



Fr David Wilson SM

10.8.1936 ~ 26.2.2026

David Wilson was born in Adelaide on Aug 10, 1936. His parents, Charles and Phylis, had three children, Josephine, Ruth and David.

David was educated at Pennington Primary School and the Le Fevre Boys Technical High School.

During his last year at school he attended Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in 1953 as a Navy Sea Cadet. This also involved sailing around the world on the aircraft carrier, HMAS Sydney. At the end of the trip he resolved not to join the Navy.

After secondary school David was apprenticed to the Weapons Research Establishment as a Fitter and Turner. Two years after completing his apprenticeship he became a Catholic and went to Rabaul in Papua New Guinea and trained as a primary school teacher. He then was posted to Bougainville and worked there for two years. During this time he met the Marist priests, brothers and sisters whose influence moved him to join the Society of Mary. In 1963 he entered St Peter Chanel's Scholasticate, Toongabbie, NSW, and was ordained on May 22, 1971, at St Patrick's Church, Church Hill, Sydney.

As a priest Fr David worked in Burnie parish, Tasmania, for one year before going to the Solomon Islands in 1973 where he ministered at Tangarare, Buma and Uru before returning to Sydney at the end of 1981. In 1982 after a period of renewal he worked in Hunters Hill parish for a year before moving to St Patrick's Church in 1984.

During this time Fr David became involved with the Catholic Asian community helping mainly overseas students. This later evolved into a full-time ministry with the overseas students. Some of the students who returned home invited Fr David to visit them in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong and China.

In 1993 he went to Japan for six months to teach English to adult groups, returning to join the Marist community at Lane Cove, NSW, continuing with close involvement in the Asian ministry and using his expertise as a teacher of English as a second language.

In latter years Fr David belonged to the Maryvale/Montbel community, Hunters Hill, until failing health occasioned his moving in 2025 to Baptist Care, Marsfield, where he died peacefully on Feb 26, 2026.

Marist confreres, hostel staff and Fr David's many Asian friends will remember his unfailing cheerfulness, faith and friendship. May he rest in peace.