

Fr John Worthington SM

Dec 29, 1947 - Apr 01, 2022



John David Worthington was born at Murwillumbah on Dec 29, 1948, second of two girls and four boys. His primary schooling was with the Presentation Sisters at Mt St Patrick's school followed by secondary education at the Marist Brothers High School, Darlinghurst, where he lived with a great aunt and two great uncles.

John joined the Marists at Toongabbie after the Leaving Certificate in 1965 and was professed in Armidale in 1967 in a group of eight. After two more philosophy years he was in the first group to do university studies at Macquarie and graduated BA in 1972. He spent 1973 at the Marist seminary at Greenmeadows NZ where he was ordained deacon.

In May 1974 John was ordained to the priesthood and began teaching at Marist College, Burnie, Tas. In 1978 he spent a year in Belmont parish Perth to complete a Dip Ed after which he taught at St Paul's College, Bellambi, NSW, in 1979 and 1980 before commencing seven years at St John's Woodlawn as Rector. Enrolments over the period lifted to 429, all boarders.

In 1988 Fr John pursued Marist Studies in Rome and then a program of spiritual renewal at ISL in Chicago, concluding with a Master of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University. In 1990 and 1991 he taught at Marist colleges in Burnie, Tas, and Bellambi, NSW.

In 1992 Fr John joined the Marist Mission District of Africa, based in Yaoundé, Cameroon, working with African Marist seminarians. He became superior of the formation community, and worked in vocation ministry, English teaching and radio and retreat work. In 1998 he returned to Australia, where he worked at St Patrick's in Sydney before taking up parish work on the southside of Brisbane..

In 2006 Fr John enjoyed a period of renewal. On return from a family wedding in France and as he began a new appointment at The Gap parish, Brisbane, he suffered a life-threatening stroke from which he partially recovered but which was to affect his health in subsequent years.

Fr John joined the Marist community at Herston, Brisbane, and engaged in pastoral work in the archdiocese for some years before retiring at Montbel, Hunters Hill, where his health continued to decline.

Some days after being admitted to Royal North Shore hospital with COVID-19 virus and his condition exacerbated by many health preconditions, Fr John died peacefully on the morning of Apr 01, 2022. May he rest in peace.