



NEWS AND VIEWS

Giving the little they have to those who have a greater need

In our Christmas Appeal letter, Fr Gary Walker wrote - *"In our missionary work, we are always humbled by the simple lifestyle of the those who lack in consumer goods and luxuries. Like the parishioners in Chile who are poor themselves. They are truly faith filled people, giving the little that they have to those who have a greater need"*.



Parishioners in Chile preparing meals for the poor families of the parish.

Parishioners in two of our Columban parishes in Chile, San Matias and Santo Tomas Apostol work in co-operation with parish priests, Frs Willie Lee and Chris Saenz to ensure that outreach is extended to those in need.

The Parishes offer many pastoral and outreach programs that include visiting the sick and elderly, working in prisons, offering legal advice to those being treated unjustly and ongoing catechetical training to assist in these large parishes of over 100,000 parishioners.

There are many other programs that include cooking meals each day for poor families of the parish. An Adult Day Facility provides transportation and daily activities for the elderly who would otherwise rarely have a visitor or eat a nourishing meal.

The programs require a great deal of time in planning and co-ordination. It is a remarkable commitment from those who have so little and are prepared to share what they have.



SUMMER 2014

St Columban's 1400th Anniversary

2015 marks the 1400th anniversary of the death of St Columban which occurred in the year 615. As part of the anniversary celebrations Columbans have organised:

- * In the Footsteps of St Columban - a 20-day pilgrimage
- * August 17 - September 5, 2015.
- * The pilgrimage will begin in Ireland, and then proceed to France, Austria, Switzerland and finish in Rome.

For further information: (03) 9375 9475

New Columban Hymn hits a high note



High is the Heaven Deep is the See

Columbans commissioned composer, Liam Lawton to write and record a new, brilliant hymn that calls to mind the contemporary Columban concerns of Justice, Peace, Care for the Earth and Reconciliation between peoples.

Credits: Arranged by Mark Cahill, Performed by The Prague Philharmonic Orchestra.

Choir: Voices of the Ireland Chamber Listen to hymn at: www.columban.org.au



Partnership is alive in our parishes and schools

Geelong Pastoral Cluster

In 2005 Fr Gerard Keith, Parish Priest of Holy Family Parish, Bell Park in Geelong, first travelled to the Philippines to learn more about the work of Columban priests.

A Philippines Partnership with Columban Priests of Our Lady of Remedies Parish in Malate, Manila, began in 2006 when a group including parishioners, the Parish Manager Trish Stickland and teachers from three Parish Primary Schools (Holy Family School, Bell Park; St Patrick's School, Geelong West; Holy Spirit School, Manifold Heights) travelled to the Philippines to gain a first-hand understanding of mission activities.

So, then, began a program of fundraising and education within the parishes and the schools.

The most recent trip was in June 2014 which included Fr Gerard Keith, Trish Stickland and nine teachers from the Parish Primary Schools.

Our immersion experience began at Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate where we met with Columban Fr John Leydon, the former Parish Priest, who has been instrumental in generating the current service programs, some of which include:

- Pre-School education for street children
- A daily feeding program for street children
- Community based rehabilitation programs for persons with disabilities
- Health Clinic services

The Philippines Partnership has captured the hearts and imaginations of the school children, who after viewing photos and hearing stories of both despair and hope, have been inspired to continue to help.

Paul Eastman, Religious Education Coordinator at Holy Spirit School, Manifold Heights

Columbans would like to thank the Geelong Pastoral Cluster for their commitment and support of the poor.



The travellers and friends



Fr Gerard and Tet

The Social Justice Group of St John the Baptist, Ferntree Gully Parish

The group has supported the Columban Partnership Programme for many years. Members of their group have made several trips to the Philippines to work with the Community Based Rehabilitation Program (CBR) in the province of Zambales, the Philippines.

The CBR provides support for disabled people in the form of physiotherapy, equipment, medical supplies and counselling. A physiotherapist is employed and some disabled people are trained to administer massage therapy to others.

Columbans thank the Ferntree Gully group who have taken action for justice in support of the poor.

St Brigid's Parish, Gisborne

The St Brigid's Parish, Columban Partnership Group's main focus is raising funds to support the work of the Malate Clinic, in the Philippines.

Included in other fundraising events, each year parishioners are invited to walk and be sponsored in the 'Cross to Cross Walk' which begins at Holy Cross Primary School in New Gisborne and ends at the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross.

Columbans would like to thank the generous parishioners who have raised funds and supported the work of Columbans in the Philippines.

St Vincent de Paul Primary School, Strathmore

Following the example of St Vincent de Paul

St Vincent de Paul Primary School, Strathmore celebrated the life of St Vincent de Paul with a Mass on September 17. The Mass was celebrated by Columban Fr Dan Harding.

At the end of Mass, the students presented the Columbans with a very generous cheque. It was for a development project in Chile for isolated indigenous Pehuenche families in the Andes Mountains, 850kms south of Santiago.

The Year Six Social Justice Leaders planned Student Discos which raised money in support of the Columban Mission Partnership. A big thank you to the students, teachers and parents who helped out on the night.

Columbans would like to thank the whole school community in supporting the Columban Partnership Programme.



Rosa Cueto, Chile

Columban News



The Far East Magazine

CRASH FOLDING saves 28% in postage

By triple folding The Far East magazine, we are reducing the cost of postage by 28%

We are committed to sending The Far East to you in ways that keep costs low and show care for the environment, so that you can continue to receive and enjoy the real life stories that arise out of Columban Mission.



NOW AVAILABLE

2015 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR, ART GUIDE & ART GUIDE DVD



View the 2015
Columban Calendar
Art Guide at www.columban.org.au

Columbans have produced an in-depth Art Guide that introduces each painting featured in the 2015 Columban Art Calendar. The 2015 Art Guide has been narrated by Geraldine Doogue (Australian journalist and radio and television host) and compiled by Claire Renkin, well-known Art Historian and Lecturer at Yarra Theological Union.

To order:

- a) Complete and return coupon below;
- b) Email - calendar@columban.org.au
- c) Online - www.columban.org.au for Special Offers including DVD

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2015 Columban Art Calendar

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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'.