

Polish Hill River 2024

Easter Pilgrimage

On Saturday, March 16, we set off on the annual Easter pilgrimage to Polish Hill River, a town located in the picturesque Clare Valley. This historic site is a Polish settlement and a source of pride for the Polish community in South Australia.

The Polish flag at the crossroads pointed the way for the pilgrims, warmly welcomed by the pastor of the Resurrection Church in Unley, Michał Skiba.

The pilgrims took their places in the "Gniezno Shelter," where a beautifully decorated altar awaited the prayers of the faithful.

Father Michał and Edward Dudziński, president of the Federation of Polish Organizations in South Australia, welcomed the pilgrims, while Piotr Bartecki, with his wonderful performance of religious songs, created an atmosphere of reflection and readiness for the Stations of the Cross.

The Stations of the Cross around the church led under the shade of spotted gum trees, which many Adelaide families bought with their own money and planted—under the leadership of Stanisław Skrzypczak—over 50 years ago. The youth from the Polish School Federation played a significant role in this planting effort.



The Holy Mass was celebrated by the priests of the Christ the King Society, Michał Skiba and Stanisław Lipski.

The reliable Polanki, under the direction of Jola Kozak, enhanced the prayers with their singing.

Marian Hoppe recited his poems: "Trzeciego Maja" and "Nowy Ład"; while Piotr Żychowski presented "Maryja Regina Poloniae".

Elżbieta Bukowska, the president of the Educational Society, thanked Father Marek Ptak for the tables and chairs donated to the "Schronisko Gniezno," as well as the volunteers for their work during this year's Pilgrimage.



For lunch, they served stuffed peppers, dumplings, and sauerkraut salad, along with cake for dessert.



During this time, Alina and Radek Sajewicz, along with Marek Kobylecki, were conducting a lottery with numerous prizes. In the late afternoon, the pilgrimage concluded with prayers and the songs of the Lamentations of Christ celebrated by our priests."

Thank You

* We thank our priests Michał Skiba and Stanisław Lipski for the Stations of the Cross, the Holy Mass, and the Gorzkie Żale at Polish Hill River during the Easter Pilgrimage 2024.

* We thank the volunteers of the Polish Hill River Church Museum for the beautiful altar decoration in the “Schronisko Gniezno,” for setting up the Stations of the Cross, for opening St. Stanislaus Kostka Church and the Museum for the pilgrims, and for the beautiful Easter palms that we were able to purchase.

* We thank the volunteers from the School Board and the Polish Association in South Australia for preparing the “Schronisko Gniezno” for the arrival of the pilgrims, for the wonderful meal, and for tidying up the area after the celebrations.

* We thank the Federation of Polish Organizations in South Australia for providing minibus transportation for pilgrims who could not reach Polish Hill River by their own means.

* To all of you (and to those not mentioned), a heartfelt God Bless You.

Marysia Thiele