



## Gatherings for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**The South West Coast Parish** gathered in St Joseph's Hall for brunch recently for a whole parish gathering in acknowledgment of the 150th Anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat. It was one of the first community gatherings as a merged parish. Everyone brought a 'plate' to share.

The Parish Tree of Life commemorative art work to celebrate the anniversary was on display. Parishioners were asked what it means to be part of the parish community. The themes on these images represent some of their ideas. The words on the calico strips are part of our inspiration. Parishioners were invited to write prayers, keeping in mind the scripture verse chosen for this special time: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction faithful in prayer".

Our hope is the metal infrastructure may be used as a base for all church communities and schools in the parish as they gather for special events during this 150th Anniversary Year. May this year be a season of renewal for our diocese, our community of communities from the Murray to the Sea.





**Parishioners from St Aloysius Redan** gathered for a morning tea to acknowledge the 150 years of the diocese. Along with the delicious food, there was a display of material which included “Out of the Mullock Heaps – St Aloysius Parish Redan 1875-2008”, “Luther’s Pine”, an autobiography by John Molony, “The O’Keefe Nine” and “Santamaria’s Salesman: Working for the National Catholic Rural Movement 1959-1961”.



**Parishioners of St Joseph’s Hopetoun** gathered to recognise 150 years of the Ballarat Diocese during their usual weekend church service. Marilyn and Donna welcomed all to the service and took the time to explain the Diocesan logo for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration.

Bishop Paul's homily, written especially for this occasion, was shared. A memorabilia display was at the back of the church, which all enjoyed viewing. Parishioners took delight in finding their ancestors names in old parish journals and wondered over the plans for the current church, noting that the planned choir loft was not built. Following the service and viewing the memorabilia, all enjoyed a special morning tea.



*Cynthia Maiden*



*Photos:*

1. *Olive Wellington and Jacki Hogan ponder what happened to the Choir Loft that was in the plans for the church*
2. *Maureen Clancy, Lana Horman, Toby Horman, Olive Wellington*
3. *Brian Hogan, Kevin Clancy*