

NEWS FROM PATCHEWOLLOCK

The Patchewollock community celebrated their 4th Music Festival on October 16-18 2015. The Catholic community was very involved in the celebrations and Our Lady Help of Christian's Church hosted an Ecumenical service on Saturday, October 17. Led by Fr Paul Mercovich this was part of the Festival's ANZAC 2015 centennial commemorative project.

Central to the service was the portable field altar, cared for by the community for forty years and used for Mass in the hall until the opening of the church in 1957. Set up for Mass at the Hall over the years by Mrs Kelly and Mrs Moloney, the altar was closed up and housed in the church until a few years ago. It is now in the care of the Diocesan Archive and awaiting urgent conservation work.



Fr Paul Mercovich laying the last poppy on the portable field altar

It returned to Patchewollock for the celebrations and was central to the Saturday service and a monologue performance 'Canakkale- Gallipoli' relating the story of Gallipoli, on the Sunday afternoon. This moving performance given by Jan Wositzky ended as had the Saturday service, with the laying of poppies on the altar.

A third, unscheduled opening of the church occurred again on the Sunday evening for the visit of a Youth Leadership Training group from Mildura. This was again attended by a large crowd despite short notice and ended with the poppy laying, a very poignant symbol on the old sacrificial field altar.

The celebration was also well supported by the wider Ouyen community.

Michael Taffe – Diocesan Archivist

