

Marie and Allan Bowe – 60 Years Married

Allan and Marie were married at St John the Evangelist Church Lambton on 28 April 1951.

They were married at 8 o'clock in the morning as that was the only time one could have Nuptial Mass. They were both from families of eight children. Marie's parents were Hannah and Joseph Keys from Lambton. Marie worked for Richard Owens' grocers. She rode a bicycle to collect the orders and also worked in the grocery shop. Later she worked at the Savoy theatre as an usherette.

Allan's parents were Harold and Lucy Bowe from New Lambton. He first started work as a carpenter at the Mater Hospital on trial for six months. He was still there 42 years later. On Sunday nights the three curates at New Lambton, Fr Newton, Fr Jim Doran and Fr Joe Walsh all came to Allan's family home for "tea". They all did the washing up and then played penny poker!

Allan and Marie met at the younger set dance. Father Newton asked Allan to have a dance with Marie. She accepted and Allan taught Marie to dance. This then led to romance.

Allan was working as a carpenter at the Mater hospital, and the Nuns, being very fond of him, wanted to see the wedding party. After the ceremony, Allan and Marie set off for Waratah to the hospital to show everyone. They had to go to every department, to see all the workmates. After two hours some of the guests, back at Lambton, were starting to leave the reception, which was held at Rechabites Hall (which is now the Repertory Theatre). The cost then was 5/- per person.

They travelled to Brisbane by train for their honeymoon. Marie's sister was a Franciscan nun in Brisbane. Allan spent the two weeks doing carpentry work at the convent – the nuns found plenty of work to keep him busy!

They made their home in Lambton and raised five children, two boys and three girls.





Allan continued to work at the Mater for over 42 years. He retired in 1989. Allan and Marie moved to Redhead in 1990 and became much-loved by the church community. They have made a wonderful contribution to our church life.

Submitted by

The St John Vianney Redhead faith community.