



Fr James Hargrave SM

30.5.1934 - 2.5.2025

James Douglas Hargrave was born in the Tweed Heads, NSW, on May 30, 1934. His parents, Clifton and Margaret, had four sons. His father was a fisherman.

Jim's primary education was at the Tweed Heads State School (1940–45) and his secondary at Murwillumbah High School (1946–49). After school Jim joined the ES&A Bank where he worked for six years. During this time he did six months National Service. While working in Sydney, Jim found himself attending courses under Doctor Austin Woodbury SM at the Aquinas Academy.

On the Jul 07, 1955, Jim was received into the Catholic Church at St Patrick's, Church Hill, Sydney, and soon afterwards began formation for Marist life. After a novitiate year in Armidale, he was professed on Feb 02, 1957, and then studied at St Peter Chanel's Scholasticate, Toongabbie, being ordained at St Patrick's on Jul 07, 1962, the anniversary of his reception into the Church.

From 1963–68 Fr Jim was on the staff of Marist College, Burnie, Tas. In 1969 he moved to St Patrick's where he was appointed to the Marist Chapel, Circular Quay, ministering often to those inquiring about the Church and couples preparing for marriage. In 1974 he spent time with the Cistercian community at Tarrawarra, Vic, to experience contemplative religious life.

In 1975 Fr Jim was appointed to St Paul's College, Bellambi, NSW, and became the first Marist to be appointed as chaplain to one of our schools, a role he filled with zeal. He then became chaplain to St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, and in 1987 followed renewal courses and worked with the Marist Brothers in Fribourg, Switzerland, before taking on the position of chaplain to Brothers and students at Marist College, Ashgrove, Qld, a position he held for many years.

Over a period of twenty years during summer school holidays Fr Jim travelled to third world countries to give practical support to men working there, firstly in refugee camps in Thailand, then the Philippines and finally to rural Cameroon.

The latter years of his life were spent as chaplain to the elderly Marist Brothers at Ashgrove until increasing frailty led to his full retirement. After a short period in palliative care at Ashgrove, Fr Jim died peacefully there on May 02, 2025. May he rest in peace.