

COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES

Photos: Fr Kevin Mullins SSC



MISSION News & Views

Autumn 2017

Mid-Year Appeal 2017

"I see the hand of God in the midst of mayhem"

Columban Fr Kevin Mullins

In the mid-year appeal letter, we find out how Fr Kevin Mullins' parish in Juarez, Mexico has become a refuge from the danger of the cartel war. We also learn how the young people are now using the recently completed Youth centre and basketball court instead of joining a local gang.

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Donate on a regular basis

The cook at Corpus Christi

Reyna sits by her gas heater, bundled against the cold. Outside, the season's first snow carpets the muddy streets. Reyna works as a cook for Fr Kevin Mullins at Corpus Christi parish in Juarez, Mexico. Over many years, she has witnessed the constant violence and heartache that the priests and parishioners have endured.

Despite the fact that they continue to live in the midst of grinding poverty and frequent violence, Reyna often hears Fr Kevin tell people that he has come to cherish the deep faith, daily persistence and spontaneous joy of the Mexican people.

"These people have slowly converted me. In the face of so much uncertainty, they have taught me during these past years what it means to put my trust in God".



Traditional Mexican cooking.
Photo: @iStock.com/jstephenlee

Donate online

www.columban.org.au

ST COLUMBANS MISSION SOCIETY



Fr Kevin Mullins offering Mass at Corpus Christi in Juarez, Mexico.

Columbans on the move

Fr Peter O'Neill comes home

In July this year Fr Peter O'Neill is returning to Australia to work at Columban Mission Centre, Essendon as the JPIC (*Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation*) Co-ordinator for the Australian Region.

Peter is returning from Taiwan where he was the Chaplain and Director of the Diocesan Migrant Worker Centre. He worked with Taiwan's migrant workers helping protect them and their rights as well as offering them pastoral counselling and care. He had also worked at the refuge 'Hope Centre', founded by Columban Fr Neil Magill, where young men from Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam are given shelter, support and legal advice.

We are looking forward to having Peter back in the region.

Back to Queensland for Fr Warren Kinne

After 20 years in China, Fr Warren Kinne is home living near his sister in the hinterlands of the Gold Coast. Archbishop Coleridge, a friend and fellow student from Rome, has offered him a position working with Asian students at Griffith University on the Gold Coast within the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Warren is also looking forward to pounding the surf on his own native shores.

Welcome back Warren.

Fr Kelvin Barrett returns from Korea

Fr Kelvin Barrett is now living in Essendon after returning from Korea where he lived for over 40 years. He worked initially in parishes and more recently in the Formation Programme for Columban Seminarians.

Enjoy retirement Kelvin.

Fr Dan Harding off to Chile

After five years as Editor of *The Far East* magazine Fr Dan is returning to his beloved Chile later this year. His last edition will be the June issue. Fr Dan took up the role as Editor in March, 2012 and has produced informative, engaging and educational mission articles of a high standard.

We will miss you Dan.

Closing the doors



COLUMBAN MISSION INSTITUTE

Columban Mission Institute (CMI) to close

After many years of missionary contribution and hard discernment the Columban Mission Institute which incorporates, The Centre for Christian/Muslim Relations, The Centre for Mission Studies, The Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice and the Church in China (closed in 2009 due to personnel constraints) will close in September 2018.

Although the Columban Mission Institute is closing, the Columbans are NOT closing! It is a change in the mode of the Columban apostolate in Sydney, much the same as they have done in the past, not the end of Columban apostolate in Sydney.

Columbans will continue their missionary work, but without the responsibilities of maintaining the Institute.

Historical information, interviews and final farewells will be featured in the July, August and September issues of *The Far East Magazine*.

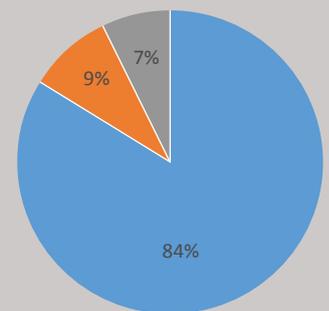
Annual Report

St Columbans Mission Society Annual Report 2016

Columban Mission would like to share with our supporters the good news on how your donations were applied in the 2016 year.

The pie chart shows that 84% of your donations were sent to the Superior General in support of overseas mission. A further 9% was used to support our mission work here in Australia. This left 7% to be spent on the vital work required to fulfil the Society's mission.

Application of donations received in 2016 year



- Overseas Mission
- Mission in Australia
- Net Administration Costs

Regional Bursar St Columbans Mission Society



View full version of the 2016 SCMS Annual Report online www.columban.org.au

Mission in grinding poverty and frequent violence

When asked, “What is it that keeps you going?”, Columban Fr Kevin Mullins response is almost always the same, “The Faith of the People”.

Driving through the desert in northern Mexico, Fr Mullins was stopped and held at gunpoint. “Three guys with ski masks, blue overalls and AK47s jumped out of a van, dragged me out of my car and held one of the AK47s to my temple,” Fr Mullins said. “And I thought it would be a shame for a young Queenslander to be killed off so soon”.

“My hands were trembling, but I was also hopeful. I had a packet of cigarettes in my pocket so I pulled them out and said ‘Does anyone want a smoke?’ That broke the ice”. He handed around cigarettes and explained that he was the priest from down the hill in the local parish, Corpus Christi, Juarez.

“It was nerve-wracking for a while there,” he said. “They assured me they were part of the police looking for drug lords, but they were probably involved in drug-trafficking themselves”.



Surrounded by such danger, Fr Mullins had no thoughts of abandoning the people of his parish which is alive and flourishing. Corpus Christi is full of families who are working hard to be strong and courageous despite their circumstances. This area is home to several thousand families that lack even the most basic necessities. The families live in one or two room poorly constructed houses with dirt floors. About half now have electricity and running water.

Corpus Christi Parish continues to be a beacon of hope for families in the area with Sunday Masses packed to the rafters, enthusiastic attendance to First Communion, Confirmation

preparation, Bible classes and Professional Counselling for those traumatised by the lifestyle. The Parish Community Centre also provides a safe space for healthy recreation activities.

Fr Mullins’ mission in Juarez is nearing an end. He will return to Brisbane later this year and then take up a new Columban appointment in the US. However, he hopes to return to his first love, his parish in northern Mexico. “I’m very sad to leave and I hope it is only for a couple of years,” he said.

Edited version by: Mark Bowling, The Catholic Leader



Charismatic Youth Congress, Mexico.
Photos: Fr Kevin Mullins SSC



Missionary Society of St Columban
Centenary Celebrations
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.

Mission Concert telling the Columban story
through song and dance
(date to be confirmed).

Pilgrimage to China – August, 2018.

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



“Three guys with ski masks, blue overalls and AK47s jumped out of a van, dragged me out of my car and held one of the AK47s to my temple,” Fr Mullins said.

Columban News

In loving memory

Fr Keith Gorman 21/01/1920 - 19/12/2016



Fr Keith Gorman.

Columban Fr Keith Gorman died at Mercy Place, Parkville, Victoria on December 19, 2016. He was born in Brisbane, Queensland, an only son with two sisters.

He was ordained in St Joseph's Cathedral, Buffalo, NY on December 18, 1943 and spent many years as a pastor in Japan.

In 1997 Fr Keith retired to St Columbans, Essendon and is remembered as a humble man who always had time and respect for everyone.

May he rest in peace.

Become a regular donor

Donate on a regular basis

- 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 Mid-Year 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 Michael Hoban with three children from the summer holiday programme in Santiago, Chile.
Photo: Fr Michael Hoban SSC



HOW to donate:

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Send completed coupon form via email.



Complete coupon, print and mail.

Donate Online

Support the 2017 Columban Mid-Year Appeal

My gift to the Columbans:

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

I wish to donate on a regular basis

(Please charge my credit card account with this amount)

Quarterly Monthly QTY \$

The Far East Subscription (\$15.00 per year) \$

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: _____
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Visa Mastercard

Credit card number:

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Expiry date: ____/____/____ Signature: _____

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An acknowledgement will be sent by email.

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- Please send me information on Columban legacy
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