

JAG

Oct 1, 2011



Father Wallace, an Australian, joined the Redemptorist on 21 June 1943 and was ordained on 4 September 1949. He first came to Ipoh in 1959 for a preached mission held at St. Michael's Church. In 1960, the first Redemptorist Community was established at a little chapel located at 31, Jalan Tambun where the Heritage Hotel now stands.

In 1966, the Bishop of Penang agreed that the Redemptorist Community should manage a parish. OMPH Church was officially opened on April 15, 1972 and Fr. Wallace became its first Parish Priest.

It is said that building a church is easy, not so building a parish community. Assisting Fr. Wallace at the start was Rev. Fr. John Martin assigned to help Tamil-speaking Catholics, while Rev. Fr. Campos came regularly from Singapore to cater to Chinese-speaking Catholics.

He also initiated the many structural committees that currently make up the framework of the Parish. Many parishioners in Ipoh Garden still recall that Fr. Wallace would walk the neighbourhood at 3.00pm in the afternoon looking out for houses that had a cross over the front door to enquire if they were Catholic.

In 1978, Fr. Wallace was posted to Singapore and returned to Australia in 2005. He moved to a nursing home run by the Little Sisters of the Poor at Randwick, Sydney, where he passed away. He was 89 and had been a Redemptorist priest for 68 years.

Address: 19-21 Jalan La Salle, 31400 Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia; Tel: (61) 5458220

Rev Father James David Wallace CSsR, the first Parish Priest of Our Mother of Perpetual Help (OMPH) Church in Ipoh Garden, passed away on September 11, 2011.

Tributes to

a) Rev. Fr. James Wallace, CSsR

(26 June 1922 - 11 September 2011)