

Rev John Fleming Moran

Little is known of our fourth Rector—Rev John Fleming Moran. However we do know that Rev Moran was born in 1841 and received a BA degree in the UK (probably in Yorkshire) and was ordained by the Bishop of Rippon in Rippon Cathedral in 1866. He was priested in 1867 after theological training at Trinity College Dublin, and was recruited to his Australian ministry by Bishop Frederic Barker.

Bishop Barker had been appointed “Bishop of Sydney and Metropolitan of Australia”, and took up this position in 1855. Australia had been without a Bishop since February 1853 due to the death of Bishop William Grant Broughton in London. Barker came to Australia in a firm Evangelical spirit. After a western tour in 1855 he set himself to put his diocese in order, and established Moore College in 1856. In addition, a school was founded by his wife for the daughters of the clergy; a new site was acquired for Bishops Court, which was built in 1859 at Darling Point; work was resumed on St Andrews Cathedral; and St Paul's College opened its doors next to the university of Sydney.

Rev John Moran arrived in Australia in 1870. His first appointment was to St Anne's Ryde where he served as locum tenens from 1871 to 1872 during the absence of the rector because of ill-health. He came to Camden on 1st October 1872. During his ministry three branch churches were built:

- At Menangle the brick St James in 1876
- At Mt Hunter the wooden St Paul's, Westbrook in 1878.
- At Theresa Park the original St Peters in built in 1854 was replaced by a new wooden building in 1886.

Rev Moran must have got on well with the community in order to be able to encourage and direct the building of these churches, and they are still in use today.

In 1873 he opened a school which was located either in the Camden School of Arts in John Street or in Alpha Cottage, corner of John and Mitchell Streets. Miss Helen Walker, one of the younger sisters living at Alpha Cottage was the teacher usually employed. The school attracted shepherd boys, domestic servants, apprentices and farm labourers between 10 and 16 years of age. As the school was free, within a short period it had attracted as pupils 23 boys and 16 girls.

Rev Moran retired in 1891 after 20 years in the parish