

## SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATED

Parishioners from Hopetoun, Beulah and Rainbow gathered at St Joseph's Church on Sunday, July 19 to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of their Parish Priest, Fr Neville Stanislaus.

Fr Neville is originally from the Northern Province of Ceylon (Sri Lanka). After completing Year 12 in 1982, Fr Neville joined the seminary. He was ordained in 1990 at St Mary's Cathedral, Jaffna. Violence in Sri Lanka was a part of life and on the evening before Fr Neville's Ordination, St Mary's Cathedral was bombed. The Bishop changed the time of his ordination from 11.00am to 6.30am so that air-strikes could be avoided.

Fr Neville came to Australia in 2002 and began his ministry as a Chaplain to the Indian and Sri Lankan Tamil community, who lived in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. In February 2009 then Bishop of the Ballarat Diocese, Bishop Peter Connors welcomed Fr Neville to the Diocese of Ballarat. He started his ministry in the Diocese at Camperdown before moving to Mildura and then Horsham. Fr Neville was appointed Parish Priest of Hopetoun, Warracknabeal and Nhill in 2012.

At the end of Mass students from St Joseph's Primary School sang a special blessing over Fr Neville. Morning tea followed Mass where parishioner Kevin White thanked Fr Neville for his service to the congregation, wishing him well as he continues in the role. St Joseph's Primary School students then presented Fr Neville with a gift.

