

PARISH FAREWELLS THE CLUNY COMMUNITY

The forthcoming departure of the Cluny community from their Remuera convent has been marked by a function hosted by the parish of St. Michael.

The afternoon gathering to honour the sisters took place at Baradene College of the Sacred Heart on Sunday 13 December. The large number of guests included parishioners and Cluny friends from across Auckland.

St. Michael's pastoral council chair Jonathan Spencer expressed the gratitude of the parish for the work of the sisters in the Remuera community over the past 72 years. Jonathan said that generations of parishioners have been blessed by the work of the Cluny sisters in every possible parish ministry and service. "They leave a legacy that will be treasured by the many people who have been enriched by their presence and by their example. We remember the sisters as familiar, friendly and ever-present members of our congregations and for their quiet acts of individual kindness to individuals. At all times they have acted with the reverence and humility for which they will always be remembered by us", said Mr. Spencer.

Fr. Tony Dunn says that the Cluny Sisters have embodied the essential charism of religious life "to be a prayerful presence at the heart of the Church" as Vatican II teaches. "Their unassuming witness, by maintaining their characteristic religious habit, their generosity of service, with time and talent and spirit of mission, has been a most fruitful gift to this parish community. They will be very much missed", said Fr. Tony.

At the function presentations were made to the Cluny provincial Sr. Allison Macalister and to the five sisters of the Remuera convent community who will transfer in the New Year to the order's houses at Tauranga and Mangere.

END

*The full text of Jonathan's speech is also published in this section of the website.
The accompanying photographs show:*

From left: Jonathan Spencer, St. Michael's pastoral council chair, Sr. Francis Kelly, Cluny vice provincial, Sr. Allison Macalister, Cluny provincial leader, Fr. Tony Dunn, parish priest of St. Michael's.

The departing members of the Cluny community at Remuera: (seated) Sr. Bernadette St. Leger, Sr. Irene Bouchier-Hayes, Sr. Stephen Leavy, Sr. Francis Kelly, (at back) Sr. Pacifica Chunmin-Sun.