

A brief history of an Illawarra Catholic Community

Our Heritage

The first recorded Mass in the Illawarra was celebrated by Fr John Joseph Therry on Wednesday 17 April 1833. On that occasion Fr Therry celebrated Mass at the military barracks in Wollongong, which was under the control of Captain Allman. He also baptised five children and solemnised a number of marriages and so the Catholic tradition commenced in the Illawarra. However, he had also previously journeyed to the Illawarra, firstly in August 1829 when he baptised four children from Dapto and in July 1832 when he baptised seven children. It is highly likely that he had celebrated Mass on those occasions also, though no documented proof has been found. Other baptisms in between times necessitated the families travelling to Sydney.

Describing his memory of the route from Wollongong to Jamberoo via Terry's Meadows as a young boy in 1843, Professor Huxley recorded: *"The route was a mere dray track, through a forest of tropical foliage... and many other trees towered above us so that their tops made a twilight canopy impenetrable to the sunlight... So disappointing did the prospects seem that my mother and sister lamented with tears the day they left England."* (Green Meadows, W.A. Bayley).

For environmentalists and lovers of the rain forest, what a delightful picture; but for newly arrived 'white-settlers' keen to cultivate the 'great southland', what a daunting challenge. This account described the region which is virtually the heart of Albion Park today.

This region was well known to the Aboriginal people. The local Aborigines are said to have been of the Wadi Wadi tribe and were essentially nomadic. It seems that towards the end of last century their number fell far short of a hundred members in this district. "King" Mickey Johnston who died in 1906 at the age of 72, was the last tribal leader. He with his wife, Queen Rosie, were well known and greatly respected in the Illawarra district. The aborigines took refuge in the Illawarra escarpment in the colder winter months and frequented the Lake (Lake Illawarra) and the Sea Coast during the summer months. Today's Albion Park has a number of reminders of its original people through the suburb names of Tallawarra, Tongarra and Tullimbar.

As is typical of so many towns and districts in Australia, persons of note and prominent citizens in Albion Park's history, have had their names and memories immortalised in the naming of creeks, rivers and streets. Macquarie Rivulet reminds us that Governor Macquarie visited the district in January 1822, the district being referred to as Macquarie or Macquarie River for much of the last century. Samuel Terry received a land grant of some 2,000 acres in the early 1820's and the township district of Albion Park today, was known as the Terry's Meadows Estate. John Terry Hughes inherited the Estate in 1838, upon the death of his uncle, Samuel Terry. He named it "Albion Park" Estate, called after Samuel Terry's birth place in England. The area to the north of Albion Park was a 1500 acre land grant to George Johnson and was called Macquarie Gift but was also known as Johnsons Meadows. Many of the newer subdivisions around Albion Park today have streets named after the local pioneers.

Early Priests

The Missionary District of the Illawarra was established in 1838 under the direction of Fr John Rigney (1838-45), Fr Peter Young (1845-50) and Fr Eugene Luckie (1850-52). It originally covered the coastal area from Coal Cliff to Moruya. In 1852 the area was divided in two and the Kiama Parish

was formed, covering from Albion Park and Shellharbour in the north to the Shoalhaven in the south. The Northern Mission was centred on St Francis Xavier's Wollongong and went as far south as Dapto. The Shoalhaven area became a parish by 1863 and in 1867 the Dapto, Albion Park, Shellharbour Parish was formed with the main church and presbytery at West Dapto. Macquarie (Albion Park) is mentioned as a Mass station in the 1857 Catholic Directory, such visits would most likely have been no more than monthly. The church at West Dapto had been mentioned in records as early as December 1839, when a description of Dapto in *The Sydney Monitor* newspaper spoke of a Roman Catholic Chapel. In June 1856 a public meeting was held in the Catholic Church at West Dapto for laying out the site for a new church to be erected and for the raising of the funds for it. The decision to build a church at Shellharbour was made in 1859 and the church was completed in late 1860. Hence, when the new parish was formed, families had a choice of West Dapto or Shellharbour Churches for Mass.

Masses were also held at Albion Park, at the homes of Timothy and Ann Crowley (cnr Macquarie Street and Tongarra Road) and James and Catherine Stapleton (Tongarra Road, east of Terry Street). It was after Mass at Timothy Crowley's home one Sunday that Fr Coghlan deplored the fact that there was not a church at Albion Park and the matter went from there.

The first Baptism registered for the new Parochial District was that of Thomas James Raftery, born 7 February 1867 to John Raftery and Jane Brownlee. The ceremony was conducted on 17 March 1867 by the Curate Fr Edmund Walsh, who served in the Parish for two years.

The district was only sparsely populated during the 1840's to mid-1850's. The village of Albion Park had two stores, one hotel and a Post Office by 1864. The total population of the district numbered approximately 1,400 (Shellharbour Municipality). The growth of the Catholic community was certainly very gradual. The early church records show that the area of Terry's Meadows, Johnson's Meadows, Marshall Mount, Macquarie River and surrounding areas was establishing a unique Church community coming together for worship and spiritual support. On checking St Francis Xavier's Baptismal Register for the Albion Park region, there were no more than approximately 20 baptisms for 1838-1850. By 1870 the number of baptisms recorded in the Dapto Baptismal Register for Albion Park was close to 200. In so far as the scene can be gauged from Church records and registers there appears to have been a strong inter-relationship between the pioneer Catholic families in this district. Registers suggest about twenty or so Catholic families. St Paul's parish today has a strong affinity still with many of those pioneer families. Names such as Raftery, Daly, Reardon, Rogan, Timbs, Crowley, Buckley, Condon, Downes, Murphy, O'Gorman, Gorman, Hickey, Brownlee, Walsh, O'Keefe, Stapleton and Harris are evident in the records and are an indication of a community rich in tradition and Faith.

Over the years the Parish has been served by many different Priests, who have each contributed to the Spiritual development of the Catholics in the District.

In the years 1871-1872 the Albion Park, Dapto, Shellharbour parochial district was in the care of a Dominican priest Cornelius Dominic Coghlan, O.P. Two old identities in West Wollongong, John Byron, born on 3 October 1858, and his good friend James Marceau, born on 6 January 1858, had vivid memories of both Dom Coghlan and Fr Augustine William Petre, when interviewed by the late Monsignor Mulheren in 1941. Dom Coghlan they described "as a stout man, ever in his Dominican habit; very quick tempered, a round face and very white hair - about 5' 8" tall. It is said that he frequently took the collection plate around himself; or if he wasn't satisfied with round one, he sent it round a second time. But there was also a very genial side to his character, and he was remembered as an open-hearted priest." His short ministry in the district was marred by ill health. He died at the West Dapto Presbytery on 2 June 1872 aged 74 years, and in the 50th year of his priesthood. James Marceau, then a youth of 14, was with Father Coghlan when he died. The *Illawarra Mercury* of Friday 7 June 1872 recorded his burial at West Dapto Cemetery.

FUNERAL OF THE REV. C.D. COGHLAN. – The funeral of the late Rev. C.D. Coghlan, of Dapto, took place last Tuesday, in the presence of no less than thirteen clergymen of the Roman Catholic Church, in

addition to a large assemblage, of lay members of that and other branches of the Christian Church. A solemn dirge and Requiem Mass was celebrated in the chapel, at 11 o'clock, and the funeral took place immediately afterwards, in the burial-ground connected with that place of worship. The clergymen present were from Sydney, Campbelltown, Camden, Appin, Kiama, Shoalhaven, and other parts.

Fr Patrick O'Reilly was the successor to Fr Cornelius Coghlan O.P. He encouraged and supervised the building of the original St Paul's Church. He died very prematurely at the age of 48 years on 12 March 1878. He is also buried in the Catholic Cemetery West Dapto, which at the time was adjacent to his Presbytery. He was succeeded by Fr Augustine William Petre in April 1878. Fr Petre is described as very thin but more than six feet tall, with a rather prominent nose. He was a good musician. Although his ministry was only a four year period, Fr Petre has to his credit a number of initiatives. It was in response to his persistent pleas, that Mother Mary MacKillop sent sisters to Dapto in 1880 and to Albion Park in 1881/82. Fr Petre handed over the original Presbytery at West Dapto to the Sisters of St Joseph, and on 21 September 1881, while laying the foundation stone for the new Convent at Albion Park, he had Fr P. Mahoney, from Sydney, bless the new Albion Park Presbytery, which stood adjacent to the church.

The Wollongong Argus of 13 July 1882 reported the transfer of Fr Petre as follows:

"Fr AW Petre, who for the past four years has been stationed in Dapto and Albion Park, is about to be transferred to Hartley and Lithgow Mission. His labours in the cause of education have been incessant. Besides having established the Convent schools of Dapto and Albion Park, both of which are in successful operation, he held classes for youth in various parts of the district... Fr Ryan (who) is well-known in Cooma, Brisbane Waters, (Gosford) and Hartley will replace him; an energetic worker and most eloquent preacher..."

Fr William Hayden was Parish Priest from 1896 to 1908. He went on to become Bishop Hayden of Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese. He returned to the parish on 10 May 1925 to bless and lay the foundation stone for the original stage of the present St Paul's School.

St Paul's longest serving parish priest, Monsignor Tom Grealy (1942-1962) is still well remembered in 2018. By birth and by nature he was a humble, caring and rural man, who loved the country and its people. His 'sayings' in the minds of older parishioners had a certain 'infallability' about them. Monsignor Grealy had his plans for the parish. There exists a sketched plan for a new church at Albion Park along the traditional lines, absolutely removed from what is the new St Paul's today. His intended church at Lake South was to be dedicated to St John Bosco; (Father had a special interest in and concern for youth, for whom St John Bosco is patron). The Church envisaged for Oak Flats was to be dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima. Oak Flats had a Mass centre erected in 1970, a Church-hall, which was blessed by Bishop M^cCabe on Pentecost Sunday 17 May 1970.

Land for Church, Cemetery and School

The development of the present parish plant commenced with the purchase in July 1873 of one acre of land (Part Lot 37 of Terrys Meadows Estate) for £5, for a Church and cemetery. The land transaction was from John Russell, farmer of Terrys Meadows, to His Grace, The Most Reverend John Bede Polding, Archbishop of Sydney, Rev. Patrick O'Reilly, Clerk in Holy Orders of Dapto, Illawarra and Gabriel Timbs, Farmer of Albion Park, as Trustees. Parish legend has Timothy Crowley donating the land. His name is not on the record but perhaps he donated the £5 to pay for the land. The following year, Timothy Crowley purchased the remainder of Lot 37 from John Russell. This land went from the church to the corner of (now) Macquarie Street. In May 1874, Timothy sold an acre, adjacent to the church, to the parish. The next two acres fronting Tongarra Road he sold to Samuel Clark in December 1874, followed by another two acres in January 1875. In June 1882, these four acres were sold to the Parish for a school, the sale being recorded as by Samuel Clark, farmer of Wollongong, to The Most Reverend Roger Bede Vaughan, Archbishop of Sydney, Gabriel Timbs, Farmer of Albion Park, and Patrick Raftery, Farmer of Albion Park, as Trustees.

Opening of St Paul's Church Albion Park

The original Albion Park church was blessed and opened on the feast of St Paul, 25 January 1874, by Archbishops John Bede Polding and Roger Vaughan with Rev. Dr Vaughan preaching the sermon. Although it was raining, between 300 and 400 persons attended. Those who could not fit into the church stood outside the doors in an area that was covered with tarpaulins and hence gave some shelter from the rain. Due to the inclement weather and the state of the roads from Wollongong, the Archbishops arrived late but as soon as they arrived Dr Polding consecrated the building, which took about 15 minutes. Following this, all who could find room in the church entered and Mass was then celebrated by Rev. M. D'Arcy. It was standing room only as the Church did not yet have any pews and the Mass took over an hour. After the service, the clergymen and others were entertained at a luncheon, organised by Gabriel Timbs and others, and held in the Church.

Although there were now three churches in the parish, services were not on a weekly basis. An example of this is the newspaper advertisement by Fr A.W. Petre for Services for Holy Week in Dapto, Albion Park and Shellharbour in 1879.

- Wednesday evening – Dapto Church, 7pm
- Thursday morning – Shellharbour Church, 11am
- Good Friday – Albion Park Church, 11am; Shellharbour Church, 2pm; Dapto Church, 7pm
- Saturday morning – Dapto Church, 11am
- Easter Sunday – Dapto Church, 11am

The Catholic Year Book for 1881 gives the following information on the parochial district of Dapto - Albion Park - Shellharbour:

- There are three churches in this district: St John's, Dapto; St Paul's, Albion Park; and St Mary's (under the title, Lady of the Sea), Shellharbour. A station at times at Macquarie River.
- St John's - Mass on the second Sunday of the month at 9am and on the third Sunday of the month at 11am. The confessional before Mass. Special instruction in Christian Doctrine on the first Saturday of each month.
- St Paul's - Mass the second Sunday of the month at 11am. The confessional before Mass. Special instruction in Christian Doctrine the 3rd Saturday of each month.
- Our Lady of the Sea - Mass the 1st Sunday of the month.

In 1924 Archbishop Kelly came to Albion Park in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of St Paul's Church. The *South Coast Times* for Friday 21 November 1924 carried quite a graphic report of the occasion:

ALBION PARK

"The township presented an animated appearance on Wednesday last, the occasion of the jubilee of the local R.C. Church, which was erected in 1874. In addition to his Grace Archbishop Kelly, there were 16 priests from Sydney and other parts of the district. The church and the approaches thereto were appropriately beflagged and decorated, and a photo of the building, with many of the early parishioners standing in the foreground was taken. Special services were held in the day, and from 10 till 12 (noon) High Mass was celebrated in the presence of a very large congregation. At 3pm His Grace officially opened a bazaar in the Agricultural Hall, when the Mayor (Ald. O'Keefe), the Mayoress, and other prominent citizens were in attendance. The bazaar will be in progress every night for a week, and the ladies are sanguine of breaking all previous records. There are five stalls, all of which are laden with useful articles, and the hall presents a very attractive appearance. Prominent amongst the lady workers are Mrs. M. Collins, G. Brownlee, W. Condon, C.F. O'Keefe (Mayoress), J. Timbs, J.A. Raftery, G. Timbs and the Misses Stapleton; also a band of school children. The proceeds of the bazaar will be devoted towards the building of a new Convent School."

Presbytery and Parish Office

In May 1880, the Sisters of St Joseph arrived in West Dapto and Fr Petre gave them the West Dapto presbytery for their convent and school. In June 1880 a meeting was called at Albion Park to take steps towards building a presbytery at Albion Park for Fr Petre. By August, Gabriel Timbs was advertising for tenders to build the presbytery. The contract was given to Mr Green, of Macquarie Mountain, and it was expected to be completed by December. It was blessed in September 1881 by Rev. P.J. Mahony of St Mary's Cathedral, on the same occasion as the laying of the Foundation Stone for the new Convent School.

The original presbytery was replaced by a new brick building, with the foundation stone laid and blessed on 3 November 1918. Following the destruction by fire of the original convent, a new presbytery was erected in 1995 and the old presbytery converted for use as administration and a meeting room. It is now known as the MacKillop Parish Centre and includes the MacKillop Meeting Room.

More recently, work continues to improve the grounds around the church and to replace unsustainable trees with smaller bushes and trees that will better enhance the church campus. Work began in 2018 to provide wheelchair access to all church entrances and the MacKillop Centre.

School for Albion Park

Fr Petre was not long in his new presbytery when he wrote to Mother Mary in 1881, requesting Sisters for Albion Park. The Foundation Stone for a new Convent School was laid in September 1881 by Rev. P.J. Mahony of St Mary's Cathedral. The school was opened in 1882, the actual date unknown. However, when Fr Petre left in July 1882, the children of Albion Park Convent School read an address of farewell. History has also not recorded whether there were Sisters installed by this time or whether they came temporarily from the Dapto Convent. It is believed that they were installed in Albion Park at least by 1883. Since then, more than 100 Sisters have taught at St Paul's school, which was originally known as St Joseph's. Sr Marcia Cox, in 1989, was the 23rd consecutive Religious Principal of the School.

When Bishop Hayden was blessing and laying the foundation stone for the first part of the present school in 1925, he reminded the congregation, who had braved a great deluge, that similar weather was experienced at the opening of the Church back in 1874. School buildings were subsequently added to the site in 1961, 1969, 1972, 1978, 1982, and 1985. The School Resource Centre and Saint Paul's Hall were blessed and opened in September 2003. New classrooms and office have been added to the school as part of the Building the Education Revolution (BER) funding in 2007-10.

From its date of commencement in 1882 until the early 1950's, enrolments hovered between 35 and 60. Today there is an enrolment of 415 pupils. While aesthetically the school complex may have few commendable features, it does reflect the ongoing efforts of a Catholic people to provide for an expanding community.

New Parishes

In 1953 Shellharbour was established as a separate parish with Fr Florence Gerard Smythe as first parish priest. Dapto and Albion Park were separated in 1959 with Fr Phillip Welfare as first parish priest of the "separate" Dapto Parish with Mgr Grealy remaining at Albion Park. In 2002, the parishes of Stella Maris in Shellharbour and Sacred Heart in Warilla were suppressed with the creation of a new parish of All Saints Shellharbour City. Parts of Albion Park parish included in the suburb of Oak Flats were transferred to the new parish, and the former Mass Centre in the church hall and car park were transferred to the new parish. With the opening of the realigned Princes Hwy between Dunmore and Oak Flats in 2009, the boundary of the parish was adjusted to reflect the new alignment (now following the railway line).

Post WWII

By 1960, Albion Park was beginning to experience a type of community 'blood-transfusion'. From the 50 or so children at St Paul's of whom 70% were related, enrolments climbed steadily into the hundreds. The Catholic population grew from approximately 600 in 1960 to around 5,000 in 1988, and by 2016 those identifying as Catholic were around 5,800 or 27.4% of the local population.

In 1973 Fr Peter Moore, with the generous support of parishioners, began the gigantic task of building a new church. The existing church was beginning to show its age and required substantial renovations. The main problem was simply that the church was too small for the standard Sunday Masses, let alone for any of the special occasions. Sunday 29 July 1973 was the end of an era as the last Mass was celebrated in the old St Paul's Church. The cost of the new project was \$280,000. The largest assembly to gather at St Paul's Albion Park, congregated on Saturday 25 January 1975, the feast of St Paul, for the solemn dedication and opening of the new Church. Bishop M^cCabe having retired the previous year, the ceremony was conducted by the late Monsignor M.H. O'Reilly (Bulli) Vicar Capitular. The Church is unique in its design, as it seeks to embrace the picturesque countryside, rather than shut it out, and the curved-sloping structure blends gracefully with the background escarpment. The bell, which is a feature of the building, is the original bell from the beginnings of the Parish and is a significant link with the past. By 1987 parishioners of St Paul's were delighted to learn that they had fully paid for their Church.

In 2009 work began to build a new entrance to the church to encompass a Narthex or gathering space, and to provide a sealed carpark for the parish campus. The narthex was blessed and opened on 24 January 2010 and included kitchen facilities and a book and religious goods stall. Improvements also included a new toilet with disabled facilities (including baby change facilities), new work space and storage areas, as well as renovations to the sacristy and addition of the current Mercy Room. A hearing loop has also been added in the church. A history of the church buildings, *Constant in Faith, St Paul's Church Albion Park 1874-1973, 1975-2015* was published in 2015 and is available for purchase from the Parish Office.

Parish Cemetery

The parish cemetery has also undergone a series of restoration projects, including the installation of four columbarium walls and new beamed areas for burials. Working bees, including participation by St Joseph's High School students, has seen headstones cleaned and straightened. A history of those buried in the cemetery, *St Paul's Catholic Cemetery Albion Park* was published in 2010 and is available for purchase from the Parish Office. After the publication of the cemetery book, Hansen & Cole funded a plaque in the cemetery which lists the known burials without headstones.

Centenary Celebrations

The year 1983 was a very significant year for the Catholic Church in Albion Park. From 4 to 8 May, parishioners, together with visitors, many of whom were former parishioners, celebrated the Centenary of the Sisters of St Joseph in the Parish. There was a magnificent Centenary Ball on Friday 6 May, a two day display of historical photographs, church registers, records, and memorabilia. On Sunday 8 May Mother Nature was most gracious, and greeted an enthusiastic parish with a glorious sunny day, a day which was to be the highlight of a week of celebrations.

The local Shellharbour/Albion Park Pipe Band led the jubilant congregation from the showground to the Church. Hundreds were in period costume; parishioners came on horse-back, in cars and in buggies to the Centenary Mass. Bishop Murray was the principal celebrant at the concelebrated Mass. Present for the occasion was Sister Elizabeth Murphy, Superior General of the Josephites, Sr Teresita Breen, (Provincial) and at least 50 visiting Sisters. Among the civic and political dignitaries were the Lord Mayor of Wollongong Alderman Frank Arkell, and the Mayor of Shellharbour

Municipality, Alderman Bob Harrison. Over eight hundred people participated in the special Mass of Thanksgiving.

St Joseph's High School

Active planning for St Joseph's Catholic High School began in 1979-80. It was planned as a regional co-educational high school to serve the parishes of Albion Park, Dapto, Kiama, Shellharbour and Warilla. Classes commenced with Year 7 in demountables behind St Paul's Presbytery at the beginning of 1982. The foundation stone of the new school buildings was laid by Rev. William E. Murray, Bishop of Wollongong, on Friday 2 July 1982. Stage One was completed in late 1982 and the students moved in. The official opening took place on 13 March 1983.

After much consultation and discussion, the school was placed under the patronage of Saint Joseph, as a tribute to the Sisters of St Joseph who had conducted St Anne's secondary school for girls at Dapto since 1963. With the opening of St Joseph's, St Anne's was phased out and the buildings became part of St John's Primary School Dapto. Brother Matthew Murphy, a Christian Brother, was the first Principal of St Joseph's High School 1981-84. Brother worked tirelessly and zealously for the school and the Catholic community. Due to ill health, Brother had to resign his position at the end of 1984 and was succeeded by Barry Buchanan, formerly the Deputy Principal at Fr John Therry Regional High, at Campbelltown.

The school adopted as its motto the words "Act Justly" (Micah 6). There was full school participation both in the selection of the motto and logo. The logo was designed by Dapto artist, Kay Norington. The quotation from the Old Testament was inspired by the fact that in that year, 1982-83, the Lenten theme for Project Compassion was based on that same quote from Micah 6:8, "Act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly before God."

By 1988 St Joseph's had an enrolment of 730 students, with a teaching staff of 50, two of whom were Josephite Sisters, who were eventually withdrawn, leaving a totally lay staff. Despite the continuous construction of new classrooms and general school facilities, by around 2000, St Joseph's was unable to accept all applications for enrolment. This led to the decision to build Corpus Christi High School at Oak Flats, to supplement St Joseph's High School's service to the district. Corpus Christi High School was officially opened on Friday 8 June 2007 and was blessed by Most Rev. Peter Ingham, Bishop of Wollongong.

The Pastors of Albion Park Parish

From	to	Name of Priest (and any notes)
1867 Mar	May 1869	Fr Edmund Walsh CC; Buried at Rookwood, 1894
1869 May	June 1871	<i>Looked after from Wollongong</i>
1871 June	June 1872	Fr Cornelius D. Coghlan OP; Buried at West Dapto 1872
1872 Oct	Mar 1878	Fr Patrick O'Reilly; Buried West Dapto, 1878
1878 April	July 1882	Fr Augustus William Petre; + Portsmouth U.K. 1897
1882 Sept	Oct 1887	Fr Patrick Ryan; Buried at Wollongong, 1892
1887 Nov	Jan 1895	Fr Phillip McIntyre; Northern Suburbs Sydney, 1938
1895 Mar	Nov 1895	Fr William Madden; Buried at Albion Park 26.05.1897, aged 36 years
1896 July	Nov 1908	Fr William Hayden; Later 2nd Bishop of Wilcannia/Forbes (1918-30) and 1st Archbishop of Hobart (1930-36); buried in Hobart.
1908 Dec	Jan 1918	Fr Peter J. Power; Bungendore 1927
1918 Mar	Oct 1925	Fr Daniel O'Sullivan; Died at Parish of Bondi Beach, 1941
1921 Feb	Nov 1921	Fr P. J. Donovan; +1945 North Sydney; buried in Rookwood
1925 Dec	Feb 1926	Fr Con. Lynch
1926 Feb	June 1942	Fr Thomas O'Farrell; Died at Kogarah, 1966
1933 Feb	Dec 1933	Fr John Roche
1942 Aug	Oct 1962	Mgr Thomas Kevin Grealy; Buried at Albion Park, 1962
1962 Oct	Feb 1963	Mgr Frank J. Deignan (<i>Administrator</i>); Buried in Ireland
1963 Feb	April 1968	Fr Isidore Ekerick; (<i>Bishop's Secretary</i>); Moss Vale; +Wollongong 1998
1968 Apr	Dec 1968	Fr Michael Bach (<i>Administrator</i>); (<i>left priesthood</i>)
1969 Jan	May 1980	Fr Peter Moore; Buried Wollongong 1998
1980 May	Nov 1992	Fr Patrick J Faherty; Nowra
1982 Nov	Jan 1984	Fr Ross Naylor (<i>Assistant</i>); <i>military chaplain</i>
1992 Nov	Oct 1997	Fr Michael Healy; Campbelltown & Ruse
1997 Nov	Nov 2002	Fr Graham Schmitzer; Corrimal & Unanderra
2002 Nov	July 2006	Fr Peter Tien; Helensburgh
2006 Aug	June 2015	Fr David Catterall; Oran Park
2015 June	Aug 2015	Fr Ross Naylor (<i>Administrator</i>); Retired
2015 Sep	Current	Fr Richard Healey

References:

- *St Paul's Catholic Cemetery Albion Park*, Wendy and Terry Nunan, 2010
- *Constant in Faith, St Paul's Church Albion Park 1874-1973, 1975-2015*, Wendy Nunan 2015
- *The Catholic Church in the Illawarra, 150 Years, 1838 - 1988*, edited by Fr P.J. Faherty and Fr Mark O'Keefe, 1989.
- *Green Meadows*, William A. Bayley, 1959