

Mary Queen of Peace Sisters celebrate 10th anniversary of convent opening in Bonner ACT

“Friendship cannot be measured by money, but only by time.”

These words capture the atmosphere that enveloped the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Mary Queen of Peace Sisters’ Convent in Bonner ACT.

There were many observations on how the house came to be established in Bonner. The first was the common link to the Indigenous People both in the original foundation of the Congregation in Viet Nam and the location of the Convent in a suburb honouring the memory of Neville Bonner. The street in which they live also remembers the contribution of an indigenous educator, Lucy Beeton who taught many young people in Tasmania. In the acknowledgement of country, Sister Kim Hoa Ha noted the strong links in building relationships and working toward reconciliation.

Mass was celebrated by Fr Troy Bobbin, Parish Priest of Holy Spirit Parish in Gunghalin, who spoke about the importance witnessing to the person of Jesus who draws people out of darkness and into the light. The presence of the Sisters in the parish over the past ten years acknowledges how living the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy is central to their mission. In this way they echo the words of St Paul to the Ephesians 2.10, “We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.”

Many friends of the community joined in an agape meal after Mass to continue to build on the foundations of friendship they have developed over these ten years.

Article, photos: courtesy Fr John Armstrong

