



READ TO LEARN SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN THE CLASSROOM

In March, the Order of Malta and Australian Catholic University (ACU) Community Hub in Melbourne launched the Read to Learn program in partnership with Preston North East Primary School. Read to Learn aims to support primary school children from culturally and linguistically diverse and refugee backgrounds, who have also been identified as requiring additional support to develop their reading and literacy skills.

Read to Learn began as a pilot project in 2016 and officially launched in early 2017 in partnership with ACU, the City of Yarra, Catholic Education Office and Atherton Gardens. The Order of Malta is proud to partner with ACU to bring this program to more schools across Melbourne.

Read to Learn involves one-on-one tutoring during weekly sessions during school

Term. At Preston North East Primary School more than 50% of the parents speak English as a second language with many reportedly struggling to help their children complete reading and homework tasks. The program has been well received with 15 primary school students currently being enrolled and many more students on the waiting list. The group of tutors are made up of members and volunteers of the Order of Malta and ACU students as part of their course requirements.

Although the main program outcomes are to enhance the literacy and numeracy skills of the primary school students, it has become obvious that the program is achieving much more than that.

Jessica D., a Bachelor of Primary and Secondary Education student at ACU, who is volunteering for the project as part of her university-required Community Engagement placement, believes Read to Learn is doing something invaluable with the children both academically and socially.

"The students are receiving crucial one-on-one time with a tutor who is dedicating all their time and effort into helping them to

succeed in reading, writing or homework activities," explains Jessica.

"This type of close engagement is lacking in a classroom where the teacher must balance their attention across a class of up to 30 other students. Students are also benefiting from spending time with people outside of their own social circles. I believe the Read to Learn sessions ultimately have positive impacts, not only on educational outcomes, but also on the children's social skills, emotional wellbeing, and confidence."

Overall, the program at Preston North East Primary School has been highly successful. Assistant Principal, John-Mark Gook commented that Read to Learn was *"highly valued in the school community"* but most telling sign was the smile on the young students' faces when they are being greeted by their tutor, knowing that they'll have 45 minutes of quality time together to learn at their own pace, share stories, and have fun.

Volunteer positions are now open for the remainder of 2023. If you are interested in volunteering email info@orderofmalta.org.au for more information.

The Order of Malta and ACU Community Hub rely on the generosity of donors to continue serving the Melbourne community. Information on how to donate to the Order of Malta and ACU Community Hub are on page 5.

OUR LADY OF PHILERMOS ROSE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

\$35 EACH + \$27.50 flat rate shipping

The Our Lady of Philermos Rose project directly aligns with the mission of the Order of Malta. It has both spiritual significance and offers hands-on engagement with our Lords poor and sick.

Volunteers will distribute roses to patients in palliative care facilities, care homes and hospitals. The charitable act of gifting the rose, and the interaction with volunteers, intends to bring the recipients comfort and joy. All profits will be invested back into the project.

Limited stock available. Order from www.orderofmalta.org.au/rose

HYMN TO OUR LADY OF PHILERMOS YOUR BEAUTY SO BRIGHT

To complement the Spirituality and Works of the Rose Project a Hymn was written by Conf. David Macintosh with an imprimatur and music composed by Christine McCarthy, mother of our Order's Chaplain Father James McCarthy. The hymn has been recorded in a music and sound studio by Cons. Anjarat Suthat Na Ayuthya, a member in Thailand.

"Your Beauty So Bright" is available for download at www.orderofmalta.org.au/rose



About the Rose: Our Lady of Philermos is a lovely red rose with mild fragrance. Growing on a medium bush with semi-glossy foliage, the blooms appear in small clusters throughout the season. Suitable for garden displays or vases.

Height: 100cm, **Fragrance:** mild, **Colour:** red, **Type:** Floribunda, **Breeder code:** WALsatin



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ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

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OUTREACH SERVICE EXPANDS IN MELBOURNE

Following the successful launch of the Mobile Community Café at public housing in Darebin in December 2022, the project has expanded its services to Reservoir Neighbourhood House (RNH) in East Reservoir. The RNH is a not-for-profit facility that provides a community space to foster and promote the well-being of local residents.

The Mobile Community Café is another initiative of the Order of Malta and Australian Catholic University (ACU) Community Hub in Melbourne and involves members, volunteers and ACU students making weekly visits to socialise with residents living in areas where many people experience

high levels of social isolation and/or poverty. At the visits, volunteers offer attendees morning tea and the opportunity to engage in discussions and games with the aim of cultivating a stronger, more inclusive community. As a result, it positively impacts the individuals' physical and emotional health.

"The community morning tea provides a vital opportunity for social connection, reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness," explains Lia Caelli, Programs & Volunteer Coordinator Reservoir Neighbourhood House. *"It encourages community integration, allowing individuals to form new friendships and support networks and creates a safe space to share experiences, knowledge and resources."*

In addition to promoting social engagement, the visits offer other

opportunities. For some residents it is a platform for them to access other services at the facility, including a social worker, Orange Sky Australia, and PRACE Job Pathways. For others, the modest morning tea offered is a vital resource, as volunteer Grace Tropeano explains: *"People are hungry. What they eat during the morning tea, could well be their main meal for the day."*

Whilst the initial focus of the Mobile Community Café volunteers is to build awareness and trust in the service, the long-term goal is to expand the program further and co-design additional projects and services based on needs identified in these interactions. Already at the pilot location, an interest in painting has developed between the group of regular attendees and several beautiful art works have been produced.

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2023 LOURDES DAY MASS ADELAIDE

On Saturday, 11 February 2023, over 200 parishioners and members of the Order celebrated the 2023 Our Lady of Lourdes Day Mass in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral Adelaide.

Celebrant Fr Anthony Adimai SdM began this profoundly Eucharistic moment by saying, *"On this Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of the Sick, instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1992, we pray that through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, she will help the sick to offer their suffering to God in communion with the suffering of Jesus Christ."*

Before the final blessing, Regional

Hospitaller, Noel Mifsud shared a reflection on his 2018 Order of Malta Lourdes Pilgrimage and the history and works of the Order of Malta, explaining *"Both the 2018 pilgrimage and the 2023 Mass were profoundly Eucharistic moments. It is in these moments of pain and joy, singing and weeping, prayer and silence that Christ cradles us, whispering hope to the sick and courage to all."*

After the Mass, Conf Noel Mifsud went on to say *"It was a blessing to stand shoulder to shoulder with fellow Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta to distribute our love, prayers and bottles of Lourdes Holy water to the sick and poor."*

The next Lourdes Day Mass celebration will be at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney on Saturday 2 December at 10am.

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

COATS FOR THE HOMELESS ACROSS AUSTRALIA

5,000 Coats for the Homeless are currently being distributed by our members and volunteers across Australia to the people who call the streets home. The need for this project has never been greater with our distribution teams reporting a much wider cohort of people who are struggling to search for somewhere to call home due to the cost-of-living crisis. Thank you to everyone who supported this appeal. If you still wish to donate you can do so at www.coatsforthehomeless.org or complete and return the coupon on page 5.

FOOD SERVICE BRISBANE

Every Sunday the Emmanuel City Mission (ECM) in Brisbane provide a free food service for the disadvantaged. On the second and fourth Sunday of each month, Order of Malta members and volunteers undertake the cooking and serving duties, whilst also welcoming and conversing with guests.

COMMUNITY CARE KITCHEN BONDI

Every Wednesday between 6.30 and 7.30pm to Order of Malta Community Care Kitchen at St Patrick's Catholic Church in Bondi, offers a nutritious, warm, home cooked meal to anyone in need. Our members and volunteers welcome our guests and serve them at their table in the 'dining room'. The food service is aimed at anyone in need and all guests are warmly welcomed without judgement.

COMMUNITY CARE VANS SYDNEY, PARAMATTA & MELBOURNE

Our Order of Malta Community Care Van volunteers who make regular visits to homeless, to distribute warm items of clothing, hygiene packs, socks, and non-perishable food items. A special mention to the ACU students who assist our van services in Melbourne and Parramatta.

MOBILE COMMUNITY CAFÉ CITY OF DAREBIN

Every week, members, volunteers and Australian Catholic University students make visits to two locations to socialise with residents living in areas where many people experience high levels of social isolation and/or poverty provide a morning tea where they can chat, play games and socialise.

FOOD SERVICE DARWIN

On the last Saturday of every month members of the Order of Malta volunteer at a food service in Fannie Bay, Darwin to the disadvantaged and homeless. The monthly commitment with the missionaries of charity involves members purchasing, preparing and serving the food to approximately 70 attendees. The nuns deliver a prayer before the meal and the people we serve are most appreciative.

GARDENING ASSISTANCE SOUTH SYDNEY

A big thank you to our Order of Malta volunteers who braved the wet weather to provide some gardening assistance to an elderly supporter in South Sydney. The volunteers did not let the conditions dampen their spirits and our recipient was very grateful for the work they did.



Interested in volunteering?
Learn more at www.orderofmalta.org.au

THE INTERGENERATIONAL SEWING PROJECT AT SANTA TERESA

The Spirituality Centre at Santa Teresa, in conjunction with the Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School, runs a very successful Intergenerational Sewing Workshop, with Order of Malta member, Cons. Nicole Johnson serving as project coordinator.

The workshops aim to assist women in the small Arrernte township about 80 kilometres south-east of Alice Springs, by providing a safe space for older women to mentor younger women; interacting together while engaged in meaningful, purposeful activity. The participants also develop sewing skills that can create products to meet the needs of the community or be sold at the Spirituality Centre to provide an income for either the participants or the project itself.

The project, also supported by the Good Samaritan Sisters Foundation, launched in 2022 following a successful



appeal for equipment, which resulted in over 40 sewing machines and sewing accessories being donated. The workshops begin at 9am and finish well after 5pm, with many participants, including school-aged students, working all day.

Cons. Nicole Johnson, says the workshops have had instant positive effects in the community. "Some students who have been absent and inconsistent in their schooling, re-engaged not only in these workshops, but it motivated them to increase their attendance in other

areas of their education," she says. "It was fantastic to have their grandmothers, mothers and aunties engaged in mentoring."

Six Secondary students have re-engaged in the Certificate 1 in Retail while participating in the sewing program. Over the summer school break, they continued their retail employment in the local store.

Members in the Northern Territory continue to support the project by purchasing fabric for the workshop, with three workshops planned in 2023.



THE 65TH INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Order of Malta's 65th international pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, France, took place over the first weekend in May. Grand Master Fra' John Dunlap led the pilgrimage and it was his first official engagement after his very recent election by the Council Complete of State. Many of the Capitulars travelled to Lourdes directly from Rome.

This year the number of participants has

almost returned to pre-pandemic levels, with over 6,000 pilgrims in attendance. The pilgrims came from 41 different nationalities, of which 1,077 were malades (the sick) and included 24 members and volunteers from the Australian Association who accompanied four malades.

As with previous year, the Australian contingent assisted the American Western Association with their malades for Mass at the Grotto, however for many of our pilgrims, bringing our own malades was an enriching part of the experience.

"I found this pilgrimage to be particularly special" commented Conf Daniel Kwok. "Whilst we have always assisted other Associations with their malades, the

inclusion of malades in our contingent made the experience all the more significant. It was wonderful to be part of a team who shared so much care, camaraderie and joy in their day-to-day care."

Sunday's Pontifical Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Silvano Maria Tomasi, the Pope's Special Delegate to the Order of Malta and the Marian pilgrimage was attended by members of the Sovereign Council and the Prelate, Monsignor Jean Laffitte.

"It was a truly spiritual experience watching the care and attention to every need of our malades" commented Conf. David Macintosh, member and first-time attendee at Lourdes. "Our younger brigade showed incredible compassion and care which was appreciated and inspiring."

A pilgrimage to Lourdes represents one of the most significant moments in the spiritual life of the Order's members and volunteers. For Australians unable to travel to Lourdes, the Order of Malta Lourdes Masses around Australia to enable attendees to receive a blessing for good health and a bottle of water from the shrine at Lourdes for their personal use.

Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au to see a gallery of images from the 2023 pilgrimage.



UPCOMING CAMPS
FRI 3 NOV & SUN 5 NOV

2023 ORDER OF MALTA CAMP FOR DISABLED YOUTH

Our next Order of Malta Camp for Disabled Youth will be held between Friday 3 November and Sunday 5 November 2023 at the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, Grose Vale NSW.

The Order of Malta Camps for Disabled Youth allow guests and volunteers between the ages of 18 – 35 years, to come together in a supportive and fun environment for a weekend of fun, friendship and adventure.

The Benedict XVI Retreat Centre is a wonderful bushland retreat approximately 1 hour from central Sydney. The Centre offers guests several inhouse sporting and games

facilities, a chapel and disability friendly accommodation. Activities will include:

- * iFLY Sessions
- * Bowling
- * Lazer Tag
- * Themed Trivia Night
- * Disco Party Night

For any potential guests or volunteers, aged 18 – 35 years, who wish to participate visit www.orderofmalta.org.au/youthcamps

We want our Order of Malta Youth Camps to be accessible to all disabled youths aged 18 – 35, so we provide accommodation, food and activities free of charge. These camps are only possible thanks to the generosity of donors. **It costs approximately \$600 per participant to attend the camp.**

Information on how to donate can be found on page 5. Gifts \$2 and more are tax deductible for Australian taxpayers.



I WANT TO HELP

You can make a donation by visiting www.orderofmalta.org.au/donate or by completing this form and returning it in the reply paid envelope provided.

- Coats for the Homeless
- Camp for Disabled Youth
- Order of Malta and ACU Community Hub

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 \$

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