

## **Polish Army Day, 'Miracle on the Vistula'**

The annual commemoration of Polish Army Day (Dzień Wojska Polskiego 100 rocznica Cud nad Wisłą), was held with a celebratory Mass for the 100th anniversary of the Fight for Warsaw was held on 15 August 2020 by the Poles of New South Wales. It was held at the Polish Church of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Marayong.

A representative from the Polish Consulate in Sydney put up display stands that were prepared by MON and MSZ in Poland commemorating the Fight for Warsaw. Priests from the Society of Christ presided over the special mass. The mass was celebrated by Father Superior Tadeusz Przybylak. The Homily was presented by Father Antoni Dudek. After holy mass had ended a Call for the Fallen was guided by Mr Stanisław Żak, president of the SPKA Nr 1 in Sydney. The General Consul of Sydney, Dr Monika Kończyk along with the president of the Federation of Polish Association in NSW laid wreaths for a tribute to the fallen soldiers of World War II and also the victims of Smolensk.

Further celebrations were held in the parish hall, John Paul II, at which Mr Adam Gajkowski presided over the official side.

Madam Consul Monika Kończyk read out a letter from the Polish Ambassador Mr Michał Kołodziejski. On the spiritual aspect of the Fight for Warsaw was presented by Father Superior Tadeusz Przybylak. Mr Adam Gajkowski read out a letter from the President of the Institute of National Memory; Dr Jarosław Szarka while in the background was a visual presentation from the IPN in regards to the Fight for Warsaw. The official side of the proceedings was with a short lecture from Historian Janusz Tyddy. The artistic side was prepared and lead by Mrs Bożena Szymanski with poetry and songs praising the heroism of the Polish soldier. A special mention has to be made to the Polish Saturday School from Marayong for their participation even with the restrictions implemented because of COVID- 19.

Two veterans from the Fight for Warsaw were present at the event; special thanks were given to Mr Czeczusze and Mr Żelazowski. Unfortunately due to COVIS-19 restrictions we were unable to sing them 'Sto Lat'.

The organisers made sure that no one left hungry and prepared light refreshments for all who attended. The buffet was filled with tasty sandwiches and home-made cakes. During this time a visual presentation was put on the big screen of two historic cartoons IPN. The celebration held in Marayong had an audience of 100 people. It was a shame that the turnout was less, but with the restrictions in place due to COVID-19, only a certain number of people were allowed in the hall.

Adam Gajkowski

Translated by Abbi Latecka