

Fr John Burke SM

28.01.1934 - 24.05.2023



John Anthony Burke was born in Sydney on Jan 28, 1934 to Edward and Edith Burke who lived at Bondi. John's early education was with the Sisters of Mercy, Bondi Beach, and the Sisters of St Joseph, Willoughby. From 1947 to 1952 he was a student of the Christian Brothers at St Pius X College, Chatswood.

Following secondary school John began work as a clerk in the public trustee's office. After a year he entered the Marist formation program at Armidale and Toongabbie. He was professed at Armidale on Feb 2, 1956 and ordained on Jul 8, 1961 at St Patrick's, Church Hill.

Fr John's first appointment was in 1962 to St John's College, Woodlawn. This was the beginning of a life dedicated to the ministry of secondary education. John was to spend himself for the next years thirty serving in the three Marist Colleges of Woodlawn, Burnie and Bellambi.

It was natural that his studies at the Wollongong University from 1985-87 resulted in his obtaining a BA (Ed) and a M.Ed.

Fr John moved to Hunters Hill in 1994 where his various roles included superior of the Villa Maria community, member of the Maryvale community and chaplain to St Joseph's Convent and St Anne's Nursing Home, Hunters Hill.

For several years he was a member of the Montbel community, Hunters Hill, until, as his health became more fragile, he moved to Southern Cross Aged Care, Marsfield, where he died peacefully on May 24, 2023. May he rest in peace.