

**St Peter's Church, Eastern Hill
Melbourne**

Vicar's Letter. (Excerpt)

War Memorial Window

One of the projects which I want to put before you before I close is that of erecting another window to match the one put up to commemorate our centenary. There are several reasons why I think we should aim at getting to work on this at once; but I should not wish to push this without the approval of the parishioners. Will you, then, discuss it, and say whether you think this should be done now, or not?

I will give you the reasons why I think it would be good to aim at it now:—

(i) We ought to have a thankoffering for peace, and a commemoration of the fallen soldiers. After the last war the Crucifix was erected. That was good, very good. I think we, too, should aim at something which should tell to posterity our thankfulness for all time. Something like that. I suggest a window in the south transept.

(ii) I think this window ought to be by the same eminent artist who designed and executed the other. Artists differ in their work. Even where quality is equal, there may be a clash of tone or style. Mr. Napier Waller will do this for us, although we may have to wait beyond this year to see it finished.

(iii) I have a very definite idea of what it should contain; and think that it may teach those who come after, as useful a lesson as the New Guinea window teaches. I should like it to proclaim the truth of Our Lord's words, "Wisdom is justified of all her children," and this in relation to the service of Catholic Truth.

For a hundred years this Church has witnessed in many ways to this remarkable feature of the Catholic revival. How different have been the leaders who have gathered and worshipped in this Church, united by the bond of a common loyalty to the fulness of the Faith. Think only of some of your priests gone before: What contrasts between Canon Handfield, Canon Hughes, Father Anderson and Father Cheong; and then think of some of the other workers, men and women, with distinct abilities.

I am not proposing that we should put their portraits in the window, but that we should remind ourselves, and those who come after, of the fact that God does use for one common end such different types of priests and people. I should like to see the window represent some of the soldier saints; for will it not commemorate those who fought and gave their lives in the war? And some of the scholar saints; for is not teaching one of the greatest services the Church can ever render? And some of the ascetic saints, for are we not indebted to many who have denied themselves the good things of life that we, and others, might be richly blessed? So I could go on, but I am only just outlining the idea. It should be a splendid window, if splendidly executed. But it must live if it is to speak; and the wrong artist might kill it. I am confident that Mr. Waller would give us a window as alive as the one we now have in the north transept. If we are to do this at all, I should be very sorry to miss this opportunity of doing it worthily.

(iv) We have already some £200 in sight for the purpose. I think we ought, without too much difficulty, for such an end, to be able to raise the other £450.

(v) At the present time it should be possible to get the money; but no one knows how tight money may become in the years, or even months, to come.

So I ask you to think about this, and make a decision just as soon as you feel able to do so.

Conclusion of Letter.

As I have already said, after considerable discussion the proposal to go ahead with the erecting of this window was adopted. I am very glad that it was, and believe that future generations will be grateful to us if the project is successfully carried out. Mr. Napier Waller is willing to undertake the work, although, because of pressure of other important calls, he may not be able to complete it at an early date. However, the fund is now open. Let us make our contributions generously. It is the hope of the Churchwardens that we may be well on the way to the goal before our Festival this year. Remember this is, for us at St. Peter's, our chosen commemoration of those who laid down their lives that we might live, and our thanksgiving to Almighty God for victory and salvation from the hands of our enemies. It is not a light thing to give so. Let us each make a worthy offering.

Your faithful Friend and Vicar,

Farnham E. Maynard.

From: **Parish Paper**; Easter Number, 1947.

Vicar's Letter. (Excerpt)

The Memorial Window

First, then, the Vestry decided that it would be good to arrange for a special occasion for receiving, and presenting solemnly to God, the gifts made for the purpose of erecting a permanent thankoffering for our deliverance from our late enemies, and for the sacrifice of those who died that we might not suffer things worse than death.

As you all know, our memorial is to take the form of a Window in the South Transept, and it is to be designed and executed by Mr. Napier Waller, the same artist who created our beautiful "New Guinea Window" in the North Transept. It is our hope that the full amount necessary for this, namely £700, will be in hand before our Festival is concluded on July 6th. So far the response has not been rapid. We have as yet only £250, which includes a magnificent donation of £100 from Professor and Mrs. Agar. We are quite sure that this lead will be followed up generously, and we hope that it may be possible for generous gifts to be made on or before July 6th, which is the day set apart for the presentation at the Altar of all donations.

It is certainly a right and proper instinct to record in permanent form our gratitude to God for special mercies. We must not fail in this here and now. I have been reading recently a book entitled "The Re-birth of the German Church." This book only touches on the fearful atrocities perpetrated by the Nazis; but it does set out, with documentary evidence, the clear determination of the Nazis to stamp out Christianity by violence and cunning. What we should have suffered, if the victory had gone the other way, no words could adequately describe, nor could our imaginations picture it. Without a shadow of doubt we have been delivered from a most appalling menace. Added to this we in Australia have been spared the devastations which other countries have suffered. If we find it hard to say "Thank You," to the tune of £20 or £25, it would be well to remember that we might have had to be repairing our homes at ten to a hundred times that cost. Nor is that all. Some of us have special cause for thanksgiving because of the safe passage of our loved ones through all the manifold perils of war; while others will wish to make this memorial their special thank-offering for those who stood between us and the great calamity. Every way, brethren, there is reason to complete this undertaking on the part of our Church speedily, and in such a way as shall satisfy our consciences individually, and the proper esteem in which we all hold St. Peter's as a Church.

F.E.M., June 1947.

From: **Parish Paper**; Festival Number, 1947.

Vicar's Letter. (Excerpt)

The Memorial Window

Mr. Napier Waller is now hard at work on the design of the War Memorial Window. There is good hope that we may see it erected towards the end of the year. Perhaps we may be able to combine this with some event dependent upon Bishops returning from Lambeth. We still need £60 to cover the expenses of the window, and the Churchwardens will be glad to receive donations. It is our thanksgiving for deliverance and victory, and our expression of gratitude to those who risked all, and in some cases gave all, in the service of our defence. The collection for this commemoration should not lag.

F.E.M., September 1948.

From: **Parish Paper**; Spring Number, 1948.

Vicar's Letter. (Excerpt)

The Memorial Window

Very soon we expect to see the south transept of our church beautified by a new and beautiful window to be erected as our War Memorial. Those of you who are regular worshippers at St. Peter's will have heard several sermons dealing with the figures which will appear in the window. In this last war men and women, old and young, served, in a greater variety of ways than ever before, to preserve our freedom and our faith. The theme of the window, which commemorates all those who served faithfully—the living and the dead—is indicated by the text, "Wisdom is justified of all her children." This theme, handled by so great an artist as Mr. Napier Waller, will bear close scrutiny and prolonged meditation. It should make a memorial of uncommon interest, not only to those of our own generation, but to those who come after.

The Archbishop has kindly consented to dedicate the memorial before the High mass on Sunday, February 6th. Let us all be present with our friends and relations.

F.E.M., December 1948.

From: **Parish Paper**; Christmas Number, 1948.

Vicar's Letter. (Excerpt)

The War Memorial Window

Some repetition, however, there must be, for it certainly must go on record that on Sunday, February 6th, before the High Mass, the Archbishop dedicated our War Memorial Window in the south transept of the church. Mr. Napier Waller has now given us a second magnificent piece of work, with a significance which may arrest the attention and inspire the minds of all who come to look at it down the years. We hope very shortly now to have ready the booklet giving a full account of both the memorial windows. When it appears all parishioners should not only possess themselves of a copy, but see that the booklet goes far and wide to all sorts of people who may be interested for various reasons in these two great works of art and sermons in glass.

F.E.M., April 1949.

From: **Parish Paper**; Easter Number, 1949.