



MONSIGNOR HAWES HERITAGE

September 2024

NEWSLETTER

A Note From the Chair

It only seems like yesterday that I was writing the Chair report for June, but such is the pace of life these days.

Two important events have been conducted in the past few months, namely the annual **Camino San Francisco** (26 – 28 July) and the **Laying of the Foundation Stone Centenary Event** at Mullewa on the 14th September.

While I was unable to attend this year's Camino San Francisco due to health concerns, I was very pleased to hear that the thorough preparation and excellent conduct of the event by THE TEAM left all participants delighted if not exultant! Clearly the show can go on without me! A very big THANK YOU to Fr Savio, Gerry Eastman, Tony Critch, Mary Jayne Kane, Chris Challis, Rachel Baker, Lara Sampson, Odhran O'Brien, Karen and Adrian Morrissey and Romel Orozco for the organization and conduct of this event.

Preparations are already in hand for the **2025 Camino** which is planned for 25, 26, & 27 of July. If you haven't participated in a Camino San Francisco, 2025 might be your year!

I was able to attend the Mullewa Centenary Event. The turn-out of just over 300 people was a credit to the organizing committee of Gerry Eastman, Kevin Weir, Fr Robert O'Bryan, Tony Critch, Barbara Thomas, Jackie Hearne, Ann Boyle and Jill Hollands. Thank You also to the OLMC School P&F for all

their hard work, the Mullewa CRC for organizing and funding the beautiful mosaic of the Church, and our event sponsors, Geraldton Toyota, Sandra Carr MLC, Lara Dalton MLA, and Rigters Supermarkets. The Board of MHHI also gave a \$5000 grant for the event.

In my priestly ministry, particularly in recent years, I have witnessed the extraordinary faith and generosity of Mullewa Parishioners past and present. I have wondered if this harkens back to the selfless if not sacrificial ministry and witness of the first parish priest of Mullewa, Monsignor Hawes. I think it does.

In light of this, it was with great pleasure, that I was given the task to inform all gathered at the Centenary Mass, that the *Dicastery for the Causes of Saints* has approved the undertaking of the Diocesan phase of the Cause of Monsignor Hawes, and that we can now title him, **'Servant of God John Hawes'**.

In our efforts to conserve and celebrate the heritage of Servant of God John Hawes, may his life of service and love, modelled on the life of Christ and St Francis of Assisi, inspire us all to greater things. Let us always remember the joy of opening our doors to the unexpected and our hearts of generosity even more – **Janus pater – cor magis!**

Fr Robert Cross (Chairperson)
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John Cyril Hawes

What's inside

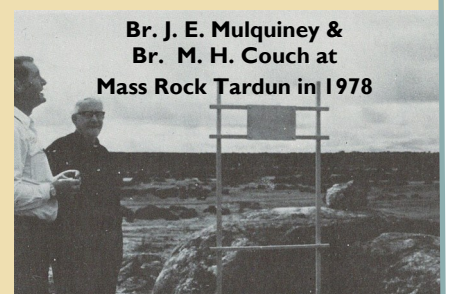
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Mass Rocks

John Hawes created some magnificent venues and altars all over the world for offering Mass. He was however quite adaptable and would celebrate Mass in many and varied places to suit his congregation. In Mullewa he took Mass to a rocky outcrop just outside the town for the Aboriginal people. He mortared stones together to form an altar and this became known as **Mass Rock**.

During the 1920's the Christian Brothers were involved in establishing the 'Tardun Scheme' (the settlement of boys on the land), 40kms south of Mullewa. The facilities to begin with were very basic but in 1928, the brother in charge at the time, invited Fr Hawes to bless the farm. On the 24th May, Hawes celebrated Mass on a rock at what became known as 'the old camp site'. A stone was then placed on the rock which remains to this day, and this also became known as **Mass Rock**.



Br. J. E. Mulquiney &
Br. M. H. Couch at
Mass Rock Tardun in 1978

FOCUS BUILDING

The White Tower Bognor Regis United Kingdom

The **White Tower**, located in Aldwick Road, Bognor Regis, Sussex, is among the earliest of John Cyril Hawes' buildings. It was built in 1898 as a holiday house for John and his two brothers. Wanting to obtain sea views which were blocked by houses on the seaward side of Aldwick Street, Hawes set upon the idea of '... instead of a long spread out cottage I would stand it up on end – as a tower'. (Diary p.25) This he did, with four rooms atop each other accessed by a side turret staircase with a viewing parapet on top of the building. At the rear is a two storey wing containing larger rooms and a studio.

There are hallmark Hawesian and Arts and Crafts features to the building such as the narrow slit lead-light windows, a narrow church steeple-like staircase, and exposed beams and unfaced bricks above wooden dado panelling. One can also see Hawes sculptural prowess in the lintel over the front entry door. In the lounge room, over-mantel murals can be seen which were reportedly painted by Hawes and his brother Edward.

Shortly after the house was completed, an artist and leading architectural correspondent Raffles Davidson, wrote the following in *The British Architect* - Mr John Hawes is the architect of this cleverly quaint little house; a sort of building which, in its optimistic quality and simplicity, might be emulated in thousands all over the kingdom.

That wasn't to be, however **The White Tower** is still regarded as a quaint and interesting building today. The home remained in the Hawes family for many years but is now privately owned and is being lovingly restored by its owners. A group of Pilgrims from Western Australia visited Bognor Regis in May 2018 when a Bognor Regis Town Council **Blue Plaque**, signifying the importance of John Hawes, was unveiled by Mrs Patricia Mills, who had been baptised by Monsignor Hawes, and Bishop Justin Bianchini, Emeritus Bishop of Geraldton.

Local historian Sylvia Endacott was responsible for nominating Hawes and the White Tower for the recognition.



Pilgrims from Western Australia visiting The White Tower in 2018.



Mrs Pat Mills and Emeritus Bishop Justin Bianchini unveil the Blue Plaque.



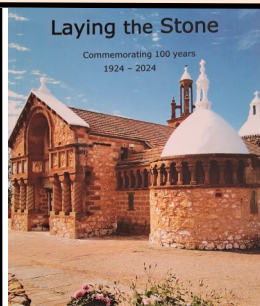
Narrow slit lead-light windows beside the staircase.



Carvings by Hawes on the wooden hood over the front door.



Exposed beams, unfaced brick and wooden dado panelling.



To mark the centenary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church in Mullewa, a book entitled **Laying the Stone** has been compiled by two ex-parishioners, Kerry Marriott and Tony Critch, which tells of the work of Father Hawes, the history of the changes that have taken place in the building over the past 100 years, and his influence on the people who were in Mullewa during his time as Parish Priest.

The book, which was launched at the Centenary Event by Bishop Michael Morrissey, is available for \$25 at the Monsignor Hawes Heritage Centre Museum in Geraldton or by contacting Gerry Eastman (monsignorhawes@gmail.com or 0417 912997)



HAWES HERITAGE EVENTS

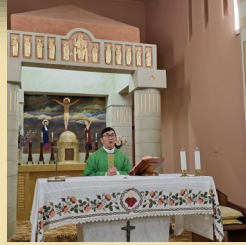
Another successful **Camino San Francisco**, conducted by Hawes Heritage Events, took place on the weekend of the **26th – 28th July** with 26 walkers and 8 Crew enjoying the wonderful sights and hospitality of the Midwest towns of **Perenjori** and **Morawa**, while visiting 3 unique Hawes buildings.

Hawes Heritage Events is grateful to all who took part in the Camino in a spirit of friendliness and cooperation, to the volunteers who conducted the Camino with enthusiasm and efficiency, and to the local parishes and communities for their generosity and hospitality.

The group of walkers and volunteers prepare to depart on Day 1 of the walk from St Joseph's Church in Perenjori.



Perenjori Shire President Jude Sutherland welcomed the group



Fr Savio saying Mass in St Joseph's



Rob, Catherine, Sterling & Leigh Day 1



Approaching Morawa on Day 2



Karen & Adrian Morrissey receiving their certificates.

It was great to hear the bells ring out to announce the commencement of the celebrations for the **100th Anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church** on Saturday 14th September for the 300 people who had gathered to be part of this milestone event.



Servers Lucy & Bella Critch & Roman.



St Mary's Cathedral Choir with Director Jacinta and Musicians



2 Bishops and 6 Priests concelebrated Mass



Readers Jill Hollands and Sr Maura O'Connell PBVM



Mayor Jerry Clune, Bishop Michael, Natalie Hillier, Nils Hay and Lara Dalton MLA



Annette Dwyer with KSC members John Dwyer, George Sekulla, John Rigger, and Daniel Hatley



Barbara Hislop, Elizabeth Howard & Christine Bullard



Shirley & Dan Flynn



Thea Huxtable & Gerry Eastman



Wreath on Selby's grave.

As part of the Centenary Celebrations, a wreath was placed on the grave of **Selby Arnold** at the Pioneer Cemetery, to commemorate 100 years since his drowning in the local Railway Dam in January 1924. Selby had been an Altar Boy for Fr Hawes and Hawes designed and built the tomb to assist his grieving family. Three members of the Arnold Family attended the ceremony and Barbara Hislop, one of the group, laid the wreath of Geraldton Wax which had been created by Fr Savio Nguyen.



Barbara laying the wreath

HISTORIC CONNECTIONS

The Director of Heritage for the Geraldton Diocese, Fr Robert Cross, was recently invited to deliver a joint online talk for the **English Catholic History Association** and the **Australian Catholic Historical Society**. It is hoped that this will be the first of several presentations between the two societies who share the objective of promoting the interest of Catholic history in their respective countries.

The request for this particular talk came from the Secretary of the ECHS William King, who has a family connection to one of Hawes' Churches in Clarence Town in the Bahamas. During Fr Robert's talk, William also discovered another connection to John Hawes. He volunteers at **St Mary's Church in Shrewsbury England** where the renowned stained glass artist Margaret Rope, who was a friend of Hawes and who provided several windows for SFX Cathedral in Geraldton and one for Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church in Mullewa, was baptized, and where he was recently involved with displaying one of her windows which had been in storage for many years.



The talk, entitled *Monsignor John Hawes, WA Priest-Architect*, is available for viewing on the English Catholic History Association's [YouTube Channel](#).

Fr Robert 'online'.

OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL CHURCH PRECINCT PROJECT



Bell Tower repairs
1974



Fr Cross launching
the Appeal

In 1974, in preparation for the Golden Anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, repairs were carried out on the Domes and Bell Tower. Fifty years later, further work was required. As well as being in need of a re-paint, the main Dome over the Altar was leaking and due to the wet winter being experienced in Mullewa in 2024, the repairs became urgent. The financing of these repairs was made possible by a donation from the **Vietnamese Community's Cyclone Seroja Fund** which was set up to assist the Geraldton Diocese with building repairs, a donation from **Monsignor Hawes Heritage Inc**, and the provision of machinery by **Critch Farming**.

As visitors to the Church would be aware, more urgent work is required to conserve this magnificent building to stop the rising damp which is currently affecting parts of the interior and exterior walls of the church. At the Centenary Celebrations, Fr Robert Cross launched the OLMC Church Precinct Project and appealed to all those present to consider making a tax deductible donation to the John Hawes Foundation to assist with this Project.



Dome Repairs 2024



Fretting external stone-work

[Click Here](#) to contribute to the Appeal or

Contact Fr Robert Cross heritage@geraldtoncatholic.org.au 99213221

From the writings of John Cyril Hawes

Our Lady's church at Mullewa has always seemed to have an impersonal relationship to myself. Not as though I had designed it – I prayed to St. Joseph every morning and commended the work to him; I was just his labourer. I always said that beautiful prayer of Pius X to St Joseph. You can see his statue in the church now with a two-foot rule in his hand. The building of it was an adventure, a pilgrimage; it was not something made but a thing that had grown; I discovered it. And so, when I stood before the High Altar under the Dome, it never occurred to me that I myself built it - those rough uneven grey walls - but that I seemed to be standing in some old church built by other hands in former times.



Statue of St Joseph in
OLMC