Stories of Hope

Recalling 150 Years of the Catholic Church in Queensland

A Text for Primary Schools

Maurice Ryan
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LUMINO PRESS
This text was commissioned by Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Brisbane to commemorate the 150 years celebrations of the Church.

Teaching Challenging Transforming

First published in Australia in 2009 by

LUMINO PRESS
PO Box 1024
Hamilton QLD 4007
publisher@luminopress.com.au

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Archdiocese of Brisbane 2009

Imprimatur  Most Rev JA Bathersby DD STD
Nihil Obstat  Rev Dr David Pascoe


Maurice Ryan, *Stories of Hope: Recalling 150 Years of the Catholic Church in Queensland*

Dr Maurice Ryan is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Religious Education, Australian Catholic University, McAuley Campus in Brisbane.

Typeset in Candara 12/16
Cover design: Phoebe Browning
Printed by Worldwide Online Printing - Hamilton, Qld

An entry in the National Library of Australia
cataloguing-in-publication data is available for this title.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following people provided support to this project. Their assistance is gratefully acknowledged:

Damien F Brennan, Director Religious Education and Curriculum Services, Brisbane Catholic Education.

Mark Elliott, Principal Education Officer, Religious Education, Brisbane Catholic Education.

The poem, “A Bush Christening” by A.B. (Banjo) Paterson, was first published in *The Bulletin* on 16 December 1893. The extract from Steele Rudd, *On Our Selection*, was first published in 1899 by *The Bulletin*. The poem, *Moreton Bay*, is by an anonymous author whose original publication is unknown. The photographs on pages 3, 4, 6 and 18 are from the State Library of Queensland collection. The picture on page 26 is from the National Library of Australia collection.
The Beginning of the Catholic Church in Queensland

The first Catholics who came to Queensland arrived on prison ships at Moreton Bay in 1824. They were convicts sent from other parts of New South Wales. Moreton Bay was a place of secondary punishment - if you were a convict transported to Australia and you broke the law after you arrived, the authorities sent you to Moreton Bay. It soon gained a reputation for the cruel treatment of prisoners. They were often flogged with a whip, known as the cat-o-nine-tails, made from nine plaited ropes and commonly called the “cat”. It inflicted a terrifying and painful wound to the backs of convicts.

Over half the men and women prisoners sent to Moreton Bay were originally from Ireland. Most Irish people were Catholics. Many of the guards who were sent to watch over the convicts were also originally from Ireland. So, the majority of the original permanent European settlers in Queensland were Catholics. But, they came without priests or anyone much who could help them with their religious needs.

The song on the next page tells the story of the wretched life of an Irish prisoner sent to Moreton Bay. The story takes place after the convict has heard about the death of the notorious Captain Patrick Logan. Logan was commandant of the Moreton Bay prison. He was renowned for his harsh treatment of the convicts. The song talks about him being killed by a local indigenous man. But, right up to the present day, people debate whether Logan was killed by indigenous men or by angry convicts.

Can you name any landmarks in Queensland that are named after Captain Patrick Logan? What do you think life might have been like for the first Queensland Catholics? What differences would there be between Ireland and Queensland?

The Windmill on Wickham Terrace in Brisbane was built with stone and bricks by convicts in 1828 and is the oldest surviving building in Queensland. It was used to grind flour and maize for the prison settlement. Convicts were assigned to an outside treadmill as punishment.

1799 Captain Matthew Flinders explores Moreton Bay. Names Pumice Stone River and Red Cliff.

1824 First convicts and soldiers at Redcliffe.
Moreton Bay

Erin's island is a name for Ireland.
More than half the prisoners sent to Moreton Bay were from Ireland. Most Irish people were Catholics.

One Sunday morning as I went walking
By Brisbane waters I chanced to stray
I heard a convict his fate bewailing
As on the sunny river bank he lay
I am a native from Erin's island
But banished now from my native shore
They stole me from my aged parents
And from the maiden I do adore

I've been a prisoner at Port Macquarie
At Norfolk Island and Emu Plains
At Castle Hill and at cursed Toongabbie
At all these settlements I've been in chains
But of all places of condemnation
And penal stations in New South Wales
To Moreton Bay I have found no equal
Excessive tyranny each day prevails

For three long years I was beastly treated
And heavy irons on my legs I wore
My back from flogging was lacerated
And oft times painted with my crimson gore
And many a man from downright starvation
Lies mouldering now underneath the clay
And Captain Logan he had us mangled
All at the triangles of Moreton Bay

Like the Egyptians and ancient Hebrews
We were oppressed under Logan's yoke
Till a native black lying there in ambush
Did deal this tyrant his mortal stroke
My fellow prisoners be exhilarated
That all such monsters such a death may find
And when from bondage we are liberated
Our former sufferings will fade from mind

Moreton Bay was a place of secondary punishment. Unruly convicts from other parts of New South Wales were sent there. Find on a map the other places mentioned here.

The Moreton Bay triangle was a frame for holding prisoners while they were being whipped with a cat-o-nine-tails. Find a picture of the "cat" on the web.

Patrick Logan became Commandant of the Moreton Bay prison settlement in 1826. He was hated by the convicts for his harsh punishments.

Logan was killed in 1830 while exploring the upper reaches of the Brisbane River. Local aborigines were blamed though many thought the real culprits were convicts. See if you can find more about this mystery.

From February to October in 1828 Logan ordered 200 prisoners to be flogged with over 11,000 lashes of the "cat".

Listen to a version of this song at http://users.bigpond.net.au/aussieconnection/moretonbay.html Your class can learn this song and perform it for an audience.

1825 New site for the Moreton Bay prison at Meanjin, later called Brisbane.

1827 Botanist Alan Cunningham finds a gap through the Dividing Range to the Darling Downs.
Making a Church in Queensland

The picture on this page is one of the oldest of Brisbane we have. It shows Brisbane in the year 1862, three years after the colony of Queensland separated from New South Wales. It is also three years after the Catholic Church in Queensland was officially established.

The picture is taken looking across to Kangaroo Point. In the middle of the picture is St Stephen’s Catholic Cathedral. At the time, it was one of the grandest buildings in the new settlement. People who sailed up the Brisbane River would be greeted by a view of the stone building standing prominently in the middle of the young town. Today, the building is called St Stephen’s Chapel and the Pugin Chapel (in honour of the architect who designed it). It stands right beside the new Cathedral that was begun the year after this picture was taken.

The building in the foreground across from the Cathedral was demolished nine years after this photo. It was built in 1829 as a convict women’s factory. It later was used as a court house and then a fire station.

Look at this photograph. What do you notice? What do you think life would be like for the Catholics of Brisbane who worshipped at this Cathedral? What changes would you see if you took a photo of the same area today?

1840 Brisbane opens to free settlers.

1843 (May) Sydney Archbishop John Bede Polding arrives in Brisbane.
Father Hanly’s Horses

In December 1843, Father James Hanly disembarked from the James Watt in Brisbane. He was the first priest to be permanently stationed in the new settlement of Brisbane. He was young and energetic and he loved horses. He had a parcel of land called Castleracket on Boundary Street in Fortitude Valley where he fed and exercised “quite an unusual number” of horses, according to one of his parishioners. Father Hanly’s Castleracket farm would later become the site of St James Boys College.

Father Hanly needed horses to help him travel around his large “parish”. He travelled widely, visiting Catholics in the outlying districts. Sometimes his arrival in a new place could cause confusion: some people had never seen a priest before! In 1844 he undertook a long journey through the Darling Downs and northern New England districts. According to one observer, his arrival on horseback at Ben Lomond Station “dressed in black with a tall black hat caused genuine alarm among local Aborigines. Yet after their initial dismay, the Aborigines and Fr Hanly became friends”.

Like many priests in the early days of the Catholic Church in Queensland, Father Hanly relied on his horses. People in the rural areas he visited were inclined to judge a man’s value as a priest by his skills in handling a horse. A priest on horseback travelling in the outlying regions shared the same setbacks as people in the bush - getting lost, horses made lame by the hard ground, hot summers and wet winters. One day Father Hanly could be found baptising a child on a Darling Downs station; the next week would see him comforting a condemned Irish-Catholic convict about to be hanged on the scaffolds of the Moreton Bay prison.

Imagine you are Father Hanly riding your horses to the country districts to visit the Catholics who live in country towns and stations. How long would it take to ride from Brisbane to Stanthorpe? What would you take with you? Where would you stay along the way? What would you see? Who would you meet?

1843 (December) First priests arrive in Brisbane. Fr James Hanly remained in Brisbane until 1857.

1844 Ludwig Leichhardt and Thomas Mitchell begin their explorations of Queensland.
Bishop Quinn Arrives in Brisbane

Bishop James Quinn was the first bishop appointed to the new Diocese of Brisbane. He was born in Ireland. Before coming to Brisbane he was the principal of a school in Ireland for boys who were training to become priests. In 1861 he arrived in Brisbane by boat. With him were six Sisters of Mercy from Ireland who had come to open schools and care for the Catholic families of Queensland.

Bishop Quinn’s first impressions of Brisbane were not positive. He is supposed to have said: “Where is the city of Brisbane?” when he saw the place for the first time. He cannot have been impressed when he saw a bullock team bogged in the mud of the main street of Brisbane, Queen Street. We can imagine that the grimy streets and split-bark huts did not compare well with the fine European streets and buildings he had left behind forever to make his new home in Brisbane.

Getting Down to Work

Bishop Quinn set to work leading the Catholic Church in a diocese that covered the whole Queensland. What a large area it was. Queensland was the same size as France, Italy and Spain together. These countries together had dozens of Catholic bishops to lead the church; Queensland had one.

When he arrived, Brisbane was the poorest Catholic diocese in all the Australian colonies. Quinn encouraged Irish Catholics to migrate to Queensland, bringing families, employment skills, and a willingness to work hard in a land full of opportunities.

Quinn invited teachers from religious orders to come to Brisbane to set up schools. In those days, most Catholic schools were run by lay Catholics, usually women or married couples. Bishop Quinn encouraged local communities to raise money and build parish churches. He reached out to the leaders of other Christian communities. This was unusual in a time when different Christian communities - especially those in Europe - did not always get along with each other.

1845 First Catholic school in Brisbane begins. It is run by Michael and Mary Bourke in Elizabeth St, now the site of the Myer Centre.

1850 The first Catholic chapel, St Stephen’s, built in Brisbane town.

Bishop James Quinn, the first Catholic bishop of Queensland.
along together very well. But in Queensland, things were a little better.

Bishop Quinn was energetic and worked tirelessly for the development of the Catholic Church in Queensland. He also found himself in arguments with other members of the Catholic Church. He was strong willed and had definite opinions about the best ways forward in developing the Queensland Church. He also often found himself in disputes with government officials. Despite this, Bishop Quinn is remembered as a strong leader who provided a solid foundation for the Catholic Church in Queensland.

A Church on the Hill

We can think of Bishop James Quinn as someone who set a pattern for the development of the Catholic Church in Queensland. Quinn thought that every Queensland settlement should have a collection of Catholic buildings - a church, a presbytery for the priest, a convent for the nuns, and a Catholic school all surrounded by the houses of Catholics. And, wherever possible, all built on a hill!

You might think about the Catholic community in your own local area, especially if it has been there for a long time, and see if it matches this pattern set by Bishop Quinn. What buildings belong to the Catholic Church? Are the main Catholic buildings on a hill? How long have these buildings been there?

Other bishops, especially, Archbishop James Duhig would continue this pattern of Catholic parishes established on the hills of Queensland. Duhig was appointed to be the Bishop of the Rockhampton diocese in 1905. He was one of the youngest Catholic bishops in the world at that time. In 1917 he became Archbishop of Brisbane and set about a massive building program, in the spirit of Bishop James Quinn before him.

Though the Church in Brisbane was not particularly wealthy, Duhig bought land - usually on hill tops - and encouraged the local Catholics to create parishes. He is known in popular Queensland Catholic memory as “James the Builder”.

**ACTIVITY** Design a Postage Stamp

Design a postage stamp using a person or event from the history of the Catholic Church in Queensland as the theme for the design. Go to the AustraliaPost website www.auspost.com.au to view the current range of postage stamps. This site also contains a page informing designers of AustraliaPost’s requirements for stamp design. The website invites designers to submit their ideas for consideration as future issues of Australian stamps.

1859 Colony of Queensland constituted on June 6. First Catholic bishop of Brisbane, James Quinn consecrated June 29.

1861 Bishop James Quinn arrives in Brisbane. Sister of Mercy Mary Vincent Whitty arrives in Brisbane to establish schools.
Building St Stephen’s Chapel

Today, St Stephen’s chapel stands next to the much larger St Stephen’s Cathedral among the shops and offices in the busy downtown area of Brisbane. It is one of Brisbane’s oldest buildings. It is also known as the Pugin chapel, after the architect who supplied the original plans for the church.

The chapel has an interesting and varied history. Work began on building the chapel in 1848 and Father James Hanly presided at the first Mass in the chapel on 12 May 1850 when there were just sixty Catholic families in Brisbane. (Some historians think that the chapel might not have had a completed roof at that stage!) It was the first Catholic church to be built in Queensland.

Brisbane was a very new settlement and St Stephen’s church was one of the grandest buildings in the young town: a fine bell tower stood atop the solid walls made from stone quarried from the banks of the Brisbane River at Goodna. Amidst the tents and bark huts of Brisbane, St Stephen’s Chapel was an elegant sign of hope and confidence in the future of the town and of the prospects for the Catholic Church in Queensland.

Brisbane became a diocese in 1859 and St Stephen’s chapel as a result became the Cathedral church of the first Catholic bishop of Brisbane, James Quinn. In 1874, the new, larger St Stephen’s Cathedral was completed and the fortunes of the former chapel

St Stephen’s Chapel, also known as, the Pugin Chapel, was the first Catholic church built in Queensland. Compare this picture of St Stephen’s Chapel with the picture taken in 1862, on page 3 of this book. What similarities and differences do you notice?

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1861 Explorers Burke and Wills perish at Cooper’s Creek in far western Queensland after missing their group by hours.

1861 All Hallows School for girls opens, First Catholic secondary school in Queensland.
changed. In 1875, it became a school. Later it would be used as offices for church workers, and sometime afterwards it became a store room: the once prominent Brisbane landmark had become a shed.

Over the years, the building started to crumble. The grand facade was in decay. The bell tower was removed for safety reasons and the elegant stone work was greatly in need of repair. Some wanted the chapel to be demolished. Instead, the decision was made to restore the church to its original elegant state. An extensive re-building program was undertaken.

On 5 February 1999, Archbishop John Bathersby re-dedicated the renovated church. The west window now contains a beautiful stained glass window depicting the story of St Stephen, after whom the chapel is named. The apse contains a shrine to Mary MacKillop, founder of the Sisters of St Joseph and the first Australian likely to be canonised as a saint in the Catholic Church. Mary MacKillop lived in Brisbane for an extended time while she was establishing schools in Queensland. When she lived at Kangaroo Point, she would row in a boat across the Brisbane River to attend Mass at St Stephen’s.

Today, the chapel is visited and photographed by many people interested in the history of Brisbane and Queensland. Weddings and other special occasions are celebrated in the chapel. If you have a chance to visit the chapel, you might think about the first Queensland Catholics who gathered in that place more than 150 years ago. The chapel must have given them a sense of security and comfort in their new home a long way from where they were born.

Find Out More

Who was St Stephen? Find out more about the saint after whom the first Catholic church in Queensland is named. To learn more, go to www.ststephenschurch.org/lifeste stephen.htm.


To find out more about A.W. Pugin, the architect of the chapel and other Pugin-designed buildings, go to www.puginfoundation.org.

The new stained glass windows in the renovated Pugin chapel in Brisbane feature the stories of the resurrection of Christ and the life of St Stephen, after whom the chapel is named.
ACTIVITY  WebQuest: Design A Church for Your Local Catholic Community

Bishop James Quinn, the bishop of the new Catholic Diocese of Brisbane, has a big problem. His diocese is vast and there are few church buildings in the new settlements developing throughout the diocese in the 1860s. He has sent out a request to the Catholics of Queensland. He wants a group of Catholics to be established in each new settlement in his diocese. Each group will forward to the Bishop plans for a church building in their settlement. You have been asked to form a group that will send a report to Bishop Quinn on the design of such a building in your local area.

Your group must prepare the design of a church building that will be used for worship by the Catholics of your local area. In thinking about the design, consider the Catholics in your local area (Where are they from? What are their needs and interests?). Are there any local people or events that should be remembered in the design of the church? Where should the church be located?

Prepare your design. Display it in your classroom. The following web resources will help you to complete your task successfully:

- www.historylearningsite.co.uk/medieval_cathedrals.htm
- www.historyforkids.org/learn/medieval/architecture/cathedral.htm
- http://hubpages.com/hub/Cathedral

When you have completed your church design task, discuss the following questions: What does an architect need to keep in mind when designing a church for a local community? Which building materials would be best suited to the Queensland climate? Is it important for church buildings always to be the same, or should they change with the times?

1869  Mother Mary MacKillop appoints Sisters of St Joseph to come to Queensland to establish schools.

1870  Free schooling for Queensland students introduced - a first for the Australian colonies.
What if...?

Do you ever imagine how things might have turned out differently if only one thing had changed? The following “What if...” scenarios ask you to imagine how things might have been different if people or events had been different in the story of the Catholic Church in Queensland. You need to use your imagination to think of the different possibilities that might have happened if the changes had existed. Discuss each of the “What if...” scenarios with your classmates. You can also compose your own scenarios and ask your classmates to say what differences they think might have occurred.

What if...

... the first Queensland Catholics had access to the internet?

... the first Queensland Catholic diocese was based in Rockhampton, not in Brisbane?

... the first settlement at Moreton Bay had been a farm for free settlers, rather than a prison for convicts?

... European settlers and indigenous communities in Queensland had got along well together from the start?

... Irish Catholic migrants had never come to Queensland in colonial times and instead most Queensland Catholics came from France and Italy?

... Queensland was the same size as Tasmania?

ACTIVITY  “If I Had Been There....”

Try this variation on the “What if...” exercise. Imagine yourself in a situation that occurred in the story of the Catholic Church in Queensland. Write three paragraphs beginning with “If I had been there, I would have...”. In your writing, describe what your thoughts and actions would have been if you had been present at an event. For example, if you had been on the boat with Bishop Quinn as he arrived in Brisbane for the first time. Or, if you had lived in Ipswich when Father Hanly rode up on his horse for the first time. You could choose to present your response in the form of a scripted dialogue between yourself and other characters.

1875 First Christian Brothers school in Queensland in old St Stephen's church, Brisbane.

1881 Robert Dunne appointed Bishop of Brisbane on the death of James Quinn.
Living in the Country

When Catholics came to Queensland, many moved out into the rural and regional areas to establish farms and make a life close to the land. Queensland Catholic leaders such as Bishop James Quinn and Archbishop Robert Dunne encouraged Catholic migrants to come to Queensland and to become farmers and rural workers. In fact in the 1860s, Bishop James Quinn was so successful in attracting Irish-Catholic migrants, many started to call Queensland, “Quinns-land”.

Leaders such as Quinn and Dunne thought that life away from the cities would be less complicated and a better place to raise children in strong Catholic families. The country would not hold as many distractions as the city. Because they did not enjoy the same facilities that existed in the city, country life encouraged people to develop self-reliance, determination and independent thinking.

The story extract on the following page tells of one family’s experience of living in the Queensland bush in the 1890s. The story comes from a book, On Our Selection, written by Steele Rudd (whose real name was Arthur Hoey Davis). He was one of thirteen children born to an Irish-Catholic mother and Welsh father in Drayton, near Toowoomba. The story begins with the Rudd family moving to their new Darling Downs farm from Stanthorpe.

ACTIVITY  SWOT Analysis: Living in the Country

Which would have been a better place for Queensland Catholics to live in the 1890s: in Brisbane or in the country? Complete the SWOT Analysis Chart to help you decide. List the Strengths of living in the country and the Weaknesses or negative aspects. Then, decide what Opportunities would be available for country people and any Threats or difficulties that could confront country people. Complete another SWOT Chart for living in Brisbane. When you have completed your charts, write a paragraph answering the question: which would have been better?

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1882 New diocese of Rockhampton created. Bishop Giovanni Cani is the first bishop.  
1891 320 Italian sugar cane workers arrive in Townsville.
It's twenty years ago now since we settled on the Creek. Twenty years! I remember well the day we came from Stanthorpe, on Jerome's dray - eight of us, and all the things - beds, tubs, a bucket, the two cedar chairs with the pine bottoms and backs that Dad put in them, some pint-pots and old Crib. It was a scorching hot day, too - talk about thirst! At every creek we came to we drank till it stopped running.

Dad didn't travel with us: he had gone some months before, to put up the house and dig the waterhole. It was a slab house, with shingled roof, and space enough for two rooms: but the partition wasn't up. The floor was earth; but Dad had a mixture of sand and fresh cow-dung which he used to keep it level. About once a month he would put it on; and everyone had to keep outside that day till it was dry. There were no locks on the doors: pegs were put in to keep them fast at night; and the slabs were not very close together, for we could easily see through them anybody coming on horseback. Joe and I used to play at counting the stars through the cracks in the roof.

Steele Rudd (A.H. Davis), On Our Selection, 1899.

ACTIVITY Imagining with the Senses

Try to imagine what life might have been like for the small Catholic farmers on the Darling Downs a century ago. In what ways might life be different for Catholics on the land a century ago and Queensland Catholics today? Use your senses to help you imagine the differences:

- What could you smell?
- What could you taste?
- What could you see?
- What could you hear?
- What could you feel? Touch?

This bark hut is located in the Cambooya Shire on the road south of Drayton on the Darling Downs. It is a replica of the hut described in Steele Rudd's book, On Our Selection, in 1899.

1891 Shearer's strike causes industrial strife throughout Queensland and leads to the formation of the Australian Labor Party.

1895 Waltzing Matilda is performed for the first time at the North Gregory Hotel, Winton.
One of the challenging aspects for Queensland Catholics living in the bush in the early years of settlement was the isolation. Among other things, isolation meant that many Catholics living in the outback rarely saw a priest or anyone who could assist them to understand and practise their Catholic faith. And, when a priest was able to visit people in the far corners of Queensland, the brief stay meant that baptisms, weddings and funerals were the main business.

The poem below by one of Australia’s most famous poets, A.B. (Banjo) Paterson, takes the theme of a rare visit of a priest to an Irish Catholic family living on the Barcoo River in western Queensland. The young child of the family is worried that a baptism might be the same as a branding - and wants no part of it!


On the outer Barcoo where the churches are few,  
And men of religion are scanty,  
On a road never crossed except by folk that are lost,  
One Michael Magee had a shanty.

Now this Mike was the dad of a ten-year-old lad,  
Plump, healthy, and stoutly conditioned;  
He was strong as the best, but poor Mike had no rest  
For the youngster had never been christened,

And his wife used to cry, “If the darlin’ should die  
Saint Peter would not recognise him.”  
But by luck he survived till a preacher arrived,  
Who agreed straightaway to baptise him.

Now the artful young rogue, while they held their colleague,  
With his ear to the keyhole was listenin’,  
And he muttered in fright while his features turned white,  
“What the divil and all is this christening?”

He was none of your dolts, he had seen them brand colts,  
And it seemed to his small understanding,  
If the man in the flock made him one of the flock,  
It must mean something very like branding.

So away with a rush he set off for the bush,  
While the tears in his eyelids they glisten -  
“Tis outrageous,” says he, “to brand youngsters like me,  
I’ll be dashed if I’ll stop to be christened!”

Like a young native dog he ran into a log,  
And his father with language uncivil,  
Never heeding the “praste” cried aloud in his haste,  
“Come out and be christened, you divil!”

But he lay there as snug as a bug in a rug,  
And his parents in vain might reprove him.  
Till his reverence spoke (he was fond of a joke)  
“I’ve a notion,” says he, “that’ll move him.”

“Poke a stick up the log, give the spalpeen a prod;  
Poke him aisy-don’t hurt him or main him,  
‘Tis not long that he’ll stand, I’ve the water at hand,  
As he rushes out this end I’ll name him.

“Here he comes, and for shame! ye’ve forgotten the name -  
Is it Patsy or Michael or Dinns?”  
Here the youngster ran out, and the priest gave a shout -  
“Take your chance, anyhow, wid ‘Maginniss!’

As the howling young cub ran away to the scrub  
Where he knew that pursuit would be risky,  
The priest, as he fled, flung a flask at his head  
That was labelled “Maginniss’s Whisky!”

And Maginnis Magee has been made a J.P.,  
And the one thing he hates more than sin is  
To be asked by the folk who have heard of the joke,  
How he came to be christened “Maginniss”!

ACTIVITY  Performing “A Bush Christening”

Form into small groups of five. Each group will act out the story of Banjo Paterson’s, A Bush Christening. There are five roles: a narrator who will read the poem, Michael Magee, Mrs Magee, the young son (who will become Maginnis Magee, Justice of the Peace, at the end of the story), and the priest. Practise performing the story and present your production to your classmates.

1897 Queensland Parliamentary Act to protect indigenous people sets up reserves and appoints “protectors”.

1901 The colony of Queensland becomes a State when it joins the new Commonwealth of Australia.
Father Duncan McNab Learns a New Language

When new settlers to Queensland moved out into the bush, they soon encountered the indigenous people whose ancestors had lived there for thousands of years. These encounters were not always friendly. The Catholic Church from the earliest times wondered what it could do to help indigenous Queenslanders.

Some Catholic leaders had a poor understanding of indigenous people. They thought the indigenous people were not very spiritual. Today, we know better, but in the early years of settlement, many Christian leaders thought that only their own religion was truly spiritual and everyone else must be wrong.

The Work of Father McNab

But, one Catholic leader who came to Queensland in those times was different. He was Father Duncan McNab. He was a priest from Scotland who came to Australia with the particular idea of working with indigenous people. He happened to be a cousin of Mary MacKillop who also had come to Queensland around the same time to set up Catholic schools.

In 1875, Father McNab received authority from Bishop James Quinn, the Bishop of Brisbane, to begin a ministry to the indigenous people of Queensland. Father McNab’s way of working with indigenous people was different to most of the Catholic leaders of his time.

He learned the languages and customs of the different groups that lived along the coast from Brisbane to Rockhampton. He translated the Our Father and other Christian prayers into languages the people could understand. He argued with Queensland government officials about the best way to treat indigenous Queenslanders. He worked tirelessly to support the indigenous communities. He thought that indigenous people should have the right to live on their land.

He travelled to Rome to ask Catholic Church leaders in the Vatican for their support.
for his work. But the efforts of Duncan McNab were not matched by others. Over the years, many conflicts involving European settlers and indigenous communities occurred. Indeed, Catholics and other Queenslanders are still struggling today to find the best way to live in mutual respect with indigenous people.

Find out more of Father Duncan McNab’s work with indigenous people. Use the web to find information about his life and career. Go to http://www.queenslandfirsts.org/01_cms/details.asp?ID=17

A Challenge for Catholics Today

The Catholic Church today understands much better Australia’s indigenous people. When Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI visited Australia, they both made important speeches honouring the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Australian community.

**ACTIVITY** Perspectives Wheel

Imagine it is 1875. Use the Perspectives Wheel to help you understand the different views that existed in Queensland at that time on the relationship between indigenous Queenslanders and European settlers. First, decide on four people whose perspectives you will explore, for example, Father McNab, a government official, a local indigenous elder, and Bishop Quinn. Write the names of your four people in each segment of the outer circle. Now, make notes on the perspectives of each person in the quadrants of the circle next to each name. When you have completed your notes, compare your Wheel with your classmates. Discuss how people in the early years would have viewed this issue.

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**1915** First Labor government in Queensland elected under the leadership of T.J. Ryan.

**1917** James Duhig becomes Archbishop of Brisbane.
Flying With Sister Anne Maree

We have heard about how the early Catholic Church leaders rode horses around Queensland in order to visit Catholic families and communities. Over the years, all forms of transport were used to move around the vast spaces of Queensland - boats, trains, buses and cars. In more recent times, planes have been the mode of transport that some Catholic leaders have used to carry out their work.

The Catholic Aerial Ministry is a service to Catholics in rural and isolated regions of Queensland. From 1989 until 2000, Sister Anne Maree Jensen flew her Cessna plane around western Queensland, visiting Catholics on the farms and in the towns of the far western part of the state. Sister Anne Maree is a Presentation Sister who grew up in Toowoomba and joined the convent in 1974. In order to undertake her ministry, she had to obtain a pilot’s licence. The course to train a pilot is long and demanding.

On her trips out west, she would help the people she visited in any way she could. She helped families to prepare the children for celebrating the sacraments. She talked to the members of the families she visited about their lives, and supported them in all the joys and sufferings they experienced while living in the outback. Sometimes she would babysit the young children, or even help out in the shearing shed when things got busy.

Just as it was for the Catholic leaders in the early years, travelling in outback Queensland had its share of challenges. The difference for Sister Anne Maree was that she experienced these challenges while flying a plane. Dust storms were common. Thunderstorms were a regular event. She once had to crash land her plane when the throttle gave out.

A plane was necessary for travel over long distances. Some families lived three hours away by road from their closest neighbour and seven hours by car from the nearest town. A plane was the quickest way to visit others. Sister Anne Maree finished her flying ministry in 2000. By then, roads had improved, making travel easier. And, the internet and satellite technology helped improve communications.
Catholic Parish Life

As the Catholic Church in Queensland developed and spread throughout the whole of Queensland, parishes were established in even the smallest settlements and in all the cities and towns. For Catholics, parish life was an important part of the experience of living in Queensland. Many Catholics felt their first loyalty was to their local parish. It was often said that every Catholic could name their parish priest but not everyone knew the name of the local mayor.

For Catholics, their lives were organised around the events of parish life. Nuns and priests would regularly visit the homes of families in the parish. This would provide a chance for family members to discuss aspects of their faith with a Church leader. Just about every Catholic attended Mass every Sunday. Until the 1960s, the Sunday Mass was in Latin which almost nobody could understand besides the priests. Parishes also organised groups of parishioners to pray the rosary - a collection of prayers focused on the Hail Mary. Families would regularly pray the rosary together at night, or while travelling on a long journey.

Members of Queensland Catholic families belonged to sodalities - parish groups devoted to special prayer and works of justice. Girls would belong to the Children of Mary and wear their distinctive uniforms to meetings in the parish hall. Older children would belong to the Young Christian Students (YCS), if they were at school, or the Young Christian

The Catholic parish of Wilston, in Brisbane, in the year of 1914. The local parish played an important part in the life of Catholics.

1921 Legislative Council votes to end its existence. Queensland becomes the only State without an Upper House.

1922 Jury service for women in Queensland courts - a first for Australia.
Workers (YCW), if they had joined the work force. These groups were committed to works of peace and justice and were influential in forming the religious faith of young adult Catholics.

Parishes also provided a strong social life for Catholics who would attend dances in the parish hall, picnics in the country to which they would travel by train, and sporting competitions played against other parish groups. It was generally expected that young people would meet and marry other young Catholics and bring up their children in their own local parish.

Queensland Catholics also had a strong sense of belonging to the wider Catholic Church. Those Catholics with an Irish background would take part in St Patrick's Day celebrations and marches each 17 March. St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. Queensland's Italian Catholics would do the same on St Anthony's day.

But the major celebrations were reserved for the feast of Corpus Christi.

(Activity) Queensland Church Calendar

Make a local Catholic parish calendar. Include notes about important memorial dates in the history of the parish and the Catholic Church in Queensland. Use one of the free calendar-making software packages available on the web. Include your digital images of Church people and events as a monthly picture gallery. Display your calendar in your classroom.

1923 John Campbell Miles finds lead-zinc-silver at Mt Isa.

1924 Brisbane to Cairns rail line completed.
Learning to Be a Catholic

For most of the history of the Catholic Church in Queensland, young Catholics learned their religion from a catechism. A catechism is a small book containing questions and answers about the Catholic faith. In school, at home and in parishes, Catholics would recite answers to the questions in the catechism. They learned to repeat the answers by heart. In a classroom, a teacher would call out a question from the catechism and then invite a student - or the whole class together - to respond with the correct answer.

Look at the pages below from a catechism that was popular among young Queensland Catholics about one hundred years ago. Do you think you could learn these questions and answers by heart and repeat them when someone asked you? Try a little experiment. First, take a few minutes to learn the questions and answers. You can use any method you like for memorising the questions and answers: silently on your own, with a partner or in a small group reciting the questions and answers together repeatedly. When you feel you have memorised the answers, put your book away. One person can call out the questions and individuals or groups can respond with the correct answer.

When you have completed your “test”, think about the following questions: What is it like to learn religion in this way? Is it easy to remember answers by heart? What is the best method for memorising answers? What things do you need to memorise by heart in school today? Do you know anyone who learned the catechism when they were young?

PRIMER CATECHISM

CHAPTER 1 - GOD AND CREATION

1. Q. Who made the world?
   A. God made the world.

2. Q. Who made Heaven and earth and all things?
   A. God made Heaven and earth and all things.

3. Q. From what did God make all things?
   A. God made all things from nothing.

4. Q. Where is God?
   A. God is in Heaven, on earth and everywhere.

5. Q. Who live in Heaven?
   A. God and the angels and saints live in Heaven.

6. Q. If God be everywhere, why do we not see Him?
   A. We do not see God because he is a Spirit, having no body, and therefore cannot be seen by us in this life.

1929 Diocese of Toowoomba established. First bishop is Bishop James Byrne.

1930 Diocese of Townsville created. First bishop is Bishop T.B. McGuire.
One reason the catechism was popular was that all Catholics learned the same things in the same way. Parents, older brothers and sisters and members of the local parish all learned the same catechism questions and answers. Parents or older siblings at home could "hear" the answers of young children who were learning their catechism.

Another thing that was also common for many Queensland Catholics was the Catholic school. Many Queensland Catholics attended a Catholic school. The first Catholic school in Queensland was opened in 1845 in Elizabeth Street in Brisbane. (The Myer Centre now stands on the site of the original school.) The first teachers were Michael and Mary Bourke. Soon, many Catholic schools were built as the Queensland colony expanded.

Catholics were encouraged by Church leaders to send their children to Catholic schools. They wanted young Catholics to be educated in a place where they could learn their religion along with other Catholic children.

**ACTIVITY** What Do You See?

Look at the picture below. It is a school classroom from a Darling Downs school in the 1920s. Look for five things in this classroom that are different from your own classroom. Then, see if you can name five things that are the same as your classroom. What do you think it would have been like to be a student in this classroom?
Classrooms in the Early Days

The work that children did in schools was different in many ways from what you do in your classroom today. You might have seen that classrooms from earlier days did not have computers, projectors, television screens and many other things we would find in classrooms today.

What prayers and hymns do you know? Look at the following hymn that all Catholic children learned to sing in the early days of Catholic schools in Queensland. Have you heard this hymn before? You might have older members of the family who know how to sing it. Ask them when and how they learned this hymn and others like it.

Faith of Our Fathers

Faith of our fathers, living still, in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword; O how our hearts beat high with joy whene’er we hear that glorious word!

Refrain: Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers, we will strive to win all nations unto thee; and through the truth that comes from God, we all shall then be truly free. (Refrain)

Faith of our fathers, we will love both friend and foe in all our strife; and preach thee, too, as love knows how by kindly words and virtuous life. (Refrain)

You can listen to this hymn on the internet. Go to: www.hymnsite.com/lyrics/umh710.sht. What do you notice as you read and hear this popular Catholic hymn?

Children in Catholic schools in the early years learned many hymns like this one. Mother Mary MacKillop and her Sisters of St Joseph started many schools throughout Queensland. Below is the timetable plan for students in her schools in the first grade of the primary school. Look carefully at the program for these children. Notice that the program includes learning the catechism and singing hymns. In what ways is this program the same as the one you followed when you began school? How is it different?

**Timetable, First Class**

**Sisters of St Joseph Schools, 1869**

- **9:00** Hymn to St Joseph, Morning Prayers, Dictation
- **9:30** Writing
- **10:00** Arithmetic
- **11:00** Tasks
- **12:00** Examination of conscience, Angelus, Catechism, Calling the roll
- **12:30** Recreation and lunch
- **1:30** Children reassemble, singing hymns as they do Boys copy on slates, girls sew
- **2:00** Object lesson
- **2:15** Make figures and letters on slates
- **2:45** Spell and read lessons
- **3:15** Exercises
- **3:30** Afternoon attendance marked and children dismissed, singing as they go out.

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1941 Archbishop Duhig establishes Plus X Seminary at Banyo on the outskirts of Brisbane.

1941 Diocese of Cairns established. First bishop is Bishop John Heavey.
Schools Now and Then

How would you have enjoyed being a student in a Queensland Catholic school in the 1880s? Which do you prefer: schools then, or now? Give reasons for your choice. Prior to the 1870s, children were not required, by law, to attend a school. What do you think of this? What difference does it make that all children are required to attend school? What would you do all day if you did not go to school? What is the best age for students to finish school?

Which do you think teachers would find more challenging: teaching in a school in the 1880s, or today's school? Give reasons for your response.

ACTIVITY

Publish a Catholic Newspaper

With your classmates, publish an edition of The Queensland Catholic Times from the year 1880. Assign roles as editor, reporter, advertising copywriter, opinion writer, publisher and so on. Use desktop publishing software to help you create the right look for your newspaper. Use the internet to find out anything that might have happened on that day that could be reported in your paper. You might choose to work individually or in small groups. Think about how important a Catholic newspaper might be for Catholics in the early years in Queensland. Research Catholic newspapers in your diocese.

The Queensland Catholic Times

21 June 1880

The Voice of All Queensland Catholics

Price: 1 penny

GOOD SCHOOLS
BRISBANE - Bishop James Quinn today visited children in Catholic schools in the Ipswich district. Bishop Quinn went into a number of classrooms and heard the children recite their catechism answers. Afterwards, he told our reporter how well he...

NEW QUEENSLANDERS!
ROCKHAMPTON - A ship arrived in Rockhampton today carrying a new group of citizens from Ireland who will be settling in the Rockhampton region. The new arrivals are all from Donegal. They will take up selections in the region and hope to be running productive farms in the near future. One of the best

SPORTS RESULTS
Queensland's Catholics have distinguished themselves again this week in sporting contests throughout the colony. Many Catholics have made representative teams in cricket and the football codes. We wis...

1942 Japanese flying boats bomb Townsville and Mossman.

1955 The Australian Labor Party (ALP) "splits" - Democratic Labor Party (DLP) with majority Catholic membership.
Queensland Catholic Dioceses

There are five Catholic dioceses in Queensland. A diocese is a district that has a bishop as the leader of the Catholics of that area. Use the internet and library resources to find answers to the questions about each diocese listed on this page. You might choose to work with a partner to find your answers.

CAIRNS
- Name of cathedral
- Number of Catholics
- Number of bishops since 1941

TOWNSVILLE
- Year diocese founded
- Number of parishes
- First bishop

ROCKHAMPTON
- Name of bishop
- Year diocese founded
- First bishop

TOOWOOMBA
- Year diocese founded
- Name of bishop
- Name of cathedral

1967 Amendments to the Australian Constitution end discrimination against indigenous Australians. All States, except Queensland, abandon discriminatory laws.

1970 Pope Paul VI first Pope to visit Australia.
Queensland Catholic Stories

This is a picture of All Hallows School in Brisbane. The school is run by the Sisters of Mercy and was the first secondary school for girls in Queensland. The architect who designed the original school buildings was Andrea Stombuco. He was born in Florence, Italy. He came to Queensland in 1875 and designed many of Brisbane’s finest public buildings, parish churches, schools and private mansions. Over 20 of his buildings still stand in and around Brisbane.

ACTIVITY Telling Queensland Catholic Stories

Read about the life and career of Andrea Stombuco on the page of the State Library of Queensland’s website called “Queensland Stories”. You can add your own Queensland stories to the State Library’s collection. The Library accepts stories submitted under the following themes:

- memories,
- arrivals,
- special people,
- favourite places,
- strange and everyday tales,
- politics and communities,
- and, stories from the State Library.

You could research and submit a story related to your study of the people and events associated with the Catholic Church in Queensland. The website has a full explanation of how you can create and submit your story. Or, you could create a “Who Am I?” wall to present the stories of the Catholics in the local community who have contributed to the development of the Church where you live. Build your wall in the foyer of the local parish church or in your school.

1971 Senator for Queensland Neville Bonner, first indigenous person to be elected to Federal Parliament.

1991 Australian Catholic University is formed including McAuley Campus in Mitchelton, Brisbane.
Many People, One Queensland Catholic Church

The Catholic Church in Queensland comprises many people from many places. The story of the Church is also diverse. For more than 150 years, the stories of different people and events have contributed to what we know of the Church today.

Queensland Catholics and other Queenslanders did not always get along together. Over the years, conflicts and arguments sometimes occurred between people who did not know and understand each other well. Today, it is much different. Visit the Australian government website, www.harmony.gov.au to research the ways that Australians from different cultures and religions have found to live together in harmony.

ACTIVITY Create a Church Mosaic

A mosaic is an artistic design made of small pieces of stone, glass or other materials. Those smaller fragments are used to create a pattern or picture. A mosaic brings together into a unified artwork a range of elements. Mosaics are a feature of some European churches and cathedrals that date back to the early years of the Catholic Church. Create your own mosaic of the Catholic Church in Queensland. Use photographs, drawings and symbols that portray the variety of people, places and events that make up the Church in Queensland. Display your completed artwork in your classroom or school.

1992 Eddie Mabo wins High Court appeal on indigenous land rights.

2008 Prime Minister Kevin Rudd issues an apology to indigenous Australians for past wrongs.
ACTIVITIES

- Take a photo in your local area of an image related to the Catholic Church. Paste the picture on an A-4 page. Write a paragraph about your picture. Collect the pages and make a class picture book on the local Catholic Church.

- Create a comic strip illustrating a topic you have studied. Use the Comic Life software to help you create your comic strip. Read the guidelines for making comics with this software at [www.macinstruct.com/node/69](http://www.macinstruct.com/node/69).

- Construct a virtual tour of the Catholic Church in Queensland. Use the Map Wing (www.mapwing.com) software to create your virtual tour with interactive maps, digital images and commentary.

- Design a travel poster that would encourage people in 1900 to visit your local area. Highlight the aspects of the local Catholic Church and its community that people would notice in that era.

- Compose a game on the theme “150 Years of the Catholic Church in Queensland”. A number of free websites offer templates that you can use to compose your own game.


GLOSSARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bishop</td>
<td>A priest who is specially ordained to lead people in a diocese.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathedral</td>
<td>The official church of a diocese where the bishop has his chair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>The word means “universal” or “including everyone”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Two meanings: a building where people gather to worship; and, the whole group of Christians who follow Jesus of Nazareth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocese</td>
<td>The Christians who live in a district under the authority of a bishop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope</td>
<td>To hope is to trust that the love of God will win in the end, in spite of the hurt and harm that happens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass</td>
<td>The celebration of the Eucharist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish</td>
<td>A district in a diocese that has its own church and priest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pope</td>
<td>The Bishop of Rome and the leader of the Catholic Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priest</td>
<td>Men who are ordained to preach and preside at the celebration of the sacraments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious</td>
<td>Two meanings: a person who belongs to a religious order; and, anything concerned with religion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2009 The Catholic Church in Queensland celebrates 150 years of existence.