

Celebrating 100 years of Faith and Community with memories from Deacon Russell Nelson.

Holy Family Parish Indooroopilly is celebrating 100 years of faith and community this year and all community members and parishioners both past and present are warmly invited to participate.

A Celebration program to praise and honour the 100 year journey is planned commencing on 14 March and culminating in a special Centenary Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Shane Mackinlay on Saturday 04 July 2026.

As part of the program parishioners are invited to take a trip down memory lane and share their favourite memories of the Parish and, with over 60 years of memories to draw on, Deacon Russell Nelson has been sharing some of his earliest memories.

He recalls the early days of the 1960s when his family lived in Taringa. Every Sunday the family attended Mass, which was said in Latin, in the original Holy Family Church. Built in 1926, the original Church was a timber building with open verandahs on two sides, balustrades and big windows. It served both the Church and a school run by the Brigidine Sisters. The role of the building as a Church ceased in November 1963 when the new Holy Family Church opened. However the building still exists and these days serves as the Administration building for Holy Family School.

Deacon Russell also recalls his early school days at Holy Family School. The classrooms were timber with timber flip top desks and he remembers with affection two of his favourite teachers – Mrs Cook and Mother Phillips whose warmth and caring had a strong influence on his early education.

Looking back to more recent times, Deacon Russell believes that one of the proudest moments for the Church was its role during the terrible 2011 flood. Holy Family Church stands on high ground and was able to provide support and safe storage spaces for flood victims. This support helped the recovery of some of the most affected members of the Community.

While remembering those very early days of his life in the Parish and enthusiastically planning the activities for the Centenary celebrations, Deacon Russell is also excited about the future of the Parish. The Centenary Mass on 04 July will herald both the celebration of a rich past of faith and community and the beginning of a bright new future as life in the Parish evolves and changes. He believes that the desire for community togetherness and connection will provide golden opportunities for volunteering and sharing supported by the fundamental values of Catholic Faith in Christ.

The Celebration program includes a Celebration of Holy Family Church presented by Father Tom Elich, Honouring the Stations of the Cross by Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Praising of the Baptistry by Dr Colin Apelt. Full details of the program including the Celebration Mass celebrated by Archbishop Mackinlay will be posted on the website: <https://holyfamilyindooroopilly.net.au/centennial-celebrations-2026/>