

April 8, 2025

End of an era for Majellan House

It was the end of an era when Majellan House in Brighton recently passed from the Redemptorist community to its new owner.

As a final farewell, a liturgy and lunch were organised, led by Oceania Provincial John Hodgson CSsR and Father Sam Kono CSsR.

The Redemptorists bought the property in 1963 and for almost 60 years it served as a house of worship and the mailing hub for *The Majellan* magazine. The Redemptorists first began their 'magazine mission' in Ballarat in the 1940s but the monastery had become too small to service their growing needs.

The search for a new home led the Redemptorists to Brighton, a Melbourne beachside suburb. When the house came on the market, Majellan editor Father Bill Stinson sought permission from the Archbishop of Melbourne Daniel Mannix to establish a 'religious house' and a place to publish the magazine.

Archbishop Mannix who headed the Catholic Church in Melbourne for 46 years approved the request.

As part of the sale, the priests agreed to keep as much of the original 'look' as possible. Located next to the Brighton Yacht Club, the house was commissioned by William Carr in the early 1920s and designed by prominent Melbourne architect Cedric Ballantyne who is credited with introducing the modern style residential bungalow to Melbourne.

Carr was born and bred in Brighton and attended the local grammar school. In 1908, he married Florence Cohn and they had two sons and a daughter. William Carr died in 1961 and Florence passed away three years later.

William and Florence Carr lived in their home they called *Kuring-gai* for about 40 years. Majellan House appeared in *Australian Home Beautiful* magazine on three separate occasions (1925, 1965 and 1995), including on the front cover twice. The first ever Home Beautiful front cover included the headline, 'As good a house as money can buy'.

Majellan House was well served by many dedicated lay and religious. Long-serving editors included Brother John Baker, Bill Stinson, Fr Max Barrett, Bishop Paul Bird and Fr Michael Gilbert. The Redemptorist order was founded in 1732 by Saint Alphonsus Liguori in Scala, Italy. The first Australian missionaries arrived in 1882.

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