

PAPER VIII

THE HISTORY OF ST JAMES'S SCHOOL

Brother B.D. Steele had compiled the history of St James's school in a splendid publication, "A History of a City School", which is on display here this evening. He and I are both ex-students of St James's, we are Brothers in the Congregation of Christian Brothers and I had the honour of being his classmaster at Gregory Terrace when he studied for the Senior Public Examination in 1953. This lecture then may be regarded as a joint effort because his book has been of great assistance to me in its preparation.

I plan to place for you St James's in the history of education in the State of Queensland, in the history of the Archdiocese of the Brisbane and in the ongoing saga of the activities of the Christian Brothers in Australia.

To achieve these aims I will deal with the story of St James's from its commencement in 1868 until the advent of the Christian Brothers in 1893; the next period will chronicle the era of 1893-1958 when the Brothers on the staff lived in the Community at Gregory Terrace; and finally 1958 until the present when the Brothers lived on the school campus after their house was blessed and opened on 27th July, 1958.

The first recorded mention of education in the penal colony termed the Moreton Bay Settlement of New South Wales, refers to a primary school conducted by Mrs Esther Roberts, a soldier's wife, who received a stipend of £10, presumably annually, from the colonial government. "Her school was actually administered by the Anglican Church because in those days it was generally believed that it was the duty of the Church to conduct schools" according to a Brief History of State Education in Queensland, published by the Department of Education.

This school was closed in 1842 after a succession of teachers, mostly soldiers. Until the Moreton Bay Settlement became the colony of Queensland, many children received no formal education. The Department of Education's booklet mentioned above records: "In 1845 the first Roman Catholic school was opened by Michael Bourke, thus beginning a pattern of small denominational schools which provided

education of a sort for almost twenty years in Brisbane.”

On 3rd June 1859, an official announcement in London proclaimed that “the Moreton Bay district, in deference to the repeated petitions of the leading settlers, was erected into an independent colony under the name of Queensland”. At the time the white population of Queensland was about 23,500; there seems to be no record of the number of aborigines. In his monumental work, “The History of the Catholic Church in Australasia”, Cardinal Moran records that the population of Queensland in 1860 was 28,056, including more than 7,000 Catholics.

In 1860 the Queensland Parliament passed an Act establishing a Board of General Education; this board was operative until 1875 when it was replaced by the Department of Public Instruction; the name of this Department was altered to the Department of Education in 1957.

When the Board of General Education was established in 1860, it is recorded that there were six schools operating under the aegis of the Church of England and four conducted by the Roman Catholic Church, one in each of Brisbane, Ipswich, Fortitude Valley and Maryborough.

Obviously the Church had been astir in the Moreton Bay Settlement from its earliest days. In 1842, Brisbane ceased to be a convict settlement and was opened to free settlers. In the following year Archbishop Polding visited the settlement and said Mass on 14th May 1843, in a building on a site near that now occupied by Myers in Elizabeth Street, and later in the year, sent Father James Hanly to minister to the Catholics in the area. In passing I should mention Polding’s zeal for the pastoral care of aborigines throughout his vast archdiocese, which at that time embraced most of the eastern portion of Australia.

Bishop Quinn, accompanied by a small group of Sisters of Mercy, arrived in 1861; it is recorded that Quinn on arrival at St Stephen’s Cathedral, asked “Where is the city of Brisbane?”

According to Cardinal Moran’s History, when Quinn arrived in 1861 there were two priests in his diocese, a Catholic population of 7,000, four churches, four schools, no religious and a debt of £1,250. Soon after arrival, in 1862, the Sisters of Mercy opened a school near old St Patrick’s church in Wickham Street, the Valley, on the side opposite the junction.

Bishop Quinn promoted the establishment of St James’s School in May 1868 in a wooden annexe adjoining “Castleracket” which had been built by Father James Hanly in 1844 as his residence. It was on a site close to that now occupied by the

Christian Brothers' residence. Some rooms termed the "stone building" from "Castleracket", suitably altered were used as classrooms as part of St James's.

Government funding was available to schools that satisfied the requirements of the Board of General Education. The premises that comprised early St James's were unacceptable to the Board so the establishment had to exist on the fees from the pupils and any grants the Church could afford.

Brother Steele writes: "There were two tariffs in this school, viz.: The stone building which was known as the "Salon" at 1/6 (18 cents) per week, and the one-time four-roomed house with partitions removed, at 1/- (ten cents) per week. Mr M.C. Devitt was in charge of the former."

The anonymous chronicler quoted by Brother Steele added further: "The boys residing in the city whose parents were mostly successful business people, were in the salon class at school; we, of the Valley, born in the tradesmen class, parted with 1/- per week for our 'steerage fund of knowledge' "

It is part of the folk lore of St James's that although the salon pupils and the steerage ones showed commendable regard and courtesy to one another on the school campus, such was not always the situation away from the school. Devitt was assisted by Mr D.C. Macgroarty who had been a Professor of English on a Belfast University College before coming to Australia. He did not remain long at St James's. He joined the system administered by the Board and soon became an Inspector of Schools. His son, the late Honourable Neil Macgroarty was Attorney-General in 1929-32 when the Moore Government was in power. This gentleman's son, Neil Macgroarty, is at present a prominent barrister in Brisbane. I had the honour of teaching him in the Senior Class at Gregory Terrace in 1951; we are not far removed from the early days of St James's.

In 1870, Dr Cani, the Administrator of the Cathedral and in 1882 the first bishop of Rockhampton, administered the erection of a one-storey school brick building that cost £500 and was described by the *Brisbane Courier* at the time as "commodious, well-ventilated, but plain". This building is the lower of the section of St James's closest to present day Boundary Street. It was opened in October 1870 and following Dr Cani's approach to the Board, St James's was classified a non-vested Roman Catholic Boys' school No. 9 by the Education Registration Board early in 1871.

From 1st January 1870, education in Board Schools was to be Government funded; teachers' salaries were to be paid and books and old school requisites provided. Authorities conducting non-vested schools were expected to keep the school

plant in good repair. A non-vested school was one not owned by the Government, in contrast to vested schools that were government-owned. Queensland was the first colony to provide free education. This was largely due to the influence of Charles Lilley who came to Queensland from the United Kingdom in 1856 and was elected to the first Parliament as a member for Fortitude Valley; he became Premier in 1868, the year St James's commenced, and promoted the provision of education facilities to all.

The early masters of 1870 were Messrs Bernard McGauran and R.J. Lennox - they did not stay long. Father James Horan, nephew of Bishop Quinn and later parish priest of Warwick for thirty years, then assumed responsibility for the establishment until the Bishop arranged for Mr J.W. Long to come from Dublin to Queensland.

Bishop Quinn persuaded Mr Jeremiah William Long, a highly qualified teacher from Dublin, to assume principalship of St James's in March 1871. He was described as the 'first of the first', being the first Class 1 Division 1 teacher in Queensland to satisfy the requirements of the Board to attain such status; it was not until 1874 that a local person, James (Bully) Kerr attained this qualification, the highest in the service. Kerr became the training master for new teachers in Queensland.

Long was quite an embarrassment to the Board who offered him the position of Inspector, but he remained loyal to the bishop. He was described as a tall impressive person and raised St James's to the proud pinnacle of recognition as the best school in Queensland. He brought to Queensland new ideas on schools and teacher training and assisted to improve and enliven early Catholic schools in the state. In 1873 the Catholic schools in Ipswich and St James's won all the available secondary scholarships to the Brisbane Grammar School offered by the Board; at this time, there was no Catholic Secondary school in the state. All present surely know that the late revered Archbishop Duhig often recalled with fond memory Long who assisted him with his early education.

In 1875 the Government passed an Education Act that established the Department of Public Instruction, responsible to the Minister for Education, to provide, free, secular and compulsory education in State Schools. Government funding for non-state schools was to cease from 1880. The government documents of the time refer to "state aid" for which I have replaced "government funding". The term "state aid" to me savours of discrimination and a denial of the rights of parents to determine the quality and rationale of their children's education, a principle in modern times enshrined in statements of freedom accepted by the United Nations. Surely a government cannot ignore the rights of parents who pay taxes used for the education of citizens of a state?

Very little detail is available concerning St James's 1870-92. Between 1874 and 1877, Joseph Canali, teacher and architect, was on the staff; he later became a prominent priest in the archdiocese; one of his pupils was John Ryan of Spring Hill, the first Queensland-born to be ordained a priest.

Mr A.J. St Ledger, a pupil in 1873, became acting-headmaster a few years later and was farewelled in 1880. It would have been difficult for the authorities to retain competent teachers at St James's after 1880, for the capacity to pay salaries comparable to those in the Education Department would have been beyond the financial resources of the school. Such is not the case now.

An exception was Mr James J. Dempsey, a pupil 1869-75, who earned a fine reputation with the Education department but left it to become Headmaster of St James's in 1882; but it seemed he remained for one year only, because it is recorded that Mr F. Carton was in charge in 1883. Mr Timothy O'Leary was Headmaster from 1885 until the arrival of the Brothers in 1893.

A pupil from 1882, Frank Burton was ordained for the Archdiocese of Brisbane in 1897. Father Burton was a deeply spiritual man long associated with the Wilston parish until his death in 1947. In 1890 a rail link was made from Central Station to Brunswick Street to provide a service to the northern suburbs. This project included the building of a railway vent in the backyard of the school, which was a source of interest to the boys and innumerable stories for years. There seemed to no restriction to the number of hats placed over the vent for treatment by the steam from passing trains when I was at St James's. In the meantime the Valley was opening up as a busy commercial centre with the competing emporiums of T.C. Beirne, McWhirters and Overells attracting patrons to the new and bustling life in the area.

As mentioned above in the 1880s it was difficult for the Catholic authorities to retain competent staff at St James's because of the tempting prospects offered in the State Department. Numbers on the roll were falling and as early as 1888 Archbishop Dunne was requesting the Christian Brothers to take charge of the school.

The Brothers had come to Brisbane in 1875. Mr Long probably saw them as a threat for he is quoted as saying, "The Christian Brothers might think themselves smart fellows, but they won't get any of my boys". He did not foresee then the inroad the Department would make on his staff. He joined the Department himself six years after the Brothers came to Brisbane. Nor did he realise the impact in school numbers that would be occasioned when the payment of school fees became more important after government funding ceased in 1880.

And so we end the history of St James's from its inception until the arrival of the Brothers. In spite of problems such as inadequate facilities, inadequate funding making the engagement of competent teachers impossible, the school had battled on although with a decreasing number of pupils. But in this era when St James's was virtually the only Catholic boys' school in the city, the apostolate of Catholic education had been pursued with advantages to the Church and the Community in general.

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS COME TO ST JAMES'S

At the invitation of Bishop Quinn the Brothers came to Brisbane in 1875. The Diocese of Brisbane became an Archdiocese in 1887 and as mentioned earlier, Archbishop Dunne persuaded the Brothers to accept responsibility for the administration of St James's. In February 1893 Brisbane experienced the worst flood in its short history. In the same year financial disaster hit the state with the collapse of eight banks, resulting in an economic depression. The suburbs with the highest unemployment were Spring Hill, Red Hill and Paddington, where a large percentage of the population were Irish migrants. Unfortunately at this time parents and business did not take compulsory schooling seriously, with only sixty days a half year being the attendance expected. The standard required for leaving school was Grade IV, at an average age of eleven years and six months.

Recruitment of teachers was achieved through a pupil-teacher system of training. Children as young as fourteen were enlisted as apprentices, working as class teachers during the school day and receiving their teacher training before and after school.

Following are verbatim quotes from "State Education in Queensland: A Brief History" - a booklet issued by the Department in 1984:

In 1862 a new building, designated the Normal School, was erected within the grounds of the Brisbane Boys and the Brisbane Girls Primary Schools, and thereafter those schools were usually referred to as the Brisbane Normal Boys and the Brisbane Normal Girls Primary Schools. The most important function of the Normal School was that of a training centre where pupil-teachers could see the best and most efficient teaching methods in operation. The pupil teacher system was a cheap form of recruitment, though perhaps a little hard on the pupils and teachers involved.

Pupil teachers at the Normal School were well trained, but only a fraction of the State's teacher-needs could be met in this way. The training system was therefore modified to allow head teachers of other schools to train pupil-teachers, thus relieving the pressure on the Brisbane centre.

Though a number of highly qualified teachers were imported from Britain in the 1880s, the pupil-teacher system was the main method of recruiting and training teachers. Not until

1914, when a teacher training college was established in Brisbane, was it possible to upgrade the standard of teacher preparation beyond the level of the pupil-teacher system, which was phased out between 1923-35.

It is alleged that letters of protest from parents are extant indicating concern that their pupil-teacher sons were being led into mischief by their pupils! I make these comments as historical facts and not in any spirit of denigration. I have the greatest admiration for the Department and all it has achieved in spite of great difficulties. I consider the standard of public education in Queensland to be as good as in any state in the Commonwealth.

The Christian Brothers came to Australia first to Sydney in 1843, during the lifetime of our Founder, Venerable Edmund Ignatius Rice who had resigned as Superior General in 1837 and lived until 29th August 1844. The early foundation of the Brothers in Sydney lasted but a short time, in which they opened and conducted three schools. The failure of the Archbishop of Sydney to understand the status of the Brothers as a Pontifical religious Order led to our departure in 1847.

Twenty-five years later another group of Brothers arrived in Melbourne in 1868, the year St James's commenced in Brisbane, twenty-five years after Archbishop Polding celebrated the first Mass in Brisbane in 1843. Twenty-five years later the Brothers came to St James's so 25 years has a special significance in the history of the school! This year, 1993, we commemorate the sesquicentenary of the celebration of the first Mass in Brisbane, the 125th anniversary of the foundation of St James's and the centenary of the presence on the Brothers in the school.

One of the three Brothers who came to Sydney in 1843, Br P. Francis Larkin, has an interesting place in the history of St James's. He was twenty-six years old when he landed in Sydney and was in charge of a school the Brothers opened at Miller's Point. In 1848, a year after the Brothers returned to Ireland, he was appointed Superior of the Brothers' community in Thurles where one of his students was Patrick Ambrose Treacy, who entered the Congregation and was destined to be the leader of the group of Brothers who landed in Melbourne in 1868. I will refer to him again later in this paper.

Francis Larkin was most successful in his principalship at Thurles, where he caught the attention of some of the Irish Hierarchy who assembled in Thurles for a synod. The Most Reverend Dr Kelly, Bishop of Derry, pressed the Superior General to make Francis available to be the founding Superior/Principal of a school in Derry which has flourished ever since. When his term there expired, at the earnest request of Archbishop Dixon, Primate of Ireland, he was assigned to open a school in Drogheda

where he laboured for many years with his usual success. He left for Gibraltar in 1878 and in the words of his biographer, "endeared himself to his little Spanish pupils". He was ordered to Australia after three years in Gibraltar, and came to Brisbane in 1884 after spending three years in Melbourne. He spent the rest of his life in the Gregory Terrace community and died on 2nd February 1897 at the age of eighty.

I considered it worthwhile mentioning the above details because Francis Larkin is a link between our Revered Founder and St James's. He left Ireland the first time with his two companions at the end of 1842 -the passage to Sydney at that time taking a few months. I think it is reasonable to assume the Founder would have farewelled the group for he lived until 1844. Moreover, Larkin was a member of the Congregation for six years before he left for Australia, so he would have been known to the Founder as the latter was still Superior General when he joined. His biographer in 1897 wrote:

During the twelve years spent in Brisbane, he devoted himself to the task of preparing boys for the Sacraments and many of the old pupils who passed through the First Communion and Confirmation classes under him, frequently spoke of his beautiful instructions, interspersed with suitable anecdotes. Their great affection for him was shown by the many inquiries that were daily made during his last illness. I think it is reasonable to assume that Brother Francis would have visited St James's and perhaps did some instruction of students because Brothers from the Terrace community conducted St James's for some years while Francis was a member of the community.

I have included the following longer quote from the same source, because it does concern St James's directly and the personnel involved will interest many present:

A solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated for the repose of his soul in St Stephen's Cathedral on Wednesday morning 3rd February 1897, His Grace the Archbishop presiding. Reverend Father Canali acted as celebrant; Reverend Father Byrne as deacon and Reverend Mr Masterson as sub-deacon; Reverend D. Fouhy acted as Master of Ceremonies. There were also present Revs M. Morris, J. Hegarty, F. Dorrigan, M. Baldwin, J. Power and J. Ryan (Caboolture). A large number of Christian Brothers from Gregory Terrace, Ipswich and Nudgee were also present. The Pupils from St James's and Gregory Terrace, as also the girls from St Stephen's School, assisted at the High Mass. The solemn music was sung by the choir, consisting of Mesdames Farry and O'Connor and Messrs Goopy, Ryan, Smith and Henry, the organ of course being silent.

At the conclusion of the service and as the mortal remains of the departed Brother were being removed from the church, the Dead March was played on the organ by Mrs Farry, after which the funeral moved off to Nudgee Cemetery. On arrival at St Vincent's, a large number of the boys and girls of the Orphanage marched in procession before the hearse to the cemetery accompanied by several of the nuns. Reverend Father Canali, assisted by Reverend Father Ryan, officiated at the grave.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by K.M. Smith, Wickham and George Streets.

One day I hope to hear a paper at a future meeting of the Association on the place of K.M. Smith in the history of the Archdiocese.

Brother Patrick Ambrose Treacy, a past student of Francis Larkin and Provincial of the Christian Brothers in Australasia, responded to Archbishop Dunne's invitation to arrange for the Brothers to take over St James's in 1893. You will recall that I mentioned earlier that Ambrose was a pupil at Thurles under the principalship of Francis Larkin. Outside school hours he studied the violin and the instrument he used was the old *Cromona* that he later took to Australia for his busking expeditions! When he and his companions landed in Melbourne after an eighty-four day voyage on the sailing ship "Donald McKay", he had to borrow ten shillings from a priest travelling with them to pay for the unloading and transport of their luggage. Bishop Goold of Melbourne, laughed heartily when Treacy informed him, "I haven't a rap". The bishop replied, "Throw yourself upon the people and they will provide all that you need". Brother Treacy did just that and as he moved about on his collection tours he invariably took his violin with him to play Irish airs for the migrants on whose generosity he depended.

The busking Brother's specialty was, of course, the traditional music of his homeland. Moved to tears, laughter and general revelry by his jigs, reels, airs and ballads, the mainly Irish parishioners would contribute generously - helped no doubt by the blank cheques, pen and ink he carried for such occasions.

Brother Regis Hughes who often accompanied him on his fund-raising tours, wrote:

At times you would feel your soul melt with tenderness at the soft, sweet, plaintive strains of our native music; whilst anon you would have difficulty in keeping hands and feet quiet as he rattled off some gay jig or lively reel of that dear land he loved so well.

Archbishop Dunne promised to pay fifteen pence a week for a maximum of 100 pupils per year for the two years 1893 and 1894 and agreed that the cost of repairs, rates and taxes would be met by the Cathedral administration. Moreover, he arranged for a second storey to be added to the building erected by Dr Cani in 1870.

Brother William Joseph Hogan was the first Brother Principal. He was thirty years old, active, able and enthusiastic. He was referred to as "The Opener". Earlier in 1893 he had commenced the work of the Brothers in the suburb of Abbotsford, Melbourne. After St James's, he was the founding Principal of Brothers' schools in West Melbourne, St Mary's Cathedral School, Sydney, St Laurence's, South Brisbane and Bundaberg. He was described as vigorous, cheerful and masterful.

In those early days the Brothers would attend morning Mass in St Stephen's Cathedral - a twenty minute walk each way, and then a quarter of an hour walk from St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace where they lived, to St James's. Among the Brothers, St James's was referred to as Branch School from Gregory Terrace. Obviously Brothers at branch schools needed to be young and fit!

The Brothers started teaching on 2nd October 1893 and the School Register indicates the addresses of the pupils and occupations of their fathers. By the end of the year there were 140 on the roll. By 1894 there were 296; by 1897 there were 363 of whom 94 were non-paying pupils. The policy of the school was that "every boy who presents himself is admitted".

The annual Entertainment and Prizegiving was quite a feature in the life of the school. The 1895 function included the "Trial Scene from the Merchant of Venice" (even though the school was still a primary one). Antonio was played by John Cusack who joined the Brothers and taught at Nudgee towards the end of the 1920s. He was a scholar of great urbanity and taught English, Latin and French to Senior students in Melbourne. A Brother in our community at Terrace, Brother B.M. Shortell, remembers the splendid tuition he received from Brother Cusack in 1944 at St Kevin's College, Melbourne, particularly in Latin. He was also a gifted musician. A school friend of John Cusack, Bertie Dillon, also joined the Brothers but died in Adelaide at the early age of twenty-nine. So two boys who spanned the lay-teacher and the Christian Brothers' management of St James's became Christian Brothers.

The Brothers' headmasters over the years constitute a very distinguished group of exemplary religious, noted for their fidelity and competence. Brother J.C. Ryan who succeeded Brother Hogan became a house hold word in the Congregation for his successful terms as Principal on a few occasions of Mt Carmel College, Charters Towers and St Joseph's College, Nudgee. He died in Sydney in 1949 after being Provincial Bursar in Australia and New Zealand. Brother W.M. Reidy succeeded Brother Ryan. Before his death in 1962 he was for a time Assistant to our Superior General. He was Principal of Gregory Terrace on a few occasions and was noted for his integrity and dedication to his profession.

Time prevents from detailing the story of all the Principals. I must be satisfied in mentioning just a few.

Brother Peter Damian Grealy was born in Gympie and was a qualified accountant. He was stationed for a time in Melbourne between his two terms of principalship of St James's and realised what the Brothers' technical and commercial school was achieving in that city. Father Leo Carlton, Administrator of St Stephen's Cathe-

dral, shared Brother Grealy's desire to introduce commercial and technical courses to St James's. The introduction of these courses to a school which had previously restricted entrance to primary classes only, was mentioned by Brother Grealy as the goal of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in 1943. The project had the support of Brother I.L. Mackey, the Provincial at that time. Sad to relate, the venture was unsuccessful. Brother Grealy's biographer wrote:

The venture was not a success. The great majority of the boys and their parents were interested only in the status-bearing academic course and consequent promotion to the fine secondary College of Gregory Terrace. Staff difficulties prevented the successful establishment of a night school in commercial subjects. Reluctantly, Brother Damian had to relinquish his dream of a fully-equipped and fully-accredited Commercial College. The equipment he had so enthusiastically acquired had to be sold and St James's reverted to its traditional role as a central primary school and feeder to Terrace.

I would like to have time this evening to tell you much about many of the Brothers who taught at St James's over the years. They were wonderfully devoted men and completely dedicated to the Apostolate of Catholic Education, in spite of many problems such as large class sizes. I will return to that topic after I tell you about Brother A. Innocent Keenan who was on the staff 1920-24.

He was born in South Africa in 1903 and after the family moved to Melbourne attended a Christian Brothers' school there before joining the Congregation early in life. After his Novitiate at Strathfield, N.S.W., he came to St James's in 1920 at the age of seventeen! The Principal, Brother M.I. Hickey, is alleged to have said, "I asked for a man and they sent me a boy!" Br Keenan submitted the following to Brother Steele for inclusion in "A History of a City School":

The number of pupils at Terrace at that stage was down, and the Branch School Brothers joked that for a change St James's was supporting Terrace. Brother B.F. Magee, the superior at Terrace, at tea one night asked around the table, 'How many in your class?' When the very junior said, 'One hundred and thirty-five, Sir' Brother Magee nearly jumped out of his chair. As a result he got an assistant - an apprentice/pupil teacher to help him the very next day.

I will finish this story after telling more about Brother Keenan. He became one of the best known members of our Congregation in Australia, being Principal of our schools in Highgate and Geraldton in Western Australia, and Abergowrie in Queensland. He was a brilliant scholar and gifted linguist and for some time worked in the Apostolic delegation when it was situated in North Sydney. He received the Papal Cross, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice for his service to the Church. He came to Brisbane several months ago to attend the funeral of Brother T.F. Mulry, an ex-student of St James's. Unfortunately he had a fall that resulted in a broken pelvis that

caused many months' hospitalisation. I visited him at Canossa Hospital, Oxley, recently and he added to the story I commenced a few minutes ago. He recalls he was given a pupil teacher to assist him; both operated in one large classroom. One day he heard quite a commotion at the other end of the room. It appears that the pupils, the youngest in the school, were arguing about some matter with the teacher, who to strengthen his case asserted he would present himself to Brother Keenan for punishment if he was proved incorrect. Evidently the boys convinced the teacher he was wrong and he duly presented himself to Brother Keenan for the usual!. Brother Keenan is typical of many Brothers who commenced their teaching apostolate at St James's.

I must mention Brother A.B. Hanley. He was on the staff 1914-18 and was regarded as one of the best known and beloved teachers of those days. Later he specialised in Manual Arts and was involved in such in Sydney and Melbourne. He was a Consultor to the Provincial of St Mary's Province, Australia, for twelve years, part of the time Deputy Provincial. In 1963, as Deputy Provincial, he made the Annual Inspection of St James's. He commented:

It is pleasing to note that the old school is still playing a role in the education of the Catholic boys of Brisbane, whose parents come within the range of those in the lower income brackets... with the development of the new syllabus of studies for Queensland schools, it could provide a stream for further education in senior subjects for those not entering University courses.

Prophetic words indeed!

Jim Lacey was born in North Queensland and the family came to Brisbane when his father died; he attended St James's 1919-21 and after a short time at Terrace joined the Brothers. He was one of the best known loved Christian Brothers of those who taught in Queensland and New South Wales. He became a Consultor in St Mary's Province, Sydney, and was Principal of Our Lady's Mount, Townsville, Waverley College, Sydney and Nudgee. He was an outstanding orator and could acquit himself with distinction in any company. He represented the Provincial at the opening of St James's Community Residence on 27th July 1958. He inspected the school in 1961 and reported: "The boys are respectful, enthusiastic, alert and co-operative. The school is flourishing and has a good name". He made specific suggestions regarding urgent maintenance and the pressing need for a science room. He died in 1969, aged sixty.

With Jim Lacey I salute the forty-six ex-students of St James's who became Christian Brothers; one of these is Brother T.J. Brosnan now in the St James's Community, who after more than sixty years in the Order still works full-time as Maintenance Manager of the School Camp site - "Jimmies-on-the-Dam".

Thirty-six ex-students of St James's have been ordained priests. I pay tribute

to these exemplary men represented in this paper by Rev. Jack Rosenskjar, a friend and contemporary of mine at St James's.

After a period on the staff of Pius XII Regional Seminary, Banyo, he had a distinguished army career as a chaplain and after discharge served as assistant pastor in a few parishes, including a year at Surfers Paradise. He commenced a noteworthy period as Parish Priest of Mt Gravatt on the First Sunday of Advent 1950, a most demanding assignment, for his area of responsibility then has since been divided into six parishes. He was instrumental in preparing the groundwork for these parishes. In his spare time he qualified for a Master of Arts from the Queensland University. His zeal for the welcome of his flock is legendary. He continues to assist the church on occasions at St Agnes's Parish, Mt Gravatt and at other centres when required.

A host of exemplary Catholic laymen learned the truths of the Faith at St James's. Some attended other schools after completing the Primary classes at Saints. Many did no further study at school but developed their talents by apprenticeships, in-service training or attendance at evening courses when and where these were available. Representing this great multitude several thousand strong, I must mention the late Mr P.J. Kelly who presided at the Dinner celebrating the centenary of the foundation of the school in 1968. J.P. Kelly was an excellent Catholic, very interested and involved in the study of the Faith and the Church's teaching on Social Justice. He was involved in the establishing of the Aquinas Library and the Christian Brothers' Old Boys' Association that promoted public demonstrations of Faith in the 1930s; he was a prominent solicitor and highly respected in Brisbane legal circles. On the occasion just mentioned, he remarked: "The reunion tonight recalls memories and achievements. To me, the simple, plain exterior of the old school typified the record of the struggles of St James's over the years".

From the commencement of my association with the Brothers some sixty years ago, efforts were being made to limit class sizes and reduce or eliminate corporal punishment. As regards class sizes, our dilemma was the demand for Catholic Education and the inability of the Church to respond adequately. Funds were not available to pay assistant teachers a just wage and the Brothers were limited in the facilities they could provide in many of their schools because of lack of funds. Remember that the era I have been discussing included the Great Depression; no government funding was forthcoming and the Catholic population was not sufficiently affluent to provide classroom space and pay teachers to enable class sizes to be reduced to an optimum number. In a missionary effort the Brothers and other teaching orders decided to do everything possible to provide education to all seeking it. This made heavy demands on all involved, including parents and children. The provision of Government funding, including per capita grants for recurrent expenditure in rela-

tively recent times has ameliorated the unacceptable situation just mentioned.

Here it is opportune to mention Reg and Frank Leighton, two very faithful, long-serving lay masters, known to generations of St James's boys. Both were dedicated teachers and controlled their classes competently. In his spare time, Reg was an international Rugby league referee. Commenting on the relatively paltry salary the school was able to pay Reg, a Christian Brother, Robert Heslin (on St James's staff 1932-34) commented: "He would have needed the referee's fee badly to supplement his extremely meagre wage".

Frank, known respectfully as "Hoppy" from a limp - the legacy of polio when two years old - was a good gymnast despite this; he taught many interested young pupils parallel bars exercises. Both finished their teaching at the school in 1948; Reg had spent thirty years on the staff; Frank twenty-six.

Mr Philip Eve, known to generations of St James's boys as "Dill" was caretaker and janitor for many years until the late 1940s. He was renowned for his generosity, particularly for the supply of oranges at football matches, and his stentorian voice giving vocal support to St James's representatives in various sports, particularly football. He was highly respected by current pupils and old boys, although he was slow in speech and according to some, simple.

"Castleracket", the house built by Father Hanly and referred to earlier in this paper, was intact on the school campus until at least December 1935. In the twenties the Kelly family lived in it and served the school as caretakers and cleaners. The daughter of the family, Tottie, conducted the school tuckshop and on occasions made costumes for school concerts. Brother Steele in his book writes:

A pie and peas for 3d or 4d has been heard so often from old boys of that period (three or four cents currently). A favourite softdrink at 4d (with 1d back on the bottle) by Tristrams, was ginger beer with a glass marble as a stopper against a suction cap of rubber. In forcing the marble you'd lose half a bottle of fizz. Some old boys even confessed to smashing the bottle to have the stopper as a marble, nicknamed a 'ginger beerie' - marbles were a major craze annually for primary boys. You could get a small Nestle's chocolate for 1d or sixteen aniseed balls for the same. A penny (1 cent) could buy a lot in those days.

Tottie later married Charlie Hall and they lived in the house alongside the school. The pupils of the 1920s were hardy types. Brother Steele reports:

The rough, gravelly, rocky slope down from Kelly's was used (but not supposed to be) for a 'Bedlam' area with the old camphor laurel tree east of the house (and still there) the base or 'prison'. It was a game that was played 'rough and tumble and furious'. Many a barked shin found its way to the kindly ambulance men then around the corner in Ann Street not far

away, or to one of the Leightons to doctor it up; and for the mothers, there was regular sewing of ripped and torn clothing. Some Brothers in charge were known to ban such unruly games.

We come now to the final phase of this paper, the period since the Brothers' residence was built on the school campus. This project was mooted for many years. In 1954, Brother Dowd had organised fund raising drives by Old Boys, parents and supporters after Archbishop Duhig indicated he would be prepared to give the deeds of the land for the planned residence of the Brothers. It became a reality in 1958 when Brother O.S. Adams was Superior/Principal of Gregory Terrace. The foundation stone was laid on 23rd February 1958, the commencement of the third year of Brother Baillie's Principalship. At the function Brother Baillie welcomed the previous staff members including Brothers Grealy and Dowd, to each of whom he paid a special tribute for their efforts in preceding years in pioneering the project. You will recall that earlier in this paper I stated the site of "Castleracket" is now occupied by the residence.

Archbishop Duhig on the occasion said: "I am happy to know that the ground once hallowed by the home of my venerable predecessor will house another band of consecrated men and that Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament would be in their midst".

The building was completed in about five months by builder K.,D. Morris, directed by architect Frank Cullen, and opened by Archbishop Duhig, assisted by his co-adjutor Archbishop O'Donnell on 27th July 1958. The cost was £22,000. You will be interested in the fact that there was something prophetic in the addresses of both archbishops at that function. Archbishop Duhig spoke of the need for better office training for girls and indicated he would like to see particular attention paid to technical and business training for boys. In similar vein his co-adjutor said:

Hitherto we have been concentrating perhaps overmuch on preparations for the professions or the civil service. But now we are entering on a new phase of technology. I think that our education authorities in the Church have got to give a great deal of attention to changes.

And now in 1993, St James's plans a new phase in its activities incorporating the ideas of both prelates.

Brother Adams expressed the "hope that the healthy spirit of friendship and rivalry existing between the schools would continue and that St James's would still send to Terrace boys noted for their integrity, academic qualifications and sporting prowess".

In the same year St James's had its first Sub-Junior (Year 9) Class; these boys

taught by Brothers Baillie and Brother B.E. Walker (now superior of Terrace) were represented for the Junior Certificate Examination (Year 10) in 1959 and performed creditably.

With a Brothers' community on campus there was no way St James's would not expand. Discussions commenced regarding the feasibility of the school carrying on to Senior Standard (Year 12). Visiting Brother Inspectors recommended that acquisition of neighbouring properties should be undertaken. Mr Bernard F. Caniffe, an experienced and astute estate agent and benefactor of the school, assisted the Brothers in acquiring land at the corner of Hartly and Gloucester Streets and an adjoining property in 1964. At this stage the Brothers did not own St James's campus. The late Mr Frank Cullen, the school architect and nephew of the archbishop pointed out to the latter the advantage to the Archdiocese of freeing it from responsibility for maintenance of St James's and recommended the transfer of the Certificate of Title. Following consultation with the Diocesan Council the deeds were handed over to the Brothers in March 1965 with the following provision: "The Diocesan Council was quite willing to transfer the ownership of St James's School, Boundary Street, to the Christian Brothers, provided they undertake to use it as it is now, for educational purposes and not to dispose of it for any other purpose without the consent of the Diocesan Council".

An agreement was finalised between the Archdiocese of Brisbane and the Christian Brothers in accordance with the conditions just mentioned.

Before Archbishop Duhig leaves our story, it is worth recalling that he presided at the blessing of the 1914 extensions, the blessing of the new front gates in 1936 and the two functions associated with the Brothers' residence in 1958. He confirmed many students over the years and presided over many school functions. He often referred to his association with the legendary Mr J. Long. His name should always be revered at St James's.

Fund raising by Old Boys, Parents and Friends proceeded with zest after local ownership was achieved. The late Brother Harding was looking to the introduction of post-Year Ten classes and at the opening of the new Senior School on 23rd April 1967, said: "With the possibility of a Leaving Certificate designed to meet the needs of those who do not wish to go to the University being introduced, I think the time has come for us to consider seriously post-Junior Classes here at St James's." The year 1994 should see the fulfilment of his dream.

Brother N.C. Langan was appointed Principal in 1968, the year in which the Centenary of the Foundation of St James's was celebrated. Masses in St Stephen's

for the school population and on another occasion for the Old Boys were the first two occasions in the celebrations. On 1st November 1967 the Brothers in Queensland and P.N.G. were grouped into a new Province, that of St Francis Xavier under the Provincialship of the late Br J.S. Campbell. At the Centenary Concert and Speech Night on 8th October, Brother Campbell, a fine orator was the guest speaker. Inter alia he said:

I am not praising the school for a century of existence. There is no merit in man or institution in mere survival; but to have served with distinction, to have served the Church and the State with honour, to have catered for more than its share of educational needs of the Catholic Youth of an ever-widening metropolis in both religious and secular fields - this is surely no mean achievement and this is what the school can look back on with pride.

On 1968 forty students were in the first post-Junior Class preparing to sit for the Senior Examination at the end of 1969. In 1974 Brother Steele succeeded as Principal and finalised arrangements for the addition of an extra floor to the Senior School. It was opened on 24th July 1974, eight days after the death of eighty-eight year old Tom Carey - an ex-student, generous friend and supporter of St James's for many years. Tom and his brother Herb were born in North Queensland and after the death of their father came to Brisbane and attended St James's about 1900 when the Brothers accepted them although they could pay no fees. Later the brothers conducted a small food and sandwich shop near St Patrick's in the Valley. Tom went out of his way in adult years to show his gratitude to St James's. He provided over the years sporting gear and trophies for many teams in a variety of sports and organised picnics for boys from needy homes and on at least one occasion, for the whole school. He was a quiet, gentle, kindly man with a great love for St James's, the students and staff. An extension to the Senior School opened on 4th June 1978 was named after him.

During his first year as Principal, Brother Steele was fortunate to secure the services of Mr Frank Steer to assist him in the financial management of St James's in an honorary capacity. I am pleased to record this generous contribution to the welfare of the school that continued for many years until quite recently when ill health made it imprudent for Frank to continue.

Brother Bill Tynan was appointed Principal in 1980 and Mr Kevin Elford as Deputy Principal. After twenty-two years on the staff Kevin left at the end of the year to join the Brothers' school in Maryborough. He had given great service to St James's as a dedicated classroom teacher, choir master and sporting coach. He spent many week-ends on school camps. On his departure Brother Tynan commented that Kevin was interested particularly in the needs of those who had to struggle.

During Brother Tynan's Principalship Pradella Constructions completed three projects: the new amenities block, including 15 showers; the new staff building; the expanded school library. In late 1982 he received a call from Rev. Rees-Thomas, Minister of the Uniting Church, to inquire if St James's would be interested in buying his church at 446 Ann Street that the establishment of the Uniting Church had made redundant. The Minister told the *Catholic Leader*: "We wanted the purchaser to be one to carry on Christian work in the city. If Christ can be elevated through the lads of St James's, then our Christian work continues, irrespective of denomination - no place for bigotry".

Brother Tynan referred the matter to the Provincial, Brother L.T. Marshall, and to relieve any extra financial hardship on St James's the building was bought and donated to St James's by the Brothers of St Francis Xavier Province. The building provided an ideal venue for the developing pre-employment Training Course, referred to as P.E.T.C. among the staff and students.

During the Principalship of Brother Barry Sullivan that commenced in 1987, the development of the "Jimmies-on-the-Dam" project was an outstanding enterprise. The 'dream' was born during Brother Tynan's term of office. The property at Lake Maroon via Boonah was a donation from Terrace to St James's. During the period 1986-1990 working bees at the camp site were held every two months. The Official Opening and Open Day was held on Saturday 12th March 1988. Brother B. Buckley, a member of the Provincial Council and one very anxious to promote outdoor education in our schools, presided. It was he who had purchased the site when Principal of Terrace. Father Jim Cosgrove celebrated the first Mass at the site. Brother Sullivan commented: "It was a fitting climax to almost two years in establishing the site. "Jimmies-on-the-Dam" is very much a sign of the family and community spirit for which we continually strive here at St James's".

Present member of St James's community and ex-student of the school, Brother T.J. Brosnan, has given immeasurable service to his old school in effecting improvements and attending to maintenance at the camp.

At a recent meeting of Old Boys of St James's I asked Mr Michael Wilkinson, an experienced education consultant in contact with many schools, to give me his impression of his alma mater in a few words. He indicated that what impressed him about St James's was its practical, down to earth spirit and endeavour to assist all students, in spite of inherent problems and disadvantages.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the generous contribution of St James's to the life and education of many new Australians and their sons.

You will recall that I mentioned Brother Campbell's speech at the dinner celebrating the centenary of the school's foundation. I will conclude by giving him the last say, exercising a little poetic licence:

I am not praising the school for a century and a quarter of existence. There is no merit in person or institution in mere survival...but to have served with distinction, to have served the Church and State with honour, to have catered for more than its share of the educational needs of the Catholic youth of an ever-widening metropolis in both religious and secular fields -this is surely no mean achievement and this is what the school can look back on with pride.

Br J.G. Hodda CFC