



**SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC MISSION**  
**Sts. CYRIL AND METHODIUS**  
**KEW, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA,**  
**AUSTRALIA**





**SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC MISSION Sts. CYRIL AND METHODIUS,  
KEW, MELBOURNE**

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Fr. Ciril A. Božič OFM, Priest in Charge, Migrant Chaplain, Editor of Slovenian Religious and Cultural Magazine *Misli* and Associated police chaplain: Victoria Police

The **SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC MISSION OF Sts. CYRIL AND METHODIUS** in Melbourne is firstly the life's dream and work of the late Fr. Basil Valentine and Slovenian migrants, assisted by Slovenian Franciscan priests: Fr Odilo Hajnsek, Fr Stanko Zemljak, Fr Bernard Golcnik, Fr Tone Gorjup, Fr Niko Zvokelj, Fr Metod Ogorevc 1997-2001 and now Fr Ciril A. Bozic (2001 - ).

**THE MISSION IS:**

**The Religious Centre** – the church and pastoral care for the Slovenians in Victoria and Tasmania.

**The Cultural Centre** – the publication of bi-monthly religious and cultural magazine *Misli* – Thoughts, the publication of books and school text books. There is also a library and book shop, housing an archive of documentation, photographs, slides, films and videos and Slovenian migrant magazines from all over the world. The centre is used by the church choir, the folk dancing group and the drama group. The premises store Slovenian national costumes from different regions, church cultural robes, theatrical costumes and props. There is an abundance of cultural programs every year for events performed by drama group, musical performances by soloists or bands, a variety of exhibitions of art, craft and archive documentation and books, and others.

**The Social Centre** The Mission leader counsels all migrants who need his aid; he also hears the problems from the hostel residents and others. The Mother Romana Home for the aged has 30 beds, Baraga Hostel has 13 tenants. The Ladies Auxillary Group St. Ema prepares monthly lunches and other functions. The Prayer Group meets weekly and the members help with the sick in the community.

**The Education Centre** – Slomšek Slovenian school, the Slovenian Language Course for Adults.

**THE ORDER OF MASSES AT THE CHURCH OF STS CYRIL AND METHODIUS AT KEW:**

On Sundays at 10.00am, but every second Sunday of the month the Mass is at 9.00am.

From Monday to Thursday the Mass is at 8.00.

On Fridays and Saturdays the Mass is at 10.00.

On Feast days the Mass is at 10.00; but on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday is a Mass at 8.00 and 10.00 am.



**KEW, 2nd May 2004:**  
 Celebration after the  
 Mass in Kew: Republic  
 of Slovenia became a  
 member of the European  
 Union on 1st May 2004.



In **GEELONG** there is a Mass every  
 second Sunday of the month at 11.30am.



In **ST. ALBANS** there is a Mass every second  
 Sunday of the month at 5.00pm.



In **MORWELL** the Mass is every third  
 month of the year on the fourth Sunday  
 (March, June, September and December)



In **WODONGA** the Slovenian Mass is twice a  
 year – On Sunday celebrating the feast day of  
 God's Mercy (first Sunday after Easter) and on  
 the fourth Sunday in November at 7.00pm.



**TASMANIA - HOBART:** At least once a year.

**SLOVENIAN MASS IN OTHER PLACES:**

**THE LEADER OF THE MISSION IS HELPED BY MANY LAY PEOPLE**, who are grouped in various activities and help with their work and in the Pastoral care. The groups in the Mission, consists of: Pastoral Council, special ministers and altar servers, acolytes, the maintenance group, church choir, the Baraga library, Slomsek Slovenian school, Language course for the adults, ladies Auxilary group St Ema, Prayer group, theatre group, the youth folkloric dancing group Iskra, individulas and group caring for the garden and surrounding area, the Trustees of Mother Romana Home and many benefactors.

**MISLI - THOUGHTS:** Religious and Cultural bi-monthly in Slovenian language is sent to 1500 subscribers. It has been established in 1952.

[http:// www.glasslovenije.com.au](http://www.glasslovenije.com.au)



Misli September-October 2009

**BARAGA LIBRARY** has 5,000 books, many CDs and DVDs. Open every Sunday after the Mass.



**SLOVENIAN SLOMSEK SCHOOL** was established in 1960.



The text books *Let's Learn Slovenian Part 2 and 3*, 1999, were prepared by the teachers and published by the Mission.

*Slovenian Part 1*, 1992, *Let's Learn*

**SLOVENIAN LANGUAGE COURSE FOR ADULTS** was established in 1998.

*Do you Know Slovenian?* and *Do you Know Slovenian, The Basic Grammar Rules and Exercises* text books were prepared by the teacher and published by the Mission.





**CHURCH CHOIR** – active since 1958.

**LADIES AUXILIARY GROUP St. EMA** prepare monthly lunches and care for other functions on Sundays and special occasions, when a great number of people attend.



**PRAYER GROUP** meets every Friday for Mass and prayers.



**PASTORAL COUNCIL** helps the Mission leader with the planning and organization of the life of the Mission.



**MAINTENANCE GROUP** helps to care for the centre, and the surrounds, with maintenance and repairs.

**CULTURAL COMMITTEE** organizes the cultural programs in the church and in the church's hall.



The **ARCHIVE** has many documents, electronic files of documentation and photographs. At the occasion of 50 years of Slovenian Franciscan priests in Australia a book ***Pax et bonum*** – was written and researched by two members of the Mission, published by the Mission.

**MOTHER ROMANA HOME FOR THE AGED** is a Mission's home with 30 beds, has a manager and a Board of Trustees, who take care and plan together with the Leader of the Mission.



**Trustees of Mother Romana Home with Fr Ciril.**

**FOLKDANCING GROUP ISKRA** has been dancing dances from different regions of Slovenia for many years and performs at different cultural and multicultural festivals and church concerts.



**DRAMA GROUP** performs at least one play a year and some short sketches.



**THE SLOVENIAN EMBASSY** from **CANBERRA** has office hours at the Mission.

At the premises is the office of **THE SLOVENIAN WELFARE AND INFORMATION OFFICE**, answering questions, helping people regarding social welfare, opened Sundays after Mass and first and third Thursday of the month from 10.00 to 12.00.



### **SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS:**

- Celebrating Australia Day on the Sunday, closest to the date
- Celebration of the Slovenian Cultural Day in February
- Every third Sunday of the month is the Family lunch
- In Lent there is a pilgrimage to a new Slovenian chapel *Marija Pomagaj* in Marian Shrine to Ta Pinu in Bacchus Marsh



- General clean up on Saturday before Palm Sunday with the preparation of the special traditional Palm Sunday greenery



- A special Mass on the Feast of St Joseph at the Slovenian club Jadran in Diggers Rest



- On the first Sunday in May we celebrate Mothers Day



- We have a Corpus Christi Procession with the five outside altars prepared by the Slovenian clubs from Melbourne and Geelong

- We celebrate Slovenian Independence Day in June



- First Sunday in July we celebrate the Feast of our Patron Saints, Sts. Cyril and Methodius

After the celebration on 12.07.2009: His Grace Archbishop Denis Hart and Fr Cyril A. Bozic.

- Last Sunday in August we celebrate Fathers Day



On September 12, 2009, the church choir performed at the Blessing of the new Slovenian chapel in Marian Valley, Queensland.

- First Saturday in October we have an Australian Slovenian Youth concert held alternatively by rotation in Victoria, N.S.W., ACT and SA.



- Second Sunday in October we participate at the Mass of Nations in St Patrick's Cathedral.

- Every October we pray the Rosary at every Sunday Mass and on Fridays and Saturdays.



- We have prayers for the dead at the cemeteries and chapels of the Slovenian clubs.

- On 20th October we celebrate the Anniversary of the Blessing of our church.



- First Sunday in December St Nicholas visits our children and presents them gifts.

- The Advent pilgrimage is to a selected rural church on second Saturday in December with the Mass
- Novena before Christmas.
- On Christmas Eve we have an English Christmas program at 11.15, and the Midnight Mass in Slovenian outside at our Lourdes Grotto.

This year, 2009, was a year of many special celebrations:

- Slovenian Cultural Day with presentation of poetry, literature and PowerPoint presentation of poets' life and works
- Mother's Day cultural program
- Celebration of the Feast of Sts Cyril and Methodius with the presence of the Archbishop of Melbourne, His Grace, Denis Hart
- Father's Day cultural program
- Vine testing – Martinovanje
- Celebration of the Golden Anniversary Mass for Fr Filip Rupnik
- Coordinating the Blessing of the new Slovenian chapel in Marian Valley in Queensland, with the church choir participating
- Concert of the church choir in Queensland
- The two act play *The marriage Certificate, proposed* - played at Kew and in Geelong
- Organizing, coordinating and participation at the 35th Slovenian Youth Concert in Geelong – 54 participants and audience from Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide and Geelong
- First Anniversary pilgrimage to the new Slovenian Chapel of Holy Family at Ta Pinu in Bacchus Marsh
- St Nicholas for the children and a short cultural program by the children of the Slomsek Slovenian School
- Christmas Eve cultural program focuses on traditional Slovenian Christmas Carols, as well as Australian Christmas Carols



At every Sunday Mass, except the second Sunday of the month, and festive days there is a Reflection in English based on the readings of the day prepared by the special minister of the Eucharist and the Word.



The Mission is visited by many Slovenian and Australian church leaders and representatives, and often there is a cultural program for the occasion. Many Slovenian cultural groups are also visiting the centre – artists, choirs, music bands, soloists, dancers, drama groups, sports people, many specialists in medical or other professions offer lectures, and they are all welcome at the Slovenian mission.

Lately many researchers of the history are coming from Slovenia, interested in the archival material, as well as film makers, newspaper journalists and radio personalities.

The life in Slovenian Mission, throughout the years has been rich, colourful and full of enthusiasm and Slovenian pride.

The Slovenian Mission represents the Slovenian culture, its riches and colour in the Australian community, and among the Australian government officials, as well as the officials of other countries and nationalities.

Bog živi - Mir in dobro! Pax et bonum!

Melbourne, 15th November 2009.

**Fr. Ciril A. Božič OFM**

**Draga Gelt, OAM**, Secretary of the Pastoral Council, teacher, author and cultural coordinator

*Included is an approximate Evaluation of the Voluntary Work for the year 2009.*