



## ALL SAINTS PORTLAND CELEBRATES



A wonderful celebration commemorating 175 years since the first Catholic Eucharist in Portland, was held on November 3 at All Saints Church Portland.

Many people attended the event, including the Mayor of the Glenelg Shire, Cr Anita Rank, visitors from local and surrounding district churches. Bishop Paul Bird concelebrated the Mass with Fr Gregory Tait, Parish Priest.



Fr Gregory said the event, which included a Mass followed by a luncheon at Bayview College next door, was a wonderful community celebration. "We are very fortunate in Portland to have a rich history to be celebrated. The marking of the first Mass to be celebrated in a local Portland store by Archbishop John Bede Polding OSB, who travelled from Sydney in 1844, was an opportunity to reflect on the importance of occasions such as these."

In his homily, Bishop Paul gave a brief history of the occasion saying how much Bishop Polding's effort to travel to Portland would have been appreciated. "It cannot be underestimated what a highlight this

would have been to the estimated two hundred and fifty Catholics who had made the new settlement their home but had been without a priest in the community since their arrival," Bishop Paul said.

During the Mass, Bishop Paul rededicated the Sanctuary and its new furnishings, recently acquired from St Joseph's Church in Hawskdale, in particular consecrating the Altar before the celebration of the Eucharist as the centrepiece of the occasion.

Fr Gregory remarked at the end of Mass that it was wonderful to have the presence of the Good Samaritan Sisters whose congregation was founded by Archbishop Polding in 1857. Fr Gregory also commented that the next occasion for celebrations at All Saints Parish will be in three years' time when the Parish marks 175 years since its founding in 1847.

*Fr Gregory Tait, Parish Priest*

