

Serving Faithfully

Newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Military Services
Published by the Diocesan Curia. Editor: Brigadier Alan Hodges AM (Ret'd)

April 2018
Issue #29



ANZAC CENTENARY 'WE REMEMBER THEM'



This year we are concluding the special four years of observance of the contribution made by a group of soldiers, sailors and airmen from this part of the world in many battles thousands of miles away over century ago. This conflict between nations and powers was so vast that it is described as the world at war.

It is true that the first significant action to involve Australian Forces in the First World War was closer to home, in what we now know as Papua New Guinea, in September 1914. Early the following year in Egypt, soldiers from Australia and New Zealand were formed to be the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) and they were sent to Gallipoli where they landed on 25th April 1915, and that has become the date on which we



In London over 2,000 Australian and New Zealand troops marched through the streets of the city to commemorate Anzac Day in 1916.

make our observance. While we give special place to this 100-year anniversary we always remember that we in Australia and New Zealand have kept this day of observance each and every one of those one hundred years. The first formal observance of the landings at Gallipoli was marked in London when Australian and New Zealand personnel present there marched to Westminster Abbey for a prayerful ceremony of remembrance. There are reports that those involved in the Second Battle of Villers-Bretonneux which took place 24 to 27 April 1918 had that anniversary very much in mind. That battle was the beginning of the end of that war in Europe and it is fitting therefore that this battle marks the end of our special observance.

In between those years Australia, with a population then of about 5 million, enlisted over 416,000 soldiers, more than 60,000 were killed in battle and over 156,000 were wounded, gassed or taken as prisoners of war. Those numbers provoke great sadness. Our sadness is deepened when we recollect that even more have died or been wounded in subsequent wars and conflicts even into our own time. Regardless of religious tradition, when confronted with that sadness there is a religious response. Elsewhere in this issue there is an article on a related subject – 'Not Afraid to Die'.

The notion of 'remembering' has a very strong historical religious connotation. It is one of the most frequently used words in Sacred Scripture to describe and evoke our relationship with God. While we often sit with the passive dimension we sometimes neglect the active element that is involved. When we take notice we can see how very frequently we use 'remember' in our prayers; and that active element adds a deeper meaning to our prayer. In Sacred Scripture it is the cement that binds together the relationship between God and His Holy People: it recalls historical events, it gives reassurance, it confirms hope, it encourages perseverance, and it urges a response. Even the word itself conjures up the notion of bringing things back together. Relying on that relationship, so many of our petitions are made with great confidence and with submission to the Divine Will.

Therefore, from that perspective, our observance of the anniversary of ANZAC Day has a religious dimension. Of course, like everyone else in the Nation, we experience the sadness of loss; we are encouraged (perhaps even motivated) by the example of the supreme sacrifice our servicemen and women continue to give; we grasp the opportunity to show our respect for those who have, and who continue to, serve; we renew our acceptance of the values they fought to maintain; and, as Catholics especially, we can respond in fraternal charity by our petition for the happy repose of the souls of those who have died in war. Our remembrance in this way is not confined to the ANZAC anniversary, but is a duty and responsibility that we can contribute constantly. Long after this centenary celebration fades we will continue to remember them.



*Bishop Max Davis
Military Ordinary*

Serving Faithfully

is a newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Military Services.

It is published quarterly by the Catholic Military Ordinariate of Australia.

The Diocese comprises 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 to

The Chancery, Catholic Military Ordinariate of Australia

PO Box 63, CAMPBELL, ACT 2612

Telephone: (02) 6248 0511 Fax: (02) 6247 0898

Email: sec@cmoa.org.au Website: www.military.catholic.org.au

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

Around the Diocese



Mgr Greg Flynn

Monsignor Glynn Murphy OAM, has recently concluded active service. Since January 2014 as Director General Chaplaincy – Army he has occupied the most senior Army Chaplaincy appointment.

He began his journey to priestly ministry at Corpus Christi Seminary, Melbourne in 1977. After seven years study and spiritual formation and various parish placements, he was ordained priest in 1983 for the Ballarat diocese in Victoria.

Mgr Glynn commenced Army Chaplaincy in 1985. His posting history has covered Infantry, Combat Engineer, Artillery and Signals units, Brigade and Divisional Headquarters, Land Warfare Centre Canungra, Royal Military College Duntroon, Special Operations Headquarters, Headquarters Joint Operations Command (Australia) and Army Headquarters. He undertook post-graduate studies with the Canadian Military Forces at Saint Paul Pontifical University, Ottawa. He has also given operational service in Papua New Guinea, East Timor, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Gulf waters and Afghanistan.

At a dinner in Canberra last December, Mgr Glynn was farewelled by the Deputy Chief of Army, MAJGEN Rick Burr,

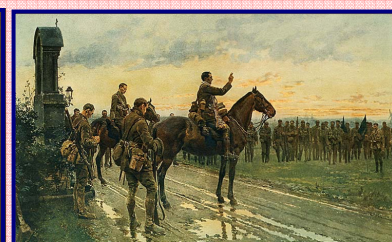
DSC,AM, MVO, fellow chaplains and colleagues. He was presented with a figurine based on a painting of Chaplain Gleeson giving general absolution to the Royal Munster Fusiliers on the eve of the Battle of Aubers Ridge on 8 May 1915. The paining was made at the request of the widow of the Battalion's Commanding Officer.

Mgr Glynn said, 'It is with gratitude to God that I look back over decades of service to, and soldiering with, members of the Australian Army. *Deo Gratias!*'

The Military Ordinariate and the Army have benefited enormously from the many years of service and dedication of Mgr Glynn. We are delighted that he will continue to serve the ADF Family in an Army Reserve capacity as Principal Chaplain-Army and Episcopal Vicar for Army chaplains.



Mgr Glynn with the figurine of Chaplain Gleeson



Chaplain Gleeson giving general absolution at a roadside shrine. Painting by Fortunino Matania



Fr Bryan Pipins sj

Father Bryan Pipins, a Member of the Society of Jesus (sj), who was ordained in 2003, commenced full-time Army Chaplaincy in April 2012. His initial posting was to 1st Armoured Regiment, Robertson Barracks, Darwin.

Bryan's Army career commenced much earlier however - in 1981 he enlisted in the Army Reserve and progressed to the ARA with commissioning in June 1991. He served initially in

1st Signal Regiment

He resigned from the ARA in 1994 to follow a religious vocation with the Jesuits. His priestly ministry with the Jesuits took him overseas and his final appointment before becoming a military chaplain was as Parish priest, Seven Hill SA.

Over the last six years, Bryan has had two postings: Robertson Barracks NT and in 2016 he was posted to Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera with the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment. In the latter posting he was the Priest chaplain at St Joan of Arc Enoggera and St Ignatius Canungra. While in Darwin Fr Bryan was deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations.

The Military Diocese thanks Bryan for the last six years of priestly service. He has recently taken up an appointment as the Associate Pastor of Caloundra Parish in the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Father Brendan Quirk was commissioned as an Army full-time chaplain on 27 March at the ADF Recruiting Centre, Parramatta NSW.

Fr Brendan has been the Parish Priest of Rockdale, Archdiocese of Sydney since 2003. He assumed the responsibility for the Parish of Bexley in 2014 to form the larger parochial area of Rockdale City Parish.

Ordained on 10 September 1994, Brendan has had several appointments in the Sydney Archdiocese over 24 years and is a very experienced pastor.

The Military Diocese is very grateful to the Archdiocese of Sydney in allowing Fr Brendan to serve as an Army Chaplain, along with the generosity of the Archdiocese in giving us several Reserve Army priest chaplains over the last year.

Fr Brendan's first appointment will be at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera.

We welcome Fr Brendan to our diocesan family and look forward to the rich experience he brings to Catholic Chaplaincy.



Fr Brendan Quirk with his commission accompanied by his sister Maureen

Continued page 7

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: includeacharity.com.au

NOT AFRAID TO DIE

Brigadier Alan Hodges AM [Ret'd]

The expression *Not afraid to die* was used freely in WW1 and, through a poem, was widely known in WW2 and later conflicts. The WW1 cartoonist and illustrator, Cecil Percival, drew a dying man being comforted and saying 'I'm not afraid to die: if I'd been afraid of death I'd never have been here.'



Percival, Cecil, c1914-18

AWM ART13387

The *Barrier Miner* of Broken Hill of 17 June 1915 reported on a letter received by Mr Nash of Sydney from his son on board a hospital ship in Alexandria. The soldier provided a report of the fierce fighting of the Australians on landing at Gallipoli, which was described under the headline:

NOT AFRAID TO DIE

The soldier said, 'The country is terribly rough. The enemy's snipers did us much harm ... Before nightfall only six of our officers were left. It was hell. The fire never ceased for a second ... the wounded we had to leave behind on our retreat to the ridge ... My knowledge of first aid came in handy, and I dealt with about seven of my comrades. I am indeed proud to be an Australian. My pals were dying and wounded all around me, but not one was afraid to die. They fought like heroes.'

The *Sydney Sun* of 21 November 1915 contained a report from Captain C E W Bean, official correspondent with the Australian Expeditionary Force, about HMT *Southland*. While conveying men of 2nd Division AIF from Egypt to Gallipoli, the ship was torpedoed by German submarine *UB14* 30 miles from Lemnos in the Aegean Sea. The ship did not sink and all but 40 of 1,400 men took to lifeboats and were picked up by other transports. The remaining men and ship's crew managed to get to other ships later the same day. The newspaper headline was:

"ARE WE DOWNHEARTED?"

NOT AFRAID TO DIE WONDERFUL DISCIPLINE

Bean's report included: 'There had been boat drill on the voyage, and the men ran straight to their proper places and lined up, their officers shouting,

"Steady boys; that's the one thing: steady.

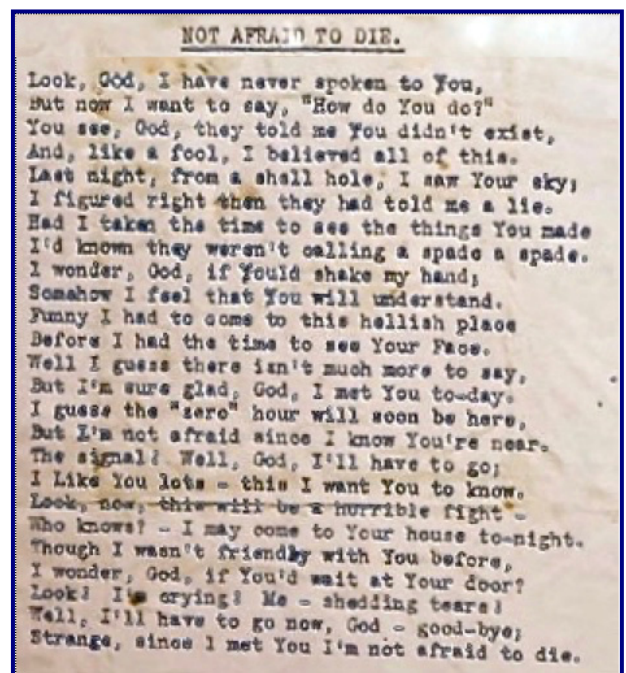
"... Bad luck that two and a half months in the desert should end like this." said one. "Are we downhearted." called another. "No", they all shouted. "Are we afraid to die?" called someone else. "No", they shouted again.'

The *Age* of Melbourne of 31 August 1916 reported that Councillor Edwards of Wangaratta had received official information that his son Private Edward Edwards had been killed in action in Belgium. The newspaper headline was:

A Brave Young Recruit "I am not afraid to die"

The report stated that Private Edwards enlisted on 26 July 1916 when he was barely eighteen years of age as he was anxious to avenge the death of his cousin, Private Charles Powley, who had been killed at Gallipoli. In seeking approval of his parents to enlist, 'He concluded his appeal with the spiritual sentence "I am not afraid to die." '

The WW2 poem 'Not Afraid to Die' has been particularly inspiring and comforting. Although the source of the document below is not known, it has been described as being found on the body of a soldier during the WW2 Middle East Campaign:



Many have, however, claimed to know the author or the circumstances of the poem's origin during WW2, Korea and Vietnam as illustrated by the following sample of many websites:

- 'These lines were found in the possession of numerous boys who fell on the battlefields of WW2. This hunger for the eternal, this hunger and this hope that we long for, is expressed by Frances Angermayer, who wrote these words in Kansas City, June 3rd, 1943.'
- 'This poem was actually written by Kenneth (PFC Kenneth R. Elkins, Killed in Battle 1944 Peleliu Island) not long before his death and was provided by his niece, Gloria Collins.'
- 'Mike Schaffemoker flew as a door gunner with the Seawolves in 1969. Keenly aware of his own mortality, he wrote this poem.'

Regardless of the actual origin of the poem, it is clear that it has struck a chord with those serving in war over the years - it continues to have a lasting message today.

New Awakenings for Veterans and their Families

Chaplain Gary Stone

For the past few years the Veterans Care Association (VCA), based in Brisbane, has been working on frontline veteran rehabilitation, supporting many hundreds of clients and their families. VCA's tactical objective is to improve the health and wellbeing of the veterans it engages with daily, but its strategic objective has been to model and improve the systemic way Veterans Health is managed, moving it from the current 'treating sickness' model to a 'promoting wellness' model.

All of the core VCA team are seasoned veterans and committed Christians who have experienced the good and bad of what is currently on offer, and they have developed together a best-practice veteran-friendly service.

Chaplain Gary Stone, a veteran of some 47 years service (8/9 RAR, 6RAR, 1RAR), and his son Michael, a veteran of 20 years service (2 RAR, 8/9 RAR), lead a group of veteran clinicians and carers engaging ill and injured veterans in peer support, encouragement, holistic health education, and life coaching.

VCA engages veterans who are disengaged and educates them about health and wellbeing possibilities and/or getting them into clinical therapy before they become acute cases requiring hospitalisation.



Timor Awakening 5 formally welcomed to country by Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri

through regular follow-up; and the participation by many in 'Life Coaching' offered by veteran Michael Albrecht.

Another significant outcome has been the mutual support given to the Timorese veterans and Government of Timor in progressing veteran-support initiatives. The

recently-elected Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri hosted the TA5 group in his office, and heard first hand from VCA staff on what his Government could be doing to enhance veteran support. This occurred simultaneously with the Government's release of a 40-minute documentary on the Timor Awakening experience, which has been shown nationally in Timor.

VCA has produced the following short videos on YouTube and is currently working on a professional documentary with interviews of participants:

- Timor Awakening Commandos Return October 2017 Introduction Video (2 minutes)
<http://tinyurl.com/timorawakening1>
- Timor Awakening 5 General Video (5 minutes)
tinyurl.com/timorawakening2

VCA wishes to continue to offer Timor Awakening experiences. It has more applicants than it can support, and its capacity for veteran support is significantly diminished by the time and effort it must put into fundraising. The programs delivered to date have been made possible largely through the sponsorship of RSL Qld and RSL Care (now known as Bolton Clarke). Further sponsorships and donations are most welcome.

Michael Stone says, 'Defence has given many of us extensive experience in leadership, training and development. To be able to design and deliver these programs and healing our struggling veterans are honourable tasks for veterans to be engaged in. Younger veterans trust us and can be led into new lives because they know we understand them and we care. The deepest issues for veterans are not psychiatric—they relate to identity, purpose and connection with God and others. We can offer the empowerment for these to be rediscovered and realised.'

Comprehensive information on this work is available at www.veteranscare.com.au



Timor Awakening Commandos Return October 2017 (screen shot from video)

The central message VCA offers to veterans is that they can live much healthier lives if they deliberately give attention to nurturing their body, mind and soul, as well as living with a positive life purpose. Soul nurture, including healing for moral injury, is the missing ingredient in all other rehabilitation programs on offer in Australia. To drive home the potential and importance of faith, the VCA team takes participants to Timor, where they hear the amazing stories of the Timorese who were victorious against all odds, with faith in God as their underpinning hope.

Designed and developed by Michael Stone, VCA's flagship activity is a 9-month 'Timor Awakening' (TA) rehabilitation program, involving 3-months preparation, a 12-day immersion in Timor along with Timorese veterans, and a 6-month follow-up period. VCA has conducted five of these programs with 125 participants and the support of 20 veteran volunteer staff members, and is preparing for two more programs in 2018. In Timor they get a 'mountaintop experience' – a circuit-breaker awakening that their lives can improve, and they find new purpose and identity.

The detailed evaluation data VCA has collected, and had externally analysed by clinical psychologists and medical officers, presents solid evidence that the program is significantly reducing symptoms of stress, anxiety and depression in all participants, and conversely improving quality of life. These results are being sustained over the long term:



Timor Awakening Commandos Return October 2017 (screen shot from video)

Gary served 25 years as an infantry officer before ordination as a married Deacon in 1994. Since then he has served as an army and police chaplain, has led extensive humanitarian ministries in Timor Leste, and is now chaplain to the ex-service community in South East Queensland. Gary has been married to Lynne for over 43 years and they have four adult children and three grandchildren.

(An unedited version of this article was published by the Defence Force Welfare Association in Camaraderie Vol 49 No 1, 2018)

Deacon Graeme R Davis OAM CSM

Group Captain John Pratt KCHS (Ret'd)



Deacon Graeme Davis
(Lismore Echo 17 Aug 16)

In June 2016, Reverend Graeme Davis, Deacon of Goonellabah NSW, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to a host of community organisations in Lismore NSW, including those connected to veterans and their families.

Graeme was born in Lismore in 1945 and educated at Lismore public schools. He enlisted in the Army in 1963 and

was deployed to South Vietnam in 1966.

In August of that year, at what became known as the Battle of Long Tan in a South Vietnam rubber plantation, 18 Australian soldiers were killed when D Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment fought a combined enemy force, estimated at over 2,000 soldiers, comprising local Viet Cong D445 Battalion (reinforced with North Vietnamese soldiers) and elements of the main force 275 Viet Cong Regiment. It was the first major confrontation by Australian forces in Vietnam.

Private Davis was a medic at the time and, while tending the wounded, a bullet from a Viet Cong sniper pierced his shoulder, missing his heart by less than a centimetre. He was one of 23 wounded soldiers evacuated by helicopter and repatriated to Australia by RAAF C130 aircraft. Four months later he married Rosemary – they have two sons, both married and two grandchildren.

The Vietnam War was not a popular one and the soldiers did not return as the heroes they should have been. Graeme said, 'The scars are not just physical. There is no reason why I survived and the guy beside me didn't.' Graeme coped by staying in the Army and continuing his career.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours Military List of 1995, while serving as second-in-command of the 41st Infantry Battalion, Royal NSW Regiment, he was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal for Exemplary Service to the Australian Army 1963-1995.

Graeme was pleased when, in 2016, 20 of those who had previously been denied recognition of their actions during the Battle of Long Tan received medals and awards for gallantry.

He retired from the Army in the rank of Major when reaching the age of 55. Following the encouragement of his family, brother officers and many others in the ADF, in 1999 he commenced his journey towards the permanent diaconate that led to his being awarded the degree of Bachelor of Theology from the Australian Catholic University. Accepted into formation, he commenced practical liturgical study for the Lismore Diocese, and was ordained by the Most Reverend Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett on the Feast of St Augustine of Hippo in August 2007.



PTE Graeme Davis talking to
Australian Red Cross worker
Miss Hilda Zinner on 26 Aug 66
(a week after the Battle of Long
Tan),

AWM CUN/66/0716A/VN

He was appointed to exercise a pastoral ministry in the Cathedral Parish of St Carthages, Lismore. His duties for parish ministry included: the proclamation of the Gospel in the Sacred Liturgy; preaching; chaplaincy to two hospitals; chaplain to the Northern Region Ambulance Service of NSW and to the Rescue Helicopter Service; and chaplain to the Ex-Service community and to three Aged Care Facilities. He said, 'I suppose I'm just continuing my military role, out of a green uniform and into a clerical role: you could call it a calling.'

A valued friend and mentor of the new Deacon was recently-deceased Monsignor Harley¹, who petitioned the 2 RAR Association to accord Deacon Graeme to be his assistant and his replacement on the Monsignor's death. 'How good is that?', Graeme asks.

Deacon Davis attributes the foremost influences in his journey to have been his wife and his two sons, Pope John Paul II and Archbishop Oscar A Romero, Military Chaplains and many permanent deacons from around the Nation.

Note 1:

A eulogy for Mgr Harley is at page 3 of Serving Faithfully No 27.
<https://tinyurl.com/servingfaithfully27>

Air Task Group—Middle East Region



Deacon Kevin O'Sullivan

Deacon Kevin O'Sullivan has recently returned from a six-month deployment as Chaplain to the Air Task Group (ATG) in the Middle Eastern Region (MER). He was located at the ATG's main airbase and also regularly visited another location, which was responsible for much of the coordination of ATG strike operations.

Although Kev was the lone ADF Chaplain for the ATG, he was not far from other military

chaplains. He was fortunate to be working alongside, yet independent of, two USAF Chaplain teams – a Protestant and a Catholic Priest Chaplain, and their respective chaplain assistants; he was collocated with a French Air Force Priest; and provided backup to a small team of Danish and RAF personnel when their chaplains were not in location.

Kev was most appreciative of the professional support and friendship extended to him by a fellow RAF Chaplain early on in his deployment when he was dealing with a complex pastoral situation away from his normal location.

During an overseas deployment, a Chaplain's focus is much the same as back in Australia. Kev said, 'Yet, it was the intensity of the dynamic environment that made operations different, such as: being away from one's normal familial support mechanisms; the operational tempo; and the intensity of living and working with the same people 24/7 under more austere living conditions than back home. Nevertheless, it was enriching and spiritually life-giving having the support, mentorship and friendship of various USAF Priest Chaplains.'

As a Deacon, Kev participated in his ordinary ministry at Mass in proclaiming the Gospel, regularly preaching the homily, ministry at the Altar and as a minister of communion. He also assisted in discussion groups and catholic fellowship and met some wonderful US catholic men and women, both military and contractors. 'The ability to serve and minister to our ADF people on operations is such a privilege and an even greater one when this is to other Catholics who are serving in our Coalition Forces', Kev said.

Down Memory Lane

Ray Finnegan AM



Ray Finnegan

Some kind unknown benefactor recently added me to the mailing list of *Serving Faithfully*. I find it full of interest. I was particularly interested in the discussion of the role of chaplains by John Guy in the December 2016 edition. It rekindled in my memory a debate within government circles in the 1980s on the role of chaplains, although within the mundane context of determining the proper

remuneration for chaplains.

I spent many years in the Department of Defence and was very involved in the conditions of service of the Defence Force. At times I did not agree with proposals within Defence that would be beneficial to Defence Force members. And in most cases I had to consult other government agencies for a whole-of-government view so sometimes I was unable to support proposals. I acquired some degree of infamy (unjustified of course!) as the *No-man*.

Major reviews of pay for the Defence Force were conducted by a committee drawn mainly from the then Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. At the time to which I refer the committee made a fundamental change to the basis of Defence Force remuneration by largely moving from comparisons with civilian employments of a like kind, to making rank the prime determinant of pay. The committee recommended major pay increases for all members of the Defence Force except for chaplains, who were awarded no increases because they did not hold rank.

The chaplaincy service was most disappointed. The reaction was summed up in a letter to the Minister for Defence from a chaplain which said that only chaplains had been left at the dunny door without any dunny paper.

For the first time in the life of the committee it was asked by the Minister for Defence re-consider its recommendations.

The committee convened a meeting to which it invited

chaplains to state their position. I estimate over 40 attended. I came as the representative of the Department of Defence, which for purposes of pay negotiations was the notional employer of the Defence Force. My infamy had preceded me and I sensed the discomfort my arrival created.

After chaplains had explained their roles and responsibilities, the committee chairman commented that nothing he had heard overcame the consideration that chaplains do not hold rank.

I felt that the chaplains had been unduly modest about their roles and that an 'employer' viewpoint was needed. I commented that in the view of the Department, the moral suasion exercised by chaplains compensated for the absence of rank. Chaplains helped prepare Defence Force members for combat operations, and supported them in those operations, in ways that supplemented the exercise of rank. Chaplains also provided moral compasses on personal and family issues and that assists morale.

The chaplains plainly could scarcely believe that the *No-man* had come out on their side. When the meeting finished I was pushed into a corner as chaplains came up to shake my hand and thank me. I enjoyed five minutes of popstar popularity.

I reported on the meeting to my immediate boss. He asked who had authorised my statement. I replied that no one had, but then no one had directed me to say otherwise.

The committee's subsequent report increased chaplains' pay on the basis of several considerations.

Some years later my brother asked me had I ever been involved in chaplains' pay issues. He mentioned a friend, a chaplain, who had made the connection of our surname and had spoken to my brother of my role in helping to 'rescue' chaplains pay. For once I achieved a little favourable notoriety.

Ray Finnegan was a member of the Australian Public Service for 38 years, 35 of which were spent in the Department of Army and then Department of Defence. His final appointment was First Assistant Secretary Human Resources. Subsequently, he was Chief of Staff to the Hon Gordon Bilney, Minister for Defence Science and Personnel before taking permanent retirement in 2008. He was appointed a member of the Order of Australia in 1991 for public service.



RAAF Memorial on Anzac Parade Canberra. The ceremony included the following Prayer and Code.

A Prayer for the Royal Australian Air Force

Read by Principal Chaplain Mark Willis (Church of Christ)
Eternal God,

We pray for all members of the Royal Australian Air Force and for those who support us.
Enable us to live, work and serve together in harmony and safety as we prepare for those tasks which are necessary to bring about security and peace.
Give respect and dignity to all who labour;
skill to those responsible for new technologies;
and wisdom to all who carry great responsibilities.
You have blessed us greatly in this land of ours— we have knowledge, privilege and we want for nothing.
Help and guide us that we might seek peace and justice for all. I ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen**

On 29 March, on the eve of the 97th anniversary of the formation of the RAAF and the 100th anniversary of the formation of the RAF a commemoration ceremony was held at the

AIRMAN'S CODE

Read by Leading Aircraftman Simon Tagaloa

I am an Australian Airman;
I inherit a proud tradition;
I follow in the footsteps of many fine Australians;
Their legacy is my future.

I am an Australian Airman;
The air is our domain;
I strive for excellence in all that I do;
To protect our skies, our country, the land I love.

I am an Australian Airman;
I live for my family, work with my mates;
Support my community and fight for my nation;
I am a valued member of the Air Force team;
I do what is right.

I am an Australian Airman.



My 'granddaddy' John Wayne, actor and Catholic convert



John Wayne, for many, was a Hollywood legend who symbolized true masculinity and American values. To Father Matthew Muñoz, though, he was simply 'granddaddy.' 'When we were little we'd go to his house, and we'd simply hang out with granddaddy; and we'd play, and we'd have fun: a very different image from what most people have of him.'

Father Muñoz was 14 years old when his grandfather died of cancer in 1979. In his lifetime, 'The Duke' won three Oscars, the congressional Gold Medal, and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Of all those achievements, though, Father Muñoz is most proud of just one: his grandfather's conversion to the Catholic faith.

'My grandmother, Josephine Wayne Saenz, had a wonderful influence on his life and introduced him to the Catholic world,' said 46-year-old Father Muñoz, a priest of the Diocese of Orange in California.

'He was constantly at Church events and fundraisers that she was always dragging him to, and I think that, after a while, he kind of got a sense that the common secular vision of what Catholics are and what his own experience actually was were becoming two greatly different things.'

Father Muñoz's grandparents married in 1933 and had four children, the youngest of whom Melinda—is his mother. The couple civilly divorced in 1945, although, as a Catholic, Josephine did not remarry until after Wayne's death. She also never stopped praying for her husband's conversion, a prayer which was answered in 1978.

'He was a great friend of the archbishop of Panama, Archbishop Tomas Clavel, and he kept encouraging him, and finally my granddaddy said, 'Okay, I'm ready.'

By the time of Wayne's request, however, Archbishop Clavel was too ill to make the journey to the film star's residence.

'So Archbishop Clavel called Archbishop McGrath,' Father Muñoz said, explaining that Archbishop McGrath was the successor to Archbishop Clavel in the Archdiocese of Panama.

'My mom and my uncle were there when he came. So there's no question about whether or not he was baptized. He wanted to become baptized and become Catholic,' Father Muñoz said. 'It was wonderful to see him come to the faith and to leave that witness for our whole family.'

Father Muñoz also said that his grandfather's expressed a degree of regret about not becoming a Catholic earlier in life, explaining 'that was one of the sentiments he expressed before he passed on, 'blaming' a busy life.'

Prior to his conversion Wayne's life was far from irreligious.

'From an early age he had a good sense of what was right and what is wrong. He was raised with a lot of Christian principles and kind of a 'Bible faith' that, I think, had a strong impact upon him,' said Father Muñoz, recalling that his grandfather often wrote handwritten notes to the Almighty.

'He wrote beautiful love letters to God, and they were prayers. And they were very childlike, and they were very simple but also very profound at the same time. Sometimes that simplicity was looked at as naivety, but there was a profound wisdom in his simplicity.'

Father Muñoz summed up the hierarchy of his grandfather's values as 'God coming first, then family, then country.' It's a triumvirate he sees repeatedly reflected in his grandfather's films. He believes those values are much needed in Hollywood today, and, if 'the Duke' were still here, he'd be leading the charge.

'My grandfather was a fighter. I think there would be a lot of things he'd be disappointed and saddened over. But I don't think he would lose hope. I think he would look at the current time as a moment of faith. People are in crisis, and they're looking for something more meaningful, more real,' Fr. Muñoz said.

'So I think he would look at the situation and say – don't get discouraged! I think he would say get involved. Don't go hiding in a shell and getting on the defensive from Hollywood. Get involved and be an agent for the good. I think he would do that. That's what he did in his time.'

John Wayne starred in over 100 movies. He had seven children. He died on 11 June 1979 due to stomach cancer.



Fr Matthew Muñoz

Article by David Kerr, Catholic News Agency,
www.catholicnewsagency.com

From page 2 FIRST DAY IN UNIFORM



Fr Kene Onwukwe

Fr Kene Onwukwe was commissioned as an Army Reserve Chaplain on 5 February 2018 along with **Fr Xiang (Andrew) Feng** of the Archdiocese of Sydney serving in the Parish of Greenacre..

Fr Kene is a priest of the Archdiocese of Sydney serving in the Parish of Revesby. He is posted in Reserve support to Holsworthy Barrack, Sydney. He appeared in uniform for the first time at Fr Brendan Quirk's

commissioning at Parramatta on 27 March this year. He cuts a good military figure!

Kene was born in Nigeria, commencing his seminary formation in 1998, and was ordained in Onitsha, Nigeria on 16 August 2003. He came to Australia in 2008, serving initially in the Parish of Launceston, Archdiocese of Hobart. In 2014 he moved to the Archdiocese of Sydney, serving at Meadowbank and now Revesby.

We welcome Fr Kene, along with Fr Xiang to the Military Diocese and look forward to their long and fruitful service in the Army Reserve.

The Diocese now has five Army Reserve priests in Sydney – Fr Bob Hayes, Fr Paul Ghanem ofm, Fr James McCarthy, Fr Kene Onwukwe and Fr Xiang Feng.



Honour roll of fallen Catholic soldiers to be reinstated in Bowen Hills' war memorial church

Two thousand Catholic soldiers from Queensland died during the First World War, but a Brisbane priest will ensure their names are never forgotten.

Fr Andrzej Kolaczowski is the parish priest of Our Lady of Victories Church, Bowen Hills, which was built in 1925 to honour Catholic soldiers and sailors who died in the war.

While planning a Mass to mark 100 years since the war, Fr Kolaczowski discovered the hidden stories of soldiers listed in an historic roll of honour that bears the names of nearly 2,000 Queensland Catholics who died fighting for Australia between 1914 and 1918.



Our Lady of Victories Church parish priest Fr Andrzej Kolaczowski with the historic roll of honour that bears the names of nearly 2000 Queensland Catholics who died fighting in the First World War.

'One of the soldiers listed on our roll of honour is Trooper John Joseph Kenny, a 22-year-old stockman from Charleville who enlisted with the 11th Light Horse Regiment in 1916 and, sadly, died on his first day of action in Gaza, Egypt, on April 19, 1917,' Fr Kolaczowski said.

'There are so many amazing stories of Catholics who served in World War I.'

This also included the parish's first priest Fr Edward Sarsfield Barry, a former army chaplain who served on the frontlines in France for three years from 1916.

'He was passionate about supporting returned servicemen and maintaining a Christian attitude to remembering the war, something to which we also aspire,' Fr Kolaczowski said.

The parish has also made contact with family members of the fallen soldiers, like Brian Matthews, the son of Private John Matthews who fought in the Battle of the Somme in France.

During the third day of the battle in France, Private Matthews' arm was shattered and permanently injured by flying bullets. He later returned to Australia, married and had a family.

'John's son recounted that his father's Catholic faith sustained him not only during the horrendous experience of war, but for the rest of his life,' Fr Kolaczowski said.

The parish will hold a memorial Mass for the 2,000 Queensland soldiers and reinstate the historic honour roll before a side altar in the church at 8am on April 22.

'To the best of our knowledge, the honour roll lists all Queensland Catholics who died in World War I and we hope many of their family members will be able to come and join with us in prayer,' Fr Kolaczowski said.

'While at the church, people can view stained-glass window designs inspired by the Australian Army's Rising Sun.

'We want to pray for the repose of their souls and to pray for all those, of any or no faith, who have served in any other war or peacetime period.'

Our Lady of Victories Church was the first church built in Bowen Hills. The foundation stone was laid on August 24, 1919 by the apostolic delegate Archbishop Bartolomeo Cattaneo 'to the Glory of God and in memory of the Catholic sailors and soldiers of Queensland who fought and died in the war.'

Fr Andrzej Kolaczowski inside his church, Our Lady of Victories Church in Bowen Hills. Every window in the church is fitted with a stained-glass inspired by the Australian Army's Rising Sun.



A large electronic blue cross, which can still be seen at night, was installed on the church's tower to commemorate the armed forces of the First World War.

Article and photos by Emilie Ng, The Catholic Leader, 2 April 2018. Reprinted with permission.

In the *Cross of Anzac* (Church Archivists' Press, 2001) Tom Johnstone records that 'Fr Edward Barry, who left Sydney on 17 May 1916, was to experience more front-line service on the Western Front than any other Australian Chaplain. From the time of his joining 19th Battalion of 5 Brigade on 9 Dec 1916 until he left 28th Battalion of 7th Brigade on 3 August 1918 he served continuously with an infantry battalion. Like many chaplains he probably wrote to the next of kin of every soldier he buried, many of whom he knew well. It could only have been emotionally draining.'

The Catholic Press Sydney 12 April 1917 reported that, 'Sergeant J B Hoban of Auburn and West Maitland died of wounds on December 25, having been wounded by a shell on Christmas Eve. His mother provided a copy of the letter received from the Catholic chaplain attached to his battalion: Dear Mrs Hoban—

I had intended writing to you before to sympathise with you on the recent death of your son. You, doubtless, have heard how it occurred. A shell burst in or near where he was and wounded him so severely that he died very soon afterwards, and was buried nearby. His grave is known and marked and as well looked after as possible. My particular desire is to let you know that once at least during the week before we went into the line that time he was at Confession and Communion. I am inclined to think that he went twice. At any rate he was certainly at the Sacraments a few days before he died. This I know is the greatest consolation a Catholic mother could have. I knew your boy when he was an instructor at Rolleston, and also here in France. Everybody liked him, and he had the admiration and respect of everybody. He seemed certain to get a commission before very long. I felt his death very much. Everybody unities with me in sending you sincere sympathy. I have not forgotten him at Mass and assure you of my prayers that God may be good to you in your trouble.

EDWARD BARRY
Catholic Chaplain 4th Brigade A.I.F.
Attached 19th Batt



Fr Barry (pictured) was born in Rockhampton in 1889. He was educated at the Christian Brothers Colleges at Ipswich and Nudgee and ordained at All Hallows' College, Dublin in 1913.

After the war he was a staunch champion of the 'digger' and an ardent advocate for peace. He was chairman of the Anzac Day Committee of the Catholic Church in Brisbane for many years, and personally supervised the religious commemoration and luncheon on that day. He died in 1956 at Bowen Heads