

ST KILDA

Tributes for the humble helper who reached out to many

FATHER Bob Maguire has paid tribute to St Kilda outreach worker Henri J Ser, and his tireless work over decades helping Port Phillip's most disadvantaged.

Mr Ser, 60, died suddenly of a heart attack on June 23. He is survived by eight-year-old son Addison, son

Joel and daughter Danielle, who are both in their 20s.

Mr Ser will also be remembered by a vast network of friends and supporters, including thousands of people whose lives he touched.

Hundreds attended his burial on June 24 at the

Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

For 20 years, Mr Ser fed and counselled the poorest residents of St Kilda, Port Melbourne and South Melbourne, overseeing the operations of the food van that distributes meals outside the Catwick Hotel.

He worked closely with Father Bob Maguire, who said Mr Ser's death was a shock.

"Henri was the ultimate counsellor. We were privileged to have him around us for 30 years," Father Bob said. Mr Ser was "a quiet,

humble man", he said, who was "very good at sitting and talking to people in distress".

Born in Paris, France on October 20, 1952, Henri Ser immigrated to Australia with his parents, both Holocaust survivors. Mr Ser cared for his sick

mother until her death in May this year.

A coffee lover, he was seen daily at his favourite cafes across the city, from Zappas in South Melbourne to Gattica in Balaclava.

A memorial service for Henri Ser will be held in St Kilda in the coming weeks.