

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



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

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

www.sacredheart.org.au

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.

Our sixth issue of the *Newsletter of the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* at Randwick is dated 15 November—a special day for the OLSH Shrine and Church here at Randwick. On this day 1885, Fr Michael Tierney MSC an Irishman among a community of French-speaking MSC exiles, celebrated the first Parish Mass at Randwick, under the pastoral care of the MSC.

The MSC first came to Australia, August 13 1882, and stayed with the Marist Fathers at Hunters Hill. However, they were en-route to the mission area given to them by Pope Leo XIII—New Britain (modern day Rabaul), Kiribati, and Papua—a huge, undeveloped area with poor accessibility. They had come to the Pacific with an ill-fated French expedition and had no intention of setting foot in Australia. **The only way to access these places was via Australia.**



The Randwick Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart with the original marble altar installed in the first section of the Church by November 1892,

Calendar for November: 1880 Nov 5: MSC expelled from Issoudun and Basilica sealed

Nov 5: First MSC foundation in Barcelona, Spain

1881 Nov 13: The municipal council of Issoudun asks the Minister to depose the “Curé Chevalier” who is “Jesuit, expelled and an enemy of the government.”

1885: First Mass celebrated at Randwick by Fr Tierney MSC

1902: First MSC Sisters from Germany arrive at Vunapope, New Britain PNG

1903: First MSC arrive in Kai Islands

1908: First MSC arrive from Holland to establish mission in Surigao, Philippines

1932: First four MSC Sisters leave Germany for China

1953: First four MSC sent from Issoudun to Senegal

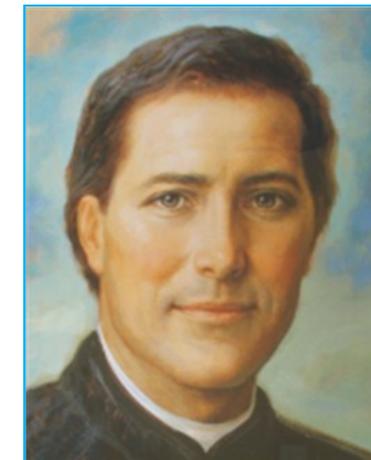
1955: First OLSH foundation in USA, New Jersey

After reaching New Britain, it soon became obvious that they needed a **supply base**. Fr Navarre was the leader of that group and in order to set up the mission at the other end of the country—modern day Yule Island, **he established a house at Thursday Island off the tip of Cape York, Queensland, October 24 1884: the first MSC—OLSH foundation in Australia.**

Back in Australia, the Randwick residents had asked the **Franciscans** who cared for the area from Paddington to Botany, to provide them with a resident priest and regular Masses. A church and school site had been provided by the government about a kilometer and a half from the present site. As it was on opposite sides of a road and remote from the developing village of Randwick, **the laity successfully petitioned to have it sold and the present site bought.**

Archbishop Moran had recently arrived in Sydney and the Marists introduced a newly arrived group of MSC and OLSH to him. He wrote in his diary for February 3 1885: “**The newly arrived missionaries for New Guinea came to visit me and to make arrangements for a Procure here in Sydney. I will do everything to meet their wishes.**” (*Randwick Centenary*, J F McMahon p.9). The Franciscans at the time were not happy that Botany—Randwick was given to the MSC. But they could not supply the area.

In April 1884, Fr Coupe MSC and four OLSH Sisters were established at Botany with a parish and school under their care. More MSC and OLSH arrived from Europe, and **on November 15, Fr Tierney MSC, and two seminarians, Brs Kutter and Toubanc took lodgings at Napper terrace next to the Church-School in Avoca St.** (Part of that terrace can be seen today beside the block of flats next door to the Church, having had shop fronts added to them.) Fr Tierney, the only English-speaking priest among the group, wrote to Fr Chevalier in France, May 12 1886: “**So far our experience of Randwick and its people has been most happy. It would be hard to find people who are better disposed to us.... In the near future we hope to have a new Church and presbytery. We have been presented with a statue of the Sacred Heart and one of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart has been sent out from Paris...**

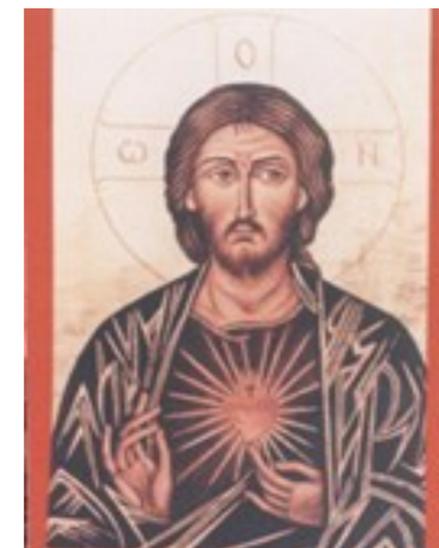


Jules Chevalier MSC

“In November 5 1880, we were expelled by virtue of decrees issued by the Freemason ministers of government, not only against our Mother House, but also against our other houses, and we left France to secure the survival of our works. I then had the profound sorrow of seeing all my confreres dispersed, our dear Basilica closed and sacrilegious seals affixed to its doors.

Words cannot describe the anxiety and anguish of heart I suffered in these sad circumstances, but in the midst of it all God sustained me by his grace.”

(The same day, Nov 5 1889, the first house in Spain was opened at Barcelona—see *Calendar* front page.)



He went on to write: “We hope to make this the title of our Church.” The original title under the Franciscans had been **Our Lady of Mercy**. All the OLSH Sisters had left Botany for Thursday Island with the exception of an Irish Sister, who was soon joined by two Australian postulants.

The school at Randwick was initially staffed by Poor Clares from Waverley.

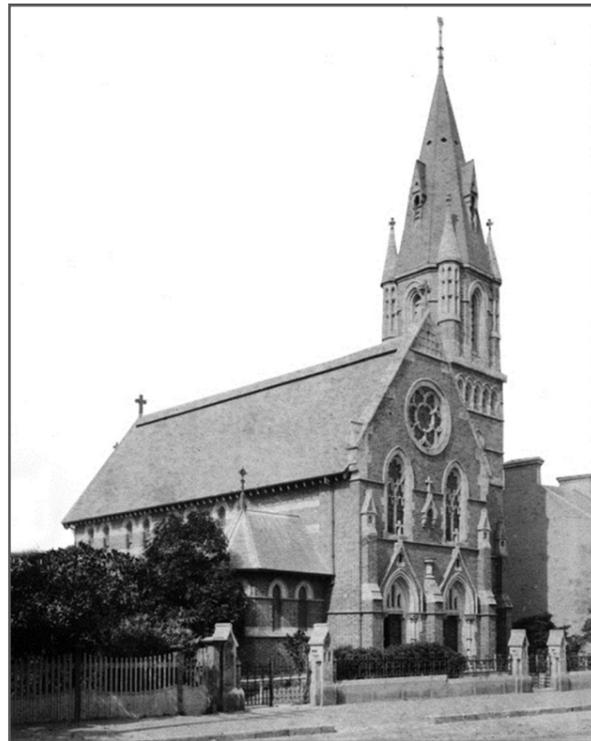
Randwick developed rapidly, and the first **MSC residence was begun February 1887, and occupied on 8th August of that year!** It was two storied and consisted of 12 rooms with wide verandahs on both floors.

Before the residence was finished, work had already begun on the Church. **The foundation stone was laid by Cardinal Moran 5 June 1887 and blessed and opened, in record time, May 6 1888.**

Parishioners readily paid for magnificent stained glass windows from Toulouse and Tours, France, and a **Mrs Oxenham donated Our Lady’s altar made of marble.**

The Church ended at the present nave with a temporary sanctuary added to it. **Our Lady’s altar was to the front of the left aisle.**

Just as the Church was being completed, Fr Emile Merg MSC arrived from Europe. Immediately he initiated (2 June 1889) the Archconfraternity of OLSH—a pious association, mainly of laity.



The first section of the Church blessed May 6, 1888 (Note the fence)



The OLSH Shrine is to the far left. The pulpit, now reduced in height’ is still in use. The altar rails “disappeared” over night following the Liturgical reforms of the 1960s. The windows either side of the altar are now in the Shrine area and beside the Sacred Heart Shrine.

The Archconfraternity had expanded amazingly to around 20,000,000 enrolled members world wide since its inception by Fr Chevalier in France in the 1860s. Spanish nuns took the devotion to Latin America and Jesuits inaugurated it in Poland, as two examples. In Holland alone, around 4,000,000 members had been enrolled within 20 years of the foundation of the Archconfraternity in Isoudun in 1864. We will learn more of this development in later *Newsletters*.

Fr Merg also initiated the *Australian Annals of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* (December 1889). The development of this was a profound benefit for the MSC and OLSH in attracting vocations, especially for the “Missions”. He had plans for a junior seminary to be established in Australia, and in fact it was opened for two years in Randwick but could not be sustained. It would be established later at Douglas Park 1912-1966.

We shall return in later editions to this continuing Australian story.

Pope Francis on the Catholic family and Parish:

‘Jesus Himself, after living for thirty years in the midst of the family in Nazareth, gathered a community around Himself, which is the Church. **And this family is not an “exclusive, closed sect” but a welcoming family that includes not only the Apostles, but also the hungry and the thirsty, the stranger and the persecuted, sinners and Pharisees.**’

‘He went on to say that the family and the parish are **“the two places in which that community of love is realized which finds its ultimate source in God Himself.”** Only through the grace of God will families and parishes be able to accomplish the “miracle” of shaping a more fraternal and humane world.’ (*General Audience* 9 September 2015)

The Novena to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart has one session per week at OLSH Church Randwick on Thursday mornings 11:30-midday.

You can post petitions and thanksgiving letters to *Novena*, PO Box 309 Randwick NSW 2031

Novena text: www.sacredheart.org.au



Fr Peter Marie Treand MSC, second Parish Priest of Randwick (1891-1926). This brilliant and holy man was also the first Provincial of the newly formed Australian Province in 1905.

The Novena Prayer

Memorare to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

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.

(Pause – to 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.