

*Sacred Heart School, North East Valley Dunedin
celebrates 125 years October 1895 – October 2020*



There was a very lovely celebration of faith and friendship during Labour Weekend. Families, ex-pupils, current staff, teachers, sisters, parishioners and friends of Sacred Heart School gathered to remember and celebrate 125 years of Catholic education in North East Valley. It was a weekend of gratitude for the past and the present, and hope for the future.

A small hard-working committee planned a series of events which were enjoyed by all who attended. A variety of people contributed in all sorts of ways – a real symbol of the generosity and family spirit which have been hallmarks of Sacred Heart for 125 years. Congratulations and thanks to the amazing committee and to all who helped!

The current pupils and staff entertained on Friday afternoon. Beautiful singing, stories of the past and descriptions of the present were themes of the afternoon. The children looked stunning – all dressed in clothes of the late 19th century. On Friday evening people gathered for platter and chatter – reconnecting with friends not seen in many a year. Saturday morning saw everyone looking their very best for decade photos of past pupils and teachers from 1930s and 40s up to the present. A time capsule containing reminiscences of family and school life and happenings over all those years was buried in the school garden. This was followed by cutting the Jubilee cake – a real family / Dominican Family affair! The two youngest children currently at school together with siblings, Roxane, Molly and Bill Parkinson (a sister, lay Dominican and a friar) cut the cake to the delight of all present.



*Kathy Mayo,
Committee*



*Molly & S Roxane Parkinson
with Bishop Michael Dooley*



*Anne Kennedy,
Committee & MC*

Dinner on Saturday evening was a masterpiece of planning – beautiful table settings and delicious food. Great toasts were made to all who had contributed to Sacred Heart School over the years. Parents and families, priests, Dominican Sisters, lay teachers, principals and other workers in the school were all remembered with gratitude and joy – and plenty of humour. On behalf of the sisters, Sandra Winton offered warm thanks to the parents and parishioners of Sacred Heart who have cared for the sisters over all these years.

Mass on Sunday morning, concelebrated by Bishop Michael with parish priest, Fr Aidan Cunningham and past pupil, Fr Bill Parkinson was the culmination of a wonderful weekend. Good liturgy, heartfelt singing and sincere prayer drew us all together as people of faith walking into an uncertain future with a sense of hope. Mass finished with a rousing hymn sung often by the children, *"Hearts on fire with the love of Jesus"*. After Mass a fine wooden memorial seat was installed in the school garden and blessed, in memory of Jim Neilan. A local parishioner who died earlier in 2020, Jim has been a great friend of Sacred Heart School over many years.



*Former teacher
Josie Crooks &
S Judith McGinley*



*Maria & Mike Noonan with
former principal
S Mary Horn*



*Trish & Joanne Inder with
their mother, Marnie,
first lay principal of
Sacred Heart School*

From the toast given by Marnie Inder:

'It is my privilege to offer a toast this evening for the lay teachers who have contributed so much to the life, success and longevity of the Sacred heart school community, as well as the thousands of children who attended this wonderful school between 1895 and 2020.

It was a pleasure for me to be the first lay principal appointed to Sacred Heart, a position I took up in 1982. This was a period of transition, as we took forward the ethos of the Dominican founders, providing a contemporary learning environment for our students, with the leaders of lay teachers and staff.

One of my favourite quotes about teaching is this:

"The best teachers are those who tell you where to look but not what to see."

I hope that the many former students who are here, those who came before us and those at the school today, will feel that their time at Sacred Heart taught them to look at life with curiosity and that this created a habit of life-long inquiry and learning.'