

## FAREWELL TO JOHN MONAGHAN

On the weekend of January 10, Fr John Monaghan celebrated Mass at St Joseph's Nandaly at 9am and St Mary's Sea Lake at 10.30am for the last time as Parish Priest in St Mary's Parish Sea Lake. After Mass parishioners joined with Fr John for refreshments to say thank you and to wish him farewell. Later that day Fr John returned for a farewell dinner combined with the annual Christmas meal held at the Brady's for the Nandaly parishioners. Combining both was a great idea and all enjoyed a memorable evening.

Fr John first became known in St Mary's Parish as a visiting priest whilst Sr Maureen O'Kelly was the parish leader in 2009. As time and different circumstances changed, Sr Maureen moved back to Melbourne and Fr John took up the role as parish priest in February 2011.



Since then Fr John has overseen all the parish duties that come with being a parish priest. For example, carrying out Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Eucharist, book keeping, leading parish council meetings as well as Weddings and Funerals.



Fr John always did his duties in a reverent manner, was always contactable and easy going and a very caring man for all those around him. A happy person, always up for a chat, Fr John liked to keep up to date with what was happening in the parish and around the Mallee in general.

When asked about his time in St Mary's Parish he replied happily that "I enjoyed my time immensely here at St Mary's, would have liked to have had a couple more years here but as they say that's how the cookie crumbles. I'm very grateful for my time in the Mallee, the

people that I have had contact with over the years and I am now looking forward to a new challenge. If anyone is going by my way please drop in to say hello, have a meal or a cool drink at any time, you are most welcome.”

Fr John has now moved to Maryborough to take up position as parish priest there. It is their win and our loss but with fond memories we say “See ya” Fr John and thanks for everything that you have done for our little Mallee Parish.

*Good luck and God Bless  
Sam Brady*