



ORDER OF MALTA CAMP BRINGS DISABLED YOUTH AND YOUNG VOLUNTEERS TOGETHER

Over the second weekend of May, 50 guests, carers and volunteers came together in Western Sydney for a three-day Order of Malta Camp for Disabled Youth at the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre.

The Order of Malta in Europe and the Americas have been hosting youth camps for over 30 years with the aim of bringing together young people with disabilities, volunteers and carers for a once in a lifetime experience of fun, friendship and adventure. However only in 2017 did this tradition reach the Asia Pacific region with the first Australian camp hosted in the Gold Coast in September 2021.

"The camp aims to break down barriers, forge a sense of community and provide

our volunteers an opportunity to serve" explained Order of Malta member Neville Zammit. "The programs are designed to challenge our disabled guests, physically, emotionally and intellectually, in a safe, supportive and fun environment. Importantly, our youth volunteers play key roles in planning and running the camps, as it is the participants' interactions and the friendships forged along the way that make the Order of Malta camps so special".

Activities at the Sydney camp included bubble soccer, an iFly and aqua golf experience at Penrith Panthers, as well as daily Masses with our Spiritual Director Fr James McCarthy and social activities, including the popular camp disco.

Camp guest Chris commented, "This [camp] really exceeded my expectations. I was thinking it would be a basic youth camp, but no. I was given everything and more. Especially with all the wonderful people I have met. It makes me sad that I have to go [home]."

Whilst the camps are primarily focussed on the disabled guests, they provide an equally valuable experience for those

who volunteer. Order of Malta member and camp leader Dalton Fogarty explains; "Being here with the guests and seeing how they interact with everyone has been inspirational. Seeing genuine happiness and warmth from them and being part of that has been amazing. For me, the camps express what the charism of the Order of Malta is about."

Plans are underway for another camp to be held in Victoria in September with spots already in demand.

"We have established great links with care agencies across the country who want their clients to attend future camps, in addition to guests keen to return." said Neville. "However, as the camps are funded entirely by donations, our main challenge is to secure funding so that we can continue to host these camps that offer so much to everyone involved."

The next Order of Malta Camp for Disabled Youth will be held in Melbourne between 9-11 September 2022 at Camp Mayung. If you wish to participate as a guest or volunteer, visit www.orderofmalta.org.au to register your interest.



Photo courtesy of Giovanni Portelli / The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

TONGAN QUEEN AND PRINCESS THANK ORDER OF MALTA FOR AID

In January the world was stunned by a volcanic eruption and subsequent tsunami in Tonga that devastated the islands, leaving homes and livelihoods destroyed.

Immediate aid became difficult. The small island nation was all but cut off from the outside world as damaged fibre-optic cables limited communications and ash from the eruption affected water supplies and prevented air arrivals. Additionally,

whilst the rest of the world was managing rising cases of COVID, Tonga had managed to keep COVID at zero cases and more so than ever was keen to keep the virus at bay, due to the damage to homes and health facilities.

Consoeur Deirdre Page in collaboration with Fr Ailiki Langi from the Holy Name of Mary Parish Hunters Hill, NSW met with a group of the leaders of the Tongan Diaspora to discuss ways in which the Order of Malta could assist the relief effort.

As a first step in our aid program, the Order sponsored a forty-foot shipping container to transport items that have been collected by the Catholic Tongan community in Sydney to be delivered to the people of the

Island of Atata, and the villages of Ha'atafu, Kanokupolu, Ha'akili, Kolovai, Ha'avakatolo and Fo'ui. The Order of Malta also arranged for 200 of our Care Packs (containing anti-bacterial wipes, masks, socks, dental care items and soaps) and rosary beads, nappies and female sanitary items for inclusion in the shipment.

The shipment was packed on a weekend in April and the High Commissioner for Tonga, Princess Angelika Lātūfiupeka Tuku'aho travelled from Canberra to Sydney to grace the occasion. She inspected everything and thanked the Order for our aid.

The Order of Malta will continue to support our neighbours and friends in Tonga during their recovery effort.



The Queen of Tonga receiving the shipment of aid, to be distributed to the surrounding villages.



WE HAVE BEEN SERVING THE SICK AND THE POOR FOR OVER 900 YEARS.

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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.



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IN THIS ISSUE - PROJECT UPDATES / EVENT REPORTS / LATEST NEWS

UPDATE AID TO UKRAINE



Under the coordination of Malteser International, the Order of Malta is continuing to provide relief to the Ukrainian population distributing medical equipment, food, hygiene kits and ensuring psycho-social support in Ukraine and in the surrounding countries.

Within Ukraine the relief operations have reached 49 cities, including many currently under siege such as Odessa, Sumy, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Mariupol, Porkovsk, Zaporizhzhia. Sadly, premises of the Order of Malta – plus a van and a mobile kitchen – have been destroyed by the missile attacks in the Mariupol siege. Medical equipment and supplies were also lost in the blasts.

Many associations of the Order of Malta are on the front line to respond to the basic needs of the population. According to the latest figures 7.7 million people are displaced internally and some 5 million have crossed the border and have entered neighbouring countries.

The Ukrainian relief corps of the Order of Malta delivers continuous support mainly within the health and food and

nutrition security field. Mental health support is provided both in Eastern and Western Ukraine and in Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk shelter is provided.

Over 2.300 tons of aid material (clothes, blankets, hygiene and medical equipment, food tents, field kitchen camp, beds and other equipment) have been delivered so far to Ukraine and neighbouring countries by the Order of Malta **Germany** which has assisted some 260.000 wounded and sick refugees providing transport and shelter.

Numerous Grand Priorities, Associations and volunteer corps of the Order of Malta in other European countries have contributed to the collection of goods and their transport, as well as raising funds.

Ordre de Malte **France** has also organised the collection and transport of 3.3 tons of aid goods to hospitals in Kyiv and Lviv, with more to follow in Kharkiv and Khmelnytsky.

The Order of Malta in **Hungary** is widening its relief operations reach with hotspots in Beregsurány, Budapest, Debrecen, Miskolc and Győr, and is managing warehouses and donation collection points across the country.

The **Polish** association is assisting the many refugees crossing the border and providing medical and logistic support as well as accommodation. Medical teams from the Italian Relief Corps of the Order of Malta have also joined the Polish association.

Most activities are supported by the Order of Malta's diplomatic network including the transportation of goods from the Order of Malta in **Romania** into Ukraine and the provision of temporary shelters in many countries neighbouring Ukraine.

Many associations, from the US to Asia, have also been supporting the relief operations by means of fundraising campaigns and generous donations by its members. Thank you to everyone who has donated to this appeal.



Donations to our Emergency Relief Fund to support the humanitarian efforts in the Ukraine can be made on page 5

DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE ORDER OF MALTA CAMPS FOR DISABLED YOUTH ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND CAN BE MADE ON PAGE 5.

PROJECT OFFICER APPOINTED FOR THE COMMUNITY HUB

We are pleased to announce that **Anna Vandierendonck** has been appointed **Project Officer for the Community Hub** co-led by the Order of Malta and the Australian Catholic University. **Anna** has a background in launching and developing community based services and is very much looking forward to working on this exciting initiative with the Order and ACU.

Initial steps for the program will include community consultation identifying gaps in service provisions for the marginalised in the local area and she has already joined

our Order of Malta volunteers distributing the Coats for the Homeless on the streets of Melbourne.

This joint initiative will be overseen by a steering committee including representatives from the Order of Malta and ACU. The hub will utilise the resources of the Order of Malta and also ACU, which has a strong presence in Melbourne with the Fitzroy campus.

The focus of the project is to provide opportunities for members of the Order as well as ACU staff and students to work together in serving those in need.

COATS FOR THE HOMELESS STORIES FROM THE STREETS



"Auntie Jane"

Often in our Coats for the Homeless work we find ourselves building relationships with regulars who turn up time and time again at our designated spots.

One of our favourites is Auntie Jane. We first met Jane as a grateful recipient of one of the Order of Malta's Coats and since then she has always been very keen to say hello and have a chat.

The word 'Auntie' is a mark of respect and a reference to the fact that she is an aboriginal elder. She is a bit of a celebrity in her area who always has a smile on her face, happy to see us turn up and lets us know who needs our help tonight.

She has been more than happy to share her sad story as a survivor of institutional sexual abuse from a very young age due to her intellectual disability. She tells us she featured on Lateline on the ABC several years ago and is always keen to get a photo or two with new friends. She is a strong positive woman who has been able to overcome hardship and now focuses on helping others.

She is attracted to these venues of homeless people looking for company and helping people look for the positives in life.



Sam & Ben

Auntie Jane is not homeless herself and has a place to call home but the friends she spends time with on the streets are also part of her family. She is happy with her life and is just keen to spread some happiness around.

"It is good to be back on the streets caring for the marginalised that call the streets home. There have been lots of new friends to be made and some reacquainting ourselves with some old regulars who had missed the banter and company that comes with the Coats from the Order of Malta" explained National Hospitaller, John Murphy.

"The stories that the Order of Malta members and volunteers hear from the homeless on the streets are always personal and unique. There is always a range of different reasons why people find themselves alone and without a roof over their head. The beauty of the Coats for the Homeless program is not always the coats themselves, but rather the opportunity for members of the Order to personally connect with the lonely and marginalised."

During a distribution in Melbourne, John met two gentlemen who had different stories but much in common.

Ben came from India 10 years ago from India without family and had struggled to integrate into society and hold a regular job. He 'couch surfed' when he could and had no fixed address.

Sam was a refugee from Lebanon and has struggled with major health issues. His regular seizures see him spend much of his time in hospital or more recently you can often find him with Ben travelling on public transport during the day in the outer suburbs to ensure they stay away from trouble and remain inconspicuous.



Neville Zammit and friends

Talking to the gentlemen about their reasons for being in the city on this cold night and their answer surprised. "We don't need the food but we need the company. People need people and we find speaking to people like yourselves who come out here with warm clothing and food, we interact with you and feel human once again".

Our volunteers who visit the homeless do more than just distribute Coats for the Homeless and hygiene packs. They have conversations with those they meet, sometimes sharing laughs, sometimes offering guidance on where they can get medical assistance and access other services.

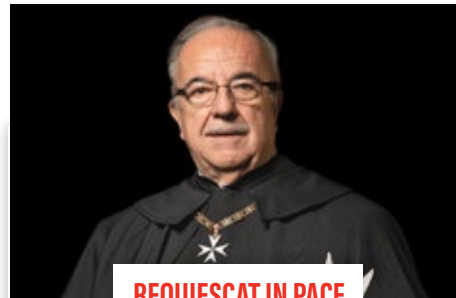
During one of our Parramatta distributions, member Neville Zammit met a gentleman who had been released from jail that day and had nowhere to go. He was very grateful for the coat and hygiene pack he was given and advice on local services available to him.

HOW YOUR DONATION CAN HELP

- * A gift of \$100 could buy three of our specially designed, warm, shower-proof coats.
- * A gift of \$200 could buy 40 Hygiene packs to help protect the homeless.

Donations to support Coats for the Homeless are tax deductible and can be made on page 5.

MEMBERS NEWS



REQUIESCAT IN PACE

H.E. the Lieutenant of the Grand Master Fra' Marco Luzzago – Requescat In Pace

The Grand Magistracy announces, with deep sorrow, the return to the Father's house of His Excellency the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, Fra' Marco Luzzago, who passed away today at Villa Ciccolini (Sforzacosta, Macerata province in Italy), following a sudden illness.

According to Article 17 of the Constitution of the Sovereign Order of Malta, the Grand Commander, Fra' Ruy Gonçalo do Valle Peixoto de Villas-Boas has assumed the functions of Lieutenant ad interim and will remain head of the Sovereign Order until the election of the new head of the Order.



Australian Association welcomes newest chaplain and knight

Fr Joshua Scott and Emil Bulum were invested into the Order of Malta during a special Mass at the Corpus Christi parish, Gowrie in Canberra's south on 4 April 2022.

Fr Scott, the parish's assistant priest, was invested as a Magistral Chaplain and Mr Bulum, a parishioner at St Joseph's O'Connor, was invested as a member. The investiture was carried out by the Order of Malta's Australian Association president, the Hon James Douglas, delegate of the Lieutenant of the Grand Master.

The Mass was celebrated by Monsignor Giuseppe Quirighetti of the Apostolic Nunciature with Fr Scott as concelebrant.



Conf. Danny Higgins takes the Promise of Obedience

In March, members of the Order of Malta came together with family and guests at St Benedict's, East Brisbane to join North Eastern Regional Hospitaller, Conf Danny Higgins as he took the Promise of Obedience.

At present, 40 Australian Association members have taken their Promise of Obedience with a further eight in their Year of Probation (including two members from the Philippines). This accounts for approximately 15% of the Australian Association's membership and is a symbol of the success of the Order of Malta in enriching the spiritual life of its members.

Special thanks to our Celebrants, Rev Fr Gerard McMorrow and Fr Stephen Camiolo.

Member recognised in Queen's Honours List

Congratulations to Confrere Simon Manning who has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday and Platinum Jubilee Honours list in New Zealand. Simon has been made a Companion of

the Queen's Service Order for services to funeral services and disaster victim identification.

The award recognises Simon's work following the 1979 Erebus air disaster in Antarctica which claimed 257 lives, where he helped establish a more

structured disaster response for future fatal events. He leads New Zealand's Funeral Disaster Response team and has nationally coordinated responses to the devastating Christchurch earthquake in 2011, the mosque terrorist attack in Christchurch, White Island eruption in 2019 and more.



EUTHANASIA IN NSW

What is the future for ethical end-of-life care?

Information seminar
Saturday 9th July
2-4pm, St Anne's Hall, Bondi Beach

FREE and LIVE STREAMED

SPEAKERS

Ms Anna Walsh
Lawyer

Dr John Obeid
Geriatrician

Dr Maria Ciglioni
Palliative Care Specialist

Register: catholicmedicine.org
Email: admin@catholicmedicine.org



ORDER OF MALTA RETURNS TO LOURDES FOLLOWING HIATUS DURING PANDEMIC

The Sanctuary at Lourdes, France has reopened and been made ready for pilgrims after being closed for two years due to Covid-19.

In the first weekend of May, the first large scale pilgrimage group to return to Lourdes was the Order of Malta for their 64th International Pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady and included eleven members of the Order of Malta in Australia.

Whilst the number of participants was lower than pre-pandemic pilgrimages,

it was still considerable including some 3,000 pilgrims from 31 countries. The Australian contingent was organised and led by Dunstan de Souza. It included the Order of Malta Australian President, the Hon James Douglas, and Magistral Chaplain Fr Paul Nulley. As with previous pilgrimages, members and volunteers of the Order of Malta accompanied 'malades' (the sick), with the Australians providing support to the 60 malades who came with the Western (US) Association.

Lourdes appears to be 'back to business' with very few changes post pandemic. The Order of Malta pilgrimage, that spanned across five days, was able to include a Pontifical Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and a candlelight Marian procession – all attended by thousands, continuing an annual tradition that started in 1958.

The Pontifical Mass on the Sunday was concelebrated by Cardinal Silvano Maria Tomasi, the Pope's special delegate to the Order of Malta, Monsignor Jean Laffitte, Prelate of the Order and 100 chaplains of the Order. The Order's Lieutenant of the Grand Master and members of their Sovereign Council were amongst those who participated in the Marian pilgrimage.

For the Australians in attendance, comprising both first-time and

seasoned pilgrims, it was a joyful and spiritually uplifting experience.

"A pilgrimage to Lourdes represents one of the most significant moments in the spiritual life of the Order's members and volunteers" explained Australian Association President, the Hon James Douglas. "Members are expected to attend the Order's pilgrimage at least once, however many find the pilgrimage so enriching that they attend annually. It is with great joy that we were able to return this year."

Fr Paul Nulley commented: "It was a gathering of members throughout the world to care for the sick in the presence of Our Lady. I witnessed how Lourdes gives concrete expression to the Order's spirituality. The pilgrimage was an opportunity for me to understand how I contribute to the overall mission of the Order. I met fellow chaplains from across the world and saw something of the catholicity and global reach of the Order".

For Australians unable to visit Lourdes, the Order of Malta 'brings Lourdes to Australia' at their Lourdes Day Mass celebrations held annually in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide. Those who attend these special celebrations, including malades from Australia, receive a blessing for good health and a bottle of Lourdes water for their personal use.

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
 - Coats for the Homeless
 - Camps for Disabled Youth

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

- Send me information about leaving the Order a bequest
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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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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