

On October 21 and 22, 2017 a large number of ex-students returned to Charlton to celebrate 120 years of Catholic Education at St Joseph's School.

At the Charlton Show on the Saturday approximately two hundred people registered their attendance. Many friendships were rekindled during the afternoon.

Sunday's celebrations began with Mass at 8.30am with the church filled to capacity. We were extremely pleased to have Fr Brian Glasheen celebrate Mass assisted by Fr Peter Jose.

After Mass people adjourned to the Parish Hall, which was St Joseph's School from 1924 – 1959. There was an extensive display of photographs, newspaper cuttings, school magazines, sports trophies, student names and various uniforms worn over the years. The display captured the attention of all.

Many also took the opportunity to tour the current classrooms, old McAuley classrooms and the new administration area. An extra bonus was the former convent building being open for all to visit. We are extremely grateful to the owners for their generosity. The school bell was rung to draw people to gather in front of the plaque so formalities could begin.



Frank McGrath, Principal, welcomed all present and hoped they enjoyed the day. He thanked the Committee – Val Bourke, Kath and Michael Bourke, Beth Dillon, Carmel Fitzpatrick, Matt and Elaine Donaldson, Julie McGrath, Margaret McGrath, Eily Rosewall and Anne Kenny. He also thanked the many others who had helped in any way.

Frank introduced Sr Margaret Spain, a Sister of Our Lady of the Missions and ex-student, to unveil a plaque which reads "This plaque commemorates one hundred and twenty years of Catholic Education in Charlton unveiled on 22nd October 2017."

A book which details the history of St Joseph's School, compiled by Carolyn Olive and Anne Kenny, was launched by Sr Anne Cossar, a Sister of Mercy and ex-student. She explained that the book features numerous newspaper articles, photos, reminiscences and school snippets, which provide a comprehensive, easy to read history.

First prize in the raffle, an overnight package in a suite at Holiday Inn, Spencer St, Melbourne was won by Hannah Stowe and 2nd prize, a copy of the book, was won by Kath Carlson.

To conclude the formalities a photo of the entire reunion group, approximately four hundred people, was taken. All were then invited to enjoy a BBQ lunch provided by the Charlton Catholic School Auxiliary. The remainder of the



afternoon was spent continuing to renew friendships and remembering stories from our school days. Judging by the remarks made a successful reunion was enjoyed by all.



Photo 1: Frank McGrath (Principal) & Sr Margaret Spain who unveiled the plaque.

Photo 2: Carolyn Olive, Anne Kenny & Sr Anne Cossar after launch of the book.

Photo 3: Group photo

*Anne Kenny*

Photos courtesy of North Central News