



ROBINVALE'S FAREWELLS

Fr Jim McKay was recently farewelled from St Mary's Parish, Robinvale. Fr Jim arrived at Robinvale in the January of 2015 after serving at the Cathedral and neighbouring parishes for almost two years. After five years, Fr Jim takes up his new appointment in Charlton and neighbouring parishes. With a spirit of enthusiasm Fr Jim sets off to begin his new ministry! May God bless the parishioners of St Mary's Robinvale and St Patrick's Manangatang as they move forward under the leadership of Fr Peter Jose.

The parish held a combined farewell for Fr Jim with Eileen Engelfield, who spent sixty years as a parishioner in Robinvale. St Mary's Robinvale said goodbye to both on Sunday, January 12.

After sixty years as a valuable contributor to the parish community, Eileen has decided to join five of her children in Melbourne. Born and raised in the tiny hamlet of Wimlet, which is approximately twenty miles from Ouyen, Eileen moved to Mildura, where she began training as a nurse at the Base Hospital. Eileen met her future husband Leo at one of the local dances. They first settled at Curlwaa (between Merbein and Wentworth in NSW on the Murray River) but due to the infamous and worst recorded floods in living memory in 1956, Leo saw an opportunity to raise their emerging family in the more prosperous lands of Robinvale by way of growing grapes for the wine industry. This was in 1959.

Together they raised twelve children, eight boys and four girls. Four of her children moved to Melbourne, with one moving there in a couple of months. And so, with a heavy heart in leaving Robinvale with so many friends and memories, Eileen is starting her new life at a retirement village in the suburb of Pascoe Vale.

At 93 years 'young', she leaves a wonderful legacy – not only as a respected local – she will be fondly remembered for her dedication and service as a valuable member of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) for the entire sixty years; and in her other important charitable role as a volunteer in the canteen at the school for many years. She will be missed but her legacy around this community will live on. We all wish her the very best in the years ahead! May God Bless you!

Fr Jim McKay

