



The Grand Chancellor
Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager



The Grand Hospitaller - Dominique Prince
de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel

2019 ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE

Between 21 and 24 November, members of the Order of Malta in Australia hosted 98 delegates for the Annual Asia Pacific Conference of the Order of Malta in Melbourne. The Asia Pacific conference is the only annual international conference of the 900 year old organisation worldwide attended by both the Grand Chancellor and Grand Hospitaller on a yearly basis.

"The theme of the conference was 'Living our Faith in a Secularized World'" explained National President, The Hon Justice James Douglas. "The focus was for delegates to understand our priorities and plans at both a national and international level for both our charitable works and defence of the faith initiatives. We wanted them to have an opportunity to learn and contribute to the future plans of our Order".

Topics ranged from internal reform to countries outlining their priorities and plans, as well as discussion and planning regarding projects in the region, such as the Order's medical clinic in Timor-Leste and the annual Asia Pacific Camp for Disabled Youth.

Delegates from across the Asia Pacific region attended, as well as high charges from Rome, including H.E. The Grand

Chancellor, Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, H.E. The Grand Hospitaller, Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel and H.E. Reverend Monsignor Jean Laffitte, Prelate of the Order of Malta. They provided insight into international matters and reaffirmed that the Order's 900 year old mission is as relevant as ever.

"Our lay Order is not a contemplative Order; we live our faith by sharing and helping others. We are at the service of our Lords the Sick, the Poor and those in Need" explains H.E. The Grand Hospitaller, Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel. *"This is why, 900 years later, the hospitallers, like the volunteers and staff, are responding to Pope Francis' invitation to 'go to the outskirts' to meet the others and with them to encounter Christ."*

H.E. The Grand Chancellor, Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager was encouraged by the Asia Pacific's growth in recent years but stressed the importance that the Order of Malta **"must do more for the sick and poor and cannot get distracted from our mission"**. He was encouraged by the regional plans presented at the conference to expand Hospitaller activities and urged Members to be actively involved with works, stating **"we must go beyond being generous. We need to be with the poor to be part of their lives."**

The 10th Asia Pacific Conference will be hosted by Hong Kong in October 2020.

INAUGURAL NATIONAL DAY OF THE ORDER OF MALTA IN AUSTRALIA

The National Day of the Order of Malta was an initiative started by Members in Italy in 2018. The success of this day was quickly recognised, and other countries were encouraged to adopt similar activities. It is celebrated in October to coincide with the feast day of our founder Blessed Fra Gerard.

In 2019, Members in Hawthorn, Black Rock, Toorak and Adelaide spoke at churches to inform parishioners about the work of the Order both nationally and internationally. After mass, Members were available to answer questions about our activities and distributed information brochures, Lourdes Holy Water, Rosary beads and prayer material.



"The National Day is a wonderful opportunity to not only improve the wider community's knowledge about our activities, but to give them the opportunity to volunteer and support our projects" explained National Hospitaller, John Murphy.

"It is heartening to see us starting this event in solidarity with fellow associations in other parts of the world and I anticipate that this will be a highlight in the Australian Association's calendar with a greater geographic distribution in 2020".

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S GIVING

A tradition of the Order of Malta Australia each year is for Members in Sydney to visit patients at Gorman House Detoxification unit and Tierney House Homeless Health service on Christmas Day to give gifts to the patients there. This is in addition to the thrice weekly BBQs held year round at these facilities. This year was no exception and the residents were grateful for not only the gifts but the companionship and understanding provided.

Members in Thailand also undertook additional activities for the less fortunate at Christmas. During the month of December members, aspirants and friends visited the homeless in Hua Lamphong train

station in Bangkok. Here hundreds of homeless gather to spend the nights.

They provided 420 blankets, 600 hygiene sets, 300 socks, 1,000 noodles soups in cups and toys for the children, as well as support, love and understanding.

Order of Malta Volunteers in Brisbane started the New Year by supporting Rosies friends with their monthly BBQ and groceries outreach at Rotary Park Aspley serving 47 patrons.

Our volunteers distributed 68 hygiene items kindly donated by Order of Malta Members and friends. Amid the soaring temperatures, patrons expressed particular appreciation for the sunscreen and antiperspirant. Toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo and hair conditioner were also very well received.

Interested in volunteering?
Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au



FOR MORE ORDER OF MALTA NEWS VISIT WWW.ORDEROFMALTA.ORG.AU

- * South Eastern Region Annual Mass for the Faithful Departed
- * Members in the North Eastern Region celebrate Advent Mass
- * Members of the Order of Malta Thailand join the festivities to welcome the Holy Father Pope Francis
- * One knight and four dames invested at Myeongdong Cathedral, Seoul, Korea
- * Catholic Bioethics Conference – the Future of Freedom in Healthcare and Doctor-Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia legislation

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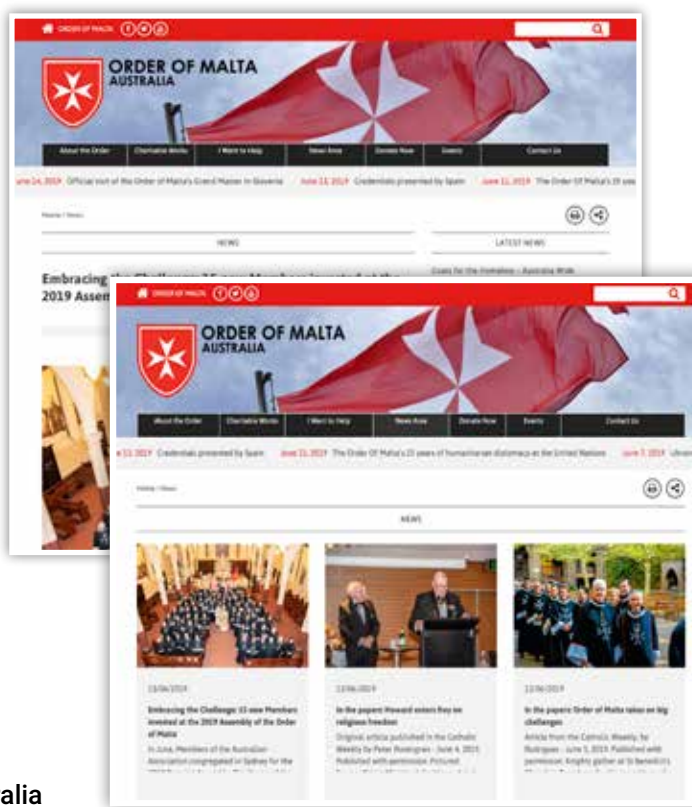


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ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA

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* Please note our postal address has changed:

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AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITALLER

Dear Members and Supporters

Like all Australians, and indeed the rest of the world, it was with great sadness that we welcomed in 2020 with heartbreaking footage of families losing everything as bushfires rage throughout parts of the country. Further catastrophic conditions are forecast over the coming months.

The Order of Malta Australia has provided support from our Natural Disaster Fund to provide emergency relief to those directly impacted. \$20,000 has already been distributed in funds and food vouchers to those who have lost homes in Batemans Bay, Moruya, Cobargo & Narooma (NSW) and \$20,000 in food vouchers have been delivered to Bairnsdale Relief Centre to support those impacted in Mallacoota, Buchan, Cann River, Sarsfield, Nowa Nowa and Omeo (VIC). A further \$15,000 worth of vouchers will be distributed through the Archdiocese of Adelaide (SA).

Members of the Order of Malta also joined over a thousand people, including representatives of those fighting the fires and other organisations working to assist

those affected by them, at a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral to pray for and with victims of the fires.

Members recently visited the major relief centre in East Gippsland and can say that the work is just beginning as there will be much more to do to assist these communities rebuild after the fires are gone. At the time of this newsletter going to print our generous members and supporters have donated an additional \$35,000 to assist the rehabilitation effort. Members are already in discussions with impacted parishes and are visiting the affected areas to understand how the Order of Malta can use these funds to assist their recovery.

I request all members and supporters consider a donation to our 2020 Bushfire Appeal if they can. To those who have donated, on behalf of those we help, please accept my thanks. I encourage you to continue visit our website and social media pages for regular updates on how this money will be used.

With confraternal best wishes
John Murphy - National Hospitaller



Sydney's air quality has plunged to hazardous levels due to the bushfires burning across the state.

On the worst days, people have been advised to stay inside to limit exposure, however that is easier said than done for the homeless.

Our Order of Malta Community Care Van volunteers have been distributing face masks, as well as water, sun screen and hygiene packs, to help limit the exposure of the homeless.

Thank you to Tecmask for donating the masks for distribution through our van.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation towards our Natural Disaster Fund – 2020 Bushfire Appeal you can do so using the donation coupon on page 5.



ASIA PACIFIC CAMP FOR YOUTH

For the last thirty years the Order of Malta has a tradition of holding summer camps for disabled youth aged between 18 to 30. However it was not until 2017 that this tradition crossed the borders into Asia.

The third Asia Pacific Summer Camp for Disabled Youth took place from October 23 – 26, 2019 in Hong Kong. As the Order of Malta Hong Kong received the guests together with local and foreign volunteers, there was an atmosphere of excitement and enthusiasm.

After the inaugural mass and welcome speeches, the camp was declared open by Grand Hospitaller Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel. Guests from each country paraded with their flags to great applause from all participants.

The first day consisted of numerous activities. Guests could swim, practise archery or climb an artificial climbing wall with harnesses for all guests, including those in wheelchairs. There were also various creative activities, from make-up to

bricolage workshops and numerous other indoor games.

Days 2 and 3 included a voyage on the Adventure-Ship, an organization that helps young people of all abilities to develop self-esteem and self-confidence through adventures at sea. Guests were also able to admire Hong Kong's beautiful coastline and take the tram that climbs to Victoria Peak, the highest point of the island, offering them a spectacular view over the city and its port. Music and magic were part of the evening entertainment with a DJ from Berlin and a professional magician.

Over 50 guests with disabilities attended, coming from Hong Kong, Indonesia, continental China, Cambodia, Australia and Netherlands. The Hong Kong volunteers were flanked by those from Singapore, Australia, Cambodia, United States, China, Germany, Austria, Korea, United Kingdom and Italy.

THE 2020 ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH CAMP WILL BE HOSTED BY AUSTRALIA ON THE GOLD COAST!

For the 4th Asia Pacific Camp, young people with disabilities and volunteers will come

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR 2019

The Third World Day of the Poor was celebrated on Sunday 17 November, and the Order of Malta once again organised numerous initiatives to bear witness to its daily presence alongside people in need, in 120 countries around the world.

In Thailand World Day of the Poor initiatives focused around continuing to assist victims following the devastation of storms Podul and Kajiki that arrived early September and

together in Australia for a once in a lifetime week of fun, friendship and adventure. Guests from all around the Asia Pacific region, including Australia, Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong and Singapore will participate.

For our guests with disabilities, the Camp is more than just a break from daily routine. It's an opportunity to get out in the world and be inspired by what it has to offer.

For volunteers the camp is a fantastic opportunity for energetic, enthusiastic and compassionate youth who would like to make a difference by providing support to the young disabled participants and their carers at the camp.

As host nation, we need to raise \$250,000 for the accommodation, activities and domestic transfers for the guests, carers and volunteers.

Donations to support this project can be made on page 5.

impacted 400,000 households in 7,000 villages, killing 30 people. Members made numerous deliveries of not only emergency response items, such as survival kits, food and blankets, but longer-term assistance including building materials, electrical items, school books and stationery for students.

Members across Australia, Korea and New Zealand also participated in activities to assist the homeless and disadvantaged to help raise awareness of their daily plight. Activities included food preparation and distribution, supplying hygiene items, support and understanding.

AWARDS, HONOURS AND RECOGNITION FOR MEMBERS OF THE ORDER



Rebecca Davies, with Archbishop Anthony Fisher has been honoured by Pope Francis for her service to the people of NSW and the country and her commitment to the Church. Rebecca was made a Dame Commander of the Order of St Gregory the Great for her service through not-for-profit organisations.



Adam Walk (second from right) was ordained deacon on 30 November at St Stephen's Cathedral. Photo by Alan Edgecomb.



On 9 October 2019, the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council accepted the nomination of Frank Zipfingier as the new Counsellor of the Embassy of the Sovereign Council of the Order of Malta to the Kingdom of Cambodia.



Professor Ashley Goldsworthy AO OBE has been honoured by Pope Francis, being invested as a Knight in the Order of Saint Sylvester. The award recognises Ashley's exemplary devotion and generosity to the Church and his service on numerous Archdiocese of Brisbane Councils and Boards.



H.E. Cardinal Andrew Yeom received the award of Bailiff Grand Cross of Honour and Devotion from Grand Chancellor H.E. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager



The Hon Gregory Crafter AO and Mr James Varghese AM were awarded the Cross of Commander pro Merito Melitensi. They were granted with a Decree "Motu Proprio" of the Grand Master on 7 November 2019.



Regional Hospitaller, Danny Higgins, was awarded the Catholic Leader Community Leader Award.



* SAVE THE DATE *

11 FEBRUARY 2020:
Lourdes Day Mass
St Francis Xavier's Cathedral,
Adelaide, 10am

22 AUGUST 2020:
Lourdes Healing Mass
St Paschal's 40 Warraba St
Wavell Hts, 10am

20 – 25 SEPTEMBER 2020:
Asia Pacific Youth Camp
Gold Coast

21-25 OCTOBER 2020:
Asia Pacific Conference
Hong Kong

5 DECEMBER 2020:
Lourdes Day Mass
St Patrick's Cathedral,
Melbourne
Lourdes Day Mass
St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

LOURDES CELEBRATIONS IN SYDNEY, MELBOURNE AND SINGAPORE

On the 7 December, members in Melbourne, Sydney and Singapore hosted Lourdes celebrations, where attendees receive small bottles of water from the grotto at Lourdes, France and receive a blessing for good health.

In Melbourne, an estimated 1,200 people attended the annual mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, which was celebrated by the Most Reverend Archbishop Peter Comensoli and concelebrated by the Order's Chaplains.

The congregation included 32 members and volunteers from Mandeville Hall, Genazzano, Xavier and De la Salle colleges.

In Sydney, approximately 750 people attended the mass at St Mary's Cathedral.

It was celebrated again by His Grace, Archbishop Anthony Fisher with three of our conventual chaplains as concelebrants.

Of the attendees at St Mary's, 60 were malades accompanied by carers, including two sisters and some residents from the Little Sisters of the Poor Complex at Randwick. 40 Knights and Dames from the region were in attendance as well as a visiting American Knight.

In Singapore, Members hosted the Order's fourth Lourdes Experience. The celebration was held at Singapore Indoor Stadium where 11,000 people from 30 parishes attended.

The healing Mass was presided over by Archbishop William Goh, concelebrated by many priests from the diocese. A candlelight, multilingual rosary procession with the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes was also conducted on the stadium floor and the Blessed Sacrament was carried in a monstrance and brought among the sick, as well as around the stadium to bless all who came to honour Our Lady at this great Marian event.



Galleries and videos from these celebrations are available at www.orderofmalta.org.au



I WANT TO HELP

You can make a donation by completing this form and returning it in the reply paid envelope provided.

I am happy for the Order to allocate my donation to where the need is greatest; or

I would like to support:

- Australian Bushfire Appeal
- 2020 Asia Pacific Youth Camp
- Coats for the Homeless

REMEMBER, GIFTS OF \$2 AND OVER ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

- Send me information about leaving the Order a bequest
- Please remove me from your mailing list.

Donations will be allocated to projects as requested by the donor. However if the needs of a project have already been met, we will allocate funds to another Order of Malta charitable activity.

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Please find enclosed a Cheque/ Money Order (payable to 'The Order of Malta') for \$ or;

Please debit my credit card the amount of \$

Frequency Once only Monthly Card Type Visa MasterCard

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date Cardholder name

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