



'ACCURATE, READABLE' Archbishop Coleridge pictured with Fr Nestor Candado (left) and Fr Francis Kochupaliyathil from St Paul's Publications.

New Bible is a 'gift' for Australian Catholics

THE *New Community Bible*, a revised edition of the popular Christian Community Bible, is a "gift" for Australian Catholics, said Archbishop Mark Coleridge, the Archbishop of Brisbane.

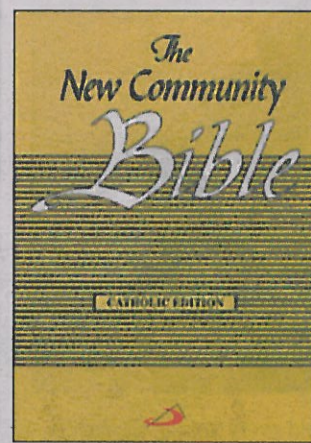
"Now is the time when we have to become a more biblical Church, a people more immersed in the word of God," he said.

"This is the best way to know Jesus, whose voice we hear and whose face we see on every page of the Bible."

Archbishop Coleridge, chairman of the Bishops Commission for Liturgy, launched the international version of *New Community Bible* at a meeting with publishers St Pauls Publications.

The text on which it is based was translated by French priest Bernardo Hurault, from original languages to Spanish in 1971.

The version, which has since been translated into many languages, was known



for its pastoral commentary on how to understand, assimilate and live the word of God in daily life.

To create the NCB, the Society of St Paul brought together a team of Bible scholars who spent a decade rewriting the introduction and commentary of each book of the Bible.

The NCB is a "relevant response to the needs of the Church today in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council",

Dr Augustine Mulloor OCD wrote in its introduction.

Rev Dr Mark Kenney, sm, lecturer in Biblical Studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney, assessed the *Book of Exodus* and found it to be "an accurate, readable translation".

After assessing the gospel according to St Mark, Dr Michele A Connolly, rsj, academic dean of the Catholic Institute of Sydney, said she would recommend the translation "for anyone looking for a text for personal prayer and reflection, that reads in accessible English".

She said the notes, which "probably drive at theology and spirituality more than technical explication of the text", are suitable for Australia.

The NCB will be on sale during the Year of Faith for \$11 - down from the RRP of \$34.95, from St Pauls Publications and *The Catholic Weekly*.

Relic of saint at feast day Mass

By Sharyn McCowen

MORE than 1000 Catholics with special devotions to St Francis Xavier gathered at St Mary's Cathedral on 3 December for his feast day Mass, the first time his relic has been away from Il Gesù, the Jesuit church in Rome, for that date.

People waited patiently to venerate the relic, the right arm of the 16th century missionary, which has been touring parishes throughout Australia since September.

Vanessa Fernandes moved to Australia from Goa, where the body of St Francis Xavier lies in a silver casket in the Basilica of Bom Jesus.

"St Francis Xavier actually devoted a lot of his life to the Asian area, and Goa was one of the last places," she said.

"That's where my parents and grandparents were born.

"Every 3 December is the feast of St Francis Xavier, and it's almost like a pilgrimage to go there. Whatever prayers, whatever intentions are asked for, they're always granted."

Vanessa said it was "so important" for her to venerate the relic on the saint's feast day.

She has closely followed the progress of the Pilgrimage of Grace, alerting friends wherever the relic has visited.

"I told everyone I knew who would be interested, my landlord where I stay, and all my friends," she said.

"I told them where it would be and what time, and I did go when it was in Parramatta.

"To actually be here on the feast day makes it that much more special."

Prayer intentions submitted online in the lead-up to the



VENERATION: A woman prays before the relic of St Francis in front of the sanctuary of St Mary's Cathedral last Monday.

Photo: Sharyn McCowen.

feast day were offered up at the feast day Mass.

Hundreds of people posted their prayers for healing, for guidance, and for protection.

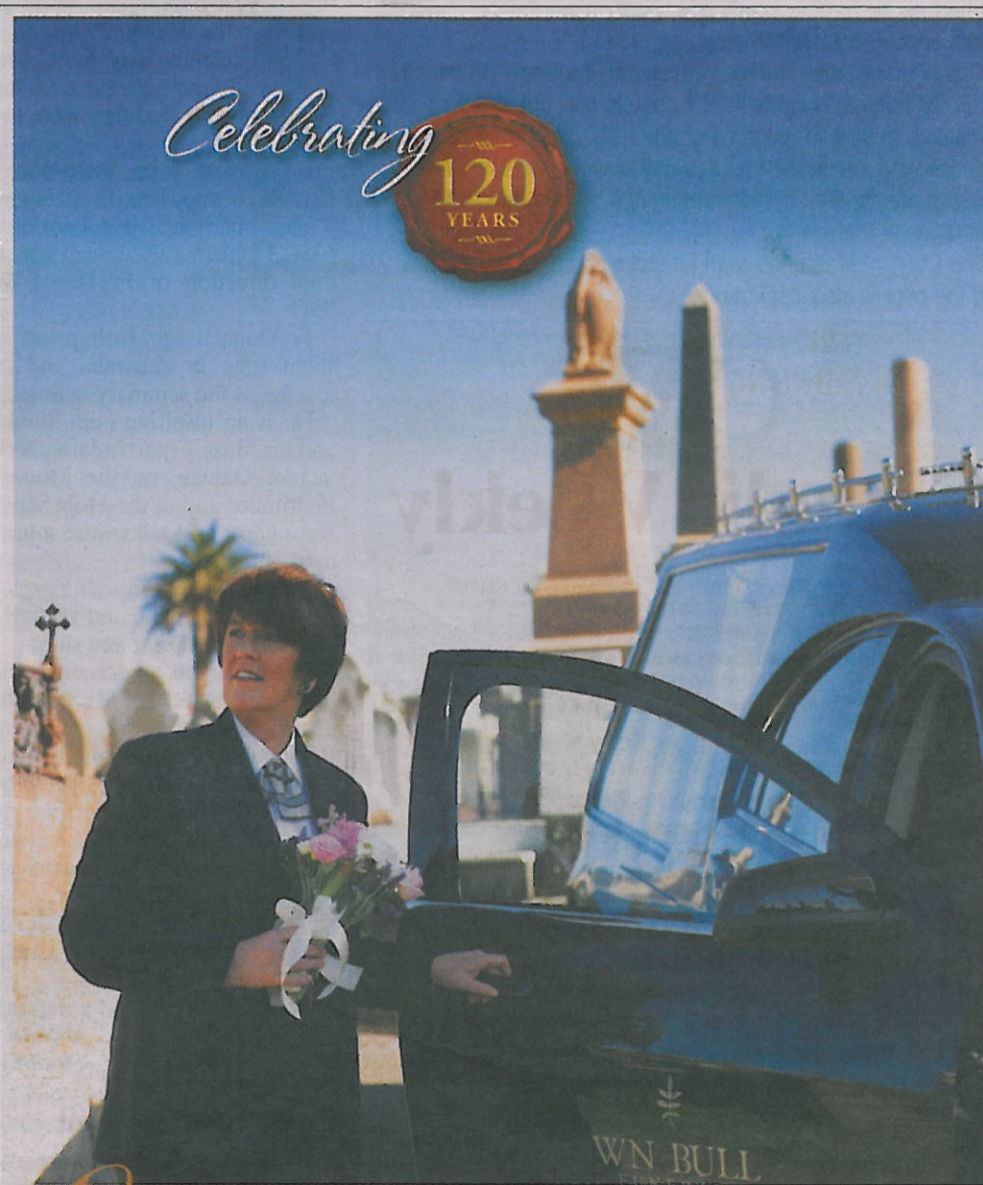
The congregation formed a guard of honour as the relic left the cathedral. It left Australia last Tuesday, escorted by Fr Theo Overberg SJ.

The Pilgrimage of Grace was initiated by Bishop Peter

Comensoli, auxiliary bishop of Sydney, who has a personal devotion to St Francis Xavier.

Jake Ryan, projects and events officer for the Sydney Archdiocese, said the pilgrimage has raised the profile of the missionary saint.

"Tens of thousands of people have now heard about Francis Xavier, who he was and what his mission was."



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