

# NEW PROJECT: ORDER OF MALTA MERCY PALLIATIVE CARE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

Thanks to the generous support of the Richard Divall Trust, a new project to provide hands on volunteer support to palliative care patients is underway.

The project, in partnership with Mercy Palliative Care Limited, will fund a volunteer coordinator for three years to train and organise members and volunteers in the west of Melbourne to care for frail sick and dying patients.

An Order of Malta committee led by Confrere Richard van der Merwe will work with the volunteer coordinator to promote the service and take leadership of the Order's contribution.

The initiative will involve the establishment, training and operation of a volunteer network that will offer a wide range of activities including:

- \* providing respite accompaniment through home visits

- \* providing transport for medical visits and tests
- \* biographical activities
- \* being a photographer to create memories of the person
- \* taking communion to the sick
- \* bereavement support of families
- \* administrative support to the palliative care service

The Order of Malta has active management of community palliative care through Eastern Palliative Care, which it runs in conjunction with St Vincent's Melbourne and Outer Eastern Palliative Care making it well placed to expand its hands on work in the western and southern suburbs of Melbourne.

"Fra' Richard Divall knew well the history of our Order's care for the sick, with the founder of the Hospitallers, Blessed Fra' Gerard, running the "Hospital" in Jerusalem to care for sick pilgrims to the Holy Land nine hundred years ago" explains Conf. David Kissane, Regent of the Sub Priory of the Immaculate Conception. "This very early hospice was exactly what palliative care does today. Fra' Richard would be honoured to know that funds from his estate are advancing this work which lies at the very heart of our Hospitaller Order."



Fra' Richard Divall AO OBE (9 September 1945 – 15 January 2017) was a conductor, composer, musicologist and Professed Knight of the Order of Malta.

Fra' Richard was one of a small group of Professed Knights of Malta, who take the evangelical vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and was the sole Australian Professed Knight.

# TONGA VOLCANO ERUPTION APPEAL



At the time of this newsletter going to print, Tonga is dealing with the immediate aftermath of a volcanic eruption and subsequent tsunami, which has left homes destroyed and resulted in thousands being evacuated and a rising death toll.

The small island nation remains all but cut off from the outside world as damaged fibre-optic cables limit communications and ash from the eruption affects water supplies and prevents air arrivals.

The Tongan government's only official statement since the eruption (at this stage) describes the incident an "unprecedented disaster". Whilst the full scale of the damage is being assessed, satellite images show smoke and ashes blanketing the islands and extensive damage with all but the largest buildings destroyed or severely damaged.

Despite limited communications in these early days, it is clear that there will be a significant emergency relief effort and longer term recovery for the people of Tonga. New Zealand Regional Hospitalier, Bevan Killick, who has numerous connections in Tonga is making enquiries as to how we can best assist.

We please ask you consider a tax deductible donation to our Emergency Relief Fund so that we can respond quickly to emerging needs in Tonga following this disaster. Donations can be made on page 5.

# 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.



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

- \* Gallery: Lourdes Day Mass at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney
- \* North Eastern Region Advent Mass and dinner
- \* Memorial Mass in Brisbane to commemorate deceased Members

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# COMMUNITY CARE KITCHEN BONDI OPEN FOR BUSINESS

In December, a new soup kitchen in Bondi opened; it provides hot meals to the homeless, disadvantaged and the lonely.

The Order of Malta Community Care Kitchen is run by volunteers at St Patrick's Catholic Church in Bondi and is open every Wednesday between 6.30 – 7.30pm. Members and volunteers prepare and serve the meal with ingredients generously supplied by Harris Farm Markets, who are supporting the project.

As attendance at the services grow, guests not only look forward to the healthy home cooked meal but the warm welcome and companionship offered by volunteers in the kitchen's 'dining room'. The longer-term goal of the kitchen is to not only increase the frequency of service, but to identify and cater to other needs of the guests, as well as being able to offer them other resources such as our Coats for the Homeless and Care Packs.

Thanks to gifts from members and a grant from the Global Fund for the Forgotten People the initial start-up expenses have been covered, however some further equipment that would be useful for the service has been identified:

- Prayer cards – \$500
- Commercial toaster – \$700
- Street signage – \$1,000
- Chest freezer – \$2,000

Donations of \$2 and more are tax deductible and can be made on page 5.



Currently the project's biggest focus is to get word out about the service and ensure locals are aware it is open to anyone in need. We encourage anyone with links to organisations or community groups that support the poor and needy in and around the Bondi area to email info@orderofmalta.org.au to help us grow awareness of the kitchen.

# SERVING THE HOMELESS IN BRISBANE THROUGH ADVENT



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?  
REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY  
VISITING ORDEROFMALTA.ORG.AU

During the Advent period, members and volunteers, provided additional support to the homeless who attend Emmanuel City Mission (ECM) in Brisbane.

During the ECM Christmas Festival, the ECM sanctuary remains open 24/7 in the week leading into Christmas - an especially vulnerable time for people confronting isolation and hardship – and members and volunteers of the Order of Malta covered the 10.00 pm to 2.00 "midnight" shift during this initiative.

Guests who attended expressed relief and gratitude to socialise, rest and sleep in a calm, safe, warm and clean sanctuary. A long-time attendee said ECM "feels like my home".

For those who wished to participate, a midnight Mass was celebrated each night with Order of Malta Magistral Chaplain Fr Gerard McMorrow, a frequent celebrant.

Volunteers helped to prepare the inflatable mattresses, provided warm drinks, supper, collected washing, maintained kitchen cleanliness, and assisted requests for clothing, first aid or mobile phone recharging stations as well as providing companionship and compassion to the guests.

Order of Malta Member Caroline reflected on the reciprocal blessings of supporting ECM.

"It's beautiful at ECM seeing every guest welcomed with care and to see each person respect each other's space and dignity with courtesy. A truly communal sanctuary of Christ's love, like Pope Francis encourages, united with the Order of Malta's Mission of care and service".

Order of Malta volunteers serve at EMC twice a month to prepare and share breakfast, drinks, a BBQ lunch, essential care items, friendly conversations with the homeless guests.



2022 CAMP FOR DISABLED YOUTH: 6-8 MAY 2022

Following the 2021 Asia Pacific Youth Camp on the Gold Coast and the subsequent announcement that the Australian Association will host regular camps to for disabled youth, the first regional camp for the Central Eastern Region confirmed in May with a second camp planned in the South Eastern Region in September.

The three-day camp will host 75 guests, carers and Order of Malta Volunteers at the Benedict XVI Centre in Richmond, which has excellent facilities and accommodation for our disabled guests. Activities will include craft, discos, an excursion to a water park and an indoor skydiving experience.

"It really will be a fantastic opportunity for all involved, not just the guests" explained Regional Hospitaller, Steve Christie. "We are pleased that the NSW participants who were unable to attend camp last year due to restrictions will now be able to participate in an Order of Malta camp. We hope this will be the first of many such camps in our region".

- THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ORDER OF MALTA YOUTH CAMPS
- Help young people overcome personal barriers
  - To forge a sense of community
  - An opportunity to serve



THE COST TO HOST THE TWO CAMPS WILL BE \$70,000. TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT CAN BE MADE ON PAGE 5.



MEDICAL CLINIC, TIMOR-LESTE – SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH COVID

The Order of Malta Medical Clinic in Timor-Leste has been able to keep its doors open all through the COVID crisis, with only some brief periods of closure and deep cleaning due to infection scares. This meant that even during the many months that Dili was locked down, the Clinic remained open to address the health needs of the local community.

The true experience of COVID in Timor-Leste remains unclear. While the World Health Organisation records fewer than 20,000 total cases, and only 122 deaths, this is undoubtedly an understatement. Those closer to the ground in Dili and the Districts estimate that at its peak, there were at least 100,000 live cases, and there are many stories of those – particularly older Timorese – who developed undiagnosed respiratory illness and subsequently died.

During this time, the Order of Malta Clinic has delivered on its mission of providing free health care to the poorest in Timor.

PLEASE CONSIDER A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO ASSIST THE ORDER OF MALTA CLINIC IN TIMOR-LESTE. DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ON PAGE 5.

A focus on maternal and infant health, with regular nutrition clinics, continues to address the persistent problem of malnutrition. Unfortunately, while the Clinic receives regular supplies of infant nutrition supplements, there is no corresponding supply of supplements for pregnant women and nursing mothers: addressing this gap is a priority for 2022.

In 2022 the clinic will see the execution of our COVID-delayed initiative to go beyond the walls of the Clinic, to provide health care, nutritional support and education directly to the community. Recently a new MOU was signed with the Timorese Ministry of Health to extend the Clinic's role within the public health system, via mobile Clinic services.

This has involved the purchase of a third ambulance to be used as a mobile Clinic, and a third doctor will be employed, as well as a new nurse and midwife in the first quarter of 2022. The Clinic is particularly grateful to the Global Fund for Forgotten People for funding the new ambulance.

Moving beyond the physical Clinic is important because many Timorese are unable to attend: either they lack transport; they must work; or because for many pregnant women, they already have multiple children at home to look after.

HOMELESS COATS AND CARE PACK DISTRIBUTION CONTINUES

In December, South Australia members arranged for Care Packs containing face masks, socks, toothbrushes and anti-bacterial wipes to be distributed to the homeless with assistance from the Adelaide Day Centre. Recipients gratefully received the packs and were happy to munch on mince pies, pose for a photo and share a story or two.

Members also provided bakery items to be distributed as part of the Adelaide Day Centre's Christmas food deliveries.

Meanwhile in Brisbane, members and volunteers distributed over 200 Toombul Family Dental (TFD) packs through the Emmanuel City Mission (ECM) homeless sanctuary and the Southport Catholic Parish outreach centre, "Angel's Kitchen".

TFD Owner Bella Verity, who generously

donated the packs reflected, "I remind my team all the time that homelessness could impact any of us, and nothing in life is permanent. We're all only one misstep or crisis away from being in a similar situation and we need to show the same empathy and understanding that we'd hope for in a challenging situation".

In Melbourne, Order of Malta members and volunteers continued their street distributions, with some lingering cold weather in November, some Coats for the Homeless were still being distributed in addition to Care Packs. One recipient of a coat swapped out a threadbare edition he had received from members over two years ago that was a vital part of his sleeping plan. He relied on our design to protect him from the cold and wet during all this period.

Members in New Zealand have also taken delivery of some Care Packs to be distributed to the needy on the streets in the New Year.

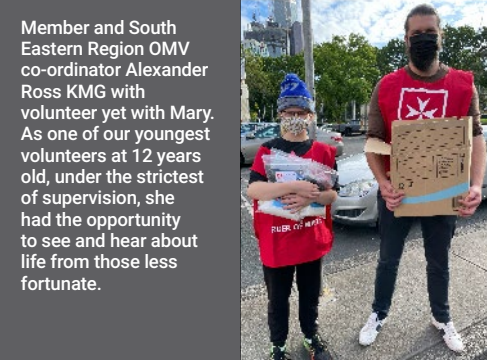
DONATION TO COATS FOR THE HOMELESS AND CARE PACKS CAN BE MADE ON PAGE 5.



Over 200 Toombul Family Dental packs distributed to the homeless through ECM and Angel's Kitchen



Care packs and food for Christmas deliveries to the needy in Adelaide.



Member and South Eastern Region OMV co-ordinator Alexander Ross KMG with volunteer yet with Mary. As one of our youngest volunteers at 12 years old, under the strictest of supervision, she had the opportunity to see and hear about life from those less fortunate.

MEMBERS NEWS

Investiture Mass at St. Aloysius in Cronulla welcomes chaplains, new members and those taking the Promise of Obedience

On Saturday 11 December 2021, members of the Order of Malta came together for an Investiture Mass at St. Aloysius in Cronulla.

The investiture, originally scheduled in June but postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, welcomed three chaplains, five new members, one member promoted to Knight of Magistral Grace and five members taking the Promise of Obedience.



Special thanks to our Principal Celebrant, Bishop Richard Umbers and Con-celebrants: Frs James McCarthy, Anthony Casamento, Paul Nulley and Master of Ceremony, Fr Anthony Robbie.



The Hon. Sir James Augustine Gobbo AC CVO QC died 7 November 2021

Sir James was a former President of the Australian Association and former Regent of the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception, Rhodes Scholar, former Supreme Court Judge and Governor of Victoria. As one of the original 13 foundation members of the Australian Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta, he oversaw the establishment of Order of Malta Home Hospice Service (Victoria) Inc.

We honour his enormous contribution to Australian society and wish to convey our prayers and condolences to his family. He will be greatly missed.



Fra' Matthew Festing died 12 November 2021

Fra Matthew was the 79th Grand Master of the Order of Malta. During his decade at the helm of the Order he travelled to the five continents to strengthen diplomatic relations with countries and to see the Order's works around the world at first hand. He led dozens of pilgrimages to Lourdes and other Marian shrines, taking personal care of disabled pilgrims.

Fra' Matthew was laid to rest in the crypt at the Co Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Valletta, Malta following his state funeral becoming the Order's 12th Grand Master to be buried there and the first for hundreds of years.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR 2021 ASSISTANCE TO THE HOMELESS

Since the initiation and an invitation of Pope Francis to the Order of Malta to actively participate in World Day of the Poor five years ago, members and volunteers worldwide have recognised this special day. The World Day of the Poor is no different from any other day – except that our organisations around the world unite with His Holiness, in prayer and action, to mark the need for a combined effort to reduce poverty.

Despite the challenges of COVID restrictions, members of the Australian Association organised activities to mark the fifth World Day of the Poor in November 2021 to bear witness to the daily presence of people in need,

In Melbourne it was an unusually cold November day with a top temperature of 15 degrees Celsius. Members took the opportunity to distribute Coats for the

Homeless as well as extra special care packs that included flavoured milk and protein/energy bars to mark this day. It also provided an opportunity for one of our new members Conf. Michael Murphy to participate in our homeless outreach, after restrictions had limited activity.

"The first thing that struck me was the number of people on the street in need of help," said Michael. "There was also an overwhelming positive response and much gratitude from all those we spoke to. They were all familiar with the works of the knights and dames and appreciated our efforts to connect, listen and serve them. The Order certainly calls forth goodness in people and we were able to see this in action and that's so important".

Similarly, members and volunteers in Brisbane gathered at the Emmanuel City Mission (ECM) to welcome people in need to the sanctuary. North Eastern Regional Hospitaller Conf. Danny Higgins and young Member Cons. Caroline Grogan led the volunteer team in offering a free and friendly breakfast, sausage sizzle lunch and special take home treats. In the spirit of the day, a young woman seeking extra

clothes was happy to receive more than she expected. Over 40 attendees shared the communal atmosphere, and the volunteers were spiritually nourished.



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:

- ☐ Emergency Relief Fund – Tonga appeal
- ☐ Coats and Care Packs for the Homeless
- ☐ Community Care Kitchen Bondi
- ☐ Medical Clinic Timor-Leste
- ☐ Camps for Disabled Youth

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.

Name

Address

State  Postcode  Telephone

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

Signature