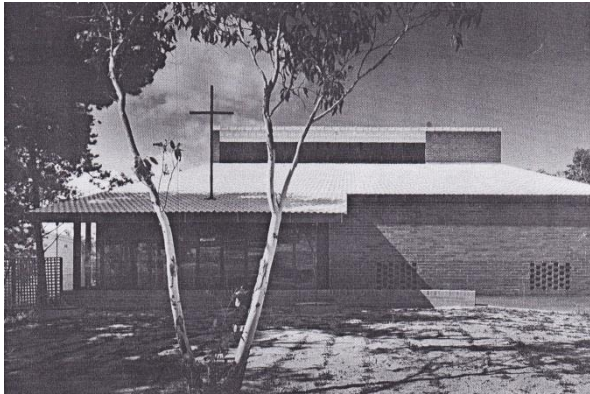


THE STORY OF ST ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH & PRIMARY SCHOOL, COLLAROY PLATEAU.

Researched & written by Bob Moore – May 2013.

THE CHURCH:



St Rose Church as built.



St Rose Church Landscaped.

The area of Collaroy Plateau originally was part of the St Joseph's Narrabeen Parish having Fr Amiel Joseph Sobb as Parish Priest. This far sighted priest developed the Catholic Church with the purchase of land and property for future Churches and Schools in the Parish bounded by Narrabeen, Palm Beach, Cottage Point, Terry Hills, Oxford Falls, Collaroy Plateau and Collaroy.

From the early 1950's Sunday Masses were said in various suitable halls within the area that were close for parishioners to attend, firstly at the Scout Hall in Alexander Street Collaroy near Pittwater Rd, the Collaroy Plateau Community Centre in Hall Ave and later the Youth Hall at Plateau Park.

Sometime in the late 1950's approval was sought from the then Cardinal to purchase land for a church and a little time after approval was received. 4 Rose Ave Collaroy Plateau was purchased for construction of a Church.

On 25 September 1966 the first Building Committee meeting was held. After much analysis and investigation the committee appointed high profile Architects, Fowell, Mansfield, Jarvis, & Maclurcan to design the church and submit applications to Warringah Shire Council for a church to hold a congregation of 400.

When this application came up for debate by the Council on 7 November 1966 the approval was deferred until the 14th with much dissent by Councillors. At the meeting on the 14th Fr Sobb made a very outspoken address in his usual convincing manner, following which the Council approved the development by 7 votes to 6.

Very quickly a 'working bee' by Parish volunteers who still live nearby was arranged to clear the site of vegetation. A number of these also did labouring work during construction. On 5th April 1967 a contract was signed with J. Ardron P/L from North Ryde for the construction of the Church, having a completion date of 16th October 1967. In fact completion was actually achieved on 13th October 1967.

The church was dedicated as a Memorial to Returned Soldiers of the two World Wars and was to be known as the "Chapel of East from Narrabeen". This was put forward by Fr Sobb who had been with the 37/52 Battalion of the Armoured Regiment and saw service in the New Guinea and Pacific Islands Campaign during WW 2. This dedication attracted a tax deduction for any donation made to the church.

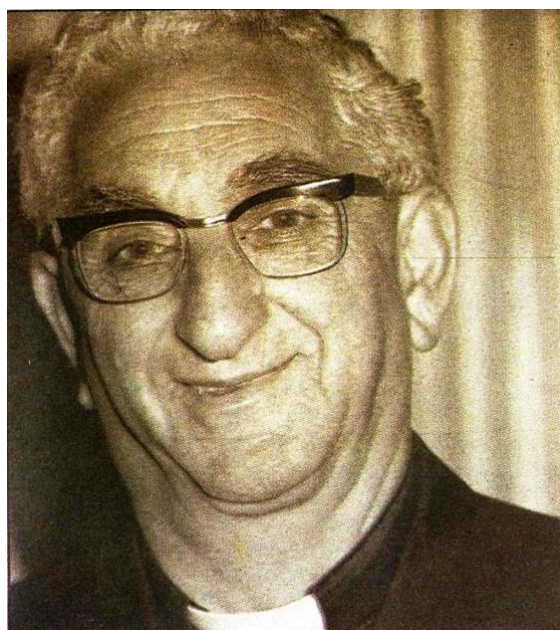
A letter from Cardinal Gilroy to Fr Sobb dated 10th August 1967 gave approval for the names for the church as either "St Rose of Lima" or "St Xaviour". Fr Sobb chose St Rose of Lima and the church was officially opened by Bishop Thomas Muldoon on 19th November 1967, with public worship in the church commencing on Sunday 29th October 1967.

There are two thoughts on why the name "Rose" was selected. One was that Rose was the name of Fr. Sobb's mother, and the other that it was his sister's name. A search of the NSW Births, Deaths & Marriages as well as Ancestry.com, found that both his grandmother and sister were named Rose - his mother's name was Teresa.

No data is available of the first Baptism in the church, but Fr Sobb presided at the first marriage in the church on 12th January 1968.



Fr Sobb 1951



Fr Sobb in 1976

The Collaroy Plateau and Cromer areas grew and on 19th January 1971 Cardinal Norman Gilroy gave the status of Parish to St Rose of Lima, Collaroy Plateau and appointed Father Norman Grady as the first Parish Priest. The Cardinal also provided in writing the parish boundaries together with a map showing the inclusion of the whole of Cromer.

Fr Grady wasted no time in arranging the Sacraments to be bestowed on St Rose parishioners. On 21st February 1971 the first Baptism of baby Andrew James Crouch took place. The first Marriage Ceremony between Patricia Ann Parker and Ronald Senner was celebrated on 16th March 1971, followed by others on 3rd and 10th April. First Communion for children in the Parish of St Rose was held on 1st October 1971. As the Parish had no school, the children for this First Communion came from primary schools at St Joseph's Narrabeen and St Kevin's Dee Why together with Cromer, Wheeler Heights and Collaroy Plateau State Primary Schools. Confirmation of 107 children was celebrated by Franciscan Friar Fr J. Doggett OFM on 8th October 1971.

The Inaugural Parish Ball was held on 3rd June 1972, at the Royal Motor Yacht Club Newport with guests including Bishop Thomas Muldoon, Warringah Councillors together with local State and Federal members of Parliament.

Sunday 6th April 1975 Fr Grady formed the St Rose Collaroy Plateau Parish Co-ordination Committee (later known as the Parish Council). The Committee consisted of:-

Chairman;	Mr M. Boylson
Vice-Chairman;	Mrs G. Chapman
Secretaries;	Mrs J. Parker and J. Oates
Executive Officer;	Mr K. Dunn
Committee Members;	Messrs - W. Fisher-Cripps, R. Simons, P. Cameron, B. Elliott, O. Oates Madame's - A. Cummins, P. Fiddes, J. Bindon & Miss J. McDonnell
Sub-committee;	Messrs - F. Delsorte, B. Basham, P. Wall, P. Coonay, R. Powell, J. Bowe, J. Green, P. Horan, N. Ciko Madams - J. Pitt, F. Ross & Miss J. McDonnell

Fr Grady also suggested that two young members of the Parish be co-opted into the Committee (believed to be for the Youth Group). The name of Michele Simmons is later recorded and Mrs H. Boylson were added to the Committee at the following meeting on 1st May. The immediate concern for the Parish was to carry out a census, form a Choir, appoint readers, construct an extension to the existing church entry porch, form a Youth Group and most importantly; Finance.

On 26th January 1978 Warringah Council gave approved for the construction of a small porch to the church, on the southern side. The porch was designed by parishioner Nick Ciko and built by parishioner Kevin Dunn.



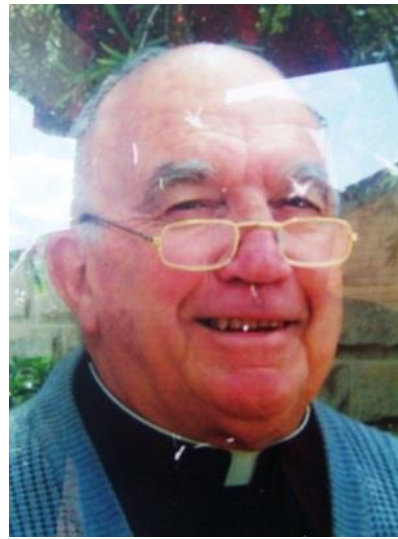
The St Rose Parish 1st First Communion Children on 1-10-1971,
with Gwen Chapman (Catechist) and Sister Agnelles on left and Fr Norman Grady at right.
Glenda O'Reilly is 2nd from right in bottom row and her brother Peter (not in photo) served at the Mass.



St Rose Church with extended Lobby 1978



Fr Norman Grady.



Fr Don Leivesley.

April 1980 Fr Grady was appointed as Parish Priest of the new Rooty Hill Parish, where he was to build both a school and a church

Before a new parish priest was appointed a number of priests showed interest in taking over the Parish and presided at Sunday Masses. Eventually in June 1980 Fr Don Leivesley was appointed as parish priest, but he was recovering from a stroke and was not able to fully participate in the parish until December of that year.

From July 1980 to February 1981 Fr Anderson was appointed as Administrator of the parish. Throughout 1998 to 1999 Fr Leivesley was again very ill. The twinning of the parish of St John's Narraweena with St Rose was mooted. Rev. Dr. William B. Aliprandi, the parish priest of St John's, was put in charge of St Rose, with Fr Leivesley becoming 'Priest in Residence' at St Rose.

Sadly Fr Don Leivesley died in June 2000 and the twinning of St John's with St Rose did not proceed. In 1999 Fr Geoffrey Bugden was appointed by Bishop David Walker as the first parish priest of the combined parishes of St Rose and St Josephs. Fr Bugden's task was to bring back together the Parishes, which was a major endeavour.

In December 2003 Fr Gerard McCormick MSC – Missionaries of Sacred Heart was appointed Administrator of the two parishes

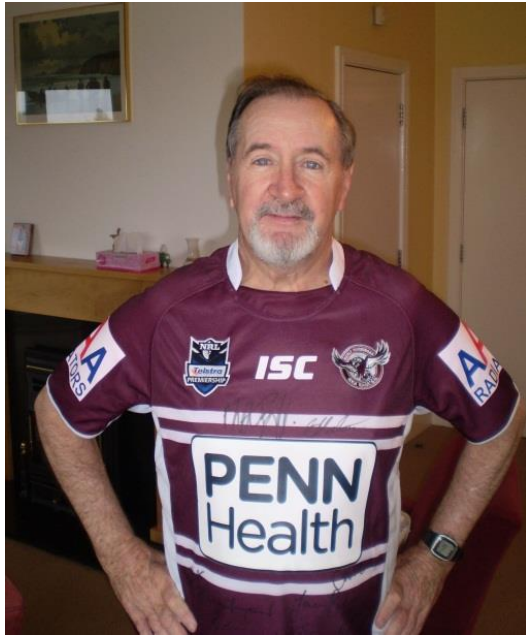
Bishop David Walker appointed the Spiritan Order to minister to the two church communities. On 1st October 2004 Fr Paul Walsh was appointed as parish priest for a 6 year period, with the assistance of Fr Gerard Ryan. On 1st July 2006 the twinned church communities of St Rose Collaroy Plateau and St Joseph's Narrabeen took the name of "The Lakes Catholic Parish".

In 2007 a new gathering space (called a Narthex) was constructed at the southern facade of St Rose church, custom designed furniture was installed and internal alterations carried out which included changes to the sanctuary, ambo, tabernacle, sacristy and rooms behind the sanctuary, IT & lighting console, a new vestry storeroom, WC and Kitchen.

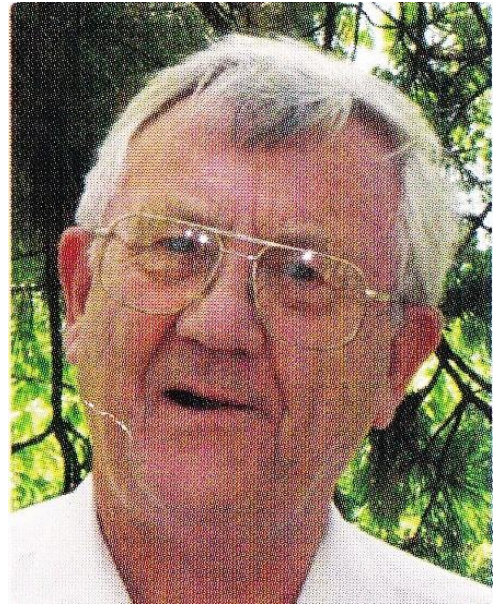
On 18th April 2008 David McKenzie was Ordained as a Deacon and was appointed to the Lakes Parish.

Fr Paul Walsh stayed on at the Lakes until April 2011 after which he returned to Ireland. Fr Gerry Ryan had returned to Ireland in May 2009.

On 1st May 2011 Bishop David appointed Deacon David McKenzie as Co-ordinator of Parish Life, Fr David Ranson as Priest Moderator and Fr Barry Nobbs and Fr Michael Hwang as Priests of the Parish.



Fr Paul Walsh.



Fr Gerard Ryan.



Deacon David McKenzie.



Fr David Ranson.



Fr Barry Nobbs.



Fr Michael Sun Jae Hwan

THE STATUE:

Parishioners Annette and Gary West lost their daughter Belinda Jane on 9 May 1977. They consulted with Fr Grady for a memorial to be erected in her memory. As it happened a statue of St Rose of Lima was being considered by the Parish. The concept of the statue as a memorial to Belinda was offered to the Wests who accepted this proposal. The scope of works was given to the church Architects, Fowell, Mansfield, Jarvis & Maclurcan. The renowned Sculptor Tom Bass, was engaged to research St Rose and produce a statue of her approximately 2m tall. The statue was erected in the front garden of the church in time for the Feast Day of St Rose on 23rd August 1978.

Unfortunately just before Christmas 1998 drunken vandals threw a rope around the statue and with the use of a vehicle dragged the statue up the road and into a steel barrier on a pedestrian crossing in Veterans Parade. It was beyond repair which caused upset to the parishioners and made the news headlines. The culprits were never caught, however one of them wrote to the West Family care of the Manly Daily on 14th December 1998, offering an apology and enclosing \$2,000.00 to go towards a new statue.

This damage had occurred whilst Fr Leivesley was ill and the Narraweena parish priest, Dr. W. B. Aliprandi was administering St Rose. He commissioned Donna Littlejohn, of the Tom Bass Sculptor School, to rebuild the statue. The rebuilt statue was erected in time for the Feast Day of St Rose held on 23rd August 1999.

The Blessing of the statue took place on Sunday August 22nd 1999 and was attended by government dignitaries, Sculptors Tom Bass and Donna Littlejohn, the West Family, Fr's Don Leivesley & W Aliprandi, local Clergy, leading parishioners, school principal, teachers and choir.



] Fr Don and the parishioners at the art studio in Erskineville with the sculptor, Donna Littlejohn, standing next to her model of St Rose. Donna is delighted with it.

Photo taken from the Parish Bulletin shortly after the Erskineville visit.

Resurrection o

CHURCH of St Rose parishioners will welcome the return of a long lost friend tomorrow.

The statue of St Rose of Lima, which stood in front of the Collaroy Plateau church for 21 years until vandals desecrated it in November, has been re-born.

The new 2m tall statue was put in place on Wednesday to be unveiled and blessed by parish priest William Aliprandi at 11.30am on Sunday.

Parish secretary Gwen Chapman said the whole parish had been saddened at the attack on the statue.

It also struck deep in the hearts of the West family of Cromer — the statue was erected in the memory of Annette and Gary West's daughter Belinda Jane who died on May 9, 1977, aged three years and four months.

The vandals tied a rope around the statue, ripped it off its pedestal, dragged it along the road, slamming it into a steel barrier and left it on a pedestrian crossing. Damaged beyond repair, the church decided to commission a new statue.

In an unusual twist, the guilt-ridden vandal sent an apology to the West family, through The Manly Daily, and \$2000 to go toward the replacement.

Mrs Chapman said at the time that losing the statue was akin to losing a parishioner. "We're overjoyed to have her back and on Sunday when we have the final blessing there'll be plenty of people with a tear in their eye," she said.

There are plans to make the original statue into a bust which would be kept in the church.



Seeing the light . . . Donna Littlejohn

The Editor - Manly Daily

I would like to give an apology for the damage I caused to property of the church and to say I'm sorry to Mrs and Mr West for the distress I made when I was under the influence of alcohol. Can you please give the \$2,000 to Mr and Mrs West to restore the memorial 'copy sent' to the Wests.

Sculptor Donna Littlejohn with Statue of St Rose and Letter from Statue thief as reported in the Manly Daily.

THE PRESBYTERY:



The Presbytery completed in 1972

Due to there being no presbytery at the time of his appointment, Fr Grady lived in the Vestry (now the Children's Liturgy Space) at the north end of the church with make-do living arrangements. Thus a permanent presbytery was a high priority. Fortunately an old weatherboard cottage at 56 Veterans Pde on the corner of Rose Ave and adjoining the Church property became available and was purchased on 1st November 1971.

But the cottage was very unsatisfactory for long term use and therefore Fr Grady appointed Architect Adrian Hickey of Sydney G. Hurst & Kennedy P/L, to design a new presbytery and apply to the Council for Building Approval, which was submitted early in 1972. However major difficulties arose due to the size of the property, Council Building Regulations regarding the street boundaries with minimum building set back from each. It was found that the old cottage was built before Regulations existed for the area, in that there was now insufficient space on the Rose Ave boundary to construct a new building with the regulated set-backs.

The problem of obtaining approval for a new building was overcome by submitting an application for Alterations & Additions, which fitted into the Council Regulations, thus the design was for one room of the original cottage to be retained with a new two storey building constructed around it. This provided accommodation for two priests with all conveniences including Office, Interview Room and Fireproof Strong Room for Parish records.

Much negotiation with Council was needed before approval was achieved and finally parishioner and builder Kevin Dunn was able to provide a tender on 8th July 1972 for the work. This was accepted and in a very short time Fr Grady had a home before Christmas of that year, with the garage not constructed until 1973.

Later, after the arrival of Fr Leivesley, security fencing and window grilles were added due to several break-ins.

This presbytery is now the Lakes Parish Office.

THE PRIESTS:

The Church of St Rose of Lima has had a number of dedicated men who were given the responsibility of the Church either as Parish Priest, Administrator, Priest in Residence or in Charge.

However the Parish Priests of Amiel Joseph Sobb, Norman Grady and Paul Walsh stand out. For those who knew them; these same three had infectious smiles with hearty laughs. One could see this in their eyes, they glowed when laughing; Fr Sobb's nose with that twist to his mouth; Fr Grady's large grin with the flutter of his eyebrows, the pulling of the earlobe and shrug of the shoulder; Fr Walsh's glowing cheeks, sparkling eyes and that accent.

Then there was the singing, Fr Sobb had a great love for the hymns and maybe because he was of Lebanese decent, he had a great chant for the sung Latin Mass called the "Missa Cantata", which he celebrated as often as he was able and before the Dutch Choir was around, he would lead the hymns from the Altar; at times turning around and conducting the congregation and at the same time singing so loud the church vibrated. Fr Grady liked the congregation to sing hymns during Mass so he could join in without his poor voice being heard; and of course we cannot forget that voice of Fr Walsh; he could turn the English Mass with his chanting and singing into a performance all could appreciate. Then at the Parish social functions he could not resist a burst into song in his Irish accent; wonderful!

What a combination to be thankful for.

Fathers Sobb and Grady were the 'Builder and Managers' of the Parish in difficult times, with Fr Walsh being there at the right time to pull the two churches together as one.

THE SCHOOL:

Before the school at Collaroy Plateau was built, children had to go to St Joseph's Narrabeen, St Kevin's Dee Why or the State primary schools. In the hope of obtaining a school the Parish held many bottle drives, raffles and any other means of obtaining extra finance to construct the school. The bottle drives were particularly successful, much time was needed to sort, box and deliver to the bottle yard for sale.

Not long after Fr Grady took over the Parish he believed there was sufficient support to construct a school. On 22nd May 1972 an adjoining property to the St Rose Church became available and agreement was reached to purchase this battle-axe block at 8 Rose Ave, from a Mrs Quinlan. The purchase was completed in June 1972. This allowed space to construct the intended primary school.

After being advised that 320 Parish children were in State Schools with 160 children in Dee Why and Narrabeen Catholic schools, the Catholic Education Office approved the building of the school.

It was the intent of Fr Grady to use the old cottage on the new property for the Kindergarten whilst the new classrooms for Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Classes, Toilets and Staff Room, were constructed for use from 1974. Architect Adrian Hickey of Sydney G. Hurst & Kennedy P/L was engaged to design the complex, with preliminary drawings being completed in June 1972 followed by submission for Development Approval.

Local residents made many objections to Council and in the news media. Apparently the Councillors of Warringah Shire Council also did not want a Catholic school on the Plateau and were very vocal in their objection. All the reasons revolved around noise to residents, reduced property values, lack of parking and that there were two State Primary schools on the Plateau. At a Council Meeting in early October 1972 the majority of the Councillors were against approval for the School. However they agreed to a site inspection before the following meeting due on 6 November which was to be an 'open meeting'.

Mothers of the Parish intending to send their children to the new school were up in arms and naturally were in strong favour of the school. Two mothers from Collaroy Plateau in particular, Jenny Oates who later became the school Secretary from 1973 to 1984 and Barbara Cansdell, led the charge. Sadly Jenny died on 8th January 1993 and her part of the story went with her.

These two ladies organised a meeting at the Community Centre, with parishioners M. Boylson, W. Fisher-Cripps, K. Dunn, F. Delsorte and others, to get support and influence the Warringah Shire Councillors. St Rose parishioners were sent letters and were phoned individually, requesting them to attend the meeting and take a vote on the matter. The hall was full and the vote unanimously in favour for the school approval which was reported by the Manly Daily on 1st November 1972. Barbara and Jenny both had children in the first Kindergarten enrolment.

On 6th November 1972 many of the Parents attended the Council meeting and showed their support for the school in numbers and voice. The Council approved the school with certain conditions regarding size and carparking. A colossal win for the faithful. Everything moved quickly and on 22nd November the Department Of Education NSW letter was received, confirming advice that a new school to be known as St Rose's Primary School was to commence operation.

At the time the school was being planned, it was intended it to be staffed by Religious Orders. The Order of the Good Samaritan's wrote in 1971 that they would be happy to staff the school if staff were available from both the Dee Why and Narrabeen Schools. But on 27th April 1972 they again wrote to advise that they could not staff the proposed school after all. Fr Grady immediately decided to staff the school with 'Lay' teachers and provide religious teaching by himself and Catechists. This was a great success. Louise Fergus was employed as the Kindy Teacher and on 30th January 1973 St Rose Primary School opened in the old residence at 8 Rose Ave, having had alterations to provide a classroom, teachers room, lunch room and amenities and having 19 students enrolled. Cardinal Freeman blessed and opened the school on 17th June 1973 which was recorded by ABC Television and shown that night. A copy of the film was presented to the Parish.

The first enrolments for Kindy 1973 were:-

Deborah Ashton, Tania Brandt, Simon Cameron, Bronwyn Cansdell, Anne Castle, Shannon Davoren, Mark Green, Donna Elliott, David Flannery, Sean Flannery, Stephen Grady, Catherine Knights, Joanna Limbrick, Stephen Mak, Joslyn Martin, Cordelia Oates, Darren Pitt, Louise Robison & Matthew Walford.



Cardinal Freeman and Fr Grady Blessing the School in 1973.

Builder Kevin Dunn provided the following comment regarding the school approval:-

"Maurie Boylson and Kevin Dunn met with a senior Warringah Shire councillor in his office at Forestville Shopping Centre to further the application. On a 2nd occasion, the architect, Adrian Hickey and Kevin Dunn met with councillors at WSC rooms Brookvale successfully satisfying Council objections to traffic flow issues on the site. Fr Grady had obtained permission to construct a driveway over the vacant block on Veterans Parade, 4th block from the corner. This access was used until the owners eventually built."

Barbara Cansdell wrote the following of the struggle to get the school approved:-

"What I remember is the following:

Jeanette Oates came to see me and said it appeared that Warringah Shire Council looked like they were not going to pass a proposal for the school at the Plateau. It was coming to a council meeting shortly. The local councillor was against it. Jeanette and I went to that Council Meeting and sure enough he spoke very strongly against it. I am vague as to how it was coming back to another meeting.

So, I said to Jeanette, we need the names of all the parents who have children basically booked in for when it is built. So she went off to see Fr. Grady to obtain those names and phone numbers to enable us to contact them. The next thing I remember is Fr. Grady walking up the front path. He came in and I explained to him why I needed them - to lobby all the other Councillors by phone calls and writing letters to them c/o of the council's office, at Brookvale in those days. So that action occurred. Plus we wanted as many of the parents as possible to attend the next Council Meeting at when it would be discussed again. (this is where my memory falters as I don't remember why it would come back again so soon!).

The parents did a great job of phoning and writing to the other councillors as I realised from what I heard and saw that day the "Local - SO CALLED CR." would not change his mind. He raved on about lack of car parking on site, no street carparking because of the public school across the road (wasn't attacking State Govt. for not supplying their own). He also made some comments of what would be regarded these days as very biased against Religious and Private Schools - can't remember exactly the words but it brought a gasp from the gallery. Some of the other Cr's. spoke for it but wanted conditions on it -- as to size of School - size of Church. The main condition was the size - pre-school to grade 2 due to the size of the land on which it was to be built. Just remembered the sewer !! 'the CR.' said it would not be able to be connected to the School. Being a plumber's wife I nearly fell off the seat in Chambers - laughing. The main sewer line was being laid all over the Plateau at that time for connection to the homes.

And then the vote was taken and WE WON. WOW! Cannot remember the numbers but it was a good majority of the Councillors.

That was the start of everything else that has followed; I guess."

Kevin Dunn provided another comment regarding the staging:-

"It was decided within the working group of 3, Fr Grady, the architect, and builder, to construct the whole school in 3 stages. Stage 1, ground floor- two classrooms with a folding dividing wall (giving potential for 3 rooms), and amenities on the ground floor. Stage 2, first floor - another 4 classrooms and 2 stairwells. Stage 3, ground floor separate building - tuckshop, store room, office and meeting room.

This sequence of construction, spread over a few years, allowed for Stages 2 and 3 to be built as the need arose, with minimal disruption to existing classes, and at a considerable saving in overall costs.

The ceiling of the ground floor was in essence, the underside of the 1st floor concrete slab. In this way, the first floor would be in place when Stage 2 was given the 'go ahead'. To keep the ground floor area waterproof, roof trusses and tiles were assembled sitting on the 1st floor concrete slab to be later removed and reassembled when the 1st floor walls and windows were completed. The 2 stairwells were added at this point."

Kevin Dunn tendered for and constructed the school, with the first stage consisting of K, 1 & 2 Classrooms and the Amenities. Construction of these permanent classrooms were commenced and completed for use at the commencement of school in February 1974.

At around the same time, mothers of the children were asked for opinions as to the school uniform, this brought a very mixed response. A consensus was reached and conveyed to Fr Grady for making the final decision.

On 6th December 1972 Fr Grady obtained agreement with B & W Berry of 7 Lantana Ave, for a stormwater easement to install pipework from the school and Church grounds. Both of these properties adjoined at the rear of the school property. An agreement was made on 19th October 1972 to purchase land adjoining 8 Rose Ave at 11 Lantana Ave from B & W Maloney for use as a school playground. The stormwater was completed by the end of July 1975, with the playground then bitumen paved and fenced.



First Kindergarten Class 1973 (photo taken in front of the St Rose Church –

Fr Norman Grady at left, Louise Fergus at right Barbara Cansdell at rear with red hair wearing blue top, her fighting partner Jenny Oates took the photo. Bronwyn Cansdell in dress with the big polka dots, blond girl 3 to right is Cordelia Oates, blond girl on right is Donna Elliott, next is Shannon Daveron, tall blond boy at rear right is Stephen Mak, two blond boys to left of Bronwyn (one obscured) are David & Sean Flannery – two are out of the photo on right. Barbara at rear with that mop of red hair; a significant fighter who in later life become a member for many years of Local Government for the Queensland Sunshine Coast.



This photo shows 2 missing children on right against the glass windows

On 30th July 1975 an application for construction of the School Stage 2 classrooms, for 3rd 4th, 5th & 6th Classes, was made and approval received. Kevin Dunn had the school operational for commencement of the 1976 school year.

An application for construction of an Administration Block was submitted on 31st March 1977, which was approved and again built by Kevin Dunn for use in 1978. This consisted of a Tuckshop, Store, Duplicating room, Staff & General Purpose Rooms and conversion of the old cottage with enclosed verandah to a Library, Principal's Office, Secretary's Office and a General Purpose Office. A Basketball Court and Playground was later developed on the south side of the school building.

On 10th October 1980 Mr & Mrs McCourt of 7 Lantana Ave – once owned by the Berry's -, a property adjoining the rear of 4 Rose Ave, offered to sell a portion of land 60' x 54' adjoining the School consisting of an area of 371.83m². This was accepted and with the land previously purchased made a far bigger playground.

Stormwater drainage has caused huge problems for the school and a further easement was negotiated with owners of properties in Lantana Ave from Nos.11 to 17, then out to the Council stormwater system in Lantana Avenue. Underground pipework was also installed from the eastern side of the church, through the school yard and connected to the new stormwater. This work was carried out by local drainage contractors and volunteers from the Parish. The work included digging up what had previously been installed and providing new trenches and pits for the new work. The stormwater was fully re-designed and constructed between March 1983 and February 1985, mostly caused by run-off from the adjoining Veterans Pde properties and sand erosion into pits. Stormwater management over the years has been an expensive cost for the Parish.

The old cottage which was used for the first Kindergarten Classroom in 1973 was demolished to allow for extended alterations and additions for a new Administration Block, Library, classroom and refurbishment of all classrooms in 2003. The toilet block was also refurbished in 2006.

An elevated Multipurpose Function Hall was constructed in 2010 over the south east area of the playground, containing a large function room with stage, kitchen, amenities, store, and provides an undercover assembly area.

Other memorable photos:-



First Communion 1973 Class of St Rose Parish Male & Female attending St Josephs & St Kevins Primary Schools, together with Cromer, Collaroy Plateau & Wheeler Heights State Primary Schools.



2nd Kindy's 1974

Year 1 & 2_1975 including 1973 First Kindy's Class.

1975 Class Names:-

- Top Row L-R – Merideth Malady (Y1), Donna Elliott, Karen Brodie, Terese Vaccaro, Jocelyn Martin, Lisa Agnew, Deborah Ashton, Cordelia Oates, Catherine Knights (all Y2).
- Middle Row – Sean Sullivan (Y1), Mark Green, Sean or David Flannery, Darren Pitt, Steve Mak, Matthew Walford, Sean or David Flannery (all Y2), Matthew Berger ? (Y1).
- Front Row – Pamela Kenny, Lisa Brown, Christine Jones, (all Y1), Shannon Daveron, Miss Judy McDonnell, Joanne Limbrick, (all Y2), Josephine Landers, (Y1), Jennifer Aarts (Y2), Katie ? (Y1).



First Communion 1976 with St Rose, Cromer, Collaroy Plateau & Wheeler Heights State Primary School pupils.



Primary School before construction of the Multipurpose Hall.



St Rose Primary School 2011 showing Multipurpose Hall.

St Rose School has always prided itself on the quality and personality of its teaching staff starting with the School's Principals;-

1972 – 1979	Miss Louise Fergus (1 st Teacher)
1974 – 1974	Miss Norma Kelly (Acting Principal)
1975 – 1979	Miss Judy McDonnell (1 st appointed Principal)
1980 – 1987	Miss Julie Cunneen
1988 – 1994	Mr Peter Raffety
1995 – 2005	Miss Alison Brent
2006 –	Mrs Josie Vescio (current 2013)

Acknowledgements:

The source for this story came from letters and other documents, such as letters and newspapers, found in an old Parish Office filing cabinet, with the aid of a number of elders who were there at the time, together with writings and photographs provided by other past and current Parishioners. Without these memories this story could not have been written.

We acknowledge particularly -

Julie Adrian, Frank van Asten, Barbara Cansdell, Cordelia Clark, Gwen Chapman, Kevin Dunn, Gillian Evers, Bill Fisher-Cripps, Jim Gair, Tony Jefferies, Colleen Moore, Owen Oates, Pam O'Reilly, Hans van Schie, Cliff Parker & Josie Vescio.

Another very important source was a Photo Album belonging to Fr Grady, which was left with other documents in the Office Filling Cabinet, which gave further leads.

Where stories of events differed with conflicting information, the most likely scenario has been recorded.

Bob Moore May 2013.