

MM-1 MAYORAL MINUTE - FR BOB HAYES

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

I would like to bring to Council's attention the hard work and dedication to our community of Fr Bob Hayes from All Hallows Catholic Church in Five Dock. After 13 years in our community, Fr Hayes is moving to a parish in Liverpool in November.

Fr Hayes celebrated 40 years as a Priest on 26 August 2012 with Five Dock being his 10th parish posting since ordination in 1972.

A local of the inner-west, his parents grew up in Five Dock and his great-grandfather, Robert Speed, donated the land where All Hallows' Primary school stands on Halley Street with the Speeds also donating the tabernacle in the church.

Earning the title "Fr Bob the Builder", Fr Hayes has had a knack for being posted to parishes in need of building work and Five Dock was no exception. He had been in Five Dock a mere four days before the then principal took him for a walk and pointed out all the building work the school needed. Fr Bob got to work with the administration block re-done, addition of a multi-purpose building, new classrooms and a library, which are part of the Building the Education Revolution (BER) scheme. He also built a remembrance wall and garden on the grounds on the Church, enabling parishioners to erect plaques in the memory of loved ones.

With our large Italian community in Five Dock, Fr Bob learnt Italian so that he could conduct masses in Italian and has regularly lead pilgrimages for members of the parish to visit Rome and Lourdes.

We shall wait and see what Liverpool has in store for Fr Hayes but I have no doubt he will be successful.

I would like to thank Fr Hayes for all his hard work and dedication to our community over the past 13 years and also for joining us for Council prayers ahead of our bi-monthly meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council acknowledge and thank Fr Bob Hayes for his hard work and dedication to the community over the past 13 years
2. THAT Council wish Fr Bob Hayes all the best in his new parish posting in Liverpool