



Fr John Begg SM

6.8.1938 ~ 10.11.2024

John Begg was born on Aug 06, 1938, in Ashgrove, Brisbane, the son of Charles and Frances (Healy). Charles had emigrated from Scotland as a boy; Frances was born in Warwick, Qld. John had a younger sister and brother. His father served in the Australian Army and died in 1946 as a result of war injuries inflicted in the PNG campaign.

John's education began with the Sisters of Charity and then the Marist Brothers at Marist College, Ashgrove. He completed his final years of secondary education at Woodlawn College, Lismore. The family home was close to the Glenlyon Monastery so John knew many of the Marists at the Mission House. He served as an altar boy for many years in the Glenlyon chapel and the parish church of Mater Dei. He wanted to go the seminary and become a 'home missionary' like the priests he knew at Glenlyon.

In 1957 John went to novitiate at Glen Davis, NSW, was professed on Feb 04, 1958. After two years of philosophy at Armidale and four years of theology at Toongabbie, he was ordained priest on the Jul 06, 1963. The following year he was appointed to Woodlawn College, and was to spend six years on the staff as Dormitory Master then Sports Master. In the classroom he taught History to Intermediate level.

In 1965 Fr John applied for the missions in Oceania, and was appointed to the diocese of Bougainville in 1970. He was to spend twenty years there serving in three parishes and also six years as Regional Superior. He recalled that when writing to Bishop Leo Lemay as to what he should bring to the missions to help him in his work, the Bishop replied, *Just bring yourself: you are the most important item. Other things you can collect along the way!*

Returning to the Australian province in 1989 Fr John engaged in parish ministry at Hunters Hill and Gladstone and also parish supply in south-east Qld. As a member of the Herston community in Brisbane he continued with supply ministry and retreats for the laity.

When age and failing health took their toll, Fr John moved to the *Villa Maria* Aged Care facility in Brisbane where he spent the last weeks of his life and, after a short period of hospitalisation, he died peacefully on Nov 10, 2024.

May he rest in well-deserved peace.