



Fr Michael Mullins SM

25.11.1940 ~ 10.07.2023

Michael Mullins was born in Sydney on Nov 25, 1940, the eldest of three sons. He grew up in the Marist Parish of St John's Wood, Brisbane, and was educated by the Marist Brothers at Ashgrove and later at Marcellin College, Melbourne.

Entering the Marist Fathers' Novitiate at Glen Davis, NSW, Michael completed priestly studies at St Peter Chanel's Scholasticate, Toongabbie. He was ordained to the priesthood on Jul 10, 1965, 'a gift to the post-conciliar Church' in the words of Cardinal James Freeman, at St Patrick's, Church Hill, Sydney.

Initially Fr Michael taught at St John's College, Woodlawn, NSW, then at Chanel College, Geelong, Vic, and finally at St Paul's, Bellambi, NSW. During this time he gained a Bachelor of Arts from the University of New England by external studies. In 1973 he completing an M.A. in Religious Education at the East Asian Pastoral Institute in Manila,

Returning to Australia in 1975 he was appointed to the formation staff at Hunters Hill and helped establish the Catholic Theological Union within the newly formed Sydney College of Divinity. He held various roles there (registrar, principal, community superior) until 1985.

In 1986 Fr Michael returned to full-time university studies and graduated with an M.A. (Hons.) in clinical psychology. Subsequently he worked in St Paul's Parish, West Sunshine, Vic, the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau, Melbourne, and Centacare in Wollongong and Sydney.

With Fr Gerald Arbuckle in 1990 Fr Michael established the Refounding and Pastoral Development unit with offices at Villa Maria, Hunters Hill, offering a range of services to leadership groups in Church-based organisations in Australia and abroad. He was a highly-regarded facilitator, counsellor and consultant and became a key member of the Marist Province's Professional Standards and Safeguarding panel.

In latter years Fr Michael lived at the Marist community at Haberfield, Sydney, until his unexpected death with an apparently Covid-related heart failure on Jul 10, 2023, the 58th anniversary of his priestly ordination. May he rest in peace.