

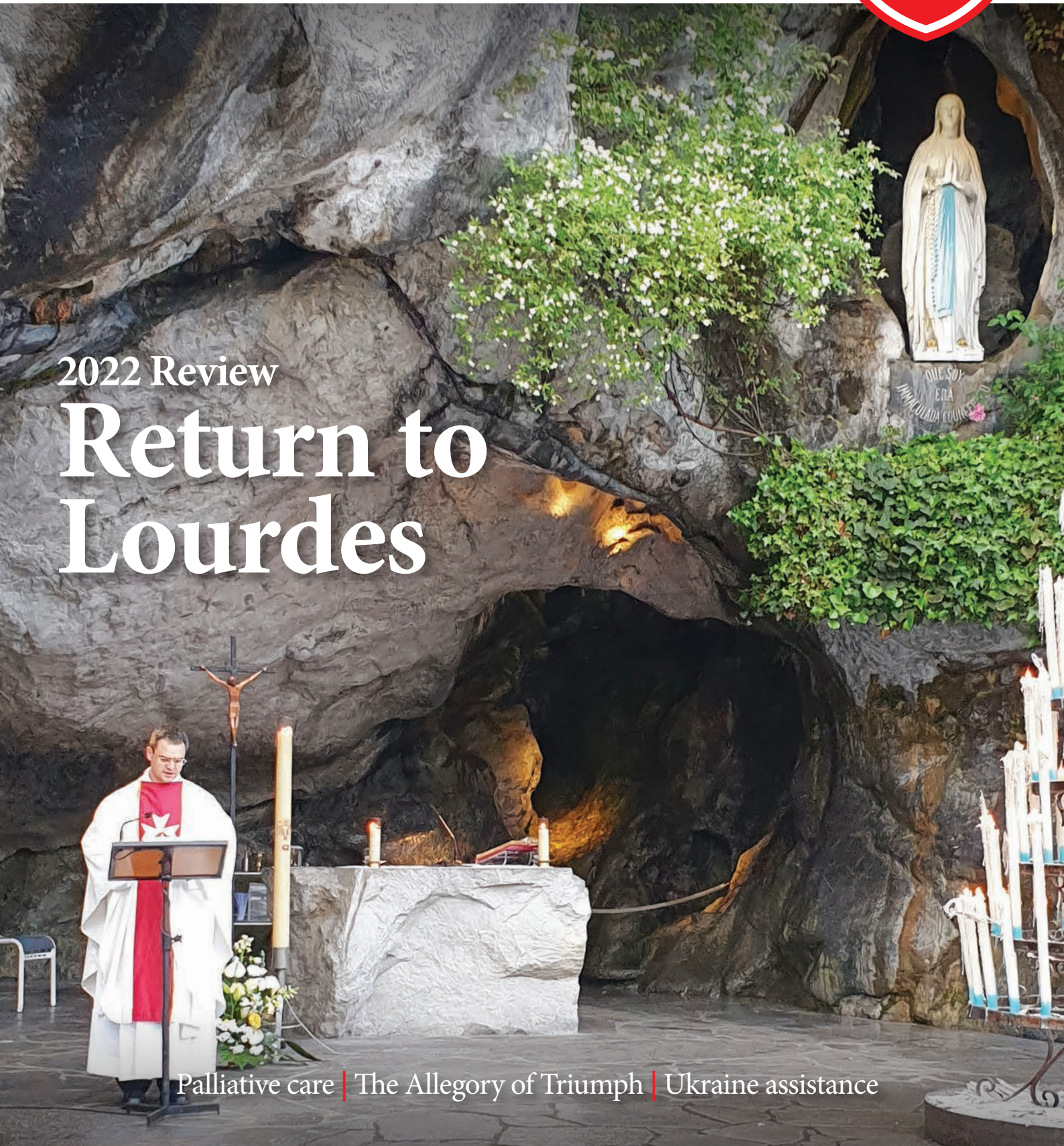
# 2022 Australian HOSPITALIER

The Annual Review of the Australian Association of the Order of Malta



2022 Review

## Return to Lourdes



Palliative care | The Allegory of Triumph | Ukraine assistance





On the 23 June the Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Fra' John Dunlap, was received in audience by Pope Francis. The meeting – following the tradition – took place on the eve of the feast of St John the Baptist, patron saint of the Order of Malta.

Characterized by great cordiality, the meeting was an opportunity to illustrate to the Holy Father the Order of Malta's main activities in the spiritual, humanitarian and diplomatic fields over the past year.







# WELCOME

# 2022 Australian HOSPITALLER

**W**elcome to the 2022 *Australian Hospitaller* magazine, the annual review of the Australian Association of the Order of Malta.

It has been a pleasure to document the important work the Order has been undertaking locally, regionally, and globally during 2022.

As the COVID threat has for the most part receded, the focus is now on the engagement of members and reengaging those on the margins, which means service to those most in need. This year has seen the full transition from our strategic planning and 'intellectual' efforts back to 'hands-on' work and living The Gospel.

There are several stories included in this publication that show our charism at work on both an individual and collective level. The stories of these individual experiences include one young volunteer of the Order and his journey of formation. We read and learn of the unique duality contained within our Order, where growth in our faith and our relationship with God flourishes through encounters with those in need. This is an astounding personal account that we can all reflect and learn from.

We also have stories that speak of a collective effort by our association members. The cover story is a great example of the benefits of teamwork and a collegiate approach to our faith. You can read in the account from our pilgrims making the journey to Lourdes how the trip has been a spiritually uplifting encounter for all involved, including our Chaplains. On our most recent pilgrimage our chaplain shared not only why a visit to Lourdes should be a requirement of membership in the Order, but it should also be a requirement for all Chaplains of the Order. We hear the account of our 2022 Lourdes' chaplain Father Paul Nully, featured on the Hospitaller cover and in these pages, where he is quoted as saying: "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".

Companionship is also a key focus of the Order's Palliative Care work. To take care of, and be present, with the dying is a valuable initiative that respects and honours every precious life. At the other end of the scale, the Order is also supporting our young, with nutrition programs for new mothers in Timor-Leste. These efforts, and so much more, are proof that our members are not just talking about doing good things, but going out and working closely with the poor and the sick.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has used the following analogy in his book *With the Smell of Sheep*. He notes that good shepherds must smell of sheep because they live amongst them, he says people within the Church 'need to be among thy flock and serve'.

This is a theme that leaders in our Order are fond to quote and understandably so. Many of us became comfortable in life or had excuses due to the restrictions of COVID as we did our best to do God's work in boardrooms and on Zoom calls. Now is the time that we must take up the challenge of our charism, re-enter the outside world and indeed begin again to smell like sheep.

**John Murphy KMG**  
**Publisher**

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*Members from the Order of Malta in Australia participated in the first post-pandemic, large-scale pilgrimage group to Lourdes.*

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# RETURNING TO LOURDES

A group of 11 members from the Order of Malta in Australia participated in the first post-pandemic, large-scale pilgrimage group to Lourdes.







On 11 February 2022, the day of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the sanctuary at Lourdes opened to the public for the first time in two years, after being closed due to the pandemic.

On the first weekend of May, the first large-scale pilgrimage group to return to Lourdes was the Order of Malta for its 64th International Pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady. The group included 11 members of the Order of Malta in Australia. There were many obstacles, many rules to get to Lourdes, and some small differences to the traditional pilgrimage, but what remained the same was that a wonderful experience unfolded.

While 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 Confrère Dunstan de Souza. It included the Order of Malta Australian President, the Hon James Douglas, Magistral Chaplain Fr Paul Nulley and our National Hospitaller, Confrère John Murphy.

The Australian group usually does a joint pilgrimage with confrères and consœurs from



Hong Kong and Korea, but their COVID-19 quarantine rules prevented them from attending. The Australian Order also usually look after Irish malades but the Irish did not bring any malades in 2022 because of the pandemic.

But as those doors closed, new doors opened. Communications following a purchase from our online shop by Confrère David Park from Phoenix Arizona blossomed into an opportunity to work closely with the members, volunteers and malades from the US Western Association. The Western

*Top: Hundreds gather for Mass at the Lourdes grotto.*









Association sent a full contingent of over 300 pilgrims and malades. They were very generous and invited Order of Malta Australian members to participate in many of their activities. Best of all, they allowed us the privilege of serving their malades. We now have many new friends across the Pacific.

The program for the Order of Malta Lourdes pilgrimage appeared to be 'back to business' with only a few changes post pandemic. The pilgrimage spanned across five days, and in 2022 once again included 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 Lieutenant of the Grand Master, the late Fra' Marco Luzzago and members of the Sovereign Council were among those who participated in the pilgrimage.

For the Australians in attendance, comprising both first-time attendees 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," explains 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 comments: "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 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. ❖

*The pilgrimage spanned across five days, and in 2022 once again included a Pontifical Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and a candlelight Marian procession.*





# ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

The **Hon James Sholto Douglas KHD (Ob)** reflects on a year that saw the region open up, with increased activities in many areas such as charitable works at home and abroad, spiritual guidance, organisational changes and more.

**T**here have been many developments to reflect on in the work of the Order during 2022. We have been busy!

## Charitable works

Let me start by mentioning our charitable works. There has been significant growth in our palliative care work in Melbourne stimulated by the generous donation from the estate of the late Fra' Richard Divall. That has helped us to extend the volunteer work done through Eastern Palliative Care to Mercy Palliative Care and Calvary Bethlehem Care elsewhere in Melbourne.

In Sydney we have established a meal kitchen for the homeless in Bondi with the help of our chaplain, Fr Anthony Robbie. It is going from strength to strength under the supervision of the Regional Hospitaller, Steve Christie. Homeless outreach work is flourishing in Paramatta and the Inner City led by committed members. The works with St Vincent's at Gorman House and Tierney House also continue. Planning for the Community Hub in Melbourne in a joint venture with Australian Catholic University and for a centre for the homeless in Southport on the Gold Coast inspired by our Chaplain, Fr Gerard McMorrow, is proceeding encouragingly. We were very grateful that Cons. Margaret O'Donnell was able to take over as Regional Hospitaller in Melbourne on the retirement of Confrère Geoffrey Horgan KC for family reasons.

Our work with the Emmanuel Community in South Brisbane, under the guidance of Confrère Danny Higgins as Regional Hospitaller, is helping to prepare us to run the Hub at Southport. We continue to examine the viability of a proposed aged care centre for the Indigenous community in the Northern Territory.

We held successful Youth Camps in Sydney and Melbourne during the year. Our Coats for the Homeless program is proceeding more normally now that COVID-19 restrictions have reduced.

The natural disaster in Tonga and the human disasters in the Ukraine provoked very generous responses from our members – and not just financially. Our New Zealand Regional Hospitaller, Confrère Bevan Killick, has led the response for Tonga. Consoeur Deirdre Page worked in collaboration with the Tonga diaspora in

NSW to ship much needed goods to their Kingdom. Her work was appreciated in person by the Tongan High Commissioner, Princess Lātūfuipeka. A few of our members took themselves to Ukraine to assist on the ground in remarkable displays of courage and selflessness.

The bequest from Fra' Richard Divall and the financial response to these disasters has helped to produce the most generous donations on record for our works.

The International Order's Timor-Leste medical clinic in Dili also needs your generosity so please remember to support it. Consoeur Professor Michelle Campbell, our Vice-President, Counselor Confrère Alastair Furnival, and Ambassador Terry Tobin KC are leading the work there.

## Malteser International

Speaking of things international, we are developing closer links with Malteser International (MI), the Order's international crisis relief arm. Our Northern and Southern Regional Hospitallers, Confrères Séan Parnell and Noel Mifsud, spent time with them in the Philippines and Thailand in September. Confrère Clemens Graf von Mirbach-Harff, its Secretary-General, was a welcome guest at the Asia Pacific Conference in Bangkok in October. MI is doing wonderful work in Ukraine.

## Spiritual life of the Order

Let me turn to the spiritual side of the Order, something which the Grand Magistry is keen for us to embrace and develop. The Lourdes pilgrimage took place on a small scale for the first time since 2019 – delayed because of COVID-19. Congratulations for its success are due in particular to Confrères Dunstan de Souza and Daniel Kwok for organising the trip and to one of our new Chaplains from Canberra, Fr Paul Nulley, for being an inspiring spiritual guide there.

We have produced a new handbook for growth in spiritual formation with the guidance of our chaplain, Fr Morgan Batt. We urge members to take up opportunities to develop spiritually through the Order by using our handbooks to assist their spiritual lives and by attending the retreats we organise through the year in our various regions. Online formation opportunities are also available with monthly reflection



sessions conducted by our generous Chaplains. Confrère Joseph Grogan has been the MC for these sessions which are now in their third year. The Rosary is also recited nationally online. Members are obliged to work on, and deepen, their own spiritual lives continuously, something that the recent constitutional changes internationally are designed to emphasise.

One of the new obligations introduced through the Grand Magistry since the constitutional changes is for us to have a Vocations Promoter to encourage members to consider, inter alia, applying for membership in the first class. Confrère Dunstan de Souza has generously accepted that role for the Australian Association.

## International organisation of the Order

That leads me to say something more about the international organisation of the Order, dealing in particular with the new Constitutional Charter and Code promulgated on 3 September 2022. The changes are complex and will have consequences for our local structures which we will need to examine closely. The Executive Council has set up a subcommittee to examine those issues and to liaise with the Grand Magistry to see what changes may be required for the future.

My role in the Defence and Veteran Suicide Royal Commission took me to London and Ottawa in August and September. By pure coincidence my visits





coincided with the investiture of Fra' Max Rumney as the new Grand Prior in London and with the investiture of some new members in Ottawa. So I was able to make new acquaintances in each city and renew some old ones. It is encouraging to see how all Order members across the world can cooperate in our works and aims.

#### **Asia Pacific Conference 2022 in Bangkok**

We had a foretaste of how the new constitutional changes are intended to operate from some of the High Charges at the APC conference in Bangkok. It included an investiture ceremony for new members in Thailand. Our National Hospitaller, Confrère John Murphy, reported to us about that conference.

John has been a tower of strength for us in his role as National Hospitaller.

#### **Australian organisation of the Order**

Let me go on to discuss the Australian Association's local organisation. Our strategic plan was completed and circulated to members during the year. It provides a good guide to our hopes and intentions for the next couple of years. One of our focuses is to recruit new members, so I urge all of you to concentrate on that as one of your contributions to the Order for the near future. Invite your suitably qualified friends and acquaintances to consider membership of the Order, emphasising to them how they can advance spiritually by participating in our works. The investiture of new members in Sydney on 24 June 2022 included our first Japanese member, Confrère Shutarō Takeda.

The Regional Councils envisaged by our own new Constitution were elected in the first half of the year. The 2023 elections for part of the Executive Council will occur by the middle of 2023 in time for the Biennial National Assembly which will take place in Brisbane and Southport from 23 to 25 June. The Chancellor, Confrère Scott Samson, continued to lay a firm foundation for the organisation of the Australian Association by promoting useful policies

to guide us. The most recent is a policy for the conduct of the elections in 2023.

Our financial structure owes a great deal to the indefatigable work of the Treasurer, Confrère James Gurry, and he continues to keep us on a sound footing while being a source of useful advice across the board in our operations.

The 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Australian Association occurs in 2024. We plan to celebrate that occasion then.

#### **The Chapter General**

The Chapter General convened outside Rome between 21 and 29 January 2023, and began the implementation of the changes introduced by the new Constitutional Charter and Code. I was elected as one of the Presidents of national associations to attend the Chapter General. Confrère David Kissane was separately eligible to attend as Regent of the Subpriory, and did so. We were not large enough as a national association to permit the elections of any other representatives of our second or third class members. That would require us to achieve a membership of 500.

The meeting was preceded by a three-day silent retreat guided by Cardinal Ghirlanda, the canon lawyer who supervised the drafting of the new Constitutional Charter and Code. He also acted as the moderator of the Chapter General with the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, Fra' John Dunlap.

The principal business of the meeting was the election of officers to the Grand Magistracy. Apart from the elections of officers of the Sovereign Council and the Board of Auditors, each of the holders of the offices of Grand Commander, Grand Chancellor, Grand Hospitaller and Receiver of the Common Treasure since the Pope's intervention on 3 September provided written reports of their observations since entering office. They were very informative and will be distributed in due course.

Each of those officers was elected to the same position at the Chapter General, namely Fra'

*The Hon James Sholto Douglas KHD (Ob) assisting members and volunteers at the Emmanuel City Mission.*



Emmanuel Rousseau as Grand Commander, Don Riccardo Paterno as Grand Chancellor, Fra' Alessandro de Franciscis as Grand Hospitaller and Don Fabrizio Colonna as Receiver of the Common Treasure.

Five members of the Sovereign Council had been elected previously at the Council of the Professed held before the Chapter General. They were Fra' Roberto Viazzo, Fra' Richard J. Wolff, Fra' John Samuel Eidinow, Fra' Mathieu Dupont and Fra' Joao Augusto Esquivell Freire de Andrade. A further four members were elected at the Chapter General, namely, Confrères Joseph McCarthy, Michael Kirk Grace, Nobile Clemente Riva di Sanseverino and Generalmajor Josef D. Blotz. The seven members of the Board of Auditors were also

elected. A further Chapter General will be convened to elect the Grand Master.

It was an historically important meeting for the Order which proceeded very harmoniously with a strong feeling of reconciliation among the members. I made a statement about those issues for the last session which was well received. We, Confrère David Kissane and I, also took the opportunity to speak to Cardinal Ghirlanda about some of the issues raised for us by the new Constitutional Charter and Code.

It was a really good way to meet so many leading members of the Order from around the world and to get to know them better. I am now much better informed about the range of our work around the world. I also know many more people from across the Order.

### Conclusion

In concluding this report, might I thank especially our loyal and hard working communications delegate, Confrère Daniel Kwok, our unsung but much appreciated membership officer, Confrère Anthony Gerada, who also handles our IT work and our national communications manager, Mrs Michelle Rees. During the year she was decorated with the pro Merito Melitensi award for her more than 10 years of dedicated service to the Order. She thoroughly deserved it and we were delighted at the recognition of her work and congratulate her for it.

With my cordial best wishes,

**The Hon. James Douglas KHD KC**  
**President, Australian Association** ✠



*“The theme – Together and Closer – was certainly made concrete by the many relationships either begun or tightened. 70 participants came from the Grand Magistry, Philippines, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Korea, Japan, China, Germany, France and United States. The Grand Magistry’s contingent includes the Grand Chancellor H.E. Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo and the Grand Hospitaller H.E. Fra’ Alessandro*

*de Franciscis, and the Prelate H.E. Reverend Monsignor Jean Laffitte. Our Ambassadors to Thailand, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and Nauru and their respective Counsellors were prominently present.*

*A genuine sense of fraternity was evident during the conference. We are all so different as entities and cultures, yet we are the same working for a common cause under the eight-pointed cross.”*

*Delegates of the 12th Asia Pacific Conference held in Thailand.*





# SUBPRIORY REGENT

Professor David Kissane, AC, GCMG (Ob) reports on the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception.



The Subpriory continued its focus on fostering a deeper spirituality and nurturing formation across our Associations. Our remit is the territory of the Asia Pacific Region, with members in the Subpriory being drawn from the Order of Malta in Australia, Hong Kong, The Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The Asia Pacific Conference of the Order provides one opportunity to bring members of the Subpriory together across the region and to remind members of this vocation within the Order.

Members take a lead in the Hospitaller works of our Order and its liturgies, as well as striving to guide our ongoing spiritual formation through annual retreats, fortnightly Subpriory Rosaries, monthly reflections by Chaplains and daily praying

of the Office. Attendance at Mass. Subpriory retreats were again well attended and led in February by Bishop Terry Curtin, Conventual Chaplain a. h., and in August by Fr Anthony Robbie, Conventual Chaplain a. h., both of whose spiritual direction was deeply appreciated.

### **Constitutional Charter and Code**

The Holy Father's call for reform of the Order in 2017 included the appointment of a Special Papal Delegate, H.E. Silvano Cardinal Tomasi, c.s; and the help of a canon law expert, H.E. Gianfranco Cardinal Ghirlanda, SJ. Their work culminated in a new constitutional charter and code, which was promulgated on 3 September 2022, with a new group of high charges and a provisional Sovereign

*Top from left: past President the Late Dr Ian Marshall, Regent of the Subpriory Prof David Kissane AC GCMG (Ob), NER Regional Hospitaller Danny Higgins KMG (Ob), Subpriory Councillor and National Vice Delegate of Communications Anthony Gerada KMG (Ob) at Danny Higgins's Promise of Obedience Ceremony.*



Council until an Extraordinary Chapter General could be convened in early 2023. Thus, we welcomed H.E. Fra' John Dunlap as Lieutenant of the Grand Master, H.E. Fra' Emmanuel Rousseau as Grand Commander, H.E. Professor Don Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo as Grand Chancellor, H.E. Fra' Alessandro de Franciscis as Grand Hospitaller and H.E. Don Fabrizio Colonna as Receiver of the Common Treasure.

The new Constitutional Charter and Code places our Professed Knights at the heart of our fraternal life, with a call for at least three Knights of Justice in our Subpriory, thus creating a mission of growth and opportunity for our Order. This search for new vocations is needed to preserve the religious heart of our Order. A new Council of the Professed will advise Sovereign Council in place of the old Government Council.

Signifying this new religious direction for the Order, H.E. Fra' Emmanuel Rousseau, Grand Commander, immediately put out a call for the appointment of a Vocation Promoter to be made within every Association. Confrère Dunstan de Souza, KMG (Ob) graciously accepted the invitation to become Vocation Promoter for our Association.

### Membership

During 2022, four members took their Promise of Obedience. Firstly, the Regional Hospitaller for the North Eastern Region, Confrère Daniel Higgins, took his Promise of Obedience at a Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop Kenneth Howell, Conventual Chaplain a. h., at St Benedict's Church, East Brisbane, on 15 March 2022. Then, at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on St John's Day, 24 June 2022, The President of the Australian Association, H.E. Confrère James Sholto Douglas KHD, was joined by two members of the Central Eastern Region, Confrères Mark Andrew Dorney and Peter J.A. Evans, in taking their Promises of Obedience at a Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Conventual Chaplain a. h. Family and friends joined members of the Order to celebrate these very happy occasions.

At the end of 2021, Sovereign Council admitted to their Year of Preparation Confrères Anthony Frederick Laurence Khron (8 December 2021) and H.E. Amb John Anthony Gerard McCarthy (8 December 2021), together with Consoeur Maria Lena Vera (8 December 2021), the National Hospitaller of the Philippine Association. Also during 2022, the Sovereign Council admitted four additional members to their Year of Preparation: Confrères Jordan Glen Grantham (9 February 2022); Benjamin P. Sarmiento, Philippine Association (9 February 2022); Alastair James Furnival (23 June 2022) and Darius Maria Claudius Alexander von Guettner Sporzynski (23 June 2022). This brings membership of the Subpriory to 49, plus our Principal Chaplain, Most Reverend Bishop Terence Curtin, Conventual Chaplain a. h., who is ably supported by Rev Fr Anthony Robbie, Conventual Chaplain a. h., and Rev Dr Kevin Lenehan, Magistral Chaplain.

### Subpriory Council and Activities

The Council met quarterly throughout the year to review the needs and activities of the Subpriory and what help it could provide to our Associations. Great support was provided by our Vice-Regent, Confrère Damian Benson, Our Chancellor, Consoeur Dr Jennifer Dunlop, Rosary Coordinator Confrère Anthony Gerada, Formation Guide Confrère Daniel Kwok and Consoeur Lilian Antonelli. A survey was conducted to review members' experience of retreats, recognising the challenge of costs, nurturing a spiritual atmosphere through silence, and remaining open to diverse settings and needs.

I am most grateful for the very willing and fraternal support of the Council as the Subpriory has grown. Our collaborative effort in supporting the writing of formation and accompaniment guides has helped nurture the spirituality of the Associations. Members have been active as Masters of Probation to support new members of our Subpriory. Our Patron, The Immaculate Conception, has been a constant support helping us to welcome the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all that we do. 🇻🇮



## VOCATION PROMOTER

*The common baptismal vocation to Holiness (CC and C, Article 2) is a significant and necessary characteristic for the members of all three classes. It is particularly difficult for those who intend to embark on a journey of formation to the profession of the religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, that is, to enter the First Class.*

*The strengthening of the First Class must therefore be considered a priority for all superiors of the Order. All Grand Priors, Subpriors, and National Associations have been asked by the Grand Commander to carry out the mission of promoting vocations. Confrère Dunstan de Souza, Knight in Obedience, was appointed in October 2022 to be Vocation Director for the Australian Association and Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception.*



# A Piece of History

## ANTONIO PIGAFETTA

How a nobleman from Vincenza and a Knight of Rhodes documented Ferdinand Magellan's expedition across three oceans in the 16th Century, that changed the knowledge of the world.

**O**n 6 September 1522, the ship Victoria returned to the Port of Sanlúcar de Barrameda in Spain. She was the only survivor of the expedition begun over three years earlier commanded by the Portuguese Ferdinand Magellan.

The Captain General had set sail in search of a new route through the West and South America to reach the precious Spice Islands, the Moluccas, in present-day Indonesia. The long and hazardous expedition revealed the sphericity of the earth and the possibility of circumnavigating it, as well as giving a first complete visualisation of the world. We learnt about this thanks to its historian Antonio Pigafetta, a nobleman from Vincenza and Knight of Rhodes, who joined the expedition by virtue of a letter from Charles I, King of Castile and Aragon. It was the same Charles who granted the island of Malta to the Hospitaller Order in 1530.

Ferdinand Magellan's expedition represented an epochal discovery for the history of exploration, for the manners and ways in which European culture began to consider and know the Earth.

Magellan set forth with a Spanish fleet of five ships and 265 men to search for a passage through which Spain could reach the Spice Islands, avoiding crossing Portuguese possessions by passing from the Atlantic to the Pacific. After three years, surviving mutiny, disease and even the death of Magellan himself, a carrack managed to return. It was the Victory with only 18 men on board. One of these was Pigafetta, who recounted the adventurous journey in a book *Relazione del primo viaggio attorno al mondo*, written in 1522. It was a very important volume, written in the vernacular (with Venetian dialect references), recording the entire journey – describing natural contexts, inhabitants, customs, native languages, religious beliefs, products (especially the precious spices), fauna and flora. It also described places – from Patagonia to the Philippines and beyond – while crossing three oceans. Antonio Pigafetta, Knight of Rhodes, dedicated his work to Order's Grand Master, Philippe de Villiers de L'Isle-Adam.

The legendary value of this adventure was unfortunate, for the dramatic loss of so many men. But it was also a fortunate expedition, because it changed the knowledge of the world. This is demonstrated by the extraordinary editorial fortune



of the *Relazione*, universally handed down from the 16th Century to today. The precision and fidelity of the story, as well as the wealth of observations on the countries visited, makes it one of the most important texts in the history of exploration. ❖

Antonio Pigafetta, a nobleman from Vincenza and Knight of Rhodes, documented a 16th Century trip that changed the way the Earth was seen.





# NATIONAL HOSPITALLER

The report on the Australian Associations Hospitaller activities by **John Murphy KMG**, shows that members have been willing and able to re-engage with worthy causes both here and abroad.

**T**he year that was 2022 was the 'bounce back' year after the trials and tribulations of the 2020 and 2021 Covid-19 years. As all members would know, after much work on a strategy during the past year it was now time to rally the troops, recommence our works and in many cases reinvent our programs to ensure the works were still relevant and viable

Our programs are completed locally by the regions that can cater for the specialised needs of their communities but more than ever before we have been able to also implement national programs that utilise the collective strengths and resources of a united national association.

There was a sense of urgency and commitment at the Executive Council level, as well as regional level, to ensure we had work suitable for our members to become re-engaged with in the wider community and importantly these projects needed to align with our key strategic priorities.

## **1A – Increase our assistance to the homeless.**

Our coats for the homeless program was relaunched after the hiatus caused by the pandemic and a coordinated approach for the procurement and distribution of care packs containing personal hygiene and comfort items. This offered new and interesting opportunities to engage the homeless on our streets and relaunch volunteer partnerships in most Australian states.

## **1B – Develop our Order of Malta national program of palliative care involving members and volunteers.**

The sanctity of every life no matter how young or how old is a cornerstone of our Catholic faith. The respect and dignity for those at the end of life is paramount importance if we are to be true to our calling. I am pleased to say that thanks to the estate of the late Fra Richard Duval we have been able to commence the beginnings of an Order of Malta Palliative Care program that we can build over time. Initial steps have included the establishment of volunteer coordinators with both Calvary Care overseen by Tony Reeves KMG in the east of Melbourne and Mercy Health with Richard van der Merwe in the West. The second stage has included the training of members in palliative care volunteering and also rolling out a recruitment drive amongst parishes to

recruit further volunteers. The hope is that we will create a knowledge bank and capacity in the area of palliative care volunteering that will then open up many more opportunities across Australia with the main catholic care services. See more on our palliative care initiatives on pages 50-51.

## **1C- Provide local and regional disaster relief.**

Our Order has a significant profile abroad in humanitarian aid and emergency relief. Here in Australia this area is very well resourced via government and community organisations. We have been able to fill some voids when disaster hits and the efforts of our Central Eastern Region and their work with the bushfire relief support was an inspiration and a great example of what we can deliver in this area. In 2022, there were two major disasters of note that we decided we could make a meaningful contribution.

### **Tonga**

The first was in our Asia Pacific region with the devastating volcanic eruption in Tonga on the 15th of January. The Australian Association launched an appeal immediately which was well received by our members who generously donated considerable funds for emergency relief. Our New Zealand Hospitaller Bevan Killick, lead much of our campaign connecting with religious in New Zealand and using his contacts to deliver valuable aid in the way of goods and equipment necessary for relief and recovery (see more pages 32- 33). We also had an Australian based response through our membership in the Central Eastern Region lead by Deirdre Page, who through contacts with the Tongan community, was also able to ensure our members generosity was converted into timely relief goods to help the Tongans. More details (see pages 60-61).

### **Ukraine**

The world was rocked by the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the Australian community at large responded in disbelief and shock as millions of Ukraine nationals were forced to flee their homes as war entered their world. The Australian Order immediately launched a campaign that was delivering supplies to the front line and to refugees in surrounding countries within days. The Order of Malta was in a unique position through

its relief arm Malteser International as well as its European Associations to have people and valuable aid on the ground as first responders. If there ever was an example of the reach and positive impact that our Order has for those in need this was it. The generosity of our members with their financial donations was humbling and was recognised globally for contribution to assisting those affected by the conflict.

I had the privilege of meeting with Hospitallers and leaders from Ukraine and surrounding countries during the International Hospitallers Conference in Rome. They shared their challenges and responses to the crisis and appreciated our prayers, support and solidarity during this time. Many Australian members received Order decorations as a sign of appreciation for their substantial contribution during this time. (More information pages 56-59)

## **1D- Expand the range of services to the poor and sick.**

There were numerous examples of our expansion in services this year that we have shared in the regional reports and other articles in this magazine. I will however take this opportunity to explain the developments with the Australian Catholic University and the opportunities that exist in the future.

### **ACU Community Hub**

The Association has developed strong ties with the Australian Catholic University in recent times and as part of this relationship agreed to complete research based enquiries into the needs of the poor and sick. This is a completely new approach for us as in the past we have offered services we were suited to, or we felt were needed. This has served us very well to date but now with our arrangement with ACU we have had the opportunity to use best practice in identify the needs in the community.

This is certainly a case study for us and from my perspective could be the future of creating needs based outreach as a lay \order here in Australia. If we can prove this approach to be effective and sustainable this could very well be expanded to other regions and cities around the country.

The other element to this strategy is that ACU brings with it added resources, expertise and volunteer power, needless to say two leading groups in the Catholic community should be working together and be an example to society of what is possible. More details pages 38-39. 🇺🇦





## THE IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF FUNDRAISING

The Order of Malta is not a fundraising organisation, we are a unique lay Order with a rich historical context that exists to serve the needs of the sick and the poor and to defend our Catholic faith. The purpose of our Order is: The promotion of the glory of God through the sanctification of its members, service to the faith and to the Holy Father, and assistance to one's neighbour, in accordance with its ancient traditions.

We have made great progress in the last several years in reforming our Order to remain relevant and healthy as a Catholic Lay Order and as organisation. We have identified needs and commenced a broad range of programs to benefit those on the margins and give our members the opportunity to work towards their personal sanctification.

The harsh reality of the situation is that to continue to serve and grow we will need to continue to have a strong financial base. The stronger the financial base, the greater impact we can have in the future. There is also the increased compliance and regulatory burden on charitable organisations, and we will need to ensure we have a professional frame work in place to continue our growth and service. Due to the increasing demands, there is also a high likelihood that we

will need to increase the number of paid staff and program coordinators as we see with our fellow associations abroad.

All members are asked to contribute what they can over and above their yearly fees to our works. We are lucky to have support from many of our members and benefactors and are immensely grateful for their material contributions to the Order. Unfortunately, this burden is carried by a small percentage of members, mainly because there may not be an awareness of the need to continually raise funds. I would ask you all as members to firstly pray that we will continue to be provided the material means to continue our important works, and secondly to examine our personal commitments and resources and see if we can make a further commitment with more time and money to the needs of our Order.

The Order is our 'spiritual home' and this commitment is a priority in our daily lives. Engagement with our programs where possible and contribution to the finances of the association will ensure that the good works will continue to be a shining light in our wider Catholic community for many years to come.

*Left: National Hospitaller John Murphy KMG talking to the Order of Malta Ukraine representative at the International Hospitaller Conference.*

*Above: In the field with members and volunteers.*





## **North Eastern Region Hospitaller: Danny Higgins KMG (Ob)**

The slow winding up of pandemic period restrictions and special arrangements during 2022 led to many unintended consequences for the more vulnerable members of society. Extraordinary housing arrangements for the homeless were cancelled and regular rises in rents and mortgage repayments created a new cohort of people who could not cover all their living costs and resorted to living in cars, on friends' and relatives' couches, or joining those having to live rough in public spaces.

The members and volunteers of the Order of Malta in the North Eastern Region continued their endeavours to assist with the Hospitaller activities that had proven to make a difference from previous years.

### **Coats for the Homeless**

During the colder months, the Coats program saw the distribution of 1500 coats throughout Southeast Queensland and the New South Wales Northern Rivers regions.

Regular partners Rosies - Friends on the Streets, assisted with getting these to the most vulnerable. Members and volunteers attended Rosies' mobile outreach vans and directly provided coats on cold wet nights.

Members Christine and Derek Pingle were instrumental in providing coats to various organisations in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs regions, where sub-zero temperatures are common throughout winter.

Angels Kitchen, an initiative of the Southport Catholic Parish has a very successful ministry serving more than one hundred meals to disadvantaged people every Sunday night. Father Gerard McMorro as Parish Priest and a Magistral Chaplain of the Order of Malta effectively ensured coats found their way into appropriate hands through this wonderful group serving the Gold Coast community.

In Brisbane, the Emmanuel City Mission was a valuable partner in the distribution of coats, as many hundreds of Brisbane's inner-city homeless and vulnerable rely on their hospitality and kindness to assist in making their lives easier. The Order's coats



are quickly recognised as being practical and comfortable when having to live rough. Many of our volunteers remarked how grateful recipients were for receiving a brand-new coat, still in its plastic covering and not an impractical throwaway second-hand fashion item.

### **Emmanuel City Mission**

The Order of Malta continued its close association with the Emmanuel Community and its Emmanuel City Mission (ECM) in Merivale St, South Brisbane throughout 2022.

With the Order of Malta in the North Eastern Region pursuing the goal of starting and administering a similar homeless outreach centre on the Gold Coast, members have been actively engaged in weekly attendance at ECM to gain first-hand knowledge and experience in the administration and operation of such a successful ministry. The Order wishes to thank the management of ECM, especially Director Roby Curtis, for their openness, cooperation and mentorship.

Every second and fourth Sunday of the month, two dedicated teams representing the Order of Malta have taken up the duties of providing the workforce to operate the ECM hospitality for their visitors. This has included assisting in serving breakfast of beverages, cereals, toast and the occasional sweet treat. Some of our group helped set up the awning, tables and chairs so visitors can be protected and relaxed. Others prepared and cooked the barbeque that each week feeds well over one hundred visitors and ECM members following the conclusion of their Mass. During 2022, members and volunteers have been regular contributors to ECM by way of donations, including appliances, clothing and food.

Order members and volunteers have also commenced assisting ECM visitors in need of clothing items due to their difficult circumstances. This is a time of vulnerability for these visitors when they must display their destitution. So often they confide what has been their tortured journey to arrive at such a low point in their lives. It is in these





moments the Order of Malta's commitment to service to our Lords the poor and the sick provides us with an opportunity to travel with our brothers or sisters, not in judgement, but with love and respect.

Several members of the regular Sunday teams were privileged to attend ECM on Christmas morning, providing some bakery treats and serving a hot breakfast. The opportunity to share the joy of the birth of Our Saviour and to appreciate the visitors' joy as well was greatly appreciated.

The ECM ministry has been a wonderful opportunity for many volunteers to join our members in a valued service. It has proven the concept by providing worthy opportunities to help others, allowing people to come forward to be of service and gain for themselves the satisfaction of making a meaningful difference.

### Liturgical Activities

In March, members and friends of the Order came together at St Benedict's Church, East Brisbane, to witness Regional Hospitaller Danny Higgins take the Promise of Obedience presided by the Regent of the Subpriory of The Immaculate Conception, Confrère Prof David Kissane. This Promise is taken when a member seeks and is approved, to identify more intimately with the spirituality of the Order and its charisms of protecting the faith and service to the poor and the sick.

Throughout 2022, the Order of Malta in cooperation with the Cathedral of Saint Stephen, Brisbane, celebrated a 6pm Mass as a vigil for the First Friday of each month. Several Chaplains of the Order were extremely generous in celebrating these Masses for the members, even when their own Parishes were removed from the inner city. Members and friends were enriched with shared worship and

the opportunities to meet socially afterwards. Due to scheduling difficulties, these Masses have not been able to extend into 2023.

### Palliative Care Award

Traditionally, The North Eastern Region of the Order of Malta has presented a \$500 prize to a nursing student of the Banyo Campus of the Australian Catholic University. This award is in recognition of outstanding results in an academic subject developing proficiencies in palliative care.

The winner of the 2022 prize is Elizabeth O'Flaherty. Elizabeth comments on receiving the award:

*"Caring for older persons throughout the last stages of their life is an enormous privilege. Nurses play a pivotal role in providing patient-centred, holistic care and this is just as important at end of life as it is during. Quality palliative care nursing honours the patient's life they have lived by providing comfort, showing dignity and respect, and supporting the family as they journey alongside their loved one towards eternity. I can speak first-hand about the enormously positive impact compassionate and professional palliative care nurses leave on a family when they are faced with the heartbreaking reality of a loved one facing the end of their life. My sincere thanks to the Australian Association of the Order of Malta for this honour, and to the NRS266 teaching staff for bringing into focus the importance of, and principles underpinning, caring for a population group that tends to get overlooked."*

Congratulations to Elizabeth on her outstanding academic results and we pray for her continued success in her nursing profession. 🇻

*Opposite page:  
Loretta Higgins DMG and  
Danny Higgins KMG (Ob).  
This Page: The region  
held activities serving the  
community; Postulants kneel  
at an investiture.  
Above: Newly invested formal  
dinner.*





## Central Eastern Region Hospitaller: Dr Stephen Christie KMG (Ob)

Along with the rest of Australia, during the first half of 2022 New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory started to emerge from two years of government restrictions on movement, association, employment, travel, religion and communication. We have started to repair some of the damage those restrictions caused to our works, to the poor and sick, and to our members, for which we are grateful.

By the end of 2022, the works and activities in the Central Eastern Region were once again fully operational and expanding, filling us with a quiet optimism for what 2023 holds.

Along with our regular activities, such as our monthly First Friday Vigil Masses, charitable works and Lourdes Day Mass, we launched a number of new initiatives.

On the spiritual side we held our first day of reflection for busy professionals, and on the Feast of the Nativity of our patron St John the Baptist. Our Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem Archbishop Anthony Fisher offered our first investiture Mass for new members outside the cycle of the biennial National Assembly so as to accommodate the keen new members with which we have been blessed. At that Mass, four new members were invested and six Knights and Dames of Magistral Grace were received into the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception by taking the Promise of Obedience.

Along with holding our annual five-day retreat in August (in conjunction with the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception), we held our first three-day retreat at Jamberoo Abbey in the Southern Highlands, which was a great success.

In terms of new charitable works in 2022, the Central Eastern Region:

- Successfully hosted a Youth Camp for disabled young adults and teenagers at the Pope Benedict XVI Retreat Centre at Grose Vale.
- Has started to expand our Western Sydney activities in the face of growing demand and a vibrant Catholic



community, keen to see and comfort Christ in our Lords the poor and the sick – we are looking to launch a second Community Care Van in Western Sydney in 2023 and potentially a Community Care Kitchen modelled on our highly successful Bondi Community Care Kitchen.

- Commenced work to expand our Darlinghurst-based community care van operation by locating the van to a more central location and providing volunteering opportunities to a wider pool of keen volunteers.
- Renovated the Bondi Community Care Kitchen, which goes from strength to strength in serving meals and providing companionship to Sydney's needy. A pleasing development with the Bondi Kitchen is that a number of our guests have come back to the Catholic Church, perhaps as a result of the presence of our Chaplain Fr Anthony Robbie, who insists all meals commence with grace. Guests and non-member volunteers have returned to Mass and appeared at our annual Christmas Carols at our Chapel at St Anne's in Bondi, again signalling their deepening faith.
- In co-operation with the parishioners of St Patrick's and St Anne's Parishes Bondi, we held our first Christmas Carol event, which will become an annual feature such was its success.

Central Eastern Region members also heartily participated in events and other activities organised by the Order in Australia and globally. For example, the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, the Order of Malta Asia Pacific Conference in Thailand, and supporting and working with the Order of Malta Medical Clinic in Dili, East Timor.

Certainly, 2022 has been an encouraging year from the Central Eastern Region with new works and activities launched and a clear focus on the direction in which we wish to take the Order. The members of the Central Eastern Region have every reason to be proud of their achievements in 2022 and look forward to building upon these in the years ahead.

### **Defense of Faith**

The defense of the Catholic faith is one of the key requirements of a Knight and Dame of St John of Jerusalem, of which we are reminded every day when we recite our daily prayer:

*"Be it mine to practice and defend the Catholic, the Apostolic, the Roman Faith against the enemies of religion."*

What form this defense of the faith has taken has changed over the centuries. Unlike in past centuries when swords and gunpowder were required, thankfully at present the defense of the faith does not require a military response.





Instead, defense of the faith in Australia today, as society becomes ever more pagan at an accelerating rate, requires prudence and judgment, but not as an excuse for inertia or a cover for cowardice.

Prudence would suggest that political or confrontational tactics will be neither effective nor appropriate in today's cultural environment. In recent years, the political process has delivered victory after victory for parties hostile to the Catholic faith, whether it be in the fields of abortion, attacks against the family, moral issues or medically killing the old and sick. Past tactics cannot simply be repeated given the results – so in 2022 the Regional Council and Members of the Central Eastern Region started to explore new approaches, all the while deepening their desire to continue to fight this tide and discharge our obligations as efficaciously as we can.

Accordingly, in 2022 the Central Eastern Region started to engage in programs of deeper spiritual formation, of prayer and acts of reparation so as to prepare us for an ever more challenging culture and a new approach. The expanded retreat opportunities and working closely with national formation initiatives mentioned above are examples of this. Better formation and an awakening to the nature of challenges we face lead us to other events and activities in 2022. For example, in 2022 we marched in both the Archdiocesan Corpus Christi procession and for the Day of the Unborn Child. We have put



in place plans for more acts of public prayer and reparation, all under the guidance of our Chaplains and founded on sound, orthodox Catholic doctrine.

### Looking ahead

The Central Eastern Region Members were grateful to all our Chaplains in 2022, who have guided us and formed us on top of their already crowded schedules as parish priests, academics, chancellors and bishops. We look to 2023 and beyond with optimism. ✖

*By the end of 2022 the works and activities in the Central Eastern Region were once again fully operational.*





## **South Eastern Region Hospitaller: Dr Margaret O'Donnell DMG (Ob)**



### **S**erving our Lords the sick and the poor

Distribution of coats to the homeless continued as an important work of charity in our region. It gathered pace this year with 12 members distributing coats on 18 Tuesday evenings at locations in North Melbourne, Victoria Market and Flinders Street starting on 3 May and concluding 30 August. A total of 500 coats and 300 care packs were distributed.

Australian Catholic University (ACU) student volunteers may be incorporated into our Coats for the Homeless program going into 2023.

In the meantime, our well-established palliative care work at Eastern Palliative Care (EPC) was expanded to include a significant milestone in palliative care. Under the leadership of Confrère Tony Reeves, training sessions for volunteers were trained in a joint activity with the newly commissioned The Order of Malta-Calvary Health Care Bethlehem (CHCB) facility in South Caulfield. This comprehensive facility comprises independent living units, aged care, dementia unit and palliative care unit.

Three members – Confrères Geoffrey Horgan, Keiron Long and Joe Chiera – were trained in July 2022 to qualify them to

undertake volunteer duties at CHCB. Those activities include:

- Being companions to patients in palliative care sometimes doing nothing but sit with the person.
- Assisting Corporate Services.
- Assisting the move into the new premises; and
- Driving day care patients to/from South Caulfield.

What we learned from our involvement so far:

- The minimum and average commitment of volunteers is one four-hour shift a week, but not necessarily the same time each week.
- Care for the terminally ill is confronting and will not be for everyone.
- The work is not intellectually challenging.
- Travelling distances and times need to be factored into volunteers' time commitment; and
- There may be others of The Lord's sick who can be cared at CHCB such as dementia patients and the aged/infirm.

There is more in palliative care. Confrère Richard van der Merwe has been appointed to lead a third palliative care initiative in The Order of Malta-Mercy Palliative Care (MPC) program. A Volunteer Support Coordinator Mia Ngo has started with MPC. Palliative care

support by members and volunteers at MPC will roll out in the coming year.

The Order of Malta-ACU's Melbourne Community Hub joint venture between the Order of Malta and ACU is another worthy project. It is overseen by a steering committee including representatives from the Order of Malta and ACU.

The Melbourne Community Hub started in April 2022 with a six-month research period. Based on these research findings, the steering committee decided to focus on establishing a mobile community hub rather than a brick-and-mortar set up, and to operate within the Darebin Local Government Area (LGA). Consequently, the decision was made to provide the Project Officer with a branded vehicle and a leased office space at the Reservoir Neighbourhood House.

The program is being overseen by the National Hospitaller Confrère John Murphy with good early participation and feedback from SER membership. Consoeur Mary Long has been particularly active in this project, participating in most sessions to date.

In early December 2022, the "Hub" launched its inaugural program, referred to as the Mobile Community Café, at a public housing estate in Thornbury. The 55





residents at the estate are over the age of 65 and living on their own. Throughout the COVID-19 lockdowns, healthcare workers had identified that many residents were vulnerable and socially isolated, hence the idea to launch a program on-site.

The focus of the café is to provide residents an opportunity to come together on a weekly basis for a hot drink, snacks, and a fresh salad roll with the aim to combat social isolation. The program has been warmly welcomed by the residents and has received positive feedback. Residents have commented that “it makes them feel seen”, with one person remarking that it is the highlight of their week. Darebin Council has commended the program in an article that was written for their January Councillor e-Bulletin. Expansion plans are already in the works.

### **Growing Our Faith Together**

Day of Reflection: Members in the region joined the final day of the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception’s February retreat at Holy Cross Retreat Centre in Templestowe to spend time reflecting on their spirituality under the guidance of Bishop Terry Curtin, Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem.

Vigil Masses continue to be held on the first

Thursday of each month at the Carmelite Monastery in Kew. We are very grateful to the Carmelite Sisters who welcome us so warmly each month. We are also blessed to have several Chaplains and Priests support the Order with these monthly celebrations. Members of the Order gather after the Mass to share a meal and some social interaction.

Online Fortnightly Rosary for Members in Obedience is organised by Regent of the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception Confrère David Kissane and technically supported by Confrère Anthony Gerada in Brisbane. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray together on a regular basis.

The National Monthly Rosary for all members held every fourth Thursday not only facilitates community praying but helps forge relationships across the nation.

We were able to complete seven Monthly Lourdes Masses in 2022. A special thank you to Bishop Terry Curtin, Monsignor Franco Cavvara, Fr Kevin Lenehan, and Fr Max Vodola for generously devoting their time and leadership to this work.

Villa Maria Catholic Homes hosted six of the seven Masses and the residents were extremely grateful for the presence of the Order and individual Sacramental blessings given by the Celebrants. ✠

*Left to right: The Coats for the Homeless program continues; Day of Reflection 12 February 2022 at Holy Cross Retreat Centre, Templestowe with Bishop Terry Curtin (5th from front left).*





## **Central Southern Region Hospitaller: Noel Mifsud KMG**

**T**he hand of God was ever present as the homeless hungrily accepted our simple meal of pasta, fish, and rice with deep gratitude. One of the homeless blessed me and whispered “Happy Christmas” such was his joy at receiving the meal – despite it being September!”

I wrote the above reflection after returning from a visit to Malteser International projects which feed the poor in the Philippines and refugee camps on the Thai-Myanmar border in Thailand.

The hand of God was ever present in the works of the Order globally, locally and in our Southern Central Region (South Australia and Western Australia) in 2022.

Despite limited outreach activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued our outreach programs delivering care packages and coats to the homeless. Our members continued individual support programs with the Mary Potter Hospice in South Australia, Adelaide Day Centre, and Hutt Street Homeless Centres. Confrères

Tony Smith and his wife Helen provided homemade Christmas cakes and treats for the homeless in what is an annual gift to those in need.

Confrères Ian Leitch, Greg Crafter and I met with Archbishop Patrick O’Regan DD to discuss the works of the Order in South Australia and to share our mutual hopes and dreams for the work of the Order in the Adelaide Archdiocese.

His Grace led members on a Day of Reflection on 25 June, where we reflected on the Gospel’s message of hope in times of adversity. We discussed God’s call to the faithful during the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Australian Confrère Maurice O’Connell spent 2022 in Ukraine. In an email dated December 2022, Maurice reflected on his time in Odesa:

*“It was a life-changing and enriching experience and has left a profound impact. The group of Ukrainian volunteers I worked with were dealing very much on the front*

*line. It has become apparent that there is an overwhelming need for aid and support ....*

*Each day, the Hub delivers up to 200 aid packages to newly arrived refugees. Most come from the Mykolaiv and Kherson districts with a minority from the Donbas and other areas. They all share one thing in common: escape from areas suffering fighting, destruction and Russian attacks, or just the oppression of Russian occupation. Many arrive in Odesa with little more than the clothes on their backs and a small bag containing the barest of personal effects. Some have witnessed or experienced unspeakable horrors. This tragedy continues day in and day out.”*

Other 2022 spiritual activities included the annual Lourdes Day Mass, Marian Procession, Feast of the Assumption and the ANZAC Day Masses.

The Order’s SA retreat was once again held on the breathtakingly beautiful grounds of the Jesuit retreat house at Sevenhill Spirituality Centre on 30 September. The retreat provided space and time for members to reflect on the hand of God alive in our hearts. Fr Robert Morris SJ led our prayerful reflections with gentleness and Grace. Our region remains grateful to Consoeur Mary Kennedy, who organises our retreats annually and hosts our monthly meetings in her homes.

The 2021/22 Regional AGM was held on 25 July 2022. It was a privilege as Regional Hospitaller to announce the appointment of the following members to the regional coordinating team: Confrères Phil Wyld, Damian Wyld, and Andrew Cichy.

We remain blessed to be served by Chaplains Fr Alan Winter and Rev Monsignor Kevin Long. In July, the University of Notre Dame Australia awarded an honorary doctorate to Monsignor Long in recognition of his exceptional service to the University and the Catholic Church in Western Australia over many decades.

In SA, Fr Alan led each monthly meeting with a Gospel reflection, celebrated Mass with Order members, including a final Christmas Mass in his home and hosted members for a memorable Christmas dinner. Our region remains deeply blessed by the prayers, support and spiritual guidance offered by our Chaplains.



*Andrew Cichy with volunteers in Perth.*





In Western Australia, Confrère Michael Shanahan attended an Awards Ceremony at the University of Notre Dame Australia on 24 May to present the Order of Malta Bioethics Awards. Michael presented the awards to Anna Henderson and Nicholas Peh. US Order Member Consoeur Susan Liguori visited Western Australia and was hosted by our members in the West.

Confrère Andrew Cichy worked tirelessly with volunteers from St Thomas More College, distributing care packages to the needy, building networks for the Order within the Catholic community and collaborating nationally to improve the work of the Order in Western Australia.

As this report concludes, I am again reminded of the Malteser International visit (with fellow Australian Regional Hospitaller Confrère Séan Parnell), where the hand of God was visible.

Attending a briefing by H.E. Leopoldo Lazatin, the Order's ambassador to the Philippines, we listened to the Order's projects in the region, including water, sanitation and hygiene projects, solid waste management and disaster risk reduction.

In Thailand, we visited refugee camps on the Thai-Myanmar border, where Malteser International is active in chronic patient care, vaccination and eye clinics, post-natal care, and waste disposal programs.

These works of the Order remind us of our calling as Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta. 🇻🇪

*Top left: Hutt Street Centre at Christmas.  
Top right: Monthly meeting with Chaplain Fr Alan Winter.*

*Above: Greg Crafter, Consoeur Kathryn Finnigan and Noel Mifsud KMG 2022 Lourdes Day Mass.*





## **Northern Central Region Hospitaller: Seán Parnell – KMG (Ob)**

**T**he Northern Central Region has spent 2022 as a period of regeneration after the lull that was COVID-19 which affected and disrupted everyone's lives.

It enabled us to hold our annual spiritual retreat, hosted by our Magistral Chaplain Fr Malcolm Fyfe MSC VG in conjunction with our regular meeting.

We are focusing on 2023 to grow our works in the region and increase our volunteers.

We had one of our young volunteers attend the Asia Pacific Youth Camp held in Sydney this year, and by all accounts it was a great success.

I attended the investiture Mass at St

Mary's Cathedral in Sydney on the Feast Day of our Patron Saint St John the Baptist. It was a wonderful event and enabled us to renew the ties that bind the regions together and discuss issues of mutual concern as well as renewing old acquaintances.

During the first half of the year while our members remained in Darwin, we continued with our food distribution service to the poor and homeless along the foreshore of Darwin. We are very grateful to those that have donated to this cause, and we are currently examining ways of increasing this service with the funds we have raised, a task which will involve the recruitment and activation of further volunteers.

We remain in the planning stages to seek a feasibility study on the proposal for a form of flexible aged care facility or program to be run in the Catholic community of Santa Teresa. At this stage we are still gauging the need and viability of such a program and the ability of the Order to manage such a venture given its remoteness from the members of the Order. We hope to have firm decision during 2023.

Our member from the desert Consoeur Dr Nicole Johnson, continues the excellent work among the Aranda people of Central Australia and was involved in the distribution of coats and blankets to Santa Teresa, as well as specially prepared hygiene








packs packaged by the members in Darwin. We are expanding this distribution next year to include Rosary beads and as always Consoeur Johnson is looking at new and innovative options to serve the poor in central Australia.

One of our members, Consoeur Maria Randazzo, is currently going through the period of preparation to take the Promise of Obedience and we pray for her continued spiritual growth as she embarks on her preparation for this new responsibility.

I was fortunate to travel with a delegation of Malteser International to the Philippines and Thailand this year to examine the projects that the Order has been running in these two countries. It was inspiring to see such great work from the Malteser International staff but more important to strengthen the bonds between the Asia Pacific region and the Order in Europe through Malteser International. We look forward to working together in the coming years in a more formalised way. To this end, we have set up a working DGR pup to examine how this can be done. This partnership will be important given our proximity to Southeast Asia and for the needs of the poor and displaced people in this region.

In October I travelled to Krakow, Poland for the National Association Presidents' Meeting. I was representing our President James Douglas KC KHD (Ob) who was unable to attend due to commitments in a Royal Commission. There were some fruitful and critical discussions held during



the meeting regarding the situation in the Ukraine, where the Order is assisting the displaced and homeless and war affected people, and also on our constitutional reforms. The presence of the Grand Hospitaller and the Common Treasurer went a long way to explain the mechanics of what is happening with the reforms and the new constitution promulgated. 

*The Northern Central Region is focusing on growing its works in the region and increasing its volunteers.*





## Hospitaller Veronica Mihyun Kim DMG, Korea.

**F**ounded on 15 April 2015, Order of Malta Korea (OMK) stepped into its seventh year and officially welcomed three new members (a total of 16 members including two Chaplains) and one candidate, while maintaining its volunteer community of over 400 volunteers. Silvano Yongmaan Park, in his second term, has been leading the works of the Order in South Korea as the Founding President.

Our biggest achievement for 2022 would be that we now have an operational system that has effectively developed and nurtured a project to a self-sufficient level, we have successfully closed one of

our major projects for the second time. The project is called the 'Changshin-dong' project. We kicked it off with an aim to build a sustainable neighbourhood system that supports marginalised elderly senior residents in the poorest district in central Seoul. Working closely from day one with a dedicated Sister from the Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help as our partner, together with a dedicated group of volunteers, we served an average of 85 senior residents not only as volunteers, but as neighbours who truly care.

Including special celebrations such as Christmas, Easter and other national holidays, we had nearly 200 services during







our two-year operation, and served more than 16,000 meals to those senior neighbours. Along the way, we discovered amazing talents among our volunteers who became tightly attached, with a sense of commitment and leadership. That alone was a huge inspiration to us all. As the relationships grew, we were able to identify other needs we could address, including a dental service and a blanket laundry service that we launched.

As much as we may claim that we have nurtured and developed a self-sufficient program with a direct impact on the quality of the senior residents' lives, the inspirational impact this program had on us was much bigger than what we gave. We learned that God shows us a way as long as there is a goodwill and that this way miraculously expands as needed.

After gaining both confidence and assurance that this project can run on its own without our direct support or participation, we handed off this project to the Sisters after two full years of operation. We are very grateful for the fact that this project was championed initially by one of our highly dedicated volunteers who, together with few others, remained to continue their support for the neighbours they had been serving.

Moving forward, we are in the process of developing a new project. We might try small projects in various areas and find a focus we all agree on, or we might stick to what we have been doing with confidence. Nothing is concrete yet and we are open to all possibilities. One intentional focus is that we would like to start serving the sick



and/or disabled neighbours. We could not host the Youth Camp in Korea due to COVID-19 as the protections and restrictions for the disabled are unrealistically tougher either by regulation or perception.

This helped us realise that we first need to prepare ourselves better and understand how they are isolated so conveniently from the rest of our society, and how vulnerable they actually can be in times like this. We pray that we will be able to find our pathway to serve those in the greatest shadows of our society and start shining a light for them. Until we do, we will continue to invest our time and effort on developing our spirituality both individually and as a group through spiritual retreats, bible study and prayer meetings. 🇲🇹

*The Order of Malta Korea served more than 16,000 meals to senior neighbours the 'Changshin-dong' project.*





## **Order of Malta Thailand Thailand Communications Officer: Ken Tran**

**I**n 2022, the Order of Malta Thailand hosted the Order of Malta 11th Asia Pacific Conference in Bangkok and the Investiture Ceremony during 12-16 October 2022. Our significant organisational changes this year includes the election of the new Chancellor, the addition of two new Thai Members, and the launch of the Order of Malta Thailand website.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, we managed to implement our major projects for the elderly and the poor and humanitarian activities.

### **The 11th Asia Pacific Conference in Thailand**

The Order of Malta Thailand successfully hosted the 11th Asia Pacific Conference at the Chatrium Riverside Bangkok between 12-16 October 2022. It was the first face-to-face conference since 2019 themed “Together and Closer” to give participants opportunities for personal interactions and taking away best practices. It was attended by 74 delegates from Australia, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, United States, United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Philippines, and Thailand

On 12 October, the first day of the conference, the contingent from the Grand Magistracy held strategic meetings with the regional leadership. Also on the same day, the Grand Chancellor, the Grand Hospitaller, and the Ambassador of the Order of Malta to Thailand, H.E. Michael Mann met with Mr. Don Pramudwinai, the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, to celebrate 38 years of Order of Malta diplomatic relationships with Thailand, as well as discuss the Order of Malta’s humanitarian works in Ukraine.

Highlights of the main conference included the Opening Mass celebrated by the Prelate, the Investiture Ceremony, the High Charges’ Addresses, the Presidents’ and Hospitallers’ Country Reports, updates from the Regent of the Subpriory of Immaculate Conception, presentations by the CEO of the Global Funds for Forgotten People and the General Secretary of Malteser International, forum with the High Charges, workshops, and

the exhibition on the works of the Order of Malta in Asia Pacific and globally.

During the closing ceremony, Dr Maria Therese Virachanee Phromsuntorn, President of the Order of Malta Thailand, gave tributes and appreciations to the former Grand Hospitaller Mr. Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel.

### **The Investiture in Thailand**

A part of the 11th Asia Pacific Conference was the Investiture Mass on 14 October 2022 at the Assumption Cathedral Bangkok for five new Thai Knights and Dames: Mr Alphonsus Pipat Ratanatraiphob, Dr Maria Therese Piyasa Wattanasan, Dr Lucretia Elma Muangkroot, Mrs Felisa Sida Jarungchitpracharom, and Mrs Maria Chintana Rangsangsan Komindr.

The Investiture Mass was presided over by Chief Celebrant His Eminence Cardinal Francis Xavier Kriengsak Kovithavanij. The Ceremony of Investiture was presided over by the President of Order of Malta Australia H.E. The Hon James Douglas and the Regent of the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception H.E. Prof. David Kissane. The Investiture was witnessed by Regional Presidents, Hospitallers, Chancellors, conference participants, and invited guests who gave their hearty congratulations to the newly invested. A reception dinner was held afterwards at the Chatrium Hotel.

### **Organisational changes New Chancellor**

In November 2021, Order of Malta Thailand members elected the new Chancellor, Dr Maria Theresa Piyada Wattanasan. She holds a wealth of experience being the President of St Theresa International College and an Associate Judge of the Family and Children Court of Pathum Thani province. She is a member of Phra Phutai Saowapa Church Council and the President of their St Vincent de Paul Society Chapter, a committee member of the Catholic Association of Thailand, and a member of Catholic Education Council of Thailand. She is also an educational quality assessor



of higher education institutions including the Saengtham College of the Church of Thailand.

### **New members**

On 13 October 2022, The Grand Magistracy approved two new Thai Dames of Magistral Grace, Mrs Maria Chintana Komindr and Mrs Maria Felisa Sida Jarungchitpracharom, increasing the number of Thai members to 18 members. Our entity currently has a total of 27 persons consisting of one Magistral Chaplain, 18 Thai members, two international members, two aspirants, three fulltime volunteers, and one staff.

### **Order of Malta Thailand website**

The Order of Malta Thailand Website was completed and launched in late December 2022. We owe deep gratitude to Mr Suwat Benjatammatorn for his stewardship of the site construction, Dr Piyada and Dr Chaipat Wattanasan, Mrs Emma Daengsvang, and Mr Ken Tran for managing the project, H.E. Michael Mann, Mr Adrian Borg Cardona, and Dr Jean Pierre Verbiest for their contributions for the history of Order of Malta in Thailand, and the Australian Association Communications Team for their advice and assistance.

### **Spiritual activity**

#### **Order of Malta Thailand retreat**

On 25 June 2022 in observation of St John’s Day, Fr Carlo Velardo organised the customary Annual Order of Malta Thailand Retreat at the Salesian Provincial Centre Bangkok which began with Mass and Morning Prayers. For the Spiritual Formation session, Fr Carlo used the parable of a “the road to Jericho” to inspire members to live their charism by helping those in need while others won’t.





**Projects and activities**

**Elderly Care Projects with funding support from the Global Fund for Forgotten People**

The Order of Malta Thailand received a \$10,000 grant from the Global Fund for Forgotten People to support our Elderly Care Project that includes two sub-projects: 1) A donation of 35 wheelchairs for the poor and elderly in rural areas of eight dioceses and for elderly patients at the Camillian Social Centre Prachinburi 2) The Elderly Day Care Project to provide activities and health knowledge for the elderly. The second project is run in cooperation with professional nursing volunteers from St Theresa International College. This project had a late start in June 2022 because of COVID-19 restrictions.

On 11 October 2022, by the Prelate H.E. Monsignor Jean Laffitte, the CEO of the Global Fund for Forgotten People Mr Justin Simpson along with members of the Australian Association, Chaplain Fr Gerald McMorro, Confrères Daniel Kwok, David Macintosh, and Consoeur Loretta Higgins visited the Elderly Day Care project at St Theresa International College. The visit began with a Mass celebrated by the Prelate at the college Chapel. At the project site, the contingent was received by the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing Sciences.

**Winter blanket donation**

In December 2022, we distributed 3,000 blankets for poor hill tribe people and the elderly of six dioceses in Northern and North Eastern Thailand. The project was kicked off by Confrère Adrian Borg Cardona who delivered the blankets in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai provinces.

**Christmas donations**

On 22 December 2022, Confrère Adrian Borg Cardona and Consoeur Sida Jarungjitpracharom visited the Xaverian Mission Khlong Teoi to donate muffins, toys, and pampers for the needy and forgotten Children of the Khlong Teoi Slum. These gifts were given to the children during the Xaverian Mission's Christmas Eve Celebration.



**Activities on important days**

For important days, we distributed food packets for the elderly patients at the Camillian Social Center Prachinburi on the Day of the Sick. For the Day of the Poor, members donated food packets and two wheelchairs for the handicapped, the poor and the elderly at St Marks Church, Pathum Thani.

**COVID-19 relief**

We also had COVID-19 relief activities, a highlight of which was a member's visit to the Klong Teoi slum to give food packets and hygiene items in March 2022. Also, a pilot project began in October 2022 to distribute food bags and hygiene items for the poor in communities around the Holy Redeemer Church Bangkok.

**Looking forward**

Our strategies in 2023 are to improve the new project proposal and approval projects, expand partner networks, and create or refine the existing projects to better serve the elderly. ❖

*The Order of Malta Thailand had a big 2022 with the election of a new Chancellor, the addition of two new Thai Members, the launch of its website, and hosting the 11th Asia Pacific Conference in Bangkok.*





## **New Zealand Hospitaller: Bevan Killick KMG**

**T**he establishment of the Order in Aotearoa New Zealand continues to be in a very early and fragile stage. We lack numbers of members, activities to participate in, a regular calendar of events, and are further challenged by our members being geographically dispersed. Despite this, our members live their life as members of the Order faithfully and do exceptional work in their own ways.

While these activities are not under the banner of the Order they are very worthy and should be celebrated. When we meet it is great to be able to support each other in our various roles. These range from public service, volunteering, Catholic education, consular work, disaster relief, working with other charities, governance roles with other Catholic organisations and so on. This year Confrère Simon Manning had his work in this regard formally recognised with a Royal Honour.

It is difficult to write about 2022 without mentioning the impact of COVID. This certainly curtailed many of our activities and particularly made more challenging the ability to deliver aid to the COVID-free Kingdom of Tonga. The pandemic has forced more content online and while this has become available, often live online sessions hosted in Australia can get a bit late in New Zealand with the time difference. We look forward to returning to face-to-face contact in 2023.

### **Assistance for Tonga**

New Zealand enjoys strong ties with the Kingdom of Tonga. On 15 January 2022 the submarine volcano Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai erupted causing a tsunami. This was the most powerful eruption since Krakatoa in 1883. The New Zealand Defence Force described the damage as catastrophic. Four Tongans died and two people in Peru drowned. Many others were injured. Malteser International very quickly initiated a 20,000 Euro donation and a video meeting was held on the evening of 21 January. The meeting was chaired by the Director General of Malteser International,

Clemens Graf von Mirbach-Harff and attended by the President Hon James Douglas KHD KC, National Hospitaller John Murphy KMG, NZ Hospitaller Bevan Killick KMG and others.

His Excellency Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand and Apostolic Nuncio to Tonga (and other Pacific nations) has been very warm towards the Order and facilitated direct contact with His Eminence and Lordship Soane Patita Paine Cardinal Mafi, Bishop of Tonga. Cardinal Mafi is also the President of Caritas Oceania which became the lead organisation which we collaborated with.

The New Zealand Hospitaller met with Archbishop Rugambwa at the Nunciature in Wellington on 23 February. At the lunch telephone contact was made with the Bishop of Tonga, Cardinal Mafi. Telephone communications were only re-established the previous day.

Consoeur Abina Pope, Director of Religious Studies at John Paul II High School in Greymouth of the South Island's West Coast, had the school respond through Caritas Aotearoa and had a prayer chain operating among students and staff until school resumed.

Very generous donations have been received from both Malteser International and our own Order appeals for humanitarian efforts in Tonga. Through the Tongan community in Christchurch and Tongan Mercy Sister, Sr Monika Moale RSM we have been able to support relief efforts for Tonga. The Order has provided funding for food, computers, books for schools, cooking utensils and equipment as well as Order of Malta Care Packs and physical labour packing containers. This has been in conjunction with Caritas. Pictured are the NZ Hospitaller Bevan Killick and Sr Monika Moale RSM with the care packs. Photos of the containers which were sent out even made it to the television news in Tonga. The principal of St Joseph's Community College, Ha'apai, Tonga, Mataikamoana Folaumahina has written and thanked the Order for our support.

### **Royal Honour Recipient - Simon Manning QSO JP**

Confrère Simon Manning KMG QSO JP

was recognised in the New Zealand's Queen's Birthday and Platinum Jubilee Honours with the Queen's Service Order (QSO), for services to funeral services and disaster victim identification. Simon Manning has been in the funeral industry since 1980 and established Harbour City Funerals in Wellington in 1989.

Following the disaster response to the 1979 Erebus tragedy, he was asked by Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand (FDANZ) and the New Zealand Embalmers Association (NZZEA) to develop a more structured disaster response for future events with fatalities. He has led New Zealand's Funeral Disaster Response Team since 1988, developing multiple teams of qualified volunteers to work on rotation to mitigate fatigue and mental health strain. He opened the team to all those qualified in the industry, organised formal training, and offered the team's services to the New Zealand Police. He was invited to join the National Disaster Victim Identification team. In 2010 he joined international disaster response organisation Blake Emergency Services to gain experience and assisted with the Kenya Airways crash in Cameroon and the downed Malaysia Airlines MH17 in Eastern Ukraine, also helping train Blake members. Nationally, he has coordinated the Funeral Disaster Response Team following incidents including the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, 15 March 2019 terrorist attack, the 2019 Whakaari/White Island eruption, and has been involved with the COVID response team for FDANZ and NZZEA. Mr Manning represented NZZEA on the Funeral Service Training Trust New Zealand from 2004 to 2007.

### **Anzac Day**

Anzac events were very low key due to COVID-19. The Italian Honorary Consul for the South Island, Confrère Belfiore Bologna KMG was abroad. The NZ Hospitaller was invited to attend the Civic Service which was secretly arranged and held under a heightened level of security in front of the earthquake damaged Anglican Cathedral due to anti-vaccine mandate protestors occupying the Bridge of Remembrance, where the service was supposed to be held. The Civic Service in the Transitional Anglican Cathedral was also attended.





#### Vale – Consoeur Margot Gresham DMG OMM

Consoeur Margot Gresham DMG OMM passed peacefully, surrounded by love, on 25 August 2022, aged 87 years. Margot's dearly loved husband for 61 years was the Honourable Peter Gresham ONZM JP KMG OMM, former Chair of the New Zealand Delegation of the Order of Malta. When Peter took on a role it was like a two-for-one deal; Margot came as part of the package. They were a wonderful team and they achieved so much together. A particular achievement they were rightfully proud of was their six children, their spouses, 16 grandchildren and one great grandchild (so far). Margot had family links to the Order of Malta back to noble European families in her heritage. It is understood that it is through this that Margot and Peter were drawn to the Order and became very much part of our foundation in New Zealand. Both Margot and Peter were appointed Officers of the Order *pro Merito Melitense* for their service and upholding the mission of the Order of Malta particularly in New Zealand. This carries on as the NZ Hospitaller is their great nephew.

Margot's Requiem Mass was attended by several members of the Order and viewed by others online in St Mary's Catholic Church, Whanganui, on 1 September 2022.

#### Vale – Dr the Hon Captain Richard Worth RNZN OBE VRD KStJ

The New Zealand members of the Order noted with great sadness the passing on 10 May 2022, aged 73, of Dr the Honourable Captain Richard Worth RNZN OBE VRD KStJ. Richard was the Member of Parliament for Epsom from 1999 to 2005 and a list MP from 2005 to 2009. He held the roles of Minister of Internal Affairs, Minister for Land Information and Associate Minister of Justice. He was also honorary consul to Monaco. Internationally recognised, Richard was awarded the Cross of Merit from the Order of Malta, Knight Grand Cross Royal House of Portugal, Knight Grand Cross Order of St Michael of the Wing Portugal and an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Military Division).

#### Looking forward

There are a number of impressive individuals considering joining the Order in New Zealand. We continue to meet with bishops and kindred organisations to discern a suitable work program that both meets an unmet need and does not interfere with or replicate existing efforts of other organisations. It is also important that we have the capacity to professionally and safely deliver services. We acknowledge and appreciate the fraternal bonds we have with the Venerable Order of St John (Hato Hone in Te Reo Māori). Our future efforts may involve collaboration with this mutually recognised Order. ❖

*Top His Excellency Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa (on left) with Bevan Killick KMG.*





# ALLEGORY OF THE TRIUMPH OF THE ORDER

St John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta, Malta

— By Dr Dane Munro KM, Knight of Magistral Grace —





Without doubt, St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta, the former conventional church of Knights Hospitaller, is the Order's most magnificent church. At first, it was a bare basilica, the first stone laid in 1571. Shortly after, in 1577, the first Holy Mass was celebrated. The initial lack of decoration was the result of the financial setback after surviving the Great Ottoman Siege of 1565. About 100 years later, during the Counter-Reformation times, the accomplished Knight and Baroque artist Mattia Preti arrived in Malta, under the auspices of the Grand Masters Raphael Cotoner (1660–1663) and Nicholas Cotoner (1663–1680). In the meantime, the Order had developed a *horror vacui*, a Latin phrase to describe the fear of emptiness, which was cured filling up all available space in St John's with detailed decoration.

Around 1666, Preti covered the whole width of the face of the interior west wall, over the main entrance, with a large lunette painting named *The Allegory of the Triumph of the Order*. This Allegory, is, like most of the Hospitaller art, a prime example of the self-image of the Order. The focal point of the Allegory is the figure of Our Lady of Victory, placed in the centre. She is depicted as a female figure with a helmet adorned with ostrich feathers, clad in a Classical cuirass over a red dress, brandishing a sword in one hand and holding the flag of the Order in the other. In the narrower context, this figure both refers to an allegory of the Order, generally known as *La Religione* and to Nike Athena, the Greek goddess and personification of Victory, the Olympian virgin warrior goddess. At St John's,

*The Allegory of the Triumph of the Order, by Mattia Preti. Lunette painting on the west wall, St John's Co-Cathedral. Artist: Mattia Preti, oil on limestone, c. 4.5 x 18 m. Photo: Photo ©Martin Bonnici Photography.*





Nike Athena is transformed into a Christian allegory, supporting the Order, as a late and highly telling kind of *spolia paganorum*. In the wider context, the scene reflects that, from Renaissance times onwards, themes from Classical works were well applied by artists.

Both Nike and the Virgin Mary were famous virgins, known as 'Queens of Heaven', with a reputation for prudence and wisdom, able to tame brute force. In the painting, the Virgin Mary, a warrior maiden in full armour, stands triumphantly on top of three defeated enemies, as a true *Victrix*, and it seems that Our Lady has defeated the enemy in one fell swoop. The three figures, also allegories, represent the traditional eternal enemies of the past, a follower of Mohammed, an Ottoman and a Moor (or Berber). They lie on their stomachs on the ground with their arms raised to the sky in a gesture of panic, disbelief and surrender, begging for mercy.

Above their heads, two angels descend from heaven with an open crown of victory, both to show that the Order's sovereignty is a *Deodandum* (gift of God) and to justify the Order's existence and actions.

The inclusion of a flaming angelic sword, or the wavy blade of the *flambard*, is probably inspired by the Vulgate version of Genesis 3:24, *flammeum gladium*, held by the cherubim guarding the way to the Tree

of Wisdom after God had expelled Adam and Eve from paradise.

On the left of Our Lady of Victories, a cherub is chaining the defeated enemies, while on the right another cherub is holding a tablet representing either the Holy Scriptures, the Ten Commandments or, as a consequence of the circumstances of the Great Siege, the rationalisation for a just war. To the left of the sword of Our Lady of Victory, two putti descend from heaven, carrying a magistral hat, a cotton plant and palm fronds. The magistral hat could symbolise a heavenly justification of the Grand Magistracy granted to the brothers *Cotoner i d'Olesa*. The cotton plant refers to the two Grand Masters *Cotoner*. Since the *Cotoners* spent a fortune on the baroquisation of St John's, and since they were both the patrons of *Mattia Preti*, it was more than a courtesy for the artist to make the *Cotoners'* coat of arms an everlasting symbol of their generosity and their efforts to carry out the will of the Order's two mottos. It is perhaps not unreasonable to add an element of self-aggrandisement and immortality to their deeds and names.

The upper register also shows, on the left, a background of Maltese fortifications (including a typical watchtower called *Gardijola*) from which cannons are fired. This suggests that visitors are looking at a generic battle scene from the Great

Siege. At the foot of the walls, the Knights Hospitaller, recognisable by their *sopra veste* with a white cross on a red field (*gueules à la croix pleine d'argent*), are piled up on the battlefield after falling victim to the Ottomans. In the art commissioned by the Order, reference to the idea of martyrdom is normative. Knights Hospitaller who died in action against the enemy of the faith, or in the service of the Lord in general, became martyrs of the faith.

On the right of the same upper register, a series of columns represent the entrance to the heavenly city of Jerusalem, where the angels emerge from the colonnade to greet the new arrivals. To the left and right of Our Lady of Victories, angels descend from heaven and distribute palm fronds to the new martyrs of the Order, those killed in the Great Siege, to show that their earthly pilgrimage to the heavenly city of Jerusalem has been successfully completed, 'rejoicing forever... united in glory with the holy martyrs'. Although for mortals a palm frond is a symbol of a successful pilgrimage to the earthly Jerusalem, in this allegory the Temple in Jerusalem is not the physical Temple, in view of the New Testament criticism of the Temple as a physical place, but the idea of the heavenly city of Jerusalem in the Augustinian spirit.

The lower register is divided in two by a window. It contains the two main mottos of





the Order, *Obsequium Pauperum* (care for the poor and the sick) on the left and *Tuitio Fidei* (defence of the Faith) on the right. On the left, the figure of Grand Master Nicola Cotoner i d'Olesa, dressed in a black robe with the eight-pointed cross in white on the front. He is caring for a sick person. Patients were given luxuries to show how advanced the Order's health care was: in this painting, the patient is shown lying on a single bed, and his food and drink are served on silverware, the most micro-hygienic material of the time. It was the Grand Master's duty to personally attend to the sick on Sundays, in accordance with the Order's Charter of Hospitality and Charity. His magistral hat was worn by his pages because of the humility required in the presence of the sick. The Order considered the sick to be 'Our Lords the Sick' (or Signori Malati) and it was therefore appropriate for the Grand Master to serve them with his head uncovered, as Christ could be among them.

On the right-hand side of the window, in the *Tuitio Fidei* section, there is the aforementioned Grand Master Raphael Cotoner i d'Olesa. He is pointing to a painting of a galley and fortifications in the background, as the message is that the Order has power *terra marique*, both on land and at sea. Raphael Cotoner is wearing his magistral hat, because he is the head and prince of a sovereign monastic military order.

These two scenes of the Grand Masters are placed around a window and each side is adorned with mythological figures, painted in white, symbolising hospitality, holding cornucopias, the



horns of plenty. They are painted in white because hospitality must be pure, since works of charity are acceptable to God. The window itself is decorated with embossed palm fronds, a symbol of martyrdom and victory.

The message is clear: the Order of St John proved resilient after the Great Siege of 1565. Having regained a leading role, the Order continued to police the Mediterranean, not only holding back the expansionist ambitions of the Ottomans but also remaining faithful to their original role as Hospitallers, ready to fulfil their duties, giving generously to both charity and defence. ❖

*Left: Obsequium Pauperum (care for the poor and the sick).*

*Right top: Tuitio Fidei (defence of the Faith).*

*Above: Our Lady of Victories.*



# NEW HUB PROJECTS IN MELBOURNE

A partnership with the Australian Catholic University has led to impressive community outreach programs in marginalised communities, including mobile cafés and reading programs.

*By Anna Vandierendonck, Project officer, Order of Malta & ACU Community Hub*

In April 2022, the Order of Malta and Australian Catholic University (ACU) embarked on a two-and-a-half-year mission-aligned collaboration to serve community groups who experience disadvantage and marginalisation through the vision of establishing a co-branded and co-operated community hub. The Order of Malta funds this project and taps into the knowledge of ACU's Community Engagement team.

## **Initial research**

The initial six-month research and development phase of the project focused on identifying where the hub should be based and what services should be offered. The geographical area of interest was based on proximity to the ACU campus in Fitzroy and proximity to Kew, which was identified as the area where the majority of Order members reside. This resulted in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Melbourne, Yarra, and Darebin being considered as regions of interest. Further analysis using data from the Social Health Atlas of Australia, in addition to the mapping of services operating in each area, indicated that East Reservoir and East Preston, within the Darebin LGA, are experiencing high levels of disadvantage and are serviced by fewer organisations. Furthermore, through conversation with community members and well-established service providers, it became apparent that a 'mobile' community hub concept may be more successful than a brick-and-mortar style hub, as it is well-known that many community members in need might not be able to travel to a hub due to physical, mental, emotional, or financial circumstances.

In response to these findings, the Community Hub Steering Group decided to support the mobile hub concept with the focus on running place-based programs

in locations where people are already gathering, rather than pursuing the initial vision that would demand people to travel to a fixed location to access the services. Additionally, in recognition of the importance of being based within the community, the Community Hub Project Officer now leases an office space at the Reservoir Neighbourhood House and drives a branded vehicle.

To date, the mobile set up appears to be an innovative and cost-effective approach that has been well-received by community members and external stakeholders.

## **The first program: Mobile Community Café at Thornbury**

Early December 2022, the Order and ACU Community Hub launched its inaugural program, the Mobile Community Café, at a public housing estate in Agg Street, Thornbury. The 55 residents who reside at the estate are over the age of 65 and living on their own. Throughout the COVID-19 lockdowns, healthcare workers had identified that many residents were experiencing varying levels of loneliness and social isolation, hence the idea to launch a program at their on-site community room. The focus of the Mobile Community Café is to provide residents an opportunity to come together on a weekly basis for hot drinks, snacks, and fresh salad rolls with the aim to combat social isolation. In future, there may be the potential to incorporate additional program aims by leveraging the skills and expertise of community members, ACU staff and students, and members of the Order of Malta to further improve the social, mental, and physical health and wellbeing of the residents. However, these aims will need to be driven by the residents themselves, in line with a community-led approach.

Since the program's inception we have gathered a core group of up to 14 residents who join us on a regular basis. Over a dozen Order members have assisted with hosting the sessions, in addition to three ACU students who have committed to attending on a weekly basis throughout semester one as part of the requirements of their Community Engagement unit. The rich mixture of different ages, backgrounds, and interests has created a wonderful dynamic and makes for interesting conversations.

The program has been warmly welcomed by the residents and has received positive feedback from all stakeholders. Residents have commented that "it makes them feel seen", with one person remarking that "it is the highlight of their week". Members of the Order of Malta have stated that it is obvious that the program is needed and that they enjoy interacting with the residents. Furthermore, the weekly gatherings provide a platform to link residents with other services and organisations, including ACU's Clemente program, Your Community Health, SPAN Neighbourhood House, and Darebin Council, to link residents with their services. It is therefore regarded as a very valuable program by external organisations, as it extends their reach within a group of people that previously they may have struggled to connect with.

## **The second program: Mobile Community Café at East Reservoir**

Based on the Mobile Community Café's positive impact at Agg Street, in March 2023, the decision was made to launch the program at the Reservoir Neighbourhood House (RNH). RNH is based in East Reservoir, one of the lowest socio-economic areas in Melbourne. Many community members experience high levels of social isolation and poverty. Similar to the program at Agg





Street, the sessions aim to provide an opportunity to connect with other people in a safe and welcoming environment, and offer a platform to access other services present at the same time, including a social worker, Orange Sky Laundry, and PRACE Job Pathways.

**The third program: “read to learn” at Preston**

The third program, started in March 2023, is the “Read to Learn” program at Preston North East Primary School. This initiative was implemented in response to the principal’s call for assistance, as many of the students have been identified of being at risk of falling behind with literacy and numeracy skills due to limiting factors at home. More than half of the students speak English as a second language, and many of their parents do not have the skills to assist with their learning. In addition, one in two students receives government funding as a result of experiencing poverty.

Over a nine-week period, 15 volunteers from ACU and the Order will work on a one-on-one basis with primary school students to complete literacy and numeracy activities. In addition to enhancing the young students’ skillset, the program aims to provide meaningful quality time where there is space to talk and connect.

Reflecting on the first six months of operation, it has been heartening to notice how warmly welcomed the Hub and its volunteers have been by both community members and external organisations. The Hub’s focus moving forward will continue to be on building authentic relationships between community, members of the Order, and ACU staff and students. These conversations will then further inform the design of place-based, community-led programs with the aim to enhance the health and wellbeing of those experiencing disadvantage and marginalisation within the Darebin LGA. ❖

*Top: The Mobile Community Café, an initiative of the Community Hub, provides senior residents a chance to come together regularly to combat social isolation. Bottom: A branded vehicle supports the Community Hub’s mobile approach, which allows residents to access their services without having to commute.*



# First live Asia Pacific Conference since 2019

## A ROARING SUCCESS

**A**fter three years of COVID-19 restrictions, Order of Malta entities in Asia Pacific were able to hold a live conference, the 11th Asia Pacific Conference, in Bangkok from 12 - 16 October 2022. Members in Thailand ably and generously hosted what was called a “roaring success” by several participants.

The theme “Together and Closer” was certainly made concrete by the many relationships either begun or tightened. A total of 70 participants came from the Grand Magistry, Philippines, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Korea, Japan, China, Germany, France and USA. The Grand Magistry’s contingent includes the Grand Chancellor H.E. Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo, the Grand Hospitaller H.E. Fra’ Alessandro de Franciscis, the Prelate H.E. Reverend Monsignor Jean Laffitte Coordinator of Institutional Affairs, Daniela Bonucci and Director of Communications Eugenio Ajroldi Robbiato. Our Ambassadors

to Thailand, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and Nauru and their respective Counsellors were prominently present.

On the eve of the conference, our Grand Chancellor Grand Hospitaller, and Ambassador Michael Man were received by Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thailand.

Unity, “rolling up your sleeves”, and the essential and foundational spirituality of the Order were front and centre through the conference. Every entity presented evidence of how it has been expressing the charism of the Order – *Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum*.

A full package of the proceedings, videos and photos of the conference was prepared for distribution to members. A summary was presented by National Hospitaller of the Australian Association, Confrère John Murphy at the end of the conference:

*“At the conference a genuine sense of fraternity has been evident during the past*

*several days. We are all so different as entities and cultures, yet we are the same – working for a common cause under the eight-pointed cross.*

*The hospitality and organisation by the Thailand Association has promoted a warm and welcoming environment to help us all build better relationships. Thank you, Madam President – Khun Dr Maria Therese Virachanee Phromsuntorn, Khun Patima Chavalit, Khun Emma Daengsvan, and Khun Ken Tran for your wonderful work.*

*A big thank you to Daniela Bonucci and Eugenio Ajroldi from the Grand Magistry. They have come a long way and have graciously given their time to support us in this region.*

*We were very lucky and honoured to have the new Grand Chancellor and Grand Hospitaller present. We appreciate their frankness and willingness to listen and learn and understand the uniqueness and value of the works of the Order in the Asia Pacific region.*







The main messages from the Grand Chancellor and Grand Hospitaller were:

- The time has come to be united.
- The focus is now on vocations for First and Second class.
- The necessity to tailor works for each region – with one entity.
- An understanding that sovereignty is affirmed.
- Confirmed and affirmed the value of maturation of the region.
- We must encourage members to roll up their sleeves. We are not only fundraisers.
- Bring back the Order to the work of Blessed Gerard. We must bring a soul to our works.

Global Director of Communications, Eugenio Ajroldi, spoke about the upcoming launch of the Order's intranet. It will provide access to our archives of information organised into several sections. Phase One access will be given to 500 in the leadership nucleus of the Order. He also encouraged Asia Pacific entities to celebrate the Order's National Day occurring each year the weekend closest to the Feast of Blessed Gerard.

Throughout the past three days there has been a renewed focus on our spirituality. Our Prelate Monsignor Jean Laffitte talked about a collective charism.

"If we give all but without love, we have nothing," inspired by the words of St Paul. Our charism is a gift from God. Sacraments plus our charism guarantee the promise of Christ and Service is continually nourished by the fruits of God.

The takeaway: We are doing the Lord's work – we need to keep Christ the centre of all our works of mercy.

Regent for the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception in the Asia Pacific region Professor David Kissane explained the spirituality and commitment necessary to make the promise of obedience and enter the Second Class. As mentioned by the High Charges earlier, this will be a real focus now to deepen the spirituality of the Order and encourage more vocations to the First Class.

Hospitaller works – what a diverse range of programs were shared by all the Presidents and National Hospitallers of each country! It highlights how important these yearly gatherings are to help inspire us and also help us to create new works of our own. As many have pointed out, we have all made great progress in the past three years in spite of the disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Justin Simpson from The Global Fund for the Forgotten gave a presentation on the works the fund has contributed to in the region which we had already seen during the Hospitaller presentations as each region has case studies detailing their involvement. There were numerous examples of the fund's assistance in launching new programs.

The Ambassador H.E. Terry Tobin and Counsellor Alastair Furnival for Timor-Leste highlighted the wonderful work that has occurred in the region. There was some sobering but also encouraging information shared in relation to infant mortality and stunting. We hope that more entities in the Asia Pacific have now been inspired to become involved and join and contribute to the growth of this initiative with the opportunity to join the leadership team.

Malteser International (MI) Secretary General, Clemens Graf von Mirbach-Harff, made a presentation on the many Asia Pacific regional projects MI has. We sincerely appreciate their efforts; we know it has been a tough six months for MI and just want to publicly thank and acknowledge the work Clemens and the team have also done in the Ukraine."

The 12th Asia Pacific Conference will be held in Seoul from 18 – 22 October 2023. No doubt, the entities in this region will be able to present its continuous growth in the spirituality and works of the Order serving 'our Lords, the sick and the poor.' 

Opposite: After the Investiture Mass presided by His Emin Cardinal Francis Xavier Kriengsak Kovitvanit  
Top left: Our host, the President of Order of Malta Thailand, Dr Maria Therese Virachanee Phromsuntorn, who sadly passed away in March 2023. She was widely praised for her leadership in Thailand and for organising the 11th APC.



# Order of Malta YOUTH CAMPS in Australia

By Anna Sammut OMV – National Coordinator of Youth Camps

Since 2021, the Order of Malta in Australia has been organising and hosting youth camps for young adults with disabilities. The first camp was held in Queensland in 2021 followed by two others in Sydney and Melbourne in 2022. To date there have been more than 30 guests, 50 volunteers and 25 carers participating in our camps.

Each of our camps offers a unique and life-changing experience for all who participate regardless of ability. The camps bring together young people from different walks of life, and from different parts of Australia, for the opportunity of a lifetime. Participants challenge themselves daily with physical and fun activities that support them with their own spiritual and personal growth. The friendships formed over these four-day camps have a huge impact on all involved, with many of the participants keeping in contact with each other long after the camps have finished.

At each of our camps we encourage our guests to conquer their fears and challenge themselves through various activities. At our Sydney camp, guests were given the opportunity to go indoor skydiving. Many thought this activity would be an impossible task, but with encouragement, support and much laughter, every guest no matter their ability went skydiving. Their joy was almost contagious. All of the activities at our camps are designed to encourage teamwork and communication; it is here that you see the support and kindness of the volunteers in full force. For example, in Melbourne, a few guests who were scared of heights and very unsure about participating in the giant swing activity. However, our volunteers stepped into action. With the attitude of “we can do this together, let’s have a go” all the guests went on the giant swing, and not only swung once but had multiple turns. For some, this may seem like a small thing but for our guests it was a huge accomplishment, only made possible through support and encouragement of our volunteers.



Our volunteers play a vital role in these camps. We see such sensitive human interaction, compassion, understanding and patience. Volunteers realise very quickly that these camps can be challenging, but the joy they experience from giving their time and talents outweighs any demands. One volunteer said: “I’m here to help. I want to walk away from this camp knowing that I have made a difference to someone, I have helped in some small way to improve someone’s self-confidence, motivate and encourage their independence, but most of all let someone know, I care about them.”

We are also very fortunate to have had volunteer students from Australian Catholic University (ACU) assist us. Because of our camps, the ACU students were able to get real-life experience assisting and supporting young adults with

disabilities for the duration of our camp. One ACU volunteer said: “It was such a rewarding experience to connect with new people and to come together to be involved in a wide range of activities in an exciting and fulfilling weekend.” Another ACU volunteer said: “I enjoyed working in a team, meeting new friends and having brand new experiences.” It is the hope of the organising committee that as the Order grows its relationship with ACU we will be able to get more students involved and participating in our camps.

All carers and volunteers who attend our camps get to see the very unique milestones and breakthroughs of our participants. Many participants that attend these camps don’t usually know anyone else and are very reserved at the beginning. However, within two





hours we see them coming out of their shell and engaging in conversations with other individuals. One of the most rewarding breakthroughs we have seen is when participants with communication difficulties are able to engage in a full conversation with a volunteer or carer and be understood by that volunteer or carer by the second day of the camp. You can instantly see the excitement and confidence build on the participant's face when

they realise they are engaging in a full conversation with another individual and are being understood. It is moments like this that make these camps worthwhile because you see these participants are feeling comfortable and being treated as equals by all peers.

They say it takes "a village to raise a family", well this is really the case in pulling together an Order of Malta youth camp. Organisers, volunteers, guests and

of course the generous support from our members, but all with one aim, providing a community of caring people who nurture and value self-respect and an appreciation for human value. All the outcomes — self-identity, self-worth, self-esteem, leadership – build very valuable personal competencies. However, the most important outcome is that we get to see the face of Christ in one another. 🇻🇪



# IMPROVING HEALTH & LIVES IN TIMOR-LESTE

By Alastair Furnival KMG (Ob)



The Order of Malta Clinic in Dili has expanded its service offering, with nutrition programs focused on mothers to give children a great start to life.

**T**he Order of Malta Clinic in Dili, Timor-Leste recently celebrated its fifth anniversary, and continues to serve the poorest of the city. We are very grateful to the many members of the Australian Association who regularly donate to support this project.

During a recent March visit, there were several innovations in the services of the Clinic. The first was the introduction of cooking classes for mothers of young children. These will be repeated monthly, at least.

According to the World Health Organisation, 47 per cent of children under

five years of age in Timor-Leste are stunted, 8.6 per cent suffer from acute malnutrition, and 23 per cent of women of reproductive age (15 - 49 years) are anaemic.

Such challenges of maternal and infant health – and particularly nutrition – are central to the mission of the Order in Timor-Leste, and weekly nutrition clinics are held. These involve the supply of food and vitamin supplements, and provide the stage for general check-ups and infant vaccination.

Malnutrition itself has multiple causes. The most obvious of these is simple poverty and lack of access to nutritious food. This is

exacerbated in a country like Timor-Leste which has heavy reliance on food imports, so current international inflation will compound the problem.

However, an equally important issue is lack of knowledge. Timorese mothers can be very young by Australian standards, and may never have received instruction on healthy cooking, or the particular dietary needs of infants. This is not an experience unique to Timor-Leste, and the Order has recently pioneered cooking classes in other countries, such as Brazil.

Cooking classes held by the clinic cover hygiene, such as proper hand washing and





safe food preparation; information on breastfeeding and when to introduce particular foodstuffs to a young child's diet; sources of protein and preparation of a healthy meal.

An actual meal is provided – in the first instance of rice with fish and fresh vegetables. Our initial class was well attended by approximately 25 mothers and their children.

This initiative will be nested within a broader nutrition program supported by the clinic and by Ambassador Terry Tobin with some initial finance from Rome. Confrère Dalton Fogarty is taking the lead in the program's design and implementation. Going forward, cooking and nutrition classes will also be part of the clinic's outreach program, where we send a doctor, nurse and midwife to multiple remote centres on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

To support our maternal and infant programs, the Clinic has now adopted a new technology platform, in participation with the local NGO HAMNASA. HAMNASA runs a number of programs focused on preventive health and civil society development.

For the Order's purposes, the most important program they offer is called in the local Tetum language: Liga Inan. This translates as "Call the Mother", and is a mobile-based platform sending frequent messages to prepartum and nursing mothers in the community. The program is also supported by the Timorese Government and AusAid.

There is a range of benefits from this technology. First, it allows for registration of women on a mobile network, so they have a primary health contact, regardless of their remoteness from the capital or from formal healthcare services.

Second, the platform can be used for outbound messaging – typically on a weekly basis – and can be customised to the progress of individual pregnant women and mothers. This might be a reminder to make a medical appointment, emphasis on the importance of food hygiene, or even dissemination of recipes to ensure healthy food is prepared.

For our outreach program, Liga Inan will be particularly effective in letting women know when the Order's team is coming to their district, so they don't miss out on the opportunity for essential care.

During our recent visit, we also executed an

MOU with a further NGO, which is a youth-based volunteer charity focused on health services.

In particular, this group will provide trained volunteers to the clinic, and to accompany our outreach, delivering nutrition, sexually-transmitted disease information, and mental health treatment.

The last of these will address a serious gap in the Timorese health system. The WHO commented: "Mental health receives little priority due to many other social and economic issues faced by the population of the country... Mental health services are not well established. There is a significant lack of trained human resources. There are only two psychiatrists and one clinical psychologist. All of them work in the capital."

This is understandable: in a developing country with so many health challenges, less visible illness is likely to be the last problem addressed. The recent COVID-19 crisis has no doubt increased the incidence of psychiatric problems, as it has in all countries.

The Order of Malta Clinic and its various initiatives are well-received in Timor-Leste, and the Ministry of Health expressed its ongoing appreciation during our March meeting. Both our clinic and our outreach ambulances are widely-recognised as the best primary care facilities in the country.

The ambition of the Dili team is not only to maintain our current offering, in which we see around 600 patients per month at the clinic, and a similar number through the weekly outreach program, but to extend our contribution to national health. Cooking classes, the mobile communications platform and mental health services are all examples of this, and we will also be increasing the clinic staff from April 2023.

The cost of delivering all this is around US\$11,000 per month (the US Dollar is the national currency of Timor-Leste). Again, we wish to thank all those who continue to support this example of the Order's charisma, and would invite those who are yet to contribute, to consider a donation.

*Alastair Furnival KMG is Counsellor, Embassy to Timor-Leste and Manager of the Order of Malta Clinic, Dili. For further information please email him on: [alastair@furnival.com.au](mailto:alastair@furnival.com.au); or call: 0411 888 975.*

*Weekly nutrition clinics, and courses for new mothers, is helping address malnutrition in Timor-Leste.*



# Our Lady of PHILERMOS' Chapel

A new Chapel in Bondi opened in February 2022, and is now supporting awareness of the Order of Malta's impressive work in Sydney's eastern suburbs, with outreach programs and more.



Over the course of 2022, the members of the Central Eastern Region made great use of their new chapel dedicated to our Lady of Philermos.

Our Lady of Philermos' Chapel within St Anne's Catholic Church in Bondi was created and is under the care of our Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem Fr Anthony Robbie, who is also Parish Priest at St Anne's.

Officially opened on 19 February 2022 by President James Douglas, the Chapel was initially blessed by a gift of an icon of our Lady of Philermos from late H E Fra' Marco Luzzago, Lieutenant of the Grand Master, Sovereign Order of Malta. This icon was subsequently joined by an icon of our Patron St John the Baptist. This second icon was commissioned by Fr Robbie, who engaged accomplished iconographer Fr Richard Charlwood of West Australia to write the icon. An icon is written rather than painted.

Official flags of the Order were imported from Italy, as was a 17th Century Italian Order of Malta silver ciborium with gilded copper base. Custom-made Order of Malta altar linen was commissioned to complete Phase One of furnishing the Chapel.

The Chapel is used for the Order's Rosary and Mass prior to all member meetings and is the home of

the Order's Christmas Carols. Various Order Masses and other liturgies are also regularly held at the Chapel, including Mass on the Feast of Blessed Karl of Austria, Bailiff Grand Cross of Honour and Devotion of the Order of Malta.

The Central Eastern Region plans to further utilise the Chapel for Exposition and Benediction as part of its spiritual formation, in discharge of members' worship obligations and for the cause of the defence of the one true faith. Further fundraising will occur to ensure that the vestments and fittings used within the Chapel continue to give witness to the glory of our God.

The parishioners of St Anne's now regularly pray in Our Lady of Philermos' Chapel (as do the parishioners of the neighbouring parish of St Patrick's, which houses the Order's Community Care Kitchen and is also under the care of our Fr Robbie). This has resulted in a growing awareness of the Order in the eastern suburbs of Sydney and a growth in volunteers to the Order's works.

The members of the Central Eastern Region would like to thank Fr Anthony Robbie for establishing the Chapel and Archbishop Anthony Fisher for permitting the Chapel to be established within his Archdiocese. ❖

*Left: first Mass at the Our Lady of Philermos' Chapel, 19 February 2022.*

*Right: Icon of Our Lady of Philermos – a gift from the late H E Fra' Marco Luzzago, Lieutenant of the Grand Master, Sovereign Order of Malta.*





# 12th Asia Pacific Conference

Hosted by the Order of Malta Korea  
18 - 22 October 2023 in Seoul

Fully packed program to learn global best practices  
& build relationships with delegates  
from across Asia Pacific, Europe & USA



All members are encouraged to attend this unique opportunity to meet with the leadership at the Grand Magistry and Asia-Pacific entities.

The program will include presentations from H.E. Grand Chancellor Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo, H.E. Grand Hospitaller Fra' Alessandro de Franciscis and the Prelate H.E. Mons Jean Laffitte.



ORDER OF MALTA  
AUSTRALIA

The Order's website in Australia: [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au)



[/orderofmalta.org.au](https://www.facebook.com/orderofmalta.org.au)



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The Order's international website: [www.orderofmalta.int](http://www.orderofmalta.int)

The Malteser International website: [www.malteser-international.org](http://www.malteser-international.org)



# Did You Know?

## Government of the Sovereign Order of Malta

An overview of the Roles of the High Charges leading the work of the Order.



**T**he Sovereign Council assists the Lieutenant of the Grand Master in the government of the Order of Malta. It is composed of the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, who presides over it, the holders of the four High Offices (Grand Commander, Grand Chancellor, Grand Hospitaller and Receiver of the Common Treasure) and nine members.

Apart from the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, the Council is elected for a six-year term by the Chapter General. The current Sovereign Council (see photo above) was elected at the Chapter General held in January 2023.

### **LIEUTENANT OF THE GRAND MASTER** **Religious superior and Sovereign of the Order of Malta**

According to the Constitution, as the religious Superior and Sovereign, he must dedicate himself to the development of the works of the Order and set an example of living by Christian principles to all the members of the Order. He is vested with supreme authorities.

Together with the Sovereign Council, the Lieutenant of the Grand Master issues the legislative measures not covered

by the Constitution, promulgates government acts, manages the financial assets, ratifies international agreements and organises the summoning of the Chapter General.

The states with which the Order has diplomatic relations recognise the Lieutenant of the Grand Master with the prerogatives, immunities and honours reserved for Heads of State.

The Lieutenant of the Grand Master resides at the Order's seat of government, the Magistral Palace in Rome.





**Lieutenant of the Grand Master**

*H.E. Fra' John T. Dunlap*

**SOVEREIGN COUNCIL (2023-2029)**

**Grand Commander**

*H.E. Fra' Emmanuel Rousseau*

**Grand Chancellor**

*H.E. Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo*

**Grand Hospitaller**

*H.E. Fra' Alessandro de Franciscis*

**Receiver of the Common Treasure**

*H.E. Fabrizio Colonna*

**MEMBERS**

*H.E. Fra' Roberto Viazzo*

*H.E. Fra' Richard J. Wolff*

*H.E. Fra' John Eidinow*

*H.E. Fra' Mathieu Dupont*

*H.E. Fra' João Augusto Esquivel Freire de Andrade*

*H.E. Francis Joseph McCarthy*

*H.E. Michael Kirk Grace*

*H.E. Clemente Riva di*

*Sanseverino*

*H.E. Josef D. Blotz*

**GRAND COMMANDER**

**Responsible for religious and spiritual matters**

The Grand Commander assists the Grand Master in fulfilling the charism of the Order and in the diffusion and protection of the Faith, in the supervision of the Grand Pories and Subpories, and in the supervision of the members of the First and Second Class. Care of the chapel of the Magistral Palace and the organisation of pilgrimages of the Order are included in the responsibilities of the Grand Commander. The Grand Commander exercises the function of Superior regarding members of the First and Second Class in *gremio religionis*.

He exercises the function of Lieutenant ad Interim in the case of death, resignation from office or permanent incapacity of the Grand Master.

**GRAND CHANCELLOR**

**Minister for Foreign and Internal Affairs**

The Grand Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs is the head of the executive branch. He is responsible for the foreign policy and the diplomatic missions of the Sovereign Order of Malta. He is also the Minister of Internal Affairs, in charge of the 48 National Associations of the Order in the world. Under the authority of the Grand Master and the terms of the Constitution and Code, he is responsible for the representation of the Order to third parties, the carrying out of policy and the internal administration, as well as the coordination of the activities of the Government of the Order of Malta.

**GRAND HOSPITALLER**

**Minister for Humanitarian Action and International Cooperation**

The Grand Hospitaller's responsibilities include the offices of Minister of Health and of Social Affairs and Minister for Humanitarian Action and Minister for International Cooperation. He coordinates and supervises the initiatives of the Grand Pories, National Associations and other Order institutions world-wide, all of which are involved in charitable and humanitarian actions and ensures Christian principles of care and human dignity are respected.

The Grand Hospitaller is assisted by a Council composed of representatives of all the territorial regions where the Order of Malta operates.

**RECEIVER OF THE COMMON TREASURE**

**Minister of Finance**

The Receiver of the Common Treasure – the Minister of Finance – directs the administration of finances and the property of the Order in coordination with the Grand Chancellor. Under the authority of the Grand Master and the surveillance of the Board of Auditors. He is responsible for drawing up the annual accounts, relating to the economic and financial state of the Order, submitting them to the Board of Auditors and to the Grand Master, with the advice of the Sovereign Council, for approval. ❖

*The Sovereign Council, pictured left, assists the Lieutenant of the Grand Master in the government of the Order of Malta. Clockwise: Lieutenant of the Grand Master – H.E. Fra' John T. Dunlap. Grand Commander – H.E. Fra' Emmanuel Rousseau. Grand Chancellor – H.E. Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo. Grand Hospitaller – H.E. Fra' Alessandro de Franciscis.*



# PALLIATIVE CARE: THE MISSION OF BLESSED FRA' GERARD IN FOUNDING THE ORDER OF MALTA

A report on the impressive work of the Order of Malta Palliative Care Volunteer Programs.

In establishing his hospital in Jerusalem in the 11th Century to care for sick pilgrims visiting the Holy Land, Blessed Fra' Gerard created the first hospice of our Order and initiated palliative care as one of our central works. In the rule of the second Warden of the Hospital, Blessed Raymond Du Puy, which was established with the counsel of the Chapter of the brethren in the House of St John the Baptist at Jerusalem, we read that the first activity in welcoming the sick was to offer them confession and communion, tending to their spiritual needs, before then attending to their physical needs. In this way, the charisms of our Order were established.

## The charism of the Order and palliative care

The first of our charisms is the care of the poor and sick, *Obsequium Pauperum*. We are particularly called to provide living witness by example, by working through the Order of Malta to support palliative care services in their care of the dying. The second of our charisms is to defend the faith, *Tuitio Fidei*, by speaking out about issues of life and death, especially today in countering the societal pressure for Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD). Strengthening the quality of palliative care delivery by directly volunteering combines *Tuitio Fidei* with *Obsequium Pauperum*.

In volunteering with palliative care services, members of the Order seek to

- Provide example of our direct care of the dying.
- Strengthen the quality of palliative care delivery.
- Accompany the sick and dying in their journey, while also supporting their families, and
- Bring our spirituality and faith to palliative care delivery.

## Australian Association's involvement in palliative care

The Australian Association has engaged with palliative care from its very beginning. In Sydney, volunteers were provided to the Sacred Heart Hospital in Darlinghurst. In Brisbane, volunteers worked at Mount Olipheth Hospital (now St Vincent's Private Hospital, Brisbane), while in Melbourne, members of the Order volunteered at Caritas Christi Hospice in Kew. An opportunity developed in the 1990s for the Order to establish a palliative care home care service out of Caritas Christi. When the Victorian Health Department sought to consolidate the number of these home care services across the State, Eastern Palliative Care was established as a partnership between The Order of Malta and Caritas Christi Hospice Home Care Service, St Vincent's Melbourne and Outer Eastern Palliative Care to form a body reaching out to cover the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Over the past 25 years, Eastern Palliative Care has become one of Australia's model community palliative care services. Four members of the Order of Malta serve on its Committee of Management; another six members serve on its Ethics, Finance and Public Relations committees. But most importantly, many members have been numbered among the 220 volunteers that are managed by three Volunteer Coordinators at EPC. One of its stellar programs much enjoyed by our members has been the Biography Program,





which is recognised internationally through its completion of over 1000 patient biographies over the past decade.

### Ways of volunteering in palliative care

There are a diverse range of ways that members and volunteers can offer their service in support of the care of Our Lords, the Sick. Volunteers expand the work undertaken by community palliative care services and enhance the quality of life of the sick person and their family. Examples of these activities include:

- Take communion to the sick.
- Provide respite accompaniment through visiting the sick.
- Provide transport for medical visits and tests.
- Be a biographer to create a legacy document to commemorate the dying person.
- Be a photographer to create memories of the sick person with their family.
- Become a bereavement support volunteer.
- Provide administrative support to palliative care services
- And myriad more ways that volunteers can be used.

The training of volunteers and their ongoing support in any role they undertake is critical to the success of these programs. The Volunteer Coordinator is a vital staff member who is experienced in training and supervising volunteers as they are assigned activities in caring for the sick. A Volunteer Coordinator often has been trained originally as a social worker and takes responsibility for approximately 70 volunteers at any time.

### Expansion of SER Order of Malta volunteers in palliative care

Recognising that Mercy Community Palliative Care in the west of Melbourne and Calvary-Bethlehem Community Palliative Care in the south of Melbourne operated smaller volunteer services than Eastern Palliative Care, the South Eastern Region (SER) identified an opportunity to partner with both of these palliative care programs to expand their volunteer bases. Money was obtained from the Fra' Richard Divall Trust to fund Volunteer Coordinators in both of these services, while a subcommittee was formed with each service to publicise and develop engagement of these volunteers. The SER is indebted to the leadership



of Confrère Tony Reeves, KMG, in chairing the Order of Malta-Calvary Bethlehem Volunteer Committee and Confrère Richard van der Merwe, KMG, in chairing the Order of Malta-Mercy Volunteer Committee.

Local Catholic parishes in the catchment areas of these community palliative care programs have been invited to create an Order of Malta Volunteers for the Sick committee, thus initiating a base and source of mutual support for these volunteers to be trained and become involved in this work. Members of the Order appeal at Sunday Masses for volunteers to come forward in their parishes. Just as the St Vincent de Paul Society forms local conferences within parishes to support its works, so too the Order of Malta aims to expand its volunteer base and drive a new apostolate in the provision of volunteers for palliative care.

### Overcoming the fear of palliative care

Many people within our community have little experience of death in their families and some memories of what families observed in years past may be frightening. There can be considerable ignorance of palliative care. As an increasingly secular society, we have developed greater comfort with VAD than we have with palliative care. Indeed, our society's neglect of its care of the dying may have contributed to the introduction of VAD and our politicians' perception that society wants this. It is time to turn this tide. The Order of Malta recognises palliative care as one of its fundamental works as it lives out the charism of *Obsequium Pauperum* and *Tuitio Fidei*. There is much work to do and many volunteers to recruit and train to increase such programs within our community palliative care services across Australia. ❖

*Opposite Left: Tanya Murphy DMG and Sauro Antonelli KMG (Ob) with their 5-year certificates for volunteering with EPC as biographers. Above: the late Fra' Richard Divall whose bequest enabled the expansion of the Order of Malta's palliative care services in Victoria.*



# A LIFE OF SERVITUDE

A look back on the journey of Fra' Andrew Bertie, the 78th Grand Master of the Order of Malta, who was named a Servant of God.

**A**ndrew Willoughby Ninian Bertie, born in London on 15 May 1929. He was of royal blood, as the fifth cousin once removed of Queen Elizabeth II, by common descent from King George III and Charlotte Sophia. The family he was born into had already made an impressive contribution to the Catholic faith, as his great-grandfather John Patrick Crichton-Stuart was a famous Catholic convert, and benefactor of many causes, including the University of St Andrews.

With this path laid out before him, Andrew Bertie set off to fulfill the requirements of a royal. He started his life in a traditional fashion, graduating from Christ Church Oxford with a degree in Modern History, then moving on to the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

He served in the Scots guards, as his family was traditionally Scottish, and left the service as a commissioned officer in 1949. He worked briefly as a financial journalist in London, before becoming a French and Spanish teacher at a school at Worth Abbey in Sussex, where he worked for 23 years.

Even as a teacher, he was committed to the faith. While teaching at Worth, he was a daily Communicant and started the practice of taking the students on annual pilgrimages to Lourdes. During those years, he was a founding member of the British OMV – the young Order of Malta Volunteers for youths from 17 to 30, an organisation which remains effective, energetic and committed to the values of the Order to this day.

It was during his years as a teacher that he joined the Order of Malta on 14 November 1956, as a Knight of Honour and Devotion. Andrew Bertie moved up the Order following his devotion. He became a Knight of Obedience in March 1968, and in February 1975 entered the novitiate for Knights of Justice. He made his temporary vows to the Knights of Justice in March 1977, and was made his perpetual vows as a Knight of Justice in May 1981.

At that point, he joined the government of the Order as a member of the Sovereign



Council. He was elected the 78th Grand Master of the Order of Malta in 1988, in succession to the late Fra' Angelo de Mojana, an election which was ratified by Pope John Paul II on 11 April 1988. Bertie was the first English-speaking Grand Master since Hugh Revel in 1258.

During his leadership he was celebrated as one of the most successful reigns of any Grand Master. After his appointment in the late 1980s, he oversaw the modernisation of the Order, adapting to the contemporary needs of humanitarian aid and the relief of suffering around the globe. He saw the





restructuring of the Order's constitution and Code to reflect modern times, as well as to reflect the importance of the spiritual life of its members.

He once commented: "We always had this special commitment to the poor and the sick. Our aims today are exactly the same as they were in 1099, the sanctification of our members through service to the sick." The comment was an ode to the history he respected as he oversaw the commemorations of the 900th anniversary of the Order in 1999.

In leading the Order through modernisation, while respecting its history, His Most Eminent Highness Fra' Andrew Bertie led impressive growth. The number of countries with which the Order of Malta had diplomatic relations had doubled to 100 at the time of his death. The Order itself was present in 120 countries, with 12,500 Knights and Dames, 80,000 volunteers and 13,000 employees.

An interesting fact about Andrew Bertie is that he was a black belt in Judo, and organised and taught Judo courses to children in Malta. He was a Patron of the Malta Judo Federation, who renamed an under-20s international tournament the 'Andrew Bertie Memorial Tournament'.

Fra' Andrew Bertie died in Rome from cancer on 7 February 2008, at 78. His death was mourned worldwide, as he was remembered for his incredible contribution to the Order.

Thirty days after the death of the 78th Grand Master, a State Mass was celebrated. It was held in the Basilica of Saints Bonifacio and Alessio in Rome, and officiated by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, former Vatican Secretary of State, with the President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano and many ambassadors and dignitaries in attendance.

In his homily, Cardinal Sodano said: "He devoted himself totally to his mission, giving the example of a humble and generous service in the footsteps of so many giants of charity in our Order's long history."

Pope Benedict XVI mourned Fra' Andrew Bertie and praised "the work of this man of culture and of his generous commitment in the fulfillment of his high office, especially in favour of those most in need, and for his love for the Church and for his luminous testimony of the principles of the Gospel".

The earthly remains of Fra' Andrew Bertie are now lying in the Church of Santa Maria del Priorato on the Aventine Hill in Rome. His example lives on. 20 February 2015, in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome, the 79th Grand Master and about 1,300 people from all over the world attended the Mass and the opening of the Cause of Beatification and Canonisation of the Servant of God Fra' Andrew Bertie. It was a very significant event for the Order of Malta as it is the first time in its millenary history that a Grand Master had been proposed for sainthood. 🇻🇪

*Fra' Andrew Bertie, the 78th Grand Master of the Order of Malta, was deemed a Servant of God – the first step in the path to Sainthood – on 20 February 2015, in the Basilica of St Giovanni in Laterano in Rome.*





While teaching at Worth Abbey in Sussex, Fra' Andrew Bertie was a daily Communicant and started the practice of taking the students on annual pilgrimages to Lourdes.

## CANONISATION – THE PATH TO SAINTHOOD

**Step one:** The process to make someone a Saint starts from at least five years after their death.

**Step two:** The candidate is named a 'Servant of God'. The Bishop of the place where the candidate died or is buried gives permission to open an investigation into the virtues of the individual, in response to a petition of members of the faithful, either actually or pro forma. The investigation usually starts no sooner than five years after the death of the person being investigated.

**Step three:** Proof of a life of 'heroic virtue'. The Servant of God is demonstrated to have exercised to a heroic degree the theological virtues

of faith, hope and charity and the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude. From this time the Servant of God is entitled to be referred to as 'Venerable' (Latin: *Venerabilis*). A Venerable does not yet have a feast day, and permission to erect churches in the honour has not been granted at this stage. The Church does not yet issue a statement on their probable or certain presence in Heaven, but prayer cards and other materials may be printed to encourage the faithful to pray for a miracle wrought by their intercession as a sign of God's will that the person be canonised.

**Step four:** Verified miracles. At





least one verified miracle obtained through invocation after beatification must occur before the cause for canonisation may be introduced. For a non-martyr, to be denominated a ‘confessor’ because their has borne witness to the Faith by how they lived, proof is required of a miracle through the intercession of the Venerable; that is, that God has granted a sign that the person is enjoying the Beatific Vision by performing a miracle for which the Venerable interceded. These miracles are almost always miraculous cures of infirmity, because they are the easiest to judge given the Church’s requirements for miracles. When the applicable conditions have

been met, beatification is permitted. The Venerable is then bestowed the title of ‘Blessed’ (Latin: *Beatus* or *Beata*). A feast day will be designated, but its observance is usually only permitted for the Blessed’s home diocese, to specific locations associated with them. **Step five:** To be canonised as a Saint, usually at least two miracles must have been performed through the intercession of the Blessed after their death, but for ‘beati’ confessors, only one miracle is required. Canonisation is a statement of the Church that the person enjoys the Beatific Vision of Heaven. The title of ‘Saint’ (Latin: *Sanctus* or *Sancta*) is then proper.

*Under Fra’ Andrew Bertie’s leadership, the number of countries with which the Order had diplomatic relations doubled to 100 by the time of his death.*



# SUPPORTING UKRAINE

Malteser International, other partner organisations and Malteser Ukraine have been offering important psychosocial support services in eastern Ukraine since 2015 to more than 60,000 people.

## **Review: Emergency response in the first six months**

In the early morning of 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Millions of people had to flee their homes. And millions are still suffering from the consequences of the war.

The Order of Malta has aid and relief services, as well as diplomatic missions and associations of members, in Ukraine and the surrounding countries. The Order of Malta Relief Organisations (OMROs) stood beside those affected by the invasion on 24 February 22. These were, and still are, working to provide medical assistance, food, and shelter to more than 17 million people in need in Ukraine as well as the 8 million refugees who have fled the country (as of February 2023, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs). All activities of the Original Military Recieveable Order (OMRO), and Malteser International are supported by the worldwide Order of Malta family.

In the first six months after the nationwide invasion, work has been coordinated and supported by Malteser International, the international humanitarian aid organisation of the Order of Malta, which also provides aid and development assistance to millions of people in more than 30 countries around the world.

Malteser International launched a large emergency response on the first day of the Russian invasion, coordinated the relief efforts of the OMROs and supported colleagues of Malteser Ukraine in the implementation of relief projects on the ground. The joint activities were focused on providing warm meals for refugees as well as medical and psychosocial care for displaced people within



Ukraine, at the borders and upon arrival in neighbouring countries. It also initiated the transport of relief goods into Ukraine like food and non-food items, medical supplies and heating equipment. In the first six months 5,500 tonnes of aid was delivered from Germany to Ukraine, 65 cities/areas in Ukraine were reached with relief supplies and 13,000 consultations on psychosocial support for internally displaced persons were carried out.

## **Humanitarian aid: Current program of Malteser International in Ukraine**

As the war in Ukraine continues, an end to the conflict is not yet in sight. Millions of

people are still dependent on humanitarian aid and could be for decades. Malteser International supports the people in Ukraine with various aid activities and works closely with the Malteser Ukraine team.

Since the launch of the nationwide war of aggression, the need for psychosocial support has increased rapidly. In order to reach more people with psychosocial services, Malteser International has expanded the existing program. Since February 2022, tens of thousands of people in Ukraine were able to get mental health and psychosocial support, e.g. group or individual counselling with psychologists and special services for children.





**Activities of the Order of Malta Relief Organizations**

- Main activities:**
- Coordination
  - Management
  - Monitoring
  - Communication
  - Fund mobilization and matching
  - Legal Counselling

- Fundraising
- Accommodation for refugees
- Psychosocial support
- Transportation of refugee
- Food distribution
- Logistics
- Humanitarian aid packages
- Medical aid

Order of Malta Association or Grand Priory: AT, CH, CZ, DE, HU, PL, RO, SL  
 Order of Malta Relief Organization: AT, CH, CZ, DE, HU, LT, PL, RO, SL, SK, UA  
 Number of volunteers of Order of Malta Relief Organizations  
 Embassy of the Order of Malta: AT, CZ, DE, HU, LT, PL, RO, SL, SK, UA  
 Aid transports also provided by:  
 Belgian Association, Italian Association and Grand Priors, CISOM, Portuguese Association



In addition, Malteser International provides needs-based relief supplies, such as durable food, generators, etc., to social and medical institutions, communities and volunteer groups supporting war-affected families from Lviv to the frontlines.

Another component of Malteser International's Ukraine program is winter aid. The aim is to provide shelter and adequate housing for IDPs in western Ukraine and to protect human lives in winter in eastern Ukraine. Activities include winter-proofing building repairs and providing building materials for 960 households in eastern Ukraine, providing 350 (5kw) household generators for eastern Ukraine, mostly community-operated at village level, and procuring and distributing 2,000 winter kits (power banks, LED lamps, dry food, insulated jugs, etc.) in eastern Ukraine (as of December 2022).

According to estimates, around 14.5

million people in Ukraine are in need of medical care (source: OCHA Situation Report, 19.12.2022) including many patients who need prostheses and rehabilitation services. Malteser International has joined forces with multidisciplinary partners and jointly set up an aid program aiming to strengthen the technical capacities within the country. Already, the emergency hospital in Lviv is equipped with a prosthetic workshop and a patient care area. In addition, two orthopedic technicians were trained in a three-week intensive course and the patients are provided with individually fitted prostheses. A total of 120 patients were supplied by the end of March 2023.

The Order of Malta family has been standing by the Ukrainians for the past year as best as it can: In Ukraine, in the neighbouring countries, at the borders and beyond. And its help will continue as long as it is needed. ❖

In 2022, Malteser International, together with its local partner, Malteser Ukraine, was able to distribute 480,000 hot meals for internally displaced people, provide 18,500 beds in emergency shelters, operated 4,500 relief transports within Ukraine to 85 cities and deliver 16 ambulances to eastern Ukraine. In addition, more than 30,000 people received psychosocial support.



# Letters from the FRONT

By Elizabeth Trongale DMG

**I**n a remarkable display of courage and selflessness, Australian members Elizabeth and Nicholas Trongale volunteered in Ukraine to assist the Order of Malta relief effort. They share firsthand the experience on their self-funded trip.

## Week 1

Our days start early, with a break for a delicious homemade lunch at around 1:30pm. There, all the people working gather, sit and laugh together, then get back



*A truck arrives with donations from the Hungarian Association of the Order, it stands here ready to be unloaded. This day consisted of three volunteers unloading one semi-trailer, loading another along with loading two smaller trucks. The drivers pitch in to load and unload and we are very grateful. There were three volunteers here this past week, Nick, myself and Theo. Theo arrived Monday evening and departed Friday morning. An easy day for Nick I are those days we drive the van to and from Romania. Then we are only driving and loading and unloading two van loads a day.*

to work for the afternoon until it gets dark. This experience of sharing bread together gives a wonderful sense of community. Given it is winter we lose daylight at around 5pm. At the end of the workday, we are dropped off at the house belonging to the Order where the volunteers are housed. We are greeted warmly by Minzi, the dog that was sold with the house. Many people closed up their homes and just left. There are many vacant homes up and down the street. The population of this village has halved since the war began.

When we get home, we hope the electricity is on. Most of the time it is not. So, we light candles, eat salami, cheese and bread and drink a beer. We wait to see if the power comes on. There is a generator that will allow the lights to work. However, we have not had much luck with it operating. Nick and another volunteer, Theo from England, were in charge of turning the generator on and did well the first night. After that there were problems, and it would not start so we were without power. That meant choosing a cold shower that night or risk waiting until the morning. If power came on early enough, we could hope for hot water. Too often the boiler did not have time to heat up, so it was a cold shower anyway. I am told that is good for you. I began to hope only for making a coffee in the morning and would be content enough with that to start my day. We have been lucky with the weather, very cold but no snow. The clothes we packed have served us well – thanks be to God.

A day may consist of receiving and organising boxes of goods in the massive warehouse that receives donations from all over Europe. A truck may come in from an outlying village that we load with supplies for distribution. We have also started driving to pick up supplies in Romania and bringing them into Ukraine. Nick and I made two trips today. Getting through the Romanian border is quite easy but getting supplies into Ukraine is challenging due to the required processes in place.

Before we know it, we will be home. This



has been a humbling and a life-changing experience. People work so very hard, and this war is quite devastating with no end in sight. Although the village where we are staying is not war torn, we still feel the residual effects of the war. There is a breakdown of supply chains, electrical power; heat and water disruptions happen more often than not. The number of displaced people is staggering. Soldiers walk the streets and go door to door looking for men to recruit.

Theo our new friend and fellow volunteer from England works for the Order of Malta at the United Nations. He will be drafting an article about the Order's work in Ukraine. He said the Order is doing more in Ukraine than the Red Cross.

Our hosts have been most gracious and welcoming, sharing generously whatever they have. Before the war started the team here consisted of 12 workers. When the war began, 10 workers fled the country, leaving a team of two. It seems most people with money or family in surrounding countries have left. The Order's base in this region is very dependent on volunteers. It is unusual that volunteers stay for two weeks. Most volunteers come from Order Of Malta associations in surrounding countries, and they provide essential support for a few days as they take time off from their lives. The core workers usually work six days a week and are the heroes of this effort.

More than anything we pray this country, with its vast plains and mountains, its old cities, its proud people – who want only a hand up in this cruel war – will rebuild. When it does it will be better and offer more to the rest of the world. We feel such a gratitude to have this time here and be inspired by the spirit of the people. We will reflect on this experience for a long, long time.

## Week 2

We are now in our second week, and I am delighted to say that a group of young volunteers from surrounding countries Malteser International have arrived to help.





They are terrific, smart, capable young people taking time out of their work lives to give their support. Rasmus is from Denmark, and there is also Csongor, Aletta and Daniel from Hungary. They quickly became friends with Nick and I. There were others, too, from the Budapest Malteser group and together they formed the much-needed cavalry, making light work of all the loading and unloading. They brought renewed energy and were great fun to be around.

Yesterday three vans set off. Nick and I were driving one van. We left in convoy at 2am to drive through the mountains heading east to Vinnytsia to give donations. Vinnytsia is about 260 kilometres southwest of the Ukrainian capital Kyiv. It was a good eight-hour drive where we saw beautiful villages and towns. As the sun rose, the sky remained grey, but we were struck by the beauty of the land, the rich soil of the farms along the way, multi-coloured fields as far as the eye could see. We arrived at Vinnytsia and everyone was waiting for us at the community centre. It was a big hall, with music rooms and a gym where children could play and have fun. As usual, we formed a chain of people and unloaded mattresses, beds, food, pampers and supplies. The supplies bring a dignity to a proud people that just want to be able to get on and live their lives, raise their children and contribute to their community, their country.

Just as we were leaving the community centre an air raid siren went off. No one was frightened by the sound, just an alert. There is a tolerance and a weary resignation that this is part of their new normal. At such times however, children in school will go into a basement shelter. A warning siren can go off a number of times a day. A Russian attack in July 2022 killed 28 people including three children in this town. Despite the risk, people continue about their business – what else can they do.

We met such lovely people yesterday. I admired

their bravery and determination to succeed. However, I also realised the situation in Ukraine is quite complicated. While we are here only to help people in need, one cannot help but feel perplexed at the brutal attack on the country and feel an awe at how the people are determined to fight and retain their independence. I met some children who had been displaced from Kyiv after the city had been heavily attacked. Their homes had been destroyed and they became part of the many who were displaced. They were now living in accommodation in Vinnytsia and lined up to say hello to us as we pulled into the driveway. They were so precious and beautiful, but still in shock from the experience of their lives being turned upside down. I could see the stress on their faces. Quiet, watchful, cautious. I played with them to make them laugh and maybe distract them for a little while. The elderly and the children are the hardest hit by the war. It is difficult for the children to understand. We work to give them hope and a little solace.

After a long day we began our drive home. As we came to the Carpathian Mountains that we needed to cross to get home, it began to snow. The landscape and the fir trees lining the road looked gorgeous. However, as the night was descending it was quite dangerous on the mountain road. On two different sections of the road, cars had crashed. Nick did a great job getting us home safely. In the house tradition of solidarity, the others wanted to stay up to eat and drink. After a 22-hour workday, we were cross-eyed with exhaustion and apologised that we needed to go to bed.

While our time here is ending, I do know these days, these people, our fellow volunteers and this place will stay in our hearts forever. It has been a privilege to have had this time. May God bless the people of the Ukraine and bring the war to an end swiftly. ❄️

*Left to right: Tünde giving the direction for the day. Tünde does the work of five people and is one of a skeleton staff. I don't know when I have ever seen so much work done by so few. Boxes of food, hygiene supplies toilet paper, the list goes on, ready for distribution. Slavic arrived with his wife Erica to collect Christmas presents.*



# HELPING TONGA IN A TIME OF NEED



The Order of Malta organised a shipment of aid sent to Tonga to assist disaster victims following the catastrophe in early 2022.

**I**n January 2022, 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 kingdom 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, while the rest of the world was managing rising cases of COVID-19, Tonga had managed to keep COVID-19 at zero cases. More so than ever, it was keen to keep the virus at bay, due to the damage to homes and health facilities.

Consoeur Deirdre Page, in collaboration with Fr Aliko 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 40-foot shipping container to transport

items that have been collected by the Catholic Tonga 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 sanitary items for inclusion in the shipment.

The shipment was packed in a warehouse sponsored by a friend of Tonga and the High Commissioner for Tonga, HRH Princess 'Angelika Lātūfuipeka Tuku'aho who travelled from Canberra to Sydney to grace the occasion, inspected everything and thanked the Order for our aid.

Delegate of Communications Confrère Daniel Kwok said: "We are very grateful to God for the beginning of this friendship between the people of the Kingdom of Tonga and the Order of Malta, and we will continue to offer any assistance needed." ❖

*KMG Deirdre Page presents a gift to Her Highness the Princess of Tonga. Photos: courtesy of Giovanni Portelli/The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.*





*Clockwise: HRH Princess Angelika Latufuipeka Tuku'aho with members from the Order of Malta which has stepped in to help with the shipment of relief donated by the Order and other Sydney Catholics. New Zealand Hospitalier Bevan Killick KMG and Sr Monika Moale RSM with care packs. Elders of the Tongan community in Sydney united in music. Fr Aliko Langi from the Holy Name of Mary Parish Hunters Hill, NSW was instrumental in connecting the Order of Malta to the Tonga community.*



# SHEPHERDING THE SICK

Rev Joshua Scott's journey through the COVID-19 pandemic.



**S**erving during the COVID-19 pandemic was one of the greatest privileges of my life. Unlike many during the pandemic, I was not locked in my home battling the isolation. In fact, it remained business as usual for the most part. During the pandemic, I served for three years as the Catholic Chaplain of Calvary Public and Private Hospitals in Bruce, Australian Capital Territory. The first three years of my priesthood.

Calvary Public and Private Hospitals

cater for around 375 beds with an additional 45 beds within the Hyson Green mental health unit. Although not a large hospital compared to those in major cities, it was big enough for a new priest to get his training wheels moving within the chaplaincy sphere. What a learning curve it was!

As the pandemic began, there was a great air of angst among our staff. We had no idea what we were going to face. We didn't know what COVID-19 was, let alone how serious it was going to be. This

raised an array of pastoral conversations among the staff: everything was discussed from concerns about elderly parents and childcare arrangements to fear of contracting the virus and how to deal with death. Not to mention an increase in conversations about God and the last things. Impromptu blessings of offices and 'drive-by blessings' were also sought from staff as they did their best to serve the sick and vulnerable despite their concerns.





As a Priest Chaplain, the initial wave of COVID-19 lead me to ask the question of how I ensured people received the sacraments despite the contagion that we faced. This of course wasn't as simple as merely adhering to PPE requirements. How were we to anoint those who had COVID-19? How could I hear the confessions of those suspected of COVID-19? How could I administer Holy Communion in a reverent way and in accord with our Church norms while still respecting infection control protocols? As a Priest beginning his ministry, these questions were nothing short of fascinating to explore. Although stressful, finding ways for people to receive the sacraments in a way that kept the patient safe was fulfilling. I cannot express how much people yearned for the sacraments during this time. They sought every ounce of solace that God was offering them and, as their priest, I was able to do my very best to help them.

Although meeting the spiritual needs of patients and staff was greatly fulfilling, there were times when you saw the brunt of the pandemic smashing through. It was heartbreaking to be with dying patients knowing their children weren't able to travel to physically be with them one last time. It was difficult and isolating for the vulnerable to only have one or two visitors a day. To console our stretched staff that were under immense pressure to keep serving despite team members falling ill or wearing out. Everyone was affected. From the wardsmen to the executive, we were all doing our best to keep the ship afloat and to serve our patients with our very best. I think this is an area where we did succeed and yet, there were a lot of sacrifices made.

It was during this time that I come to a deeper understanding of what compassion is. As I 'suffered with' and alongside our staff, our patients, and our families I knew the suffering was redemptive. I knew that it was not in vain. Not only did I offer my sleepless nights, the long hours, my worry, stress, and angst for those who I served but I also knew that by bringing Christ into the situation all was going to be okay.

Being a part of the Pastoral Care team at Calvary was a true honour. To be able to serve among such a dedicated team of men and women from a variety of denominations allowed me to learn so much and, in turn, they have told me they have learned a lot as well. One Baptist Pastoral Carer used to appreciate when I asked her to be my 'altar server' as I administered the Anointing of the Sick to dying patients. She would hold the book and do the responses for me during the ritual and would encourage the family to participate where possible. She also would remind me to pray the Apostolic Blessing with the patients in their last moments as she witnessed the great impact that it had upon our patients. I did fail to mention to her that I gave the Plenary Indulgence at that time as well but let's say it's better for ecumenism if I don't mention that part.

After three years of serving as the Calvary Hospital Chaplain, I was thanked for my service and transferred from the clinical environment to one of our larger parishes in the ACT. I will always fondly remember my time as Hospital Chaplain despite the onslaught of the pandemic: the people, the stories, and the souls. For these, I am grateful to God. ✠

*Rev Joshua Scott served the first three years of his priesthood through COVID-19.*





# WORLD DAY OF THE POOR 2022

The Order in Australia serves the poor across the nation,  
work that is remembered in this commemorative day every year.







The World Day of the Poor is a Roman Catholic observance, celebrated on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time since 2017. It was established by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter, *Misericordia et Misera*, issued on 20 November 2016 to celebrate the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

The World Day of the Poor was first observed on 19 November 2017, with the theme: “Let us love, not with words but with deeds”. In 2022, the Sixth World Day of the Poor was held on 13 November. The theme pursued was: “For your sakes Christ became poor” (cf. 2 Cor 8:9).

In a message on 13 June 2022 when he launched the Sixth World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis said:

“Where the poor are concerned, it is not talk that matters; what matters is rolling up our sleeves and putting our faith

into practice through a direct involvement, one that cannot be delegated. At times, however, a kind of laxity can creep in and lead to inconsistent behaviour, including indifference about the poor. It also happens that some Christians, out of excessive attachment to money, remain mired in a poor use of their goods and wealth. These situations reveal a weak faith and feeble, myopic hope.

We know that the issue is not money itself, for money is part of our daily life as individuals and our relationships in society. Rather, what we need to consider is the value that we put on money: it cannot become our absolute and chief purpose in life. Attachment to money prevents us from seeing everyday life with realism; it clouds our gaze and blinds us to the needs of others. Nothing worse could happen to a Christian and to a community than to be dazzled by the idol of wealth, which ends up chaining us to an ephemeral and bankrupt vision of life.”



The Sixth World Day of the Poor took place on 13 June 2022, with activities to commemorate the day taking place across Australia.





# BOOK REVIEWS

*TREASURES – Highlights from the Collection of the Museum of the Order of St John.*

Published by the Priory of England and the Islands of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

**O**rders of St John of Jerusalem Apart from the Sovereign Order of Malta, there are four other Orders of St John which are recognised as Orders of knighthood. These are distinguished from other national Orders by their Christian faith and their traditions of lay Christian Orders. The four Orders of St John of Jerusalem are associated in the Alliance of the Orders of St John and share the same historic tradition and mission: giving assistance to the sick and the poor.

Perhaps the most well-known of these Alliance Orders is the Venerable Order of St John. The other three are the Bailiwick of Brandenburg of St John and Jerusalem, the Order of St John of the Netherlands, and the Order of St John of Sweden.

The Order of St John settled in the British Isles in the 12th Century and, except for a short period during the reign of Queen Mary, it ceased to exist under King Henry VIII. The Venerable Order developed after an unsuccessful attempt to restore the Order of St John in the United Kingdom in 1830. It was only in 1870 that it was established as a humanitarian foundation. In 1888, the Order was recognised by Queen Victoria not as a State Order but as an Order of the Crown. It is very well known today for its ambulance services, active in many countries, for its ophthalmic hospital in

Jerusalem and for its first aid and nursing services. The Venerable Order has priories and associations in some 40 countries, mostly English speaking.

### The Order of St John reveals its best kept “Treasures” in a new book

The Order of St John has a book to showcase its best kept “*Treasures*”. These carefully selected highlights from the Museum of the Order of St John’s collection include both everyday objects and precious pieces that unravel St John’s 900 years of history; from its origins in caring for sick pilgrims in 11th Century Jerusalem, through to its modern-day role with St John Ambulance, the international health charity.

The book, titled *Treasures - Faith, Care, Valour* is beautifully illustrated with pictures by acclaimed photographer Julian Calder. The detailed images help to bring the Museum of the Order of St John’s collections to life, telling the stories behind each object, and revealing the people who held them and championed the Order’s values: *Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum* (For the Faith, in the service of humanity).

Written and edited by Tom Foakes, Director of the Museum, and funded by Mark Pigott KBE KStJ, *Treasures* reflects on the evolving nature of the Order of St John’s mission, with themes of faith, care and



valour remaining constant throughout its narrative.

- Among the objects found in *Treasures* are historically and artistically significant works such as the Portrait Bust of Grand Master Jean de Valette (Giovanni Bandini, c.1565–1568), the Knight of St John and victorious hero of the Great Siege of Malta; but also, powerful testimonies of St John Ambulance volunteers from history such as Veronica Nisbet and Ada Evelyn Brown.
- The Museum’s latest acquisition is the first statue of St John the Baptist to enter the collection, generously funded by the Priory in the USA of the Order of St John Palm Beach Region. It demonstrates the continuing addition of new treasures to the Museum’s collection that seek to tell the powerful stories that have shaped our history. 🇺🇸





## THE HABSBURG WAY – 7 Rules for Turbulent Times

By Eduard Habsburg, Archduke of Austria, Ambassador of Hungary to the Holy See and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

**F**ew families in history are as renowned as the Habsburg's, one of the principal sovereign dynasties of Europe from the 13th – 20th Centuries. These enthralling pages provide glimpses into their lives. The lessons that their lives teach will help guide your family in faith and will help you live in peaceful prosperity and grow in Holiness. Their maxims could also provide a roadmap for healing the world we live in.

The book discusses the Imperial House of Habsburg's Saints and heroes, sinners, assassinations, and affairs, and the impact that freemasonry, Jansenism, and the Enlightenment had on them and on all of Europe. With warmth and candour, Eduard Habsburg – a member of the family and Archduke of Austria – shares insights about the Seven Principles (maxims) at the root of Habsburg thought, action, politics, and family life, along with:

- The main ingredient for a stable marriage and how to create a deep bond between spouses
- The secret and value to a happy and productive family life
- How the Habsburg's Empire was different from “Star Wars”
- Five dates to remember in Habsburg history and their significance
- How to die like a royal (and it's not what you may think!)

In a chapter on the rule “Die Well,” Eduard explains a ceremony known as the “knocking ritual” that is followed when an eminent Habsburg dies, and which highlights the significance of humility within the dynasty. The coffin is brought to the closed door of the Capuchin crypt, and a master of ceremonies knocks on the door. A monk within asks who seeks entry, and the Master of Ceremony answers with the prodigious and numerous titles of the deceased: “Otto of Austria, once Crown Prince of Austria-Hungary; Royal Prince of Hungary and

Bohemia,” and so on. The monk says: “We do not know him.” The Master of Ceremony knocks again, and the monk asks again. This time, the answer includes numerous achievements of the deceased. Again, the monk says: “We do not know him.” There's a third knock, and once more the question. The answer now is: “Otto, a mortal and sinful man.” The monk says: “Then let him come in,” and the door opens.

You will learn the key role the Habsburg's played in the epic battles of Lepanto and Vienna and be inspired by exemplary Habsburg's such as Bl. Emperor Karl and Rudolf I, the first Habsburg ruler of the Holy Roman Empire, who helped a priest bring Viaticum to a dying man.

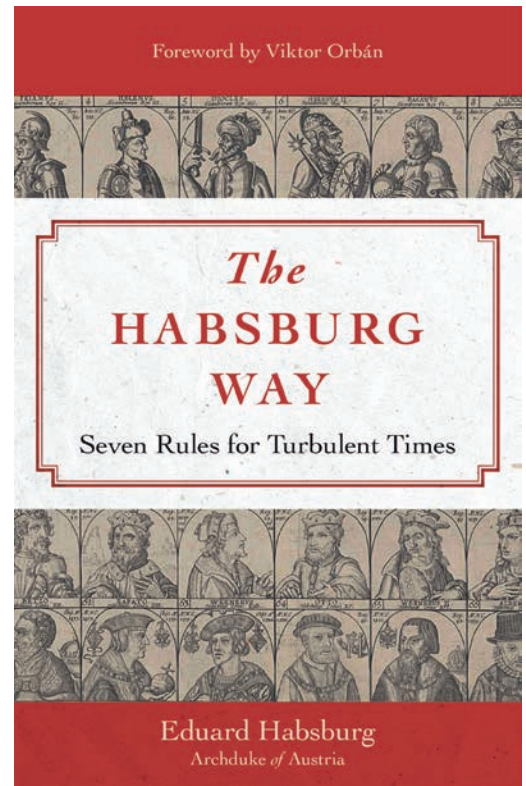
This astounding Habsburg history tells of the devout reign of Maria Theresia Habsburg-Lothringen, mother of 16 children, who saved the family lands and organised pilgrimages and countrywide vigils in honour of Our Lady and the Blessed Sacrament.

It describes how Emperor Charles V safeguarded the Faith and how Venerable Magdalena, archduchess, and later Ferdinand II, heroically countered the Reformation. You will marvel at how Leopold I led his people to the pinnacle of Catholic piety and almost became a priest.

You will discover fascinating Habsburg family lore and the manner in which their marriages were arranged (even in utero!). And you will find out how they promoted subsidiarity and protected people from politicians – and the extraordinary relevance that has for us today.

Surely our world today be a better place if all of us, our societies and politicians, would study these Seven Rules for Turbulent Times and follow... The Habsburg Way.

Cardinal George Pell said of the book: “The Habsburg's, who began with



*King Rudolph of the Holy Roman Empire in 1273, are the most famous family of the last 1000 years; and like most English speakers, I did not know enough about them.*

*This delightful book explains the seven principles that underpinned their achievements. While they had their fools and rogues, apostates and busybody reformers, the majority – their champions and heroes, and the occasional saint – made enduring contributions.*

*The best of them were serious Catholics, lovers of tradition, who believed in marriage and children, justice and the rule of law, bravery, and service. They knew it was important to die well. They gave their peoples room to move and regularly worked for peace and prosperity. Their empire grew more through marriage than military conquest. It was grand but still a bit haphazard.*

*This book of reflections and anecdotes takes us easily through much of the Habsburg story. It is both encouraging and useful to all of us who love and value Western civilisation.”* ❄️





# POSTE MAGISTRALI STAMPS AND COINS OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

The first known postal documents of the Order of Malta date back to around 1530 and were letters between Grand Master Fra' Philippe Villiers de l'Isle Adam and King Henry VIII of England, and between the Grand Master and the Bishop of Auxerre in France. At the time, postal services were managed privately, and shipping was in all probability managed by the owners of small vessels on the route between Malta and Sicily.

In the early 1700s, the volume of trade and political postal exchanges increased, and the expansion of the navy facilitated communications. The Treasure of the Order thus established an official postal fee to be paid on the basis of the weight, volume and destination of the correspondence. In 1708, the Grand Master was asked to appoint a Commissary of Posts to officially manage the postal service, and the first post office was created in the House of the Common Treasure of the Order of St John in Valletta. This activity ceased in 1798 with the loss of the Island of Malta.

The current Poste Magistrali of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta was established on 20 May 1966 by decree of His Excellency the Grand Master Fra' Angelo de Mojana of Cologne (1963 — 1988). It was responsible for the administration of the Order's postal service and managed the issue of postage stamps and coins, produced primarily for philatelic and collection purposes, allocating the revenues to the Order's hospital, welfare and charitable works. The Order returned to minting coins in 1961, during the Lieutenancy of Fra' Ernesto Paternò Castello di Caraci (1955- 1962).

The Poste Magistrali has been based in Rome in the Magistral Palace since its foundation; the building is an extra-territorial property where the Order of Malta's government is housed.

It is currently possible to send ordinary and priority mail to Italy and abroad from the Magistral Post Office counters, limited to the countries with which the Order of Malta has concluded bilateral postal agreements.

The first Postal Agreement was signed in 1975 with the Maltese postal administration.

The postal agreement with Italy is of particular significance. It was signed by the Order's plenipotentiaries and Italy on 18

December 2014 and came into force on 26 March 2015. It gives Order of Malta postage stamps the same legal status as Italian stamps, thus ensuring that all correspondence sent by the Order to Italy or to one of the countries with which the Order has stipulated a postal agreement can be sent through the Italian postal system.

## Stamp sets issues

The postal service and postage stamps are an expression and demonstration of the sovereign nature of the Order of Malta. Since the foundation of the Poste Magistrali, the stamp issues have been an important means





of spreading the history, traditions and spiritual, social and humanitarian values of the Order. Over the years, the Poste Magistrali has issued both postage stamps (individual and series, sheets or booklets of stamps) and postal stationery (postcards and first day covers), supplementing them with a complete series of special stamp-related products conceived specifically for collectors, such as first-day covers, illustrated postcards and special postal markings. Together with each issue of stamps, the Poste Magistrali also produces a collection circular containing all the technical information and a description of the stamp.

The first series of stamps issued by the Order of Malta date back to 15 November 1966. It is a valuable series of stamps made using chalcography and depicting symbolic subjects close to the Order, such as the image of Our Lady of Philermos and St John the Baptist, the Patron Saint of the Order, which have also figured regularly in the stamp sets issued in later years.

This initial series, and all the others until 2004, have individual face values expressed in grani, tari and scudi, these being the ancient currency of the Order of Malta. All the Order of Malta postage stamps issued since 1 January 2005 use the Euro as reference value, thus matching the tariffs used in Italy, applied to all Poste Magistral dispatches.

Since then, the Poste Magistrali has issued about 600 sets of postage stamps, most of them being dedicated to topics and subjects closely linked to the Order of Malta's history, traditions and works.

### Stamp sets topics

The postage stamps and stationery issued by the Poste Magistrali have always stood out because of their topical content and image, closely linked to the charism of the Order of Malta.

The recurrent topics include:

- The traditions and symbols of Malta, such as the flags and banners of the Order, effigies and coats-of-arms of the Grand Masters who have been in office through the centuries, and also of other members of historical significance, the uniforms, clothes and decorations of the Knights, locations of the Order, the magistral headquarters, historical maps and means of transport, especially in the naval sector, medals and coins, both ancient and modern.
- Religious icons, especially through the annual celebration of St John the Baptist, Patron Saint of the Order, and Christmas, as well as the representation of Marian iconography and the Order's Saints and blessed at various times of the year.
- The humanitarian and welfare work depicted on the Order of Malta postage stamps show its global hospital, health and social services, rescue and civil protection after earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters. There have also been stamp sets which, thanks to specific surcharges in addition to their normal face value, have raised funds for specific projects, especially following natural disasters; the arts, depicting the major works of the Italian and international artistic heritage, the visual arts, literature and music, of both a religious and lay nature and with specific regard to the works that are part of the artistic heritage of the Order.

There have also been commemorative issues of illustrious personalities who, albeit not directly linked to the Order of Malta, have been of great service to humankind, or the celebration of events and recurrences or historical interest or current events, such as the Order's stipulation of new diplomatic or postal agreements. The latter, in particular, have on several occasions been the subject of joint stamp sets, thus further strengthening the bonds between the Order of Malta and the country with which the agreement was stipulated.

### Numismatics

The Order's first coins were minted during the government of Grand Master Fra' Foulques de Villaret (1305 — 1327), after the capture of the island of Rhodes in 1310. From then until 1798, various Grand Masters issued new coinage during their governments, often inspired by Venetian coins, but depicting the symbols and images pertinent to the Order of Malta.

The first gold coin was a zecchino minted between 1346 and 1353, during the government of Grand Master Fra' Dieudonné de Gozon (1346 — 1353), also an imitation of a Venetian ducato, a coin that had great credit and circulation and was among the most widely accepted in Europe.

The first silver coin was minted later, by Grand Master Fra' Pierre d'Aubusson (1476 — 1503). In addition to its size and 13 grams weight, and to the fineness of its minting, it had such characteristics as to be considered the Order's first real coin. On the obverse, it depicted St John the Baptist with the Order's coat of arms and cross. On the reverse, the Grand Master's insignia.

The following centuries saw a continuous line of innovations, such as the production of gold and silver coins, up to the introduction of the date and value of the coins as well as qualitative and aesthetic enhancements, until the highest level of elegance was reached with the reform introduced by Grand Master Fra' Manoel de Villena (1722 — 1736).

The Order was forced to stop minting coins when the island of Malta was lost in 1798.

In 1961, the Order of Malta again began issuing coins during the Lieutenancy of Fra' Ernesto Paternò Castello, after it acquired legal status as a subject of international law. The new series of coins were in scudo and the relative fractions (1 scudo equals 12 tari, 240 grani and 480 Italian lire).

The first issue of the Order's new numismatic era was made by the Italian Mint, designed by the engraver and medallist Pietro Giampaoli. This series of four coins, two in gold and two in silver, was inspired by the first scudo issued by the Order of Malta in the 18th Century, which preserves the general characteristics of the ancient Maltese coins.

The Order of Malta's mint was founded in 1964 and minted the Order's coins until 2007. Since then, this has been done by external specialists.

Since 1962 the Order has issued a series of four gold and silver coins annually: two gold coins (5 Scudi and 10 Scudi) and two silver coins (1 Scudo and 2 Scudi). ❖



*The stamps and coins created by the Order of Malta stand out because of their topical content and image, closely linked to the charism of the Order.*



# Life of an Order of Malta VOLUNTEER

Jay de Graaff OMV shares his journey

**M**y journey as a volunteer for the Order of Malta in Australia began in 2019 where I was able to help members and volunteers of the Order with a significant program, Coats for the Homeless. This program helps provide specially designed coats, which provide warmth and comfort during tough times. At this stage, I was quite new to volunteering and did not know what to expect, and to be honest, I was surprised to learn just how many people were displaced and homeless, and I was glad to know we were able to help make a difference. Towards the end of the year, I was able to help volunteer and attend my first Lourdes Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, where the Order invites those who are sick and offer a blessing of Holy Water from Lourdes, which I was able to help hand out to all in need.

During my first year of volunteering, I was able to see the great impact the Order of Malta was having on people and that this was an organisation where faith comes with works to help those who truly require it. I knew, from that moment, that I would dedicate myself in doing everything I could to assist with the Order's mission.

During 2020, the Australian Association, saw the formation of a new youth volunteer group to be known as the OMV or Order of Malta Volunteers. It was established for young adults to further volunteer and help assist those in need. However, due to COVID-19 and the various restrictions placed in Australia, it became quite difficult to be able to complete hands on work. But, that did not stop the new OMV, which created an Online Rosary, giving anyone the opportunity to participate on a fortnightly basis and grow as a national volunteer community. I thought this was a fantastic idea as I was able to meet other members and volunteers from each state, discuss the different volunteer opportunities and be able to share our faith together during the tough times we were all facing. One of the greatest aspects of the Online Rosary was being able to create lifelong friendships. Some of these friends I have yet to meet in person, but still speak to on a regular basis, and this is a testament to the true nature of the Order and how kindness and compassion is a virtue found in everyone I have met.

I was also invited to pray the 15 Prayers

of St Bridget, a meditation on the Passion of Christ, on a daily basis for a year, a feat I had never attempted before, but one I will forever cherish as this deepened my Catholic faith, and made me feel one step closer to truly living up to the Order of Malta's motto *Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum*, translated to, Defence of the Faith and Assistance to the Poor, because at its core, faith is what drives us and assists us in helping others.

My third year volunteering in 2021, we were once again thankful to be able to reignite our Coats for the Homeless program and much to my surprise, I was invited to become the South-Eastern Region Volunteer Co-Coordinator with Confrère Alexander Ross, a member of the Order and who became a great friend. I was very grateful for the wonderful opportunity, as I was able to now help organise various volunteer activities, some of which included extra city runs and several packing days, where volunteers and members come together to help pack and organise the new care and hygiene packets which were able to be handed out to the homeless.

This year also saw the first Asia Pacific Youth Camp for the disabled in Queensland, which offers young disabled adults the opportunity to participate in a camp filled with exciting activities. While I was unable to attend, I was fortunate enough to have been invited to be on the organising committee and assisted with the graphic design of brochures and camp itinerary.

A wonderful surprise throughout the year was being invited to the Australian Association's National Assembly, where attendees participated and discussed the association's current and future volunteer works. I attended the Gala dinner, where I was able to meet more members from the Order of Malta.

The year 2022 was probably the biggest year for the OMV community and me personally as a volunteer. We were able to organise a packing day to assemble 200 personal packs to be provided to the disaster relief efforts for Tonga at the time, begin our first volunteer program with the Australian Catholic University (ACU), where students volunteered with us during our coats program and establish two new Youth Camps for the disabled, one in New South Wales



Jay de Graaff OMV (top photo on left) on an outreach service to the homeless in Melbourne.

and one in Victoria. I was able to attend and help as a volunteer at these camps and I still feel blessed to this day as this was one of the greatest experiences I have had to date being a volunteer. To be able to see the participants have the time of their lives, witness the laughter and smiles, was truly inspiring and captured the essence of what it is to be able to help someone. During the year I also assisted outside of Australia as a communications assistant with the Vision 2050 platform, which is an online platform run for volunteers and members to share their volunteer opportunities and join us together with the sole purpose of helping others.

Life can be busy as a volunteer. However, looking back over my time assisting thus far, I have valued each moment, having grown stronger and more connected spiritually and finding new ways to help others. I have made volunteering for the Order of Malta a part of my life and plan to help in their works for as long as I can, for there is no greater calling than serving God by making a difference in someone's life. ✝



# Criteria for MEMBERSHIP



**T**he Australian Association is committed to growth in membership. This does not mean that numbers determine the success of an association. It is more important that members entering the Order meet the right criteria. The basic criteria are found in the Regulations and Commentary of 2011. It is unlikely that they will change in the wake of the Constitutional Charter and Code promulgated in September 2022.

It would be useful for all members, whether long term or new, and sponsors and their candidates to pay close attention to these criteria. There might be one or two criteria you need to work on!

- New candidates have to be aware that they are about to join a religious Order, not a Catholic club or a Non Government Organisation. In the past admission to the Order has sometimes been misunderstood as an award for past merits or the admission to an honorific Catholic circle. Candidates have to be conscious of the serious consequences of admission to the Order.
- Candidates must have a suitable and distinguished personal background and be fitting for membership in the Order.

- Candidates have to be steadfast and loyal in their Catholic faith and be prepared to commit themselves for their faith and for the Church.
- Candidates must be willing and able to play an active part in the Order. Previous activities for the Church or the Order are the best proof of this qualification.
- The candidate's qualification has to be confirmed by those members who take the responsibility of presenting the candidate (sponsors).
- The Order should become a spiritual home for new members who must be well aware that they are becoming members of a religious order. Persons who are much engaged with other Catholic orders, secular institutions or New Communities or Movements and see the Order simply as an additional field of activity – or even worse as an additional decoration – cannot become convincing and reliable members capable of living the true nature of the Order.
- Membership in organisations hostile to the Church – such as Free Masonry – is an impediment for membership in the Order of Malta. The same criterion should be applied if membership in a specific organisation would put the reputation of the Order at stake. ❖

- Members should understand that the Order is to become their spiritual home, not just an additional decoration.
- The Order is not a Catholic club or a Non Government Organisation, but a religious order, and members should understand the commitment prior to joining.



# Our Lady of PHILERMOS ROSE

**T**he Our Lady of Philermos Rose project is a new initiative that directly aligns with the mission of the Order. It has both spiritual significance and offers hands-on engagement with our lords the sick and the poor.

In 2023 this project will reach a key milestone, where roses are available to plant at various locations, and a small number available to purchase. However, it has been quite a journey from conception to this point.

## Inspiration for the Rose Project

In late 2020, after a Vigil Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, a group of candidates gathered to discuss their upcoming year of formation. Then candidate, now Confrère David Macintosh suggested that a rose would be an appropriate joint gift to the Order of Malta. Senior members provided encouragement and the project commenced with wonderful support by all.

The spiritual aspect of the rose was emphasised by Consoeur Leonie Harle and Confrère Joe Mastrangelo. The Blessed Virgin Mary according to Cardinal Newman is called Rosa Mystica, The Mystical Rose, because "she is the Queen of spiritual flowers; and therefore, she is called the Rose. For the rose is fitly called of all flowers the most beautiful".

Saint Mary MacKillop has a pink rose. St John Paul II has a white rose. It was decided fitting to create a rose, the colour red of the Order of Malta. In early 2021, Leonie contacted rose breeder, Richard Walsh, who was asked to provide a dedicated red rose called "Our Lady of Philermos" with a mild fragrance. Richard kindly provided this at no cost and our rose is now a reality with 160 rose bushes available for distribution to aged care facilities and Church Parishes. A small supply will also be available to members of the Order of Malta in Australia in July 2023.

## Conception to Commencement

It has been a 30-month journey from an initial idea in 2020 and achieving the following milestones:

- Initial \$6,000 donation;
- Breeding of the Rose by Swane's in South Australia Rose named Our Lady of Philermos Rose;



- Registering the "Our Lady of Philermos Rose" on the World Rose Breeding Register;
- Hymn and Prayer cards organised by Joe and current candidate Ben Frasco;
- Planting cards organised by Leonie;
- 160 roses confirmed by Swane's and available June/July 2023 at a selling price of \$35 per rose (excluding delivery) providing a small profit for sustainability and gifting where needed; and
- 300 roses (expected) to be available in July 2024.

## 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 David Macintosh with an imprimatur and music composed by Christine McCarthy, mother of our Order's Chaplain Father James McCarthy. The hymn is currently being recorded in a music and sound studio by Consoeur Anjarat Suthat Na Ayuthya, a member in Thailand.

We expect the hymn recording will be available to download off our website [www.orderofmalta.org.au/rose](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au/rose). A hymn card has been produced which was widely distributed by Confrère Dunstan De

Souza in Lourdes with much enthusiasm from our overseas Order of Malta Pilgrims and Malades.

## Giving of the Rose

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.

Volunteer opportunities will also exist outside of the distribution, with volunteers planting, caring and cutting roses. The Order of Malta Australia has engaged Calvary Care Canberra ACT and Australian Catholic University campuses across Australia and various parishes to provide garden space to grow the roses.

## The Future

Once established in Australia we intend to provide the Our Lady of Philermos Rose to fellow members of the Order overseas. This will allow the rose to flourish and grow for the benefit of others.

Ultimately, the project team hopes that the Our Lady of Philermos Rose will be planted in the Vatican Gardens and also the Order of Malta's Magistral Palace in Rome. ❀

Learn more [www.orderofmalta.org.au/rose](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au/rose).



# THE AUSTRALIAN Association App

The Australian Association of the Order of Malta has an app with the primary purpose of giving members and candidates access to the Roll of Members.

The app is designed for both Apple (IOS) and Android mobile phones and tablets and for use by the public as well as members of the Order.

Only members and candidates of the Australian Association and the Asia Pacific delegations can access the membership directory area of the app by way of their login and password which members and candidates would have received.

If the login and/or password has been lost or forgotten, it can be re-sent to you or changed by emailing [app@orderofmalta.org.au](mailto:app@orderofmalta.org.au)

Together with the Membership Directory, the app has many resources. The following is a summary of the menu items:

**Calendar** - Events can be filtered by geographic region.

## News

- Order of Malta Australia News.
- Order of Malta International News.
- Vatican News with audio and Vatican Podcasts.
- Union of Catholic Asian (UCA) News.
- Australian Catholic News - A service of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.
- Malteser International News.

**Videos** - Links to the Australian association's video channel on YouTube.

## Membership Directory

- 'Show Advanced Fields' allows searches to be filtered by Group, Region or Geographic Area or by a combination of filters.
- If no name is entered in the search field, the search will return all members in that Group and/or Region or Area.
- Clicking on a member's phone number, loads up your phone dialer.
- Clicking on a member's email address, loads up your email program.

**Donations & Payments** - Links to a sub-page with links to the Donations page or to the

Member Subscriptions & Payments page on the Association's website.

**Mass** - Daily Scripture readings taken from the Jerusalem Bible, courtesy of Universalis Publishing.

**Prayers** - Includes the Daily Prayer of the Order, the Sub-Priory's publication 'The Spiritual Companion', the "Pray as you Go" website and more.

**The Rosary** - An easy guide and reference.

**iBreviary** - Includes Breviary/Office of Readings, Prayers & Rites and Missal.

**Word on Fire** - An external Catholic resources website.

**Catholic Café** - A defence-of-the-faith project of the Order of Malta, Federal Association, USA.

**Website** - Links to the Australian Association's website.

**Settings** - Personalise your app, select the tools you would like to have access to on the main dashboard of your app.

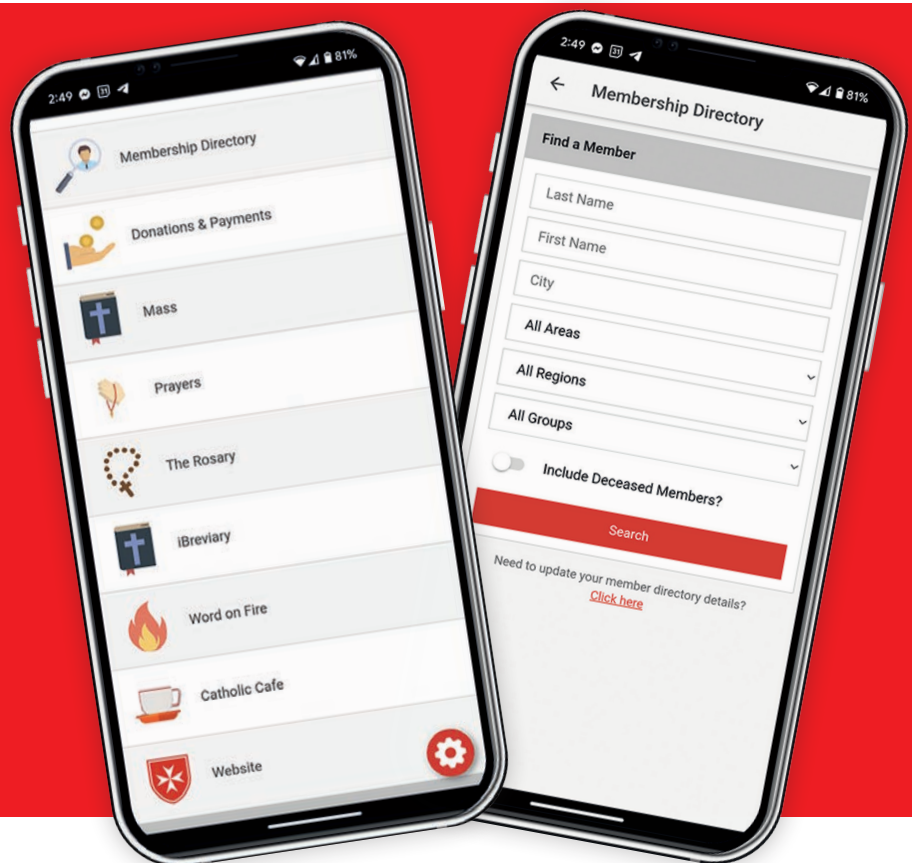
We hope that you find the App useful and wish you many hours of enjoyment. 🇻🇪

## Steps to install the App on either your phone or tablet:

For Apple iPhones or iPads go to the **App Store** and for Android devices go to the **Play Store**.

1. Search for "Order of Malta Australia".
2. Click to Install it.
3. Find and click on the installed App (identified by the red shield of the Order).
4. Once in the App, go to the 'settings' section (identified by the symbol of a cog on the bottom right of the screen) and enter your login details.

Please check that your details are correct via the app. If you need to amend any of your details or wish to not have certain details displayed, please update your Roll of Members record by following the link to: <http://bit.ly/3UziyIv> or by scanning the following QR code:





# His Eminence

8 June 1941 – 10 January 2023

# GEORGE CARDINAL PELL

Bailiff Grand Cross of Honour and Devotion  
Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta.

*By Rev Anthony Robbie, Conventual  
Chaplain Ad Honorem. Private Secretary to  
Cardinal George 2016 – 2020.*

**T**he Church has lost a remarkable voice with the passing of George Cardinal Pell in Rome in early 2023, a city which he loved and to which Providence drew him back again and again.

He had been born during the Second World War in the rural Australian town of Ballarat. His mother was a committed Catholic, but his father was and remained a nonpracticing Anglican.

Perhaps no less significantly, he was also a publican and the young George's experience of assisting on occasion in the pub contributed to his later social ease at dealing with people of all backgrounds.

As a young man, he combined the qualities of a fine athlete with those of a sincere scholar and for a while there was a serious prospect of him playing Australian Rules football professionally for the Richmond Football Club in Victoria.

Instead, of course, it was the priesthood, which captured his heart, and his qualities were recognised early by the Bishop of Ballarat, Sir Jimmy O'Collins. Bishop O'Collins had himself been the episcopal protégé of the legendary Archbishop Daniel Mannix of Melbourne and he in turn became the patron of the talented and remarkable son of a publican whom he made sure to send to Rome as soon as possible to complete his seminary studies.

Bishop O'Collins, a rustic orator of a type no longer to be found, was no fool when it came to treading the corridors of power. So it was that before too long, the young Mr Pell found himself one day in the private office of Pope Paul VI. At the end of their interview, the Pope (formerly Giovanni Battista Montini) reached across the desk and picked up a small statue of his own patron Saint, John the Baptist, and gave it to Pell. Such a scenario was no more common in the 1960s than it would be today.

In 1966 he was ordained to the priesthood in St Peter's Basilica by Cardinal Agagianian and soon afterwards was sent to Oxford, where he completed a doctorate





in Church history and made lifelong friends who warmed to his open and confident nature. He made the most of his time in England and developed a deep love of the country, reveling in particular in the distinction of being the first Catholic Chaplain at Eton since the reformation.

In 1971, he returned to Australia and served briefly in rural parishes before being appointed director of the Aquinas Institute for teacher training in Ballarat. A great breakthrough occurred in 1985, when he was appointed director of the provincial seminary of Corpus Christi in Melbourne. It was a troubled place and he found it in grave need of reform. He joked afterwards: "In my day, we had night prayers and lights out. Now we have light prayers and nights out."

He set to work quickly, trying to restore discipline and rigour to the life of the seminarians, but his efforts were interrupted after two years when he was appointed an auxiliary bishop in Melbourne under Archbishop Sir Frank Little. It was well known that relations between the two men were somewhat strained, and Archbishop Little did not overburden his auxiliary with too many duties.

These were the days when Pope John Paul II, still vigorous, and energetic, was calling for a sincere revival of traditional Catholic faith and practice. Bishop Pell threw himself wholeheartedly into the effort and became a focus of hope for many troubled Australian Catholics and something of a standard bearer for the movement.

Unfortunately, in the process, he also became a target of those who were more committed to the new winds of change, which had been blowing through the Church with mixed results for more than two decades. Bishop Pell was blunt and direct and enjoyed the limelight, but he was also articulate and knew how to defend himself in a hostile situation. There were to be many of these as the years passed.

It was during these years as an auxiliary, that his first dealings with the area of child sexual assault occurred. He had been asked by lawyers to accompany Fr Gerard Ridsdale to court, and to give a sort of character reference. In fact, it turned out that Ridsdale's crimes were far more grave than Pell had been told and the television footage of the two of them heading into the court became a millstone around his neck for the rest of his life. He was painted as a defender and associate of the paedophile, and despite his protestations, those images, relentlessly replayed by the Australian media, fixed in many people's minds an image of the bishop very far from the reality.

His vigour in defence of the faith had brought him to the notice of Pope John Paul II, and in 1997, he was to succeed to the see of Melbourne upon the retirement of Archbishop Little. He had had plenty of time to develop his plans and hit the ground running, not least by the well-publicised reform of the seminary, which induced most of the seminary staff to resign en masse.

He was not overly distressed by the result. The clergy of Melbourne, deeply divided along ideological

lines for the most part, did not welcome him, and were somewhat relieved when he was translated to the historically more important and traditionally cardinalatial see of Sydney only four years later. There the clergy were easier to deal with, but he was soon defending himself against a claim of sexual assault, ultimately investigated by an independent judge and found unproven.

Archbishop Pell was subsequently made a cardinal by John Paul II in 2003 and spent the next few years following the same pattern he had established in Melbourne. The university chaplaincies and the seminary were reformed, and the number of vocations increased markedly. In 2008 under his direction, Sydney hosted the World Youth Day gathering to rave reviews even from the hostile Australian press.

In 2014, many were surprised when the newly elected Pope Francis summoned Pell to Rome to head a new department of the Vatican, to be known as the Secretariat for the Economy. There had been widespread agreement on the need to reform the Vatican's finances, and it seemed that the bluntly spoken and formidable Australian Cardinal was the man for the job. He made early headway, but soon ran into entrenched opposition. Some resented his manner, and it was true that at times his directness and assertive behaviour did not respect the conventions of the Vatican. Others had darker reasons for resisting him.

In the midst of his efforts came the devastating blow in 2017 of his prosecution by the Victorian State Police for historic child sexual assault. Those who knew him recognised the accusations as implausible to the point of absurdity, but many others were prepared to believe the worst of an unpopular conservative, particularly the representative of a discredited and humiliated Church whose failings in this area had been exhaustively reported.

His conviction in 2019 was a terrible blow and almost undermined his trust in Australian justice while the dismissal of his first appeal left him discouraged but determined to vindicate himself. The subsequent unanimous overturning of the perverse judgment by the full High Court of Australia divided Australia. By then he had served 404 days in prison, most of them in solitary confinement.

Those who knew him found him a changed man after the terrible experience of imprisonment. The old character was still there; warm, gregarious and social, but softened and spiritualised. He was devoid of any degree of self-pity or of hostility towards his accusers. He claimed that the experience had drawn him closer to God and it seemed the heavy humiliation had allowed qualities of tenderness and gentleness to come much more to the fore than had been apparent earlier. He spent the last couple of years for the most part in Rome, welcoming old and new friends and keeping well informed on the many issues of the day. His untimely death after a minor surgery has come as a shock to his many friends who hoped he might have had longer to enjoy his retirement. He died aged 81. ❖

*George Cardinal Pell passed away in Rome in January 2023.*





# OBITUARIES

During 2022, the Australian association mourned the loss of four members. We record the life stories of those members: **William Beerworth, Margot Gresham, Dennis Cullity, and Kevin Hammond.**

## **WILLIAM (BILL) JAMES BEERWORTH KMG (1945 – 2022)**

On 27 December 2022, following a long illness, Bill Beerworth died peacefully in the company of two of his sons Robert and James. Adrian, his second son was in the United States when he passed. Bill was received into the Order of Malta as a Knight of Magistral Grace on 7 December 1994.

Confrère Frank Zipfinger, a retired Partner of Bill's previous law firm, now called King & Wood Malleasons, has provided the following tribute:

"Bill was born in Broken Hill, the son of a barrister, educated first by the Marist Brothers and then by the Jesuits at St Ignatius College, Riverview. Bill took Arts and Law degrees from Sydney University before deciding to study overseas.

Bill earned a Master of Law and then a Doctorate from the University of Virginia. He learned his work ethic from Wall Street firm Chadbourne Parke Whiteside & Wolf (now Norton Rose) after which he became Senior Partner at Malleasons until 1986. He obtained valuable experience after being asked by Lionel Murphy to lend to the Attorney-General Department his expertise in securities regulations.

Bill retired from the firm in 1986 to become CEO at HSBC Australia Corporate

Finance (Wardley Australia), a client of the firm. He was later an Executive Director at HSBC Australia.

Bill left HSBC in 1989 to become the Founder and CEO of Beerworth & Partners Limited, an independent corporate advisory firm based in Sydney, where he remained until his passing. In a long and varied career Bill was:

- Chair or a Director of numerous listed and unlisted companies and advisory boards, including Australand Property Holdings, Straits Resources, Contango and Red Hill Education.
- Chair of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare.
- Chair of the Macquarie Graduate School of Management.
- A member of the Financial System Inquiry (the Wallis Committee, 1997) that reshaped and streamlined the regulation of Australia's Financial System.
- A member of the Australian Competition Tribunal

Bill was larger than life and a big personality. He was intelligent, articulate and driven. You always knew where Bill stood on any issue. And, in his own distinct way, Bill was a catalyst for change in a



decade where change was an important differentiator in determining the futures of the major law firms in Australia."

In spite of being a very busy corporate advisor, Bill contributed to the debate on many issues in the Order of Malta in Australia.

Bill practiced his Catholic faith strongly and left a legacy of commitment to the Order's spiritual and humanitarian activities in Australia.

Bill is survived by his widow Ellen, three sons, Robert, Adrian, and James and nine grandchildren.

## **MARGOT LINDSAY GRESHAM DMG OMM (1935 – 2022)**

Consoeur Margot Lindsay Gresham DMG OMM along with her husband, Confrère The Hon Peter John Gresham ONZM JP KMG OMM were received into the Order of Malta on 2 December 2004. Margot had family links to the Order of Malta back to noble European families in her heritage.

Like Peter is, Margot was the third longest serving members of the Order resident in New Zealand. They moved into the Jane Winstone retirement complex in Whanganui, close to their former residence, family, friends and the community they actively served.

Since joining the Order in 2004, Margot had been an active member supporting the Order's mission to 'our Lords the sick and the poor' though hands-on work with Peter as a formidable team in the soup kitchen

run by the Sisters of Compassion on Tory St in Wellington and later in the distribution of coats to the homeless.

Their period of membership has been marked by a number of personal donations made to the works of the Order in New Zealand, and to the Order's clinic in Timor-Leste, demonstrating their generosity and commitment. They were critical to the viability of the Order of Malta in New Zealand and to the early running of the clinic.

In June 2019, at the Biennial Assembly in Sydney, Margot and Peter were appointed Officers of the Order *pro Merito Melitensi* for their service and upholding the mission of the Order of Malta, particularly in New Zealand.

Margot Lindsay Gresham, wife, grandmother and great grandmother was called to the Lord on Thursday 25 August



*Confrère Peter and Consoeur Margot Gresham at the 2019 Biennial Assembly of the Order of Malta held in Sydney.*

2022, aged 87 years. She and Peter were married for 61 years. We are grateful for her life.



## *DENIS CULLITY AO KMG (1928 – 2022)*

Denis Cullity died peacefully on 5 September 2022, aged 94. He was a devoted loyal and generous husband of Ann and father of Daniel(dec), Margy, Mary(dec), Kate, Denis, Joe, Sarah, Ruth, and John and, also, a grandfather and great grandfather. He was truly a patriarch to his family in every way in all their endeavours.

He had a faithful commitment to his Catholic faith which sustained and guided him throughout his life. He left behind a legacy of love, dutiful work, and exceptional achievement.

Denis was born in Adelaide on 14 March 1928. His father Tom had moved to Adelaide, from Perth, to work as a graduate engineer at General Motors Holden and to oversee timber paneling that was then installed in vehicles. Tom later returned to Perth to establish Cullity Timbers.

Denis was academically successful as a student at Aquinas College (Dux) and he held the Christian Brothers who taught him in high esteem. This was followed by a degree in Science at University of Western Australia with a major in Chemistry and then, Chemical Engineering studies at The University of Melbourne. He resided at Newman College and considered this time a highlight of his student life.

Following his studies, he joined Cullity Timbers and became a pioneer in the development of plywoods and bonding adhesives. From 1956 he developed an interest in particle board manufacture, and he collaborated with German-based engineers to construct the largest particle board factory in Australia. In addition, in 1962 he partnered with other Western Australia business leaders (notably Bernie

Prindiville) to form Channel 9 in Perth and Denis was the inaugural Chairperson.

As his timber business expanded, he established a plywood factory in Fiji for the sale of plywood to the United States market. Residues from the sawmill were used in particle board manufacturing and Wespine was created. At a later stage, he partnered with Dyno Industries, Norway, to produce WA locally made world-class resins that were used in manufacturing medium-fibre particle board and decorative panels.

At the age of 76, Denis undertook a totally new timber venture, Wesbeam, which involved complex technology and a new processing plant to produce longitudinal veneer lumbar capable of making long beams of high strength.

Denis was a loyal and compassionate employer with many employees who stayed with him over many years. He was esteemed by his industry, serving as president and chairman of associations and committees. He was awarded an Order of the British Empire for his contributions to civic and business life in WA, and was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for his service to forest industries nationally and internationally.

Denis was a man of integrity and had a strong sense of social justice which guided his life. His commitment to Catholic principles and values influenced his appreciation of the life and dignity of the person, the importance of the family, and community, and a just fair and compassionate society. He encouraged education and research and was himself widely read in the field of science, engineering, and education.

The Cullity family headed by Denis and Ann were a formidable team held together



*Denis and Ann Cullity with Archbishop Barry Hickey, Auxiliary Bishop Donald Sproston and Vicar General Fr Brian O'Loughlin, at St Thomas More Chapel. Photo Archdiocese of Perth.*

by loyalty and love. One of his pleasures was skiing which he pursued into his late 80s even at significant risk after a serious accident. He also loved swimming each morning with his granddaughter Madeline and only gave up after he turned 93.

Denis supported community activities such as endowment of academic chairs, Council of Immigration, UN Board of Forestry, St John of God Hospital, Scouts, and Life Saving Club. He was received into the Order of Malta in 1998 in Western Australia as a Knight of Magistral Grace. He was a loyal supporter and involved in the affairs and works of the Order.

On 8 September 2008, Denis and Ann were bestowed the prestigious Papal Honour of membership of the Order of St Gregory the Great given by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. Archbishop Hickey said: "I could read out the list of causes, charities, and education they have supported but know I would never complete the list...[and] for accepting the mission of the people of God in the world so effectively and fully I thank God that their work has been acknowledged by the Papal Award to both husband and wife".

What is more to say!

## *THE HON KEVIN JAMES HAMMOND AO KMG (1936 - 2023)*

His Honour Kevin Hammond AO died 21 October 2023 in Perth age 86 years. Kevin was born in Wiluna, WA on 21 April 1936. He was the much-loved husband of Derryn for 62 years, and father of four daughters Kate, Sarah, Celia, and Roz, and father-in-law of Robert, Phillip, and Simon, and grandfather to eight grandchildren.

Kevin was educated at CBC Highgate and graduated in Law from the University of Western Australia, being a foundation student of St Thomas More College UWA. Following graduation and a short time in practice in Perth he moved to Northam, WA to become a partner at Mayberry Hammond

and Co where he spent the next 18 years.

He moved back to Perth with his family in 1978 for the education of his children. Derryn became the English Mistress at St Hilda's.

Kevin was made Judge of the District Court in 1982 and appointed Chief Judge in 1995, continuing in that position until 2003. His peers described him as a gentle, kind and decent man, a wise and learned judge, a good court administrator, and a fearless commissioner. He was a leader, mentor and dear friend to so many of his fellows. Kevin was a man of deep, simple and uncomplicated Catholic faith, which

was appreciated by those around him at work, and in his daily life. In 2007 Kevin was received into the Order of Malta as a Knight of Magistral Grace and joined the fraternity in Western Australia.

His Requiem Mass at St Joseph's Church, Subiaco, was attended by so many from the community including the Archbishop of Perth, the Most Reverend Timothy Costello, many priests, and members of the Judiciary and Legal profession. This was in spite of the fact that Kevin, being the genuinely humble and unassuming man he was, objected to funerals, and always wanted to be remembered in prayers, not praised.



# GLO RIFY THE LORD WITH YOUR LIFE

Daniel Kwok GCMG (Ob), National Formation Coordinator, offers this guidance to truly carry out the Order's purpose.

**M**embers of the Order of Malta carry out its purpose by seeking Holiness, witnessing the Catholic faith and serving their neighbours, especially the poor and the sick. These are not mutually exclusive actions.

Doing so, we do what Christ commands us to do – 'To love God with all our heart, all our soul and all our mind and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves'. Ongoing, lifelong formation helps us obey ever more fully these, 'the greatest commandments'; and grow nearer to the Kingdom of God. (cf Mk 12: 28-34).

Stagnated or lukewarm faith keeps us away from the Kingdom.

Following Christ is not merely entertaining a notional assent to what He commands. Head nodding is not obedience. The Christian witness is expressed vibrantly with love in our everyday actions in all the day's events and the encounters with all the people we meet; driven by the Holy Spirit operating in the deepest recesses of our heart, soul and mind.

How do we get to that state? God sows seeds in us through the Gospels, in our prayers, in the sacraments, in people we encounter, in our trials, in daily events. These seeds may bear fruit 'thirtyfold, sixtyfold and a hundredfold'. Or they may be snatched away by the evil one who prowls like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour, or may wither because we are insufficiently formed in our faith and lack spiritual fitness; or they may suffocate under the weight of worldly cares and pleasures (cf Lk 11-15, 1 Pet 5:8).

To bear fruit, we need to say yes and cooperate with God as Mother Mary did. He asks of us: 'Be holy as I am holy' and 'Be perfect as I am perfect' (cf Lv 11:45, Mt 5:48). That is, to order our life towards Sainthood. This sounds incredible. What me, a Saint? How is that possible? Even with

the most heroic effort, and effort is required, 'with man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God' (Mk 10:27).

To fulfil our commitment as members of the Order (recall what you said at your investiture), that's exactly what we need to do – seek Holiness, become Saints. Of course, we are not there yet. It's only with God operating in us when we open ourselves to cooperate with Him that we will become Saints and be with Him in eternal life. Where else do you want to go? (cf Jn 6:68)

Charisms differ from religious order to religious order. It may be preaching for one, teaching for another, contemplation for another. Our charism focuses on serving, with sleeves rolled up, the poor and sick and defending our faith, especially with the aggressive rise of secularity and global confusion about what is true and false.

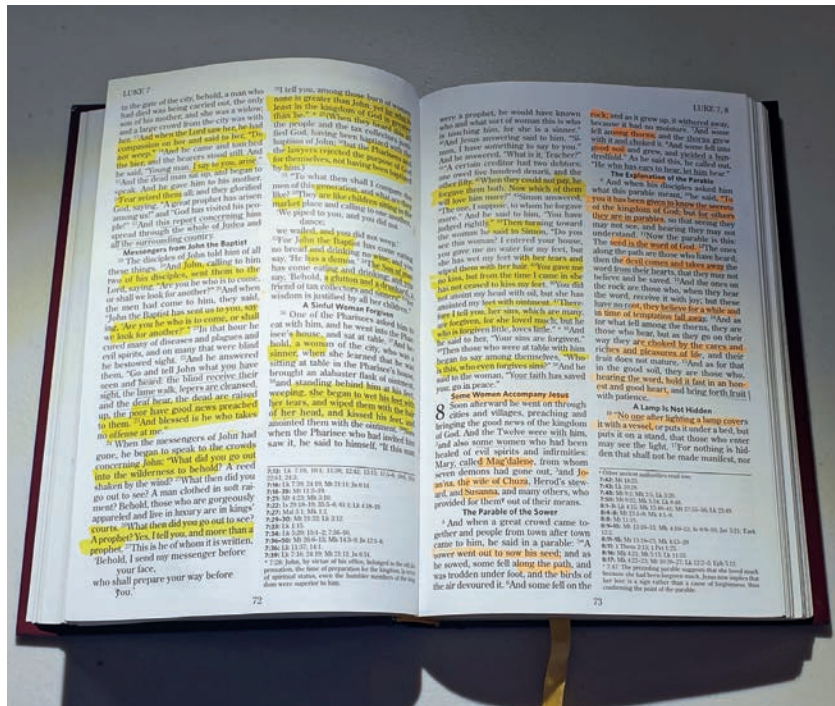
St Paul, in his analogy of the runner and the boxer in the stadium, tells us we must 'run to win' and endure 'strict training' to avoid 'disqualification'. Moreover, to do this for the 'wreath that never withers' (cf 1 Co 9:24-27).

What is the equivalent for us? All orders have a 'rule of life', and they generally apply to those living in community. In monasteries and convents, a demanding regime comprising prayer, study, and service is practiced. We have the Rule of Raymond du Puy, Blessed Gerard's successor, which was strictly applied when our confrères lived in community.

Now, Knights and Dames live in the world – heading families, growing careers and businesses, running professional practices, navigating their retirement and senior years. We are drawn to the world's rather magnetic measures of success: wealth, honour, power, pleasure. The world's ladder of success is well defined but the wall against







which it is placed does not have Heaven at its apex. Uncontrolled pursuit of worldly treasures causes 'anxiety and trouble' and becomes weeds that choke our relationship with God, 'the one thing necessary' (cf Lk 10:42).

How might we live in the world and not be of the world? Spiritual practices integrated and normalised into our lives help us to know, love and serve God increasingly. When we choose God to be the rock upon which we build our life (cf Mt 7:24-27), we see worldly treasures differently even if we possess them. Our priorities are oriented to holiness. We graduate to being Christ-centred.

To love God, we love our neighbours, to want good for them, 'especially the poor and the sick, forgetful of self' (cf Mt:25:31-46, Jm 2:14-26, Prayer of the Order of Malta). It is easy to find convincing excuses to avoid the poor and the sick, the works of the Order, as did the Levite and the priest (cf Lk 10:25-37). The Samaritan's charism is ours.

What might you integrate into your life to deepen your spirituality to grow closer to God as much as you can this side of Heaven? Here are some common elements familiar to all:

- Daily prayers (and not just the oral ones)
- Study Holy Scripture and spiritual writings
- Nightly examen (giving thanks and recognising sins)
- Attending Mass more frequently
- Regular confession
- Retreats
- Do the works of the Order
- Take action to defend our faith
- Fellowship with members
- Be active in parish work
- Engage a spiritual director

In your present circumstances, what would be realistic to integrate into your life?

*To fulfil our commitment as members of the Order we need to seek Holiness as if we were striving to become Saints.*



# The solemn funeral of FRA' MARCO LUZZAGO

## Lieutenant of the Grand Master

Intense emotion and great participation for the solemn funeral of Fra' Marco Luzzago, Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta, held in Rome in the Basilica of Santi Bonifacio e Alessio at the Aventine.



Escorted by the Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta, the picket of the Italian Association's military corps and the volunteers of the Italian Relief Corps, the coffin – draped in the Order's flag – moved shortly after 10.30 a.m., on 14th June 2022, from the Church of Santa Maria in Aventino, in the Magistral Villa complex, where the funeral chamber had been set up a few days prior to the funeral.

The long procession accompanied the coffin of Fra' Marco Luzzago, who died suddenly on 7 June at the age of 71, through the main gate of the Magistral Villa, with red flags at half-mast, to the adjacent Basilica of Santi Bonifacio e Alessio.

The funeral ceremony, in a packed Church, was officiated by Cardinal Silvano Maria Tomasi, Special Delegate of the Pope, and concelebrated by Cardinal

Giovanni Battista Re, Dean of the College of Cardinals, and Monsignor Jean Laffitte, Prelate of the Order of Malta.

Recalling the deceased's kindness and sincere goodness of spirit, his frank smile and direct gaze, Cardinal Tomasi in his homily highlighted how: "Fra' Marco loved Jesus, the Church and the Order".

The example of Fra' Marco testifies that love for Jesus Christ transforms life





into unconditional and limitless service. This love in Fra' Marco welded together existence, service to the Order in the Church and the personal journey of faith, steeped in prayer and action.

“His bonhomie, the trait of a simple and concrete man, pious, humble, devout, faithful to the Pope and in love with the Order, which he held with humility and a spirit of service in these times of travail and troubled waters. His honesty must be an example for all, especially for those with responsibilities,” continued the Cardinal, invoking for Fra' Marco, through the words of Pope Francis, eternal peace.

Fra' Marco Luzzago, during his tenure of less than 20 months at the helm of the Order, marked first by the pandemic emergency and then by the relief work following the war in Ukraine, had managed to touch the hearts of those who had worked with him and accompanied him through the corridors of the Magistral Palace. A place dear to him but also so distant from the Order's Commandery in Le Marche, the Villa Ciccolini that he had managed and lived in for so many years. Similarly, on the occasions when he travelled as Lieutenant, such as to the soup kitchen

run by the Order of Malta in Pompei just a few weeks before his death, or during his last pilgrimage to Lourdes, Fra' Marco had been appreciated for his generosity, spirituality and dedication, a reflection of his “shining Christian witness”, as Pope Francis put it.

The funeral was attended by the Interim Lieutenant of the Sovereign Order of Malta Fra' Ruy Gonçalo do Valle Peixoto de Villas-Boas, members of the Sovereign Council, Fra' Marco Luzzago's family members, representatives of the Grand Priorities, Subpriorities, National Associations, diplomatic missions and volunteer corps of the Order around the world. Together with them, the Ambassadors of the countries with which the Order maintains diplomatic relations, civil and religious authorities.

The funeral rite was broadcast live on the Order of Malta's YouTube channel to allow members and volunteers worldwide to follow and participate live in the final farewell for Fra' Marco Luzzago. Hundreds of messages continue to reach the Grand Magistry in these days to express condolences for the passing of the Lieutenant. 🇻🇪

*Representing the Australian Association were: R to L: Simon Grenfell KMG (Ob), John Murphy KMG and David Scarf (AM KMG CM GOM) The funeral was held in Rome in the Basilica of Santi Bonifacio e Alessio at the Aventine.*

*The funeral rite was broadcast live on the Order of Malta's YouTube channel.*

*Fra' Marco Luzzago passed away after a tenure of less than 20 months at the helm of the Order.*



# Resources for Member's SPIRITUAL Formation

The Order continues to support its members with print and digital resources.

## Handbooks

In 2022, the Australian Association added a fourth handbook to resources to assist members' ongoing formation needs.

Print versions of the first three were sent to all members in 2020 and 2021. They were very well received among our members here and overseas.

A PDF version of the fourth Spiritual Accompaniment Manual was made available in 2022.

It provides guidance to members who accompany each other in their formation journey and draws on the Beatitudes, symbolised by the Eight-Pointed Cross we wear on our liturgical garment. Its development was led by Magistral Chaplain Padre Morgan Batt and supported by our National Formation Team comprising Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem Bishop Danny Meagher, Regent of Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception Prof David Kissane, Confrère Deacon Adam Walk and National Formation Coordinator Confrère Daniel Kwok.

If you would like to receive additional print copies of any of the four handbooks, please find them in our online shop on The Australian Association's website.


## Prayer Book

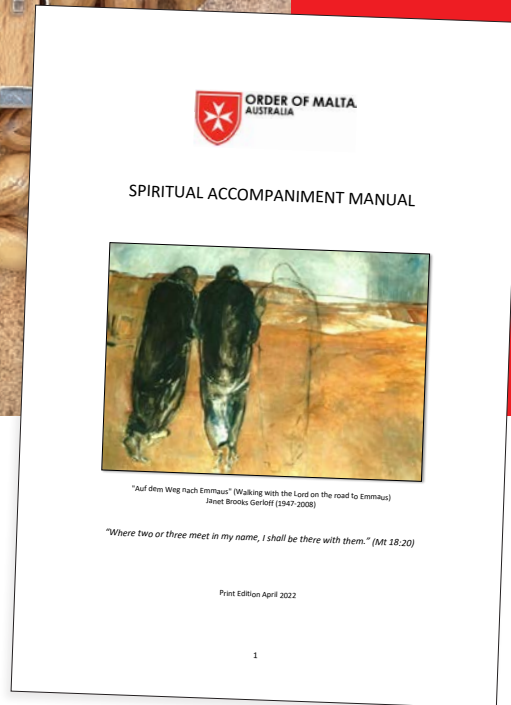
The first edition of The Order's prayer book, *A Spiritual Companion*, modelled after the British Association's, sold out soon after its publication in 2019. It took many months of labour by Confrère Dr Ian Leitch to compile. The 2021 reprint was also sold out. This prayer book is used during the national online Rosary and the Subpriory's online Rosary. Members take them to the semi-annual retreats organised for all members by the Subpriory (February in Victoria, August in NSW).



## Online Prayers and Reflections

Since 2020, as a response to harsh COVID-19 restrictions, we turned to the web to host online Rosary prayers and the "Hour of Reflection with a Chaplain" series. Confrère Joseph Grogan, Confrère Andrew and Consoeur Alice Druzynski take turns to lead the Rosary. Joseph Grogan has ably MC'd the chaplain session. The Order thank the many Chaplains who generously give their time in preparing and delivering their reflections.

Chaplains and members from across the nation and Asia Pacific, as a consequence of The Order's online activities, have become familiar with one another in spite of geographical separation. 



*The Order is happy to support members with print resources such as our fourth handbook and our first prayer book, as well as digital resources such as our online prayers and reflections.*



ORDER OF MALTA

# YOUTH CAMP AUSTRALIA 2023

WHEN: FRIDAY 3 NOV – SUNDAY 5 NOV

WHERE: BENEDICT XVI RETREAT CENTRE  
346 GROSE WORLD ROAD, GROSE VALE  
NSW 2753

WITH EXCITING ACTIVITIES PLANNED:

- PRIVATE IFLY SESSIONS
- BOWLING
- LAZER TAG
- THEMED TRIVIA NIGHT
- DISCO PARTY NIGHT
- AQUA GOLF
- MEDITATION
- SUNDAY MASS OUTDOOR  
WITH NATURE
- AND LOTS MORE

IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND THE CAMP AS EITHER A GUEST OR CARER OR VOLUNTEER, PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE BELOW TO APPLY BY 30 JUNE 2023.

[www.orderofmalta.org.au/youthcamps](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au/youthcamps)

WE WILL NOTIFY ALL SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS BY 14 JULY 2023.



ORDER OF MALTA  
AUSTRALIA

**YOUTH CAMP**  
**SYDNEY NOV 2023**





SOVRANO MILITARE ORDINE DI MALTA  
POSTE MAGISTRALI



Pietro Lorenzetti, *Poliottico*, 1320 Arezzo, Chiesa Di Santa Maria Della Pieve

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ORDER OF MALTA  
AUSTRALIA

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The Malteser International website: [www.malteser-international.org](http://www.malteser-international.org)