

NINETY YEARS TO CELEBRATE

On Saturday, October 29, St Joseph's Church, Nandaly and Our Lady, Virgin of the Poor, Mittyack combined to celebrate the ninetieth anniversary of the consecration of St Joseph's Church Nandaly and to celebrate the history and life of Our Lady, Virgin of the Poor, Mittyack.

The celebrations began with visitors arriving at 10am for registration in readiness for Mass at 11am. What a beautiful Mallee day greeted the attendees, sunshine, a light breeze and a welcoming committee of bush flies and some of their buddies, the mozzies.

Fr Eugene McKinnon and Fr Peter Jose (pictured) were the celebrants for Mass and the day began with welcomes to all those attending. Bev Cook welcomed visitors and wished everyone a happy and memorable day. Sam Brady, on behalf of the Mittyack and Nandaly Parishioners, welcomed all to St Joseph's Church to celebrate ninety years of worship.



The longevity of the community is due to the people, past and present, that have supported the community so strongly over time. A diversity of past and present parishioners, priests and Josephite Sisters that have come together to build a parish community based on love, dedication and hard work.

Members of the present community brought forward symbols that have represented the lives and faith of the parish community. These symbols included a lantern, water, wheat, wool, soil, food, photo of parishioners, candles, the crucifix and the bible. All attendees were invited to come forward to light a candle to honour the memory of a deceased loved one who shared their faith in Nandaly and Mittyack. This part of the ceremony was a very moving and emotional part of the day and everyone took part.

For the Prayers of the Faithful descendants from families in the area took part in the readings, these included people from the Brady, Carty, Conlan, Elliott, Hall, Irwin, McNerney, Patching, Ryan and White families.

During Fr Eugene's homily there were some lighter moments but one focus was on how all come to be here, one way or another.

After Mass there was a group photo, with Fr Peter having his hand's full with about five cameras and an iPod, he did a great job.

After Mass and photos, we all made our way to the Nandaly Hall to enjoy a beautifully prepared meal and more catch ups. Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon was Chris Hall who took us through proceedings for the afternoon and asked Fr Eugene to say grace. The day continued with the sound of happy friendly chatter.

There is a Back-to-book which helped inspire more memories. This is for sale and can be purchased from the parish. A sheet of paper was handed out to all present to fill out names and their thoughts on the day and times ahead. These will go into a time capsule to be opened in 2026 which will mark our centenary and, god willing, most of us will be around to see the capsule opened.

Chris asked Margaret Carrol who represented Mittyack and Tom Elliott representing Nandaly to come forward to cut the celebration cake which was made by Bev Cook. Afternoon tea was served with tea and coffee, sandwiches, slices

and cakes and for those who wanted a red, there was one supplied by a noted local wine maker, Ralf Dorigo. Totally enjoyed, thanks Ralf and Maria.

Chris called all to attention to wind up the day. He read out the list of apologies. Chris also mentioned memorabilia in the supper room for those who hadn't yet had time to look at it. He thanked everyone for organising the event, to those who helped in supplying food, setting up, washing up and cleaning. We are a very small group so the help given was very much appreciated. Thank you.

Chris hoped that all enjoyed a great day and wished everyone safe travels home which included people from Ouyen, Melbourne, Echuca, Albury, Bendigo, Swan Hill, Manangatang and all places in between Mittyack and Nandaly.

Sam Brady

