



Community for Local Ecumenism

Stories on the Ecumenical Journey

New Life for Baptismal Font

We speak of receiving New Life *through* Baptism but here is a case of New Life *for* a baptismal font.

It came about through our confirmation class' 'tour of churches' in Saddleworth. (I ask the young people to look around the church and I prompt them to ask questions from which I hope they gain a deeper appreciation of what that church teaches.) When we were shown around St Stephen's - the Catholic Church, someone asked where was the baptismal font?

The answer they received was that they didn't have one; whenever there was a baptism one family brought a bowl with them. Judy, who was showing us around, said she would really love the church to have a font because her granddaughter was due to be baptised in 7 weeks' time!

"Well..... I just happen to know of a baptismal font that might be available," I replied.

One of our churches, Trinity Lutheran Church, Black Springs, was closing in less two weeks' time and we were going to put their beautiful marble font in our 'Carlsruhe Manse Retreat' (our parish retreat centre) - simply as a reminder of our Baptism; it would never be used again for Baptisms.

So cutting a long story short, I ran it past all the members of Trinity, the Retreat team, our Bishop and finally the priest and members of St Stephen's and they all were in total agreement. We want the font to be used.



Font in Trinity Lutheran Church

A font that had served well for over 50 years in Trinity Lutheran Church, Black Springs, and before that in a congregation in Point Pass, by welcoming people into the Kingdom of God through the Sacrament of Baptism, was now going to be used for the same purpose in St Stephen's Catholic Church!

A Lutheran font in a Catholic Church! New Life for a Baptismal font! What a wonderful witness to our partnership in the Gospel!

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Leon "handing over" to Judy



New life for the baptismal font in St. Stephen's Catholic Church