

A UNIQUE OCCASION TO HONOUR MARY MACKILLOP AT ALL SAINTS PARISH PORTLAND

Mary MacKillop was honoured recently in a special way in All Saints Church, Portland.

Music Glenelg Inc. is a Portland based group of instrumentalists and singers. Adopting Mary MacKillop as patron for the evening, on Saturday, 28th March, 2009, the group participated in a Mass and Concert in All Saints Church. A Latin Mass was celebrated in the late afternoon, followed by a fund-raising evening meal hosted by the All Saints Primary School Parents & Friends and then an Evening Concert.



The Music Glenelg á Capella singers group “Aquarelle” – sang a 17th Century Latin Mass by Giovanni Grossi during the Mass. The group of nine consisted of singers from different protestant traditions and when given the opportunity to learn a fully sung mass and sing it in Latin, there were mixed reactions. However in the true Aquarelle spirit the challenge was accepted and rehearsals began in earnest.

It was fortuitous that the Music Glenelg leader had been raised with High Anglican traditions and was versed in Latin. He took the opportunity to attend three Saturday evening masses at All Saints to “refresh & renew” his memory of the traditional worship.

All Saints Parish Church Portland has a unique quality acoustically as a performance space in that the mezzanine floor is an imposing and inspirational platform from which to sing. The sound reverberates throughout the vaulted ceiling before reaching the parishioners below. Whilst this balcony seemingly appears detached from the worship space, the interaction between the singers and the priest is precise.





The accolades bestowed on Aquarelle for their efforts after the Mass, by the leaders and parishioners at All Saints Church reflected the reciprocal enjoyment and spiritual experience the singers had during the worship.

Aquarelle is indebted to All Saints Catholic Church Portland for the opportunity to be part of a traditional Saturday evening service and all appreciated the events of the whole evening.

Graeme Firth (left), Conductor & Geoff White, Mayor of Portland



Personally: from the Music Director - Music Glenelg Inc.

As a musician, singer, lover of all genres of music and having grown up in a strict protestant tradition singing a sacred mass in Latin was a challenge. However over past years playing the organ for special masses in All Saints Church which were sung in English, I believe prepared me for this wonderful opportunity to be involved.

This Mass we presented was something different. It was rewarding, spiritually uplifting and inspirational to be given the opportunity to “live” the Eucharist in the earlier traditions of *The Faith*. This experience, although at times during rehearsal testing, was indeed a delight in which to be involved. Thank you Father Denis. - *Joy Ralph*