

Patricia McGrath's Golden Jubilee 22 Aug 2009 Penmaenmawr, N Wales

GOLDEN DAYS AND GOLDEN YEARS: Philippa

The blue bus with its 27 excited passengers headed off for Pen to celebrate with Patricia her 50 years of dedicated service. Not a cloud in the sky and the sun shone all the way – thanks to Patricia's prayers and the Infant of Prague sitting on her window ledge!!! We arrived to a noisy welcome – family, friends, children all converged on Pen together and what a gathering!



Pen as usual met us with its own brand of hospitality – unique to the sisters there and one that is much talked about. After a lovely evening meal the men went to sample Welsh beer while the women relaxed over a lighter beverage. The day of the Jubilee dawned bright and sunny and by 12 o'clock all was ready for the Eucharist and the 'banquet'.

Fr. Canice McGinn, who is well known in Ferrybank but who is now Parish Priest in Leeds, was the main celebrant and he did Patricia proud.

Virginia gave the homily based on the Magnificat. The singing was uplifting and there was full participation from the congregation. Patricia's family did the readings, bidding prayers and a beautiful reflection after Communion.



With Mass over it was time to party!! The sun was shining so the 'bar' was set up on the lawn.



The buffet lunch was laid out in two places and we were free to eat inside or alfresco. What a spread – all home cooked and home prepared. Definitely 5 stars!!! Lunch went on for most of the afternoon and the bar was well frequented! Patricia's sister Kathleen had made the cake and we had the cutting ceremony in the evening, followed by speeches, from Patricia herself, her brother, a niece and a nephew and Josepha said a few words on our behalf. There was much laughter and a few tears but it was an evening to remember.



While all this was happening 'Rocking Ron' was setting up in the conference room. He got our toes tapping and before long he had people on the floor. Mary O'Carroll, who cooked in Ferrybank for 30 years, was first and last on the dance floor!



Sunday we all departed; sent on our way with a full Welsh breakfast, but the best bit for the family was that Patricia was travelling with us.

Celebration was the order of the weekend and it was wonderful to share in the joy, the excitement and the happy memories of Patricia's 50 years. Thanks to the Pen community for their hospitality, the food, the photographs and the open house. It was truly a golden occasion.



Patricia's family

CONGRATULATIONS PATRICIA!