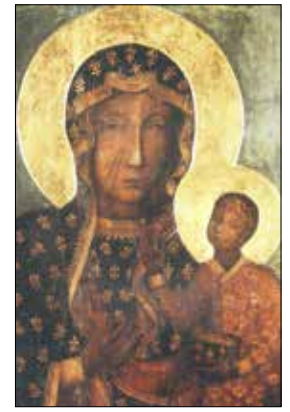




MARY'S ROSE NEWSLETTER



Pauline Fathers & Rosary Bouquet

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the past few months, we have seen some devastating stories in the media about the bushfires, droughts, floods, diseases and much suffering, and how it has affected so many people from various backgrounds. One particularly sad case recently was about the families grieving the loss of their 4 children in an accident in Sydney. Their strong faith was obvious. They were surrounded by their Church community, with lots of prayers and masses being said.

This strong supportive faith of the community, I believe, gives many of us hope. Similarly, I have witnessed this sense of community with the opening and blessing of Chapels at Marian Valley. In September 2019, the Japanese community opened and blessed the Chapel of Our Lady of Akita, then in January 2020 the opening and blessing of the East Timorese Chapel of Our Lady of Aitara, and mid-January 2020 the opening and blessing of the PNG Chapel in honour of Blessed Peter To Rot.

Many people from these groups, tell their stories of despair and how their devotion to Our Lady and the saints gives them so much hope. Marian Valley is a place for communities to come together, to strengthen their faith, and to take that passion of faith back to their Parish.

The wonderful faith of many pilgrims was witnessed when the relics of St Therese and her parents, Sts Louis and Zelig Martin, visited Marian Valley in early February 2020. Pilgrims journeyed from far and wide to pray fervently in the presence of these inspirational saints.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the opening of our Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, Marian Valley by Bishop Eugene Cuskelly, MSC, D.D. Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane Archdiocese, on Sunday 10th December 1995. Over the past 25 years, it is remarkable how many communities have come together here at Marian Valley, many with their Chaplain, to establish a place of prayer.

As at Fatima, Our Lady of Akita gives us a sign of hope that all is not lost. It depends on how we respond. With prayer, she can intercede to avoid or soften such a dire chastisement as she described at Akita. She asked that we recite the Rosary each day: "Pray very much the prayers of the Rosary. I alone am able still to save you from the calamities which approach. Those who place their confidence in me will be saved." ~ 13 October 1973

On a sad note, last September, one of our volunteers, Stewart Chalmers, passed away. Most people will know his wife Jan who has long managed the Piety Shop. Rest in Peace Stewart.

Once again, we are keen to collect historical photos, newspaper clippings and stories of Marian Valley, particularly from the 1994-1997 era. If anyone has any such material that they wish to donate to Marian Valley, our Historical Department would very much appreciate them.

May God strengthen you with his graces and blessings,

Fr Albert Wasniowski OSPPE
Rector
Marian Valley Canungra



Br Bruno Kanamis, Fr Albert Wasniowski, Fr Anthony David, Fr Jeremy Santoso, Br Brendon Seeto

VOCATION enquiries for The Order of St Paul The First Hermit should be directed to: Vocations Director, Pauline Fathers, 120 Hanging Rock Road, Berrima NSW 2577

RETREAT CENTRE - \$30 per night ph. 07-55 333 378
marianretreat@bigpond.com

If you wish to remember Marian Valley in your will, the correct wording is: Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians – Marian Valley – Pauline Fathers – ABN 24 195 762 439 – 2541 Beechmont Road, Witheren, Canungra Qld 4275

OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY

On Saturday 7 September 2019 many pilgrims journeyed to Marian Valley to celebrate Our Lady's Birthday. This event is significant in the history of the Pauline Order in Queensland, as the first mass was celebrated 30 years ago on Tamborine Mountain on 8th September 1989.

Once again, we were blessed to have Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE as the main celebrant. He was assisted by Fr Albert Wasniowski OSPPE, Fr Jeremy Santoso OSPPE, Fr Anthony David OSPPE, Fr Isidore Enyinnaya from Nerang Parish, Fr Ajith Perera from Sri Lanka, and Fr Raphael Madukwe from Nigeria.

A very big thank you to Gail and Kevin Shorthouse for their work on the Universal Rosary Bouquet, a volunteer group which has had a connection to the Pauline Order over the past 30 years in Queensland.

It was a beautiful day and all at Marian Valley were very grateful not to be directly affected by the bushfires. Bushfire alerts were current for Binna Burra, which is on the south side of the Beechmont plateau, and for the Beechmont Road leading to Marian Valley which had been temporarily closed. But by the grace of God, the roads were re-opened by 8.45am.

This was good news for the monks and volunteers who had worked hard preparing for the day. One of the volunteers commented: "It may have only been a coincidence, but around 8am, we saw Fr Anthony David with the Monstrance from the Monastery Chapel going around blessing the buildings and grounds and praying for protection. It was shortly after this, that the road was re-opened."

Pilgrims that were coming on buses from Toowoomba, Ipswich, Brisbane and the Gold Coast were disappointed that their buses were cancelled early in the morning as a precautionary measure, due to the uncertainty of the circumstances. However, it was still amazing that 180 pilgrims were able to make it on the day when the 'all clear' was given by the Police Department and the Rural Fire Service at 8.45am.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers. We continue to pray for those who were affected by the bushfires.



L to R: Fr Ajith, Milen, Fr Anthony, Serge, Bishop Columba, Mark, Fr Albert, Fr Raphael, Fr Jeremy

SLOVENIAN CHAPEL 10TH ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday 14th September 2019, the Slovenian community celebrated their 10th anniversary of the opening and blessing of their Chapel of Our Lady Help of Slovenia.

Over 120 pilgrims journeyed to Marian Valley for the celebrations, including a bus of 55 travellers from Melbourne. Fr Darko Znidarsic from Sydney was the main celebrant and was assisted by Fr Ciril Bozic from Melbourne, as well as Fr Albert and Fr Anthony.

Joe & Marta Gjerek and their family have been strong supporters in the maintaining of the Slovenian Chapel. Joe is often seen working around the Chapel, which has the reputation of one of the best kept gardens at Marian Valley!

The Slovenian Community have their annual event on the 2nd Saturday in September. This year, it is scheduled for 12th September 2020.



Milen, Fr Anthony, Fr Albert, Fr Darko, Marta & Joe, Fr Cyril, Ian

OPENING & BLESSING OF OUR LADY OF AKITA CHAPEL

On the feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows, Sunday 15 September 2019, over 130 pilgrims celebrated the joyful occasion of the opening & blessing of Our Lady of Akita Chapel. The main celebrant was Fr Thomas Casanova - from the Confraternity of Christ the Priest, Parish of Wagga Wagga West - and he was assisted by Fr Albert and Fr Anthony. The day began with Holy Hour at 10am, mass at 11am, followed by Eucharistic procession to the Chapel for the blessing and opening.

A Japanese family, together with the Confraternity of Our Lady of Akita of which they are also involved, have been the 'driving force' behind the establishment of the Chapel of Our Lady of Akita. Committee members of the Confraternity also spread the message of Our Lady and arranged devotions at the Chapel. Tamaki Kawahara said that they were particularly excited when Fr. Thomas Casanova accepted their request to be their spiritual director.

John Truelson volunteered to assist with the building of the Chapel. The architecture is beautifully designed, and he was responsible for the creating and designing of the steeple and cross.

The Marian Valley annual calendar will celebrate Our Lady of Akita on the last Sunday in September. This year it is scheduled for Sunday 27th September 2020.

Akita-Shi, Japan 1973

In 1973, a Japanese nun, Sister Agnes Katsuko Sasagawa was reported to have received messages from the Blessed Mother, as well as the stigmata. The wooden statue of the Virgin Mary was reputed to have wept on 101 occasions.

The statue is reported to have wept for the last time on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, 15 September, 1981, hence the reason for the connection between Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Akita.

In a 1984 pastoral letter, Bishop John Shojiro Ito, Diocese of Niigata, Japan, formally declared approval for the Akita apparitions. Pope Benedict XVI supported Bishop Ito's authority to investigate, as well as his methods of investigation.

One of the messages communicated on October 13, 1973:

".....if men do not repent and better themselves, the Father will inflict a terrible punishment on all humanity. It will be a punishment greater than the deluge, such as one will never have seen before. Fire will fall from the sky and will wipe out a great part of humanity...the good as well as the bad, sparing neither priests nor faithful. The survivors will find themselves so desolate that they will envy the dead...Each day recite the prayer of the Rosary...With the Rosary, pray for the Pope, bishops and priests...."



Atsushi Kawahara, Tamaki Kawahara, Kahori Mino, Fr Thomas Casanova CCS, Leah Kawahara, Lisa Kawahara, Masahiro Mino & John Truelson



Virgin Mary weeping

DIVINE MERCY HEALING WEEKEND

Fr. Michael Truong Luan Nguyen CSsR was invited to be the main celebrant and homilist for the Divine Mercy Healing Retreat on the weekend of Saturday 12th October and Sunday 13th October 2019.

Fr. Michael, a Redemptorist priest with a gift of healing, travels around the world to preach about Jesus Christ and his message of Divine Mercy. As Sunday 13th October was Fatima day, his topic centred around the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Fr Michael is a very inspiring speaker, with a deep passion for the Lord and His Mother. There are plans for Fr Michael to revisit Marian Valley again this year, but at this stage, no date has been set.



Fr Michael Truong Nguyen

OPENING & BLESSING OF OUR LADY OF AITARA – EAST TIMOR

On Saturday 11th January 2020, over 130 pilgrims from the East Timorese community gathered together for the blessing and opening of Our Lady of Aitara Chapel, followed by Mass. The main celebrant was Brisbane Auxiliary Bishop Ken Howell, who was assisted by Fr Albert Wasniowski, Fr Jeremy Santoso and East Timorese priest Fr Januario Pinto, a Carmelite from Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish, Coorparoo.

East Timorese people have experienced much suffering over the years. As Bishop Ken Howell said, "...you have sort her intercession in the times of your greatest trials...you have prayed to Our Lady of Aitara in war, suffering, and the years of struggle. She has embraced you all as you searched for protection from harm. You therefore easily proclaim that Our Lady has brought peace to your land..."

The group organisers, Sister Odete Moreira and Lita Barreto, along with many volunteers from the community, worked hard to make the day special. The music and singing by the East Timorese choir was beautiful. After Mass, the pilgrims enjoyed a feast of East Timorese food.

According to Sister Odete, a Timorese Canossian Sister, devotion to Our Lady of Aitara has grown and Timorese people see her as the mother 'who supported us through war, strife, suffering, invasion and illnesses.'

However, there was a sad moment when 17-year-old Ecça Barreto gave an emotional speech, both happy and sad, to say farewell to Sister Odete who was moving back to Darwin on 29th January 2020 to continue her missionary work there with the East Timorese community. Sister Odete has been based in Brisbane with the Canossian Sisters at Oxley since 2010.

On the Marian Valley calendar, East Timorese will be celebrating Our Lady of Aitara in October each year. This year it is scheduled for Saturday 4th October 2020.

History of Our Lady of Aitara

It is said that the Virgin Mary appeared to several women near the Banyan tree on Aitara Hill that overlooks the village of Soibada, in East Timor in the late 19th century. Next to the Banyan tree stands the National Shrine of Our Lady of Aitara. Every year in October, hundreds of pilgrims join in a great festival to celebrate the vision.

The significance to the people of East Timor was acknowledged by St Pope John Paul II in his message on the occasion of the Declaration of Independence. He stated:

'While I extend a cordial Apostolic Blessing to you all, I invoke on the authorities of the Democratic Republic of East Timor and those who will be working for a prosperous and peaceful, divine assistance and intercession, of Mary Immaculate, lovingly raised by you under the title, the 'Virgin of Aitara'. ~Vatican, 6 May, 2002.



Br Brendon Seeto, Fr Albert Wasniowski, Bishop Kenneth Howell, Sister Odete Moreira, Fr Jeremy Santoso, Fr Januario Pinto



East Timorese gathering after Mass

OPENING & BLESSING OF PNG CHAPEL

On 19 January 2020, His Eminence Cardinal Sir John Ribat MSC DD, from the Archdiocese of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, opened and blessed the chapel dedicated to Blessed Peter To Rot. It was also the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the beatification of Blessed Peter To Rot by Pope John Paul II on 17th January 1995.

Concelebrating the mass with the Cardinal was Bishop Ken Howell Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane, Fr Paul Sireh – PNG Chaplain, Fr Bryan Roe – North Lakes Parish, Fr Michael Finnigan – missionary priest from PNG, Fr Andrew Grace – Wagga Wagga Diocese, Fr Albert, Fr Anthony and Fr Jeremy.

More than 800 pilgrims journeyed to Marian Valley from many parts of Australia, as well as from parishes in PNG. After mass and the blessing, the pilgrims enjoyed a feast of delicious PNG food.

PNG Group Organiser, Emilia Taatu said, "It was a wonderful day. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the day so successful."

Also, a big thank you to Sean Seeto and volunteers who were instrumental in laying the foundations and getting the initial project underway.

History of Blessed Peter To Rot

Blessed Peter is PNG's first Indigenous person to be martyred and raised to the sanctification state of beatification in the Catholic Church. He was an appointed catechist in his village of Rakunai, and gave his life as a martyr, for the preservation of family values and to safeguard the moral values of his fellow villagers. He died during the Japanese invasion on 7 July 1945 at the age of 33 at Rakunai, East New Britain, PNG by an enemy lethal injection. His feast day is 7 July.

Cardinal John Ribat

In 2016, Archbishop John Ribat of Port Moresby was appointed by Pope Francis as Papua New Guinea's first cardinal. In the same year, Cardinal Ribat was honoured with a knighthood in the Queen's birthday honour list.

Fr Michael Finnigan

Currently staying in Brisbane, it was an exciting day for 84-year-old Fr Michael Finnigan who began in PNG as a lay missionary in 1956. He was ordained a priest in 1965 and has been stationed at the Catholic Mission Station, Kamaliki, Goroka, PNG for the past 64 years.

Fr Michael took great delight in speaking to the PNG congregation in their own local dialect. He is presently undergoing medical treatment in Brisbane, but is keen to return to PNG to continue his missionary work as soon as he has recovered.



Procession to PNG Chapel for opening and blessing



Fr Paul Sireh, Cardinal John Ribat, and Emilia cutting the cake



Cardinal John Ribat and Fr Michael Finnigan

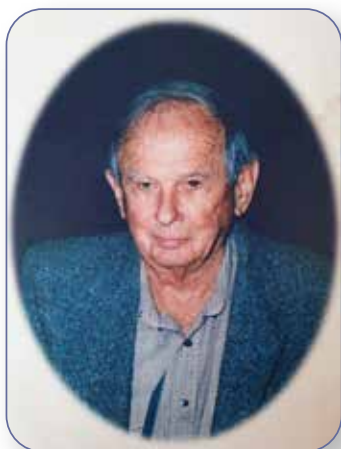
VALE: STEWART CHALMERS

On the eve of Our Lady's Birthday, 7th September 2019, Stewart Chalmers passed away at the age of 93 years. Stewart was known and appreciated for using his engineering skills on projects around Marian Valley, including the renovation of the Fatima Grotto, the water system, and most importantly, assisting his wife Jan with the renovation of the original Piety Shop, and then the relocation and renovation of the new Piety Shop.

Stewart and Jan moved from Brisbane to Tamborine Mountain in 1988. Coincidentally, it was around the same time the Pauline Fathers moved to 'The Mountain'.

Stewart's exceptional skills of craftsmanship and landscaping, combined with a strong work ethic, will be greatly missed at Marian Valley.

Rest in Peace Stewart.



Stewart Chalmers

RELICS OF ST THERESE & HER PARENTS

Marian Valley had the wonderful privilege of hosting the historic visit of the relics of St Therese of Lisieux and her parents Sts Louis & Zelig Martin.

The relics arrived on Friday 14th February 2020 at 5pm and were welcomed with hymns sung by the choir, which were written by St Therese. Mass was at 6pm, followed by an all-night vigil from 7pm, including a range of spiritual talks and prayers. At 10am on Saturday 15th February, Holy Hour preceded the 11am Mass, followed by a procession to St Therese Chapel, until the relics departed to the next destination.

Many pilgrims journeyed long distances, including a bus from Toowoomba and Sunshine Coast. Around 800 pilgrims visited during the 21-hour period that the relics were at Marian Valley. It was amazing to see and feel the holy presence of the relics, and pilgrims obviously moved, deep in prayer. Although there had been heavy rain in South-East Queensland in the previous few days, this did not deter the many pilgrims. Amazingly, over the 2 days of the visit, we had beautiful sunny weather.

Fr Albert Wasniowski, Prior of Marian Valley commented that, 'The event was very successful, joyful, and spiritual, and I am sure the visit of the relics has touched the lives of many pilgrims, and countless graces received.'

From February to May 2020, the relics will travel around Australia. This is an historic event as they have never travelled together as a family to the Southern Hemisphere. Previously, the relics of St Therese visited Marian Valley as part of the first national tour in 2002.

St Therese of Lisieux of France (1873-1897) was a Discalced Carmelite nun. She is also known as St Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face O.C.D., and popularly known as "The Little Flower of Jesus".

Sts Louis Martin (22/8/1823 – 29/7/1894) and Marie-Azelie "Zelig" Guerin Martin (23/12/1831 – 28/8/1877) were canonized as saints on 18 October 2015, becoming the first spouses in the church's history to be canonized as a couple. They had nine children, lost four of them at a young age, and the remaining five daughters became nuns.



Pilgrims praying around the reliquaries



St Therese relic at her Chapel



Mass

CHRISTMAS 2019

Sunday 8th December 2019, following the 4pm mass, around 100 volunteers and friends gathered together to celebrate Christmas and to reminisce on the past wonderful year.



Tony Ryan – the MC for the night – keeping the people entertained



Robyn Maciejewski – Reciting 2 poems, including her humorous experiences living at Marian Valley



Fr Albert thanking the volunteers and friends for their invaluable contribution to Marian Valley during the past year



Max & Kim Chong – volunteering their invaluable chef skills



Fran, Martin, Grant, Tom & Teresa – working on the bar



Josette Kishtoo, Ros Jorna & Deanna Ryan – working tirelessly in the kitchen



Erica Freingruber – enjoying the night



Aruna, Melani & Hemaya Samarakoon – enjoying a family night-out