



## NEWS AND VIEWS



AUTUMN 2014



### No choice but to be silent

*The Hope Workers' Center (HWC) in Taiwan was founded by the Missionary Society of St. Columban in 1986 to inform local workers on their rights and to advocate and lobby for them. It was the first organization in Taiwan to assist migrant workers in distress.*

Australian Fr Peter O'Neill SSC has worked for many years with victims of labour trafficking at HWC. He writes: "When migrants come to Taiwan they are immediately at a disadvantage. Their passports are taken off them. They're housed wherever the employer chooses, irrelevant of the condition.

Many migrants come from desperately poor countries to Taiwan to find work with the hope that they will earn enough to send money home to help their families.

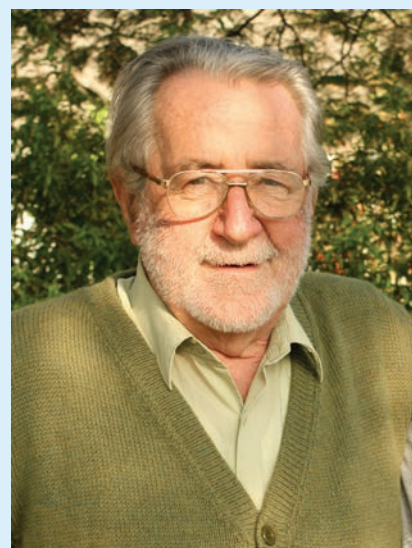
Once migrant workers are in Taiwan, they face many abuses in the workplace. One major abuse is the non payment of salaries. Another is not receiving overtime according to Taiwanese law. Employers also take illegal deductions as a way to increase profits. **'I would treat my dog better than the way some of the companies treat their migrant workers.'**

A migrant has to work for at least two years to pay back their broker's debt. Therefore they are relying on their employer to renew their contract. They have no choice but to be silent.

The HWC help the workers stand up for their rights under Taiwanese law. They assist workers with legal advice and shelter. There are never enough hours in the day, but, it is an integral part of the Gospel to seek to change the situation of injustice that migrant workers find themselves in."

*Columban Fr Peter O'Neill went to Taiwan in 1991.*

### A missionary to the end



Columban Fr Leo Donnelly SSC from Ballarat worked and lived with the people in Peru for over 50 years. He died peacefully on the 4th February, 2014.

In the homily at Fr Leo's funeral, Columban Fr John Hegerty, said, "Leo wore 'the smell of the sheep', be it the sacristan or the mayor, the catechist or those who attended him in the parish house or the hospital."

In the last few days of his life, Fr Leo was moved from the comfort of the Columban House, to a crowded clinic, where he died in a public ward with 30 other patients. He lived to the last drop his priestly missionary ministry with and as one of his adopted people.

We ask you to remember Fr Leo in your prayers.

Rest in peace Leo.



## Leo leaves Essendon

After 16 years at the Columban House in Essendon, 91-year-old Fr Leo Baker SSC has moved to Mercy Health Care in Colac.

Earlier this year Fr Leo was admitted to hospital where he received a pacemaker. It was during this stay that Fr Leo met and enjoyed many people including patients, their families and visitors.

As a result of the new lease on life, and the experience of the companionship in the hospital, Fr Leo decided to move to Colac to be close to family and friends.

Life will not be quiet for Fr Leo who has many interests. He is fit and walks up to 3kms per day. He is an avid gardener and correspondent. He writes regularly to his family, which includes two of his younger brothers, Chris and Pat, also Columbans. He still writes to friends he made during his time on mission in Japan

Fr Leo would like to thank Columban benefactors and their families who have been a big part of his life and supported his missionary vocation.

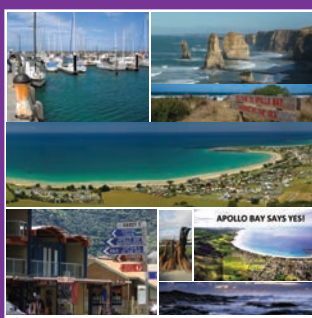
*Fr Leo Baker worked and enjoyed many hours in the gardens at St Columbans, Essendon.*



## Meet a Columban



Fr Wally Tudor



Apollo Bay



Fr Trevor Trotter



Brisbane

Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Apollo Bay, Victoria includes Aireys Inlet, Lorne and Lavers Hill. During holiday times the churches and chapels overflow. The rhythm then changes and parishioners get the undivided attention of Columban Fr Wally Tudor, the Parish Priest.

Last year, Fr Wally promoted the e-Conference *"The Gospel of St Mark"* which was sponsored by two of the parishioners, who gave their homes for viewing on large screen televisions. The success of the conference could be judged by the robust discussion afterwards.

Please make yourself known to Fr Wally when you are next in the area.

Columban Fr Trevor Trotter is currently co-ordinating and promoting *The Far East* magazine to parishes in the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

He is also working in the Archdiocese of Brisbane three days a week in a variety of roles which includes public speaking engagements.

*Visit our website to see when Fr Trevor will be in your parish or a parish near you.*

[www.columban.org.au](http://www.columban.org.au)



## A man for the people

10.06.1939 - 21.03.2014

Fr Peter Doyle was farewelled on April 2, 2014 from St Francis Xavier Church in West Mackay, Queensland by Bishop Emeritus, Most Rev Brian Heenan. The homilist for the Requiem Mass was Fr Gary Walker, the Regional Director of the Columban Fathers in Australia and New Zealand.

Since Fr Peter stipulated that he did not want flowers or a eulogy at his funeral service, Fr Walker used the readings to reflect the kind of priest that Fr Peter was. He was a Good News priest, like Jesus the High priest. He was compassionate and generous to the people whom he served and finally, he was 'a man of God'; a man and priest with a well developed sense of humour who was nevertheless serious about the 'things of God'.

Columbans in Lima, Peru, remember him with cash stuffed into his shirt pocket and clearly visible to anyone on 'the make'. He would give the shirt off his back to those in need and that of any Columban who left a shirt hanging from a chair in the priest's house.

He was deeply appreciated by the parishioners for his capacity to listen and empathise. His sense of humour was also a great asset in his work. He was a humble man who knew his limitations, and still did whatever was requested of him.

May he rest in peace.

## Email Address

To those who supplied email addresses



As a result of increased email addresses, the number of electronic acknowledgements to the Christmas Appeal resulted in a saving of over \$1,000 in postage costs. The savings will assist Columban mission activities.

We encourage you to supply your email address in the space provided on the appeal coupon and return in the reply paid envelope enclosed or by Email: [info@columban.org.au](mailto:info@columban.org.au)

## Australian health delegation takes expertise to Pakistan

Leaders in the Catholic health sector in Australia have seen first-hand the significant challenges facing Pakistan's health system, including its network of Catholic hospitals and aged care services.

Catholic Health Australia (CHA) chair Rowena McNally and Cabrini Health's David Nowell joined Columban Fr Robert McCulloch, Procurator-General of the Missionary Society of St Columban, on a 10-day trip to Pakistan in January, visiting hospital, church and government officials. The visit was at the invitation of Archbishop Joseph Coutts of Karachi, President of the Pakistan Catholic Bishops' Conference.

A number of meetings with government officials, including Governor of Sindh Dr Ishrat ul Ebad Khan, Nishan-e-Imtiaz, afforded the opportunity to discuss the work of the Catholic Church in Pakistan.

*A number of possible opportunities for collaboration between the government and the Catholic Church's health services in Pakistan were also identified.*

The group visited a number of hospitals including St Elizabeth Hospital in Hyderabad, where they met the hospital administrator and staff, including Patras Inayat, who trained in Australia in palliative care.

St Elizabeth Hospital is a 100-bed hospital that serves the people of Hyderabad and the lower areas of Sindh province. It is the sole medical provider for 12,000 people in the nearby villages. The hospital also has a School of Midwifery.

"These tours were valuable in informing us as to the availability of trained personnel, resources and equipment, as well as providing a comparative of other health care facilities in Karachi," Ms McNally said.

"There is much that can be done to assist the various Catholic health and aged care services in Pakistan. Assistance has begun already and no doubt will continue to flow from the various individual health and religious bodies in Australia," Ms McNally said.

*A full report can read at: [www.columban.org.au/](http://www.columban.org.au/)*



Photo: (L-R) Columban Fr Robert McCulloch, David Nowell, Rowena McNally and Archbishop Joseph Coutts of Karachi.

*Fr John O'Hara (1930-2013)*



Columban Fr John O'Hara died on 20.12.13. On Christmas Eve, a large crowd farewelled Fr John including a large contingent of Koreans who came to pay their last respects.



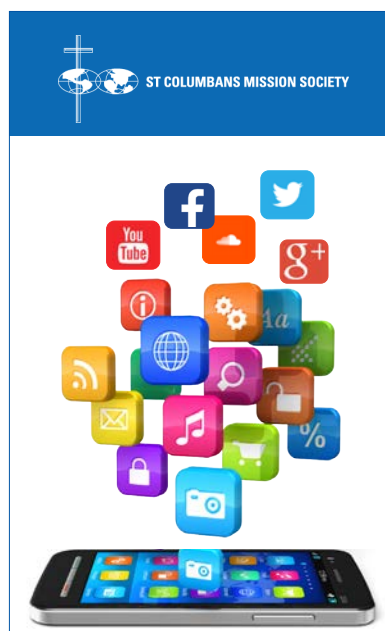
*Fr Leo Donnelly (1932-2014)*

Columban Fr Leo Donnelly died in Peru on February 4, 2014. Fr Leo lived with the people of Peru, stayed with them, and was buried among them. For Fr Leo, it was a sign of fidelity.

### *New appointment*



Columban Fr Tom Rouse will leave Fiji to take up a new appointment at St Columban's, Lower Hutt, New Zealand. Fr Tom Rouse went to Fiji in 1976 and during that time worked in many roles. We wish him well in his new appointment.



via our homepage:

[www.columban.org.au](http://www.columban.org.au)



The Far East magazine is published by St Columbans Mission Society. It features articles and images from Columban missionaries, lay missionaries and Religious sisters from the countries where they work.

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St Columban became 'A Wanderer for Christ'. One of his greatest sayings summarises his life and his work, *'Let us be of Christ not of ourselves'*.



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