



*Fr Paul Glynn SM*

*2.11.1928 ~ 23.1.2026*

Paul Glynn was born in Lismore, NSW, on Nov, 02, 1928, the last of eight children to Harold Glynn and Nina (nee Dougherty). Early schooling was with the Presentation Sisters and Marist Brothers in Lismore, then boarding at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill. As the Japanese began thrusting south in early 1942, Paul's family sent him and his older brother, Tony, to the more safe country area of Lismore and St John's College, Woodlawn.

The rewarding lives of teachers like Frs. Bell, McCarthy, Webber and Waddell attracted both Tony and Paul towards Marist life. Army chaplain, Fr Lionel Marsden SM, arrived from POW captivity and enthused both of them with talk of a Marist reconciliation mission in Japan.

Now at the Marist Novitiate, Armidale, Paul came under the tutelage of Fr Cecil Crocker who taught his novices to love prayer and Marist traditions. He was professed as a Marist on Feb 02, 1948. At St Peter Chanel's Scholasticate, Toongabbie, Paul was influenced by the metaphysics of Dr Austin Woodbury and his treatise on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Fr Lionel Marsden, bursar in 1946, encouraged the seminarians to consider working in Japan.

Paul was ordained to the priesthood on Jul 19, 1953, and appointed the following year to teach at Woodlawn College. Then Fr Paul was missioned to Japan and after language studies in 1955, was appointed parish priest of the store-front church in Takada from 1956 and in 1961 Fr Paul experienced a second novitiate at Highden, NZ, under Fr Con O'Connor.

At the urging of his local bishop, Fr Paul began raising money to build a Catholic kindergarten in Takada in the prefecture of Nara.. Marists like Fr Jim Beban and Fr John Glynn, editor of *Harvest* magazine, assisted in the project.

The Takada kindergarten and church were built but ill health brought Fr Paul back to Australia in 1970 where he worked in vocation promotions, as curate at Hunters Hill, and chaplain at St Joseph's College.

Fr Paul returned to Japan for shorter periods as pastor of Yagi and giving Charismatic Renewal retreats. In 1988 he published '*A Song for Nagasaki*', the first of what was to become a series of books influenced by his experiences in Japan, a great love of scripture and his own deep spirituality.

Aware of poverty in the Philippines, Fr Paul sought permission for income from the sale of his books to be directed to help fight Third World poverty.

In Australia Fr Paul worked on Australia-Japanese reconciliation projects through writing and giving retreats. For some time he was spiritual director at Good Shepherd seminary, Homebush, Sydney.

In latter years Fr Paul was a member of the Villa Maria community, Hunters Hill, where he continued his writing ministry until taking up residence at *Montbel*, Hunters Hill. In late 2025 he moved to St Catherine's Nursing Care, Marsfield, NSW, where he died peacefully in Jan 23, 2026, a few days before his 78th anniversary as a Marist.

May he rest in peace.