



Fred Limeburner

Province of Australia



Fred was born at home in Chatswood, Sydney on 16th June 1926, christened Alfred on condition that he would always be called Fred. There were 3 boys in his family of which he was the last, being younger than his brothers by 5 and 7 years. His birth came at the beginning of the Great Depression which had a major impact on his family. When he was 6 the family home was lost and the family relocated to Coogee where his mother became the bread-winner by running a small boarding house.

Educated at the Marist Brothers, Randwick, Fred began work at the age of 15, first as a telegram messenger, then as a Public Service junior clerk. In 1944 he joined the RAAF as an air-crew trainee. His designation for bomber pilot training came to a shattering halt when, along with others, he contracted scarlet fever followed by rheumatic fever - 4 months in hospital. He was discharged as medically unfit because of a rheumatic heart. In the post-war years Fred matriculated and began part-time University studies while working as a clerk.

He entered novitiate at Armidale in 1950, followed by 7 years at Toongabbie. Ordained in 1957, he completed a S.T.L. degree in 1958. Then followed 2 years teaching at Chanel College, Geelong, a year in Rome taking lectures in Spiritual Theology, and a Second Novitiate at Watch Hill, Rhode Island. Six years as Novice Master, another 6 lecturing at Toongabbie Seminary preceded 2 years as Secretary of the Province/Provincial Bursar. Then 2 years happily spent in our Perth parish and 6 years at St. Patrick's, Church Hill and Marist Chapel, Young Street.

By the mid 1980's severe spinal problems, which had required multiple periods in hospital and two major operations, eventually made a continuation of pastoral work impossible and Fred retired to the Provincial House, Maryvale. He still remains there, taking the transition of the Maryvale house into a retirement home in his stride (so to speak!).

Added 2015:

Upon the opening of the Marist retirement facility of 'Montbel' in late 2009, Fred moved to one of the new units where he lived until mid-2015. Further hospitalisation resulted in unexpectedly good results for Fred, now relieved of the chronic pain he had endured with great patience over much of his life. After his transfer to St Catherine's Aged Care Facility, Eastwood, NSW, Fred was able to join the Montbel community for weekly Mass and lunch where he was a cheerful presence most Sundays.