

## Closure of the Convent on Wollombi Rd, Cessnock.

Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 saw an impressive gathering of parishioners and Sisters at the Convent on Wollombi Rd, Cessnock to celebrate the closure of this home of the Sisters since 1973. Over the last 124 years, a great number of our sisters have lived and worked in the Cessnock parish from Nulkaba, to Bellbird, to St Joseph's on the hill and St Pat's and a good group of them had come to enjoy the celebration.



Sr Anne Maria and Sr De Porres were the last two sisters to live in the convent where they had both worked for many years and though it was sad to see the end of an era it was also an opportunity to offer thanks for all that had been. The sunny courtyard provided an ideal space for the assembly and together we prayed for all those who had gone before us and for the on-going ministry of education that had begun so long ago.



Sr Laurretta Baker thanked the people for their support and love of the sisters over all that time and assured them that our association was not ended as Sr De Porres would be living at the Calvary village where three other of our sisters live and another three attend to pastoral needs.

To mark the occasion, the parish presented the sisters with two framed portraits of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop in this year of her canonization



The usual quiet of the convent was alive with the chatter of many voices enjoying the splendid morning tea and the special cake made by Sylvesters' Bakery –the neighbour of many years- to mark the occasion.

To end the day there was an invitation to visit the cottage on Winecountry Drive where Sr De Porres now lives just a little way from the 1886 convent where the Sisters first lived. Our thanks to all who participated and helped in organizing this historic event.

