

MISSION



NEWS AND VIEWS

New mission partnership

Last year work commenced on establishing a mission partnership with the St Columban's Mission and St Vincent de Paul Primary School, Strathmore, Vic. It is hoped that this partnership will provide an ongoing connection for the school and parish community with the aim of sharing a greater awareness and understanding of the needs of people in other communities beyond our shores.

The relationship built through the partnership is based on support, cooperation and mutual respect. As part of the process, in November, the children in all grades conducted a "Mission Fete" to support St Vincent de Paul school mission partnership. Each grade ran a simple activity or stall to raise funds that will be sent to support the work of the Columbans in Malate Parish of Manila, Philippines.



Support makes a difference

The Malate Clinic has 12 volunteer health workers and one salaried health staff.

There is a system to identify and organize the patients who are holders of a 'red book'. Qualification for the 'red book' is non-sectarian and there is a number of Muslim and other Christian denominations. Those who come to the clinic, who do not have the 'red book' are treated if there is extra medicine or funds at the end of the month.

The clinic has an arrangement with other hospitals and clinics for patients requiring x-rays and laboratory

testing. We avoid unsustainable overheads and the responsibility for potentially dangerous procedures.

We are capable of running an extraction clinic and not a dental clinic. This is the sad situation; the urban poor have a culture of very deficient oral hygiene practice and do not have the resources to save their teeth.

We are thankful for your generous donations and will continue focusing on long term sustainability.

*Fr Dan O'Malley
Parish Priest, Malate*

Donations Online
www.columban.org.au

AUTUMN 2012

40 Years

Three Columbans will meet in Essendon in May for the first time since their ordination to celebrate their 40 year anniversary to the priesthood.

Fr Francis (Frank) McKay has spent his missionary life in Japan. He was assigned there in 1973 and is currently working in Fukuoka.



Fr James (Jim) Mulroney worked in Japan from 1972-1983 before returning to Australia. He is presently the Editor of the *Sunday Examiner* Newspaper in Hong Kong.



Fr Gary has worked in Jamaica and Fiji and was a member of the General Council in Ireland. At present he is the Regional Director of the ANZ Region.



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ST COLUMBAN'S MISSION SOCIETY

Students to missionaries

Columban Fr Kelvin Barrett is the Vice-Rector of the Formation Program in Korea.

Columban priests, sisters and lay missionaries living in Seoul joined the Columban student community to celebrate sending two students on their first missionary journey. Peter Ji and Augustine Lee are now in the Philippines doing a few months intensive language study, after which they will be given a pastoral placement. They will remain there for two years and then return to complete their seminary course in Seoul.

Australian Columban Fr Kelvin Barrett spoke at their farewell Mass saying, "One of the first sentences we learn when we are learning a new language is, 'I am a student'. For many years you have thought of yourselves as students, studying spirituality, philosophy and theology, so it is understandable that you will identify yourself comfortably as a student.

It is the 'first' and therefore a new beginning – something has changed. The second thing to notice is 'mission' – you are going on mission not as a student but as a missionary. Now you are a missionary on 'assignment'. I ask you to remember this and enjoy the discovery of what this will mean for you in your first assignment as a missionary. May God be with you on this journey.

We pray that it will be a rewarding experience for you and those you travel with. Go in peace and in due time return safely."

Fr Kelvin Barrett has been a missionary in Korea since 1969.



Peter, Augustine and family members with Fr Kelvin (centre), Thomas and Fr Donal O'Keeffe (Regional Director in Korea).



Almost on the road

This evening I have just received the great news of the generous donations towards the cost of our custom built bus. The bus will transport the people in wheelchairs to Manuel Duato Centre in Lima.

On their behalf and my own, I wish to thank you wholeheartedly for such a huge help towards paying

off our debt on the bus. The coach building company has promised to have our bus completely ready for registration, insurance and delivery for normal circulation in traffic very soon.

Our conviction has been that the people who can't avail of public transport deserve to have suitable

transport to bring them to their classes and workshops each school day, then get them safely home again.

We have trusted in the compassion of God and God's people to help us find the funds necessary - for that is the usual way missionaries go about working with the poor who give of their time and talents freely but lack finance.

Your response to our appeal confirms our trust and fills us with gratitude towards God and yourself.

The insurance and registration was signed on May 7 and the daily use of the bus by our special pupils at Manuel Duato and ASPHAD Centre will commence in June.

A special thank you to Columban benefactors for assisting to make this possible for our special people. Every blessing.

Fr Chris Baker first went to Peru in 1977.

430 Years of mission



There are seven retired Columban priests living in the Columban House in Essendon. They have a combined Columban Commitment of 430 years.

The staff at Columban Mission Centre are fortunate to have such a wealth of experience next door to the office. These brave men think that their stories are ordinary but we (the staff) think they are extraordinary.

It is with your help that we continue to care for our Columbans.

Thank you.

Watch our Columban Videos
www.colulmban.org.au



New Evangelisation



Faces of Peru



For too long we have ignored you



Which one is home?



Marcelita's dream



An oasis in the desert

New Zealander, Fr Don Hornsey, now 72 years of age, is parish priest of Combapata in Peru. There are over 50 communities of varying size under his pastoral care. All these communities have their own internal order; there are leaders in open dialogue with Fr Don and no community feels paralysed due to the absence of a parish priest.

With help from benefactors in Australia and New Zealand, Fr Don has developed facilities in the parish centre to cater for eighty men and women who come into town for biblical seminars or other topics of common concern.

The Parish First Aid Post is run by Sabina, a trained nurse who has extensive pastoral experience. There is a State-run medical centre just two doors from the parish centre but they do not have adequate stock of low priced medicines. The Parish First Aid Post stocks and buys general medicines from an NGO in Lima and makes them available to the public.

The parish centre is like an oasis in the desert. Fr Don hopes individuals, parish groups and communities will feel free to rest there, to find peace in their hearts, to have an opportunity for quiet conversation with Our Lord, to study and reflect together on the bible, and to share the joy of mission and Jesus Christ.

Fr Peter Woodruff currently works at the Columban Mission Centre, Essendon.

Did you know?

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How to use:
Open QR Reader and scan over Columban QR code.

You will be taken directly to our website.

www.columban.org.au



Columban QR Code

Columban News



Fr Kelvin Barrett

Fr Kelvin (Kel) Barrett, who works in Korea, travelled to Essendon after spending time in South Australia with his family. During his visit, he found time to come to Columban Mission Centre and update the staff on his work in Korea.



Fr John Hegerty

Fr John Hegerty was in Essendon earlier this year to catch up with family and friends. He also visited some Columban benefactors to thank them for their ongoing support.



Fr Paul Oxley

Fr Paul Oxley, spent time in Essendon in early May to attend Columban Meetings. Fr Paul was the Regional Bursar in the Philippines for some years and has relocated to Hong Kong as the Bursar General for the Society.



Fr Barry Cairns

Fr Barry Cairns, a New Zealander, has worked in Japan for 56 years. After a long earned rest at the Columban House in Essendon, he also found time to visit the staff at Columban Mission Centre who were surprised at some of the early struggles that Fr Cairns had confronted when he arrived in Japan.



Fr Francis McKay

Fr Francis (Frank) McKay is back in Australia from Japan to celebrate his 40 year anniversary to the Columban Priesthood. He will celebrate with two other classmates, Fr Gary Walker and Fr (James) Jim Mulroney.

Please detach and send with payment to address below.



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ST COLUMBANS MISSION SOCIETY



COLUMBAN MISSION CENTRE

PO Box 752 Niddrie Victoria Australia 3042
Email: info@columban.org.au
Tel: (03) 9375 9475 Fax: (03) 9379 6040
Web: www.columban.org.au

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'.