

## Fr John L Walsh

John Louis Walsh was born at Randwick on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1931. John's parents were Louis Andrew Walsh and Dulcie Bridget (nee Murphy). Louis, was a high school teacher and was a Member of Parliament for the electorate of Coogee. John has three younger brothers, Pat, Des and Greg.

John's primary education included 3½ years with the Marist Brothers, Randwick, and six months with the De la Salle Brothers, Katoomba. John did all his secondary education with the Marist Brothers at Randwick, from 1943–48. Following his secondary education John attended Sydney University Law School, graduating Bachelor at Laws (Hons 2<sup>nd</sup> class) in 1954. During his law studies John worked in the Office of the Public Trustee as a legal officer.

John entered the Marist Fathers formation programme in 1955 and went directly to Armidale for novitiate. John was professed on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1956 at Armidale. Seminary studies were done at Toongabbie and John was ordained on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1961.

After ordination John was appointed to the Marist Fathers new college at Bellambi, in the Wollongong area, from 1961–65. In 1966 he transferred to the Japanese region and spent two years studying Japanese at the language school in Tokyo. For the last 40 years John has worked in the Marist Japanese mission interspersed with the occasional professional development/renewal course.

After being assistant pastor in Nara (1968-72) John was either pastor and/or kindergarten principal at Gose, Tomigaoka, Koriyama, and Takada for nineteen years. From 1992–94 he was in the Nagoya Formation House with Oscar Ichiba.

In 1995 when John moved to Koriyama he became the regional superior. From 1995–2001 he was a team member of the North Nara Churches team ministry, and in the Southern Nara team until 2008 when he returned to Australia and well-earned retirement.

In recent years John was a resident at the Aged Care facilities of Montbel, Hunters Hill (2008), Minnamurra, Drummoyne (2009) and Ashburn House (2012) where he died peacefully on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2016.