

## God writes straight on crooked lines

“God writes straight on crooked lines: The arrival of the De La Salle Brothers in Australia” is the title of a new book written by Brother Christian Moe and published by the De La Salle Provincialate, Sydney, Australia.

In the early days of the 20th century, Cardinal Patrick Moran made requests to the De La Salle Brothers for men to staff his schools in Sydney. In 1904, the Paris superiors responded and decided to send a group of Irish and French Brothers. An advance party of the Irish Provincial and two French Brothers was sent first. By then Moran had waived his claim in favour of his colleague Bishop Joseph O'Connor of Armidale.

The advance party arrived in Armidale in August 1905. There were joined by the main group of five Irish and seven French Brothers in January 1906, and the new De La Salle College opened in February. Trouble, however, was not slow in arising, for the bishop and clergy could not see that there was any place for the French Brothers in their country diocese. In April, therefore, these men left Australia for Ceylon where the De La Salle Institute was already well-established and flourishing.

This book recounts these events, filling in the background that led to them and what followed. In particular it introduces readers to the members of this group of pioneers. It is a fascinating account of the beginnings of the De La Salle Institute in Australia.



The pioneering group of De La Salle Brothers at St Joseph's Industrial School, Manchester, before embarking for Australia in 1906