

AB'S History Corner



Next time you are at St Thomas Aquinas please look at the beautiful blue and yellow ceramics on the façade of church. These exquisite ceramics were made by The South Yarra Fire Brick Company, which operated in the Toorak Road and Chapel Street area of South Yarra from around 1940.

In 1982 the assets of The South Yarra Fire Brick Company were sold to the Darley Firebrick Company. David Mitchell, Dame Nellie Melba's father, was one of the founders and largest shareholders of this company.

The first Pope to change his name was John II in 533. His baptismal name was Mercury. Perhaps being named after a pagan god of financial gain, commerce, eloquence, luck, trickery and thieves would not be so fitting for a Pope? The practise of a name change on being appointed a Bishop of Rome became universal from the time of Pope Sergius IV in 1009.