

## Media Release

18 September 2024

### Faith shines in action at the Jesuit Mission Bazaar

In an incredible show of community spirit and generosity, 10,000 Sydneysiders flocked to the annual Jesuit Mission Bazaar on Saturday, 14 September, at Saint Ignatius' College Riverview in Sydney.

The event was a thrilling day of fun, purpose, and faith in action, with stalls selling out in record time, and record sales at this year's wine auction. In true Sydney form, a glorious sunny sky, contributed to the echoes of laughter from countless joyful reunions with old friends and the excitement for many children on rides.

For over 70 years the Jesuit Mission Bazaar has been a community staple, hundreds of parents, students, alumni, parishioners and neighbouring schools each year to come together to fundraise for marginalised communities around the world.

This year Fr Tony Herbert SJ, himself an old boy of Saint Ignatius' College Riverview and Hazaribag Missionary of over 50 years, joined the Bazaar to directly thank the community.

Fr Tony who has served and advocated for the rights of Indigenous Dalit communities in rural India for most of his life, concelebrated the closing Mass, and shared with hundreds of students in attendance, *"The deeper meaning of your work on the Bazaar, is the fact that you have touched the lives of people far away, people you've never seen before, people whose results of your efforts you will not know"*.

The Bazaar began in 1952, to support the works of the early Australian Jesuit missionaries, like Fr Tony, who were sent to Hazaribag, India, to uplift the outcast through education and social activism, with the expectation that they would never return home to Australia.

*"We had a sense that we were on mission with them (as co-missionaries in Australia), by doing things like the Bazaar, by praying for them, by walking with them,"* said Fr Tom Renshaw SJ, Rector of Saint Ignatius' College Riverview.

*"I've had the privilege of visiting Fr Tony in Hazaribag five times and it deeply enriched and changed my life for the better. It enriched my answer to that question of who is Jesus? I got to see how Jesus became present in local cultures there in north-east India,"* said Fr Tom.

These personal experiences of transformation and connection are part of the larger story of the mission's growth and impact.

Now over 70 years later, Jesuit Mission has expanded its reach, to empower marginalised communities in over 10 countries around the world.

The success of the Bazaar is a beautiful testament to the wider Jesuit community committing to putting their faith into action, not only bringing joy to many here, but also touching the lives of those far beyond our immediate reach.

The Jesuit Mission Australia team is grateful for the wonderful support received for this year's Bazaar and invites you all to get involved in next year's event.

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Caption: Around 10,000 people attended the Bazaar in 2024.







Caption: Fr Tom Renshaw SJ and Fr Tony Herbert SJ at the closing Mass.

### **Supporting Links:**

Photos of the day <https://jesuitmission.org.au/bazaar-2024-photos/>

### **About Jesuit Mission**

Jesuit Mission works in over 10 countries across Asia and Africa to uphold the innate dignity of people living with the effects of poverty, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable. Funds from our supporters:

- Break cycles of poverty through teaching and education
- Protect the health of communities by providing medical care and programs that improve access to clean water and toilets
- Develop independent, sustainable communities through livelihood training and income-generating projects
- Provide vulnerable individuals with pastoral care, social inclusion and advocacy
- Support refugees in crisis
- Enable effective disaster response and relief.