

COATS FOR THE HOMELESS 2014 MESSAGES OF THANKS

* THE SHOPFRONT - WA

We received 11 boxes of twelve coats, excellent as they have been asking for them. Please thank your fellow Knights of Malta very much for their generous donation. I am sure they have saved the lives of a few people sleeping rough. I have sent three people away in an ambulance with pneumonia, in the last three weeks and a bit.

* ST JAMES CONFERENCE, ST VINCENT DE PAUL - NSW

Words cannot express our Gratitude for you wonderful gift of 12 Malta Coats. These given from your hearts, for people who are sick, no permanent home and are felling the extreme cold of winter.

Your continued love and caring for people over the Blue Mountains like us, is a gift of the Holy Spirit, and hopefully one day we can tell you in person. Our dear friend Aboriginal Joe, wheels his trolley around day and night he is deaf and dumb. Lorraine battles cancer and kidney problems, she says she was always freezing cold, she loves her coat.

* EXTRACT TAKEN FROM THE SA BRANCH REPORT

In Adelaide we distributed a record number of coats. We distribute them to The Hutt Street Centre, The Adelaide Day Centre, and to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

The majority of homeless in Adelaide are men, but the numbers of women are increasing, now up to 14% and some women come with their children wanting help. The Australia-wide tendency of fewer donations has had a serious impact on fundraising in many of these agencies, and so it is vital that our Order continue to support this area of assistance for the Poor.

FUNDRAISING LUNCH RAISES \$5,000 FOR COATS FOR THE HOMELESS

On Sunday 6th July 150 people attended the SA Branch's annual winter luncheon to raise funds for the Coats for the Homeless project.

Those who attended the luncheon were privileged to hear an address by Ian Cox the Director of the Hutt Street Centre conducted by the Daughters of Charity. The centre is celebrating 60 years of dedicated service to the homeless men and women of Adelaide.

The luncheon raised \$5000 which enabled the Branch to distribute coats to the Hutt Street Centre, the Adelaide Day Centre (Sisters of Mercy), St Vincent de Paul and to the parish of Port Lincoln.

Consoeur Rita De Luca once again organised the lunch which was enjoyed by all. A lively auction of some valuable offerings saw great generosity by the guests and allowed the Branch to purchase more coats than in previous years. Several generous donations were received from individual donations.

Thank you to everyone who supported his event.



Connie Sellen and Lorraine Adamson, President of the Catholic Women's League, Pt Lincoln, SA and the Order of Malta Coat. Photo courtesy of Port Lincoln Times



Member of the Order, Derek Pingel taking delivery of the Coats in QLD with the generous help of Simons Transport



Coats delivered to Gorman House, Darlinghurst



Member of the Order, Dr Robert Costa handing over Coats to The Salvation Army, Auburn

* EXTRACT TAKEN FROM THE VIC BRANCH REPORT

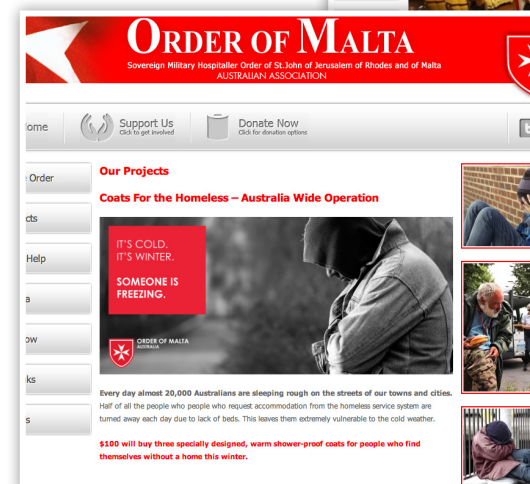
We have had a very cold and long winter this year so it was no surprise that we began to run short of coats in mid-winter. Fortunately we were able to secure a further 200 or more coats from the resourceful and always enthusiastic Confreere Derek Pingel in Queensland where the Order has located the Centre for procuring Coats from China.

As always in Victoria, we personally hand over our coats to each individual who we are satisfied is either homeless or potentially homeless. We also cause our volunteers to wear an Order of Malta tabard with its prominent Cross of the Order. This inevitably drawn many questions about the Order including "What does the eight pointed Cross represent?" The Volunteers know now that the answer is "The eight Beatitudes".

As this leads to the questions about what are the eight Beatitudes, volunteers are now prepared with a list of the eight Beatitudes!

\$100 will buy three specially designed, warm shower-proof coats for people who find themselves without a home this winter.

If you would like to donate to the Australian Coats for the Homeless project, go to www.coatsforthehomeless.org or complete the donation coupon on page 5.



WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES?

Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au

- Regular updates of our relief activities around the world and local projects
- VIDEO: The newly elected leadership council of the Order of Malta pushes for humanitarian diplomacy
- VIDEO: "Healing the wounds of war – Malteser International helps Syrian refugees in Syria"
- DOWNLOAD: Malteser International Annual Report 2013 is available to download



We have been serving the sick and the poor for over 900 years.

Help us continue our work by leaving a bequest to the Order of Malta.

By leaving us a legacy, no matter what size, you allow us to plan for the future. With guaranteed funds in place, we can look to expand and develop our humanitarian activities with confidence.

If you would like to receive a copy of our bequest brochure, please complete and return the form on page 5.



ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

The Australian Association of the Order of Malta
33 - 37 West Street, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010
Telephone: +61 2 9331 8477 | info@smom.org.au
www.orderofmalta.org.au

The Order of Malta is a Public Benevolent institution and is endorsed by the Australian Tax Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient. ABN 37 142 209 121. Licence: SA - CCP1722, WA - 21310.



IN THIS ISSUE - SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES / BRANCH FUNDRAISERS / PROJECT UPDATES

MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITALER

Welcome to our October edition of the Australian Association newsletter. Since the last update, the 2014 Coats for the Homeless project has distributed 3,000 of our specially designed Coats around the country. This project was only possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters and in this edition we are delighted to share with you some of the feedback that we have received about this wonderful project.

As you are no doubt aware, there are a number of significant humanitarian crises across the globe. The Order of Malta's International agency, Malteser International has responded to these and the details of some of their relief work are contained, while further information and other relief works can be found on our website www.orderofmalta.org.au

Closer to home, we have also some details of inspiring work done by our Members here to continue our work to assist 'Our Lords Poor and Sick'. I hope this proves to be inspiring reading.

Over the coming months the Order's diary is full of events across the country. These include our special Lourdes Day Mass celebrations and local fundraisers for our Charitable Works. Please mark these dates in your diary.

Finally, as our next newsletter is not scheduled until February, I invite you all to get in the habit of visiting our website, www.orderofmalta.org.au with its weekly updates of current and future activities.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dr Ian Leitch

Ian Leitch

Dr. Ian Leitch RFD, MB BS, FRACS



IRAQ: ORDER OF MALTA BRINGS MEDICAL AID TO RELIEF FOR PERSECUTED MINORITIES

Malteser International, the worldwide relief agency of the Order of Malta, has provided medical assistance for 10,000 displaced Christians and minorities in north Iraq. A shipment containing drugs, medical supplies, hygiene items, wheelchairs and water filtration and storage systems has been distributed to the refugee camps around Erbil through the humanitarian agency's network on the ground.

"This first shipment will start addressing the dire need for essential drugs as well as drugs for chronic illnesses, especially at primary healthcare facilities receiving a large number of displaced persons," says Dr. Juergen Clemens, Malteser International's emergency relief coordinator. "However, there are still gaps that need to be filled, for instance in psychosocial care, as not enough providers are available to meet the rising demands."

"The number of refugees and displaced continues to rise – the United Nations estimates there are over a million just in north Iraq. In addition to Christians and minorities who are being persecuted by the Islamic State militias, there are also many Syrian refugees seeking safety in the Kurdistan region."



Malteser has also delivered a shipping container clinic to the health center of Mart Shmoni church, where gravely ill patients can be cared for and housed and are deploying a mobile medical team consisting of two doctors and two nurses. There are also further plans to provide an additional health center with a month's supply of medicines.

Malteser International is already planning beyond the initial emergency phase. "The refugees will need our help in the middle to long-term as well, whether they remain displaced or are able to return to their homes," says Dr Juergen Clemens.



Regular updates of the relief activities can be found on our website, www.orderofmalta.org.au



BREAKING NEWS

The Federal Association will be launching the Coats for the Homeless project in Chicago this year. Not only is this wonderful recognition for our project, we are looking to work with the American Association to see if we can combine our production efforts. This would result in a lower production cost per coat, enabling us to produce and distribute more in 2015.



MEMBERS IN
WA SUPPORT
SERVICES TO
HELP THOSE WITH
INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES

Members of the Order in WA have donated \$5,000 to the Personal Advocacy Service (PAS) in Perth, an outreach of the Catholic Church providing one to one friendships and advocacy support for people with intellectual disabilities.

This unique service, which has just celebrated its 25th Anniversary, is currently open to adults (people) with intellectual disabilities, irrespective of their faith background. The program operates through network groups

in which community volunteers (advocates) and their friends with disabilities receive ongoing support and encouragement from Group Leaders and fellow advocates.

For many people with intellectual disabilities living independently or isolated from family contact, this ongoing friendship / relationship is perhaps one of the only constant in their lives. Being in a small group and linked one to one with volunteers from the community encourages a variety of relationships to develop. Some committed friendships have persisted for more than 20 years. In time with support and increased confidence for the person with an intellectual disability, opportunities for a variety of social contacts and for taking on valued roles in the community arise. Increased self-esteem combined with opportunity then result in better skills and employment prospects.

Concerns regarding potential Government funding cuts have meant that PAS has had look at alternative funding options to meet the shortfall. Members of the Order have been working with PAS to set-up an endowment fund to provide a secure form of income to ensure the survival of the service.

If you would like to support the Personal Advocacy Service, you can donate on page 5.



FUNERAL HELD
FOR FORMER
SYDNEY
CATHOLIC
ARCHBISHOP,
CARDINAL
EDWARD
CLANCY

On Saturday 9th August 2014, His Eminence Edward Bede Cardinal Clancy AC, was buried following a Vigil Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on the Friday.

More than 1,000 mourners attended the funeral Cardinal Clancy was the seventh Archbishop of Sydney and died last Sunday 3 August at the age of 90.

Born in December 1923 at Lithgow, Cardinal Clancy was ordained in July 1949 by Cardinal Norman Gilroy after beginning his religious studies at 16. During his tenure as Archbishop of Sydney, he expanded worship with new dioceses in Paramatta and Broken Bay and was vital in the canonisation of Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop.

Prior to his Mass of Christian Burial, the NSW Branch provided a Guard of Honour for the Cardinal while he lay in state. Included in the Order's guard was His Eminence Cardinal Cassidy, Bailiff Grand Cross of Honour and Devotion, who was a classmate of Cardinal Clancy's when they studied at the Seminary together.



SOUTH SUDAN:
HALF OF
POPULATION AT
RISK OF FAMINE

In South Sudan's Western Equatoria, Malteser International is distributing staple foods such as corn, rice, beans, and cooking oil to 7,500 people at risk of starvation after being displaced by the country's civil war. In addition, the agency is distributing corn and peanut seeds as well as farming tools for the next planting season.

"Immediate food aid was necessary because the current food crisis has already turned into a disaster for the starving population," says Jan Gruss, who coordinates the relief efforts for Malteser International. "The faster we act, the higher the chances of saving the lives of thousands of children."

As families suddenly had to flee the violence in their homeland, many arrived at the refugee camps in Maridi with nothing but the clothes on their backs. "We've distributed water containers, cups, plates, bowls, anything they need to survive," Gruss says. Malteser International has supported the health care system in the region since 2008.

i Get regular updates about the relief efforts of Malteser International at www.orderofmalta.org.au

The conflict between government troops and rebels, which escalated last December, is the cause of the acute food crisis. "Because of the violence, one million South Sudanese had to leave their homes and fields, so the food supply is dramatically low," Gruss reports. Poor infrastructure and the start of the rainy season have hampered the relief efforts. "The rain crippled large parts of the supply routes – many roads are impassable during the rainy season, but we need to reach people now," he adds.

In neighbouring Uganda, where thousands of South Sudanese sought refuge since the start of the crisis, Malteser International is helping improve the water supply for 11,000 residents at the Rhino refugee camp. The agency set up rainwater harvesting tanks and built additional wells and tap stations.

Malteser International's relief efforts in Uganda and South Sudan are funded with support from the German government.

SAVE THE DATE
ORDER OF
MALTA EVENTS

All welcome

November (date TBC)
Annual Movie Night in Adelaide to raise money for the Adelaide Day Centre Garden project. Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au for details.

Sat 29th Nov
Lourdes Day Mass celebrations at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney at 10am

Sat 6th Dec
Lourdes Day Mass celebrations at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne

Upcoming events for Members of the Australian Association of the Order of Malta

26th Oct
NSW Holy Mass in Memory of Deceased Members

15th - 16th Nov
QLD Branch Spiritual Retreat

21st - 23rd Nov
SA Branch Spiritual Retreat

1st - 3rd May
Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes

19th - 21st Jun 2015
National Assembly in Adelaide

ORDER OF MALTA MEDICAL
CLINIC AT TIMOR PLAZA



If you would like to support this project go to page 5 to make a donation.

The owners of Timor Plaza, the largest shopping centre in Timor-Leste have generously agreed to build a new medical clinic for the Order of Malta to be given rent free for a period of 9 years. The clinic will be located on the edge of the Plaza and is not far from a very poor area of Dili. It will be designed and operated in accordance with "best practice" under Australian medical standards and services will be provided free to those who cannot afford to pay.

Construction will commence at the end of this year and completion is estimated to be the middle of 2015. The clinic will occupy the ground floor (about 450 m²) of a new commercial building and will be fully built with all services. At the request of the Ministry of Health it will focus on maternal and childrens' health.

The Order is currently preparing fit-out and equipment plans, together with associated capital and operating budgets.

FR. CARLO VELARDO
SDB APPOINTMENT AS
MAGISTRAL CHAPLAIN
IN THE ORDER OF
MALTA

On the 3rd September, 2014 members and friends of the Order of Malta gathered at St. Louis Church, Sathorn Road, Bangkok to celebrate the Order of Malta bi-monthly Mass. H.E.

Dr. Michael Mann Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand presented Fr. Carlo Velardo SDB a framed certificate of his appointment as Magistral Chaplain in The Order of Malta.

It was also a coincidence that the 3rd September was Fr. Carlo 37th anniversary of his ordination in the priesthood, where a second celebration took place before the meeting.