

CELEBRATION OF CONSECRATED LIFE 2025

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL PERTH W.A.

"Do not be afraid. I have called you and you are mine" Isaiah 43:1

This year being a Jubilee Year has the theme "Pilgrims of Hope" and is seemingly appropriate for the celebration of Consecrated Life.

February 9th saw the gathering of Religious Priests, Sisters, Brothers and Parishioners at St Mary's Cathedral Perth to celebrate Mass for Consecrated Religious Life. This Mass is usually held on 2nd February marking the Presentation of our Lord Jesus in the Temple.

The main celebrant of the Mass was the newly Elected Bishop for the Diocese of Bunbury Father George Kolodziej SDS, together with the Archbishop of Perth, the Most Reverend Timothy Costelloe SD and several Priests. The celebration commenced with the paying of respect and the acknowledgement of the Country to the first Nation's people past, present and future.

In his homily, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe not only highlighted the dedication of the Sisters, Brothers and Priests who have supported the Church in Western Australia over the years, but also the important role and support given by the Lay people to the Religious in spreading the Gospel. He emphasized that we are all called to be Priests, Prophets and Kings.

As part of the Prayers of the Faithful, the Religious were called upon to renew their Vows. This was followed by the offertory procession which in its simplicity was meaningful and symbolic. The local choir sang beautiful songs and the music was quite uplifting. Before the Final Blessing, those Religious who had celebrated their 50th, 60th 70th and 80th Religious Profession were acknowledged.

Following the Mass, everyone was invited to enjoy the delicious morning tea where there was much chatter and sharing among the various Religious Congregations. The Oak Jubilarians were then invited to cut the cake and were honoured. Everyone present experienced joy and happiness in coming together as one family. Indeed, it was a very meaningful and revitalising celebration and so appropriate that it was celebrated in the Cathedral.

Sr Geetha Anthony SJA