

# ACU AND ORDER OF MALTA TO PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Australian Catholic University (ACU) and the Order of Malta have signed a memorandum of understanding that details partnering on a range of life-changing engagement initiatives that work with groups who experience disadvantage and marginalisation.

Through the alliance, ACU students will have expanded community engagement placement opportunities with a range of Order of Malta programs, including Community Care Vans for people experiencing homelessness, the Coats for the Homeless initiative and camps for people with a disability.

Order of Malta volunteers will also have

the opportunity to participate in ACU-led community engagement initiatives. The Order of Malta and ACU are planning to collaborate on a co-led community hub that connects ACU staff, students, and Order of Malta members to engagement where it is most needed.

*"The Order of Malta's mission to alleviate the suffering of the poor and sick, without judgment, distinction of religion, race or political persuasion is in perfect alignment with our own mission,"* ACU National Community Engagement Manager Dr Matthew Pink said.

*"This is just the beginning. It's exciting to imagine what impact this partnership can have working with those in the community who've experienced disadvantage and social injustice."*

ACU is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good. Community engagement activities that build capacity and affirm human dignity are considered central to the mission and identity of ACU. This translates to

over 20 discipline-specific community engagement units of study, stakeholder engaged scholarship with community partners, and staff directly engaged with community via time-release opportunities. The MOU sets the framework for co-supporting The Order of Malta and ACU's 'missions-in-action'.

Order of Malta's President the Hon James Douglas said, *"By combining the efforts, enthusiasm and expertise of our two organisations there is a wonderful opportunity to provide sustainable initiatives and emergency response activities that will make a tangible difference to the lives of those in need."*

ACU Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Zlatko Skrbis said, *"The partnership between the Order of Malta and ACU is an acknowledgement and affirmation of their shared departure point in faith tradition and commitment to improving the lives of those who need it most."*

The MOU steering group formally began meeting in September 2021 to begin the partnership's work.



# ORDER OF MALTA NEW ZEALAND RETREAT IN TIMARU

The New Zealand retreat took place at the Convent of the Mercy Sisters and Sacred Heart Basilica in Timaru between Friday 10 and Sunday 12 September.

Whist COVID-19 restrictions limited international participation, Australian Association President, the Hon James Douglas KHD provided a welcome address and discussion via video link and the Grand Chancellor HE Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, provided a video presentation for retreatants. His Eminence, Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke, Cardinal Patron of

the Order, also sent a message expressing how pleased he was to learn that the Order of Malta are having a revival in New Zealand and that the retreatants had such a good retreat experience.

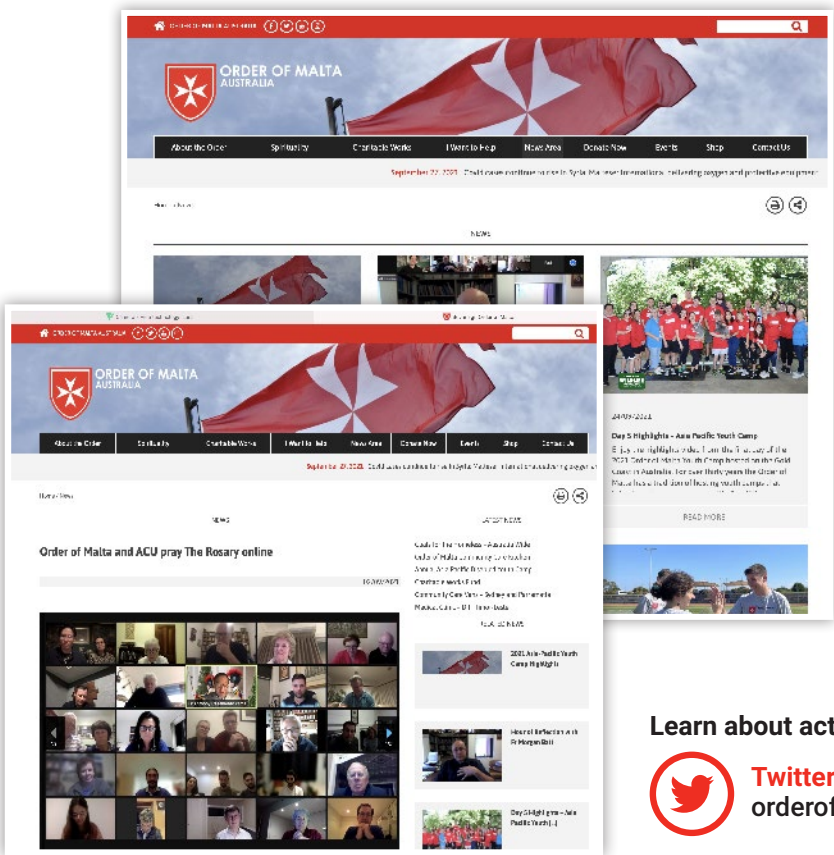
Sunday Mass at the Sacred Heart Basilica was broadcast to parishioners and the world due to Sunday Masses being unavailable to the public due to COVID-19 restrictions. The celebrants Fr Christopher Friel, Order of Malta chaplain-designate and Fr Do Nguyen. The retreat attendees were fortunate to be able to celebrate Mass in a side chapel on the Saturday.

Specials thanks to member of the Order, Abina Pope DMG who led the retreat and Fr Chris Friel who provided the sacramental elements. Belfiore Bologna

KMG, who is also the South Island's Italian Honorary Consul, treated the attendees to a wonderful pasta lunch. Aspirant and talented religious artist, guildler and restorer, Damien Walker, brought Sacred Heart Basilica's magnificent pipe organ to life during our Sunday Mass.

The New Zealand Regional Hospitaller, Bevan Killick KMG, was delighted the retreat proceeded, having once been postponed, noting that *"The location of Timaru's Mercy Sisters' Convent and the magnificent Sacred Heart Basilica was ideal and is likely to become a regular fixture in our calendar. The hope is that in 2022 we can hold another retreat with twice as many attendees"*.

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# 2021 ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH CAMP

For over thirty years the Order of Malta has a tradition of hosting youth camps that bring together young people with disabilities, volunteers and carers for a once in a lifetime experience of fun, friendship and adventure.

In September, our attendees came together at a premier sporting facility on the Gold Coast for the 2021 Order of Malta Asia Pacific Youth Camp. The camp programme provided challenges, games and unique experiences for the participants who, as a result, have formed lifelong friendships.

## The objectives of our camps

- Help young people overcome personal barriers
- To forge a sense of community
- An opportunity to serve

*"The preparation for the first Order of Malta Asia Pacific Camp in Australia has endured countless disappointments and frustrations created by COVID-19" said Danny Higgins, North Eastern Regional Hospitaller for the Order of Malta. "I am thrilled that it was all worthwhile as I see the excitement generated in our attendees. Many are experiencing their first time away from families who look after them faithfully. The freedom and excitement they are achieving is the pandemic we should all be exposed to."*

The camp, initially scheduled for 2020 was postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions, was scaled back due to the current outbreak in Australia.

*"Despite the challenges COVID-19 presented, the 2021 camp was a huge success" said National Hospitaller John Murphy. "A special mention to the Camp Coordinating team for constantly adapting to pull off a camp that provided so much joy to all who attended."*

*We are so delighted with success of the camp and the impact it has made on the participants and their families. As a result we are committed to expand these works to become a regular fixture here in Australia in addition to participation in the wider Asia Pacific program.*

*We now will begin planning regular mini camps in addition to this longer format to bring this life changing opportunity to more young adults with disabilities and also give our OMV volunteers and wider membership the opportunity to serve others.*

*For those guests who, as a result of restrictions, were unable to attend we hope to be able to offer some smaller day camps in their regions as restrictions ease" John went on to explain.*

VISIT ORDEROFMALTA.ORG.AU FOR MORE PICTURES, TESTIMONIALS AND VIDEOS FROM THE 2021 CAMP  
YOU CAN DONATE TO FUTURE YOUTH CAMPS ON PAGE 5



*"Matthew's 24 years old and this is his first time spending a week away from home. He's normally super shy. I think everyone has seen him blossom. He's been the centre of everything! Involving himself in everything! He won't normally go near sand, won't go in the beach. But he did today. He got sand between his toes, patted the dolphin and is still smiling!"*

Pictured: Anthea, Centacare carer and camp guest Mathew.



*"My favourite thing has been meeting other people... making friends."*

Camp guest, Carrissa aged 19.



Volunteer Amma with Bubble Soccer teammate Liam (guest).



*"It's my first time away from my parents. I'm so happy to share this camp with my best friend Emma! I'd love to go on another camp like this!"*

Camp guest Shannon, aged 26 (right) with guest Emma.



*"I've been working with Liam for over 2 years and I've never been able to get him to dance. Tonight he's dancing in the middle of the circle! And everybody's friendly, he's making conversations - that's huge for him!"*

Hayden, Centacare carer for camp guest Liam (dancing with volunteer Caroline).

*"During my 14 years of membership of the Order of Malta I have had the privilege of involvement with many Order Outreach activities. But here at the Order's Youth Camp I have experience the joy of being a part of something so much greater than anything I have ever done. The joy we have brought to our guests, the gratitude expressed by their carers and the enthusiasm of our volunteers demonstrates how worthwhile the Order's efforts have achieved."*

Camp coordinator, Danny Higgins (second from left) with camp guests.





## NEW PROJECT: ORDER OF MALTA COMMUNITY CARE KITCHEN

A new soup kitchen in Bondi NSW, that will provide hot meals to the homeless, disadvantaged and the lonely is set to open in November.

"The homeless population around Sydney over the years has become increasingly familiar with the Order of Malta due to our Coats for the Homeless distributions and Community Care Van Outreach service" explains Regional Hospitalier, Steve Christie. "The kitchen will be a welcome addition to the services we offer, extending our outreach beyond the homeless. It will not only enable us to provide a warm meal to the needy, but will serve as a base for our regional operations. We are extremely grateful to Fr Anthony Robbie, Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem of the Order and Parish Priest for St Patrick's Bondi, both for coming up with the idea for the kitchen and inviting the Order to be run it within his Parish".

"The kitchen goes beyond soup" said Fr Robbie. "Its function will be much more than that. Our members and volunteers will be able to provide compassion, care and understanding to these, often marginalised, members of the community. We also anticipate the 'kitchen' evolving to offer additional services over time."

Whilst the kitchen will initially operate once a week the frequency of services is planned to expand within 6 months if volunteers and funding permit. It is expected that the kitchen will host approximately 50 guests at each service.

To ensure the long-term success of the kitchen, the project managers are appealing to donors to commit to a small monthly donation to cover the ongoing costs of food and other consumables.

DONATIONS TO THE  
COMMUNITY CARE KITCHEN  
CAN MADE ON PAGE 5

## JUSTICE MARTIN DAUBNEY NAMED ACU CHANCELLOR

Member of the Order of Malta, the Hon Justice Martin Daubney has been named as Australian Catholic University's fifth Chancellor. He will serve a term of five years starting 1 January 2022.

Justice Daubney, an Honorary Fellow of ACU, is well known in the Australian legal community. Following a career as a leading barrister, he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2007, and as president of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal in 2017. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he had served for many years on the Council of the Bar Association of Queensland, including as vice-president in 2005 and president in 2006. Since his appointment as a judge, he has continued his wider service to the legal profession, both nationally and internationally. He has also occupied leadership positions in numerous Church, community and cultural organisations. Justice Daubney served on the Senate of the University of Queensland from 2010 to 2017, and as



## ORDER OF MALTA SERVES HOMELESS COMMUNITY THROUGH ECM

Each month Order of Malta Members, Candidates and Volunteers support the Emmanuel City Mission (ECM) in Brisbane, by preparing and serving free meals and sharing meaningful conversations with people in need.

VISIT ORDEROFMALTA.ORG.AU TO REGISTER INTEREST IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER



Pictured: Archbishop Mark Coleridge welcomed the newly named Chancellor, Justice Martin Daubney. Picture courtesy of The Catholic Leader

president of King's College Council since 2009.

"This appointment is a great honour," Justice Daubney said. "I thank the Corporation for entrusting me with the responsibility to serve as Chancellor of this unique national institution, which is firmly grounded in 2000 years of Catholic intellectual tradition and the Church's engagement in university education for a millennium."

ACU's core commitments to the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good resonate for all Australians".

Justice Daubney's appointment was announced by ACU President, Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge, who is also a Chaplain of the Order.

With Emmanuel being a strong Catholic Community, the Order's involvement directly in helping the disadvantaged allows the ECM team to worship with their community on Sundays.

ECM provides essential services including meals, showers, washing facilities, free clothing, and hygiene items. Significantly, ECM provides a welcoming and non-judgmental space for people in need to share a sense of home.

"Order of Malta Volunteers are dedicated to caring for people in need together" explains Order of Malta member, Joseph Grogan. "We are touched by the trust and openness of the local community as we talk over meals and it is also heart-warming to see attendees arriving on cold mornings wearing the Order of Malta's donated Coats for the Homeless".

"At our most recent service, an attendee confided the heartfelt hardships of being recently paroled, seeking to reconnect with estranged family and finding strength and hope through the support of the ECM community."

## COATS, CARE PACKS AND COMPASSION

Our Coats for the Homeless project not only delivers warm coats, socks and care packs to those sleeping-rough, but it also is an opportunity for our volunteers to connect and show care for some of the most marginalised in our society.

Every interaction our distribution teams has with the homeless is unique and so are the stories they share of how they find themselves alone and without shelter. In Melbourne, our volunteers met Chris\* who was happy to share his experiences:

As a young man, Chris had been diagnosed as having ADHD and then become addicted to ice/crystal meth which had spiralled out of control and ended in a short prison sentence.

He had been released a week earlier and was focused on staying out of trouble. The boarding house where he was able to secure temporary accommodation on release had not suited him because drugs were readily available, and he wanted no part in them. He told our volunteers how he missed his dogs that were currently in a boarding kennel in the country, and he was focused on rebuilding his life and getting back with his animals.

Chris appreciated the time our volunteers shared and the warm coat they provided him as he did not have any waterproof gear or sleeping bag. The care pack was also gratefully received.

As our distribution teams said goodbye and told to him that they hoped their paths would cross again soon, he responded with a genuine heart-warming smile, "I hope not. At least not under these circumstances."

\*Name changed and identity concealed



DONATIONS TO COATS FOR THE HOMELESS  
CAN MADE ON PAGE 5 OR AT  
COATSFORHOMELESS.ORG

## NEW PROJECT: OUR LADY OF PHILERMOS ROSE



A new project has been initiated by a cohort of Order of Malta candidates during their Year of Preparation, to breed and grow a signature rose to support the Order of Malta's work in palliative care facilities and nursing homes.

The rose, which has been named 'Our Lady of Philermos' will eventually be gifted to residents by our Order of Malta members and volunteers. A planting card will be attached to each Rose, detailing its features, planting instructions and the Prayer of Consecration.

"Members of the Order of Malta are called to provide for and raise up those who are struggling with sickness and poverty" explained project team member, and Order of Malta candidate, David Macintosh. "Along with the alleviation of suffering, it is our solemn duty to inspire these souls with an even greater gift of lifting their hearts and minds in contemplation of their eternal life. How appropriate it is then to present our Rose to our charges, in honour of Our Lady of Philermos, as a thing of beauty in their hour of need."

The project is still in the early stages. Come this September the first 26 bushes became available and by October 2022 the hope is to have over 300. The project team has already secured six garden locations

across the country to grow the Our Lady of Philermos Rose, thanks to the generosity of Australian Catholic University providing space at their campuses.

"As of now our immediate focus is to raise funds for the purchase of 300 rose bushes from Swane's Nursery and production of the planting cards," said David.

Whilst the primary function of the Rose Project is to provide a gift to the needy, the longer-term goal is to have a limited stock of bushes available for sale with proceeds supporting the ongoing project costs. Expressions of interest for volunteers to plant, care and cut the roses will also be sought in early 2022 (full training will be provided).

EACH ROSE BUSH AND PLANTING  
CARD WILL COST \$20. PLEASE  
CONSIDER A DONATION TO  
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## ORDER OF MALTA CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER

Every year since the early 1980s, the Australian Association of the Order, has been providing an Annual Christmas Card for use by Members. It always maintained the same theme, an image of the Madonna and Child Jesus with his cousin John, very familiar to us as John the Baptist, the Patron Saint of our Order.

This year on the front cover we have a painting by Antonio da Correggio (Italian c. 1489-1534). Madonna and Child with infant Saint John the Baptist, circa 1514-15 oil on wood.

We are grateful for the opportunity to use this beautiful work of art from the National Gallery of Victoria.

On the back of the card is a note about the Order's history and inside there is a Christmas greeting that reads:

*'May the Joy and Peace of Christmas be with you throughout the Year'*

Members, Candidates and friends of the Australian Association are urged to support the spiritual and charitable works of the Order by ordering these exceptional cards.

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- ☐ Coats for the Homeless
  - ☐ Order of Malta Youth Camps
  - ☐ Community Care Kitchen Bondi
  - ☐ Our Lady of Philermos Rose

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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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