

**Saturday, April 30, Port Pirie**

## **We are invited to the Polish Community Picnic**

**On March 5th, we welcomed Bishop Karol Kulczycki of the Diocese of Port Pirie along with a group of faithful at the Polish Hill River Church Museum. As we previously mentioned, this was a return visit.**

Let's recall that in May 2021, parishioners from Adelaide were guests in Port Pirie, where they participated in a holy mass at the local cathedral and were hosted by the parish community there. Now we had the opportunity to repay them for the wonderful moments we spent together.

On March 5th, we hosted a group of 40 guests. It was a multinational group, as this community includes not only Poles but also Filipinos, Pakistanis, Greeks, and Irish. The main organizer of this event was a Filipino – Father Jimmy Pantin.

**To welcome our guests at Polish Hill River, we prepared a light refreshment along with hot coffee and tea. There was also a stand with Krakuska selling Polish souvenirs. The Polish wreaths proved to be very attractive to the visitors, and many people wore them during their stay. Meanwhile, Bishop Karol was delighted and purchased a scarf featuring an eagle and the word *Polska*.**

The guests were interested in the history of emigration. Irena Sosnowska provided a very clear and concise account of the history of emigration and guided the visitors around the museum. The old church, which is listed as a state cultural monument, made a great impression on the visitors.

The Holy Mass, which started at 11:00 a.m., was celebrated by Bishop Karol along with Father Jimmy and Father Michał. The faithful from Port Pirie were well organized, bringing sound equipment and their own recordings of religious hymns. The church resounded with the beautiful, loud singing of the faithful.

Later, Pike's Wines winery attracted much interest among the faithful, with most of our guests visiting it before their departure.

Before saying goodbye, Bishop Karol Kulczycki invited us to the cathedral in Port Pirie, where on Saturday, April 30th of this year, a Polish Community Picnic will take place, along with a Holy Mass in honor of the Homeland and the Polish diaspora living in Australia. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Kulczycki, will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Father Michał Skiba assured us that he would include this information in the parish announcements and would organize a bus.

So, as the Australians say, "watch this space."

**Leszek Gajewski**