

HOSPITALITY WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR



Mon 4 February 2013

On the 225th anniversary of the first Christian church service held in Australia, Director of St Mark's National Theological Centre, Tom Frame - together with the gathered community - commissioned Jobu Koshy Jacob to lead this year's "Sunday Dusk" ministry at St Mark's Chapel.

A small congregation of 18 people attended the first gathering of the "Sunday Dusk" community this year, which had a decisively multi-cultural flavour.

The community has a strong emphasis on hospitality and the congregation shared a meal including an Indian rice dish and pizza after the church service.

During his sermon, Tom Frame reminded the congregation that it was on a February 3rd 1778 that the first ever Christian Worship was held in Australia. He explained to the gathered community how the Reverend Richard Johnson, the first Chaplain to the colony, persevered in ministry under difficult circumstances.

"Sunday Dusk", which started six years ago to minister to students at St Mark's, has a core group of about ten people. Some of these regulars have been committed since the community's inception. Three of the congregation last Sunday were St Mark's students and about half from the Indian sub-continent.

The future of the ministry

Jobu agreed with my proposition that Sunday Dusk could be a strategic base to reach the many international students in Canberra.

"Personally I would like to see the group growing and yes... our Chapel is relatively small but I think we can easily accommodate 35 people. I do have a passion for multicultural ministry and I wish more people from different culture would come and use this space every Sunday to worship our Lord and Saviour", Jobu said.

But he added that he still had much to learn.

“Riya, my wife, and I would also like to use this opportunity to grow in Christ... I am in the process of discernment with the Diocese, so I want to learn about worship and ministry.”

The ‘Sunday Dusk’ community are planning to gather every Sunday at 5pm. On the first Sunday of every month it will be a Holy Communion service and during other Sundays we will be using the Evening Prayer. This year Jobu will lead a study on the Parables.