

St. Michael's Parish, Remuera

**Address by Jonathan Spencer, pastoral council chair,
at the function to honour the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny
held on Sunday 13 December 2020.**

This is the parish's opportunity to honour the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny and to thank them for the 72 years of devoted service their order has given to the people of this parish.

As the sisters depart from Remuera they leave a legacy that will be treasured by the many people who have been enriched by their presence and by their example.

- ◆ There are the thousands of people from Remuera - and beyond - who have had close contact with the Cluny Sisters through the school and the kindergarten.

For those young people their time with the Clunies was their first formal instruction in the Catholic Faith outside their own family.

So it can truly be said that Cluny sisters have left their mark on at least two generations of our parishioners. In many cases, such as mine, we started as students and returned as parents.

- ◆ There are the generations of St. Michael's parishioners who have been blessed by the work of Cluny sisters in the parish, including most recently:
 - as Holy Communion ministers and parish visitors:
Sr Stephen Leavy and Sr Pacifica Chunmin-Sun

- as teachers at St. Michael's School:
Sr Bernadette St Leger and Sr Gabrielle O'Neill
- as leaders on the RCIA programme:
Sr Francis Kelly and Sr Pacifica
- as part of the Music ministry:
Sr Allison Macalister
- as leader of the Becoming Church and Baptism programmes: Sr. Francis again.

We will remember the Cluny sisters:

- as familiar, friendly and ever-present members of our congregations at Masses, at Feast Days, special liturgies and at other times when the parish came together as a community.
- for many acts of kindness and charity carried out; not in any formal programme but each in a quiet and discreet way behind the scenes that very few would know about.
- at all times Cluny sisters have acted with the reverence, humility and kindness for which they are known, and for which they will always be remembered.

We thank God for the many favours and graces the Cluny Sisters have helped shower on Remuera parish. We have been blessed with these for 72 years. Let us all pray that we will continue to enjoy the fruits of these for many years to come.