



COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES



Photo: Fr Robert McCulloch SSC

# MISSION News & Views

Summer 2018

## Christmas Appeal 2018

### Shelter and water for Christmas

*"They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water."* Isaiah 49:10.

## The Catholic Church stayed

During the flooding of the Indus River in 2011, hundreds of thousands of people in southern Pakistan lost everything. International aid agencies came and went. The Catholic Church stayed.

In this crisis, *St Elizabeth Hospital* Hyderabad and the Catholic Church have made a difference. More than 86 homes for desperately poor Hindus, Christians and Muslims have been built.

Work is now underway to build verandas in front of all the houses which will double the living area and provide shelter from the intense summer sun. With the help of many donors, marginalised people have been able to assume their national identity with people.

With access to water bathing areas and toilets with septic systems have been built behind each row of houses. Trees have been planted and the greening of Jhirruk is a high priority.



Construction of the verandas in Jhirruk village.

### Donate online

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*Help us plan for the future*



Collecting water from the new water tanks.  
Photos: Fr Robert McCulloch SSC

## Combat Human Trafficking



ACRATH Advocacy Team, including Fr Peter O'Neill (third from the right) at Parliament House.

Fourteen members of ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) Advocacy Team walked the halls of Federal Parliament between August 13-16, 2018. Columban Fr Peter O'Neill, Peace, Ecology & Justice Coordinator and ACRATH member met with members of Parliament where they advocated about three issues:

- Support for the passage of the **Modern Slavery Bill** through Parliament while at the same time recommending inclusions, in particular, the appointment of an independent anti-slavery commissioner.
- Establishment of a national approach to awareness-raising education amongst educators and high school aged students about the incidence of **Forced Marriage in Australia**.
- The inclusion of a three to **Five Year Funding Schema** in the Home Affairs Departmental budget under the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery.



ACRATH advocacy team members, Fr Peter O'Neill (right) visiting Parliamentarians.

Photos: ACRATH

# Youth PoWR 2018

*'Harmony for Humanity: Unity in Diversity'*

Over 200 youth attended *Youth PoWR 2018* (Parliament of the World's Religions) held at the *Soka Gakkai International Australia Centre*, Sydney Olympic Park, on Sunday August 19. Eight religious faiths were represented: Aboriginal Spirituality, Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh. All mingled together socially and had a voice and a vote in the proceedings.



Ginny Kaur (left) & Youth PoWR co-ordinator & MC Ryan Epondulan (right).

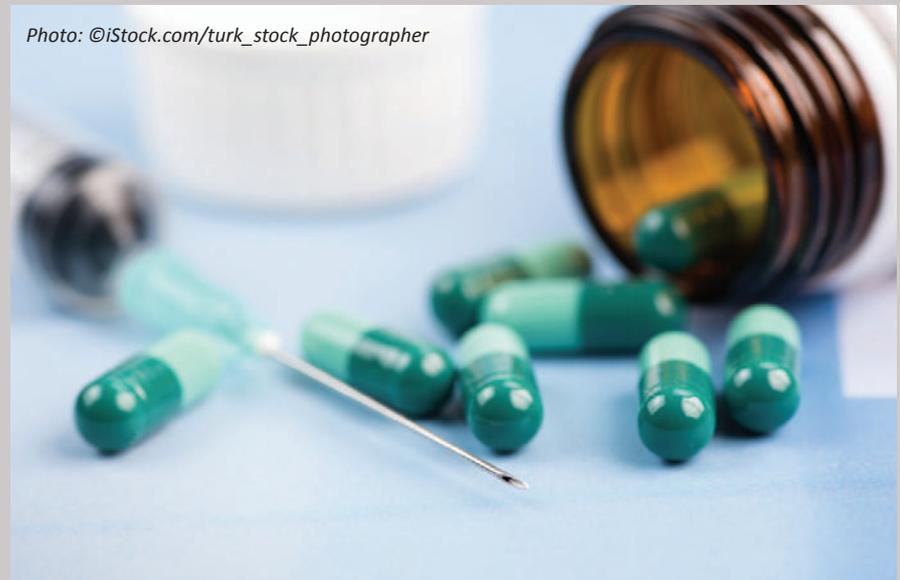
*'Harmony for Humanity: Unity in Diversity'* was the theme of this year's event, with speeches and performances from each religious faith. Discussions in small groups enabled participants to share views on their own faiths and address issues of concern for youth.

Photos: CCCMR - Columban Centre for Christian Muslim Relations



Participants at Youth PoWR 2018.

Photo: @iStock.com/turk\_stock\_photographer



## Good news for Joe Ruys

Readers of *The Far East* will remember that from 2006 to 2012 Fr Joe Ruys, a Melbourne Diocesan priest, served as a Columban Associate in the parish of *Los Santos Arcangeles*, Lima, Peru.

One of its many communities is a place called *'Paraíso'*, the most distant and smallest community of the parish. People mostly live in houses made of cardboard, planks, and damp, dirt floors.

# A timely publication



Photo: BBI - The Australian Institute of Theological Education, [www.bbi.catholic.edu.au](http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au)

Fr Noel Connolly's *Pope Francis' Inspiring Vision No.2* is a timely publication in the lead up to the *Plenary Council* meeting in 2020.

In his introduction to the book, Fr Noel writes: *"Pope Francis invites us to live with uncertainty, without clear answers. He is not afraid of open discussion. In fact, he says that open fraternal debate does not frighten him."*

*He (Pope Francis) believes in the sense of the faithful and that we listen to the Spirit by listening to one another. He clearly believes we can trust the consciences of the faithful to make good decisions. This book contains ten reflections on what might be involved."*

Fr Noel Connolly is a lecturer in Missiology at the *Catholic Institute of Sydney*.

He is also a member of the *Adult Formation Team* with *Catholic Mission Australia* and was appointed by the *Australian Catholic Bishops Conference* to the *Facilitation Team* for the *Plenary Council 2020*.

The community have very limited access to doctors or medicine and there is a high rate of undernourishment of children under five years of age.

In 2009 and 2011 the first and second stages of a Medical Centre opened, thanks to the support of *Melbourne Overseas Mission (MOM)*, Columban supporters and a Melbourne based group "Friends of Paradise". The Medical Centre was established with the hope of handing the project over to the *Peruvian Ministry of Health* in order to gain better and more consistent medical support for it.

When Fr Joe returned to Peru earlier this year for a second time as a Columban Associate Priest, he received the good news that the *Ministry of Health* had agreed to take over the ownership and functions of the facility.

The new centre will be a referral centre for all mental health needs for the North of Lima and will provide State funded general health services to the local people. The dream became a reality.



*Peruvian lady collecting her medication from the Medical Centre.*

Photo: Fr Joe Ruys

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**\$7.50 each**  
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# Columban News

## Regional update



**Fr Chris Baker** In July this year, Fr Chris Baker returned from Peru to the Columban House in Essendon, where he plans 'reverse mission' of catching up with family, friends and other 'missionary disciples' during retirement.

He was home in time to celebrate the 70th Anniversary to the Priesthood of his brother, Fr Leo Baker. Fr Pat Baker from the Philippines came home for the special occasion.

**Fr Jim Mulrone**y has said goodbye to editor's desk after 15 years as editor of the 'Sunday Examiner' (Hong Kong) and returned to the Columban House in Essendon where he will catch up with friends and take the occasional trip to Adelaide to see his family.

Photo: andreync/Bigstock.com

## Become a regular donor

### Help us plan for the future

- Ensure that mission continues
- Stand in solidarity with the poor



Please fill in your details on the coupon below OR on the coupon attached to the Columban Centenary Appeal letter.

Photo: Missionary Society of St Columban



## Support the Columban Christmas Appeal 2018

### 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

\$

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

\$

**2019 Columban Calendar** (\$12.00 inc. GST & postage)

**Additional Calendar** (\$9.00 each inc. GST & postage)

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\$

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