



Diocesan e-News

MARYBOROUGH PARISH WELCOMES BISHOP PAUL

Bishop Paul Bird will be making formal Visitations to Parishes this year. His first visit was to the Maryborough Parish. Fr John Monaghan reflects on this visit:

In late 2016 we received word that Bishop Paul Bird had selected us for formal parish visitation from March 17-20 2017. In preparation for this, Diocesan Business Manager, Mark Bromley, Professional Standards co-ordinator, Michael Myers and Pastoral Services consultant, Amanda Smith visited our parish to liaise with us and prepare comprehensive reports on our pastoral and administrative activities, child safety standards and financial affairs. These reports highlighted areas in which we are doing well and others that we need to address.

Thanks to the luck of the Irish, Bishop Paul arrived on Friday afternoon in time to celebrate St Patrick's Day Mass at St Kevin's Avoca followed by green beer, dinner and a night of raucous Irish fun at Avoca Golf and Bowls Club. Next morning we celebrated Mass at St Mary's Dunolly followed by their normal after-Mass morning tea with lunch then at the Railway Hotel.



Thereafter came our regular Maryborough and Avoca weekend parish Masses which were also followed by a cuppa giving Bishop Paul the chance to chat with many parishioners, followed by lunch at Ripples on the Res with the St Augustine's choir. On Sunday evening our Parish Council and Finance Committee held a combined meeting and meal at the Highland Society. After normal reports and parish business, Bishop Paul shared reflections on our diocese and led us in discussing parish strengths and weaknesses which gives us plenty to follow up at our next meetings.



Finally, on Monday morning, Bishop Paul celebrated St Augustine's School's beginning of year Mass and spent the rest of the morning visiting each class.

Our parish was very happy to be the "guinea pig" for Bishop Paul's proposed visits to each parish in our diocese and we're thankful to the many who helped make his time among us beneficial and enjoyable for all.

Fr John Monaghan

