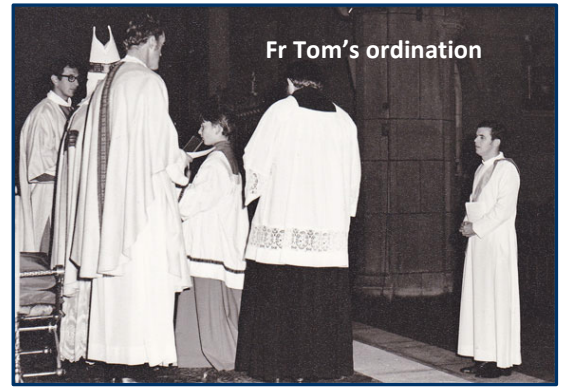


40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION CELEBRATION

On Sunday, May 20, 2012, the Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Wendouree, gathered to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of the Parish Priest, Fr Tom Brophy. Fr Tom was ordained a priest in St Patrick's Cathedral on May 20th, 1972. Many members of Fr Tom's family and extended family, as well as a number of parishioners from parishes in which he has ministered over the forty years, joined with the Wendouree parishioners in celebrating the anniversary. There was even a past student of Tom's from his teaching days at Sebastopol Technical School prior to his entering the seminary.



Fr Frank Smith CSsR who works with the Exodus Community in the Wendouree parish concelebrated the Mass with Fr Tom. In an appropriate coincidence the first reading was proclaimed by Harry Kennedy who, with his wife Coralie, was celebrating the 40th anniversary of their wedding. In his homily Fr Tom thanked God for allowing him to share in priesthood which does belong to God. He acknowledged the support of his family and the parishioners in all the parishes in which he has served, and reflected upon what a privilege it had been to be allowed to share in the lives of so many. Fr Tom reflected that through understanding his own weaknesses he was able to identify with people who too struggle on occasions. Finally Fr Tom pointed out how happy he was to be in OLHC parish where the presence of God is clearly evident in the commitment,

cooperation and care in the community. After Communion a PowerPoint presentation provided an outline of Tom's 40 years as a priest in the parishes of Mildura, Warrnambool, Cathedral, Robinvale, Peshurst, Terang, Sea Lake, Ouyen, Ballarat North, Mildura, Hamilton and Wendouree.

Following the Mass over one hundred and eighty people sat down to share in a delicious three course celebratory luncheon which was provided by the parishioners. It was a very happy occasion for family, friends and parishioners alike. Trish Pora spoke on behalf of the parishioners noting that like 1972, this too was an Olympic year and Trish drew a number of insightful and humorous analogies to Fr Tom as an 'Olympian priest'. In response Tom expressed his appreciation to the Wendouree parish community for organising such a meaningful celebration particularly as "I have only been here five minutes!" A beautiful anniversary cake was cut and all present had an opportunity to write a written congratulatory message as a memento of the occasion. ***Ad multos annos Tom***

