

## SACRED HEART PARISH BINGO

The conclusion of 2017 will see the 'end of an era' in the history of the Sacred Heart Parish Mildura Bingo held by the parish's schools, Sacred Heart Primary School, St Paul's Primary School and St Joseph's Secondary College. After forty-two years the Sacred Heart Parish Bingo Committee has decided that Sacred Heart Bingo will close for business for the final time after the 2017 Christmas Bingo night on Thursday, December 21.

Sacred Heart Bingo was started by our very hard working parishioners forty-two years ago to raise funds to assist, not so much the church, but more so to support the costs of running our Catholic Schools. Back when it started Catholic Schools received no government funding from any level. Funding very slowly grew over the years to now, where we receive a significantly higher percentage of funding associated with the school.

In recent years, the money raised from Bingo has allowed our schools to become as well-resourced as they are. However, as the saying goes, 'all good things must come to an end' and the viability of the Sacred Heart Parish Bingo has diminished. This is due to a number of factors, the main one being a significant decrease in patronage due to natural attrition, this is a trend we believe will not change.

The Bingo Committee is investigating and planning ways to recognise, celebrate and remember the great achievements of Sacred Heart Bingo and those who have worked tirelessly over the years to ensure success. We thank all our past and present families who have donated their time during this period from our school communities. We hope you see the rewards for your labour within the schools. We would especially like to thank Mr Garry Pretty and Donna Lovell for keeping the show going so magnificently for the past seventeen years.

*Des Lowry - Sacred Heart Bingo Committee Chair*

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