

FEAST OF SAINT PETER JULIAN EYMARD

- by Damien Cash

On 2 August we celebrate the feast of Saint Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868), the founder of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation.

In the mid-nineteenth century, Eymard was a French priest who had ministered in the Diocese of Grenoble before joining the Society of Mary (Marist Fathers) in 1839. By 1844 he was provincial in charge of Marist communities in France and overseas.

Eymard always had a strong attraction to the mystery of the Eucharist. In the early 1850s, his attempts to establish a Marist community dedicated to eucharistic adoration were rejected by his superiors.

After much prayer and discernment, Eymard reluctantly left the Society of Mary. He joined with the diocesan priest Raymond de Cuers (1809-1871) in moves to establish a new religious community of priests and brothers inspired by the Eucharist.

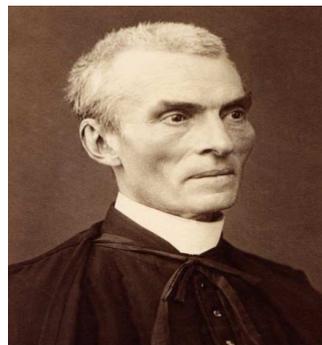
In 1856 the Paris bishops consented to Eymard's plans for a 'Society of the Blessed Sacrament' which is known today as the Blessed Sacrament Congregation. Pope Pius IX granted a Decree of Approbation in 1863. Despite many trials and disappointments, the Congregation gradually grew to expand beyond France and throughout the world.

Eymard also established an association of lay people called the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, and he collaborated with Marguerite Guillot (1815-1885) to found a eucharistic congregation for women now known as the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Blessed Sacrament Congregation arrived in Australia in 1929, when Melbourne's Archbishop Daniel Mannix (1864-1963) invited the Congregation to take over the pastoral care of historic St Francis' Church in the centre of Melbourne.

St Francis' Church was transformed by the eucharistic spirituality of the Congregation and has a special place in the history of the Congregation. In 1949, a public novena at St Francis' was associated with the cure of a Melbourne woman which was later accepted by the Catholic Church as one of the miracles that led to Eymard's canonisation as a saint in 1962.

In Sydney, where the Congregation first established a religious community and church at Haymarket in 1953, St Peter Julian's Church opened in 1964 as the first church in the world to be named after the new saint.



SUNNY SIDE UP

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SAVE
the **DATE**
31.08.19

St Francis youth choir  Charity Concert

with guest appearances by
FILIPINO CHOIR OF ST FRANCIS
MONASH CATHOLICS ON CAMPUS CHOIR

Keep an eye out for more posts coming soon!

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A sunny choral concert for the last day of winter featuring St Francis' Youth Choir, The Filipino Choir of St Francis', and Monash Catholics on Campus Choir.

Saturday 31 August, 7.30pm St Francis' Church

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Friday 2 August 2019

Free Tea and Coffee will be served in the Pastoral Centre between 8:00am to 7:00pm for those attending Mass to celebrate the feast on this day.

