd])



Fr John Fahey, courtesy of New Norcia Benedictine Community.
From the school magazine of
St Ildephonsus College of 18 December 1915

ather John Fahey was the first Australian chaplain in WWI to be made a Commander of the Distinguished Service Order. He received this award for 'Gallantry under fire'. Subsequently, he was also Mentioned in Despatches.

He was the son of a dairy farmer and born in 1883 in County Tipperary, Ireland and educated at the Mount Melleray Cistercian Abbey near Waterford. Following seminary studies in Ireland and Genoa, Italy, he was ordained on 26 May 1907.

By the end of that year he was in Western Australia. For six years he ministered in the south-east of the state in the parishes of York and Yarloop-Pinjarra. He spent the greater part of his time amongst the timber workers, into whose lives and habits he fully entered. A good all-round athlete, he keenly entered into the sports and pastimes of the people of the southwest. Some few years back at a Perth sports meeting he won the State championship for putting the stone (Irish style). [Catholic Press Sydney 10 January 1916]

Within a month of the outbreak of war he enlisted while working at Kalgoorlie. He was appointed as a Captain, Chaplain Class 4, on 8 September 1914 and posted to 11 Battalion. Following training of the ANZAC Corps in Egypt and Lemnos, Fr Fahey went ashore at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 at 0430 with his battalion, ignoring the policy of chaplains to remain on hospital

ships. During his active service he was regularly in contact with Archbishop Clune in Perth. He wrote about the Gallipoli landing:

There was no cover. We were packed so closely that one bullet would wound or kill three men, and we could not hit back, for the enemy was invisible ... There was only one anxiety among the men – to reach the shore and rush the Turks with the bayonet. After what seemed like endless hours the boat touched bottom about twenty yards from the beach. As I jumped up to get out, a bullet went through the sleeve of my jacket and caught the lad behind me. A shrapnel splashed a man's brains over me. Another caught the gunwale of the boat between my knees as I was getting out, and nearly blinded me with splinters.

I was pushed from behind and fell into about four feet of water. I went promptly to the bottom and being loaded with a pack, three days rations, and a water bottle, and an overcoat I found the upmost difficulty in rising. I almost thought I had been shot. I never realised till then how difficult it is to walk through water dressed. I got on the beach exhausted.

I had a look around then and saw all the other boats landing. They were suffering just as much as our boat suffered. The beach was strewn with dead and wounded. Two boats landed about 50 yards from where I was. They held 50 soldiers each, but only twenty came ashore together. They came under the fire of a maxim gun which can rattle off 600 shots a minute. [Johnstone, T., The Cross of Anzac, 2000]

In a letter of 6 June 1915 to Mr Noland of Kalgoorlie, Fr Fahey wrote:

Australia, and particularly W.A., has good reason to be proud of her men. People who come here now gaze in astonishment, and wonder how a landing was effected, and this position won. It seems as if a thousand men could hold it against an army. No troops in the world but Australians could have done it. It will live forever as one of the greatest exploits in military history. I was instructed not to come ashore with the 11th, but I wanted to be with them, so I disobeyed orders, and was in one of the first boats to reach the shore. We went through a veritable inferno of fire for half an hour. The beach was a shambles, and it is wonderful how anybody got through alive. It would do your heart good to see our brave lads, in spite of their losses, charging up the rugged cliffs with the cold steel, digging the enemy out of impregnable positions, and driving them up the hills like mobs of stampeded cattle. In this bayonet charge, and on some occasions since, we have had revenge for our losses. The saddest feature of this brilliant exploit is our heavy losses. Many of our men and many a brave officer have fallen, and many a home in Australia is shrouded in mourning; but I expect Australia will not regret the heavy price paid for a feat of arms such as many a nation would be delighted to inscribe in the pages of its history.

[Kalgoorlie Western Argus 10 August 1915]



"I have the honour to submit herewith the name of Reverend J. Fahey, Chaplain's Department, whose services I wish to bring to your Lordship's notice in connexion with the operations described in my despatch of 11th December, 1915.

Extracts from Fr Fahey's service record held by National Archives Australia.

The Catholic Press (Sydney) on 20 January 1916 contained an article on Fr Fahey in which it reported: *The Archbishop of Perth (Australia) has received a letter from an officer at Gallipoli saying: 'You are to be congratulated for sending us such an admirable chaplain as Father Fahey. He is the idol of the 11th Battalion, and every one, irrespective of creed, has a good word to say for him.'*

Following the evacuation of Gallipoli, Fr Fahey sailed with the 3rd Brigade to Marseilles on 30 March 1916. In a further letter to Archbishop Clune on 29 July 1916 he said: Whatever I have said in previous letters about the horrors of war I wish now to withdraw ... I shall make no attempt to describe what I have seen at the Somme. It just beggars all description. If I were to make a list of all the factors and features of a modern battle, and after that put the adjectives, 'incredible', indescribable', it would be the best description possible.' [Johnstone, T. ibid]

Fr Fahey was invested with the DSO at Buckingham Palace on 28 March 1917. Although chaplains were given the option of returning home after 12 months, he became the

longest-serving chaplain of all denominations on the front line. However, his duties took their toll. On 14 February 1918 he wrote to the Senior RC Chaplain AIF London: *I hereby submit to you a*

Father John Fahey, a Catholic padre serving on Gallipoli, was unimpressed with army biscuits. He wrote, "the man who invented the army biscuit was an unmitigated rascal. As an eatable there is little to choose between it and a seasoned jarrah board."

From Australian War Memorial website

request ... to return to Australia to resign my Chaplain's commission in the A.I.F ... I have completed three years and four months service and am feeling the strain consequent upon length of service mentioned. (National Archives Australia)

On 5 June 1918 Fr Fahey reluctantly attended a crowded civic reception at Her Majesty's Theatre in Perth. The many dignitaries included the Premier, Mayor, Colonial Secretary and State Commandant. Before responding to the welcome, he

received a rousing ovation and the audience rose and sang 'For he's a jolly good fellow'. During Fr Fahey's speech he said: Who was he that he should have a public reception? He was only a chaplain attached to the army, an ordinary civilian dressed up in uniform for the time being. His job was a very safe one, and free from ordinary discipline. If the country had any sympathy to spare it should be given to those who "hop the parapet". He felt that he was stealing an honour due to another man. ("No.") He hoped they would appreciate his feelings in the matter. While he had been away at the war many things had been said and written about him, while he could not correct or contradict them. His name had been surrounded by an incredible atmosphere of romance. He wished to assure them on his word of honour that half of the things they had heard about him were false and the other half very much exaggerated. [West Australian 6 June 1918]

The Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League appointed Fr Fahey as President in 1919 – a most unusual appointment for a Catholic, let alone a priest. He served in Perth as an assistant priest at Cottesloe and then from 1920 for

12 years at the
Kellerberin parish 200 km
to the east. On returning
to Perth he was involved
with the University of
Western Australia as a
classics scholar
consultant and examiner

in Ancient History and Greek. In 1939 Fr Fahey was appointed Parish Priest of Star of the Sea Parish, Cottesloe and he remained there until his death on 28 April 1959.

His funeral, held at Karrakatta cemetery after his death on the 28 April 1959, would probably have been an embarrassment to him as it attracted over 2000 mourners from all walks of life and from all faiths. They were there to pay homage to this truly remarkable "Renaissance" man, who, with

Afghanistan Deployment: Fr Bryan Pipins SJ

n February eighth, we celebrated Ash Wednesday in the Kandahar Air Field chapel, called Fraise Chapel. This is not an unusual event, as Ash Wednesday occurs every year. But this service, as part of a Mass, was celebrated on a Sunday ten days before the official date for Ash Wednesday. This anticipation of a holy day is not an unusual occurrence in military chaplaincy. Christmas Masses went for three weeks. The nature of sacramental service to the members of the defence force on operations reflects a principle of war — flexibility.

At present there is only one ADF chaplain in Afghanistan and by chance the chaplain is Catholic. Across Afghanistan at present there are only four English speaking Catholic priests. This makes for a large parish ministry and another principle of war — mobility.

Australians are concentrated in three main bases in Afghanistan - Kabul, Kandahar and Qargha. There are also scattered groups of Australians embedded in NATO bases. To cope with the pastoral needs of our service personnel, I divide my deployment between Kandahar Air Field (KAF) and Kabul, and travel from these two locations to visit our forces.

This creates a challenging ministry as I try to catch up with and get to know the scattered troops. A further challenge is that the chaplain position is only for four months so we are not synced with the troops. During my deployment there was a rotation, so after two months getting to know the troops and building trust, they changed. While our short time with the troops is a challenge to ministry, it is not a problem. All the troops I

have come into contact with have been happy to have a chaplain around and appreciate the support we can offer.

The demand for Catholic chaplaincy outstrips what can be offered. Attendance at Mass and services is quite high and greatly appreciated. It is surprising the number of people who come to weekday Masses. For some people this is the only time they can get to Mass because of the operational pace and their work schedule. In KAF I have a second daily Mass in the small chapel in Camp Baker to cater for embeds who work the night shift. With so few priests, the call for Masses from our coalition partners is high and unfortunately these requests are mostly not met. With the reduction of forces there is a great reluctance to permit travel throughout the theatre.

The Sunday Masses attract a vast array of Catholics. Both service personnel and civilian contractors attend regularly. Prior to Christmas we celebrated the Novena of Christmas (Simbang Gabi) for the Filipinos. The choir for the Midnight Mass was French soldiers. The readings and prayers were by an Indian, Norwegian, Australian, American and Filipino. We came together in prayer and celebrated our faith in the sacraments.

As I left before Easter and there was no priest to the Australian troops or Catholics in the areas I have served . They were far from home and unable to celebrate this great feast in faithful gatherings and sacramental services. Please keep these companions of ours in faith in your prayers.

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. It also enables you to make a significant gift that you may not find possible during your lifetime.

You could: leave a specific cash amount or property; leave a percentage of your estate; or leave all or a portion of what remains of your estate after other bequests are distributed. 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: *includeacharity.com.au*

OUR CHAPLAINS—NAVY (not including Principal Chaplains)

In Western Australia, Fr Paul Raj RANR the Parish Priest at Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Hilton, generously spends one day a week at HMAS Stirling. Over the past 19 years Fr Paul has officiated at numerous Navy baptisms and weddings, and the occasional funeral. He is often seen in the work place offering support, encouragement and friendship to our people.

In Far North Queensland our Reserve Chaplain is **Fr Laurie Timms, OCarm RANR.** Fr Laurie provides valuable ministry in the Cairns Diocese, while finding the time to respond to Navy requests for chaplaincy.

In the Sydney area, we are blessed to have **Fr Thi Lam RAN** posted into HMAS Kuttabul. Fr Thi is on loan from the Perth Diocese, having spent the past 18 months as one of the Fleet Chaplains. We also have our Pastoral Associate, Reserve Chaplain **Mr Anthony Crook** who provides solid ministry in pastoral care and sacramental preparation.

Fr Paul Stuart RAN continues to provide reliable pastoral care to our young defence members, who are under training at HMAS Cerberus, Westernport, Victoria. In 2015 Fr Paul has taken on additional responsibility as the Coordinating Chaplain.

Continued page 7

OUR CHAPLAINS—ARMY

Fr Joel Vegara continues at 1RTB Recruit School at Kapooka. There are two Masses each Sunday in the Soldiers' Chapel. Along with Fr Paddy Sykes RANR, he provides pastoral care for RAAF Base Wagga as we have no chaplain there.

Fr Bernie Hennessy, PP of Gundagai, formerly a full-time chaplain is now a reserve chaplain serving at Kapooka. He provides invaluable service, and his ability to relate to the recruits is renowned. Fr Bernie is thinking of retiring both from his parish and Army chaplaincy this year as he is well into his seventies.

Fr Damien Styles, posted to Amberley, roves across South East Queensland as the priest moderator of our Military Diocesan Team in Brisbane and the hinterland. There are regular Sunday Masses at Canungra and Enoggera with weekday mass being celebrated at Amberley and Enoggera.

Deacon Leo Orreal arrived in Enoggera in 2013 and ably supports Fr Damien in care for Catholic Army personnel. Leo is very active in the Brisbane area supported by **Deacon Peter Devenish-Meares** ARES.

Fr Bryan Pipins SJ is posted to Darwin and has just returned from an Afghanistan deployment (article p. 7). Fr Bryan is a real 'get-about'! Not only does he spiritually care for the many Catholic personnel at Darwin but also every second weekend he travels over 300 km to RAAF Tindal to celebrate Mass and visit the Catholic primary school in Katherine.

Deacon Mick Flew is in his first posting as an Army chaplain having previously been in Army for many years. Deacon Mick is posted to Darwin as well and works with Fr Bryan. He will be a great asset in the growing Darwin Defence community both at Robertson Barracks, RAAF Darwin and HMAS Coonawarra.

Fr Piotr Kowalczyk at 3 Battalion in Townsville has been on loan to us from the Diocese of Radom, Poland and now is in to his fourth year with us and is doing some very good work not only in his unit but also Lavarack Barracks Townsville.

Deacon Brenton Fry is posted to No 5 Aviation Regiment at RAAF Garbutt as our first full-time Catholic Chaplain for many a year. He cares for RAAF personnel as well as assisting in Catholic ministry at Lavarack Barracks.

Fr Rod Ward is a priest of Townsville and a ARES Chaplain. Fr Rod a medical doctor, ordained later in life, leads the Townsville Catholic Team as the priest moderator. He plays a significant role in the Soldier Recovery Program for those returning from operations.

Fr Robert Hayes ARES is a senior Army chaplain in the Sydney area having served for well over thirty years. He is currently Parish Priest of St Anthony's Austral and assists in the selection and mentoring of all Army Reserve chaplains in NSW.

Fr James McCarthy ARES is appointed to All

Saints Parish, Liverpool. He provides ministry to the University of Sydney Regiment and at the growing Holsworthy Army Base.

Fr Damien Ellis is in his second year at St Paul's Catholic Chapel RMC Duntroon. He is the first full-time priest at RMC for some time. It's a definite benefit to have a priest located at the Royal Military College with Fr Damien providing excellent ministry.

Chaplain Anthony Doyle ARES is a Lay Pastoral Associate at RMC with Fr Damien. He has previously been part-time chaplain at the Australian Defence Force Academy caring primarily for Catholic Youth ministry in which he continues to be actively involved.

Chaplain Cesar Lopez ARES is also a Lay Pastoral Associate and is posted to the Monash University Regiment in Melbourne. Cesar is the full-time Pastoral Associate at St Joan of Arc Parish, Brighton.

Deacon Garth Mayger is full-time and has transferred from Enoggera to the School of Signals, Watsonia in Melbourne. Garth was in the Army before commencing formation for the Permanent Diaconate. He joins Fr Paul Stuart and Cesar Lopez in the establishment of the Military Diocesan Team in the Melbourne area.

Fr Michael Morrissey ARES, Vicar-General of the Diocese of Geraldton and Administrator of the Cathedral there is a long serving senior chaplain in Army. Currently Fr Michael is Senior Chaplain 2 Division.

Fr Mark Sexton ARES is Parish Priest of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Northern Light Parish centred on the good wine distinct of Kapunda SA. Fr Mark currently is the only Army chaplain active in Adelaide.

OUR CHAPLAINS—AIR FORCE

Fr Stephane Sarazin joined us in April 2009, a lateral transfer from the Canadian Defence Force. Since this time he has been posted to RAAF Williamtown and is a real blessing for us. On many occasions Fr Stephane has been the only chaplain on the large Defence base.

Chaplain Kevin O'Sullivan is a Lay Pastoral Associate chaplain posted to RAAF Amberley and supported by Fr Damian Styles as Army is collocated with Air Force on this super base. Kevin joined the chaplaincy in 2013 having been an airman previously, and was given the opportunity for formation as a chaplain through the In-Service Training Scheme for ADF Chaplaincy.

Fr Raphael Abboud is our newest catholic chaplain, serving as a part-time chaplain at RAAF Richmond. Fr Raphael is a Maronite priest belonging to the Maronite Diocese of St Maroun, Sydney and appointed to Our Lady of Lebanon Parish, Harris Park. He serves at Richmond two days a week.

Fr Patrick Woods is currently Parish Priest of Elizabeth in Adelaide and is a long-term serving Air Force chaplain. For several years Fr Pat was in full-time chaplaincy both at Edinburgh and Amberley.

New Holsworthy Chapel



he All Saints Chapel at Holsworthy Army Barracks was blessed and dedicated by Members of the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services, including the Vicar General, Monsignor O'Keefe, and then officially opened by the Chief of Army on 27 February 2015.

A number of Catholic chaplains from Sydney and Canberra gathered at the chapel on 1 April to bless the Blessed Sacrament within a concelebrated Mass during Holy Week this year. Regular Masses will be celebrated at the chapel.

THIS CROSS FORMED FROM SLEEPERS RECOVERED FROM
THE BURMA-THAILAND RAILWAY AND THESE STONES
GATHERED FROM CHANGI GAOL IN, SINGAPORE
SYMBOLISE THE SACRIFICE OF SOLDIERS OF
HITH DIVISION SIGNALS
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY
LEST WE FORGET



Australia Day Honours List—Monsignor Eugene Harley OAM



Readers will recall the tribute paid to Monsignor Eugene in issue No. 17 (September 2014) of Serving Faithfully on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of his priestly ordination and the memorable letter of congratulations from BRIG George Mansford AM, his 'Proddy mate'. Monsignor Eugene's 25 years of service as an Army chaplain took him on operations in Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam, as a senior chaplain in various roles and headquarters, culminating in his final post as Army's Principal Chaplain.

Monsignor Eugene ministered to all and his award has drawn congratulations from many former serving men and women and chaplains, Catholic and non- Catholic alike. It was recalled that he had led in the reorganisation of the Royal Australian Army Chaplains'

Department and been at one time staff officer to the Army's Chaplains General – truly ecumenical long before the word gained its post-Vatican II currency.

Friends will know that his recent award is as much for his post-Army service career as Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish, Mosman.

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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