



# MONSIGNOR HAWES HERITAGE

September 2025

## NEWSLETTER

### A Note From the Chair

As usual, a lot has been happening in MHHI!

Our flagship event, THE CAMINO SAN FRANCISCO, was as popular as ever with around 36 participants and team members involved. Some photographs of the event are to be found on page 3 of this newsletter. My big thank you to Tony Critch and his organising team!

The Fremantle Chamber Orchestra's MUSIC TO LOVE was a stellar event with a record 300 plus patrons attending the event in SFX Cathedral Geraldton! See our report on page 3.

I am happy to announce that the Board of MHHI and the Diocese of Geraldton are jointly funding an assistant to work alongside me for one day a week. The assistant will be Jacinta Jakovcevic, who is also the Diocesan Director of Music. I welcome Jacinta onboard!



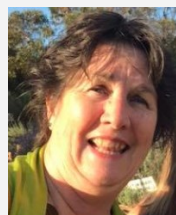
Two of our Board members retired at the AGM on 6th October, namely our secretary Ann Boyle and Odhran O'Brien. Ann has a keen interest in Hawes and history and is a volunteer in our Diocesan Archives. She is currently accessioning the Diocesan Archives into the Cloud based program ArchivEra. Odhran O'Brien, who is the



archivist of the Archdiocese of Perth and currently completing his doctorate in history, has been providing valuable guidance and support in the transition in our Diocesan Archives and was key in the establishment of the John Hawes Foundation. He is also currently working on the Cause of the Servant of God John Hawes.



While we lose Ann and Odhran, we welcome onto the Board Annette Sellers.



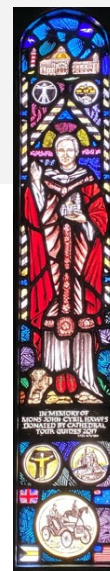
Annette has a strong interest and involvement in local history and has been actively involved in conservation works in the Northampton community.

I would like to thank one of our volunteers, Lucia Tobin, who has successfully loaded the Monsignor Hawes Heritage Trail onto the TRAILS WA site. See the link below right and go on a tour!.

On the 9th of November the Carnarvon Parish will celebrate the 90th anniversary of completion of Hawes' St Mary Star of the Sea Church. You can read more about this on page 2.

Thank you everyone for being part of MHHI & God bless.

**Fr Robert Cross**  
Chair of MHHI



John Cyril Hawes

### What's inside .....

A Note from the Chair	1
St Mary's Carnarvon	
90th Anniversary	2
Recent Events	3
Upcoming Events	4

### Coming Events .....

- ⇒ [Community Signing In SFX Cathedral](#): 26 Oct
- ⇒ [90th Anniversary of Carnarvon Church](#): 9 Nov
- ⇒ [City Band in Cathedral Piazza](#): 6 Dec

DISCOVER THE  
**MONSIGNOR HAWES**  
**HERITAGE TRAIL**

ON



Scan this QR Code



### Become a Member of MHHI



★ Ordinary Membership

\$25 per annum

★ Corporate Membership

\$100 per annum

To join go to

[www.monsignorhawes.com/membership](http://www.monsignorhawes.com/membership)



# ST MARY STAR OF THE SEA CARNARVON

Written by: Fr Robert Cross BA (Hons), Masters in History & Ecclesiastical Cultural Heritage



This exquisite cameo of the Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea (aka St Mary Star of the Sea) was painted by The Servant of God John Cyril Hawes in 1933 as indicated by his initials "J.C.H. 1933" in the bottom right hand corner. There is a second inscription in the border beneath, probably written by Hawes, "Blessed & Opened Nov. 10th 1935."

The painting was done by Hawes to demonstrate to the Parish Priest Fr John McKay and the Carnarvon parishioners what their church would look like when completed. Hawes also made a cardboard model of the church for the same purpose.

Hawes was a prolific architect and in the lead up to his designing the Carnarvon Church he was working on:

- ◆ completing Stage 2 of the Geraldton Cathedral (1928),
- ◆ drawing various design options for a Northampton Church (1929)
- ◆ completing the design and building of the Christian Brothers' Day School in Geraldton (1929)
- ◆ completing the Mullewa Presbytery (1930),
- ◆ designing the Church in Carnamah (1930)
- ◆ designing a private residence in Geraldton (1931)
- ◆ extending the Bishop's Palace in Geraldton (1932)
- ◆ designing and constructing the Morawa Priest's Lodge and the Morawa Church (1932-1933)

John Taylor writes about the "punishing workload" (*Between Devotion and Design* (2000) p. 137) Hawes was under in 1934. Hawes himself wrote to a friend saying, "I've not finished the Carnarvon plans yet—been too swelteringly hot—and feeling too sick". Hawes was advised by a doctor that he was on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

Fr John McKay was appointed to the Parish of Carnarvon in December 1930. The parish was huge and included Onslow, Cossack, Roebourne and Port Hedland. Fortunately, Fr McKay was a youthful and energetic 28 year old in 1930. When he engaged Hawes to design a church for Carnarvon to replace the 40 foot by 20 foot 1901 original wooden Carnarvon church, like most young men he was eager for his new church to be built and wrote to Hawes a rather impertinent letter in April 1934, saying, "After lengthy and mature consideration I have to inform you that the plans are absolutely unacceptable, under the conditions laid down by you in yours of Jan 27th." Those conditions of Hawes were that neither McKay nor the church committee make any alterations to Hawes' plans without consulting him. Hawes complained to Bishop O'Collins about McKay's attitude and threatened to withdraw his services and destroy all plans he had drawn for the church. Fr McKay no doubt was unaware of the enormous workload Hawes was under at that time which was affecting his health.

In April 1935, Bishop O'Collins seems to have brokered peace and tenders were called with E. Bello of Maylands awarded the contract, Building commenced in the first week of July 1935. The Church was blessed and opened on Sunday 10th November 1935, four months later, with Bishop O'Collins, Fr Hawes, Fr Sullivan, Fr Scherginger and Fr O'Collins travelling overland by vehicle to Carnarvon, a distance of 480kms, which would have been quite a feat in those days!

The appearance of the Carnarvon Church differs from most of Hawes' other churches in the Diocese in that it is made not of stone but concrete blocks, given it a smooth rather than the rugged finishes of so many other Hawes' churches in Western Australia.



This photo of Our Lady Star of the Sea Carnarvon is thought to date to its opening and possibly taken by

The cross that surmounts the Church tower was made by the famed Western Australian metal craftsman Wilfred Priestner (1871-1961) for the cost of £7/7/6 plus 18/- for galvanising. Hawes contracted Priestner to do many other metal work features in his churches.



# RECENT EVENTS

## CAMINO SAN FRANCISCO 2025

Our Camino San Francisco was held 25-27th July 2025. This year the itinerary took in significant buildings and sites connected with of The Servant of God John Hawes, including St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Our Lady of Mt Carmel (Mullewa), Mass Rock (Mullewa), The Pioneer Cemetery (Mullewa), the "Brindie" Merritt Grave (Pindar), as well as the Hawes buildings located at the former Christian Brothers Agricultural College and Wandalgu, Tardun.

**We are looking forward to Camino San Francisco 2026! Look out for details in our March 2026 newsletter!**



## CATHEDRAL FILLED TO CAPACITY FOR 'MUSIC TO LOVE'



The Fremantle Chamber Orchestra recently made a return visit to St Francis Xavier Cathedral on the evening of Friday 22nd August with a concert of sublime music.

Titled **Music to Love**, the programme featured the orchestra performing some popular classics as well as some little-known pieces superbly led by master musician Paul Wright.

Young Perth violinist Ellie Malonzo (a mere 15 years of age) was a special highlight of the concert, particularly her superb performance of Beethoven's Romance No 2 in F major. The high lyrical notes she elicited from her instrument resonated so beautifully in the Cathedral's rich acoustic.

It was a special thrill to see the Cathedral filled to capacity for this event - over 300 concert goers attended, some even travelled from Perth for the event.

We thank Hans Hug for his tireless efforts in bringing one of WA's foremost ensembles to Geraldton - and we look forward to welcoming them back to our Cathedral in the future.



## LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GERALDTON ESCAPE ?



### THE HERMITAGE



## Retreat into the Arts & Crafts of John Cyril Hawes

Book through STAYZ  
Using this QR Code



**Another initiative of MHHI**  
*Activating the Monsignor Hawes Heritage Trail and Supporting Regional Tourism and Regional Communities through the provision of unique heritage accommodation!*



U  
P  
C  
O  
M  
I  
N  
G  
  
E  
V  
E  
N  
T



## Community Singing



Join us for a fun session of music & singing: includes Great Hymns, Popular Songs, other Classics and lots more !!  
Includes door prizes & raffle followed by light afternoon tea.

Open to all ages - no experience required !!  
**ALL WELCOME !!**

Entry by donation

**Sunday 26th October**  
**1pm to 2:30pm**  
**St Francis Xavier Cathedral**

**For further info contact:**

**Jacinta Jakovcevic** (Diocesan Director of Music)  
jacinta.jakovcevic@geraldtoncatholic.org.au



### John Hawes Foundation Donation Form for Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church Precinct Project

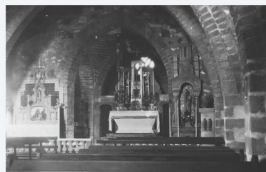
Enhancing Regional Revitalisation and Strengthening Community Social Wellbeing

#### Making your donation to Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church Precinct Project

Thank you for considering supporting our fundraising efforts to help restore and conserve Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church Precinct. Please complete the form below and send it to the provided address.

If you would like to make a bequest in your Will please contact us on how to go about this.

#### Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church Precinct Project



#### Donation details

FIRST NAME	<input type="text"/>	SURNAME	<input type="text"/>
COMPANY NAME <i>(If applicable)</i>	<input type="text"/>	DATE	<input type="text"/>
POSTAL ADDRESS:	<input type="text"/>		
PHONE NUMBER	<input type="text"/>	EMAIL ADDRESS	<input type="text"/>

I wish to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Our Lady of Mt Carmel Precinct Project

#### Payment details

Direct Bank Transfer Details for the John Hawes Foundation:

**Acc Name:** Mons Hawes Heritage Incorp **BSB:** 086 006 **Acc No:** 26 493 5344 **Ref:** Surname + Initial + Mullewa. *Cheques can be made payable to Mons Hawes Heritage Incorp Fund and posted to the John Hawes Foundation at the address below.*

#### Contact details for Fr Robert Cross

E: [heritage@geraldtoncatholic.org.au](mailto:heritage@geraldtoncatholic.org.au) P: 9921 3221 M: 0400 216 088 W: [www.monsignorhawes.com](http://www.monsignorhawes.com)  
Postal: PO Box 46, Geraldton WA 6531 A: 7 Maitland St, Geraldton ABN: 91 813 298 159