

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675

www.parramattacityrotary.org.au

Rotary Four Way Test

The Four Way Test challenges Rotarians, in everything they do, to ask of themselves:

Of the things we say or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Meeting 17th August 2015

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, which was the first club to allow women into Rotary. Bob was quick to point out that Parramatta City Rotary Club was not far behind, in 1992, with Joy Gillett one of the first female members, and in Australia our club was one of those that led the way. But the ground was broken at Duarte, where the Rotary Club invited three women to become members in 1987/88, flouting the constitution of the time which restricted Rotary membership to men. Rotary International removed the club's charter, the club took legal action against RI, which resulted in a Supreme Court ruling in the club's favour.

Bob said his thoughts on women in Rotary were triggered by the recent World Netball Championships, won by Australia, which showed women from all over the world, escaping from their social bondage, such in South Africa, and participating in such an event. To his mind, women escaping their bonds in this way was "intermingled" with women asserting their rights to participate in Rotary.

Joy Gillett, heavily involved in netball administration, added another Rotary aspect that Australian netballers regularly packages up uniforms to send to netballers in less advantaged countries, and the countries responded gleefully, attending events such as the world championships even if their standard of play had not yet caught up. The last lot of uniforms went to Papua New Guinea.

Our Guest

President Malcolm introduced Father Martin Maunsell, president of the Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club, is the parish priest at St Kevin's Catholic Church, Eastwood. Martin was born in Sydney in 1957, the eldest of six children of a publican, and grew up in Parramatta. Martin went to St Joseph's College, and on leaving school became a clerk in the NSW Public Service, then went nursing, before heeding the call to enter the priesthood.

Martin entered St Patrick's Seminary at Manly in 1981, where he became acquainted with another candidate for priesthood, one Tony Abbott ("I was not surprised when he went into politics", Martin said.) Martin was ordained a priest in 1987. He has since served at Kingsgrove, Malabar, Tamworth, Gynea, Revesby, Bankstown, Lane Cove and Boorowa in southern New South Wales. He has been at St Kevin's for 18 months. Martin has been associated with Rotary since 1977, when he joined Rotaract, and enjoys Rotary life, partly because it fulfils the Christian objective of caring for the welfare of others, it does not push a religious or political barrow, and it gets him out of the ecclesiastical environment from time to time.



Martin Maunsell

Steve Burfield

The board has regretfully accepted the resignation of a valued club member, Steve Burfield, who has accepted a new job, as fund-raising manager for the Wesley Mission, which requires him to work in the city. Steve, who has been a member of the club for 10 years, has rendered invaluable service and in turn has enjoyed his long association with us. He would like to maintain a link and as he is still going to live at Cherrybrook we might see more of him from time to time.

The Bulletin

President Malcolm said there had been some disruption to the publication of the club bulletin. We should make it more streamlined, he said, and have a photographer always available. He said there might be a need to spice the bulletin up a little, with something funny or entertaining.

Joan Elliott

At the instigation of PP Johnny Ching, the club held two minutes silence for Joan Elliott, wife of PDG Jack Elliott, who died at Ryde Hospital on Saturday last week. Her funeral is to be held on Friday 21 August at Castlebrook Cemetery, Windsor Road, Rouse Hill, at 1 pm in the Garden Chapel. Everyone is invited afterwards to Alan Drew Funeral Homes, Old Northern Road and Francis Street, Castle Hill.

The Rotarian Priest

Martin said that when he felt the call to enter the priesthood, he had not been “what you would call a religious fanatic”, but he had had the example of the priests he knew as he grew up, and he had “a big dose of curiosity”. He did not want to go to his grave wondering what it would have been like had he become a priest. Ordained in St Mary’s Cathedral by Archbishop Clancy, he went into parish work and had a wide variety of flock to administer to, including the intensely multicultural Bankstown, where there were Vietnamese, Tongans, Lebanese and many others. In the parish school, he said, there were 400 children, and 80 of them had the same family name, Nguyen.

At Boorowa, where there was a population of 1400 and three pubs, and a parish school with 50 children, he had to make a rapid adjustment, and in that environment. He had to push himself because the work was not coming to him. As part of his program, he visited people on their properties. He was also police chaplain at Cootamundra Local Area Command and he attended church conferences in Canberra. But Rotary became a big part of his life, and when on his return to Sydney, DG Jack Elliott invited him to become a member of Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club, Martin readily accepted.

Martin said that things were different when he was ordained a deacon in 1986, things were different from the way they are now. There was twice the number of priests and there was a lot more work. “In my first few years as a priest, I would probably have presided over 20 weddings a year,” he said. “Last year there were three weddings and four this year. I do far fewer funerals. I often see how many funerals are conducted in crematorium chapels.” Martin said that when he asked couples why they wanted to marry in a church, he was often disappointed again. Some said it was because their parents wanted them to, other that the church was close to the reception centre, and still others because they wanted the church sandstone to be a backdrop for the wedding photos.

But Martin was hardly to be put off by that. He was keen to be a visible presence within the community, in shopping centres and in the schools. He was available to people in time of change and crisis. “You don’t know whom you can touch,” he said. “If these things are ignored, the people’s views on the church are reinforced. It is important to remind people that you cannot always have a church presence when you want it but do nothing in between to support the church and the priest.”

Martin said he was very concerned about a decline in family and moral values, leading some young people to have low self-esteem. “Political correctness” was no real substitute because often people in authority, such as teachers, hesitated to do things that were for the good of the children. One teacher had told him that sometimes she was afraid even to raise her voice. On the positive side, he

would try to be as creative as he could be in giving a homily each week to help people gain an insight into their life and faith.

Asked about his daily routine, Martin said he rose at 5.30 am each day, did exercises and spent about an hour in prayer in the church. He conducted mass at 7.30 am, listened to ABC Radio AM between 8 and 8.30 am (about the time this scribe, being in retirement, is reluctantly casting off his bedclothes), had breakfast, checked emails, went to the St Kevin's School next door, did office work, read the Catholic publication, The Tablet, and did preparation for other duties and visited people in their homes. He is police chaplain at Parramatta Local Area Command. His working day lasted about 17 hours.

Martin, who was due to go to a meeting of our evening counterpart, Parramatta Rotary Club, was keen to spread his contacts and agreed to a suggestion from our part that the three Parramatta Rotary Clubs should have more to do with each other, such as joint meetings and joint projects such as barbecues.

Funny spot

I urge members to look at the latest "funny spot" email to see how the Rotary spirit can cross even the boundaries of species.

For Your Diaries

August 20. Dinner at Deltone House, Darling Harbor, for International President John Germ & His Wife Judy

August 22. A dinner for Friends of Lamb Australia (FOLIA)

August 24. We have Peter Consandine, of the Australian Republican Party.

August 31. Craig Jennings of Samaritans Purse

September 7. We will be hearing from Zyra McAuliffe.

September 14. Archaeologist Dr Michael Bendon.

September 21. We will hear from Eric Stanley, motivational speaker and author.