

Fr Jim Bishop
1925 - 2014

[from 'Pen Portraits', 2008]

Jim Bishop hails from Toowoomba, Qld., born there to Cornelius and Catherine (nee O'Malley) on 11th February 1925. His education was with the Mercy Sisters (3 years) and the Christian Brothers (9 years), both at Toowoomba.

Jim finished his schooling in 1941. After working for a few months, Jim enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy. In mid-1946, Jim left the Navy and soon joined the Commonwealth Bank where he worked until the end of 1952. During these years in the bank Jim was stationed at Gladstone for a time and came into contact with the Marist Fathers. This triggered another bugle and in 1953 Jim entered an even more "senior service" when he joined the Society of Mary. Jim did his novitiate at Armidale in 1954. He was ordained at St Pat's, Church Hill, on 9th July, 1960.

1961 found Jim appointed to Marist College, Burnie. He was to be there for the next ten years. As well as teacher, he was at times a dorm master, college bursar, senior discipline master, and master of studies. In 1971 Jim went to Woodlawn College for just one year. In 1972 Jim followed a year of studies at Sydney Uni and was chaplain to the Catholic colleges, St John's and Sancta Sophia. During 1973-74 he was back at Woodlawn as teacher and senior discipline master.

In 1975 Jim followed renewal programmes in Italy, the UK and France, and then a couple of months at St Paul's, Bellambi. In 1976 Jim was on the Mission Staff at Ashgrove. At the beginning of '77 Jim went to Bellambi as college rector. A year at Burnie college followed before Jim moved into the parish apostolate. From 1983-93 Jim was the parish priest of Burnie and Gladstone. During 1988 Jim did some further overseas renewal.

While the superior at Ashgrove from 1994-2001 Jim's "day job" was as Police Chaplain in Brisbane. When he retired as police chaplain in 2001 Jim moved to Ekibin with John Worthington while doing supply work around Brisbane. After just one year living in the community at Herston in 2006, 2007 Jim retired to the community at Maryvale, Sydney.