

## FAREWELL TO FATHER AIDAN

A farewell afternoon tea held for Father Aidan Carvill in the parish hall on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May was attended by approximately 100 people. Fr Carvill will be leaving St Kevin's on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May after just over two years as Parish Administrator.

Mr John Ivers paid tribute to Father Aidan's time in Geebung. Below are excerpts from his speech.

John noted that when Fr Aidan arrived he found him to be an energetic, highly intelligent, happy, holy man who was tech savvy and finance savvy (and Irish to boot so we were sure he'd be OK).

He commenced with great enthusiasm and very sensibly started slowly as he wanted to learn the history and culture of the parish. To this end he consulted widely with current, long term and ex parishioners; some of whom were in the parish before the first parish priest, Fr Norris, arrived.

Father then set about re-establishing the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council. He established the Legion of Mary and the Meet & Greeters at the weekend masses. He strongly supported the St Vincent de Paul society and attended their fortnightly meetings.

He became aware of some important maintenance issues particularly in the presbytery and the parish hall and the need to remove white ant infested trees on the Newman Road boundary. These he replaced with a very nice fence and garden. He agreed to change the entrance to the property to make access and egress easier and safer for the St Kevin's community.

Aware that the parishioners did not want significant changes made to the church, he made only minor changes to make it more welcoming. Becoming aware of the amount of administration the priest was required to do he appointed a parish secretary to assist him.

Father made some small but significant changes in the mass. Being a very capable musician he was able to introduce the singing of some parts of the mass which has helped increase the spiritual experience for some people.

In the short time he has been with us, he has managed to achieve much. St Kevin's is certainly the better for having been under his spiritual care. John thanked Father Aidan most sincerely for what he has done saying "although you may not be permanently in the parish anymore, we would like to wish you all the best for the future and would like you to know that you will always be welcome here".

John also thanked the Marist Order and in particular Fr John Gillen for the great support he gave Father Norris and for keeping the Parish going when Fr Norris had begun to fail.

Mrs Helen Mackay, School Principal, and Mr Peter Gordon, APRE, both paid tribute to Father for the work he has done. He encouraged the children in their faith and established an 8am Mass during the school term especially for the children. Peter mentioned how Father made an effort to learn the names of all the children.

Other tributes paid to Father Aidan included:

He made a point of learning the names of all who attended mass at St Kevin's.

Thank you for all that you have done for the Parish.

Words can't express my thanks for all you have done for this Parish and Parishioners.

Thanks you for your beautiful masses.

Thank you for your guidance.

We have enjoyed every Mass with you.

Father you are an inspiration to all who know you. So lovely having you at our school and Parish over the last couple of years.

It has been a pleasure to work with you. Thanks for being so welcoming.

Your spiritual guidance, kindness, hard work, are all appreciated. You will be missed.



Some of the food for Fr Aidan's farewell



Fr Aidan



Parishioners at Fr Aidan's farewell





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President of Parish Pastoral Council, Mr Tony Cawley and Mrs Elaine Cawley





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