

## **St Patrick's Catholic School, Asquith 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations**

Earlier this year, St Patrick's Catholic School, Asquith celebrated their 60th anniversary.

The Bishop of Broken Bay, Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, was the chief celebrant at a beautiful outdoor Mass in the school grounds, con-celebrated by Parish Priest Fr Shaju John and Fr Leonse Kurian. Students took part in the Mass with reading, bringing the gifts and liturgical movement.

The celebrations also included a sausage sizzle for all the guests and a wonderful display of memorabilia and photos from the last 60 years.

Special guests at the celebration included Federal Member for Bradfield Paul Fletcher, State Member for Hornsby Matt Kean and Councillor Warren Waddell. Director of Schools, Peter Hamill was also present, along with other Catholic Schools Office representatives Virginia Ryan and Diann Hynes.

The Sisters of Mercy opened St Patrick's on 28 January 1958, with the first classroom temporarily operating in the parish hall. Two Sisters were there in the early days, St Mary Antoinette as Principal and Sr Mary Bernadette as teacher. In January 1959, Cardinal Gilroy officially opened and blessed the school, which by then had 150 students.

Sr Mary Bernadette (now known as Sr Maureen Shakeshaft) was present at the celebrations, along with other former Principals and staff, Sr Monica Raper, Sr Paul (now known as Sr Pat Barton), Sr Miriam Greech, Mr Robert Peers and current Principal Mr Bernard Cumming.

In his speech, Bernard Cumming especially acknowledged the Sisters of Mercy who had created a wonderful quality Catholic education for families in Asquith, and also made special mention of Christine McNamara, who has been teaching at St Patrick's for over 50 years!

"Thank you also to the current families at St Patrick's who make it such a great community and thank you to the current staff that we are blessed to work with," said Mr Cumming. "See you all at the 100th celebration in 2058!"