



MARY'S ROSE NEWSLETTER

Pauline Fathers & Rosary Bouquet



Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians Marian Valley
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News from 'Marian Valley'

Fr Gabriel's departure from Marian Valley

by Pat Ashton

Fr Gabriel's association with Marian Valley began many, many years before its inception, when he was a lay person in Sydney and used to volunteer to help Margaret and Bern Foley's Rosary Bouquet by folding their Annual leaflets for Our Lady's Birthday celebrations. At that time little did he know that not only would he be joining The Order of St Paul the First Hermit but later, whilst a Brother, he would be meeting the Foleys in a very historic and meaningful way in March 1989. Recently during a casual conversation with Fr Gabriel we spoke of how he would be the longest serving Priest for Marian Valley and reminisced on how Fr Augustine Lazur and he had motored up from Berrima and were taken to meet Margaret and Bern in 1989. Fr Gabriel recalled later that they had an evening Mass and they stayed overnight at Mary and Brian Dwyers. The following day after Mass and Benediction, Fr Gabriel was walking up to Bern and noticed that Bern had tears streaming down his face. He thought this was because they had not had benediction for so long. I'd like to add that also Bern would be realizing all their prayers for a permanent priest and a Shrine to honour Our Blessed Mother over so many, many years were coming to fruition, beyond their wildest dreams. Fr Gabriel's posting to Marian Valley 13 ½ years ago has been a wonderful blessing to ALL and we will miss his endearing little chuckles in his homilies as well as all his 'wonderful self'. His documentation in his chronicles helps immensely to make up the history of Marian Valley. He truly is an icon for Marian Valley.



Farewell Message from Fr Gabriel Taylor OSPPE.

After almost 14 years at Marian Valley, it would surprise no one for me to remark that much had happened. Since my arrival on 26 March 1998, much long grass and scrub have been eliminated, many new chapels have been built, along with the very beautiful Stations of the Cross, Retreat Centre and the new Monastery.

It has been a great blessing to see the marvellous efforts of our volunteers, friends and benefactors, and especially the prayerful enthusiasm of the various ethnic communities with their Chaplains.

Let us remember each other in our prayers and through the ever-present intercession of our Blessed Mother, may God continue to bless Marian Valley.

From an interview with Fr Columba Macbeth-Green, OSPPE.

What aspects of the traditional charism of the Order have been successfully 'transplanted' in Australia?

The Shrines! The concept of creating sacred places, outside the parochial system, where people can come and exercise their devotion – Benediction, Rosary Processions, Eucharistic Processions, preaching, blessings etc. One pilgrim described their monthly visit to our shrine at Berrima as getting their monthly 'injection' of the Faith. We, like the Order in Europe, try to give an intensive devotional experience to the people who come to us.

What is the significance of the Black Madonna icon in the main Chapel at Marian Valley?

The Pauline Fathers have been custodians of the Black Madonna icon since 1382. This icon has been shown to be miraculous many times over the centuries. Many people have been healed through the intercession of Our lady of Czestochowa from both physical and spiritual ailments. It has been the central focus of devotion to Our Lady for the Christians in Poland for many centuries and the city of Czestochowa is the place where the mother house of the Pauline Fathers is actually situated. Every shrine of the Pauline fathers around the world has this icon as its centre piece. One notices that the picture is full of symbolism. The main symbolic gesture presented in the icon is the right hand of Our Lady pointing to the Christ child who is of course the object of worship in the Christian faith.

Could you not watch one hour with Me?

Marian Valley:

A Spiritual Oasis in the Desert

In order to cope with all the tragedies happening in the world and in our lives, we need to draw closer to Jesus – to listen to Him. Flee to His loving arms; be comforted and strengthened by Him.

Marian Valley fulfils this need for contemplation in many ways; not least of all before the Blessed Sacrament in adoration; a place to pray in silence where we listen to what God has to say to us, and where we are able to pour out our hearts to Him.

As Fr. Columba, Prior of Marian Valley, says; "The Valley's purpose is clear; to honour God and to provide a place of tranquillity for those seeking spiritual solace. This place is a spiritual oasis in the desert where people can come to escape the hustle and bustle of life and experience simple peace. Many people just like to walk around, have a picnic and enjoy being here, but for those who seek something more, we're here for them, to listen and to offer spiritual direction".

Our lives have become too busy as we rush about from one thing to another, worrying and stressing over so many things, but forgetting that which is of greater importance; our eternal life with God. In all things we need to remember that, without God we can do nothing. A quote from a homily I once heard, which has etched itself well and truly into my memory is:-

"Without God we can't even love Him".

Let nothing disturb thee,
Nothing affright thee
All things are passing;
God never changeth;
Patient endurance
Attaineth to all things;
Who God possesseth
In nothing is wanting;
Alone God sufficeth.

Saint Teresa of Avila

Remember: God is still in charge.

"I am with you always, until the end of the world" (Mt. 28:20)

"Come to the Water....." Isaiah 55:1

Come to Marian Valley, the oasis in the desert.



Our new retreat house team, from left to right; Narelle King, Sheila Daley and Robin Maciejewski.

Contact details for all Retreat Centre enquiries:

Ph/Fax: 07-55 333 378 or

Email: marianretreat@bigpond.com

Cost is \$25/per night

Jesus in the Holy Eucharist

[From "Silent Pilgrimage to God: The Spirituality of Charles de Foucauld]

Nazareth, November 1897

'My Lord Jesus, You are present in the Holy Eucharist. You are there, three feet from me, in the Tabernacle. Your Body, Your soul, Your humanity, Your entire being is there in its two natures; how close You are, my Saviour, my Jesus, my Brother, my Spouse, my Beloved!...You were no closer to our Lady during the nine months she carried You than You are to me when You come on my tongue in Communion.

....'Wherever the Sacred Host is, there the living God is, your Saviour, as really as when He was living and speaking in Galilee and Judaea and as He is now in Heaven... Never miss communion through your own fault: one communion is more than life, more than all the wealth of the world, more than the entire universe, it is God Himself, it is Me, Jesus. Can you prefer anything to Me? If you love Me however little, can you voluntarily lose the grace I give you when I come to you in communion? ... Love Me with the fullness and wholeness of your heart.'

Ecrits spirituels, pp.69-71



Adoration Chapel

Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament:

**Monday to Friday
10am to 3pm**

Volunteers are required to join the Adoration Roster even if it is just for one hour a week.

St Joseph's Hermitage Retreat Centre has hermitage-style Retreat cabins with a magnificent Chapel of Adoration located in a serene, naturally occurring beautiful setting, and offers an opportunity for spiritual renewal to individuals and small groups. The cost is \$25 per night and each cabin has two single beds and is self-contained. The serenity of the surroundings, the lovely views, as well as the close proximity of Church, Shrines and Adoration Chapel, makes the Centre ideal for retreats.



The facility of EFTPOS is now available at Marian Valley, both in the Piety and Book Shop, and at the Retreat Centre. Our very first customer was Brother Louis, Conventual Franciscan from Kellyville in NSW, who was guest speaker for the celebration of Our Lady Help of Christians feast day on May 21st 2011.

Photo: Volunteer Bella Voesnek, pictured here serving Br Louis

Fr Columba and pilgrims from Marian Valley, pictured here in Jerusalem, during their pilgrimage to the Holy Land in June 2011.

Photo: Tony Ryan, Bella Voesnek, Fr Columba, Robyn Maciejewski, Deanna Ryan.



Our Lenten Retreat Day, 19th March, Solemnity of St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, occurred on a Saturday which enabled more people to participate. Even though a wet day about 380 pilgrims were present. Guest celebrant was Fr Jose Fortea. Fr Fortea, an exorcist, also gave the Spiritual Talk after lunch on Our Lady crushing the head of Satan. After the talk there were devotions and benediction.

On Good Friday 22nd April, groups of pilgrims throughout the day prayed the Stations of the Cross. Over 600 people prayed the Stations at 3.00pm followed by the liturgy of the Passion. On a grey day everyone was thankful that light rain fell only after the final Station.

Over 600 people were present for the 2nd Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday. On this day in Rome was the Beatification of Pope John Paul II, which we also celebrated at Marian Valley. After the Solemn sung Mass and lunch, Fr Columba gave the spiritual talk then blessed the pictures of Divine Mercy and religious articles. Everyone then went in procession to the statue of Pope John Paul II where there was the litany and prayers. The procession continued to the main altar where there was the blessing of each pilgrim with the Blessed Sacrament and Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3.00pm.

The annual pilgrimage of the Australian Indian community was on Saturday 7th May, in honour of Our Lady of Good Health Vailankanni. There were about 100 pilgrims with their Chaplain Rev. Pan Jordan O.P. The musicians and choir led the pilgrims in the music of the Mass and with hymns in Tamil and Singhalese. After Mass the Rosary was prayed in the procession to the Chapel of Our Lady of Good Health Vailankanni with prayers and blessing at the Chapel.

On Saturday 21st May over 400 pilgrims celebrated the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians, including two busloads of people from the Eritrean Community. Fr Columba was celebrant at the solemn sung Mass. After lunch, Br Louis Schmidt OFM Conventual gave an inspiring spiritual talk on St. Maximilian Kolbe and the Immaculata. Then a solemn Eucharistic Procession led by the beautifully dressed flower girls went via the Chapel of St Joseph to the Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians. Prayers were prayed for Australia, for families and vocations. This day of wonderful blessings concluded with Benediction and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

With the public holiday on Monday 13th June, over 400 pilgrims celebrated the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua, annual pilgrimage of the Croatian community. Fr Peter was celebrant, Fr Columba concelebrated. The Croatian community prepared lunch for everyone.

During the procession in the afternoon the Rosary was prayed in Croatian and English with prayers at the Chapel of St Anthony. The procession then continued to the Grotto of Our Lady of Fatima where there were devotions, benediction and the blessing of each pilgrim by the priests.

In honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Spanish speaking community with their Chaplain Fr Hector Zuniga C.S. were at Marian Valley on Saturday 25th June. After the Spanish Mass and lunch the 300 pilgrims were led in prayers at the Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe by Fr Hector. Sacramental certificates were given to some of the children, there was a very colourful ethnic dances and the day concluded with blessings and a final hymn.

For the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, Corpus Christi, on 26th June, over 350 pilgrims were present for the Eucharist, after which they participated in the Solemn Eucharistic Procession to the Four Altars. In the afternoon an invigorating

and challenging talk was given by Mr Tim Staples, a convert to the Catholic Faith.

For the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the 2nd July the Sri Lankan community had their annual pilgrimage with their chaplain Fr Pan Jordan O.P. Music for the day was sung in Tamil, Singhalese and English. After Mass there were hymns sung in the procession to the Chapel of Our Lady of Madhu where there were prayers seeking the intercession of Our Lady of Madhu and the Blessing. In the afternoon there were First Saturday devotions and benediction at the main Chapel.

Over 200 people gathered for the pilgrimage of the Italian community on Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Saturday 16th July. Fr Giovanni was celebrant at the Italian mass, after which scapulars were blessed and distributed. Because of the rain, the Stations of the Cross in the afternoon were prayed at the main chapel.

Since the last chronicles we welcomed a Blue Care group from the Gold Coast and a Probus group from Carseldine. Seniors groups visited from Slacks Creek, Victoria Point, Cleveland and the Parish of St. Catherine. A group from All Saint's Parish Albany Creek were here for Mass and a picnic lunch in May. For Anzac Day over 100 pilgrims from the Indonesian Community with their priest came for I am Indonesian Mass and lunch.

On Friday 3rd June, 160 students from Aquinas College with their teachers visited the Chapels and wrote reflections on questions prepared by their teachers.

The Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care, about 50 pilgrims, spent a Retreat Day on Friday 24th June with their Chaplain Fr Jim Smith. On Saturday 23rd July the Sisters of Charity came for I am Mass and a BBQ lunch with a group of young people.



Little helpers at Our Lady's Birthday celebration.



John Drewe pictured with his wife Lorraine and Fr Columba, receiving his certificate in recognition of 8 years of volunteer work at Marian Valley.

Br Matthew

In August I completed almost 2 years at Marian Valley, beginning with 18 months between 1997 and 1999, which was during the early years of the Shrine with Prior Fr Andrew Dembicki. I returned for one month during the period of my pre-solemn vows retreat in November 2001. A further 1 weeks setical in October 2010 at the time of the opening of the New Monastery when all the Pauline Monks in Australia got together in one place. Recently I have spent a further 4 months of Brotherly duties whilst Br Luke was overseas, and now it is time for me to return to "Penrose

Park" Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy, which in our Order's Headquarters in Australia's Southern Highlands.

Marian Valley is a world apart and a blessed haven from the hectic pace of the outside world. And this is just how a Monastery should be in our Semi-Contemplative Order. I have enjoyed the experience once again, allowing as it does for a sacred silence, mixed with religious celebrations and good liturgy.

Thanks be to God for this, for this Blessed Mother Mary and St Joseph who help the Shrine to be what it is for pilgrims, volunteers and benefactors alike.

God Bless you all.



Brother Matthew Maria

The arrival of Fr Anthony David

Father Anthony has been part of the Penrose Park community for many years, and has recently been transferred to Marian Valley to replace the outgoing Fr Gabriel as he takes up his role of Novice Master at Penrose Park. Fr Anthony was ordained 11th of August, 1990, at Penrose Park. He was assigned my Novice Master when I completed my Novitiate in 2007. Fr Anthony will bring a wealth of experience to Marian Valley and his zeal for physical work combined with contemplative prayer. I have often seen Father working in the field at Penrose Park, dragging large tree branches from around the place to a central spot where they could be burnt, thus helping to keep the place tidy. He came to Marian Valley recently for a few weeks holiday. During that time he devoted some time to cleaning the hundreds of plastic chairs in the church, many of which needed a good clean. Marian Valley will certainly be blessed by the presence of the hard working and saintly Fr Anthony (he arrives 27th of August) who will stay here for the foreseeable future.

Fr Peter Zytka



My Travelling Experience

They say that you can't teach old dog new tricks. Well my holidays taught me a lot of new things, like it can be very easy to get lost in an airport or I can get on the wrong bus or tram, especially when one does not know the language in a foreign country. It is hard to put down a highlight of my trip because there were just so many things I saw and experienced. However, if I had to say one thing that stood out, it would be when I was in Spain in a place called Montserrat, high in the mountains where there is a huge Monastery. I went for a hike up the mountain, about 400 steps. As I went around a sharp bend, I bumped into three people who happened to be Aussies. It was great to see someone from home and they greeted me with 'G'day mate'. I spent the first 2 weeks on a pilgrimage travelling from Fatima to Lourdes. The tour guide was the Provincial of our Order, Fr Albert. After the completion of the 16 day pilgrimage, I then travelled onto Poland and stayed at Cracow and Jasna Gora which is the Order's Mother House. I then spent 5 days in Rome before returning home.

So my advice to those who haven't travelled, 'if the opportunity pops up don't hesitate to go for it.' Yes, one can talk about it, but I don't think there is anything like being there. So till next time, God Bless you all. Amen.

by Br Luke



November Mass Intentions for The Holy Souls.

November is a special month of the year for prayers for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins" (2 Mac.12:46).

"From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God. The Church also commends alms-giving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1032.)

Remember that the Church teaches us how to put into practice mercy to our fellow man in the seven Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. The seventh Spiritual Work of Mercy is to pray for the living and the dead.

The Pauline Fathers will be accepting offerings for November Masses to be said for the Intentions of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. If you would like to have Masses offered for the soul of a loved one or some of the "forgotten" souls who have no one to pray for them, please fill in the form posted with this newsletter and return the form to Marian Valley, PO Box 104, Canungra Qld 4275.

These forms will be placed on the altar, and the intentions will be included in the Masses which we celebrate each day in November for the Holy Souls.

The Order of St. Paul The First Hermit

Young men interested in seeking a life of prayer and service to Jesus through Mary might think of the Monks of St. Paul the Hermit. We are a semi-contemplative monastic order especially devoted to Mary. Our Life is: Contemplation; Divine Liturgy; Devotion to Our Lady. Our work is: Shrines; Pastoral; Retreats.

For further information, write to:

Vocations Director, Order of St. Paul the Hermit,
Penrose Park, 9 Hanging Rock Rd. Berrima. NSW 2577

REMEMBER MARIAN VALLEY IN YOUR WILL

The Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians at Marian Valley survives totally on the donations of the faithful. If you would like to help Marian Valley in the future you might consider remembering us in your Will. If you would like to do this, the correct way to put us in your will is: **The Trustees of the Pauline Fathers and Brothers for use at Marian Valley, 2541 Beechmont Rd. Witheren, Qld 4275**