



OUR LADY'S NURSES FOR THE POOR 1913 — 2013



Eileen O'Connor.



Reverend Father Edward McGrath.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Our Lady's Home

35 Dudley Street, Coogee

Our Lady's Home was blessed and officially opened by Reverend Father Peter Treand msc, parish priest of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Randwick, on 15 April 1913. It remains the congregational headquarters of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor. Our Lady's Home contains two rooms containing artefacts, furniture and memorabilia belonging to Eileen O'Connor and Father Edward McGrath msc. Among these treasures are Eileen's writing desk, her wheelchair, photographs from the early days and Father McGrath's military chaplain's kit and medals. Eileen's bedroom was converted into a Chapel in 1932. Her bed and statue of Our Lady was transferred to the verandah, where they remain lovingly preserved as they were in her lifetime. Visitors are always welcome by appointment.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

193 Avoca Street, Randwick

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, which has been in the care of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart since 1885, features prominently in the history of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor. It was here that 20 year-old Ted McGrath arrived in 1901 to begin his priestly training at the recently-opened MSC monastery at Kensington. A decade later, he met the O'Connor family in the course of his parish duties as an ordained priest living in the Randwick presbytery. Two years later, he and Eileen O'Connor founded Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor. The community attended daily mass at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart for many years before the Chapel at Our Lady's Home was opened in 1932. Eileen O'Connor's Requiem Mass was celebrated at this church on 13 January 1921.

Randwick Cemetery

Malabar Road, South Coogee

Eileen O'Connor died on 10 January 1921, aged 28 years, and was buried in Randwick Cemetery. For almost 16 years, the community at Our Lady's Home walked to the cemetery each morning to recite the rosary at her graveside. In 1936, the community gained permission to reinter her casket in the Chapel at Our Lady's Home. Her body was found to be incorrupt when the casket was opened. Deceased members of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor and co-founder, Reverend Father Ted McGrath msc, are buried in nearby plots at Randwick Cemetery.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

2 Kellick Street, Waterloo

Eileen O'Connor was born on 19 February 1892 in Melbourne, the eldest of four children to Charles O'Connor and Annie Kilgallon from Sligo, Ireland. A decade later, the family later moved to Sydney and lived in Surry Hills and then Redfern. The family were parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Waterloo, for many years. Eileen and her siblings attended the nearby school, which was conducted by the Sisters of Mercy and the Patrician Brothers. A stained glass window depicting Eileen O'Connor was blessed by His Eminence Cardinal George Pell at a commemorative liturgy held to mark the church's sesquicentenary in August 2009. It is located near the front entrance of the church.



OUR LADY'S NURSES FOR THE POOR 1913 — 2013

PLACES OF INTEREST

