



COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES

MISSION News & Views

Summer 2017

Christmas Appeal 2017

Peace for Christmas

Columban Fr Vincent Busch

This Christmas, Columban Fr Vincent (Vinnie) Busch asks for peace and the release of relatives of Subanen crafters who were kidnapped by the *Maute Terror Group*, in Marawi, Philippines in May. Fr Vinnie established the *Subanen Craft* project which gives Subanen women independence and an income.

Subanen heartbreak

In June, Fr Vincent Busch wrote from southern Mindanao on the continuing violence between the government and *Maute* terrorist and he shared his fears for the Church and Subanen people he knows who are being held as hostages.

Columban Regional Director of the Philippines, Fr Paul Glynn who worked for many years with the Catholic Bishop, priests, lay people and Muslim community of Marawi has been closely monitoring the situation through his contacts. In a recent email Fr Paul wrote: *"I feel the profound heartbreak of knowing that so many of the Subanens are still in custody and that St Mary's Cathedral has been burned by ISIS-inspired terrorists."*

As we go to press we have just received news that 15 hostages, including the Vicar General of Marawi, Fr Teresito Soganub have been rescued. There are still 30 hostages in custody.

Please pray for peace.

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- Become a regular donor
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*Subanen home in Mindanao, Philippines.
Photos: Missionary Society of St Columban*

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www.columban.org.au

ST COLUMBANS MISSION SOCIETY



Subanen woman creating the Christmas cards in Mindanao, Philippines.

Photo: @iStock.com/alptruum

Columban appointments

Vice Director for ANZ

Fr Ray Scanlon's term as Vice Director will be up on November 22, 2017. Fr Ray has been a positive influence in the Columban Mission Office with his cheery disposition and commitment to regular communication with Columban benefactors.

He has also been a valued member of the Regional Council and will be sadly missed.

Fr Trevor Trotter has been appointed as the new Vice Director. Many of you will remember Fr Trevor when he was the ANZ Regional Director from 2000 - 2005. He will bring much experience to the role and will continue in his current role in the Archdiocese of Brisbane as Director of the Diaconate Program.

Among other things, Fr Trevor also provides Recollection Days and Spiritual Direction for the clergy in the Brisbane and Rockhampton Dioceses. We are looking forward to having Fr Trevor as the Vice Director.

New Superior of the House in Essendon

Fr Tony Cox has been appointed as the new Superior of the House in Essendon. His creative skills are evident already with the garden looking immaculate and a new warm space re-configured for daily Mass in the house. Wishing you well in your new role.

Off to Perth

Fr Kelvin Barrett has been living in retirement in Essendon for just over a year after returning from Korea, where he lived for over forty years. He is moving to Perth where he will build the ranks up to three Columbans. The other two are Fr Paul Carey and Fr Peter Toohey.

My term is up

Fr Gary Walker

Fr Gary Walker's role as Regional Director of Australia and New Zealand ends Wednesday November 22, 2017 (at midnight). His replacement is New Zealand born, Fr Brian Vale who is well qualified for the role, having served as a Regional Director in Japan.

In wishing him well, Fr Gary said, *"Fr Brian will bring his own special gifts to the task of leadership. He will bring fresh insights to the understanding and challenges which we face today."*

"I would like to 'thank you', our benefactors. Without your support and belief in Columban mission, we would not have achieved anything. Together we have achieved a lot to the glory of God."

Fr Gary is travelling overseas to do sabbatical studies in the *Oblate School of Theology* in St Antonio, Texas, USA for four months.



Fr Gary Walker SSC

New Regional Director

Fr Brian Vale, Australia & New Zealand

Fr Brian Vale will take up his new appointment on November 23, 2017, the feast of St Columban.

Reflecting on his appointment, Fr Brian spoke about the many occasions that he has packed up and moved, including his move to Japan in 1976 where he lived in eight different houses over about 20 years.

Fr Brian's interest in cross-cultural studies led to a MA in Comparative Culture from Sophia University, Tokyo. He has worked in Columban Society Formation as a Spiritual Director and has a particular interest in the Spirituality of Dialogue.

Since 2009 Fr Brian has been a member of the *Centre for Christian Muslim Relations* at the *Columban Mission Institute* in Sydney. His role has involved promoting interfaith dialogue and assisting with hosting events such as *Youth PoWR*.

We wish him well in his new role as Director for ANZ.



Fr Brian Vale SSC



We have the right to play

Children from the Warmi Huasi Centre, Peru.

Children in the dusty, barren neighbourhood of San Benito on the outskirts of Lima in Peru have become protagonists for change thanks to project *Warmi Huasi*, ('Women's Place') supported by British Columban Fr Ed O'Connell.

Begun in 2011 as an initiative of the Columban Parish Our Lady of the Missions, project *Warmi Huasi* identified children and their mother's as

those in greatest need of social and educational support. The children quickly became the focus of the project's work, as they were able to spend most time with them through a dedicated centre, library and homework clubs.

Following the success of the project in San Benito, *Warmi Huasi* has now been invited to work in remote areas of the Southern Peruvian Andes, employing the same method of working with and through the children to bring about lasting change, in partnership with local parishes and statutory authorities.

Warmi Huasi children have themselves become actively involved in this work through the creation of a Children's Council with a ten year old girl as president. Donations come in from children and parents living in the most humble of surroundings.



Children from the Warmi Huasi Centre, Peru.

Photo: Fr Ed O'Connell SSC



MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST. COLUMBAN
Sharing Gospel Joy

Centenary Celebrations
Missionary Society of St Columban
June 29, 2018

The Columban Missionary Society was canonically established on June 29, 1918 under the Bishop of Galway.

The following events are being planned to celebrate this important milestone.

Melbourne

Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral
at 11:00am on June 24, 2018.

Pilgrimage to China – October, 2018
Australia - Hong Kong - Wuhan - Xiantao -
Nanchang - Shanghai - Beijing

12 days inc. travel. Cost to be confirmed.
To place your name on the waiting list:

Ph: 03 9375 9411

E: info@columban.org.au

Benefactors will be kept up to date as events in other states are confirmed.



Warmi Huasi identified children and their mother's as those in greatest need of social and educational support.

Columban News

Shiny and bright but ...

Columban print and paper is eco-friendly and cost effective

Good design and bright colours can sometimes send the wrong message that we are spending too much on our publications.

We advise that our publications are produced at the best possible price with paper, printer and plates **FSC accredited**. Inks are **vegetable based**, plastics, waste paper and metal plates are **recycled**. Depending on the time of the year 40-80% of all power is generated from **solar panels** on our printer's factory roof. Almost all chemicals used are **environmentally safe**. **No landfill** as all cleaning rags are taken away and washed.



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- Get involved in mission on a regular basis
- Stand in solidarity with the poor
- Promote justice and peace
- Ensure that mission continues

If you are interested in becoming a regular donor of St Columbans Mission Society, please fill in your details on the coupon below OR on the coupon attached to the Christmas Appeal letter and return to the following address:
 St Columbans Mission Society PO Box 752
 Niddrie VIC 3042 **OR** Ph: 03 9375 9475
 E: info@columban.org.au



Photo: Columban Fr Oliver McCrossan with a driver from the 'Pedalling to Live' programme in Ozamiz City, Philippines.
 Photo: Virginia O Vidad



HOW to donate:

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Complete coupon, print and mail.

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Support the 2017 Columban Christmas Appeal

My gift to the Columbans:

\$40 \$70 \$120 \$240 Other \$ _____

Fill in amount below

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I wish to donate on a regular basis

(Please charge my credit card account with this amount)

Quarterly Monthly

\$

The Far East Subscription (\$15.00 per year inc. postage)

QTY

\$

2018 Columban Calendar (\$11.00 inc. GST & postage)

Additional Calendars (\$9.00 inc. GST & postage)

\$

Total Amount Enclosed

\$

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Suburb: _____ State: _____ P/Code: _____

Mobile: _____

I send my gift by:

Cheque Money order

(Pay St Columbans Mission Society)

Visa Mastercard

Credit card number:

Card holder name: _____

Expiry date: ____ / ____ **Signature:** _____

Email:

An acknowledgement will be sent by email.

Your Columban legacy:

- Please send me information on Columban legacy
- I have included the Columbans in my Will



ST COLUMBANS MISSION SOCIETY
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