

Recently, two Sisters of Mercy have died who were born, raised and educated in the Diocese of Ballarat and during their Religious Life ministered in the Diocese of Ballarat (and beyond), making significant contributions to Catholic Education and Parish Ministry.



**Sr Maureen Connelly RSM**

Sr Maureen was born, raised and educated in Birchip and following years working entered the Sisters of Mercy in Ballarat when she was aged 30. Trained as a teacher, Sr Maureen was part of founding communities of Sisters of Mercy to live at Wendouree and Sebastopol. In addition to teaching she had responsibility for one of the Houses associated with the then Patrician House, a residential facility for students enrolled at Aquinas Teacher's College. She was Principal of St James Parish School Sebastopol from 1983 - 1997. Sr Maureen returned to live at the Mercy Convent in Wendouree where she was engaged in pastoral ministry before moving to the Mercy Centre, Ballarat East in 2010. Her Funeral Mass was held at St Alipius' Church Ballarat East on Wednesday April 19 following her death on Monday April 10.

**Sr Margaret Houlihan RSM**

The Funeral Mass for Sr Margaret Houlihan RSM was held at St Alipius' Church Ballarat East on Friday April 21 following her death on Tuesday April 11. Sr Margaret was remembered for her gift of hospitality which she offered during her days as a teacher of home economics at both Sacred Heart College Ballarat East and St Paul's College Ballarat. Other ministries included six years as a missionary in Papua New Guinea (1973- 1979), coordinator of Emmaus - the Sisters of Mercy aged care facility in Ballarat East and pastoral ministry at Timboon and later in the parish of Mortlake where she ministered from 2000 until her return to Ballarat East in 2016.

