

Fr. Gerry Remie

Gerard Anthony Remie was born in Holland in 1926 and studied to become a Salesian from 1944 to 1950. After taking his vows in 1950, he travelled to Australia by ship with his friends, Adrian Wenting and Tony Moester.

Fr. Gerry went to Boy's Town, Engadine to do practical training; teaching the young boys reading, writing, arithmetic and Aussie Rules and cricket. Fr. Gerry later continued his studies aboard, travelling to India, Twello; ~~he~~ sailed to Italy and in 1959 was ordained a priest in ~~T~~the Netherlands.

On his return ~~to~~ Australia, Fr. Gerry worked in many places (all over Australia). He was a brilliant ~~M~~maths teacher at the Salesian College Sunbury, a principal of Dominic College in Glenorchy, and Rector of St. Mark's College in Port Pirie, where he organized theology courses for members and staff. He also became a qualified cricket umpire. Later in 1985, he was appointed assistant Parish priest in Katherine.

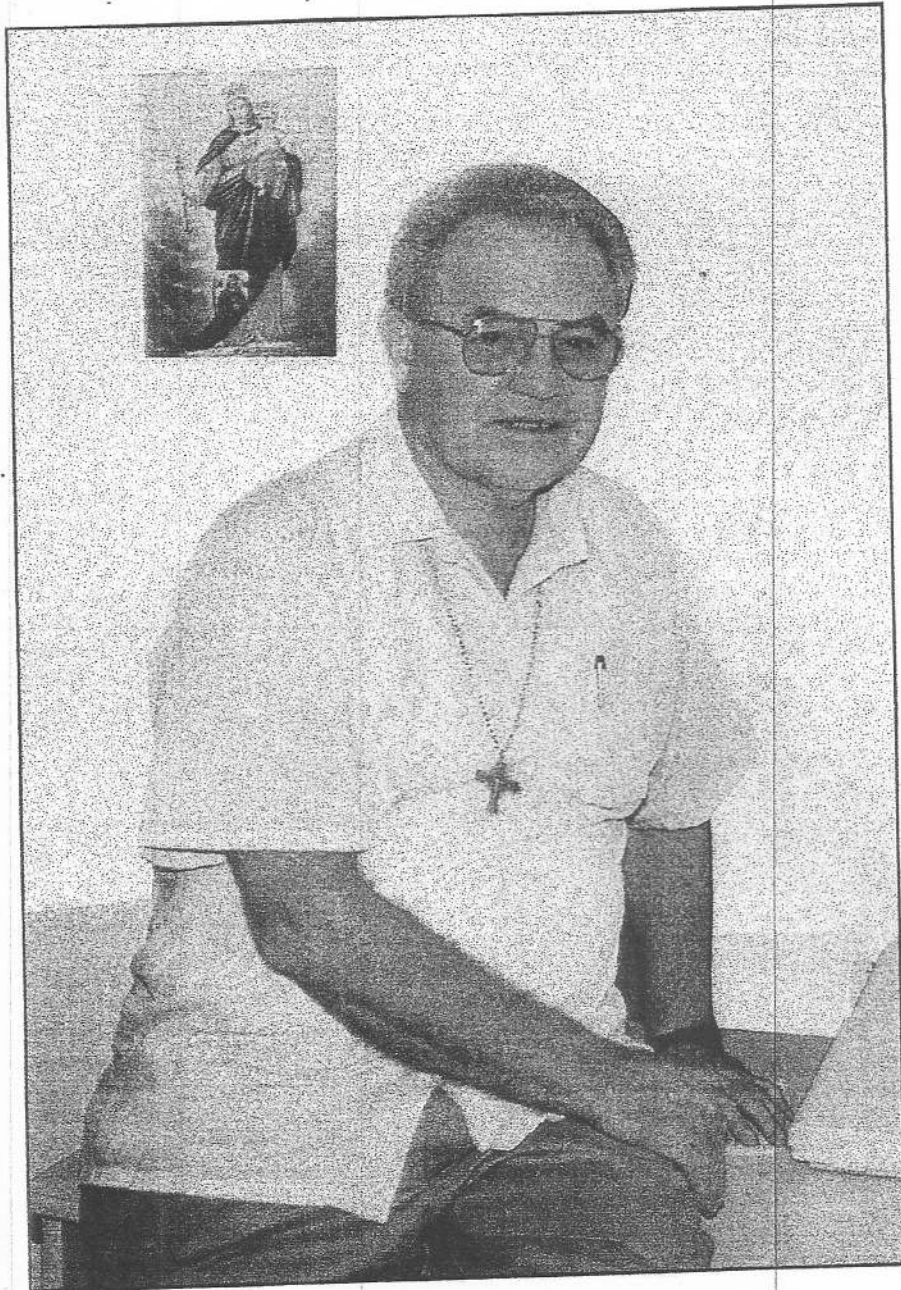
In 1986, a block of land had been given to the Catholic Church, and Fr. Gerry worked zealously to spread the 'good news' and to obtain finance to build a church there. He made many appeals locally, nationally, and internationally, working tirelessly night after night, writing letters to benefactors all over the world. He received donations locally, and aboard, including from the poorer people and pensioners, who sent in small, and sometimes surprisingly, not so small donations. He was also fortunate to receive much help from generous wonderful friends, who gave generously to provide for the work of education in Palmerston. Fr. Gerry acknowledged every donation personally by letter.

In 1990, plans were finalized for the building of the church, and on the 24th May 1991, Our Lady Help of Christians Church was officially opened, Fr. Gerry being the founding parish priest. Through his continued hard work and appeal, Fr. Gerry was able to pay off all debts within 12 months. With his boundless energy he built the parish complex from the round up, church, school and presbytery.

Fr. Gerry was very committed to the cause of helping the poor and disadvantaged, and in 1992 Fr. Gerry opened the St Vincent de Paul Centre in Palmerston. His next vision was a Catholic school, and so he began the funding and establishment of the Sacred Heart Primary School in Palmerston. Fr. Gerry sought financial assistance all over Australia and again all donations were personally acknowledged. The new school was blessed and opened on 11 September 1994.

On 16th July 1999, Fr. Gerry Remie died of bone cancer in Adelaide, at the age of 72, in the presence of his sister Willemien and his younger brother John. His funeral took place in the chapel of Salesian College, Sunbury. His coffin stood alongside that of his friend Adrian Wenting, with whom he who he has shared his life with since their days in the Don Rua Aaspirantate in Holland.

Fr. Gerry was well loved and a respected parish priest, and ~~has~~ made a huge impact on the children and families. He was a highly respected and active member of the Palmerston community, a gifted educator, and showed a genuine warmth and love of young people. Today he is well ~~quickly~~ remembered by many people in the parish and around Palmerston and Darwin, who speak of him with great admiration and grateful love.



Father Gerard Anthony Remie S.D.B.

Born at Mook en Middelaar (Holland)
15 October 1926

Died in Adelaide 16 July 1999
Aged 72, 39 years of priesthood, 49 years of profession.

