

Rosemary Mellor OBE, DHS

ON DECEMBER 1 2007, Rosemary Mellor was invested as a Dame in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, in the Cathedral Church of St George, Southwark.

The Order was founded in the First Crusade, it's Constitution granted by King Baldwin in 1103. They left the Holy Land in 1291, after which the Order fell into abeyance until, in 1849, Pope Pius IX established the Latin Patriarchate and reorganised the Order to support it. "The Kingdom of God is won no longer by the sword but by faith and love."

The Order's statute has since been modified several times – its latest having been approved in 1991 by Pope John Paul II – but its charitable purpose remains unchanged. "By prayer, financial contributions and personal visits, to give the Christian communities in the Holy Land that substantial support which has become essential in recent decades as a means of maintaining their survival in the land where Christ lived and died."

Catholics are now less than one per cent of the total population of Israel and Jordan, and with present trends, the future prospect is of no native Christians left in the land of Christ.

Thus support is essential for 60 parishes, 40 schools, Beit Jala Seminary, Bethlehem University and economic projects such as the building of homes, social projects and loans for economic enterprise. It is not political, but works for justice and peace.

For the future – the work of the Order continues. The Christian Community in the Holy Land represents an essential link between the world today and the life and times of Christ. The Order is committed to ensuring that this link is maintained and strengthened in the years ahead.

Rosemary meets the main criteria – that of raising funds – by her long history of voluntary work. After service in the WRNS., including 12 years in the WRVS, six years as secretary and councillor in the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, School Governor of five

schools, Justice and Peace for 21 years and 19 years as a Lay Member of the National Mental Health Review Tribunal representing the south west. She is also south-west area representative Hospital League of Friends. She was awarded the OBE in 1990.

Currently, she is a speaker fundraiser for 'Impact International Foundation' from 1995 to the present day and to that end she has made visits to India and Bangladesh, assessing their needs and reporting back.

In the parish of Sacred Heart, Westbury-on-Trym, in the Diocese of Clifton she is a Eucharistic Minister, reader, writer of Intercessions and an active member of the Union of Catholic Mothers.

She is supported by her husband, Dick with whom she has recently celebrated 62 years of marriage with four children, nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Altogether, a lady one is privileged to call 'friend'.

*Patricia Tester,
Diocese of Clifton*



I climbed Sydney Harbour Bridge!

I KNOW there are some readers who have visited Sydney and maybe some of you have climbed the Harbour Bridge. Climbing the Bridge has become one of Sydney's greatest tourist attractions since climbing started at the Millennium, but let me tell you of my experience.

I am the parish co-ordinator for our Developing World support. Towards the end of 2007 parish commitments deemed it necessary to seek new ways of raising the funds we distribute.

At our meeting in October we were discussing ways this could be achieved and I found, as so often happens with me, I opened my mouth and out tumbled the words: "I am prepared to be sponsored to Climb Sydney Harbour Bridge, during our January visit to our family".

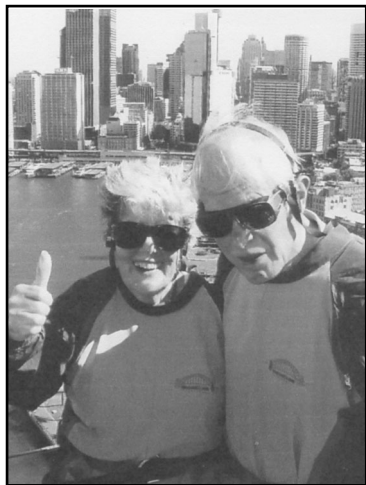
We booked our climb for 3pm so that by the time we were all kitted out the heat of the day would be abating. Thursday 24 January was a beautiful day, sunny and warm but not too hot. There were nine of us in our group – a young couple from Wales, another couple from Sheffield (she was celebrating her 40th), two girls from Tasmania and an English ex-pat resident in New Zealand who had won the holiday to Sydney! We were by far the eldest of the group and they were intrigued that I was being sponsored to do the climb.

After the introductions we were given a cat suit to put on, then our spectacles and a hats were secured to our shoulder. A belt was placed around our waists with what looked like a ball and chain dangling from it – this was the mechanism, which secured us to the rails. This was followed by a head-set through which a commentary was relayed throughout the climb.

Next came a practice run up and down a short flight of simulator steps and an option to drop out. Finally after being breathalised, we were off.

Through security doors, out into the street and along to the entrance to the steel structure. We walked along a level steel path known as The Tunnel whilst the land dipped away to the water's edge. Then we were at the beginning of the climb.

The Climb is done on the Opera House side of the Bridge and with John and I bringing up the rear, we first clambered up a virtually vertical run of 20 steps, by far the most difficult of



all. Next came four by 20 steps, less steep, but the tricky bit here was getting to the top of one set and then side-stepping onto the next bit.

Once this had been accomplished we were on the Bridge proper and then it was an easy stroll up steps no more than six inches in depth. We had several stops to admire the view, listen to the commentary and ask questions.

Finally we were at the summit and the obligatory photos were taken to prove we had made it.

The view from the top was breathtaking – people the size of ants were scurrying around below us – the ferries, the only means of crossing the harbour before the bridge was built, scuttling around in and out of Circular Quay and the Opera House, a concrete blob, shrinking away into the distance.

In one direction you could see south-east to Botany Bay and the Airport and due east to the Heads, two massive headlands that mark the entrance to Sydney Harbour. Westwards one could see the Blue Mountains in the distance.

Then we traversed the top of the bridge and started down on the other side reversing everything we had done on the way up. The four by 20 steps were undertaken by going down backwards, the crossover bit really scary. Then came the final vertical 20 steps. This was the worst part of all and I realised after I should have come down these backwards as well, instead of forwards, as the others had done. I was more than glad to get to the bottom of these without missing my step.

The whole experience from beginning to end took around three and a half hours but the actual climb probably around an hour and a half. We derobed, collected our photographs and certificates, bought some souvenirs, then wandered outside to be met by our daughter and son-in-law.

I expected to feel shattered but not so, I had no after effects at all just a huge sense of achievement. For those of you who remember me at York and Whitby being pushed around in a wheelchair after breaking my hip you will realise how elated I felt.

The previous Sunday we went out to a location just outside the Harbour Entrance and to reach to waters edge we had to go down and up several stone steps, which were very steep. Then we had to do something similar further along in order to enjoy a Devon Cream tea. I found the steps extremely gruelling and wondered what I had let myself in for. Maybe the exercise in climbing these steps had set me up for the big one.

Some statistics:

Known locally as The Coathanger, Sydney Harbour Bridge was officially opened on March 19, 1932. Construction started in January 1925, bringing much needed work to the area.

It took 1300 men eight years to build using 6,000,000 rivets and 53 tonnes of steel. There is much pride taken in the fact that only 16 people lost their lives; remember that these were the days of no hard hats or safety harnesses!

The Bridge was built to take both road and rail traffic and stands 134 metres above sea level or one and a half football pitches above the water. The climb consists of 1337 stairs up, then of course the same coming down.

The cost of building the Bridge in 1932 was £4,217,222 however the loan was not finally paid off until 1982 and the final figure was £10,057,170.

Before 1932 there was one bridge upstream, today there are more bridges upstream and a tunnel under the Harbour where the 1932 bridge stands.

With money still coming in, at the time of writing I have gathered nearly £600 – *Deo Gratias*.

*Pat Durrant,
Past National Secretary*

New Dawn In The Church Walsingham

AT A recent meeting we had a most interesting talk by Josephine Casey on New Dawn in the Church, which is held at Walsingham each year. We had not heard of this before and thought other UCM members might be interested.

*Linda Savage, Sutton Foundation
Archdiocese of Southwark.*

In 1985 a Catholic man called Myles Dempsey, whilst at a large Charismatic conference in Ars in France, was moved to intercede for England and ask the Lord whether it was His will that something like that should be here. He got back two clear words 'Walsingham' and 'New Dawn'.

At that time Walsingham meant little to him. He had visited the Shrine once, 20 years previously, and there was nothing of that size happening in the Catholic Church, with most large groups of pilgrims only visiting for the day. Myles had already founded a community called the 'Prince of Peace' and the little group set about organising such an event with great faith and £20 in a jam jar!

In 1987 the first New Dawn conference attracted 800 people and an impressive line up of International speakers. Special tents and marquees were erected to house the activities. Myles' vision for New Dawn was to bring together all the riches of the Catholic faith in an event which included the whole family.

The conference since then has grown in

number with 3,000 people attending last year. There are now large groups attending from the Czech Republic, Poland and Portugal and in recent years growing numbers from Africa. The conference is always held during the first week of August which includes a Wednesday and always Monday to Friday, however last year it was extended to include Saturday which is set to continue.

Children of all ages are catered for within the Children's ministry. They have their own packed programme including music and praise, craft activities, prayer sessions and spiritual talks.

The youth camp in my mind is the strongest link, which is ironic as it is often the weakest link in our own parishes. The youth are separated into age appropriate groups ranging from 11–25 and have their own programme, they are truly blessed and on fire for the week.

Accommodation is varied with a family camp on site which is growing year by year, various B&B's in the beautiful village and surrounding area, public houses and the 'Anglican Shrine' which opens its doors to people attending the conference. The latter offers vast accommodation and a wonderful breakfast. All other meals are on the conference site and served to a high standard with more than enough for everyone.

This is a blessed event for ages 0 –100. For more information visit the website www.newdawn.org.uk or contact; Prince of Peace Community St Emilies, Oakhill Park, Liverpool, L13 4BP Tel: 0151 2280724

Catholic Women of the Year Lunch.

This year marks the 40 anniversary of the Catholic Women of the Year Lunch which will be held on Friday 10 October at The Thistle Hotel Marble Arch, London. Tickets are £35 each and are available from Mrs J Woodford, 22, Milton Road, WARE, Herts SG12 0PZ. Tel: 01920 420758. The four nominees are Sister Ann Teresa, Julia -Hulston Clark, Susha Hassam and Diane Sanderson.



St Margaret of Scotland Hospice

St Margaret of Scotland Hospice opened in Clydebank in 1950 and has been developed to provide 60 beds – thirty for Palliative Care and thirty for care of Older Adults with complex medical and nursing needs. It was the first Hospice to open in Scotland and is the largest.

A Day Rehabilitation Unit, Home Care and Out-patient facilities are also provided for those needing such services. All three types of facilities being very popular and worthwhile.

The Hospice also provides Counselling Services to patients, their families and friends, along with members of the community who benefit from Counselling.

The Hospice provides care to approximately 300 in-patients each year, these patients being cared for in a very special environment where not only their physical needs are taken care of but also their spiritual and emotional needs. The care extends to families.

The care provided to some of the most vulnerable people in society is given in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.

At the moment, the Hospice has a New Build Appeal Campaign which was launched in June 2006 to raise £1.6 million towards a £4.6million project. This building providing 30 beds with single and twin rooms is for greater privacy and dignity for the patients in the care of the Hospice. This New Build Appeal will also allow for refurbishment of the Palliative Care Unit.

The annual running costs are in excess of £3million, £1.6million of which we must raise annually – just over £30,000 per week – to meet the day-to-day running costs of the Hospice. We receive part of our funding from the local Health Board.

At the Hospice, we are privileged to journey with patients in their final days.

An affordable donation would be a great way to 'Share in Care'.

Scottish Reg. Charity No. SC005623

SHARE IN CARE



Helping hands with our
New Build Appeal
Affordable donation

East Barns Street, Clydebank
G81 1EG 0141-952 1141
www.smh.org.uk

**If you have a story for
inclusion in the UCM send to:
Valerie Ward, 48 Malvern Rd,
Wallasey, Wirral CH45 8NW**