

Church Alive!

Pilgrimages in Faith, 1956-2006

Greg Dening

A Poet's Prayer

O God, who by the spirit in our hearts dost lead us to desire Thy perfection, to seek for truth, and to rejoice in beauty; illumine, we pray Thee, and inspire all thinkers, writers, artists and craftsmen; that in whatsoever is true and pure and lovely, Thy name may be hallowed and Thy kingdom come on earth.

Lord, hear us.

Direct and bless, we beseech Thee, O Lord, those who speak where many listen, and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of the people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous.

Lord, hear us.

Philip John Talbot Martin

Poet - Parishioner

28 March 1931 – 18 October 2005

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Prologue: The Spirit at Work

Living History

Triumph 1956

Hopefulness 1976

Breaking Bread

Word and Song

New Church, New Priest

The Christ and Women

The Prophetic Imagination

Epilogue: Pilgrim Parish

Acknowledgements

Notes

Bibliography

A Prefatory Note

Vatican Council II (1962-1965) brought an *aggiornamento*—a renewal—into the Catholic Church. This Living History of three Jesuit Parish Churches on the North Shore of Sydney Harbour is a story of the hope and pain in that renewal.

Church Alive! is a Living History because it is, on my part, an ethnographic description of religious experience in times of change, 1956-2006. But it is Living, too, in another way. *Nothing's said till it's dreamed out in words/and nothing's true that figures in words only*, the poet Les Murray has written. You will find the hope and pain of the Church's renewal *dreamed out in words* in the Word Pictures of many parishioners who describe their religious experiences as they are—not as they should be or as they are told they should be. As they are! Those Word Pictures are to be found as Mystery, Believing, Celebrating, Priestliness, Calling, Ministering.

There are living images as well as living words in *Church Alive!* Anne Kearney, a parishioner and an artist who has exhibited in oils, pastels, collage and ceramics for over twenty years, and who is also qualified in Systematic Theology, undertook to take an unmapped journey of considerable risk and insecurity by providing her own creations to introduce our essays on Sacred Space and Sacred Time and the Word Pictures.

I thank Anne and all the others for being willing to join me in writing a different sort of history, one informed by hope and love as much as science and art.

By agreement, the Word Pictures are individually unnamed. The names of their authors are to be found in the Acknowledgements.

Greg Dening

The Other Side

January 2006

A pilgrimage church (German: Wallfahrtskirche) is a church to which pilgrimages are regularly made, or a church along a pilgrimage route, like the Way of St. James, that is visited by pilgrims. Pilgrimage churches are often located by the graves of saints, or hold portraits to which miraculous properties are ascribed or saintly relics that are safeguarded by the church for their veneration. Such relics may include the bones, books or pieces of clothing of the saints, occasionally also fragments of the Shroud of Turin. Start by marking "Church Alive! Pilgrimages in Faith, 1956 - 2006" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving list. We'd love your help. Let us know what's wrong with this preview of Church Alive! Pilgrimages in Faith, 1956 - 2006 by Greg Denning. Problem: It's the wrong book It's the wrong edition Other.

Church Alive: Pilgrimages in Faith 1956-2006, by Greg Denning. Published by UNSW Press, Sydney, 2006. ISBN 0868408433. RRP \$44.95. website. One such amateur historian was Fr Henry A. Johnston SJ, who wrote the first history of North Sydney Parish, on the occasion of its centenary in 1956. Denning uses the fact that Johnston covered the first 100 years as a licence to focus on the last 50 years. This allows him to dwell on an era marked by unprecedented change, in both the Church itself and the Jesuits. Denning writes that the change was inspired by two '60s prophets: John XXIII and Pedro Arrupe SJ—the pilgrim Pope who called Vatican II, and the prayerful and fearless Superior General who shook the Jesuits. Church Alive!: Pilgrimages in Faith, 1956-2006. ISBN 978-0-86840-843-9. 2006. Wallumetta: The Other Side: Faith, Life and Worship on the North Shore 1856-2006. ISBN 978-0-86840-907-8. 2006. William Pascoe Crook, An Account of the Marquesas Islands 1797–1799, ed. Greg Denning et al. Pilgrimages.in is available for purchase. Get in touch to discuss the possibilities! Pilgrimages.in. This premium domain name is available for purchase! More info. Make an offer. Your domain name is your identity on the Internet. Establish instant trust and credibility with customers. Premium domain names appreciate in value over time. Boost your business and invest in the right domain name. Pilgrimages.in.