

## Pagewood Memories

With the founding of Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish sections were taken from St. Agnes' Parish Matraville, Holy Family Parish Maroubra and St. Michaels Parish Daceyville.

My family had been part of St. Michael's Parish Daceyville for as long as I could remember but we joined Pagewood Parish in 1957/8.

Father Power was not musically minded and I was horrified that first Christmas to find that there was no singing. My sister Margaret and I were members of the Children of Mary and the next year wheedled Fr. Power into allowing the Children of Mary to form a Parish Choir for Christmas. With the exception of the five years I lived in Cheltenham, I have been part of the Pagewood Choir ever since.

When Father Kevin English joined the Parish about 1964 he took over as choir master. At this time my father Ron Roseland was our organist and my mother Joan, my sister Margaret and I formed part of the Parish choir. We also had some really good tenors in the group. When the slice was taken from Maroubra Junction they lost part of their men's choir. Maroubra's loss being Pagewood's gain.

Father English also introduced the Legion of Mary to the Parish. Where the sports fields of Heffron Park now stand, was a Migrant Hostel. The facilities at Bunnerong provided only a minimum standard of accommodation and amenities. They were originally erected by the Commonwealth during World War II as wool stores and must have created a poor impression on newly arrived migrants. For three years the ladies of the Legion of Mary visited the migrants at the hostel, trying to contact Catholics and referring those in need St. Vincent de Paul and other organisations if help was needed.

I don't think any of us were ever turned away. The usual response to our introduction was "We are not Catholic, but please come in". There were so many lonely people there that our ministry was truly rich and worthy. It was a really rewarding ministry and lasted until about 1967/8 when the hostel was gradually closed down.

Father Gallen introduced the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults to the parish about 1998 and for three years the group, assisted at first by the Marist Brothers and later by a lay group, welcomed new Catholics into our Catholic family. This was another very rewarding ministry.