

For those
who nurtured
our faith

PRIESTS'
RETIREMENT
FOUNDATION

NEWS

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A Retired Priest in Action

Ask many a retired person and they often will answer that they're so busy now that they don't know how they ever managed to find time for their former working lives. When the same question is put to a retired priest, he just may confirm that his move to what is called "Lesser Duties" is a long way from having shelved the blessings of his ministry.

Monsignor Kerry Bayada is a good example of one who remains active in serving people of faith through ministering to those around him at the Catholic seniors' village where he now resides. He also helps to address



The highly respected and cherished Monsignor Kerry Bayada.

the spiritual needs of families that he came to know through his former role as a Parish Priest.

Aged 83, Mgr Kerry was never keen on counting down to retirement. He actively addressed the faith community of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Caringbah, for three decades before he moved on just three years ago.

He was highly respected and popular there, and in his current location at a seniors' village, fellow resident Sr Eymard LCM said: "Everybody here loves him".

Sr Eymard has every right to claim the wisdom of good judgement given that she's 104 years old and has happily resided in the village for 16 years.

Mgr Kerry celebrates at least three Masses each week, other services such as funerals, as required in and outside the village. He occasionally administers the Sacraments of Confirmation and Confession, "The most satisfying part of my ministry is being involved with the people of this community".

"People need to be with people," according to Mgr Kerry. Those without close friends or relatives, as they approach the end of their earthly lives, sincerely appreciate visits from him, staff members and their fellow residents.

Brian is a village resident of three years and says his stay has "brought back memories". He was a former Chairman of a hospital on that site which had closed just one year short of celebrating its centenary. He lost his wife earlier this year but he continues to enjoy the company of other residents including Sr Eymard – and especially the guidance provided by Mgr Kerry.

It could be said that those who are around him have become something of a family for this Monsignor.

Other priests at times give support to his work which then can provide opportunities for him to rest and even

take short holidays that he loves.

There's quite a distance between the retirement village and the former parish but Mgr Kerry continues to assist in meeting the needs of people like Kay Cook, who remembers Monsignor's time at the parish by saying: *"He's married two generations and baptised 3 generations"*.

Kay and her husband Howard rolled out the welcome mat at their home recently and were joined by another married couple, John and Kathy who are the parents of eight children and have a deep appreciation of their family's on-going involvement with Mgr Kerry.

Kathy said, *"He's like a part of our family and will go anywhere to offer assistance"*. Her husband John added, *"He continues to be gentle and welcoming and is always open to anyone who has a problem. It's almost a case of 'have Bible, will travel'"*.

John summed it up by saying: *"This priest seems to have plenty to do in regard to his reduced or 'Lesser Duties'"*.

"He's always been there through thick and thin. Even with the pressures of his ministry at the retirement village, he can still look after our needs and joins us at times," according to Kay, who was a long-term member of the Caringbah Parish Finance Committee.

"I don't think I would have become a Catholic without

him," she says and reflects that he had ministered to her Protestant mother who had come to love him, and upon Kay's conversion was proud to tell her: *"They've got you at last"*.

Considering the strong positive comments that were made about his continuing work in retirement, Mgr Kerry Bayada said he found the observations: *"Very humbling."*



Mgr Kerry spending time with long-time parishioners John, Kay, Howard and Kathy

"Jesus had reached out to people during his life on earth and I am trying to do just that," he said – and those who are being enriched by the blessings of Mgr Kerry's continuing ministry remain most grateful.

Priests that have helped you and those before you.



The **Priests' Retirement Foundation** was established to ensure all priests can receive the accommodation, health care and support they need in their retirement. Leaving a Gift in your Will to the Priests' Retirement Foundation means leaving a long-lasting impact on the lives of the priests who prayed for you, served your community and administered Sacraments for you.

Speak to your loved ones about including Priests' Retirement Foundation in your Will, they're just like family, after all.

Contact us for more information or a confidential discussion on **1800 753 959** or bequests@sydneycatholic.org

Paul remembers his Parish Priest

Mr Paul Pinel, a generous donor of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, was recently interviewed for this newsletter. He shares his family's struggle during the depression, his coming to love St Mary's Cathedral and the appreciation for a retired priest, now a close friend (but wasn't always). Staff from the Development and Fundraising Office presented Mr Pinel with a tile from the Cathedral as a token of our appreciation – see images below. We hope you enjoy his story.

My full name is Paul Michael Pinel.

I was born in 1935, my parents lived through the depression. They lived in a room in Newtown, and I was born. Dad was out of work, Mum was out of work, and the only food we had was from the Good Samaritan Nuns from around the street with their big buckets of soup.

After some years, we found that I had malnutrition, and the nuns took me in to their convent and entered me into their school for poor boys in Richmond.

In 1945, Dad rented this house. It was an old workman's cottage, with all brown walls. I slept on the floor and Mum and Dad had a mattress. Dad would receive some banana cases from the Italians, and we had a little round table, and that was all we had.

Everyone was poor in those days.

Dad, from his French background, started a butcher shop in Redfern and started to sell horse meat. Horse meat was not generally accepted by the public. Dad sold it for dog's meat, and the first week's taking was thruppence. By the end of the following week, we had

people queuing up everywhere. Our second week's takings was 600 pounds. Mum and Dad worked their butts off and I was down there too. I wrapped the meat in newspaper. We all worked very hard, and were able to pay this house off which was 3,000 pounds.

“He's retired now, he's 80, and he comes and brings me communion every Sunday morning. I'm very grateful and I'm very blessed”.

A few years later, Mum and Dad's health gave out, so we moved to a little country town called Manildra. I went to a little bush school there where one of the nuns taught music, that's when I started learning the piano. Those were lovely Sisters –there were only two teaching the classroom, and they were the loveliest ladies.

Music is certainly one of the things that has sustained me in my faith. I had an aunt, my mother's sister, who I had nursed her for three or four years. She



lived around the corner on one of my properties. She passed away, and on the Tuesday she was to be buried and our parish priest came here and said “I hear you want to have a funeral in our Church today? Well, I had a funeral this morning.”

I said, “Father, I don’t know your itinerary! So can we bury her there or not?”, and he just didn’t answer me. Now I started to get upset and worked up, before he calmed me down and finally said yes to the funeral. When I asked to play the organ during the Mass, he again reluctantly agreed. This was becoming both saddening and frustrating. During the funeral Mass, Father had made a less than flattering remark about my aunt. I was completely taken aback – I knew she would prepare a lovely roast for him every Monday. It was not long after this episode when I decided to stop attending Mass and going to Church.

About a month and a half later, we had a lovely priest, Father Bush, who came over and said “I believe you had

Well, I didn’t go to Mass for two years, and then one day the doorbell goes, and who should be there, Fr John. He said, “I think I may have upset you”.

“Big time John, you’ll never know.”

“For that I beg your forgiveness, I am so terribly sorry.”

“Well, I hope you accept my apology for being such a big headed person. I was just so angry”.

“Well let’s try and see if we can give each other a hug and kiss of peace”. After that, I returned to Mass.

“He’s retired now, he’s 80, and he comes and brings me communion every Sunday morning. I’m very grateful and I’m very blessed”.

Paul Pinel, a generous supporter of St Mary’s Cathedral, said he felt very emotional when seeing the framed tile from the Cathedral’s roof. Having had a fond place in his heart for the Cathedral since he was a young boy, receiving this piece of history was a special moment. Thank you Paul for your ongoing support!



a bit of a fight with our Father John. Let’s resolve that, you come on back to Mass”. I said, “Father, if I can’t do it for God, I won’t do it for you. I’m too angry”, and he burst into tears, and so did I.

Would you like to share your story?

If you would like to share your testimony about supporting The Priests’ Retirement Foundation, please get in touch using the contact details below.

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