

Easter Pilgrimage - March 25, 2023

The Easter Pilgrimage in Adelaide has been a tradition for several decades, dating back to the 1980s. This year, the tradition continued as Father Michał Skiba, along with the Parish Council, organized the pilgrimage on Saturday, March 25, 2023.



Both members of the Polish Hill River Church Museum Committee and the Polish Association with the School Mother Association volunteered to help with preparations, which took several days of work, including cleaning, cooking, baking, setting up the liturgy and altar, transporting the bain-marie device for heating food with hot water (which was borrowed by Father Marek from Ottoway), gathering raffle items, and many other essential tasks needed to organize the pilgrimage. Once the pilgrims dispersed, the volunteers jumped back into

action to clean up, dismantle the Stations of the Cross, and tidy up the grounds and buildings.

Meanwhile, Mr. Dudziński, with a load of picnic items on his car roof, drove home at a snail's pace of 60 km/h. The reason for this slow speed was his fear that the picnic items might fall off at a higher speed and end up somewhere in a roadside ditch—something he would never know. He returned home after midnight, with no overtime pay for his efforts!

**This year, the guiding theme of the pilgrimage, or motto, was:
*Behold, I make all things new***

On the day of the pilgrimage, guests were welcomed in the hall of the “Gniezno” shelter by Edward Dudziński, President of the Federation of Polish Organizations in South Australia, and **Father Michał Skiba**.

The microphone was then handed over to Mr. **Brendon Kluska**. Brendon is a descendant of the first Polish immigrants. His grandmother's family arrived in Australia

in 1856 on the ship “August.” He briefly introduced those present to the history of the first immigrants.

Next, a Stations of the Cross was held, led by **Father Antoni Motyka**, who came to us from Brazil, assisted by Father Michał Skiba and **Father Stanisław Lipski**, who also presided over the Holy Mass and shared the Word of God with the faithful.

During lunch, a lottery was organized with a large number of interesting prizes. The day of prayers concluded with the Lamentations, which Father Michał Skiba officiated in the historic church of St. Stanislaus Kostka.

Reflections arise: let us spend such beautiful moments together as often as possible, building strong bonds among us and supporting each other. For when we are together, we also share the beauty that lies dormant in each of us.

Leszek Gajewski