



# SM bulletin

Friday, 18 May 2018

## General Administration

Among the items treated in the first two weeks of the plenary council meetings were:

- The superior general's reports on his visitation to the Solomon's, Bougainville and Papua New Guinea and the Australian Province's Extraordinary Chapter.
- The reports of Fr Paul Walsh on his visit to the District of Africa and the Province of New Zealand.
- A director for the next Colnian Renewal Program in 2020.
- The Marist Youth International gathering in 2019.
- Capacity building of the younger men in the Society, including the training for formation and mission.
- Preparing an agenda for ARC 2018.

## APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW DISTRICT SUPERIOR OF AFRICA

The Superior General has appointed Fr Albert Kabala as the New District Superior of Africa. He will succeed Fr Didier Hadonou on 1 October 2018. Albert is currently part of the Casa di Maria formation team in Rome. He is also completing a license in Spiritual Theology, with a specialization in vocational formation.



## BICENTENARY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN ST PATRICK'S

### THE HISTORY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

In 1817 an Irish priest, Fr Jeremiah O'Flynn, arrived in Sydney, where at that time there were no resident Catholic priests. The only clergy sanctioned by the British Government were Anglican ministers. Fr Jeremiah commenced a semi-clandestine ministry to Catholic convicts and free settlers. Since there were no Catholic churches in Sydney, he used private homes for the celebration of Masses. In May 1818 the governor arrested O'Flynn, and deported him as an illegal immigrant. Whether by accident or design is unknown, but Fr Jeremiah left the consecrated communion sacrament in a home prior to his capture. It became a focus of prayer for a small group of Sydney Catholics, who kept daily vigil before the Eucharistic sacrament. It was on that site that in 1840 St Patrick's arose.



Hundreds of people, including bishops from all around Australia, filled Sydney's beloved St Patrick's Church Hill on Sunday 6 May for an historic Mass commemorating 200 years of the preservation of the Blessed Sacrament in Australia. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, who presided over the Mass, pointed out that the site of St Patrick's could be considered the birthplace of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Parish Priest Fr Michael Whelan welcomed those present and recalled how two centuries ago it were "the lay faithful who kept the Eucharistic faith alive against the odds." Following the Mass Archbishop Fisher thanked all those involved in organizing the bicentenary Mass and he encouraged those present to have hope for the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. "The Church of

Australia which began here all those years ago could never have imagined what was ahead for us 200 years later. They probably thought that they were doomed, that things were desperate, that they might never have the sacraments or a priest. And look at what was built in the generations after".