



MISSION

NEWS & VIEWS

COLUMBAN
MISSION CENTRE

WINTER EDITION
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Columban Mission: Global and Local

PAKISTAN IN FOCUS



Fr Robert McCulloch with Fr Rashid Peter, OFM, in Pakistan

Meet a Columban, and a whole new world opens up!

Fr Robert McCulloch provides us with some understanding of the work and situation in Pakistan. A Victorian, he has spent more than twenty seven years in this country.

"These have been very tense months for Catholics in Pakistan", says Fr Robert, whose base is Karachi.

"Since late last year, 5 churches, 2 convents, 4 schools, and one clinic have been attacked and burnt down by Muslim fundamentalist mobs," he continues.

"There were deliberate sacrilegious attacks on the tabernacles in all cases, and the Blessed Sacrament was desecrated. The mobs knew exactly what they were doing. But the temple built of living stones continues to grow!", he adds.

It is the 'growing of the living stones' that characterizes Columban Mission, and makes its work both challenging and necessary.

Most of us know Pakistan through its association with cricket. It is strongly Islamic in character, and is beset with challenges which seem to be linked with such environments. One of these challenges is the conflict between

Religions, so extensively covered in the media.

Nonetheless, the Church is called to be present in all the world. Missionaries, such as Columbans, form the frontline for its Mission today.

"A few weeks ago", Fr Robert says, "I received back 62 people into the Church in a village about three hours' drive out from Badin in interior Sindh. They lapsed twenty years ago due to threats from Hindu *bhagats* (religious leaders) and finally decided to return. All very familiar in the Catholic experience as a good reading of the history of the Church during the Roman persecutions shows".

A Church of living stones needs to build its faith and human capacity. Besides his pastoral and missionary duties, Fr Robert teaches Liturgy, Church History and Patristics at Pakistan's National Catholic Theological Institute. Some of these lectures are conducted in Urdu. He also has an interest in the health field. He has helped set up a Centre for Prevention and Management to counter hepatitis.

(We are grateful for your personal support for Columban Mission. Do also consider an exciting idea – Bread for Life – described overleaf)

Shanghai

The Editor of *The Far East*, Fr Gary Walker, spent a few days in Shanghai recently to gather stories for the magazine. He was surprised by this cosmopolitan megalopolis. "What impressed me most were the buildings, both public and private. They are a symbol of this new China that we hear so much about. I felt I was in the U.S.A. with its overpasses and underpasses and freeways. The other thing to notice was the mobile phones. It seems everyone, especially the youth, have a mobile phone." The globalization of China impacts on people, both in and out of China. *The Far East* will carry stories arising from the visit of its Editor to Shanghai.

The Far East— Carrying On The Tradition

The Far East continues to present its readers with stories of people and events reflecting the work of the Church in the world. Columban Mission efforts are taking effect worldwide, and there is no better place to find out about these than in *The Far East* magazine. Why not introduce a friend to Columban Mission by sharing a copy of *The Far East* with them.

To take out a subscription, contact Columban Mission Centre
Tel: 03 9375 9475 or
Fax 03 9379 6040.

Drop In And Visit Our Website.....

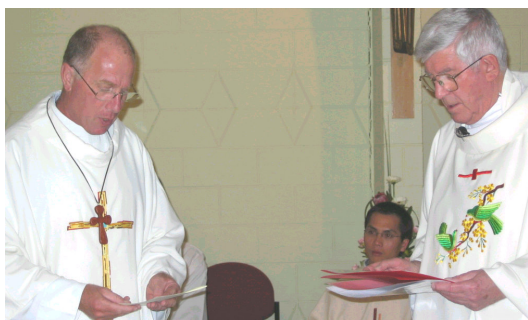
Regular updating of Columban issues and concerns occurs fortnightly. Read about upcoming events, Columban news, recent developments and other interesting information by visiting

www.columban.org.au

People News

FR JOE RUYS

Fr Joe is leaving Australia to work in Lima, Peru for three years as an associate of the Columbans. On 15 June Fr Joe Ruys received his Mission Cross from Bishop Joe O'Connell in Holy Child Parish, Dallas, Victoria, where he has been pastor for the last fourteen years. Parishioners and friends, his mother, Mary, and brother, Patrick attended the Mass. The Mission Cross was hand carved from red gum, and is a memento of Australia.



Fr Joe Ruys and Bishop Joe O'Connell

FR PETER DOYLE

Fr Peter Doyle returned recently to Australia after serving 25 years in Peru. Due to ill health, Peter has retired from active mission duties and will reside in a retirement home in Mackay run by the Franciscan Sisters of Malta.

FR PAUL PRENDERGAST

Fr Paul Prendergast has been a missionary in Peru for many years. He spent a few days in Australia for work reasons, and is now on home leave in New Zealand.

FR TREVOR TROTTER

Refreshed by studies in Chicago, former Regional Director, Fr Trevor Trotter has returned to take up the position of Director of the Columban Mission Institute in Strathfield, NSW. Trevor is no stranger to this position as it was one he held from 1999-2005.

The Lantern Series

The Columban Mission Institute is pleased to offer this new series which focuses on Evangelisation — Witnessing Christ in the World, and will tell stories of what Jesus means in Australia today.

The Lantern Series of 12 issues will run over two years. Its material on the three faces of evangelisation is suitable for use in parishes, schools or group discussion, reflection or prayer.

COST: \$ 10 per set (25 Leaflets), including postage and handling. Bulk discount is available.

TO ORDER: Contact Columban Mission Centre.



COLUMBAN MISSION CENTRE

PO Box 752 Niddrie Victoria Australia 3042
Phone: 03 9375 9475 Fax: 03 9379 6040

BREAD FOR LIFE INAUGURATED

Bread for Life is based around get-togethers – birthdays, re-unions, brunches, whatever – which can be such fun occasions.

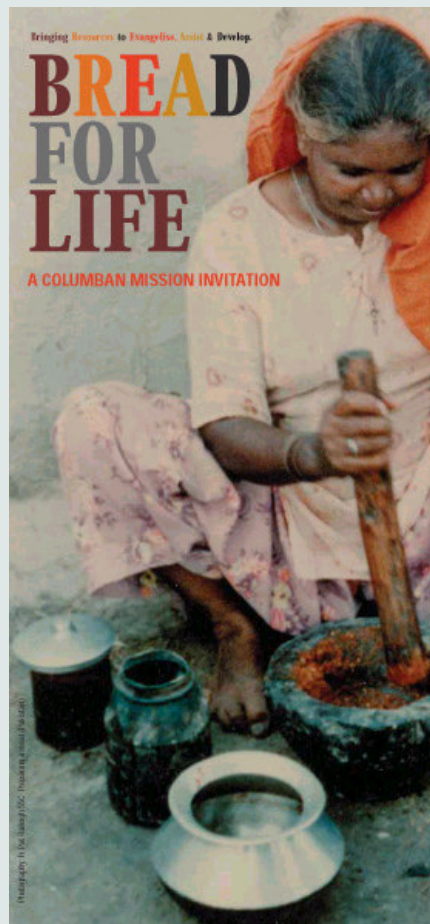
Writing from the Philippines to endorse Bread for Life to the Australian Columban supporter, Fr Brian Gore says: "I appreciate your personal support. Through Bread for Life, I urge you to also engage your friends with the worldwide work of Columban Mission that you so value".

What is suggested is that a supporter brings a group of friends together for any occasion, perhaps cooks a favourite dish or even one from a country where Columbans work, and invites those gathered to make a financial contribution to Columban Mission – to transform lives. A social occasion is thereby turned into one of social concern!

Bread for Life can be a once a year activity, during the Mission Month of October or another suitable time. It will increase the financial support you already give to Columban Mission.

Bread for Life is ideal for parish, youth, prayer, mission, women's and similar groups. The workplace also provides opportunities.

What underlies Bread for Life is



the realization that *whatever efforts you and your companions make will translate into a better life for others who need us.*

(Please have a look at the *Bread For Life* brochure, or contact Columban Mission Centre)

Leaving your influence behind

The work of Columban Mission makes a real difference in the lives of people—through spreading the Good News and improving the quality of life. Long after we have departed this world, each one of us has the opportunity to participate in this life-changing mission. The assets of today can touch the communities of tomorrow.

Your Will may be the most important document you will ever sign. Why not include 'St. Columbans Mission Society' as a beneficiary?

Please talk to your Solicitor or Trustee for advice on including the Columbans in your Will, or contact the Columban Mission Centre.

Email: columban@netspace.net.au
www.columban.org.au