

**Assumption Feast Day Celebration by Eugenie Carroll (fondly known as Aunty Geno)  
August 15<sup>th</sup> 2008**

Forty nine years after the foundation stone was blessed, a parish gathered to celebrate the feast of the Assumption and to prepare for its Golden Jubilee in 2009.

There had been other Masses to mark the day, but the 7.30pm Mass was special. There was to be a launching towards the Golden Jubilee 2009. The theme for the journey is from the Gospel of St John 1:4: *The Word was the Source of Life and this Life brought Light to the World*. The outreach is to family, the poor, the migrant community and the youth.

By 6.30pm the church was full and beginning to overflow. A busload from the migrant community were among the early arrivals. People were chatting and it was somewhat noisy. A little while before Mass began Fr Volle arrived and carefully made his way to his place on the sanctuary. Immediately a hush came over the congregation. The grand old man of Assumption is much loved and respected.

At 7.30pm the celebration began. Concelebrating with Fr Phillip were Fr Volle, Fr Martin Lam and Fr Simon LaBrooy.

The statue of Our Lady was crowned by John and Magdalene Maung from Myanmar, and then taken in procession. The honour of carrying the statue lay on the shoulders of the members of the Music Ministry. Representatives from the BECs, Apostolates, ministries, parish and prayer groups held banners and led the procession while Legionaries from the language Apostolates led the rosary in English, Mandarin and Tamil.

The Mass continued after the procession. In his homily Fr Simon called for us to look beyond ourselves and our personal wants and needs. He spoke of the selflessness of Mary, who, in spite of being pregnant, left her home and went to be with Elizabeth. "Be like Mary and reach out to others. Look beyond, look beyond myself, me and I," he said. "Reach out in simple ways. In the words of Mother Teresa, 'Do simple things with extraordinary love.' It is not the destination that matters but the journey."

After communion and before the final blessing, the journey towards the Golden Jubilee Year began with looking back and remembering.

Sr Enda Ryan, FMM, Eugenie Carroll and Joseph Pragasam recalled the early times and the pioneers – priests and people – and their vision and dedication that laid the foundations of a community. It was their efforts that contributed to the faith and the growth of the people of God and gave them, first a chapel then a church, where they could come together to worship and to celebrate the Eucharist.

Daniel Chong, representing the youth, related how young priests came into the parish in the 1990s and under the wisdom and guidance of the older and experienced priests, helped carry the parish into the new millennium.

Lisa Marie De Souza, aged 7, turned all thoughts to the future in a simple prayer asking "Jesus and our Mother Mary, Queen of the Assumption, to help as we go every step of the way to our loving God."

The chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council, John Chin, then thanked the priests and people for their work and participation and urged everyone to prepare for the Jubilee through the various programmes of the coming year.

Fr Phillip and the concelebrants gave the final blessing and he then unveiled the Jubilee banner. Assumption Parish was ready to take the first step in the journey towards its Golden Jubilee.