



MISSION WITH RICHARD LEONARD

The parishes of Beaufort and Linton were very fortunate recently to have a Mission delivered by Fr Richard Leonard SJ. The major focus of his sessions was 'Being a Catholic in the 21st Century'. In each session, he illustrated, from real life experiences, the issues that confront us in the contemporary world. In doing this, he was able to offer practical ways for us to live more deeply our lives of faith.

The Mission was made available to these parishes through a Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation Grant for which we are thankful. Members of both parishes met earlier this year, along with Fr Justin Driscoll, to plan the locations, times and requirements for the event. This was a great opportunity to meet with people from other parishes. Sr Helen Murphy ibvm and Fr Justin liaised with Fr Richard in relation to the finer details of transport and accommodation. This was very much appreciated.



Fr Richard celebrated Masses on the weekend in three churches and on the following three days he shared very insightful sessions in two locations each day. Each day's sessions had a different theme. Every day there were strong messages for all, there were many thoughts, words and prayers that participants could take away for reflection and living.

Following one of the sessions in the middle of the day, the participants at Beaufort shared a lunch together with Fr Richard. This was an added highlight.

A very pleasing aspect of the Mission was the attendance of people from other Christian faiths, people from other Catholic Parishes, as well as an interchange of people from both Linton and Beaufort Parishes. The different timing and locations facilitated this.

If you have the opportunity to hear Fr Richard speak, do not miss out! Fr Richard was presented with a bottle of local wine at the conclusion of the last session.

Bernadette Franc (Beaufort PPC Chairperson)



Photos:

1. Sr Marie Flynn, Fr Richard, Sr Helen Forbes
2. Bernadette Franc (Beaufort PPC Chairperson), Fr Richard Leonard
- 3-5. Attendees at the Linton Church, inside and out