



BLESSING FOR VOLUNTEERING

Bishop Paul Bird celebrated Mass on Tuesday, January 21 at St Mary's Colac, during which he blessed a Mission Cross and presented it to Philip Drew. Philip is undertaking a volunteer placement as part of the PALMS Missionary Outreach in Kiribati for two years. Bishop Paul also extended a blessing to both Philip and Anne, Philip's wife, as well as to the people of Kiribati.

Mass was well attended, supported by the choir, the hospitality team, the Marriage Support Team and Parish Family Groups. After the liturgy, all sat down to a light tea. It was a lovely evening. A special thanks to Fr Michael O'Toole for his support.

Philip, in his blog, said "Palms Australia are very thorough and do as much as possible to prepare volunteers for their upcoming placement. This includes specific information from the host community describing most aspects of the placement, including a detailed job description, living arrangements, and local information." Philip will be teaching mathematics and science as well as helping to mentor thirty trainee teachers at the school. Immaculate Heart College is a secondary boarding school. He attended an eight day live-in Palms Orientation course in Bowral, NSW. A number of articles on living and working in another's culture were sent as prescribed preparation.

To follow Philips blog: <http://retire2go.com/>

More information on PALMS can be found at this link: <https://palms.org.au/>

Fr Michael O'Toole and Philip Drew



L – R: Melanie, Philip, Bishop Paul and Anne