



COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES



Photo: Fr Robert McCulloch SSC

MISSION News & Views

Summer 2015

Christmas Appeal 2015

Jesus is the light

In the Christmas appeal letter we learn about how the darkness has been brightened for Naajia, shown in the image above. She will be living in a new home lit by a small solar panel in the southern part of Sindh province, Pakistan. Naajia has never experienced light in the dark.

Light in the darkness



Photos: Fr Robert McCulloch SSC

There are many homeless people in south-east rural Pakistan who are brutalized by grinding poverty and are still living in grass shacks. St. Elizabeth Hospital, Hyderabad, has built new homes and included solar power, water pumps, bathing and toilet facilities and extensive tree plantings.

Naajia and other families are now living in new homes for the first time because of the support of Columban and other benefactors. The houses have been built in a traditional style but using modern materials for roofing, doors and windows. This enables the houses to be easily dismantled and reconstructed elsewhere if a landlord should throw the people off the land.

Families that once sat in darkness now have light and power for fans in months of 45 degree heat. Many still don't. We can make an "enlightening" difference.

Columban Fr Robert McCulloch SSC is the Procurator General of St Columbans Mission Society in Rome.

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ST COLUMBANS MISSION SOCIETY

Working in partnership

Geelong West, Pastoral Cluster welcomes guest speaker from Manila

As part of our Columban Partnership Programme immersion experience in the Philippines, one of the highlights that I and a number of others have had, has been meeting some extraordinary people. One person who stands out as extraordinary is Tet Sambali who is a leading parish worker in the Malate Parish which is overseen by the Columban Fathers.

Tet will be the guest speaker at this year's *Kristmas for Kuya* function on November 15th at Capri Receptions, Geelong. At the luncheon she will share some of her inspirational stories.

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On behalf of Columbans, I would like to thank the Geelong West, Pastoral Cluster for their many years of support.

*Columban Fr Gary Walker SSC
Regional Director, Australia and New Zealand.*

This Christmas...

In your Christmas appeal material, we have included a swing tag for you to hang on your Christmas tree.

We ask you to remember those who have little cause for joy this Christmas.



For youth, by youth and with youth

More than 400 young Australians representing diverse religious and cultural backgrounds assembled for the inaugural Youth Parliament of World's Religions (*Youth PoWR*) on 17th September. *Youth PoWR* is an initiative of the Columban Mission Institute, Sydney and this year's event was coordinated by a passionate, enthusiastic team of young people representing different religious communities across Sydney.

The event at the Sydney Baha'i Centre featured speakers from the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Baha'i, Buddhist, Sikh and Hindu communities who addressed a Message to Youth and a Message to Religious and Civic Leaders.

The programme was brought alive by engaging performances from Aboriginal students at St Joseph's Hunters Hills, Spoken Word poet Ahmad Al-Rady and a Polynesian performance group.

It is hoped that *Youth PoWR* will become an annual event that will provide an ongoing opportunity for the Youth of Australia to come together to practice and promote harmony in our multi religious society.

Columban Fr Patrick McInerney is the Co-ordinator of the Centre for Christian Muslim Relations.



Walkathon raises \$12,000

St Vincent de Paul Primary School, Strathmore, Victoria, has come up with a novel way to raise money in support of a reforestation project amongst Pehuenche families in Chile. The Pehuenches are an indigenous ethnic group who live in isolated high mountain valleys of the Andes Mountain Range in South-Central Chile near the border with Argentina.

On Friday the 7th of August, 2015, the children, along with their parents and teachers, participated in a Walkathon in the streets around the school. They raised an amazing \$12,000 which has been sent to Chile in order to buy seeds, organize green houses, digging materials and a water system for the project.

This is the third year that St Vincent de Paul Primary School has worked to support the Pehuenche project, which aims to help these

indigenous people generate enough income to remain on their land, and thereby protect their own unique language and culture.

In Chile, the project is operated by a married couple, Eduardo and Rosa Cueto, from one of the old Columban parishes in Santiago, Jesus de Nazaret, who have regularly visited the Pehuenche families for the past 15 years. In Australia, Columbans regularly visit the school, and organize a bi-lingual conversation by Skype with Eduardo and Rosa about this project. They also provide Power-Point Presentations with the necessary feedback on how the project is developing.

Columbans would like to thank the children, parents and staff of St Vincent de Paul Primary School for all their hard work and wonderful support.

Columban Fr Daniel Harding is the Editor of The Far East magazine in AUS/NZ.

The voice behind the art



When I was first asked to record the 2016 Columban Art Guide narration in July of this year, naturally I was deeply honoured. As a Catholic convert, I was fully aware of the sacred privilege I would have to connect with the many thousands of people in Australia and New Zealand who look forward to buying the Columban Art Calendar each year. I also felt a wave of enthusiasm because instead of waiting to see the chosen artworks I would now have a sneak preview.

I have been a professional voice-over artist for 44 years, so I love the power of the word to inform, inspire and evoke emotional responses. The paintings chosen for the 2016 Columban Art Calendar are truly superb, however the Art Guide adds enormous depth and understanding so that each artwork becomes more experiential for the viewer. I was truly blessed to read the words compiled by Art Historian and Lecturer, Claire Renkin. Her insightful knowledge of the artists, the setting, history, role and traditions involved in each piece of religious art is outstanding and I found her beautiful invitation into the spirituality of each piece of artwork extremely moving. Many thanks to George Goerss at Sonic Solutions in Tasmania for his wonderful sound and direction as we recorded the narration. I hope you all enjoy savouring your 2016 Columban Art Calendar and Art Guide through your eyes... your ears... and your hearts.

Blessings to all,

Robyn Moore, professional speaker and voice artist.

On sale NOW



PURCHASE ONLINE: www.columban.org.au
PHONE: 03 9375 9495



Many thanks to the children, parents and staff of St Vincent de Paul Primary School for all their hard work and wonderful support.

Grade 1 student Charlie from St Vincent De Paul Primary School.



Columban News

St Columban pilgrimage

Pilgrims experience the presence of God

The pilgrimage 'In the Footsteps of St Columban' is now over. The pilgrimage celebrated the 1400th anniversary of the death of St Columban.

Thirty eight Pilgrims travelled through Ireland, France, Austria, Switzerland and Italy. The group was made up of three Columban priests, two diocesan priests, one lay missionary from Korea, one Columban co-worker and the rest pilgrims from Australia and New Zealand. Ages ranged from 60-86 years.

Unlike a tourist jaunt, the pilgrimage had a deeper dimension of placing normal lives aside for a short time and listening to the 'small voice' of God as pilgrims visited holy places.

Led by Fr Tommy Murphy SSC, pilgrims travelled to places where St Columban's dynamic determination was evident. On the final night pilgrims shared some of the following reflections:

"I am heartened to see the love and spirit of St Columban and the Holy Spirit at work".



Bridge into Bobbio, Italy, where St Columban is buried.

"I came to find out more about St Columban. And the more I found out, the more I found out about myself".

"The large celebrations were magnificent but the hike to the cave where St Columban died was definitely a highlight".

"I have been a Chaplain on other pilgrimages but this was the best pilgrimage that I have been on. I am going home with a peaceful heart and a new song".



Pilgrims at the cave where St Columban died.

Photo: Fr Gary Walker SSC



ST COLUMBANS MISSION SOCIETY

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2016 Columban Art Calendar

Please send...1...2016 Calendar @ \$10.50 each (inc GST & postage)

Please send.....additional 2016 Calendars @ \$8.50 each (inc GST & postage)

The Far East "SUBSCRIPTION" (\$15 p.a.)

Gift to Columban Mission

I wish to help on a regular basis:

QUARTERLY ☐ MONTHLY ☐

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

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COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES



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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'.