



MISSION



NEWS AND VIEWS

New Columban Superior

Columban Fr Kevin O'Neill from Geelong, Victoria was elected as Superior General of the Missionary Society of St Columban at the Columban General Assembly in Los Angeles on September 20, 2012.

Fr Kevin O'Neill was born in Geelong on November 23, 1962 and is one of six children, including a twin brother, Peter, who is also a Columban Priest. His parents, John and Ruth reside in Geelong.

He was educated at Our Lady's, Manifold Heights and St Joseph's CBC, Newtown in Victoria and studied chemical engineering at RMIT University before entering St Columbans Seminary, Turramurra, NSW in 1984. He was ordained in 1992 by Bishop Peter Connors at Manifold Heights.

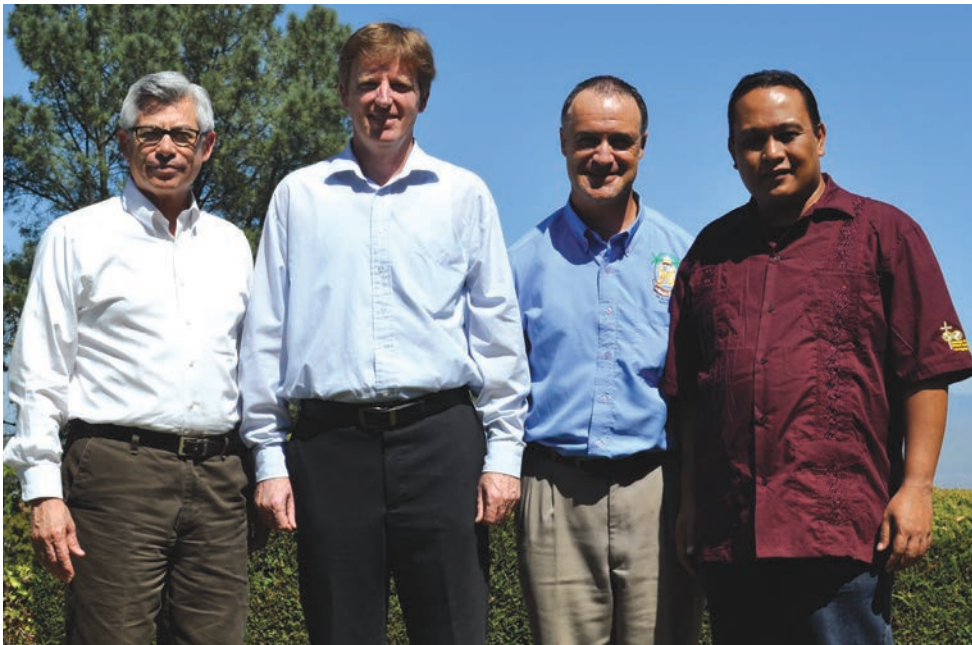
Fr Kevin has worked in Taiwan and Ireland, and is currently working in China. In his new appointment he will reside in Hong Kong where the Columban headquarters are situated.

After his election, Fr O'Neill said, "I am both humbled and honored to be called forth by my fellow Columban missionaries to lead for the next six years.

Our world is still in need of missionaries who cross boundaries of country, culture and religion. Our commitment to interculturality, inter-faith dialogue, solidarity with the poor and the exploited earth is a participation in the Mission of God.

Our proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus challenges us to build communities of peace. While continuing to work in all the countries where there are Columban missionaries we have decided to strengthen our presence in China and our engagement in Christian-Muslim dialogue."

The new Columban General Council: (L-R) Vicar General, Fr Arturo Aguilar, Superior General, Fr Kevin O'Neill and Councillors Fr Patrick Colgan and Fr Darwin Bayaca (right). We congratulate them on their appointments.



SUMMER 2012

WYD Invitation



Fr Gary Walker, Regional Director for Australia and New Zealand recently sent a letter to the Catholic Bishops of Australia inviting the pilgrims for World Youth Day (WYD) 2013 from their dioceses to participate in a Columban four-day parish-based mission experience in Santiago, Chile on-route to Rio de Janeiro.

"There will be many young people in Chile who will not be able to attend WYD Rio. Columbans see this experience as a mini World Youth Day for all participants. Chilean youth from Columban parishes in poor areas will have an encounter in faith with the young Australian pilgrims."

The Dioceses of Bathurst, Brisbane, Christchurch, Canberra/Goulburn, Hobart, Victoria (Melbourne, Sale, Sandhurst, Ballarat) have accepted the invitation.

Columban Fr Dan Harding with 21 years of mission experience in Chile and Mrs Janette Mentha, Director of Mission Programs at Columban Mission Centre in Melbourne will make several trips to Chile beforehand as a part of the co-ordination between Australia and the parishes in Chile.





A student from St Vincent de Paul Primary School was splash-dunked as part of their fundraising for the Columban Partnership Programme.

Making a big splash

Mission Partnership

As part of our ongoing partnership with Columban Mission, the year six Social Justice Leaders of St Vincent de Paul Primary School, Strathmore, planned and promoted several fundraising activities during the school's 'Mission Month'.

These highly successful events, which were held early in Term 3 included a Senior and Junior Disco. A Mission Fete also took place with activities from splash-dunking, cake stalls, guessing competitions, basketball hoops, games, short movies, cake decorating and more.

The students were keen to support in every way they could the fantastic work of the Columban Mission, especially in the Philippine's area of Malate. It was with great pride that Mr John Grant, on behalf of the whole St Vincent de Paul Primary School community, handed a cheque of the proceeds from these events to the Columbans early in September.

The students and staff had a wonderful time learning about, and contributing to, our partnership with the Columban Mission.

We hope the funds raised will go a long way to helping the fantastic work of the Columban Missions – and we look forward to future endeavours together.

Article written by Maria Marcic, Religious Education Coordinator, St Vincents Primary School.

‘The Far East’ goes audio



John Doherty

The smooth and velvety voice of Villa Maria volunteer, John Doherty has been enjoyed by hundreds of people for more than six years. Each week from his Adelaide home, John records text from Catholic magazines including *The Far East*, Sunday Mass readings and newsletters for vision impaired people supported by Villa Maria.

Up until recently, John - along with two other volunteer readers - were using out of date audio tape cassettes. He is now delighted with the introduction of DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) which enables people to access the texts as digital audio files with better sound quality, resume playback options and storage of books on one CD.

"The system is widely used across the world and it has many advantages. Villa Maria are working closely with Christian Blind Mission and Vision Australia to provide this unique service," said Sr. Mary O'Shannessy, Villa Maria's Pastoral Care Coordinator.

St Columbans would like to thank John Doherty, who so generously donates his time recording *The Far East* each month.



LISTEN TO:
THE FAR EAST PODCAST

You can listen to the audio version of *The Far East* at
www.columban.org.au



Fr Brian Gore writes...

Recently Columbans and the Negros Nine Human Development Foundation (NNHDF) went into partnership with local and provincial governments to produce and develop Abaca Fibre products in order to give employment to people especially in remote areas.

Twenty women from around the Demo Farm of the NNHDF, all members of our Organic Cooperative, have undergone training in weaving the Abaca Fibre also known as Manila Hemp. At present they are the only active weavers in the whole of Negros Occidental.

The Philippines grows 85% of world production, which is mostly exported for ropes. Our project will be value added as the raw material will be made into various products, both for local and export markets.

The Department of Labour will donate six new hand weaving looms and two sewing machines for AUD\$6,000.

A new building to accommodate the machines/weavers has been funded from Australia.

I would like to thank Columbans benefactors who have responded to the call of mission and support us in our works.

Coming soon...



A number of donors have recently highlighted the cost of purchasing a money order from Australia Post to either make a donation or pay a subscription. In order to circumvent this cost some donors have suffered from the risk of posting cash in the mail.

For those donors who do not operate a cheque account or possess a credit card, the Society is in the process of implementing the Postbillpay facility from Australia Post. This option will enable donors to make across the counter payments at Australia Post outlets anywhere in Australia at no cost to them. Australia Post advise, however, that the cost to the Society for each transaction will be \$2. The Society believes that this is an acceptable cost to ensure that our benefactors can continue to support our work.

We are hopeful that this payment option will be available by March 2013. You will know when this payment option is available when you see the Postbillpay symbol on future payment vouchers.



Do we have your Email address?

We will soon be able to send correspondence to you by Email. Please fill out the form enclosed.

Award for The Far East

At the Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA) annual conference in September, *The Far East* was *High Commended* for:



**Best Ecumenical/
Interfaith Story**
Fr Peter Woodruff
"Ecumenical
Living" - June
2011

Subanen Christmas Cards

The Subanen Christmas cards celebrate "The First Noel" with images that draw attention to the actions



of Joseph as he cares for Mary and Jesus. These handcrafted cards show Joseph guiding Mary to the sheltering stable, bringing straw to the manger, building a warming fire, carrying water from a nearby well, and handing a bowl of food to Mary. These images were inspired from the experience of the Subanen crafters.

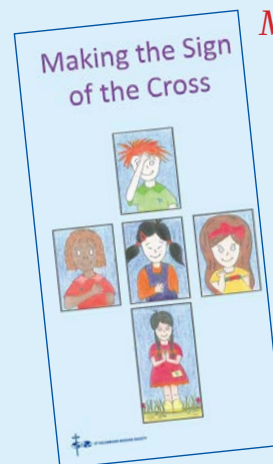
\$20 per pack

10 unique designs

To order go to:

www.columban.org.au

Children's Prayer book



Making the Sign of the Cross

16-page booklet with illustrations for children.

Suitable for:

- Gifts from parents and grandparents
- Religious Education Teachers (Prep +)
- Children's Liturgy
- Parish Piety stores

RRP \$4.40 incl GST & Postage.

To order go to:

www.columban.org.au



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Columban News



Silver Jubilarians



Fr Patrick (Pat) McMullan

Fr Patrick (Pat) McMullan will celebrate his Silver anniversary to the priesthood on December 12. Fr Pat was appointed to Korea in 1988 and has worked with the urban poor, farmers, people with special needs and justice and peace work. He became very popular through appearing on an English language religious programme called *"Hello Father"* on the Catholic TV channel in Seoul.



Fr Leo Schumacher

New Zealander Fr Schumacher will celebrate his Silver anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on December 5. Fr Leo has been in Japan for 25 years and is the Columban Regional Director.

Golden Jubilarians



Fr David Arms

In October, New Zealander, Fr David Arms arrived in Melbourne to celebrate 50 years of ordination. Fr David has worked in Fiji, Pakistan and Ireland. He was reappointed to Fiji in 1984 and resides in Suva.



Fr Francis (Frank) Carey

Fr Frank Carey was in Australia recently to visit family and to celebrate his Golden anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. He currently resides in the Filipino mountain city of Baguio.



Fr John Hishon

St Columbans, Essendon recently hosted a luncheon for Fr John Hishon who celebrated his Golden anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Fr John spent most of his 50 years working in Mindanao in the southern Philippines. He has also served in Australia and New Zealand as Regional Bursar and House Manager and Superior at St Columbans, Essendon.



Fr Patrick Baker

Fr Patrick (Pat) Baker celebrated his Golden Jubilee on July 21. He worked in Australia in the early years of his priesthood and went to the Philippines in 1972. He now works at the Columban Lay Mission Centre, Quezon City, Philippines.



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A gift for Christmas
To order a Columban Art Gift Calendar
for family and friends
see: www.columban.org.au



2013 Columban Calendar Order Form

NAME

ADDRESS

P'CODE

EMAIL

Please send me Calendars @ \$10.50 each (inc postage) \$

Please send me Calendars @ \$15.00 each (Overseas) (inc postage) \$

Donation to Columban Mission \$

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$

Please accept my: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

Please tick: ☐ Credit Card (Fill in details below) ☐ Money Order ☐ Cheque

NAME ON CARD (PLEASE PRINT)

EXPIRY DATE

SIGNATURE



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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'.