

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

This edition of 'Serving Faithfully' represents a very rich tapestry covering the recent activities and stories of our Chaplains, from one of its newest members to the coverage of the life and death of one of our fondest retired Chaplains, Monsignor Eugene Harley OAM, and former Principal Chaplain in Army. I would like to present a brief snapshot of other significant events in the life of our Diocese.

RECRUITING

Over the last twelve months significant effort, with outstanding results, has been put into the recruitment of Catholic Chaplains. The Military Diocese has endorsed twelve candidates for chaplaincies, who are in the various stages of recruitment or initial training. Four will commence full-time chaplaincy and eight are being recruited for part-time (Reserve) duty. There are four priests from the Archdiocese of Sydney, one from the Diocese of Wagga, four from religious congregations and two from the Eastern Rite Catholic Dioceses. We are also fortunate to have gained the service of a female chaplain who will be recruited as a Lay Pastoral Associate Chaplain.

In welcoming these new members, we are doubly blessed. Not only will each provide invaluable pastoral care to our Service members and families, but also each enriches our Diocese, adding to our number and bringing new life with their particular gifts in ministry. As the ADF diversifies and becomes more multi-cultural in its personnel make-up, these new chaplains will add to our diversity as a significant number were born overseas. We welcome them into our Diocese and thank the Lord for his generosity to us.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM CATHOLIC DIOCESES

Since May 2017, the Military Diocese has received significant financial support of over \$80,000 from various Dioceses around the country.

The Archdioceses of Brisbane, Perth, Sydney and Hobart, along with the Dioceses of Ballarat, Bathurst, Broken Bay, Darwin, Lismore, Parramatta, Sale, Sandhurst and Wagga Wagga have generously contributed to the running costs to be incurred by the Military Ordinariate in this new financial year.

The Australian Bishops recognise that the mission of the Military Ordinariate is primarily a national responsibility for the

broader Church in Australia. At a time when many Dioceses themselves are struggling financially, this financial support is very much appreciated in assisting us in maintaining our pastoral services.

PRAYERFUL SUPPORT FOR BISHOP MAX

It has been over three years now since Bishop Max Davis stepped aside from his active ministry as Bishop of our Diocese. While the charges of sexual abuse have been tested in the District Court of Western Australia with him being fully exonerated on all charges, a decision as to his resumption of duty as Bishop is ongoing due to civil requirements in regards to the re-establishment of his 'Working with Children Check' in NSW. It is hoped that this matter will be resolved in the not-too-distant future. Your continuing prayers are requested for the Bishop; he very much appreciates your support.

BISHOP MICHAEL MORRISSEY

Pope Francis has appointed Michael Morrissey as the Bishop of Geraldton; he was ordained bishop at Geraldton on 28 June 2017.

The Military Diocese claims Bishop Michael as one of our own! While he was born to a family in the vast Geraldton Diocese (the largest diocese in land size – more than one million square kilometres) and ordained in 1981, he has served as an Army Reserve Chaplain since 1983, retiring only in 2015—what you might say a long-term serving chaplain!

Bishop Michael recently stated: 'My thirty odd years in the Army Reserve I have really enjoyed and I think it has helped my ministry in the local Church of Geraldton.' In those years of Military Chaplaincy, Michael served within Western Australia; he was deployed to the Middle East and, more recently, he was the Senior Chaplain of the Army Reserve Second Division (2 DIV) coordinating chaplaincy services within the Division. In all this time he has displayed a marvellous pastoral commitment to chaplaincy and his people; his connectedness to Army life has been very significant.

The Military Diocese Congratulates Michael and will hold him close in prayer and thought as he begins his episcopal ministry. The challenges of being a Bishop today are immense and especially within such a wide-flung Diocese as Geraldton.

New Website The Catholic Military Ordinariate has a new website, which is updated regularly. It can be accessed at military.catholic.org.au

From here you will read the latest news, including this newsletter. Do explore the site—we welcome your feedback.

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 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
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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

Deacon Kevin O'Sullivan

Chaplain Kevin O'Sullivan was ordained Deacon on Wednesday 17 May 2017 at Christ the King Parish, Graceville in Brisbane.



Chaplain Kevin O'Sullivan

His journey towards military chaplaincy started early in Kevin's Air Force career when he contacted Bishop Geoffrey Mayne in 1990 about a vocation to the priesthood. Subsequently he met Denise and the couple were married in 1997. Meanwhile, he progressed through the ranks in his mustering as a Communications

Operator (CISCON). In the mid-nineties he was selected to undergo training in clinical counselling for employment in the ADF's Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Program at RAAF Base, Richmond. He achieved his Warrant and subsequently was posted to the Directorate of Personnel as a Personnel

Manager. When the Military Diocese introduced the Lay Pastoral Associate Program in 2007, Kevin applied to undertake the In-Service Training Scheme for ADF Chaplaincy and commenced training in 2008. The five years of civil schooling entailed completing a degree in Theology with two years of pastoral formation in a parish. In 2012 Kevin was appointed to the RAAF Chaplain Branch as a Lay Pastoral Associate Chaplain. Kevin spent four years as a chaplain at RAAF Base Amberley and earlier this year was posted to RAAF Tindal.

This has been a major year for Kevin with his posting to Tindal and ordination in May. On top of this he was deployed to the Middle East with Air Force in early July for a six-month deployment. Kevin has successfully transitioned from a very competent Airman to a highly-regarded Chaplain. God works in marvellous ways. Hopefully, Kevin's story will inspire many to discern a call to Catholic chaplaincy in the ADF.

An old Army chalice finds a new owner



Chaplain Paul Ghanem OFM

Chaplain Paul Ghanem OFM recently contributed to ForceNet, a Defence online publication. He has been parading for three months with 8 Signals Regiment, a Reserve unit of the 2nd Division. He said, 'Although the military language is still beyond me, I am slowly gaining in my confidence and the evenings pass quickly. I'm sure that the Specialist Service Officer (SSO) Course I'm panelled to attend in August will go a

long way to helping me better serve my Regiment.' The article reads:

Seventy-six years separates our Commissioning but, as if by design and not chance, Padre Brendan Rogers and my lives crossed paths. Brendan served in the Malaya campaign and became a POW at Changi; meanwhile I've yet to complete my SSO course.

In 2000, after being ordained as a Roman Catholic Priest in the Order of Friars Minor (commonly known as the 'Franciscans'), I found myself seated at every dinner with a grumpy, old ex-Padre, if for no other reason than that no one else sat next to him! I was interested in his story and where his life had taken him. There we sat, he at the end of his service and me at the start of mine. He astounded me when he gave me his Army-issued mass chalice (see picture). Although both of us are of the Franciscan Order, Brendan's stories and mine are worlds apart. I grew up as the fourth child of five to Lebanese migrants. My parents came from a small Maronite Christian village in northern Lebanon. I was born in Blacktown and grew up in Belmore, which means I've always been a Doggies supporter.

After graduating from university, I was a social worker treating drug and alcohol abuse before joining the Franciscans. I've worked in schools, youth and social service chaplaincies and as a parish assistant in Nazareth, Israel. My current job is as the Parish Priest of St Francis of Assisi, Paddington and St Joseph's Edgecliff.

Brendan died before I was commissioned. I like to think that I am following him in the line of Franciscans serving as military chaplains. I value the opportunity to provide pastoral care and practical support to you and the men and women who risk their lives in the service of our country.



VX39087 Chaplain John Brendan Rogers sailed for Singapore on Good Friday 1941 with the 2/2nd Convalescent Depot. He subsequently became a prisoner-of-war in Singapore and Kuching.

The Cross of Anzac by Tom Johnstone records several anecdotes about Chaplain Rogers. During the retirement of troops from positions near the Causeway linking Singapore and Malaya, Chaplain Rogers, near exhaustion, buried his

three-pound Altar Stone on which a Holy Mass could be celebrated on any makeshift altar. He regretted this when he reached a new position and wanted to return to recover the stone. The old location was now under Japanese fire. Reluctantly the CO gave permission provided one of the drivers *volunteered* to drive him. A Catholic driver did, and the stone was recovered.

At Bukit Timor in central Singapore a soldier discovered bodies outside the wire. Having learnt a little Japanese language, Chaplain Rogers spoke to the Japanese corporal in charge and was escorted to the site where six bodies were in a state of decomposition. With his bare hands he recovered the soldiers' identity discs and pay books, dug graves, buried the remains and conducted a funeral service. 'It was just like dealing with jelly', he said. Despite everything he could do, the smell of decomposition remained in his nostrils for months.

Between 1993 and 1995 Fr Rogers participated in ceremonies of dedication of war memorials in Brisbane, Sydney, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Maitland and Bendigo. There were erected in memory of those who died in the infamous Sandakan death march. Of the 1,787 Australian and 641 British POWs, the only survivors were six who escaped.

In the Australia Day Honours in 1999, Fr Rogers was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service to the community and to veterans and their families. Fr Rogers died on 27 May 2001 at age 87.

For a short video of Fr Rogers see:

tinyurl.com/fatherrogers



Chaplain Rogers eating bully beef on being transferred to the Hospital Ship Wangella

AWM 118501

Vale—Monsignor Eugene Harley OAM



Monsignor Eugene Harley died peacefully in his 87th year on Anzac Day this year in Sydney. The life of a remarkable man, celebrated at Sacred Heart Church Mosman, was attended by 40 clergy, including Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, Bishop David Cremin, current and former chaplains and the Military Ordinariate Vicar General, Mgr Peter O’Keefe AM. Among the congregation were the former Governor of NSW, Dame

Marie Bashir AD, CVO and many of Fr Eugene’s former military colleagues.

At the commencement of the Mass a message from the Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC was read in which he said that Father Gene showed wisdom, good humour and endless compassion and typified the best of the military chaplaincy – sleeves rolled up ministering to the troops of all ranks with such a deft touch. He was held in vast affection by all he encountered. The army was his parish — that parish will miss him and remember him.

This article draws mainly from eulogies given by Fr Eugene’s oldest nephew, Denis Harley, Brigadier David Webster AM, CSC and parishioner Paul McClintock AO.

Eugene Harley was born in April 1930 at Lithgow, the youngest of seven children who were left without a mother who died at age 38 when Eugene was only one year old. His mother’s dying wish was met with the children being kept together and Eugene being largely raised by three of his older sisters. He completed his school education at Parramatta Marist, and went on to priestly training at Springwood and Manly. He was ordained at St Mary’s Cathedral in July 1953. His early appointments were as Assistant Priest at Forest Lodge and at Cronulla. During this time he joined the Citizens Military Forces as a chaplain.

Between 1959 and 1966 he served as a regular Army chaplain in support of operations in Malaya and Borneo. In 1967 he was posted to Headquarters Australian Forces Vietnam and was detached to the Australian Logistic Support Group based in Vung Tau. On his return from Vietnam, he was posted to Canberra as Staff Chaplain to the Conference of Chaplains General for a period of three years. This experience resulted in his promotion to senior chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel equivalent). During the 1970s he served on the Headquarters of Northern Command, Field Force Command and Training Command. He was also involved in the reorganizing of the Royal Australian Army Chaplains Department.

Fr Eugene’s outstanding ability was recognised in his promotion in 1982 to Principal Chaplain (Brigadier equivalent). At that time he was also appointed a Prelate of Honour by Pope John Paul II. On reaching the age of 55 years Fr Eugene had to retire from Army Service.

Fr Eugene was seen by the soldiers as a man of great integrity and compassion. He provided comfort, counsel and reassurance to them in three different theatres of war. He had great empathy with all ranks regardless of beliefs and earned their respect by sharing their dangers and fears.

Major General Peter Phillips remembers that there were many anecdotes about Father Eugene. One that grew with the telling was that Chaplain Harley had led a company back to base when the OC, Stan Maizey, had been evacuated.

General Phillips first heard that it had occurred in Malaya or Borneo; then in later years soldiers were telling the same story but set in Vietnam. He recalled, ‘The truth of the matter is that it occurred on an exercise in the NSW Colo-Putty military training area when Gene was attached to Stan’s company. As there was no 2IC, Stan jokingly said that the chaplain would do. Perhaps for a lark, the exercise umpires declared Stan to be *hors de combat*, which is how Gene came to be seen leading Company headquarters as it marched back to base.’

On leaving full-time Army service, Fr Eugene enthusiastically embraced his new role as Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Mosman which, in 2002, was extended to include St Joseph’s Neutral Bay. He came to a Parish, which had little confidence or cohesion, with decaying infrastructure and lacking lay leadership. He built an active parish team from his curates and parishioners and presented them with a different view of church. The whole Sacred Heart church precinct was rebuilt, including a new school, McKillop Grange, and a hall to act as the centre of Catholic life.

During the celebrations of Fr Eugene’s golden jubilee of ordination in 2003, there was a surprise guest – former parishioner Mike Munro, of the TV program ‘This is your life’, who appeared with his famous red book to host ‘The Fr Eugene Story’.

On retirement to Lesser Duties in March 2004, Fr Eugene continued his links with Sacred Heart Parish as Pastor Emeritus. He also continued to minister to his old Army mates and conducted several retreats that included Major Generals Ron Grey, Peter Phillips and Barry Hockney.

Fr Eugene’s contributions were widely recognised: he was proclaimed Mosman Citizen of the Year in 2004. In 2014 the 2nd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association appointed Fr Eugene as the ‘2 RAR Association Padre’. In 2015 he was presented with the 2 RAR Association Silver Soldier Award in recognition of his dedication and sustained contribution to 2 RAR and the Association over a period of five decades. In the Australia Day honours in 2015 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the Catholic Church in Australia.

Fr Eugene devoted his life to the service of others. In doing so he encouraged and assisted people to realise their full potential and take their place as responsible citizens in both the faith communities where he has worked and the community in general. In carrying out his assigned duties, be they in the Army or in the Mosman community, he did so with great vision, dedication and enthusiasm and left each post in a far better condition than it was when he took it over.

Fr Eugene was a man of extremely deep but not blind Catholic faith. For him faith led naturally to an infectious love of life, an openness and an immense and luminous concern for others. He served God by loving greatly his fellow human beings. His graciousness, wisdom, his open heart and completely nonjudgmental outlook brought out the best in all those he met. He was a man who had no disguises, pretensions or self-importance – a man utterly true to himself.

A video of the funeral service is available at tinyurl.com/fathereugene



58/59th Australian Infantry Battalion and Father James Lynch MID

[Brigadier Alan Hodges AM (Ret'd)]



Father James Lynch

As a teenager I moved with my family to the Melbourne bay-side suburb of Mordialloc and so became a parishioner of St Brigid's Church, where Mass was celebrated in a church hall. The parish priest was Fr James Columbus English, who was born in Tipperary, Ireland in July 1913 and ordained in 1936.

The National Archives records the place of enlistment of Fr English in the Australian Army as 'In the field'. After service in the South West Pacific during Second World War, Fr English returned to Australia on Anzac Day 1945 and became chaplain at Heidelberg Military Hospital where he remained for two years. He was appointed parish priest of St Brigid's in 1949. On arrival in the parish, Fr English set about the process of building a permanent church. This he achieved, with the church being blessed by Archbishop Mannix in October 1956, for which I was privileged to be in the congregation.

A prominent feature at the entrance to the church are three large stained glass windows, one of which is a war memorial dedicated to the members of the 58/59th Australian Infantry Battalion who died during World War 2 in New Guinea and the Northern Solomons. This window is indeed an unusual feature in a Catholic church, but the reason subsequently became obvious to me when I realised that Father English had been a chaplain with the battalion.



Window dedicated to deceased members of the 58/59th Battalion

The background to the memorial window is recorded in the Victorian Heritage Database: 'When the 58/59th Battalion Association heard that their former Chaplain, Father JC (Jim) English, was building a new church at Mordialloc, they asked if a memorial to honour their comrades could be included. The 17 x 14 foot memorial in stained glass was installed on the Epistle side of the west wall. St. Michael was the subject of the window, a reference to the fight of good over evil, and with

direct references to the battalion's action in New Guinea in 1943. The *Advocate* newspaper report noted that contributions to the window came from members of the association 'regardless of creed'. The main figure in the window is St. Michael but the image of a line of footslogging soldiers in profile as they climb the mountain ridges of New Guinea is equally compelling as background to the figure of the saint. Names of the Battalion's principal battles are written



into the glass as well as their colour patch among the symbols of the Christian faith.

The 58th and the 59th Battalions were training at Seymour in Victoria when Japan entered the Second World War in December 1941. The following August the battalions were merged to form the 58/59th Infantry Battalion.

As part of the 15th Brigade of the 3rd Division, the battalion arrived in New Guinea in 1943 at Shrapnel Valley, near Port Moresby. The unit was deployed to the Lae-Salamaua front, where it took up position on Bobdubi Ridge, which it attacked on 30 June. Despite the fierce



Photos showing details of the window. The motto 'Nulli Cedere' can be translated as 'Do Not Yield'

Japanese machine gun defence, the battalion captured the Old Vickers position after two days and so opened the way to Salamaua, which was captured on 1 September. This was followed by the fall of Lae on 16 September. After 77 days of continuous contact with the Japanese, the battalion was rested in the Port Moresby area.

The 15th Brigade was then attached to the 7th Division for a campaign in the Markham and Ramu Valleys for the successful advance on Madang, which was reached in April 1944. In August, after 16 months active service, the brigade deployed to the Atherton Tablelands for rest and recuperation. During the PNG deployment, the brigade could proudly claim that it had marched over more ground than any other allied formation.

The brigade rejoined the 3rd Division In April 1945 and was deployed to Bougainville, where it continued an advance to Buin, in what became known as the 'battle of the rivers'. By the end of June, it reached Mivo River, where it was relieved by the 29th Brigade. Following the end of the war, the men of the 58/59th Battalion were discharged or transferred until the battalion was disbanded on 23 February 1946. The Commonwealth of Australia Gazette of 19 July 1945 lists the award of Mentioned in Dispatches to Fr English.

The Victorian Heritage Database describes the actions of Fr English, 'In order to minister to the men as well as bury the casualties, Fr. Jim English often walked several hours from company to company, sometimes with the Anglican chaplain but more often alone, along tracks in the jungle crossed by the Japanese.'

'Of the four battalions that fought throughout the battles of the ridges around Mount Tambu, the 58/59th Battalion suffered the heaviest casualties. Fr English had the heart-rending task of burying many of the men he knew well, and loved as spiritual sons.

'(Fellow chaplain) Fr Morgan can be readily understood when he said: "Fr English was mentally tired, he had been in action continuously for several months, never meeting another priest."

A further anecdote: '... here's Fr Jim ambling along the track, on his own, with a stick. I said to him: "What the hell are you doing here?" And he said I'm going around to A company. I haven't been round there for a couple of days ... he was on the short track and the only ones who went through there were fighting patrols because the Japs were crossing it ... and there he was, on his own.'

Fr Con Reis who knew Fr English very well, spoke warmly about him: 'Jim served with the 58/59th Battalion, and they loved him, they just had to. He was his own man, and he did his own thing. If ever there was a non-warlike, peaceful guy I think it was Jim English: and yet he settled down to that dreadful business, war, and did a great job as military chaplain.'

Tom Johnstone also records another side of Fr English. He noted that stories about Fr English abounded in 15th Brigade. One related to Rev Pederick (OPD) being wounded in the backside during the operation to capture Bobdubi Ridge and the reporting of the casualty to Captain Tom Molomby, Staff Captain 'A' at Brigade Headquarters:

'Father Jim: Padre Pederick has been wounded.

'Tom Molomby: What happened?

'Father Jim: I tell you he was evacuated – got shot through the buttocks.

'A Tipperary brogue, on a bad telephone link, made the noun sound like "booticks" and created confusion in the mind of the recipient, who fifty-five years later wrote:

'Asked again or even again what had occurred, he replied somewhat testily "he was shot in the arse" to which he received my reply "why didn't you say that the first time?" '

Father Jim English had served his parish for 37 years when he died in 1986. The funeral was a fitting tribute: former soldiers, including some from Queensland, attended; the Army provided a drummer, with muffled drum, for the slow march; the Last Post was played by a Salvation Army bugler; and a police motorcycle escort was provided for the cortege.

Russell Mathews, Author of *Militia Battalion At War*:



Taking Old Vickers Position, Bobdubi Ridge, 28 July 1943
Oil on canvas, Ivor Hele, 1960 Australian War Memorial ART27543

the History of the 58/59th Battalion in the Second World War concludes the book with a reflection on the battalion's experiences:

'Perhaps the one enduring thing that came out of the war was an inspiring sense of comradeship on the part of those who had fought together, sometimes under great pressure and



During the advance on Salamaua, Sgt Gordon Ayre MM, a 58/59th Battalion bandsman in pouring rain assists Pte William Johnson to an Advanced Regimental Aid Post. This is one of the iconic images of the WW2—a still from the newsreel 'Assault on Salamaua'. Damien Parer. AWM 127971

hardship but always cheerfully and with a sense of responsibility toward their mates.

'This comradeship is a difficult thing to describe in words, but its quality will never be forgotten by anyone who was a member of an infantry unit such as the 58/59th Battalion. There was a sense of dedication, not so much to a cause or country as to the other members of one's unit; to those who shared the risks and horrors of war and who in many cases sacrificed life itself ... It was the comradeship of the force itself that sustained the men through their series of trials ... one was constantly aware both of the support being received from one's comrades and of the sense of trust this inspired in return.

'An infantry soldier couldn't let down his mates ... the bonds forged in battle can never be broken and the privations suffered during the struggle will be forgotten long before the pride of belonging to a great fighting unit such as the 58/59th Battalion.'

Fr English was a remarkable person as a priest in his parish and as a chaplain. I very much regret that I did not know of his admirable chaplaincy service before I left his parish to become a cadet at the Royal Military College, Duntroon.



Service before Action

This pen and ink drawing by Sir William Dargie is in the 1944 Australian War Memorial book, 'Jungle Warfare: with the Australian Army in the south-west Pacific' page 107. This is the fourth book in the series of the Australian Army in WW2. The authors of the stories and art in the book are identified only by service number, in this case VX93433.

In the 'Cross of Anzac' the author Tom Johnstone records a conversation with Sir William Dargie in April 1997: 'Sir William acknowledged that he was the artist VX93433 and explained how he had been deeply impressed by the scene—men praying devotedly with the chaplain holding his hand upright before them, possibly in the act of giving general absolution. The priest of course was Father English.'

2017 Anzac Day Ceremonies in France

Anzac Day was commemorated in France this year with a number of ceremonies:

Dawn Service

The day commenced with the traditional Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Australian National Memorial, just outside of the town of Villers-Bretonneux. Many of us joined the service from afar during its 60-minute live broadcast.

The Master of Ceremonies was Major General Dave Chalmers AO CSC of the Commemorations and War Graves Division, Department of Veterans' Affairs. The *Call to Remembrance* was given by Air Marshal Leo Davies, AO, CSC, Chief of Air Force, and a commemorative address was delivered by the Honourable Dan Tehan, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel. The Minister laid a wreath on behalf of the Government of Australia, alongside a French Government representative. Warrant Officer of the Air



Mgr Glynn Murphy OAM
leading prayers at Anzac Day
ceremonies in France

Force, Warrant Officer Robert Swanwick, recited *The Ode* and also laid a wreath on behalf of all veterans at the Dawn Service. Australian Defence Force personnel from Australia's Federation Guard and Army provided ceremonial and musical support for this service. Director General Chaplaincy Australian Army, Mgr Glynn Murphy OAM, concluded the sombre and moving service with prayers and final blessing:

Dawn Service Prayer of Remembrance

In this quiet, sombre and beautiful place we pause at this dawn to reflect and to remember before you, Eternal God, the tragedy of the battles that occurred around this sacred memorial.

Australian troops were far from home, protecting the lives and liberties of innocent people in peril. As we recall their legacy of devotion to duty and of sacrifice for the security and welfare of others, make us, we pray, a people zealous for peace.

May we have the grace to seek a spirit of justice, generosity and peacefulness for all people, thus reflecting your will in our world.
I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Dawn Service Prayer for Peace

God of the nations, you are the one who reminds us that:

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.'

Have mercy on our broken and divided world.

May we always be ambassadors of a lasting and just peace, that all people may learn to live together as members of one family of humanity.

I pray this in the name of the one who died to bring peace, Jesus the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Dawn Service Final Blessing

As we depart this sacred place of remembrance, especially of those Australians who have given their lives for the sake of others, may we go forth as a people who embrace life, hope and light; holding fast to all that is good, and seeking such blessing in the lives of others. May we truly know the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always, Amen

Villers-Bretonneux Town Service

In Villers-Bretonneux a French service was conducted by the local French Authorities supported by the French military. The ADF provided ceremonial and musical support to the ceremony. This was a simple, but equally moving ceremony, without speeches, but included national anthems, wreath laying, recital of *The Ode* and the *Sonnerie aux Morts*, the French version of the Last Post. Soldiers from Australia's Federation Guard and a French detachment lined the entrance to the Memorial.

Bullecourt Town Service

In the afternoon, local French Authorities supported by the French military ran a service at Bullecourt with ceremonial and musical support provided by the ADF.

Australian Service at the 'Digger' Memorial

The final ceremony, held at the 'Digger' Memorial, was well attended by representatives of French Ex-Service Organisations and the French military. Young Australians and several children from Bullecourt read *In Flanders Field*.

Mgr Murphy concluded the service with a

Prayer of Remembrance

We remember today, Lord God, all those who have died in this place and in the tragedy of war throughout our world.

Remembering the conflicts of the past and the sacrifices which were made, we pray for our world, where war is still a grim reality.

Lord of life eternal, as we remember those who offered up their lives for the freedom of others, help us to renew our resolve against cruelty and injustice, against prejudice, tyranny and all types of oppression.

Still we cry out to you in the darkness of our divided world. Through the tireless efforts of good people everywhere, may light shine where there is darkness.

May we, and all people, have the grace to live in a spirit of justice, of generosity, and of peace, I pray this in the name of the light you sent into the world, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Rededication of the grave of Lance Corporal Taylor

Following the Dawn Service a grave, which had previously had a headstone inscribed 'An Australian Soldier of the Great War' was rededicated. As a result of painstaking research by the [Fallen Diggers Association](#), the grave was identified as that of Lance Corporal Vivian George Taylor, who had enlisted in July 1915 from Healesville, Victoria, and served in Egypt and France with the 23rd Battalion. He was wounded in action in Pozieres and killed in action near Le Hamel on 5 July 1918.

Mgr Murphy led a prayer for Lance Corporal Taylor:

Today we name and honour the memory of Lance Corporal Vivien George Taylor, whose mortal remains give testimony to his devotion to duty and to his ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country and to the people of France whom he sought to defend. He was lost, loved and never forgotten.



Ex Balikatan

For 33 years the Philippine and US forces have conducted joint exercises under the name of Ex Balikatan (a Tagalog word meaning shoulder-to-shoulder). Several thousand Filipino and US Forces were involved in May this year, including participants from eight other countries. This is the third year that Australia has joined the exercise series. Our contingent of 86 included a 30-strong Special Forces element from the 2nd Commando Regiment, an RAAF AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft and crew and supporting maintenance personnel drawn from 92 Wing.

The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability and the security relationship between these armed forces with a focus on humanitarian assistance, disaster response, and counter-terrorism. It was conducted in multiple locations in Luzon Island and the Visayas region in central Philippines. The ADF team also assisted in the refurbishment of a school and provided specialist dental mentoring to Armed Forces of the Philippines dental personnel.



Chaplain Vergara with Philippine Air Force members and civilian contractors after Sunday Mass at Haribon Hangar, Air Force City, Pampang

Chaplain Joel Vergara from the 2nd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) was deployed to fill a critical shortage of available Catholic priests providing religious support to US military contingents.

As Catholicism is the dominant religion in the Philippines, Chaplain Vergara was able to embrace and engage well with the community. He received very warm hospitality and friendship from the local priests, US and Filipino military commanders and civilians throughout the exercise.

Chaplain Vergara celebrated Mass for US and Philippine military members and civilians at Our Lady of Loreto Chapel in Basa Air Base, Our Lady of Remedies Chapel in Clark Air Base and Haribon Hangar at Air Force City across Pampanga. On one occasion, after Mass at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, a US Army member commented that receiving the Eucharist was one of the highlights of his experience during the exercise.



Chaplain Vergara (left of centre), US Chaplain Abram Staten (on his right) and next to him is Philippine Air Force Chaplain Melchor Torayno at Fort Magsaysay, Northern Philippines during a break from a Philippine-US training exercise.

Chaplain Vergara said that he felt privileged to celebrate Mass to deployed military members who were deprived of sacraments due to lack of priests. As he grew up in the Philippines and speaks Filipino he was able to do language translations during community-relationship engagement and other activities.

Chaplain Vergara is on a video clip of the exercise at tinyurl.com/balikatan2017

In 1994 at the age of 16 the young Joel Vergara entered the Immaculate Conception Major Seminary in Bulacan, Philippines. He recalled, 'One of the reasons I entered the seminary was just to hang around with my mates in high school who felt that God was calling them to be priests, although at that time I really wanted to join the military. I was aspiring to wear a service uniform like my father who served in the Armed Forces of the Philippines for more than 30 years.'

'I found that living in the seminary was a great privilege and it was indeed filled with many happy memories. We played basketball in the seminary every day – arguably the second religion in the Philippines! After five years, I felt I needed to take a break and seriously discern about my vocation.'

Following a visit to relatives in Australia in 1999, he subsequently came back in 2001 and then continued his seminary formation at Corpus Christi College, Melbourne. Father Vergara was ordained as a priest for the Archdiocese of Melbourne in September 2006. He served in a number of parishes but still felt the desire to do something different and more challenging. Fr Vergara enlisted in the Australian Army in January 2011. He said, 'My transition into the Army Chaplaincy has not only fulfilled my childhood dream - to wear a "uniform" like my father - but also it has given me the privilege to serve as A Catholic priest in the military.'

'For me, to be a military chaplain is to respond to a "vocation" within a vocation - to serve the men and women who are called to serve our nation, wherever they may be, at any given time, without counting the cost. Although wearing an officer's rank as chaplain is unavoidable, building a relationship across the ranks is central to the chaplain's call.'

'Like Jesus, who during his ministry reached out to people across all levels of society, a chaplain is called to build a relationship more than anything else - to be always present and available for a relationship is at the forefront of the chaplaincy ministry.'



Chaplain Vergara and US and Philippine service members with children from the indigenous community during a community-relations event.

Ministering to the invisible wounds of service

[Words and image Fiona Basile, Melbourne Catholic]



Mgr Stuart Hall

For 22 years, Mgr Stuart Hall has been Chaplain for the Royal Australian Navy, serving in some of the most dangerous conflict zones around the world. In this time, he has provided a listening ear and counsel to thousands of men and women who serve in our defence forces, as well as ministering the sacraments. While recently commencing his position as parish priest at Holy Eucharist and St Mary Immaculate Church

in East Malvern, he remains in the role of Reserve Principal Chaplain (Catholic) for the Navy Reserves.

Mgr Hall, 54, didn't commence his priestly ministry thinking he'd be a chaplain to the Australian Defence Force ... He entered the seminary in 1980 and was ordained in 1987. He spent three years at St Therese's, Essendon, one year in Frankston at St Francis Xavier parish, and just over two years at Sacred Heart parish, Preston. While working at these parishes he was asked to become a Reserve Chaplain to the recruits in the Melbourne Port division. He did this for three years before putting his hand up to volunteer full-time for Defence. At the time he thought he'd give it four to five years. Before he knew it, 22 years had passed.

'I was chaplain primarily to the Navy, but we can care for any Australian Defence Force member,' he said. 'For instance, HMAS Cerberus in Western Port is predominantly a Navy establishment, but there are Army and Air Force people being trained there as well.

'Chaplaincy is about looking after our men and women in uniform-pastorally and sacramentally – especially at the training establishments where a lot of them are young and have moved out of their familiar territory – their home, their state. They're under pressure; they're under the stress of training and military expectation, marching and saluting and being held to the disciplined lifestyle.

'It's about walking alongside people and allowing them to talk about what's happening in their life, especially if they're not coping well. It's being a friendly, independent ear and listening to them. You're not making any judgments about them. You're giving them advice when needed. And for the Catholics, at least they're familiar with the role of the priest and something of the Church, so for them having a chaplain is something that's familiar when other things around them aren't so familiar.'

At sea, the role is similar, but it also extends to giving advice and recommendations to the commanding officers. 'Many chaplains don't have a military background so we come with different perspectives and life experiences. For command it's often that independent and different perspective that helps them make decisions when particular issues come across their desk.' Like any defence force personnel, Mgr Hall has been posted in various locations around Australia and the world, serving for varying lengths of time. On land, he has been posted to defence establishments in Perth, Cairns, Sydney, Cerberus and Canberra. At sea he's been posted on naval ships in Dubai and Bahrain in the Persian Gulf, in New Zealand, Noumea and the Pacific Islands, Thailand and other neighbours to the north of Australia.

Among his most memorable moments was time spent in East Timor from December 1999 to January 2000 and again in 2002. During the latter visit, he spent six months working with the Australian Defence Force headquarters and United Nations. He was the only military chaplain in Dili at the time. 'I really enjoyed the experience of working with multi-nationals

and their expectations, trying to understand their cultures and their ways of doing business as military people, and also working with the East Timorese as they tried to establish their lives following independence.

'I also had a lot to do with the Salesian Sisters up there. All the young people wanted to learn English, so I was able to get some Australian Defence Force members on a Saturday morning to go out to the Sisters' Convent School to teach English with small groups. That was really good, particularly for the soldiers and sailors, that they could do something and contribute something other than soldiering. It was a simple gift we could offer, but they were so grateful. There were also a few soldiers and Defence people who were electricians, so they could help out by changing a light bulb or some circuitry, which is only small for us, but which made a big difference to the people.'

Life as a chaplain, however, was also very challenging and scary, explained Mgr Hall. 'I was on HMAS Anzac in the Persian Gulf when the Twin Towers went down. We had been up there doing smuggling duties – boarding oil ships to stop them smuggling oil out of the area. We were on our way out of Bahrain, coming back to Australia when the Towers went down. Suddenly we were heading back up to assist in the air operation for a couple of months until we got relieved.

'Up to that stage we didn't have satellite TV but after the Towers went down, all of a sudden we had satellite TV, so we were constantly watching and wondering what was going to happen. We knew there was an American battle cruiser coming in this [Persian Gulf] direction, knowing that certain other ships go along with that battle cruiser plus what's under the water. Everyone knew it was serious and that the Americans weren't going to put up with this, but we just didn't know how they'd respond. That was the question and then whether we were going to be in the midst of all that-struggling with that caused a lot of anxiety. That was really scary.'

Mgr Hall said it was during times like this that having a chaplain on board proved particularly useful. 'You're there with the crew, experiencing the same things, the same feelings of anxiety and stress, but you can offer a comforting word or a listening ear. Perhaps too we were able show compassion and understanding in situations where command was not in a position to do so.'

Following his years of service as a chaplain, Mgr Hall said he has a deeper understanding of the significance of Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. 'The significance is about the cost that war and conflict in war has on individuals and then collectively as a society. The cost is often unseen. It's the invisible wounds that people come home with as they try to adjust to their lives and find a balance that acknowledges what they have seen or what they've done, while acknowledging that they're now in a different circumstance.

'When you think of veterans, you think of old men, but I'm a veteran and you've got 21-year-olds who are veterans. They've gone to Afghanistan or Iraq, or to the Persian Gulf on ships, they've come back from war zones. It's a different war than what we see on TV-the Second World War, Vietnam and Korea-but it's still a war. The body bags aren't coming back but what they've seen, what they're having to do is just as traumatic and probably more traumatic because it's a more invisible enemy.

'So Anzac Day is about recognising our veterans and their unseen wounds. The country is saying we acknowledge your service and the cost this service has had on you and your family and we thank you for your service.'

(Reprinted with permission from the April 2017 edition of *Melbourne Catholic*)

STAMP

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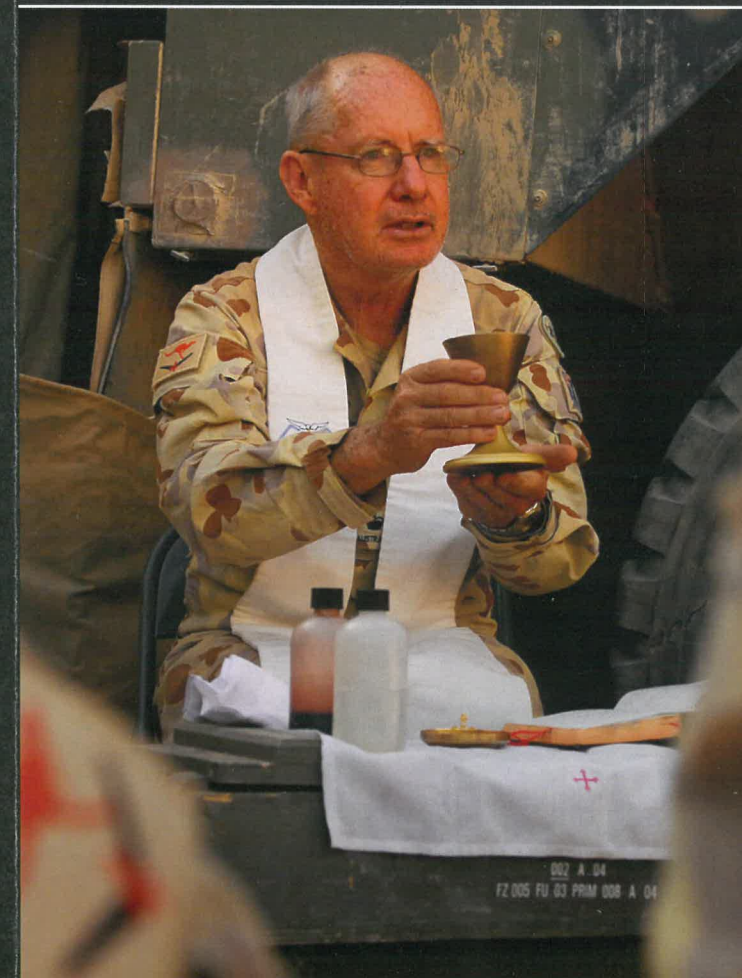
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- Training of priests and deacons for the Diocese.
- Training of Catholic Representatives (officially recognized lay leaders) for deployable units of the ADF
- Support for women's programs and the work of the Episcopal Deputy for Women.
- Vocations outreach and publications.
- Diocesan programs, retreats and assemblies.
- Lay formation and spirituality courses
- Ensuring necessary organizational support for priests, deacons and lay staff working in the field delivering services to ADF members.

*Help keep the Faith
in the Forces*



THE ARMED SERVICES CATHOLIC DIOCESAN REVENUE FUND



www.military.catholic.org.au

THE ARMED SERVICES CATHOLIC DIOCESAN REVENUE FUND

Unlike other Australian Catholic dioceses, the work of the Catholic Diocese of the ADF is funded in the main by a levy on chaplains. While some bequests are held in trust and the income applied to its work. Now however, the Diocese must now look to new sources of revenue.

Given the reduced number of chaplains and the need to train some clergy within the Diocese as well as fund lay formation and other programs, greater reliance must now be placed on donations and bequests.

To assist the Bishop and meet the Diocese's budget, the Diocesan Finance Council has launched this appeal to complement the Diocese's Strategic Plan.

This appeal is directed to Catholic servicemen and women and former members of the Australian Defence Force who know how important it is to have the Diocese provide pastoral care.

HELP KEEP THE FAITH IN THE FORCES

In these tough times on a range of fronts, Christian faith in the Navy, Army and RAAF and Chaplain support services are more vital than ever. One hundred years ago in World War One, 414 Chaplains of all faiths stepped up and served in the AIF; today a much smaller number of Chaplains are carrying a huge burden from the Sinai to Sydney and beyond. The Diocese needs our help and support. Please consider this request,

Tim Fischer AC

For more information visit the Diocese's website on:

www.military.catholic.org.au

or phone: (02) 62480511

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