

# A Day for Mary

# A Day for the Parish

Our parish feast day is September 8th, the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To enable us to celebrate the feast more worthily it is transferred each year to the Sunday following the feast.

This year, the day before the parish feast was also devoted to Our Lady, as we hosted one of the weekly *Days for Mary* organised in our diocese and beyond by the *Days for Mary* apostolate.

They are an amazing group of people, and so well organised. They worked easily and happily with people from the parish in preparing for the day and in getting everything set up. And they guid-



ed us through the ways of prayer customary to these days.

The day was well supported by people from the parish and by guests from elsewhere. The first arrivals came at 7.30, and the church was pretty full a good hour before the first liturgy began, and this special celebration of faith continued throughout the day



- including Mass, Rosary, Sermons, Confessions, Exposition and Benediction. The Day was filled with prayer, reflection and gratitude.

The celebrations of the Day continued until something less than half an hour before the regular parish Vigil Mass of Sunday was ready to begin. Fr Allen was seen rather anxiously looking at his watch during the final processions of the statue of Our Lady around the church. But there was no need to worry. The team worked smoothly and efficiently and the church was cleared, cleaned and ready for Mass in good time. Quite amazing!



The comments from parishioners in the days that followed showed just how much the day was appreciated. It is hoped that the Day might become an annual feature in our parish calendar!

Thanks to Joy Oti for the photographs