

Mill Hill Missionaries: 04/2022 Obituary

It is with regret that we inform you of the death on February 9., 2022, in New Zealand at the age of 93, of



Father Peter "Pa Mikaere" Ryan

Mill Hill Missionary

May he rest in peace

Peter was born on June 29., 1928, in Port Sunlight Village on the Wirral. His father was a fireman and village policeman in Port Sunlight. His mother, Susanna, née Barnes, lived to over 100 years of age. The Ryan family consisted of parents and five children, including Peter. Shortly after birth, Peter was baptised in his local parish of Saint John's, New Ferry on the Wirral. He was confirmed there too.

Peter attended the local Catholic Primary School. Then, feeling called to the missionary priesthood, he transferred to St Peter's College, Freshfield, and Burn Hall, from 1941 to 1947. After graduation at Burn Hall, he advanced to the Missiehuis in Roosendaal, for the study of Philosophy and associated subjects. Once completed in 1949, he advanced to Saint Joseph's College, Mill Hill, for the study of Theology until 1953. As he entered his final year of study and preparation for priesthood, Peter took the Perpetual Missionary Oath of our Society on May 1., 1952. His priestly ordination took place in the Olympia Exhibition Centre in London at the hands of Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, on July 12., 1953.

Immediately after ordination, Peter received an appointment to Auckland, New Zealand. Initially, Peter worked in the parishes of Waitaruke, Panguru and Rotorua for almost seven years. He then worked at Hato Petera College for a further fifteen years. He then served at Huite Rangiora (Hamilton) Auckland. In the Spring of 1970, he had the opportunity of making a Thirty Day Retreat, before continuing his pastoral work in Auckland Archdiocese. Peter also took the time to do some Further Studies at Auckland University, where he graduated BA in the Maori language and Anthropology, qualifications he used to publish the "Reed Dictionary of Modern Maori" for which he was awarded a Gold Certificate for being a Best Seller in New Zealand. In 2004, he was elected to represent the members in New Zealand at the 2005 General Chapter. Upon returning to New Zealand, he was re-elected Society Representative in February 2005. He was again re-elected in 2008. By November 2010, Peter was appointed "Group Leader" in New Zealand, since only a few of our Members remained there by then. This appointment was renewed by the General Council in November 2013. At the beginning of 2017, Peter was appointed a "Consultor" to the Group Leader in New Zealand.

Up until almost the end of his life, Peter continued to make Maori translations of Sacred Scripture, especially the Sunday Readings for all three Cycles. When Peter celebrated his Silver Jubilee, the then Superior General wrote, "You have every reason to feel deeply grateful to God for all He has enabled you to do for Him and the Maori people. You have kept pace with the changing pattern of Maori life. You stand out among the brethren for the very special contribution you have made." In his sixty-nine years as a missionary amongst the Maori people, Peter grew to love the people, their language and culture in the beautiful country of New Zealand. After a meeting of the Maori Elders, it has been decided that the funeral for Peter will take place on Saturday the 12th of February in the parish of Te Unga Waka, Auckland, with Bishop Michael Gielen being the main celebrant.

"Come, you whom my father has blessed. Take for your heritage the Kingdom prepared for you and all the baptised." (Matthew 25:34)

The previous obituary was that of Fr. Fritz Neuhauser, who died on February 1., 2022 in Hyderabad, India, at the age of 89.

Michael Corcoran (General Superior, Ireland, Netherlands, German Speaking Regions) **Andrew Mukulu** (Vicar General, Councillor for Africa, Britain, Formation and Associates) **Jimmy A. Lindero** (Councillor for Asia, Americas, Finance and Development)
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