

Fr James Ware SM

20.9.1937 - 13.8.2022



James Ware was born in Sydney on Sep 20, 1937. His parents, Alfred and Mary, lived at Berrima on the southern tablelands of NSW at the time. James had two brothers and two sisters.

His education was at Berrima Primary and Bowral High School. In the eight years between leaving school and entering the Society of Mary, James had an interesting and varied career. After graduating in chemistry from the then-new University of NSW ('Kenso Tech', he called it) he worked as a chemist in a Sydney brewery. He did his national service (air force) at Fairbairn Air Base, Canberra, was a 'bikie' and plucked away at classical guitar in pubs. James was Australian heavyweight judo champion and it was on a judo trip to Japan that he met Fr Des Bruton, the trigger that led him to the Society of Mary.

James spent some time teaching at Chanel College, Geelong, before entering the Marist formation program, with profession at Armidale on Jan 24, 1965, followed by philosophy and theology studies at St Peter Chanel's Scholasticate, Toongabbie, NSW. In free time he made chapel furniture for the seminary and built garden features in local sandstone.

James was ordained at St Patrick's, Church Hill, on Aug 15, 1970, and then spent four years at St John's College, Woodlawn, NSW, where he oversaw the biggest Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme in the southern hemisphere. He then went to Claremont, Tas, for three years of parish ministry, and followed this with a year of study in Sydney, including Japanese language with Fr Des Bruton at East Sydney TAFE. Fr James then went to Japan for further language study before placements at Tomigaoka and Takada.

In 1984 Fr James returned to Australia joining the team at St. Patrick's, Church Hill. He then moved to Hunters Hill as a base for inner city ministry with the homeless and destitute.

In 1999 Fr James became part of the small community at Leichhardt in Sydney's inner-west, and continued working with the homeless and others in need. In a 'hidden and unknown' way he offered counseling and support to many others, including priests 'doing it tough' and religious.

After a brief illness Fr James died peacefully in Concord Hospital, aged 84, on Aug 13, 2022, two days short of being a Marist priest for fifty-two years. May he rest in peace.