

Volume 2 No 4

30 June 2016

Newsletter of the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Randwick NSW Australia



*Located at: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish,
193 Avoca St, PO Box 309, Randwick NSW, 2031.*

www.sacredheart.org.au

Introducing the
National Shrine of
Our Lady of the
Sacred Heart,
Randwick,
Sydney, Australia.

Our Mission:

To publicise the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart [OLSH] at Randwick.

To introduce the *Novena* to OLSH to others outside the Parish.

To heighten awareness of the Spirituality of the Heart, and the place of the devotion to Mary under the title of OLSH as a natural aspect of the Spirituality of the Heart.

To inform people about the Mission and Ministries of the MSC and OLSH and other Congregations.

This is our fourth **Newsletter** from the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Randwick, for 2016.

Last Newsletter looked at the Spirituality of the MSC Society as it developed under Fr Chevalier's founding spirit together with a sketch of Fr Peter Marie Tréand parish priest of Randwick for 35 years and first Provincial for Australia.

Now we turn to Fr Cuskelly's four pointers to the Spirituality of the Sacred Heart. Many grew up with a strong sense of the **Devotion to the Sacred Heart**, which had various prayers such as the Nine First Fridays, the Promises of Jesus to St Margaret Mary and the image of the Sacred Heart were probably in every Catholic home.



The Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Randwick NSW, Australia, blessed and opened in 1937.

Calendar for MAY: 1865 May 31 OLSH Feast publicly celebrated for first time in Issoudun. 1886 First MSC House in Belgium. 1886 First Australian postulant for OLSH. 1887 First MSC leave France for Ecuador. 1888 First MSC arrive in Kiribati. May 6 1888 OLSH Randwick dedicated by Cardinal Moran. 1911 First MSC to Brazil. 1919 First 6 Postulants of Handmaids of the Lord begin in PNG. 1920 First 6 OLSH Sisters from Holland to Kai Islands. 1920 First MSC from Italy to Celebes. 1927 First MSC Sisters from Germany arrive in Namibia. 1928 5 MSC Sisters from Germany arrive in Melbourne. 1950 Fr Harry Reid MSC from Australia arrives in Japan to set up a mission in conjunction with Fr A Bryson MSC Army Chaplain. 1965 First MSC House in Dominican Republic. 1977 OLSH Associates begin in Australia. 1983 Three MSC Houses erected in Peru.

Under the guidance and scholarship of Fr Cuskelly, an Australian MSC who was elected Superior General, or Congregational Leader as we prefer to call them these days, it became clear that the term, **Devotions** to the Sacred Heart, did not depth the profound meaning of the Sacred Heart in its Biblical and historical significance.

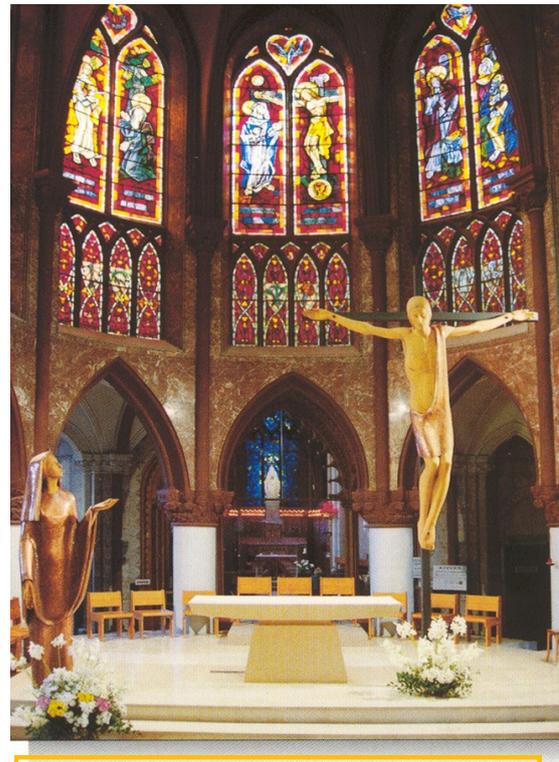
As Fr Cuskelly notes “when we say that we have learned to believe in the love of God manifested in Christ, we express the conviction that **this love is able to give meaning and purpose to all human life; that it can answer humanity’s deep questioning and quiet the restless human heart.**” For Fr Cuskelly, “*this implies a spirituality of the heart.*”

He goes on to identify four aspects of this spirituality:

1. *We have to go down to the depths of our own soul in a realization of our own profound personal needs of life, of love and of meaning.*
2. *We must find, through faith and reflection, the answer to our own questioning in the Heart of Christ, i.e. in the depths of his personality, where man’s yearning and God’s graciousness meet in redemptive incarnation.*
3. *Then, fashioned by these forces, our own heart will be an understanding heart, open to, feeling for, and giving to our brothers and sisters in Christ.*
4. *We will not be disheartened, or discouraged in the face of difficulties. (continued next page)*



Fr Jules Chevalier



Sacred Heart, Issoudun, France



Junior Seminary, St Gauthier, France

We follow Christ who 'loved with a human heart' as Vatican II reminds us; he shared our humanness that we might know that over us all is the everlasting love of the Father. In God's good time the omnipotent love of God will have its way. It is this love in which we have learned to believe. (Cuskelly p128f)

This is very clarifying for people who want to know what the Spirituality of the Heart is all about. Fr Cuskelly's explanation is very accessible to us all: it is at once practical, reflective and contemplative.

Other qualities of Fr Chevalier's spirituality are:

Courage, strength and constancy. He regarded these as virtues of the Heart of Jesus, as they "express the very qualities of love." Clearly, Fr Chevalier was a courageous person. Undertaking to found a missionary congregation in what could be considered 'ground zero' of the de-Christianisation of France following the revolution of 1789 required a **well-grounded conviction of Christ's call in his life.**

Later in his life, on the **very eve of the Government evictions** of male religious in 1880, Fr Chevalier accepted an overseas mission in the very remote areas of Micronesia and Melanesia, (Papua New Guinea and the Central Pacific Islands / Atolls of Kiribati and, further north, Chuuk and Marshall islands). **This was a major indication of his courage based on his belief in the love of the Heart of Christ and his burning desire to make it known, far and wide.** Following the **1880 expulsions and confiscations of properties** most religious orders were able to find friends



OLSH Shrine, Issoudun, France



First 'Mission': Micronesia & Melanesia



who helped them buy back or acquire new premises after the anti-clerical government was thrown out. However, again, in **1906 another anti-clerical government was installed and further, even more devastating, confiscations were enacted.** This second lot of expulsions coming so close the earlier ones, caused a **sense of hopelessness** in many religious.

However, as Fr Cuskelly records, Fr **Chevalier never lost hope, his courage never waned.** On April 4th, 1906, he wrote to Fr Carrière, MSC Provincial Superior of France: “...the faith is not dead... Where did Fr. Meyer get the idea that the Religious Orders have had their day, or that they cannot be built up again? He forgets that the life of perfection is an essential part of the Church...” (Cuskelly, p.129)

Perhaps in our own day we need to hear Fr Cuskelly’s words afresh—that the religious life is an essential element of the Church’s life and mission. **Here at Randwick we have a special hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Midday Prayer of the Church every Tuesday 11.00-Midday.** Our gathering is for the spiritual well-being of our youth, young adults and for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Why not join us in person - or remotely?
Peter Hearn MSC, parish priest.

The new format of the Novena, can be found on the web:

www.sacredheart.org.au You can post petitions to *Novena*, PO Box 309, Randwick, NSW 2031, Or email to: prayersplease@olshaustralia.org.au
The Novena is held each Thursday 11.30-midday in the Shrine.



This is our beautiful new statue of our Founder, Fr Jules Chevalier MSC which arrived mid-June. It was carved by Englebert Piccolruaz of Sydney out of Fijian Kaurie wood (chosen because it has no knots.) We will place it on a low plinth, and add some information about his life and spirituality. Our thanks to our donor, parishioner Annette Marskell OAM.

The Novena Prayer

Remember, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the great things the Lord has done for you. He chose you for his mother; He wanted you close to his cross. He gives you a share in his glory. He listens to your prayer. Offer him our prayers of praise and thanksgiving. Present our petitions to Him. (Recall your petitions...)

Let us live like you in the love of your Son so that his Kingdom may come. Lead all people to the source of living water that flows from his heart, spreading over the world hope and salvation, justice and peace. See our trust in you; answer our prayer. Show yourself always our Mother. Amen.