



**SOCIETY OF MARY**  
FOR THE  
**PROVINCE OF AUSTRALIA**

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# EMAIL CIRCUIT MESSAGE

**TO: MARISTS/MARIST COMMUNITIES**

**DATE: 18 February 2021**

## *Tributes to Bob Barber*

We have received messages of condolence and tributes to Bob from many confreres and friends from around the world, including:

Bishop Paul Yoshinao Otsuka, Bishop of Kyoto, Japan.

Bishop Gregory Homeing odc, Bishop of Lismore.

Sister Grace Ellul sm, Superior General, Rome.

Alejandro Munoz sm, Provincial of Mexico

Paul Frechette, Provincial of America.

Paddy Stanley sm, Ireland.

Paddy O'Hare sm, Ireland.

From among the many tributes we have selected the following extracts:

“He was always a kindly and cooperative confrere with a deeply sensitive heart.” - John Hannan sm, former superior general 2009-2017, Ireland.

“‘Uncle’ Bob was an outstanding confrere to me and to all of us: always open, receptive and supportive. Down to earth, yet deeply connected with the truth of God’s presence. I will always be grateful, especially, for working with him in the MAP meetings – his balance and perspective were always highly treasured.” - Ben McKenna sm, Assistant General, Rome.

“Bob was a lovely man. Always fun, always generous and welcoming to me and to many other Kiwis. His mission zeal for the work in education and in Africa was just part of who Bob was.” - Tim Duckworth sm, Provincial NZ.

“He is a very good Marist, friendly, approachable, simple, humble and most especially a man with a big heart. I have fond memories of him especially during his visit to Davao in that ‘speedboat ride’. Now he is speeding not with a boat with the grace and mercy of God towards God’s kingdom.” - Chris Ganzon sm, Asian District Superior, Philippines.

“I found Bob as a very understanding, generous, supportive and funny too. I did enjoy the BBQ that he used to prepare at Villa Maria.” - Setefano Mataele sm provincial Oceania.

“Bob was a big man, in every sense of the word. May he enjoy now the rewards of his extraordinary life of service and fraternal engagement.” - Paul Walsh sm, Ireland.

“Bob was a marvelous man and a true friend to the FMS”. - Br Peter Carroll fms, Provincial.

“He was such a great friend to Marist Schools Australia and served fatefully on our Regional Council for many years. I will always be very grateful to him for his unwavering professional and personal support.” - Frank Malloy, National director MSA.

“Bob was a great support to Marist Schools as a former member of NSW/ACT Marist Schools Australia Regional Council and friend to many in our work. He was an unfailing kind, wise, and extraordinary generous man and such a wonderful companion in our work. His partnership with us over many years was a great blessing and his calm and common-sense approach to all he encountered, his hallmark.” - John Kyle-Robinson, Regional Director Marist Schools Australia (NSW/ACT)

“We thank God for Bob, for his quiet way of serving in Mary’s name, for his humour, for his kindness, he will be missed.” Sr Vivienne Goldstein sm, Assistant General, Rome.

“It will be easy to pray with you for Bob. Boy, the chuckles and balanced leadership of Bob! Strangely, whenever I use the term ‘mate’, I think of Bob’s genuine love and manly presence: G’day mate he would say – I felt totally accepted.” - Phil Cody sm, NZ.

“Two words keep surfacing for me summing up my memories of him. Cheerfulness and frankness. Bob always had a ready sense of humour and was great at telling jokes or recounting genuine stories. He was fun to be with. Most of my memories of Bob go back to successive ARCs and MAPs, but perhaps it was in our Australian-NZ Trans-Tasman council meetings to discuss the issue of our combined reconfiguration that I saw Bob at his best. Proudly an Australian Marist, yet open to a broader transformed future, not just with Aotearoa-NZ but with the wider society as well.” - David Kennerley sm, former provincial NZ.

“Over the years I had a little bit to do with Bob, he was someone whose company I enjoyed. What struck me was his infectious enthusiasm for life, Australia and the Marist project; particularly the underdog. As I see it, the Province, Society, Church, Australia and indeed humanity has been graced by Bob’s life.” - John Murphy sm, NZ.

“I have very positive memories of working with Bob when we were both in Provincial administration – he was great company to be with and a warm and generous host whenever I came to Sydney.” - Brian Cummings sm, former provincial NZ.

“A larger-than-life person, and a confrere I feel privileged to have known.” - Justin Taylor sm. NZ

“Bob was a tremendous support, and clearly loved and respected by a wide group of people. It seems such a shame that he came up here with such enthusiasm (gentle, as was his way) only to complete that ministry so quickly and suddenly.” - Chris Comerford, former principal Woodlawn.

"Bob was more than a priest, teacher, house master and football coach to me and my fellow students at St Johns Woodlawn. He was a good mate, like a second dad, and will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege and benefit of knowing him. I treasure my time with him and am immensely better for his guidance. God definitely loves him as we all do". – A past pupil of Woodlawn.

“Bob was always at home with those whose lives were challenged or broken just by being there with them and for them. His time in Africa, which he loved, is another dimension of his life-commitment to be there for the poor and vulnerable.” - Gerard Hall sm.

“That he was open to this arrangement (to have DEA as tenants of the provincial office block) showed a spirit of collegiality and an openness to new ways of engagement across Church Ministries.” Eileen Young, Dominican Education Australia.

## **ANTHONY CORCORAN SM**

### **Provincial**