

Fr MICK

“YOUR LIFE”

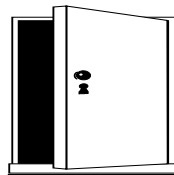
YOU STARTED LIFE IN MALDON
No. SIX IN A FAMILY OF NINE
WITH SIX BROTHERS AND TWO SISTERS
YOU WERE USED TO STANDING IN LINE



ALTHOUGH YOU WERE REGISTERED BERNARD
YOUR PARENTS GAVE BERNARD THE FLICK
WHEN BAPTISED THEY SETTLED ON MICHAEL
AND SINCE THEN YOU’VE ANSWERED TO”MICK”.



THOUGH AT BARINGHAP PRIMARY YOU STARTED
A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE SOON OPENED THE DOOR
AFTER LEAVING SCHOOLFRIENDS AND FAMILY
WENT TO ASSUMPTION COLLEGE KILMORE.



YOU WERE TWELVE YEARS OLD WHEN IT STARTED
AN INKLING YOU TRIED HARD TO STALL
BUT FINALLY “GOD” GOT THROUGH AT KILMORE
AND YOU JUST HAD TO ANSWER HIS CALL.



P.2.

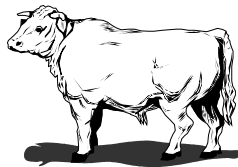
YOU WENT BACK HOME TO DO FARMING
AND JOINED IN THE WORK TO BE DONE
BUT "GOD" KEPT ON CALLING SO YOU LEFT HOME AGAIN
FOR THE SEMINARY IN MARCH '51.



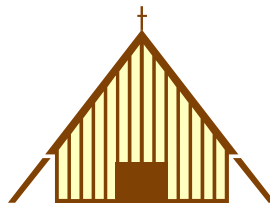
THE RECTOR AT THE TIME "Fr MAYNE"
A "GOD" LOVING MAN OF GREAT VIRTUE
IN YOUR MIND "A MAN AHEAD OF HIS TIME."
IN OUR MINDS,"A MAN JUST LIKE YOU."



IN '58 YOU WERE SENT OUT TO COWES
TO KEEP REVELLERS SOULS OUT OF HARM
COWES OF COURSE PHILIP ISLAND
NOT BACK ON THE FAMILY FARM.



YOU FIRST ARRIVED WITHIN OUR CITY
TO BELMONT – SOUTH OF GEELONG
St BERNARDS, St CATHERINES, St AUGUSTINES ALL
MADE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU BELONG.

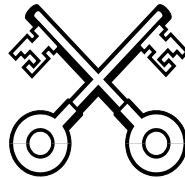


P.3.

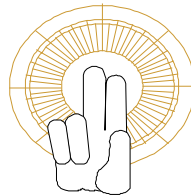
YOU ONLY LASTED BARELY ONE YEAR
WHEN St MARYS SAW POTENTIAL
AS CHAPLAIN FOR OUR HOSPITALS
YOUR FAITH WAS INFLUENTIAL.



UNBEKNOWN TO YOU, YOU WERE BEING WATCHED
SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE ORDAINED
MELBOURNE REQUIRED A DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS
AND BISHOP FOX HAD YOU PROCLAIMED.



FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS YOU DUG RIGHT IN
AND GAVE IT ALL YOU COULD
AS THOSE WHO CHOSE YOU FOR THE JOB
HAD NO DOUBT THAT YOU WOULD



BUT STILL THEY SAW EVEN GREATER THINGS
AND SENT YOU OFF TO ROME
TO STUDY FOR A BIGGER TASK
BEFORE THEY BROUGHT YOU HOME



P.4.

YOU WERE APPOINTED AS VICE RECTOR
OF THE CORPUS CHRISTIE COLLEGE
THE SEMINARY GLEN WAVERLY, WHERE
YOU PASSED ON WELL LEARNED KNOWLEDGE



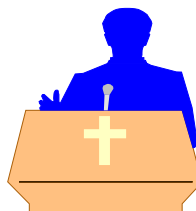
BUT THEN ALAS IT CAME TO PASS
YOU HAD TO SHUT UP SHOP
NO LONGER USED TO TRAIN A PRIEST
IT'S USED TO TRAIN A COP



SO ONCE AGAIN IN '78
YOU'RE BROUGHT IN FROM THE COLD
AS PARISH PRIEST St BERNARDS
YOU ARE BACK INTO THE FOLD.



FOR SEVEN YEARS YOU HELD THIS POST
TILL ONCE MORE YOU WERE SHIFTED
AS NEW DIRECTOR MINISTRY OF PRIESTS
USING TALENTS WITH WHICH YOU WERE GIFTED.



THERE WERE OTHER JOBS THAT CAME YOUR WAY
A CHALLENGE EVERY ONE
THEN "GOD" WOULD NEED YOU SOMEWHERE ELSE
WHEN EACH NEW TASK WAS DONE.



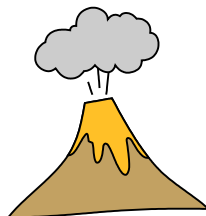
AND WE AT ASHBY THANK OUR "GOD"
YOU CAME BACK TO GEELONG
OF ALL THE PARISHES AROUND THIS TOWN
IT'S AT OURS THAT YOU BELONG



WITH GRAVE CONCERN WE'VE WATCHED YOUR HEALTH
WHEN 3 PARISHES JOINED AS ONE
THE ADDED RESPONSIBILITIES
SURE KEPT YOU ON THE RUN



THEN "GOD" STEPPED IN THROUGH Fr KEITH
LIKE FINDING HIDDEN TREASURE
LIGHTENED YOUR LOAD CONSIDERABLY
AND TOOK AWAY THE PRESSURE

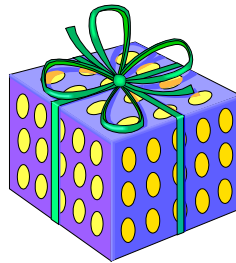


P.6.

THOUGH Fr KEITH NOW HOLDS THE REINS
YOU ARE ALWAYS WITHIN HIS REACH
SHOULD HE STRUGGLE WITH A PROBLEM
HE CAN LEARN FROM WHAT YOU TEACH.



AS WE GATHER HERE TODAY WITH YOU
TO CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY
WE KNOW LOOKING BACK ON 70 yrs
YOU'D HAVE IT DONE NO OTHER WAY.



IN CLOSING Fr PLEASE TAKE HEED
TO THIS GOOD ADVICE –AND THAT'S
FORGET THOSE HOPELESS TIGERS
AND BARRACK FOR THE CATS.



HAPPY 70th BIRTHDAY

Compliments of Mike McGEADY
Sts Peter & Pauls Parish West Geelong.