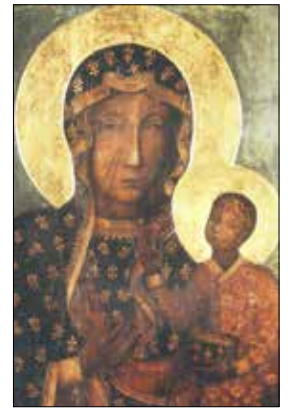




# MARY'S ROSE NEWSLETTER



Pauline Fathers & Rosary Bouquet

Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians Marian Valley  
Postal Address: PO Box 104, Canungra Qld 4275  
Location: 2541 Beechmont Rd, Witheren via Canungra Qld 4275  
Fr Albert Wasniowski OSPPE

Ph: 07-55 333 617 Email: marianvalley@bigpond.com  
Website: www.marianvalley.org  
RETREAT CENTRE: Ph / Fx: 07-55 333 378  
Email: marianretreat@bigpond.com

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## News from 'Marian Valley'

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing this article on behalf of Fr Albert Wasniowski OSPPE, the Prior of Marian Valley. Fr Albert and Br Bruno Kanamis have been stranded in Poland since February 2020, unable to return to Australia due to restrictions brought on by the pandemic. We pray that the situation is resolved and they will be home soon.

Most people would agree that the Year 2020 has been an unusual year. Here at Marian Valley, some Masses have been suspended and many of the main events have been effected. However, it is important that we maintain a strong prayer life to get through these unusual times. We must continue to strive to get through this situation, whilst adhering to the Government restrictions such as social distancing.

We have published the Year 2021 Marian Valley calendar of events which is now available for distribution. All Ethnic and Prayer Groups have been contacted and have verified their dates for next year and agree that "we just take each day as it comes."

A big thank you to all the chapel co-ordinators for continuing the maintenance and upkeep of their chapels during these difficult times. Some groups have used this time to upgrade their chapels, such as concrete paths and seating, painting and cleaning.

Priesthood is a great privilege and Fr Anthony David would agree. In August 2020, Fr Anthony celebrated his 30th anniversary in the priesthood. Congratulations Fr Anthony!

Once again, if anyone has any historical photos or news clippings, the Historical Department at Marian Valley would very much appreciate them.

The November Mass intention forms are available if you would like to have masses offered for souls. These forms are placed on the altar each day during November.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful efforts in ensuring that we all continue to follow the Queensland Health directives and observe the social distancing and hygiene rules.

May God strengthen you with his graces and blessings,

**Fr Jeremy Santoso OSPPE**  
Acting Prior  
Marian Valley Canungra



**Fr Anthony David OSPPE & Fr Jeremy Santoso OSPPE**  
praying in Monastery Chapel during lock-down.

**November Mass Intentions.** November is a special month of the year to pray for 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, Pauline Fathers, 120 Hanging Rock Road, 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: Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians - Marian Valley - Pauline Fathers - ABN 24 195 762 439 - 2541 Beechmont Rd, Witheren, Canungra Qld 4275

## ST PADRE PIO CHAPEL

The Italian community have made some wonderful improvements to their St Padre Pio Chapel. A wide concrete path from the road, and a platform for bench seats have been installed, attracting many pilgrims to sit and pray to St Padre Pio.

A new committee for the care of the St Padre Pio Chapel was established in late 2018 and Michael Guida was nominated 'community liaison' for the Italian community with Marian Valley. The committee includes representatives from various Italian mass communities of Brisbane and the Gold Coast. It is great to see the younger people involved in the work. Michael and his team of helpers have been working on the improvements, as well as landscaping the gardens, cleaning and doing various repairs around the Chapel.



St Padre Pio Chapel



Working bee: Antonio Virrilli, Michael Guida, Gennaro Perugini

Marian Valley encourages the various communities to get their members involved in the Chapel work. It is also important for each Chapel to have good access, particularly for pilgrims with disabilities and parents with prams. This has certainly been achieved here at the Chapel of St Padre Pio. Great work!

St Padre Pio Chapel was opened and blessed 19 years ago on the 2nd May 2001.

### St Padre Pio

Pio (Francesco Forgione) was born in Pietrelcina in Southern Italy on 25th May 1887. Padre Pio was an Italian Capuchin friar and mystic. He is well known for bearing the stigmata – the holy wounds of Christ – for 50 long years, from 1918 until just before his death in 1968. Amongst other supernatural phenomena, Padre Pio was said to have had the gift of reading souls and the ability to bilocate. He was said to communicate with angels and worked favours and healings before they were requested of him. He spent many hours each day hearing confession, and was said to have known what penitents would confess to him. He died at 2.30 am on the 23rd September 1968 at the age of 81.

Quotes from St Padre Pio

"Prayer is the oxygen of the soul."

"Have courage and do not fear the assaults of the Devil."

"Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worrying is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer."



St Padre Pio

## OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL

Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel was celebrated on Thursday 16th July 2020 by Fr Jeremy Santoso OSPPE and assisted by Fr Anthony David OSPPE.

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, the event was low-key, but despite this, a solemn mass was held at 9am, followed by a procession to the statue of Our Lady of Mt Carmel for prayers and devotions.

Many thanks to Mario and Mary Napoli for their support of this wonderful feast day. The beautiful statue of Our Lady of Mt Carmel was installed five years ago, and over the years, this feast day has been well supported by the Italian community.

Mario remarked that even though pilgrims could not come this year due to the pandemic restrictions, it was still a holy and blessed day.

### JOE (JOCELYN) BONNE

Thursday 16th July 2020 was also a special day for Joe Bonne. Volunteers gathered to celebrate his birthday at a surprise morning tea, which was held after mass and the procession to Our Lady of Mt Carmel.

Joe is one of the wonderful Marian Valley volunteers, whose magnificent wood craftsmanship is admired by all. It is amazing how he can skilfully build items using all sorts of recycled materials, and at such little cost. Your work is very much appreciated. Thanks Joe!



Our Lady of Mt Carmel statue



Fr Anthony, Joe Bonne, Fr Jeremy

## FR ANTHONY DAVID OSPPE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Tuesday 11th August 2020 was the 30th anniversary to the priesthood of Fr Anthony Paul David OSPPE. Fr Anthony celebrated the 9am mass, assisted by Fr Jeremy Santoso OSPPE, followed by morning tea with the Marian Valley volunteers.

Fr Anthony David was born in Sydney. He was the ninth child of 11 siblings. His father Joseph (Lebanese background) and mother Edith May (Scottish background) were well known in the wholesale grocery industry.

Fr Anthony was a late vocational priest. On 11th August 1990, at the age of 45 he was ordained a priest in the Order of St Paul the First Hermit at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy, Penrose Park, NSW.

He then spent the first 70 days as a newly ordained priest at St John the Baptist Church, Tamborine Mountain, supplying for Fr Janusz Pawlicha OSPPE. Many locals can remember this time, as it was on Tuesday 25th September 1990, Queensland's worst bus accident occurred killing eleven people and injuring thirty-eight. This incident happened on the Henri Robert Drive which is a road leading up to Tamborine Mountain. The tourist coach was carrying day trippers from Newcastle. On his 45th day as a priest, Fr Anthony got a call, asking if he could come to the scene to administer the sacraments. A daunting task for a newly ordained priest, but Fr Anthony has been remembered carrying out the job in a very holy and calm manner, and this was evident, as seen on the TV news and in the local papers.

He then returned to Penrose Park for a few years, before moving to Tumburumba Parish for 3½ years, where Fr Augustine Lazur was the Parish Priest. Fr Augustine was the founder of the Australian Province of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit. Brother Columba MacBeth-Green and Brother Bruno Kanamis were also at Tumburumba Parish.

Fr Anthony then returned to Penrose Park, before coming to Marian Valley to assist Fr Andrew Dembicki. When Fr Andrew left for Rome in March 2006, Fr Anthony returned to Penrose Park. Five years later, on the 27th August 2011, he came back to Marian Valley again when Fr Columba MacBeth-Green was Prior of Marian Valley.

In his witty way, Fr Anthony made a passing remark on how he became a priest at the age of 45 years, and Fr Columba became a Bishop at the age of 45 years.

Fr Anthony is admired by the way he quietly goes about his priestly role, and is well known for being seen in the confessional at Our Lady Help of Christians Chapel waiting for penitents. He is respected for his unwavering loyalty and support to the Catholic Church and to the Order of St Paul the First Hermit.

Thanks Fr Anthony!



Morning tea with Tony, Milen, Fr Anthony, Fr Jeremy, Josette, Nadia, Basil, Jan, Therese, Eddie (not in picture)



Fr Anthony David OSPPE

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 16th August 2020 was a special day for seven children who made their First Holy Communion and Confession at Marian Valley. The main celebrant was Fr Jeremy Santoso OSPPE.

A big thank you to Kara Ward who always does a wonderful job organising everything, including their certificates, medals, making lots of telephone calls and sending plenty of emails to ensure all runs smoothly on the day. Once again, Josephine Ward did an amazing job with the First Holy Communion cake, and to the parents, a big thank you for preparing the children in catechism lessons, and ensuring they were beautifully dressed on their special day.

It was certainly a memorable day particularly for the seven children. Congratulations to all!



Fr Jeremy Santoso with Daniella, Annabella, Thomas, Teresita, Ivan, Samaya, Patrick



## TRANSLATION OF FR ALBERT'S INTERVIEW WHILST IN POLAND, BY AN EDITOR OF A POLISH MAGAZINE "GOSC NIEDZIELA" – APRIL 2020

**Editor:** The Pauline monks have been serving in Australia for almost 40 years and have six places there. The Provincial of the Province of Australia, Father Albert Wiesław Waśniowski, has been there for 22 years and now serves at the Sanctuary of Our Lady Help of Christians at Marian Valley, Canungra, Queensland.

Fr Albert flew to Jasna Góra, Częstochowa in February 2020 for the General Chapter of the Order of St. Paul the First Hermit - a meeting of specially elected representatives of the Order and its authorities, which is convened once every 6 years. Now with the coronavirus epidemic, Fr Albert and Brother Bruno Kanamis are unable to leave Poland.

**Editor:** Fr Albert, how do you read this current situation?

**Fr Albert:** Several times in my heart, I wondered what the Lord God wants to show us through all this because this is definitely some sign for the whole world. I think this pandemic surprised us all. The fact that in such a global way it can touch both the world and everyone personally shows that we have no control over many things. A small virus can change the whole world -everything can change in a few days. I experienced it myself. Leaving Australia, I heard about the pandemic in China, but it was remote. After a week's stay here in Poland, everything changed. Today I have no opportunity to return to my parishioners in Australia. I know that in Australia, all churches are closed and there is no public Mass. This is different from a usual Lent, with the added experience of loneliness. I never thought that as a priest, I would be unemployed, and it's a little bit like that at the moment. Here in Jasna Góra, there is also no need for more priests today. It is a strange experience. I just walked through the Chapel of Our Lady with the Prior of the monastery and it is empty. We talked about the fact that the last time such emptiness happened in 'the light mountain' [Jasna Góra] monastery would have been during World War II.

**Editor:** You could say that for the Paulines this is a return to hermitage life.

**Fr Albert:** This year we are experiencing the 750th anniversary of the death of Eusebius, the founder of the Order of St. Paul the First Hermit. Maybe we have to experience it all, communicating alone with the Lord God, as a symbolic return to the desert?

I've always told myself that we, as priests, will probably never run out of work, especially in Australia, where there is a large shortage of priests. Every day, on all sides, people call on us, asking us to celebrate Mass and to serve the sacraments where local priests are missing. We also help in local parishes. There are some Sundays when we celebrate up to four Masses - for this I may have to travel up to 70 km one way for a mass. In Australia, I feel very necessary. Today, however, it looks very different. Suddenly, I have found myself in a situation that I cannot celebrate Mass for people.

**Editor:** Individually, however, the Father can celebrate the Eucharist and participate in the Jasna Góra Appeal...

**Fr Albert:** Looking at the Image of Our Lady, man feels love, kindness and care. I was wondering where it was better to be, whether in Australia or Jasna Góra? Here I think I feel safer, as this place evokes in us as Paulines, and Poles, a deep spiritual experience. It is important for the nation that we have a 'bright mountain' and we can receive grace here.

I remember during the Chapter in February, we sang during the Jasna Góra Appeal the first Supplications. I had tears in my eyes, because for a very long time I did not sing these Supplications together with the faithful at the organ. This cry for God's help through Mary's mediation is poignant. It feels clear that grace can be asked for here.

**Editor:** Father Albert also experienced a difficult time when Australia was consumed by fires, and Pauline monasteries were in danger...

**Fr Albert:** The wildfires were directly threatening the surrounding parish in Moss Vale and the Sanctuary of Penrose Park, which features a painting of Our Lady of Jasna Góra, crowned by a tiara dedicated by St Pope John Paul II. It was a very difficult moment.

Elsewhere, at one point at the Marian Valley monastery, there was a situation where the emergency services told us to pack up and be ready to leave. I remember packing the Blessed Sacrament, a suitcase with the most necessary things, and we were ready to leave. We got the news that the fire was about 7 km from our Sanctuary. In anticipation of the final decision of the evacuation, I prayed the rosary [for the fire] to bypass us. After a few days, the fire was averted. Many read it as a miracle. Monsoon rain came unexpectedly and put out fires within a week. It prevented the drought and filled the reservoirs. Usually, this type of rain reaches the northern part of the country, but this time it appeared in the area where the biggest fires raged. Heavy rainfall in the east and south of Australia caused the fire to go out, saving many lives.



**Fr Albert and Br Bruno in Jasna Gora, Poland**

## ST PHILOMENA PILGRIMAGE

On Sunday 9th August 2020 mass was celebrated by Fr Jeremy Santoso, and assisted by Fr Anthony David in honour of St. Philomena. Pilgrims journeyed to Marian Valley for the 11am mass, followed by a procession to the Chapel of St. Philomena.

**St Philomena**

Philomena was a Greek princess who became a virgin martyr and died at 13 years of age on the 10th August 304 AD. She converted to Christianity and took a vow of consecrated virginity.

When visiting Rome with her family, Emperor Diocletian fell in love with Philomena. After she refused to marry him, she was subjected to torture. St. Philomena was scourged, drowned with an anchor attached to her, and shot with arrows. Each time she was attacked, angels took to her side and healed her through prayer. The Emperor had Philomena decapitated.

It is believed that her death came on a Friday at three in the afternoon, the same as Jesus. Two anchors, three arrows, a palm symbol of martyrdom, and a flower were found on the tiles in her tomb, interpreted as symbols of her martyrdom.

Her feast day is celebrated on the 11th August.



**L-R: Milen, Fr Anthony, Fr Jeremy, Theo Jorna, Marta Rodriguez, Diego & Marta Barake, Fred  
In front L-R: Patrick Perez, Orlando, Diego Jnr & Andrea Barake**

# COVID-19

By now, I am sure everyone has heard so many stories about COVID-19. For us here at Marian Valley, it all started on the Solemnity of St Joseph, 19th March 2020, when we were informed by the Brisbane Archdiocese that the celebration of Mass on Sundays is to be suspended with immediate effect. On the weekend of 21st/22nd March 2020 there were no Sunday masses.

On the 23rd March 2020, the Brisbane Archdiocese then announced the suspension of all weekday masses as well as Sunday masses, following the Federal Government's announcement to suspend all non-essential gatherings. This ruling included the suspension of all religious gatherings.

On Monday 30th March 2020, following a further announcement by the Federal Government to restrict social gatherings to two people, it was decided to close Marian Valley and cancel all activities until further notice. The various ethnic communities were informed of the closure and the cancellation of their events.



**Closing the gates at Marian Valley – Fr Anthony & Fr Jeremy**

These were certainly strange times. The monks continued saying their daily mass, but with no congregation. The parishioners had to watch the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies on Livestream. It was not until Friday 1st May 2020, the Government lifted some restrictions, but people still had to adhere to strict social distancing rules. This revised rule did allow pilgrims to picnic and walk around the grounds at Marian Valley although still no Holy Mass. However, on Saturday 13th June 2020, which was Fatima Day and St Anthony of Padua feast day, the first public mass was allowed to recommence with limited numbers. The following day was the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ - Corpus Christi.

## Stranded in Poland

In the meantime, Fr Albert Wasniowski OSPPE – Prior of Marian Valley, and Brother Bruno Kanamis were in Poland in February 2020, for a General Chapter meeting to elect a new General Superior and team. They were booked to return to Australia on Friday 27th March 2020. However, the day before, the Polish Government closed all borders with immediate effect. This required both Fr Albert and Br Bruno to self-isolate at the Mother House – Jasna Gora – until the borders reopen and flights made available.

As of September 2020, Fr Albert and Br Bruno have been unable to get a flight back to Australia.



**Fr Albert & Br Bruno at Jasna Gora**



**Br Bruno working on a tractor in Poland**

## Not all Bad News

The Monks and Volunteers have used this quiet time to catch up on many of the chores around Marian Valley.

As Robyn Maciejewski said: "It has been a good opportunity to do the gardens around the Retreat Centre and sort out things in the Music area. Things that I don't normally have time to do."



**Robyn Maciejewski gardening**



**Robyn Maciejewski cleaning the Music area**



**Josette Kishtoo cleaning church pews, as per COVID-19 rules**



**Fr Anthony cobwebbing the Chapel**

## PRAYER

We invite you to pray with us the Daily Perpetual Novena to Our Lady Help of Christians for her protection from this global pandemic of the coronavirus. Please be assured that we are praying this daily prayer to Our Lady so that we may obtain from her graces and healing for all people who are sick. We are committed to pray for her intercession to put an end to this global pandemic.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Pray for us, and put an end to all this, so that we may reunite again. To download the prayer, go to [www.marianvalley.org.au](http://www.marianvalley.org.au)



**Fr Anthony & Fr Jeremy praying at the Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians**

## ERITREAN CHAPEL

The Eritrean Community have been busy renovating their Chapel over the past few months. Under the guidance of Fr Simon Samson, who has been working with the Eritrean community based in Inala, Brisbane, many improvements have been made to their Chapel.

A beautiful new statue of St Mariam Dearit Virgin Mary has been installed at the Chapel, as well as lots of new plants and some fresh colourful paint. One of the elders of the community, Hailemariam Tesfazghi, who has been coming to Marian Valley for many years, has been appointed the President of the committee.

On Saturday 22nd August 2020, Fr Simon celebrated mass in the Adoration Chapel with the Ge'ez Rite Catholic Community members. The Community is planning to have their main pilgrimage on the 4th Saturday in May each year.

The Feast day for St Mariam Dearit Virgin Mary is 29 May.

### What does Ge'ez Rite mean?

Ge'ez, a Semitic language fallen out of daily use several centuries ago, is the liturgical language of the Eritrean Catholic Church. The Church's liturgy is based on that of the Coptic Church. Like the other Eastern Catholic Churches, the Eritrean Catholic Church is in full communion with the Holy See. In January 2015, Pope Francis established the Eritrean Catholic Church as a sui iuris Eastern Catholic Church.

### St Mariam Dearit Virgin Mary

Two kilometres from Keren, Eritrea, is the Shrine of St. Mariam Dearit, a statue of the Virgin Mary, that is placed in the trunk of an ancient baobab tree out in the open field. The tree is over 500 years old and 75 feet high. The statue is believed to have powers of healing. It is also believed to mark the spot from which fertility springs. Local women brew coffee in the shade of the tree and believe many blessings flow fertility-wise if a passing traveller accepts a cup.



**Working bee: Hailemariam Tesfazghi, Weldetinsae Atsibiha, Rufael Kidane**