

# 2021 Australian HOSPITALLER

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



2021 Review  
**Breaking  
down  
barriers**





**Mass in Scala presided over by Cardinal Silvano Maria Tomasi:**  
*In the oldest town on the Amalfi coast – Scala – the celebrations for the ninth centenary of the death of Blessed Gerard, founder and first Grand Master of the Order of Malta, came to an end.*  
*On 4 September, Fra' Marco Luzzago, Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Order of Malta, participated in a series of religious, institutional and cultural events.*

Photographer  
Leopoldo De Luse







# WELCOME

# 2021 Australian HOSPITALLER

Welcome to Australian Hospitaller Magazine, the annual review of the Australian Association of the Order of Malta, for the year 2021.

It has been our pleasure to document in this edition the important work the Order has been undertaking locally, regionally and globally during the second year of the global COVID pandemic.

There is little doubt that COVID has impacted our works during this period with lockdowns and restrictions. But this yearly review highlights just how much work our hard working members were able to achieve during this most trying period.

Our cover story is a wonderful example of the resilience and determination of our Order members here in Australia. The Asia Pacific Youth Camp is dedicated to those with physical or mental handicaps and is run annually, hosted by different nations in the Asia Pacific region and inspired by the Order's holiday camps in Europe that have been going for almost 50 years.

Against all odds, the Queensland association and volunteers were able to push through and host an inspirational event, even though they were impeded by border closures, lockdowns and negativity. Despite fear and uncertainty created by the pandemic, participants were able to experience a life-changing event.

2021 was also a year of opportunity to examine our national association structure and performance through consultation with our members. Not only were we able to launch a new constitution to govern our Order but for the first time in our history, we were able to formulate a national strategy to ensure that we become a relevant and practical force for good in serving our Lords the poor and the sick.

In this spirit we reference the message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the XXIX World Day of the Sick 2021.

*"You have but one teacher and you are all brothers" (Mt 23:8). A trust-based relationship to guide care for the sick. Here I wish to mention the importance of fraternal solidarity, which is expressed concretely in service and can take a variety of forms, all directed at supporting our neighbours. Serving means caring ... for the vulnerable of our families, our society, our people. In this outreach, all are called to set aside their own wishes and desires, their pursuit of power, before the concrete gaze of those who are most vulnerable... Service always looks to their faces, touches their flesh, senses their closeness and even, in some cases, 'suffers' that closeness and tries to help them. Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people" (ibid.).*

John Murphy KMG  
Publisher



Australian Youth Camp 2021 hosted by the North Eastern Region on the Gold Coast against great odds during Covid.

## The Australian Association of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta

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Vice President: Prof Michelle Campbell DMG

Chancellor: Scott Robert Samson KMG

Treasurer: James Gurry KMG

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Hospitaller Northern Central Region:

Seán Parnell OAM KMG (Ob)

Hospitaller North Eastern Region:

Danny Higgins KMG (Ob)

Hospitaller Central Eastern Region:

Dr Stephen Christie KMG (Ob)

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# Blueprint for FAITH AND SERVICE

At the 2021 Biennial National Assembly members shared a theme ‘Companions on a Journey’

**O**n 26 June 2021, members descended upon the Australian Catholic University Melbourne campus for the 2021 Biennial National Assembly. The theme for the occasion was inspired by a reflection shared by the Most Reverend Bishop Terence Curtin at the February Subpriory retreat. ‘Companions on a journey’ – in reference to the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) – “When the Samaritan saw him he was moved with pity.” There

was our call and our inspiration as we turned to God and each other at this National Assembly. We see what we are being asked to do and to be, and how we might come to it.

Because this was our first assembly conducted during a pandemic, we took steps to ensure those regions locked down or locked out of Victoria were able to take part. We organised live video with groups in the North Eastern and Central Eastern Regions at their respective ACU

campuses, so they could take part in the presentations and their working groups.

The event was opened by a video message from our Grand Chancellor, H.E Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager and our Grand Hospitaller, H.E Dominique Prince de la Rochefoucauld-Montbel. In reference to the COVID-19 pandemic, our theme of ‘Companions on a Journey’ was applauded and embraced by the Grand Magistracy in reference to our renewal and commitment in service of others.





## OUR VALUES

Drawing on the traditions and daily prayer of the Order of Malta, our members strive to live their faith with humility, service, courage and in fraternity with one another.

**Faith-Service-Humility-  
Courage-Fraternity**

### Theme One: Introducing the Working Strategy

Our National President, the Hon. James Douglas, introduced the main agenda of the Assembly which was the launch of the working strategy. He and the Executive Council had overseen creating the strategy in the preceding 18 months, formulated with the help of leading consultants and the input from nationwide member surveys and discussions at the previous Asia Pacific Conference. This was, once again, another opportunity for members to give their vital input into the areas of: works of the Order, spiritual growth, defending the faith, growing membership and ensuring governance.

“Our charisms, defense of the faith and service to the sick and the poor, drive what we do as a religious order of lay Catholics in strengthening our own faith and serving the poor,” he said. “As our late Grand Master, Fra’ Giacomo said: ‘Strengthening the faith of each of us is an extremely important element in the Order of Malta. How can we put into practice the charism of *Tuito Fidei* and consequently, that of *Obsequium Pauperum*, if we do not keep our faith

alive and strong within us?”

Considering that the Assembly was held during a time of renewal and COVID related lockdowns, it was appropriate that the National Hospitaller John Murphy KMG launched Theme One: ‘Growing our Services’. The Order in Australia and New Zealand had been without many of our traditional programs of works due to regional COVID restrictions. The assembly was the first opportunity for the Order to relaunch ‘hands on’ activities and works of the Order.

During the meeting we discussed that, as a lay religious Order, the Order of Malta exists to provide opportunities for our members and volunteers to attain Holiness through ‘hands on’ work by serving our Lords the sick and the poor. Growing our services is critical to ensure we provide a range of programs that allows our members to become directly involved and engaged in serving others. *Strategy 1A- Increase assistance to the Homeless.* The Order’s Coats for the Homeless program has been our signature program for more than a decade. Every winter, we see the program make a real

*The 2021 Biennial National Assembly took place at Australian Catholic University Melbourne campus on 26 June 2021. This was the first assembly conducted during a pandemic, and the Order took steps to ensure those regions locked down or locked out of Victoria were able to take part through live video. The video conferencing linked up groups in the North Eastern and Central Eastern Regions at their respective ACU campuses.*





difference to those sleeping rough in our major cities in Australia and New Zealand. How do we ensure this program remains relevant and effective into the future? Can we expand our offering? What needs are not being met in caring for the homeless?

We have done this through several methods. One is striving to have community care vans in all regions. Another is an expanded 'hands on' focus in distributing Coats for the Homeless. We are working towards increasing the level of personal distribution of coats in all regions where possible and practical. We will increase the number of members and volunteers directly encountering the homeless and serving our Lords the sick and the poor. This is where we recognise in them the person of Christ. Members need to experience this more regularly.

We are also working to provide personal care packs all year round. In addition to this regular contact, we are aiming to establish partnerships with Catholic health providers and Catholic academic institutions as increasingly important alliances for the Order. *Strategy 1B- Develop an Order of Malta national program of palliative care involving members and volunteers.* We are called to care for the poor and sick and to defend the faith by protecting the sanctity of life, especially today in countering the societal pressure for assisted suicide. Palliative care has been identified as a major area of focus for the Order.

We are particularly called to provide living witness through example. We will work to support palliative care services in

their support for people with life limiting illnesses. We will strengthen palliative care delivery through our members and volunteers by working closely with existing Catholic agencies and developing our own capacity in this area.

Our goal is to become the leading volunteer-based organisation offering palliative care services nationally, with a focus on 'hands on' programs run by members and volunteers.

*Strategy 1C- Provide local and regional disaster relief*

In Australia and surrounding Pacific nations, the Australia and New Zealand associations/delegations have been able to deliver targeted assistance to many individuals, families and parishes in areas ravaged by natural disasters.





Central region, Community Care Centre North Eastern region; and Australian Catholic University and Order of Malta Community Hub.

At the meeting we shared these high-level objectives, and discussed how we must now coordinate national signature programs in a united approach across regions. We also called on the local regions to create unique initiatives suited to fulfil the needs at a local level. The approach of all regions working on isolated sites is to now evolve into an environment of collaboration and shared learning and support across regional lines.

**Theme Two: Growing our Members and Volunteers**

The second theme for the day was growing our membership and volunteers with the high-level objective: by 2024 we will have an active and diverse membership that embraces the values and spiritual commitment of the Order of Malta. Presented by our National Treasurer, James Gurry, we were taken through the development of the newly formed Order of Malta Volunteers and the newly strategic thinking behind growing our membership.

Our current Australian membership stands at 305. This includes 32 new chaplains as well as the new Order of Malta Volunteer corps of approximately 100 members and growing.

At the meeting we discussed how a diverse membership will give a wider variety of strengths. This will be represented by way of age, gender, background, ethnicity, skill and talents, and different perspectives.

In the past, some may have seen admission to the Order as merely an honour, an award or recognition for their standing in Catholic society. During the meeting we discussed that, as we know, there is much more to membership. In fact, membership is an opportunity to serve and do more work as we carry out our mission. The Order is focused on offering opportunities for members of all ages and abilities to remain active and engaged within the Order. Our works range from direct 'hands on' outreach to private spirituals works depending on our capacity and capability.

Recent examples of our work include assistance to communities affected by bushfire in New South Wales and Victoria, and flood victims in Timor-Leste.

We will continue to develop our capacity to raise funds and deliver unique and targeted assistance to those requiring both immediate assistance and, in many cases, longer lasting programs.

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

For the past 18 months national and regional leadership have looked at various opportunities and projects big and small. Some continue to progress close to launch as they undergo the scrutiny of our newly formed Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. Several of these could expand to additional regions once they are established.

These projects include: the Order of Malta Community Care Kitchen-Central Eastern Region, Flexible Aged Care Facility for Indigenous-North

*At the meeting we shared high-level objectives including increasing assistance to the homeless, providing local and regional disaster relief, and expanding our range of services to the poor and the sick. We discussed how we must now coordinate national signature programs in a united approach across regions.*



Our future lies in people – members (including chaplains), candidates and volunteers.

*Strategy 3.A-Grow Membership with a goal of 350 members by 2024*

Quality candidates that meet the set criteria of the Order, and are committed to our charism, are essential for a healthy organisation. But quantity is also important if we want to make an impact, grow our influence, and make a measurable difference in our society.

With the recent statute reform, there is an enhanced platform to increase our profile among Catholic businesses, professional groups, universities, communities and parishes, to attract committed Catholic men and women of all ages and backgrounds.

The new member formation policies and workbook are world-best practice. They are now being used by the Grand Magistry and circulated to other associations as the master policy document.

*Strategy 3.B- Create and manage a strong volunteer force*

Volunteers have a strong tradition in the Order and have played an important role in assisting with the delivery of services and programs. Many associations in our global order have a ratio of six volunteers to one member. Some in our region have a ratio of 10-1.

The Australian Association has now made volunteers a strategic priority and has begun by commencing the development of Order of Malta Volunteers (OMV), consisting of individuals between 18 to 35 years of age.

Our goals are now to grow OMV to

manage and develop volunteer activities.

We are also looking to establish strong OMV leadership and representation in each region, as well as develop relationships with Catholic universities, theological colleges, secondary schools and parishes for the purpose of attracting young volunteers, and building a pipeline for future members. We are also hoping to attract Catholic health science students to volunteer by offering scholarships.

### **Theme Three: Defending the Faith**

National Vice President Michelle Campbell introduced the third theme for the day “Defending the faith”. In this theme we discussed how we will be providing timely and credible responses to contemporary threats to the Catholic faith.

In addition to the Daily Prayer of the Order, each Knight and Dame – at his or her investiture –promises to “always bear witness to the Catholic faith, to defend the Church, and to lead my life in accordance with the teachings of Holy Mother Church.”

The Regulations and Commentary (R&C) of the Order declare: “The witness and protection of the faith remain incomplete without the devotion of God’s poor” (p. 37). Our service to the sick and the poor is one kind of witness. The witness of *Tuistio Fidei* is another kind of witness. It is a declaration of faith and a “call to arms” although (in modern times) not literally. The charism of Defense of the Faith relates more closely to the historical military aspect of our vocation than the charism of *Obsequium Pauperum*. That is not to say that it does not exist, especially when, as now, the Church is

under coordinated and relentless assault.

When we defend the Faith, we defend the defenseless with our eyes on the poor and the sick.

*Strategy 2.A Develop protocols and capability for Defense of Faith responses to threats to the Catholic Faith.*

A “flexible” panel of Defense of Faith experts drawn from members has been active since late 2017. They have produced several advisories to arm members with information, and point them to actions that may be taken as individuals. The issues covered include the seal of confession, religious freedom and assisted suicide, and are available on our website.

The panel will be strengthened with members and chaplains invited or recruited to join on a long-term or ad-hoc basis. They will work on developing further advisories in response to the flow of attacks on the faith, and proactively as practicable.

We aim to educate, prepare and inspire members to take personal action on threats to the Catholic faith and to visibly live their life consistent with the doctrines of the Roman Catholic faith. Additional to Order-generated advisories, materials from other Catholic entities will be sourced for members to build on.

### **Theme Four: Supporting Spiritual Growth**

The final theme for the assembly was supporting spiritual growth, presented by Professor David Kissane AC KMG (Ob) - Regent, Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception.

The high-level objective for 2024 was that members will regard the Order as their new primary means for sanctification and support for their response to Our Lord’s call to be holy.

Members of a religious Order must naturally see it to be their spiritual home within which they can actively seek and glorify God and advance in holiness. In fact: “members are obliged to work on and deepen their spiritual life continuously” (Regulations and Commentary, Ch 5).

Within the Order is a rich environment supporting every member’s spiritual growth and lifelong formation. This was given a reboot in early 2020 when a common formation program for candidates was initiated across all regions. Since then, other spirituality activities have been increased in all regions.

*Strategy 5.A- Create and maintain environment to support lifelong formation*

*Strategy 5.B- Use print and digital media to promote and support lifelong formation*

These two strategies have intersected and are not mutually exclusive.

Spiritual activities across all regions







have progressively increased, with chaplains becoming more engaged in the Order's liturgical life and the formation of candidates and members. These developments are now prominently aided by publications and digital platforms.

The annual calendar of Masses, retreats, and reflection days has been enriched to encourage and support ongoing formation in the Catholic Faith. Members can now avail themselves of more opportunities to deepen faith and worship.

In addition to the availability of calendared spiritual activities, members are supported in their personal, ongoing, lifelong formation in a number of ways:

One of those ways is a book *Becoming Holy: The Landscape of Formation* that helps members in their response to the call to holiness which was produced and distributed to all members this year.

Another initiative was a national formation team, comprising two chaplains and two members. It's a place that will oversee the implementation of the global "Spiritual Renewal" strategy as it evolves.

We have organised assistance for individual members to obtain guidance from qualified spiritual directors, the preference being our Chaplains.

Additionally we have sought to mobilise members in Obedience to provide spiritual accompaniment to other members.

Digital technologies have helped us along this path with a few initiatives. This includes the series of web talks "An hour of reflection with a Chaplain" which was initiated in July 2021. The series has been enthusiastically accepted by members and will be a fixture in our national calendar.



We have also launched two online Rosary groups – candidates and their supporters; and our volunteer community has evolved into monthly Rosary for all our members, their families and friends. This is a great consequence of the COVID-19 driven environment.

Across all of our channels communications, we aim to place Spiritual content, to support this important theme. ✠

*The assembly finished off on the high-level objective that by 2024 members will regard the Order as their new primary means for sanctification and support for their response to Our Lord's call to be holy.*





# ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

The **Hon James Sholto Douglas KHD** reflects on a challenging year that tested the Order's resilience and flexibility to assist the poor and the sick, and enabled reflection to strengthen the structure, policies and ongoing work of the Order.

**I**n 2020 and 2021 we were presented with challenges unlike those of any other year in our Australian history. But, we have dealt with pandemics in other countries many times in the Order's long history. Archbishop Fisher, our conventual chaplain and Archbishop of Sydney, reminded us of that at the CER Lourdes Mass on 5 December 2020 at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney:

*The Black Death, that swept over Europe repeatedly from the 14th Century onwards, came to Rhodes in 1498 when the island was ruled by the Knights of St John, and it killed a significant part of the population. It attacked Malta repeatedly in the 17th Century (1591, 1623, 1655, 1675, 1705), when it was under the control of the Order and as many as two in five died. In each case, the Order did its best, within the confines of the best current understandings of plague, to quarantine and nurse in its hospitals; many of the Knights died in the process of caring. In the present pandemic the Order has been active in 120 countries with various healthcare and social projects.*

Here we have done our best to continue with our program of Coats for the Homeless and the palliative care programs we perform in Melbourne and elsewhere. But the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 regulations have limited what we could do and also inhibited our ability to meet and attend our normal meetings, masses and events. Nonetheless, as I shall develop later, the fruits of our work during the past 18 months are beginning to blossom. Our work for the poor and sick and in defence of the faith is beginning to expand in unexpected and exciting ways.

We have received reports from the Grand Chancellor, H.E. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, about the work of the Order internationally during the year as well as from the Grand Hospitalier, H.E. Dominique Prince de la Rochefoucauld-Montbel, dealing with the Order's response to COVID-19 in particular. They illustrated the nature of the Order's response across the globe. It was heartening to see that much can still be done to help the poor and sick in these difficult circumstances.

## Postponed events

The Lourdes pilgrimage could not go ahead in either year, nor could the Asia Pacific

Youth Camp for Persons with Disabilities scheduled for September 2020 where we had hoped to host around 140 disabled youths.

A much smaller but very successful event did take place at the Gold Coast in Queensland from 19 to 24 September 2021. We were only able to look after seven youths and their carers, limited to participants from Queensland and the Northern Territory because of the pandemic. But, the event was a resounding success for those who attended, encouraging us to plan similar local events elsewhere in Australia as well as the larger annual Asia Pacific event when we are able to revive it. Our hope is that the next Youth Camp will take place in South Korea in 2022.

The pilgrimages proposed for the Holy Land and Malta in November 2020 and then in 2021 also had to be shelved. They have been postponed again to 2022 at this stage. I was unable to go to Bangkok to help invest our new members there in 2020. That event was postponed until October 2021 but has again been postponed until some later date.

## Work by the Executive Council

Nonetheless the Executive Council had anything but a quiet period during 2020 and 2021. Although our members may not have been able to participate in as much "hands on" work as we would have liked, the Executive Council has been very busy in laying the groundwork for the Order's future here and in our region, organisationally and strategically.

## International operations

One area where "hands on" work has been facilitated by our fundraising is the Order's clinic in Timor-Leste. It is a work of the Order internationally but the bulk of the funds for it has been provided through Australian members with helpful support from our members in Singapore. Our vice-president, Cons Prof Michelle Campbell DMG, together with Confs Alastair Furnival, Malcolm Irving and Amb David Scarfe, have been very successful in strengthening the flow of money to the clinic and consolidating its operations.

Our Korean members, under the leadership of Conf Y M Park, have also launched a new project named after His Holiness the Pope: "Francisco's Neighbours".



They found and purchased a property which has been fitted with a large kitchen and laundry to provide, in conjunction with the Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, food, meals and other services for local households in an impoverished region of Seoul. It is a wonderful example of what can be done to help the poor.

Our Thai members have also kept up their significant variety of work in providing food and blankets for the poor, support for a children's home, and the provision of medical equipment in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. At the end of 2020, the Order provided a van for use in helping transport the elderly and sick to medical appointments and social activities in and around Bangkok. Our Thai members, led by Cons Dr Marie Therese V Promsuntorn, are now expanding their activities into a new program for the elderly to add to their other activities for the poor and sick.

Through Cons Dr Bernadette Tobin and Conf Dr Eamonn Mathieson we continue to be actively involved in the International Association of Catholic Bioethics.

## Constitutional changes

By the end of 2020 the Executive Council had completed its work on the proposed new structure and Constitution of the Order in Australia. The proposals were released to members for their information and comment in December with a view to the holding of a successful, non-binding



plebiscite in February 2021, and their further consideration at the June 2021 Biennial Assembly held in Melbourne. In preparing the proposed documents we built on the essential framework of the changes proposed earlier, in 2017. The ideas for change had been in the offing for many years before then.

#### *The Order's previous structure in Australia*

There were three organisations involved in the management of the Order in Australia. The first and main organisation was The Australian Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (the Australian Association). It was an unincorporated association which operated nationally with local regions. It was the body to which all members belonged.

Australian Association of the Order of Malta Limited (AAOML) operated alongside it as our trustee and service company. Its only members were the Executive Council members from time to time. It was and will remain a company limited by guarantee, a common corporate structure for charitable organisations as it is not run for the benefit of its members but for the charitable purposes governing why it was set up.

In the South Eastern Region there was also an incorporated association called Order of Malta Hospice Home Care (Vic) Inc (OMHHC). Its members were the members of the Order in that region but it could be controlled by the Executive Council of the Australian Association. It was established decades ago because of the need to have a corporate body to allow the Order to participate in Eastern Palliative Care in Melbourne. AAOML did not then exist. Members in the SER have received a proposed new Constitution for OMHHC and an accompanying Explanatory Memorandum for it. They have agreed to its reconstitution into another company limited by guarantee wholly owned by AAOML.

#### *The changed structure*

The principal aim of the changes was to convert AAOML from being solely a trustee company and service provider, whose members were the members of the Executive Council, into the entity which will solely represent and govern the Australian Association instead of our previous unincorporated Australian Association. AAOML's membership has expanded to include all the members of the Australian Association who sign application forms to join it. It will also continue to operate as a trustee company. The Australian Association will be wound up in accordance with the resolution of the Lieutenant of the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council made on 13 October 2021.

OMHHC will change into a company limited by guarantee whose only member will be AAOML. Thus, AAOML will solely represent and govern the Australian members of the Order and be the sole member of OMHHC.

#### *Why change?*

We saw the proposed changes as providing a simpler and clearer corporate structure for the Order in Australia as well as providing the benefits of limited

liability to our members, something that was not available to them as members of the unincorporated Australian association. It was also apparent that Rome wanted us to operate through a corporate structure. The new structure is also more familiar to other Australian government departments and charities who deal with organisations such as ours.

#### *General Assembly vote*

The proposed changes were resoundingly supported by an 88 per cent vote in favour at our General Assembly held at the end of June 2021. They were referred to Rome to seek the approval of the Lieutenant of the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council. They were approved on 13 October 2021.

We are now proceeding to wind up the existing unincorporated association and to hold elections for our new Regional Councils under the replacement Constitution.

#### **Operational policies**

We have also developed a significant number of policies to guide our actions, policies which are needed to ensure that we can participate in our charitable work effectively. One of the most important is the national Safeguarding Policy, whose development was led by Cons Maria Randazzo. As our members become more involved in "hands on" work it is vital that we have systems in place to permit them to do the work in accordance with modern legislative requirements.

We have also developed a number of policies required for clear corporate governance. Confs Scott Samson KMG, our Chancellor, James Gurry KMG our Treasurer, and Daniel Kwok KMG (Ob), our Delegate of Communications, have led the way there with the assistance of other Executive Council members by calling on their experience in the field to help us produce policies on conflicts of interest, prevention of fraud, crisis communications, feedback and complaints, whistleblowers, privacy, recognition of members' achievements and volunteers. We are also working on an "emeritus membership" policy for those of our members who, because of age or infirmity, have difficulty in engaging in hands on work for the Order.

Conf David Blackwell, the then SER Hospitaller, drew on his experience in introducing a "Risk Register" to help us plan how to cope with the foreseeable risks associated with our activities. Forewarned is forearmed. It is already a very useful document and can only become more useful as we draw on our experience, e.g., of the Youth Camp held at the Gold Coast in September 2021.

Earlier in 2020 we agreed on a common national framework for the selection and formation of new members. That has been implemented as has the framework for the promotion of new projects for the Order to undertake locally or nationally.

Conf James Gurry, our Treasurer and leader of the Finance, Audit & Risk subcommittee, has been very vigorous in transforming the Order's financial structure into a more coherent national one with all our accounts gathered into the one bank, National

"As our members become more involved in 'hands on' work it is vital that we have systems in place to permit them to do the work in accordance with modern legislative requirements."



Australia Bank, and our accounting systems made uniform and on the same software platform across the country. It has helped us to produce a more comprehensive statement of our accounts nationally as we also decided to engage new auditors for our operations.

We undertook a legal and compliance review by not-for-profit law specialists Prolegis who have put forward a number of useful recommendations. In carrying out these reforms James Gurry has produced an informative whitepaper which we expect will be distributed to members once it is in final form.

### **Hospitaller work and the Order of Malta Volunteers**

Our National Hospitaller, Conf John Murphy KMG, was very busy in coordinating our Hospitaller work with the Regional Hospitallers throughout 2020. He started with those affected by the bushfires early in the year and continued to deal with the effects of COVID-19 on our normal activities and the development of possible new activities in help for refugees and aged or palliative care.

He has also encouraged the growth of our volunteer program (Order of Malta Volunteers or OMV). The numbers of young members are growing quickly in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and now also in Perth. The regional coordinators are Dalton Fogarty and Anna Sammut (CER), Timothy Gorton and Jeremy Mann (SER), Joseph and Alice Grogan (NER) and Conf Noel Mifsud, the SCR Regional Hospitaller based in Adelaide, and Conf Andrew Cichy now resident in Perth. We had the inspiration of a videoconference with the deputy chair of the British branch's "Companions of the Order of Malta" on 21 October 2020 to tell us about the many things their young Companions do for the Order there. Conf James Gurry has had direct experience in their work when he lived in London.

CER's use of vans to help homeless people in Sydney and Parramatta is to be expanded to the Australian Capital Territory. Conf Steve Christie, the CER Regional Hospitaller, has been particularly active in exploring new ways in which our members in that region can use their talents in aid of the sick and poor. The SER has also recently taken delivery of a van intended to do similar work in Melbourne and the

NER plans to do the same in Brisbane. The NER under the Regional Hospitaller, Danny Higgins KMG, and our Chaplain, Fr Gerard McMorrow, is also exploring ways in which our work with the homeless can be expanded in Brisbane and at the Gold Coast through the establishment of a shelter for the homeless there. In Brisbane we have been assisting at another Church-led homeless shelter.

Thus we have been expanding our Coats for the Homeless program into a wider focus. Not just with our new COVID-19 influenced hygiene packs for the homeless, but by extending the work of our vans in the capital cities and examining the creation of shelters for the homeless. This has led to a significant increase in the number of volunteers in our major cities.

Our Southern and Northern Central Regions based on Adelaide and Darwin have engaged in community support initiatives with Australian Aboriginal Communities at Daly River in the Northern Territory and Mimli in South Australia.

The work we have done in palliative care over many years, particularly with Eastern Palliative Care in Melbourne, is to be expanded with the assistance of a generous donation from our deceased member Fra' Richard Divall to other parts of that city. The first steps in that direction were taken with the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Mercy Palliative Care Ltd in December 2021. We hope to extend that aspect of our work to the other Australian States also.

In 2020 we took on the new role of local disaster relief in response to the bushfire emergency on the South Coast of NSW – work which continues under the inspiring leadership of Conf Frank Testa.

An exciting recent development has been the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Order in Australia and Australian Catholic University, the largest English-speaking Catholic university in the world. The MOU details arrangements for partnering on a range of life-changing initiatives involving work with groups who experience disadvantage and marginalisation.

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

Coats for the Homeless initiative and camps for people with a disability. The first of those cooperative efforts was the Youth Camp held at the Gold Coast in Queensland in September 2021 and organised through the NER. Many of the volunteers were ACU students from their occupational therapy faculty.

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

### **Spiritual life and Defence of the Faith**

Archbishop Mark Coleridge was confirmed in the position of our Principal Chaplain during the year for a term of five years from 1 August 2020. We have also appointed new chaplains in the CER and hope to appoint others particularly in New Zealand and the SER in the near future.

The Grand Magistry has recently directed that our Handbook for the Year of Preparation be used as a model in the Asia Pacific region of the Order. Two other handbooks dealing with ongoing spiritual formation of members and the role of our chaplains have been published in 2021. Our indefatigable Delegate of Communications, Conf Daniel Kwok, has coordinated the production of those very useful works which will be significant in our promotion of the Order's spiritual renewal promoted by Rome earlier this year.

Our Defence of the Faith panel, now led by Conf Seán Parnell, the NCR Regional Hospitaller, continued its work in informing us in advance of the issues where we are likely to need to defend the faith. Issues such as abortion and euthanasia are areas where we all need to know what the Catholic position is and how to support it. Our members were asked to do so at the end of 2020 in Queensland in support of Archbishop Coleridge when the proposed legislation there supporting "voluntary assisted dying" was advanced up the calendar during the election campaign. The proposed examination of it by the Queensland Law Reform Commission was apparently to be discarded. It was reinstated, after the election but the parliamentary vote in favour of the



controversial legislation passed. The issue remained alive in the New South Wales parliament during 2021.

Periodically, also, issues arise that raise different questions such as the attacks on religious expression contained in the proposed Victorian legislation dealing with “conversion practices”. Conf David Blackwell encouraged our SER members to support Archbishop Comensoli’s approach to those issues.

We will continue to need to prepare papers for members in controversial areas and to be prepared to choose when and how to intervene in controversial areas of public policy.

Despite the pandemic we managed to hold a retreat in Sydney between 27 and 29 August 2020. It was organised by the Subpriory but eventually had to be confined to members then in the CER because of COVID-19 but was, by all accounts, very successful. There was another successful Subpriory retreat held in Melbourne in February 2021. Those attending were almost wholly Victorians but again it was very successful. Our Southern Central Region has also held retreats, notably one at the Jesuit Retreat Centre and vineyard at Sevenhill in South Australia.

Another proposed retreat to be organised by the New Zealand Region near Wellington with the assistance of the NER chaplain, Fr Gerard McMorro, in June 2020 had to be cancelled, again because of COVID-19, but our members there were able to hold a retreat in September 2021 at Timaru in the South Island. I was able to speak to them by video link and received good reports about the event from our New Zealand Regional Hospitaller, Conf Bevan Killick KMG.

### Technology

An unintended side effect of COVID-19 has been the use of videoconferencing for Order Masses and also for coordinated praying of the Rosary by different groups within the Order, such as our candidates, their sponsors and spiritual directors as well as the members of the Subpriory and the Order of Malta Volunteers. These groups transcend our regions and allow us to get to know each other better while advancing the Order’s spiritual role in our lives.

We have recently added to these a series

of reflections by our chaplains on topics relevant to our spiritual growth.

That use of technology has been facilitated by our Vice-Delegate of Communications, Conf Anthony Gerada, who has also been very active otherwise in creating a smartphone app for members modelled on a North American model produced by the Order there. It is a very effective tool for keeping members informed about our activities as well as providing a wide range of spiritual resources for our prayer lives and a current list of members. Conf Anthony also provides considerable software assistance to Mrs Michelle Rees in the Order’s administration.

### Strategic planning

We met very regularly as the Executive Council in videoconferences and completed a strategic planning day in Sydney on 17 December 2020. It was held partly in person and partly by videoconference. We had intended to hold that meeting much earlier in the year but preferred to do our best to meet in person. Hence it was postponed until 17 December.

Patrick McClure and Gerard Hermens, management consultants with valuable experience in running charitable organisations, assisted us to prepare for the meeting and provided positive feedback for our efforts. We were also inspired in our approach to the Order’s challenges by the responses members provided to a survey conducted early in 2020.

The exercise was very helpful in focussing us on the need to develop more programs for our members to engage in hands on work with our Lords the poor and the sick. We also wish to encourage members to deepen their spiritual lives within the Order.

The strategic plan in close to its final form was presented to members at the General Assembly in 2021. We will publish it in its complete form to our members in the near future.

### Death of Sir James Gobbo

Our highly esteemed former president, Confrère Sir James Gobbo, AC, CVO, KGCSG, former President of the Australian Association and former Regent of the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception, died in his sleep overnight on 7-8 November. He was one of the

first members of the Association in Australia and a remarkable advocate for its operations particularly in his home State of Victoria, of which he was a former governor. His State funeral mass was held and live streamed on Tuesday 16 November. Our Chancellor, Conf Scott Samson, prepared a thoughtful and eloquent obituary for him which was circulated to members.

### Conclusion

I have been able to visit members as President in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Darwin and Adelaide during 2019, 2020 and in the first half of 2021 from my home city, Brisbane. God, and the COVID-19 regulations willing, I hope to be able to visit other regions in the country and elsewhere in the Asia Pacific during 2022.

Because of my appointment as a Royal Commissioner into Defence and Veteran Suicide I shall probably live in Sydney during most of 2022 and 2023 and be able to visit other regions in the course of the inquiry. It will be a wonderful opportunity to consolidate my familiarity with our members elsewhere in Australia and, I hope, at other places in our Asia Pacific region. We have kept in touch with members in that region through videoconferences and particularly through the Asia Pacific Conference held by video link with the Hong Kong branch of the Order in October 2021.

Returning then to the effect of COVID-19 on us during 2020 and 2021, may I leave you with the words of Bishop Robert Barron in a recent edition of *Evangelization & Culture*, the journal of the Word on Fire Institute:

*2020 has been, for countless people around the world, a great and unexpected trial, and the Church finds itself once again in rough waters. Down the ages, across space and time, the barque of Peter has been beset by similar storms. But our hope is not finally in the comfort and security of this passing world. Our hope is in Jesus Christ – the Christ who died for us, and by dying, destroyed our death. This Christ is alive; he guides the Church and is present to it even now. He is sending each one of us, in our own way, on mission – even now. If we look around at the waves, we will sink. But if we keep our eyes fixed on him, we will walk on the water. ✠*





# SUBPRIORY REGENT

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

**D**uring 2021, our Subpriory focused energy on spiritual formation and fostering a sense of belonging for our members.

## Spiritual Renewal

While the COVID-19 pandemic imposed some restrictions during 2021, our use of online meetings brought several rewards that have enriched our spirituality:

1. Fortnightly Rosaries by members of the Subpriory conducted via Zoom technology;
2. Monthly Rosaries by members of the Australian Association via Zoom;
3. Monthly talks by chaplains on a Saturday morning via Zoom; and
4. Online Masses on special feasts.

Subpriory members have taken a leadership role in fostering spiritual activities by the Regions of the Australian Association.

As our Order strives to involve members of the Second Class in a greater role in the development of the spirituality of its members, we formed a working party under the chairmanship of Confrère Daniel Kwok KMG (Ob) to develop a manual about Spiritual Accompaniment initiated by Magistral Chaplain, Fr Morgan Batt. This serves as a resource for members to guide their activities as they journey beside other members during a Year of Probation, or as they accompany members confraternally.

Modelled on the journey to Emmaus, this manual takes the Beatitudes as a source of inspiration for this work of accompaniment.

## Membership

We have 39 full members, one awaiting his Promise and eight further members undertaking various stages of preparation. During 2021, we had 11 members take their Promise of Obedience [Consoeurs Lilian Antonelli OAM, Catherine Costa, and Margaret O'Donnell; Confrères Sauro Antonelli OAM, Stephen Christie, Robert Costa, Geoffrey Horgan QC, Gerard O'Donnell, Sean Parnell, Dunstan de Souza, and Robert Sainz] and we thank them for this commitment to Christ and Our Lords, the Sick and the Poor.

Confrère Danny Higgins KMG has been approved by Sovereign Council to make his Promise of Obedience but was prevented by COVID-19 border closures from doing so. We anticipate three further members completing their Year of Preparation in 2022 and being approved by Sovereign Council to take their Promise of Obedience in 2022 [Confrères Mark Dorney, James Douglas QC, and Peter Evans].

Five new applicants have been approved by Sovereign Council to commence their Year of Preparation to take their Promise of Obedience [Consoeurs Maria Randazzo and Lena Vera (Philippine Association) and

Confrères Anthony Krohn, John McCarthy and Ben Sariato (Philippine Association)].

We were deeply saddened during 2021 to have Confrère Sir James Gobbo, AC CVO, go home to God. Confrère Sir James had a most formative impact on our Association and we are indebted to God for the gift of his exemplary and deeply spiritual life.

## The Asia Pacific Region

We function as the Subpriory for the Asia Pacific Region and are delighted to have members from across this region. We acknowledge the involvement of the following members: Confrère Justin Harkiewicz (Hong Kong Association), Confrère Egbert Collin Yap (Singapore Association), Confrère Adrian Borg-Cardona (Order of Malta Thailand), Consoeur Lena Vera and Confrère Ben Sarmiento (Philippine Association).

## Chaplains

The Prelate of the Order and Sovereign Council confirmed during 2021 the appointment of the Most Reverend Bishop Terence Curtin STD, DD, VG, Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem, as the Principal Chaplain for the Sub-priory. We are most grateful for his help with spiritual direction and retreat leadership. Bishop Curtin was helped in 2021 by Rev Fr Kevin Lenehan assisting at the Melbourne retreat in February. The August retreat in Sydney was cancelled due to COVID-19. The cancellation inspired the first "Hour of Reflection with a Chaplain" led by Rev Fr James McCarthy as a small substitute. This went on to become a monthly formation event.

Rev Father Gerald O'Collins SJ, AC retired due to ill health after leading retreats across 11 years and providing extraordinary service to the Subpriory. We nominated him in 2021 for a special award, Grand Cross pro piis meritis pro Merito Melitensi, as an expression of our gratitude for his most generous service. Indeed, we receive stellar support from our chaplains and we thank them most deeply.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of our Subpriory Council (pictured) for their support – Confrères Damian Benson, Anthony Gerada and Daniel Kwok, Consoeur Jennifer Dunlop and our newly elected Consoeur Lilian Antonelli 







# A PIECE OF HISTORY

## KNIGHTS OF THE CARIBBEAN

In the early 16th Century, the Order of Malta took on a rather peculiar partnership.

The story starts with French nobleman Phillippe de Longvilliers de Poincy, who was a Knight of the Order. He set sail for the Caribbean islands in 1638, and took up a commission as Lieutenant Governor of the Isles of America. When he arrived he made no secret of his ties to the Order, wearing full regalia.

Upon his arrival to St Christopher Island (now known as St Kitts), a small island east of Puerto Rico, he decided he would take it for himself. While it stayed nominally under the reign of the French, he is said to have declared: "The people of St Christopher will have no other Governor other than Poincy and will take no orders from the King of France."

To maintain his rule, he instructed one of his followers The Huguenot Levasseur and 60 pirates to drive the English out of Tortuga. Tortuga, better known as Turtle Island, was a haven for pirates. By driving out the English he helped cement the island's wild ways, while also establishing tolerance and trade between St Kitts and Turtle Island.

St Kitts had been owned by the Compagnie des Isles de l'Amérique (Company of the Islands of the Americas). In 1651 when that company went bankrupt, the Poincy convinced the Order to purchase four islands in the region: his own St Kitts as well as Saint Martin, Saint Barthelemy and Saint Croix. The Order agreed, and essentially had its own Caribbean colony from 1651. In 1665, five years after the Poincy died, the Hospitallers sold their rights in the island to the new French West India Company, bringing their Caribbean colonial project to an end.

Today, you can still see the ruins of Chateau de la Montagne on St Kitts, which at the time was credited as the grandest ever constructed in the Americas. ❄️

*Phillippe de Longvilliers de Poincy, who was a Knight of the Order, built the Chateau de la Montagne on St Kitts (pictured below) which was credited at the time the grandest ever constructed in the Americas.*







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



**2**021 was not the return to normal activity that we had all hoped for the Order of Malta. COVID-19 restrictions dictated so many of our activities and led many in society to self-imposed isolation to better protect themselves. This was especially seen in many charitable organisations not having access to their regular volunteers of retirement age, limiting the services they could provide.

Against this backdrop, the North Eastern Region was able to provide our regular Hospitaller activities and commence new ones that have grown in participation and appreciation.

### **Order of Malta Youth Camp**

From 19 to 24 September the Asia Pacific Youth Camp for Persons with Disabilities was held on the Gold Coast. This was originally planned for all National Associations of our Order in the Asia Pacific catering for over 150 guests, their carers and volunteers to attend.

Firstly, the closure of Australia's international borders eliminated overseas arrivals. Then, in the final weeks of planning, the closure of the Queensland border to interstate visitors filtered the participants down to Queensland residents, bar one volunteer from the Northern Territory.

However, with the clear instruction that a smaller event was to the benefit of those involved and better than another postponement, our Youth Camp was an amazing success for all involved.

The Catholic Social Services organisation

Centacare was instrumental in sending seven guests and their carers, and this, combined with volunteers from Australian Catholic University and members, family and friends of The Order of Malta made up with enthusiasm what was lacking in numbers.

Across five very full days and nights the campers did astronomy, theme parks, high impact sports, circus, crafts and some of the best singing and dancing caught on video. The highlight was a performance by the Centacare Running Duck Theatre made up of their clients, carers and staff. In a show written to highlight the talents of the performers, a rollicking journey of song, dance and drama was greatly enjoyed by actors and audience together.

By the end of our time together the principle aim of a Youth Camp had been achieved. Participants came together as strangers and left as close friends. They shared many joys and triumphs but also assisted each other during periods of shyness or homesickness. Guests who had never left the security of their families experienced a wider world in a safe environment. Carers were appreciated for the work they do with a strong element of love and volunteers gained the satisfaction that comes with sharing their talents and accompanying new friends.

### **Coats For the Homeless and Hygiene Packs**

The North Eastern Region was successful in distributing 1500 Coats for the Homeless, but not with the hands-on membership and volunteer involvement we would have wished for due to COVID-19. Many thanks

to our friends at Rosies "your friends on the street" for assisting with distribution.

Once again, our coats were eagerly sought after by disadvantaged members of society who struggle to access accommodation that can deal with their circumstances. These coats are not an alternative but are a comfort when no other option is available.

### **Emmanuel City Mission (ECM)**

The Order of Malta Volunteers have, during 2021, cemented a wonderful partnership with the Emmanuel City Mission serving meals and providing assistance and fellowship to disadvantaged people at their mission in South Brisbane.

Dedicated teams on the second and fourth Sundays of each month attend ECM to provide breakfast, cook a sausage sizzle lunch, assist in providing clothes and enjoy a good chat or be a caring ear for someone in need. Volunteers from our Youth Camp have even transitioned to this outreach appreciating the Hospitaller ethos of our Order.

Members and volunteers took the opportunity to provide teams to look after visitors to ECM during their Christmas Festival. For the five nights leading up to Christmas, ECM remained open 24 hours a day. The Order looked after the 10pm to 2am stretch and on two nights provided a Chaplain to celebrate midnight Mass. All who attended were deeply moved by the up to 40 guests on some nights who took the opportunity to sleepover in a safe and welcoming location.





**Spiritual Activities and the National Biennial Assembly and Investitures**

During Lent, Magistral Chaplain Fr Gerard McMorrow hosted four presentations on St Mark’s Gospel relating to the events of Holy Week. We had the pleasure to invite our confraternal friends from The Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

A highlight of the year was the regional portion of the National Biennial Assembly held in conjunction with the National Assembly in Melbourne on 25 – 26 June, this being an alternative to accommodate state border closures due to COVID-19.

A deeply moving and well attended Vigil liturgy at Holy Spirit New Farm was held on Friday 25 June in the evening, led by Bishop Ken Howell, for the three Knights and three Dames being invested. On Saturday morning, with the assistance of ACU, regional members were able to view the proceedings of the

main National Assembly events from Melbourne. Saturday afternoon saw Archbishop Mark Coleridge preside at the Investiture Mass for our new members again at Holy Spirit Church. That evening a delightful investiture dinner was held at The Brisbane Club with Guest speaker Mrs Jayne Shallcross, CEO of Rosies, providing an insightful description of life on the streets for the disadvantaged and the enjoyment and satisfaction that volunteers can gain from being part of a group that reaches out with love to them.

**Passing of Magistral Chaplain Fr Peter Gillam**

During March Fr Peter went home to God after a life of service to the Archdiocese of Brisbane, especially the Parishes of Hendra and Redcliffe, and the Horse Racing Community. Fr Peter was the inaugural Chaplain for our Order in Queensland.

Rest in Peace, Fr Peter. ✠



*Clockwise from opposite page: Youth Camp at its glitziest. Where is Elvis?; An Order of Malta service day at Emmanuel City Mission – we cook, we serve, we care, we wash up!; Knights and Dames invested after a year of preparation and service to the poor and the sick.; NER Hospitaller kicks off satellite meeting at the National Biennial Assembly 2021 concurrent with the central event in Melbourne.; After the Investiture Mass presided by Principal Chaplain Archbishop Mark Coleridge – a highlight at National Biennial Assembly.*



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

**2**021 was a tough year for so many Australians. For much of 2021, the provision of our charitable works was severely curtailed due to NSW and ACT government restrictions put in place in response to COVID-19.

If indeed our works provide some comfort to the poor, the hungry and the homeless, then during these periods of lockdown our Lords the poor and the sick did not receive that comfort. This sat ill with many of Knights, Dames and Chaplains of the Central Eastern Region, who were rightly distressed that they could not provide care for the poor and the sick at the exact time when it was most urgently needed.

### **Caring for the Homeless**

Thankfully, during the months of less severe lockdown in the first half of the year, we were able to distribute Coats for the Homeless, provide love and care through our Community Care Vans and have a chat and serve up a BBQ for some of the needier patients at St Vincent's Hospital Darlinghurst. A small team lead by Confrère Frank Testa continued to provide support to various families on the South Coast who had been badly hit by the pre-COVID-19 bushfires. For these opportunities to serve, we can be grateful.

### **Celebrating the Faith**

On the spiritual side, the first half of 2021 was very successful. Our new Half Day retreats were extremely popular and provided much needed religious instruction and spiritual guidance. New Knights and Dames joined our ranks, as did a number of new Chaplains. This bodes extremely well for our future and the future of our works.

The second half of 2021 proved far more challenging than the first.

We had planned to hold a gala black-tie dinner with Cardinal George Pell as the guest of honour and keynote speaker towards the end of June. Cardinal Pell holds the rank of Bailiff Grand Cross of Honour and Devotion in the Order of Malta.



This event would have been standing room only, as so many Catholics wished to meet and thank Cardinal Pell for all he has done for the Church and for manifesting his faith in Christ during his unjust persecution and white martyrdom – it would also have been the culmination event for our virtual National Assembly, including an Investiture Mass for new Members at St Mary's Cathedral. Sadly, the NSW Government locked down Sydney and everything had to be cancelled at short notice – and that was that.

### **Community Care Kitchen**

An additional result of the June lockdowns was that all our charitable works and faith activities in the Central Eastern Region immediately stopped. After a few months this situation became intolerable, as helping the poor and the sick is so essential to our Order. Accordingly, our Chaplain and the Parish Priest at Bondi, Fr Anthony Robbie (Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem), led a small team in planning and launching a Community Care Kitchen in the Parish Hall at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Bondi.

The Bondi Community Care Kitchen is

staffed by volunteers and offers a warm meal to the homeless, disadvantaged and lonely. It is a joint initiative of the Order of Malta and the parishioners of St Patrick's.

While the kitchen will initially operate once a week, the frequency of services is planned to expand if volunteers and funding permit – and customer demand compels us. It is expected that the kitchen will host approximately 50 guests at each service once it hits capacity.

### **Lourdes Day Mass**

Another highlight was that, despite the lockdowns, our annual Lourdes Day Mass at St Mary's Cathedral was able to be offered by our Archbishop Fisher (Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem), although no malades were able to be present due to COVID-19 precautions. Instead, the Mass was livestreamed to nursing homes, aged care residences and hospitals around Australia and globally. Ironically, more people were able to watch the Mass, although sadly less could participate in person. After the Mass we were able to distribute blessed Lourdes Water to various malades, which was warmly received.





### Protecting the Faith

2021 was also a grim year in the context of the second historical purpose of the Order of Malta – the defense of the Catholic faith. The NSW Parliament attempted to introduce a euthanasia bill to permit people to commit suicide with medical assistance, which is completely contrary to the teachings and dogmas of the Catholic faith. Many Knights and Dames personally got involved in the political process to attempt to stop this tragedy, even though their efforts may prove fruitless based on outcomes in other Australian jurisdictions.

### Investiture Mass

Thankfully, 2021 ended with light at the end of the tunnel. NSW government restrictions eased just enough for our Bondi Community Care Kitchen

to open in early December. We were able to offer an Investiture Mass mid-December, where six new Members were invested, six current Members deepened their commitment to the Order in taking the Promise to enter the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception, and three new Chaplains (including a Bishop) were presented with their Order of Malta Insignia.

Historically, the Church has grown in times of trial. We remain confident that the Central Eastern Region of the Order of Malta in Australia will do likewise and 2021 will prove, with hindsight, to have been a blessing in disguise. God willing, in 2022 and beyond, we hope to provide our Lords the Poor and the Sick with the care and love we could not provide in 2021 and which we owe to them. *Oremus!* ❖

*Despite lockdowns throughout 2021, during some of the lighter months members of the Central Eastern Region were able to celebrate their faith and do “hands-on” work in the community.*



## **South Eastern Region Hospitaller: Geoffrey Horgan QC KMG (Ob)**

**I**n 2021, the South-Eastern Region continued to adapt to operate under the ever-changing government restrictions implemented to combat the spread of COVID-19. Victoria experienced some of the strictest lockdowns in the world, and as a result adapting and rescheduling our activities to accommodate these fluctuating restrictions became 'business as usual'.

Despite these challenges, the region was still able to mark some milestones, serve our Lord's poor and sick and develop projects for the future, during this tumultuous year. The South Eastern Region were also able to take possession of our new boardroom in the new Caritas Christi facility in Kew.

### **Lourdes Mass celebrations**

Each year the region has a monthly Lourdes Masses programme in Victoria, whereby members visit Residential Aged Care Facilities to celebrate with the residents and distribute Lourdes water, rosary beads and prayer cards to those in attendance.

For a period in 2021, aged care facilities in Victoria were 'off-limits' to visitors due to the COVID restrictions in place, however when these eased members were able to resume the program and these were well attended. The feedback from the residents remains overwhelmingly positive and many articulated that they looked forward to the Mass being repeated.

Sadly our annual Mass at the cathedral in December had to be cancelled but plans for the 2022 Mass are already underway.

### **Eastern Palliative Care**

The Order of Malta, together with St Vincent's Hospital, is a key stakeholder in Eastern Palliative Care (EPC), an organisation providing important care to persons facing end of life.

EPC provides both terminally-ill clients and their families with medical and nursing services, psycho-social (social work, counselling, volunteers, music and massage therapy) and spiritual support. In addition to being a partner in the service, Order of Malta members continue to volunteer for

the Biography Program – an initiative that gives each client the opportunity to be seen, to be heard and to be valued.

In July 2021, EPC held its Run Melbourne event to raise funds for its palliative care work. Some \$17,700 were raised. Of this amount, the largest contribution by far, at over \$7,900, came from donations from members of the Order of Malta and their friends – a wonderful effort. A big thanks is extended to Consouer Lilian Antonelli for organising the Order's fundraising effort. A thanks also to Consouer Alicia Deak and Confrère Tim Gorton, who ran the course.

### **15 years of outstanding service – Confrère Stuart Rowland retires from EPC**

The region would like to acknowledge Confrère Stuart Rowland KMG who retired from Eastern Palliative Care (EPC) in 2021, having completed 15 years as one of the South East Region (SER)'s members of the EPC Association and as member of EPC's Committee of Management.

Stuart provided invaluable service to EPC in a number of vital governance capacities over the years. He faithfully served as Chair of its Ethics Committee, judiciously steering EPC's ethical discernment and decision-making. The Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) legislation in Victoria was a particularly demanding challenge, to which Stuart gave very generously of his time and expertise. Both the EPC Ethics Committee and the Clinical Governance Committee (chaired by Confrère David Kissane AC KMG(Ob)) gave very careful consideration to the full range of issues involved with VAD. Consequently, EPC confidently articulated a position of not being involved in the processes of VAD, but of not abandoning our clients and continuing to provide specialist community palliative care to them. The VAD legislation prompted an updating of EPC's Code of Ethics to which Stuart also contributed significantly.

In addition, Stuart served on EPC's Building Committee, providing helpful advice on matters pertaining to property

leases and, most recently, EPC's involvement in the major redevelopment of Caritas Christi Hospice, Kew. The redevelopment is currently nearing completion and both EPC and SER will soon be moving into their new premises there.

EPC continues to grow and to thrive. It now provides care to 500 – 550 clients at any time in its community-based palliative care program. Stuart has played a most valuable role in EPC's development and growth. Heartfelt thanks to you, Confrère Stuart.

### **Sir James Gobbo, AC, CVO, KGCSG – Requiescat In Pace**

Whilst an obituary for Sir James has been included in this publication, the passing of this beloved, respected, and influential member cannot go without mention.

Not enough can be said about Sir James's involvement in the Order and all things associated with the Catholic faith and the service to the poor and the sick; a pious and virtuous man who leaves behind a wonderful legacy. His hands on approach to our charitable activities and dedication to his spirituality was an example to us all. He will be greatly missed.

### **ACU and Order of Malta to partner with community for the common good**

In 2021 Australian Catholic University (ACU) and the Order of Malta signed a memorandum of understanding that details partnering on a range of life-changing engagement initiatives that work with groups who experience disadvantage and marginalisation.

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

Order of Malta volunteers will also have the opportunity to participate in ACU-led community engagement initiatives. The Order of Malta and ACU are planning to collaborate





on a co-led community hub that connects ACU staff, students, and Order of Malta members to engagement where it is most needed.

The MOU sets the framework for co-supporting The Order of Malta and ACU's 'missions-in-action'. By combining the efforts, enthusiasm and expertise of our two organisations there is a wonderful opportunity to provide sustainable initiatives and emergency response activities that will make a tangible difference to the lives of those in need.

### Showing care to the homeless – Coats, Care Packs and Compassion

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

The new Community Care van has also greatly benefitted the service allowing our distribution teams to assist more people, in more locations.

Whilst during periods of lockdown, accommodation was found for rough-sleepers, once restrictions eased numbers of homeless in Melbourne came back with large numbers congregating together where they could find care.

Every interaction with the homeless is unique and so are the stories they share of how they find themselves alone and without shelter. One volunteer shared an experience with a Coats recipient of a coat who swapped out a threadbare edition he had received from members over two years ago that was a vital part of his sleeping plan. He relied on our design to protect him from the cold and wet during all this period. The Coats for the Homeless project continues to be a core activity for the region.

### World Day of the Poor 2021

It was an unusually cold November day in Melbourne for the fifth World Day of the Poor with a top temperature of 15 degrees Celsius, so members of the South Eastern region had the opportunity to do a 'Coats for the Homeless' run as well as extra special care packs that included flavoured milk and protein/energy bars to mark this day special.

This was the first opportunity one of our new members to participate in our homeless outreach due to covid lockdown restrictions of recent times.

### 2021 National Assembly

"Companions on a Journey" was the theme of the Australian Association's 2021 National Assembly.

While members in Melbourne hosted the AGM and Conference, COVID-19 restrictions meant that not all members were able to attend in person. Thankfully, with the use of technology, members across the Asia Pacific region were able to attend remotely and contribute to the strategic plan.

Most importantly, seven new members were welcomed at Investiture Masses in Victoria and the Promise of Obedience was taken by six members. A gala dinner followed with guest speaker being Ms Peta Credlin, in lieu of Sir Peter Cosgrove who days before suffered an injury.

### First Friday Vigil Masses

When restrictions allowed, the first Friday vigil Masses have continued. Thanks to Consouer Tanya Murphy's efforts, we established a new venue at the Carmelite Monastery in Kew.

We think it important for members of the Order to meet regularly and an informal dinner afterwards at a local venue is always well attended. ✠

*Members in the Southern Eastern Region were active in the Coats for the Homeless program, which was especially helpful during the colder months of the winter.*



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

**P**ope Francis encouraged the faithful to be hope, amid the 'darkness' of COVID-19 during his 2021 Easter vigil Homily in St. Peter's Basilica:

"In these dark months of the pandemic, let us listen to the risen Lord as he invites us to begin anew and never lose hope. It is always possible to begin anew, because there is a new life that God can awaken in us in spite of all,"

The 2021 Southern Central Annual report resonates this hope and joy in the Risen Lord.

### **Member News**

We acknowledge the contribution of our Regional Chaplains Monsignor Kevin Long and Fr Allan Winter who provided spiritual leadership and guidance to members throughout 2021. Our love and blessings are also extended to Monsignor Robert Aitken in his retirement.

### **Treasurer Andrew Evans**

South Australian Treasurer Confrère Andrew Evans received acknowledgement for his services to the Order with a certificate of commendation from the Commonwealth Bank, Not for Profit Treasurer's Awards. While Andrew himself seeks no recognition for his work, this award affirms his service and provides public recognition of the work of the Order in Australia. We congratulate Andrew and all who serve the Order in the spirit of humility and service.

### **Rest In Peace**

#### **Confrère Giorgio Marcuzzi**

Confrère Giorgio Marcuzzi passed away on 2 June 2021. We remember our Confrère for his dedication and service to Order and extend our condolences to wife Corinne, daughter Adrienne and son-in-law Richard

#### **Archbishop Philip Wilson (pictured)**

The Order of Malta's Principal Chaplain, Emeritus Archbishop Philip Wilson, was called to God on 17 January 2021. He performed his duties as our Principal Chaplain in the Order of Malta with energy,



grace, distinction and respect. Our South Australian Members especially mourn the loss of our Archbishop, Confrère and friend. His Grace opened his house to members of the Order and our monthly meetings were held in the Archbishop's House.

The vigil and funeral were held on 2-3 February 2021 and attended by our National President and South Australian members.

In John 13:15 we are reminded: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." Archbishop Wilson was an outstanding man of God whose life was dedicated to the service of others.

### **Snapshot 2020 Events:**

In 2021 our "hands on" work with the sick and poor was impeded by COVID-19. Visits to the Mary Potter Hospice and Adelaide Day Centre for the Homeless were restricted. Other significant events included:

#### **Annual Retreat**

Our Annual Ignatian retreat at Seven hill was an intimate gathering (due to COVID-19) and attended by Confrères Ian Leitch, Greg Crafter and I. Consoeur Mary Kennedy remains the inspiration in

planning retreats for members in SA. Our aim post COVID-19 is to open the retreat to members nationally. The retreat offers a unique sacred space and time exclusively dedicated to prayer and contemplation.

#### **Lourdes Mass**

Our Lady of Lourdes World Day of the Sick Mass and Anointing of the Sick was held on Thursday 11 February 2021 at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral. Consoeurs Gabrielle Waters and Mary Kennedy, and Confrères Greg Crafter, Tony Smith, Ian Leitch and I attended the and distributed Lourdes Water and Order brochures after Mass.

#### **Marian Procession**

It was uplifting for members of the Order to lead 800 members of the Catholic Church in South Australia for the 72nd Annual Marian Procession held at the Adelaide Showgrounds on 16 May. The Rosary, recited in five different languages (English, Bari, Hungarian, Tetum, and Spanish), recognised the diversity of our Catholic Church.

#### **Care Packs**

Care Packs for the Homeless in Adelaide were distributed by members throughout 2021. The packs included toothbrushes, socks, facemasks and wipes, as well as Christmas bakery items.

Confrère Tony Smith and wife Helen celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary by distributing 36 beautifully home cooked Christmas cakes to Adelaide's homeless.

#### **Western Australia**


The Order in Western Australia has continued its involvement in sponsoring the Goody Bioethics Prize. The purpose of the prize is to recognise a student enrolled in the Doctor of Medicine program in the School of Medicine at the University of Notre Dame Australia, Fremantle whose research contributes to a deeper understanding of contemporary Catholic Church teaching. We thank WA Confrère Michael Shanahan for his continued leadership of this project.



## Coats for the Homeless

In Perth our members distributed over 300 coats for the homeless across the vast Western Australian region, under the guidance of Confrère Michael Shanahan. Confrère Phil Wyld and wife Carol coordinated the distribution of 450 coats in South Australia.

## Conclusion

I thank my God that the members of our Order resonate so authentically to the call of the Gospel and to the Order's founding principles, *Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum*: nurturing, witnessing, and protecting the faith; and serving the poor and the sick. 

*Members of the Central Southern Region continue to nurture, witness and protect the faith, serving the poor and the sick.*







## **Northern Central Region Hospitaller: Sean Parnell- KMG (Ob)**

**N**otwithstanding the attempts by COVID-19 to disrupt our work this year, we have been remarkably successful in undertaking some works, albeit on a reduced scale working with the difficulties in connecting with the poor with face to face restrictions.

### **Serving Those in need in Central Australia, the Living Heart of the Nation**

50 Coats and 200 blankets were distributed in Central Australia mostly to Arrernte people who are very grateful. Coats were distributed to the people living at Santa Teresa, Amoonguna, and many older people living in and transiting in Alice Springs. The distribution of the warm clothing was greeted with joyful expressions wherever we went and was most appreciated.

The Alice Springs work has included visits to town camps, communities and people's homes – outreach to old people particularly including dialysis patients, distribution of coats, blankets, rosary bead packs, Lourdes Holy Water. We have also assisted in distributing coats to outstation communities especially those northeast and northwest of Alice Springs, where those receiving the coats were also very grateful. This year we were most fortunate to have a pallet of blankets delivered to the presbytery in Alice Springs for distribution by a generous member of the



order and the people were most appreciative of this wonderful gift.

While in the centre we were able to undertake a number of visits to the Catholic community of Santa teresa to explore the feasibility of establishing a work of the Order there to assist the Catholic population. We undertook several meetings with various people from the area and in Alice Springs and have obtained funding from the Order

to undertake a feasibility study by a local consultant to firm up our proposal for a flexible aged care facility within Santa Teresa itself. Preliminary discussions with the Diocese have been positive and The Bishop is supportive of the direction of the endeavour. This is particularly important for Santa Teresa as the level of poverty that surrounds people in Central Australia, and issues people face in relation to chronic diseases, overcrowded living conditions and lack of basic resources and appropriate accommodation for many elderly people on dialysis, are major obstacles that people are overcoming on a daily basis.

The work that we are exploring would be a concrete example of the mission *Obsequium Pauperum* and in that sense will also serve these people and meet their long term needs and aspirations.

### **Serving the Poor and Homeless.**

For the World Day of the Poor our region prepared some meals for the homeless at various locations around the foreshore of Darwin. This was a resounding success for our Order and the people we encountered were both grateful and joyful for our time and gifts.







We were also fortunate enough during the year to host a visit from our President James Douglas KHD and his wife Margaret. We were able to meet with Bishop Charles Gauci and discuss our works in the region and also show him around those in need in the area, while also delivering some much-appreciated packages and everyday essentials to those living rough and in the long grass. Our Magistral Chaplain Fr Malcolm Fyfe VG MSC also hosted a meal, some reflection and Mass at his residence at the “ranch” for which we were very grateful.

Additionally, the members of the region continued our assistance with feeding the poor once COVID-19 restrictions had been eased by the preparation and distribution of meals on a regular basis with the Missionaries of Charity here in Darwin.

We undertook a trial run of undertaking this work on our own with a small group here in the Territory and a small handful of volunteers. We are confident that in this coming year we will be able to distribute these meals to those in need on our own now without impinging on the work of the Missionaries of charity but complimentary to the great work they do. We are fortunate that by this example all our members will have had the opportunity to undertake “hands on” work with our Lords the sick and poor. We are as always reaching out and open to new ideas and new ways to serve the poor in our region.

### Advocacy Work

Members of the Order, principally Confrère Carlo and Consoeur Maria Randazzo, continue their effective advocacy work helping those trying to navigate the bureaucratic maze of government

regulations, principally with those having limited understanding of the system and of the English language. These efforts have of late involved assisting Timorese migrants to apply for documents and helping them navigate the sometimes convoluted legal procedures.

### Daly River Visit June 2021

A small group of our members led by Consoeurs Dr Frances Booth AM and Dr Maria Randazzo attended The Old Catholic Mission of Daly River, two hours south of Darwin to visit St Francis Catholic Primary School there and drop off some educational items that they had donated to the school there. While in the community they were also able to distribute some blankets, pillows and socks for those in need, which was once again greatly appreciated by all those we served.

A special thanks to Consoeur Dr Frances Booth for her work in organising and distributing the book titled “God speaks to his children” among primary school students in the Territory. This is a book developed as an aid to the Church in need specifically for children. She has thus far delivered 2,400 of the wonderful books and they have been gratefully received by all those who have been blessed with them.

We continue to gather together as an Order to meet and engender that certain sense of community within the Order’s members here in the Territory. These meetings are accompanied by a period of spiritual guidance and prayer at each meeting led by our Chaplain. It is an important part of the life of the Order here in the Territory and is an opportunity for the Order to gather together in community and prayer. ❖

*Clockwise from opposite page: Feeding the homeless on the foreshore; Delivering coats for the winter at Santa Teresa with local Leader Philip Alice; visiting a classroom; President’s visit in May 2021; Ongoing charity outreach work.*





**Korea Chair:  
Silvano Youngmaan Park KMG**

**F**ounded on 15 April 2015, Order of Malta Korea (OMK) welcomed its sixth year, now a community of over 330 volunteers (32 per cent increase on last year), with 16 invested members (including two chaplains) and one aspirant. Silvano Yongmaan Park, now in his second term, has been leading the works of the Order as the founding President.

With the continued COVID-19 crisis, which certainly made it more challenging to carry out the services for those who need them now more than ever, we focused on maintaining our regular services as steadily and consistently as possible. There are three projects running on a regular basis, including 'Francisco's Neighbors' where we dedicate two services on a weekly basis to ensure that the seniors we serve do not run out of proper meal.

**Francisco's Neighbors**

Together with our volunteers, we cook and deliver four sets of side dishes to 175 senior residents in Changsin-dong, twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays since July 2020. We served nearly 14,000 sets through 109 services with 1,465 volunteers (an average of 13 volunteers per service) in 2021.

In July 2021, we provided a dental service for the first time for the seniors with no or limited access to dental check-up. A total 31 patients were served by seven dentists who worked as medical volunteers together with our volunteers.

**Bread for Weekend**

This service, commenced in January 2019 and continues running. It now involves us helping to bake the bread too. A total



320 bread items are baked on Wednesdays and delivered to Francisco's Neighbors for







distribution on Thursdays. Over 13,000 bread items have been baked and served through 44 services with 188 volunteers (an average 4 volunteers per service) in 2021.

**Free Meal for Seniors**

We were unable to cook and serve free lunch in 2021 due to COVID-19. However, we were able to continue to serve a bag filled with packaged food and fresh fruits on a weekly basis to the seniors at Myung Hwi Won. We visited an average of 120 seniors weekly on Fridays, serving over 2,500 meal bags through 22 services with 99 volunteers (an average 4.5 volunteers per service) in 2021.

**Supporting a Migrant Worker**

While our focus remains on addressing critical urban poverty in the city of Seoul, we spontaneously helped a migrant worker from the Philippines this year, enabling her to be treated with emergency heart surgery with a donation of KRW20,000,000 (AUD29,000).

OMK is dedicated to serving the poor and the sick by continuing the projects that are globally consistent and locally relevant. To do so, we will be addressing the most neglected forms of urban poverty in the city of Seoul, further cultivating our OMK volunteer community and pursuing more responsibly to needs when expanding our regular projects in 2022.

H.E. Cardinal Andrew Yeom consecrated the Francisco's Neighbours centre on 23 November 2020.



**Kimchi project**

The Kimchi project involves serving Kimchi to 230 neighbours who cannot afford to cook nor buy this most basic side dish for Koreans. November is a typical Kimchi season where families often cook a whole year's worth of Kimchi. OMK managed to cook Kimchi for the Sung Woo Hoe senior centre, and also delivered donated Kimchi to some of the slum residents.

**OMK Bible Study**

The members and candidates of the Order of Malta Korea attended a bible study program throughout the year, led by Fr Phillippe Youngho Park, who also led previous spiritual retreats for OMK. The group gathers bi-weekly, every month, unless interrupted by COVID-19 restrictions, to help members deepen their faith and study the true meaning of God's words. ✝

*Silvano Yongmaan Park KMG is the founding President of the Order of Malta Korea (OMK). In 2021, OMK welcomed its sixth year, now a community of more than 330 volunteers, an impressive 32 per cent increase on the year prior, with 16 invested members, including two chaplains and one aspirant.*



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

**I**n 2021, the Order of Malta Thailand expanded with the approvals of three new members as Knights and Dames Magistral Grace: Dr. Elma Muangkroot, Dr. Piyada Wattanasan, the newly elected Chancellor of Order of Malta Thailand, and Mr. Tanon Varaya. With the addition of three new Candidates, Mr. Wolfgang Bertelsmeier, Mrs. Maria Felisa Sida Charungjitpracharom, and Mrs. Maria Chintana Komindr, Order of Malta Thailand grew to a total of 29. This includes a Chaplain, 18 Thai and two international members, three Candidates, one staff, and four full time volunteers. In addition, we have recruited 50 young volunteers to join our activities.

Order of Malta Thailand was also endowed with a grant from the Global Fund for Forgotten People to support our “Care for the Elderly Project” which began with wheelchair distribution to the needy elderly in rural areas of various dioceses.

We were challenged throughout 2021 with the third and fourth waves of COVID-19 restricting movements. Nevertheless, we remained committed to serve the sick and the poor and those affected by the pandemic by organising

“hands-on” activities whenever the opportunity arose or work with social organisations of the Church in Thailand as an alternative to reach out to the needy.

**Spiritual Activities**

Our Magistral Chaplain, Rev. Fr. Carlo Velardo SBD regularly deepened our spirituality with his daily distribution “Lectio Divina”, Eucharistic Celebrations, and opening prayers and spiritual formation sessions in every regular meeting.

On 28 November 2021, members and volunteers attended an Annual Retreat at the Salesian Provincial Center Bangkok. The retreat started with Fr. Carlo celebrating a special Mass for the World Day of the Poor, followed by the morning session “Jesus, in the desert, I will Speak to Your Heart” and a spiritual talk, “Spiritual Exercises”. In the afternoon, Fr. Carlo discussed the spiritual similarities among the differences between Catholicism and other Christian faiths.

**Hospitaller Projects and Humanitarian Activities Highlights**

**Wheelchairs**

Order of Malta Thailand donated wheelchairs twice in 2021. This year, donations were



targeted for the extremely poor and handicapped elderly in rural parishes. The first round was in June 2021 with a donation of 30 wheelchairs. A second round, sponsored by the Global Fund for Forgotten People, was made during December 2021 with a donation of 30 wheelchairs. Fourteen of these were for patients of the Camillian Social Center Prachinburi, an elderly home for destitute/abandoned elderly.

**Winter Blanket**

Due to the worsening winter conditions together with the economic impact from two waves of COVID-19 in 2021, there were even more people in need of blankets. Members came together and raised funds for the donation of 4,000 blankets for the destitute in rural areas.

**St. John’s Day**

St. John’s Day in June 2021 came during the height of the third wave of COVID-19 in Thailand. We were not able to visit communities. Nevertheless, on 2 June 2021 our President, Dr. Virachanee Phromsunton along with members visited Holy Redeemer Church and donated 100,000 Bahts (AUD3,400) for slum children taking refuge from COVID-19 at the church, and on the same day, visited the Camillian Hospital to donate another 100,000 Bahts (AUD3,400) for elderly patients at the Camillian Social Center Prachinburi

On 29 June, Magistral Chaplain Fr. Carlo







*Opposite page: Distributing wheelchairs.  
From far left: St John's Day with Fr Carlo Velardo; On the World Day of the Poor 2021.*

Velardo with members distributed dried foods for the poor at Holy Redeemer Church.

### **World Day of the Poor**

On the occasion of the Day of the Poor, members distributed food and sundries to 60 elderlies from the slum communities around Holy Redeemer Church on 21 November 2021

### **Christmas**

On 13 December 2021, members of the Order of Malta Thailand visited 140 hill tribe children at Comunita Incontro to give toys, clinical masks, alcohol gel, dried foods, and donated funds. On the same day, they paid a visit to 48 elderly patients at the St Louis Elderly Center Lamsai to give milk, dried foods, adult pampers, alcohol gel, detergents, any money which were in great need by the center.

On 19 December, members went to Holy Redeemer Church to meet 50 elderly residents from surrounding slums and gave dried foods as well as personal hygiene items.

Responding to an appeal from the Fr. Ray foundation, the center for abandoned orphans and handicapped youth, members raised a special Christmas donation fund for Christmas gifts for the children.

### **COVID-19 Relief**

The impact of the third wave of COVID-19 in Thailand has brought more hardship to the poor and disadvantaged while reaching

out to them was also limited. Nevertheless, members of Order of Malta Thailand took actions to give help through available avenues. Below are some highlights of the COVID-19 activities in 2021:

### **Helping the Catholic Social Communications of Thailand to continue to operate during the COVID-19 crisis**

In February 2021, H.E. Bishop Prathan Sridarunsil, the Bishop in charge of Catholic Social Communications appealed to the Order of Malta Thailand to help the Catholic Social Communications of Thailand (CSCT), the national Catholic Communications bureau of the Bishops Conference of Thailand, due to their insufficient operating income from the loss of sponsorship during the COVID-19 crisis and was at risk of terminating some of their evangelical programs. In the spirit of *Tuitio Fidei*, The Order of Malta responded by raising funds from each member to help for a period of 10 months.

### **Wheelchair and food distribution at a remote village in Nakhon Ratchasima**

On 14 February 2021, Confrère Adrian Cardona and volunteers visited a remote village in Nakhon Ratchasima and donated two wheelchairs for the elderly and food items for the residents. He also paid a special visit to an 89-year-old blind woman living alone.

### **Food for Klong Teoy slum residents**

On 17 May 2021, Consoeur Chavali

Osathanugrah visited the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Sisters Bangkok and donated food items on behalf of members for Klong Teoy Slum residents

### **Helping the needy at the Diocese of Chiang Mai**

In June 2021 Order of Malta Thailand responded to the appeal to H.E. Bishop Vira Arprondratana, Bishop of the Diocese of Chiangmai, to help needy residents in remote parishes by raising 65,000 Bahts (2,600 AUD) per month for donations for a duration of six months.

### **Looking Ahead**

2022 will be an important year for the Order of Malta Thailand where we will be hosting the 11th APC and the Investiture Ceremony in October, registering our delegation as a legal entity in Thailand, launching the Order of Malta Thailand website, and recruiting more members and volunteers.

From our commitments to our charism, we continue to enrich our spiritual formation program to deepen further our spiritual life and commitment to *Tuitio Fidei*. In addition, as the government is gradually relaxing many restrictions while they downgrade COVID-19 from a pandemic to an endemic, we will be able to carry out “hands-on” projects and activities as well as to fully implement the “Elderly Care Project” sponsored by the Global Fund for Forgotten People. 🇹🇭



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

**E**arly in the year the Confrère Bevan Killick KMG was appointed as New Zealand Hospitaller succeeding Confrère Greg Coyle who retired from the position. Our existence here is due to much hard work of many members, but it is also fragile as we continue to establish.

At the close of 2021, our membership status is as follows:

- Auckland – one candidate, one retired member.
- Wellington – four members, one candidate, one chaplain in preparation, two retired members.
- Christchurch – four members, one chaplain in preparation, five aspirants, one member from The Subpriory of Our Lady of Philermos (Western Association USA).

### **Spiritual Activities**

#### **Chrism Mass and Anzac Day Services**

New Zealand members were encouraged to attend their respective Diocese Chrism Mass as a group during Easter Week and Anzac Day Services.

In Christchurch the Chrism Mass was held in the Cathedral (or Pro Cathedral in Christchurch) during Holy Week. This was a significant part of our preparation in Christchurch when our group was established. This tradition continues.

The Christchurch members attended the Anzac Day (a Sunday this year) Solemn Mass at the Pro Cathedral.

#### **Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist – 24 June 2021**

On the feast day of the nativity of our patron St John the Baptist, a box of Coats for the Homeless was presented to Christchurch Central Police Station. The coats were used for very vulnerable people on the streets of Christchurch of those being released back into the community with insufficient clothing. Under consideration are the supply of shoes for the homeless and a drug and alcohol detox facility for the city.

At the midday Mass at the Christchurch Pro Cathedral the Order was acknowledged



and members of the Australian and American Associations of the Order of Malta were present and exchanged “Happy Feast Day” greetings at the conclusion of Mass. I also received report from Consoeur Abina Pope who celebrated Feast Day in Greymouth on the West Coast of the South Island – a new frontier for the Order!

#### **Malta Timaru Retreat – 10 - 12 September 2021**

Our retreat was held at Sacred Heart Church, Timaru (pictured right) and the adjoining Sisters of Mercy Convent from Friday 10 September until Sunday 12 September. We had good attendance from South Island based members and aspirants. North Island and Australian Members were encouraged to attend but were unable to attend due to other commitments or COVID travel restrictions. The retreat was led by Consoeur Abina Pope (Director of Religious Studies, John Paul II High School, Greymouth) with sacramental aspects provided by the Parish Priest and Order of Malta Chaplain Designate Fr Chris Friel.

A video call was held with Australian Association President the Hon James Douglas.

### **Building Relationships**

#### **Joining the Venerable Order of St John Celebrations**

Hospitaller Confrère Bevan Killick and Confrère Belfiore Bologna joined the NZ Chancellor of the Most Venerable Order of St John, Mr John Whitehead CNZM KStJ in celebrating 136 years of The Venerable Order of St John in New Zealand on 2 May 2021 at All Souls Church in Merivale Christchurch, the site where the Venerable Order was established in New Zealand.

#### **Afghani Dinner with Abbas Nazari**

On Thursday 7 October, the Feast of the Battle of Lepanto, the South Island based members of the Order attended a dinner with Abbas Nazari. Escaping from Taliban persecution, Abbas Nazari’s parents fled their country in 2001 to find a safe place in which to bring up their children. Their six-month journey searching for asylum culminated in being crammed onto a boat with 426 other asylum seekers.

It was moving to meet and enjoy Afghani cuisine with our Muslim brothers on this significant occasion and celebrate the successful refugee asylum seekers have enjoyed in Aotearoa New Zealand. New





Zealand can do more for refugees as our refugee quota even lags behind Australia. We can all reflect on “Who is our neighbour?” and whether we see Christ in the vulnerable, the sick and the poor. Following an event on Friday 12 November with Abbas Nazari, former Prime Minister Rt Hon Helen Clark ONZ and former Immigration Minister (at the time of the Tampa situation), now Mayor of Christchurch, Hon Lianne Dalziel, we worked on a proposal for the New Zealand Government to resettle Afghanis with relatives in New Zealand or who assisted NZDF personnel in country.

**The Feast of Saint Pope John Paul II**

The Feast of Saint Pope John Paul II was celebrated with gusto at John Paul II High School in Greymouth, on the West Coast of New Zealand’s South Island.

As the school’s Director of Religious Studies is Consoeur Abina Pope (who is both Polish and a Pope), it was a case of all things Polish! The school celebrated with red and white jelly cups for all students and traditional pierogi for staff morning tea.

The Polish Ambassador His Excellency Zbigniew Gniatkowskiwas, albeit being unable to attend due to COVID-19 restrictions, presented the school with the Totus Tuus Cup (Totus Tuus – “All yours” – being the motto of St Pope John Paul II). The Totus Tuus Cup will be presented annually to a student who lives



out the motto.

The Presidential Chair used by St Pope John Paul II at the Mass at Lancaster Park in Christchurch during his 1986 visit to New Zealand was taken over the Southern Alps to Greymouth for the celebrations.

**Our Community Life: Christmas Family Picnic**

For the second year in a row (therefore now a tradition), the Gregorini family hosted the Order of Malta Christmas Family BBQ. As the weather did not look like it was going to be kind and with the opinion of a magnificent wood fired pizza oven, we took the indoor option. As it happened the weather was kind anyway. ❄️

*Opposite page: Confrère Belfiore Bologna once again in the kitchen! Belissimo!*

*Top right: Confrère Belfiore Bologna, The NZ Chancellor of the Most Venerable Order of St John, Mr John Whitehead CNZM KStJ and the Hospitaller Confrère Bevan Killick.*

*Below: The Malta Timaru Retreat was held at Sacred Heart Church.*







# HEARTY HOME FOR THOSE IN NEED

**O**ur Community Care Kitchen opened on 1 December 2021 in Bondi NSW with a compelling concept. Anyone in need may just turn up and be generously provided with a sit-down, hearty, home-cooked dinner topped off with dessert and hot beverages.



Volunteers not only serve but lend their ears to whoever wants to tell their stories, or simply to chat. Meals such as Mediterranean Braised Chicken, Lasagna, and Poulet au Riz are prepared by volunteers in their home kitchen.

Bondi, an iconic name known all over the world representing Australia's reputation for a rich beach side lifestyle, is an unlikely place for a "soup kitchen". Yet, with rising cost of living and mental illness, basic hostel accommodation for people on disability pension sit with expensive real estate.

Fr Anthony Robbie, Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem, and parish priest of St Anne's and St Patrick's had needy people knocking on his door looking for food frequently. His proposal for the Order of run a kitchen for the needy based in the parish hall of St Patrick's was immediately

and enthusiastically accepted by Confrère Dr Steve Christie, Regional Hospitaller of Central Eastern Region.

The kitchen operates every Wednesday evening in the parish hall. Fr Robbie is one of the regular volunteers, along with a pool of 20 members and non-members. On the opening day, no one turned up. With leaflet drops in Bondi and surrounding suburbs and word of mouth, there are now an average of 15-20 guests each Wednesday evening. A few have returned to the Church.

Regular guests now sit in the same spots, telling us that there is a growing sense of belonging. Guests like the fact we "spoil" them with kindness in attentive service; and especially in the generous manner with which we listen to their stories. David survived a double lightning strike as a teenager.





# COOKED MEALS



Alan said to one of the volunteers: “The meals are delicious; they are what we would eat at home when we were young. There is so much love shown to me that coming here is not just to fill my stomach, but more my heart.”

A rack of attractive and practical clothes and shoes is frequently restocked with donated items.

Guest would pick and take whatever they need.

This work is totally funded and managed by members with the valuable in person support of a chaplain whose love for the Order is obvious to all. We hope to eventually increase the service to several evenings a week and to broaden our offerings such as haircuts and personal grooming. ✝

*The Order of Malta's Community Care Kitchen opened on 1 December 2021 in Bondi NSW. The kitchen operates every Wednesday evening in the parish hall of St Patrick's.*

# Malteser INTERNATIONAL

An overview of the amazing work of the international humanitarian relief agency of the Order of Malta

**I**n 2021, Malteser International worked on more than 140 projects reaching people in need across 35 countries. The regional focus of its work was on the Middle East (\$54M program funding), Africa (\$30M program funding), Asia (\$20M program funding) and the Americas (\$11.8M program funding). Health care remains the largest sector of its work, accounting for more than half of the total program funding (50.31 per cent).

Here are a few snapshots of projects Malteser International is undertaking around the world, taken from its 2021 Annual Report.

## War in Ukraine

Quickly after the war commenced, thanks to the existing structures of the Order of Malta Relief Organisations in Eastern Europe and its strong networks, aid for the people on the run could be quickly set in motion. The first relief supplies reached Western Ukraine only a few days after the beginning of the war. Since then, help has been continuously rolling into the country. In the first three months after the beginning of the war, more than 3,700 tonnes of relief supplies from Germany alone were sent to Ukraine.

At the borders, the Order of Malta Relief

Organisations in Poland, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia set up contact points for the arriving people, provided medical care, further transport and accommodations for the refugees.

## Mobile Medical Units

The Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) project was established as a mobile health system for Syrian refugees and Lebanese affected by conflict in 2015. Since then, demand has only increased. Today, it includes a total of four mobile clinics, each located in the regions of Akkar (north), Baalbek-Hermel (northeast), Nabatieh, and Tyre (south). The Baalbek-Hermel MMU base is located in Ras Baalbek, in the Beqaa Valley about 120 kilometres from Beirut.

An impressive 28,000 people were served by the Mobile Medical Units in 2021 in the most remote regions of North and South Lebanon. In addition to mobile health care, Malteser International supports the development of local health structures in a four-year project. Part of the project is the modernisation of 11 health centres and the establishment of a training centre for medical staff in Beirut.

In addition to the Lebanon project, in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia, Malteser International also uses mobile units to bring medical aid to people in remote, hard-to-reach regions.

In Myanmar, India (as part of our COVID-19 aid) and Bangladesh, mobile teams visit patients at home, providing medical advice and health prevention.

After the outbreak of war in Ukraine, a mobile medical unit supported the care of refugees at the Ukrainian border.

## COVID-19 Support

The initial goal at the beginning of the pandemic was to continue vital relief programs despite lockdowns and restrictions, prevent the spread of the disease by supporting and strengthening health systems and water, sanitation and







hygiene (WASH), and alleviate the economic impact of the pandemic on the poorest and most vulnerable through social programs.

The goal today is already a step further. It includes developing global solutions and guidelines to combat the pandemic, adapting and implementing them while considering the respective local conditions, together with teams on the ground and partner organisations.

One example is the organisation's aid in Thailand. In the province of Mae Hong Son, in the north-west of the country, Malteser International supports refugees from neighbouring Myanmar in two camps. Up to 19,000 people are housed in cramped conditions – an ideal environment for the spread of the virus. However, except for a major outbreak in November 2021 that led to the temporary closure of both camps, the spread has been largely controlled thanks to strict measures, ranging from the usual hygiene efforts and an entry control for visitors and new arrivals, to the establishment of separate treatment centres for respiratory diseases as well as an isolation ward for COVID-19 cases.

### One Health

Epidemics must be fought and prevented where people, animals and the environment meet. A full 75 per cent of emerging infectious diseases originate from human contact with animals.

That is why Malteser International is increasingly focusing on the One Health approach to prevent and control so-called zoonoses – infectious diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans. In the DR Congo, a working group – including veterinarians, ecologists, environmentalists, agronomists, health


workers, hygiene and sanitation experts, teachers, and representatives of communities and civil society – concentrates on how greater collaboration can improve the detection and prevention of disease transmission between humans and animals.

The first results are immediately being incorporated into the project work of Malteser International: in the provinces of Bas Uélé and Ituri in the DR Congo, as well as in the prefecture of Mbomou in the Central African Republic, ongoing pandemic prevention programs have been expanded to include measures in the areas of animal health, environmental protection, food and nutrition security, and agriculture.

### Haiti

On 14 August 2021, another massive earthquake struck the Caribbean nation of Haiti. The Malteser International team, which has been working with local partner organisations in Haiti since 2010, was on the ground to help in the crisis region in the very first days.

When the earthquake struck, many medical facilities had been destroyed and there were many injured. Therefore, in the first emergency phase, Malteser International initially provided working medical facilities with consumables and medicines and supported particularly needy people such as women, elderly people and people with disabilities with the distribution of water, food, protective tarpaulins and cash.

Malteser International then focused more on education, access to clean drinking water, continued support for medical centres and cash distributions, and comprehensive psychological support for people in affected rural areas and school children 

*Throughout 2021 Malteser International worked on more than 140 projects reaching people in need across 35 countries. The regional focus of its work was on the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Americas. Health care remains the largest sector of its work, accounting for more than half of total program funding.*





# BLACK SUMMER

*Recapping two years of service*

Frank Testa KMG(Ob)



The summer of 2020 will forever remain etched in the memories of many of the people who reside on the south coast of NSW. Now colloquially known as the 'Black Summer' bushfires, many people watched in fear as the fires burnt towards their towns and homes. Fires that were described as a 'roaring train' and 'fireball' by the people who survived them. Locals described the fear that they felt watching the fires around the clock for days leading up to the destruction – hoping that they will turn from their homes and towns and move in an opposite direction. Then the terror that was the realisation that the fire was heading towards them, and that they then had very little time to get their valuables and belongings and leave their homes for safety. They had to decide, in some cases, in a matter of minutes what belongings they were going to take and what things they had to leave behind. Some were unable to evacuate livestock and family pets, and had no option but to destroy their fences and set their animals free, hoping that they would make their own way to safety.

The residents of Conjola Park NSW described their horror as the fires jumped the highway with ease and headed towards their secluded little town. Some of the ladies of the town told us of how they very quickly found themselves surrounded by the flames and had no way of escape other than to run down to the lake and dive into the water to save themselves. Many of the locals made their way out to the middle of the lake to the safety of an anchored pontoon. Weeks before, children played on this pontoon, jumping into the cool waters of the lake. Now this pontoon was their island refuge while they tried to escape the horror that was about to change their lives forever. Many described clinging to this pontoon, hearing the roar of the fire as it consumed their homes. They watched animals trying to escape the flames – kangaroos on fire hopping out of the burning bush and into the water to extinguish themselves. Snakes swimming past them to make it to the other side of the lake to safety. The air was hot



and dry, and the smoke was so thick that they couldn't see their hands in front of their faces. They couldn't breathe – all of the oxygen was consumed by the flames. As they held onto the pontoon, they immersed their heads into the cool water to keep their hair from burning. Embers of burning ash fell onto their hair, the tops of their heads, and any parts of them that were exposed. Many showed me the burns on the back of their hands, and described how grateful they were to have survived. They left the water to find 89 homes destroyed.

Houses were reduced to rubble. Many homes, having been built originally as weekenders, were made from timber. They didn't stand a chance. We saw solid rivers of metal that were once aluminium gutters and downpipes, and likewise solidified rivers of glass from windows that had melted in the extreme heat.

Others lost more than homes. Some told me of encounters with lifelong friends the day preceding the



*Opposite Page: A burnt vehicle on a property near Moruya. Many families lost not only their homes, but their vehicles, farming equipment, businesses and livestock. This page, from top: Confrère Frank Testa delivers a large Christmas hamper to a family of six in Mogo December 2021; Confrère Dunstan De Sousa (right) with Fr. George and his parishioners in Moruya after Sunday morning Mass.*





home and business, but then suffered the devastation of flooding in the months that followed that damaged their newly built home again.

### **Our Initial Response and Follow-up Service to Fire Victims**

The Order of Malta was quick to respond to the destruction on the South Coast, and to offer immediate assistance to the locals in the form of food and fuel vouchers for essentials that were needed to survive in the time directly after the fires, and then for ongoing support of the local population in the grieving and rebuilding in the months ahead.

We immediately contacted the local parish priests and community leaders. They directed us to some of the families that needed our support the most. Our initial team of four members made monthly visits to the South Coast offering assistance and support to those families who had suffered so greatly. We were grateful for the support of two other members from Canberra who joined us in Moruya and Bateman's bay.

During our monthly visits, we would call in on families who had to rebuild their lives and offer our friendly support and encouragement. This meant a lot to these families to know that someone outside of their community was willing to regularly travel up to five hours to visit them and check in on their welfare.

We were also involved in special projects

fire, then losing their friends in the chaos of the escape, only to find out the next day that they didn't make it to safety in time. The guilt that then followed, and the grief, not only of losing friends, but their homes, their belongings, their clothes, their food, their valuables, everything. Many were retirees. How does one start life again when you are in your seventies and now have nothing but the clothes that you are wearing? Where do you go to sleep that night? How do you feed and clothe your family?

An hour's drive further down the coast in the towns of Mogo and Broulee the fires had caused similar devastation. One family told us of how they had sold their home in the southern suburbs of Sydney to escape the rat race and raise their young family in a more simple way in the country. Their property in the bush was a fresh start. In the excitement of the move of selling their home, buying some land and building a new home, they

forgot to insure their new dwelling. The fire destroyed their house just as they got it to 'lock up' stage and were about to move in. They lost everything except each other. Young parents with four beautiful young children.

Twin brothers told us of how they lost their home as children in Victoria during the Ash Wednesday bushfires. Now older gentlemen, they moved to NSW to start again and were doing quite well in Broulee, until the Black Summer fires came through, destroying their home and property. Luckily they were insured – a lesson learnt from surviving the first bushfire that robbed their family of everything.

Another family that we met lost their home and their business located next door. They were grateful that they saved their animals and were able to start again in the same town with the insurance money and the help of charity organisations and government grants. Friends of theirs not only lost their





aimed at rebuilding communities such as providing the funds and volunteering our services through the Rising from the Ashes centre in Milton NSW. This ‘drop in centre’ that was run by Fr Michael Dyer and volunteers of the Milton-Ulladulla-Sussex Inlet Parish and the Order of Malta. It allowed for a welcoming and friendly space where traumatised locals could gather, tell their stories and heal. Craft and fun activities were run from this centre as a reason for groups to come together and initiate healing.

The Order of Malta quickly identified a specific need in the Conjola area – that of men’s mental health. Many women coming to the centre told of their concerns for their husbands and sons who attempted to defend their homes in the fires, and who were suffering the mental anguish of losing their homes and businesses, and viewed themselves as failures. The Order of Malta members coordinated a number of men’s mental health events that were well supported by the local community. Thirty men gathered in Milton for a men’s BBQ in November 2020 that was hosted by the Order of Malta, and a similar turn out came along to a men’s Mental Health dinner at the Conjola Bowling club in May 2021 where guest speakers, psychiatrist Dr. Tad Tietze and author Stuart O’Neill (‘Just One Reason’) addressed the audience from both a clinical and personal perspective of mental wellbeing and suicide. The night was also supported by the local mental health team who were present to make contact with the men of Conjola and offer their ongoing professional services if needed.

The Order of Malta team members regularly checked in for Masses at Bateman’s Bay Parish and Moruya Parish to the delight of respective parish

Priests Fr Martins Alonga and Fr George Azhakath and parishioners. We have developed many new friendships with the locals and now we can boast that we are honorary locals that belong to three additional parishes beside our own home parishes!

COVID-19 lockdowns temporarily halted our visits for some time through 2021, but not our enthusiasm for visiting our friends and families that we had been supporting. Christmas visits with hampers to our south coast families offered some Christmas cheer and some additional love and support at a time where the usual ‘happiness’ of the season was lacking due to the psychological and financial stresses of rebuilding.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Confrères Stephen Gatt, Daniel Kwok, Dunstan de Souza, Peter Evans, and Tom Walker for their enthusiasm towards this project – for their time, their financial support and commitment. I would also like to thank their respective families for releasing them for a weekend each month to participate in these visits. I would also like to thank our national Hospitaller John Murphy who was only a phone call away in offering any assistance, and National President James Douglas for his never-ending support of the project.

On a personal level, I particularly enjoyed our team’s camaraderie and fellowship over this time. The project allowed us to spend time with each other, not only in the good works of the Order, but in fraternal prayer and reflective discussions at both the retreat centre where we stayed in and during the long car rides together when we ‘hit the road’. Our project is now coming to an end, but it has ensured that the Order of Malta has made an everlasting impression in many lives and parishes on the South Coast of NSW. ❖

*Clockwise from opposite page: Supporting community members; what remains of a home in Conjola Park; (left to right) Confrères Frank Testa, Daniel Kwok, and Stephen Gatt hosting a fire affected family for dinner.*



ADDING TO YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

# Did You Know...

The House of the Knights of Rhodes:  
the first seat of the Order in Rome.



**T**he ancient building – overlooking Via dei Fori Imperiali and the Roman Forum – is the result of a stratification of several centuries. In the 9th Century, some Monks began the construction of a Church and a monastery dedicated to St Basil on the area of the Forum of Augustus: part of the old wall structures were reused in this occasion, together with those of a Roman insula (a city block).

In about 1230, the entire building was then incorporated into a property of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. When in 1310 the Order moved its main headquarters from the island of Cyprus to the island of Rhodes, its members began to be called the Knights of Rhodes. It is for this reason that their seat in Rome was then named the House

of the Knights of Rhodes, a name that it still retains today.

The renovations commissioned by Cardinal Marco Barbo, Prior of the Order in Rome, dating back to 1466, contributed to give the building the appearance we still see today. In fact, the wonderful five-arched loggia frescoed inside and attributed to Giuliano da Maiano, from which the Pope looked out for the blessing of the crowd, dates back to this period.

When in 1566 the Knights moved their Roman seat to the Aventine hill – in what is today the Magistral Villa – Pope Pius V entrusted the building to the Institute of the Dominican Sisters, whose purpose was to convert Jewish girls to Catholicism. The nuns carried out extended works on the structure, based on a project by Battista Arrigoni da Caravaggio, and renamed the

Church, dedicating it to the Annunziata.

The Sisters remained in this place until 1930, when the demolition of the convent was carried out for the opening of Via dei Fori Imperiali. After that, between 1940 and 1950, major restorations were started by the Municipality of Rome, which made it possible to recover the entire house, which was in 1946 granted back to the Order of Malta. Since then, the house of the Knights of Rhodes has been the seat of the Order of Malta's Italian Association. The building is also the operational headquarters of the Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps, which, with 4000 volunteers, has been working in the field of civil protection, social, health care, humanitarian and cooperation since 1970.

Inside, the Hall of Honor, the Byzantine Hall and the Sala della Loggetta, frescoed





and equipped with wooden ceilings. In the underground level of the building, it is possible to admire the Palatine Chapel, dedicated to St John the Baptist. Sunday Mass is celebrated in this Church for the Order's members in Rome and once or twice a year the investiture of the Grand Priory of Rome takes place. The part of the building that is breathtaking, however, is the loggia overlooking the Roman Forum and Piazza Venezia. ❖

*Since it was first constructed by Monks in the 9th Century, the modern House of the Knights of Rome is the results of impressive historical stratification.*

# Heraldry of the Order of Malta: ARMS & EMBLEMS



## The Order

The Order of Malta's arms display the eight-pointed Latin cross on a red oval field surrounded by a rosary and surmounted by the princely mantle and crown (as described in Article 6 of the Order's Constitutional Charter). It is the emblem of the Sovereign Order's Grand Magistracy and its Institutions: the Grand Priorities, Subpriorities, National Associations and Diplomatic Missions.



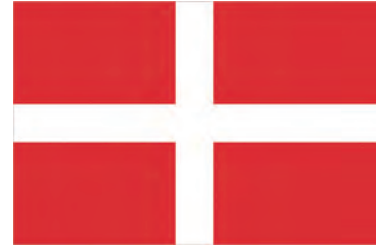
## The Grand Master

The arms of the Grand Master, Frà Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto are quartered with those of the Order. At 1 & 4, Gules, a cross Argent (for Saint John); 2 & 3, Azure, on a mount vert a square tower in perspective proper, the ports Sable, surmounted by a Latin cross between two mullets of six Argent. Behind the shield a Maltese cross interlaced with a golden Rosary, from which depends a white Maltese cross.



## Emblem

The emblem is the symbol of the Order of Malta's medical and humanitarian activities worldwide. It is a red shield with a white, eight-pointed cross (as described in Article 242 of the Order's Code).



## The State Flag

The red rectangular flag with the white Latin cross is the State flag of the Order of Malta. Called the flag of St John, it has been used since ancient times. Giacomo Bosio's "History of the Order" (1594) records that in 1130, Pope Innocent II had decreed that the "Religion in war should bear a standard with a white cross on a red field". Following Pope Alexander IV's Bull of 1259 permitting the Knights in war to wear a red mantle bearing a white cross, the Order began to make systematic use of the Latin cross as its emblem. In 1291, the Order left the Holy Land. The knightly standard was flown over their ships for the next six centuries. Today, the State flag flies over the Order's Magistral Palace in Rome and accompanies the Grand Master and members of the Sovereign Council on official visits.



## The Flag of the Order's Works

The red flag with eight-pointed white cross is the flag of the Order of Malta's works. The eight-pointed cross has been used in the Order as long as the Latin cross, and stems from the Order's ancient links with the Republic of Amalfi. Its present form dates back over 400 years; the first clear reference to an eight-pointed cross was its representation on the coins of Grand Master Frà Foulques de Villaret (1305-1319). This is the flag flown by the Order's Grand Priorities and Subpriorities, its 48 National Associations and 110 diplomatic missions around the world. It also flies over hospitals, medical centres, as well as wherever the Order of Malta's ambulance corps, foundations and specialised units operate.





# WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

Australian members reached out to mark the Fifth Day of the Poor







Since the first World Day of the Poor was celebrated on 19 November 2017, established by His Holiness Pope Francis, the occasion has become an important and sober reflection on the importance of reaching out and supporting the poor.

Last year's World Day of the Poor was no exception, as His Holiness Pope Francis reminded us on the day about the importance of inclusion.

"The poor are not people "outside" our communities, but brothers and sisters whose sufferings we should share, in an effort to alleviate their difficulties and marginalisation, restore their lost dignity and ensure their necessary social inclusion."

Pope Francis spoke these words on the Fifth Day of the Poor, which took place on Sunday 13 November 2021. In his address, he reminded followers of the inseparable link between Jesus, the poor and the proclamation of the Gospel.

"The poor, always and everywhere, evangelize us, because they enable us to discover in new ways the true face of the Father. They have much to teach us. Besides participating in the *sensus fidei*, they know the suffering Christ through their own sufferings. It is necessary that we all let ourselves be evangelized by them."

Members shared in this significant day by reaching out with deeds to support the poor.

In Melbourne, it was an unusually cold November day for the fifth World Day of the Poor with a top temperature of 15 degrees Celsius. Members of the South Eastern region had the opportunity to do a 'Coats for the Homeless' run as well as extra special care packs that included flavoured milk and protein/energy bars to mark this day as special.

This was the first opportunity for new member

Michael Murphy to participate in the Order's homeless outreach due to COVID lockdown restrictions.

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

In slightly warmer weather up in Brisbane, Order of Malta Members and volunteers gathered at the Emmanuel City Mission (ECM) to welcome people in need to the sanctuary. North Eastern Regional Hospitaller Danny Higgins and young Member Caroline Grogan led the volunteer team in offering a free and friendly breakfast, sausage sizzle lunch and special take home treats.

"I appreciate seeing the resilience of the human spirit in action," Caroline shared. "Where people come in after a rough night and we witness their tense demeanour soften as they are greeted with warmth, kindness and respect."

In the spirit of the day, a young woman seeking extra clothes was happy to receive more than she expected. Over 40 attendees shared the communal atmosphere, and the volunteers were spiritually nourished.

"It feels special to help at ECM and see the positive impact in people's lives," Alice reflected.

Kylie agreed, sharing that serving people in need is a mutually "enriching experience".

The sixth World Day of the Poor will take place on Sunday 13 November 2022. ❖

*The fifth World Day of the Poor was commemorated in Melbourne by handing out our Coats for the Homeless Program along with special care packs with flavoured milk and energy bars; and in Brisbane with a breakfast, sausage sizzle, and take-home treats.*

# Archbishop Mark Coleridge: GUARDING OUR CHARISM

*“I’ve always thought of myself as a Bishop as the voice of times past, the guardian of memory, but part of the guardianship of the charism... is to keep pushing the question, what does Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum mean today?”*

– The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge DD BA DSS - Archbishop of Brisbane



**D**uring a filmed interview with Confrère Hon Martin Daubney AM KMG on 17 December 2021, Principal Chaplain Archbishop Mark Coleridge calls the Order in Australia to become “something new while remaining absolutely faithful to its God-given charism”. He also reflects upon the genesis and vision of the Plenary Council in Australia in his role as President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

Captured below are some highlights from the interview which may be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUPrU7ekIfI>

## **Journey to Priesthood 1:47**

Reminiscing upon his family roots in Melbourne and Adelaide, and his ardour for cricket, His Grace recounts his academic foundation with the Christian Brothers, through Ross Trevor College, Adelaide and St Kevin’s College, Melbourne.

His passion for history, languages and literature led to exploring diplomacy through the University of Melbourne, before the calling of the Holy Spirit surfaced. Encountering dynamic young priests studying at the university “opened up” new insights into the Church and vocation. He decided to ‘give it a go’, and in time was ordained at the age of 25.

## **Surprises in the Lord’s Vineyard 8:27**

His mentor, Melbourne Archbishop Frank Little, guided him to study a licentiate in Sacred Scripture at the Biblical Institute in Rome. Further studies in Jerusalem and a doctorate in Rome led to teaching and then to his election as Master of the Theological College in Melbourne. “I had no imaginings of a life other than... teaching Scripture, writing... and being involved in academic administration.”

His diplomatic acumen led to the invitation from then Archbishop George Pell to serve in the Vatican’s Secretariat of State. There he served as a speech writer for St Pope John Paul II, entering into “the mind, heart and soul of... an extraordinary man, a Saint now”. An invitation from the Pope to serve as Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne followed. In 2006, he was appointed Archbishop of Canberra, and in 2012, he succeeded his old study friend from Rome, Archbishop John Bathersby, as the Archbishop of Brisbane in 2012.

“I often say, especially to seminarians, look, Jesus often surprises, but He never disappoints, and that has been the story of my life.”

## **The Order of Malta’s Mission 16:31**

During his time as Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, he was unexpectedly approached by the late Confrères Tom Hazell AO and Sir James Gobbo AC CVO to become a Magistral Chaplain Ad Honorem of the Order. Knowing little about the Order, His Grace was intrigued by the “enormous vigour” in the Order’s 900-year mission of defending the faith and serving the sick and poor.



“When you know what the Order does worldwide, you see it as something that is imminently worthy of support and is a perennially valid way of Catholic people living out their Baptism... that’s what it’s about, that’s what religious life is always about, a radical living out of the baptismal calling, and I’ve seen it in the Order of Malta.

Through the years, my involvement with the Order of Malta has expanded and deepened... a great enrichment. So, when I was eventually asked to succeed Archbishop Philip Wilson, God Rest Him, as the Principal Chaplain, I was very happy to.”

**The Order’s Lay Religious Spirituality 21:48**

Through a contemporary “sea-change”, the Order’s lay religious spirituality embodies an “extraordinary history of tenacity... an originality... and a capacity to adapt”. Amid local and international challenges and tensions, the Order again undergoes the process of “becoming something new while remaining absolutely faithful to its God-given charism”.

“As a lay religious order, we must discern, what does our mission mean in the 21st Century? How do we move beyond the cultural warfare model?” As Pope Francis advocates, “*Fratelli tutti*, we are all brothers and sisters... Christians... Muslims... everyone...”, how we bear witness to our faith “requires a great creativity and evangelical imagination... echoing the Holy Spirit”.

**The Vital Role of Chaplains 27:11**

During these complex times, His Grace illuminates the need for Chaplains of the Order to preserve the prophetic voice of priesthood in upholding our God-given identity. To harken Pope Francis’ ethos in safeguarding against the “besetting dangers of worldliness”.

He challenges all Chaplains to be “attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit working in the Church... and to echo what they have heard from the spirit, into the heart of the Order... to enable the Order to remain creatively and enduringly faithful to our God-given identity, summed up in our mission, *Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum*”.

**The Beginnings of the Plenary Council 33:10**

As President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Coleridge reflects on the genesis of the Plenary Council drawing on the vision of Archbishop Philip Wilson. He reflects vividly upon listening in person to Pope Francis’ address demystifying the gravitas of synodality.

“It was like a lightbulb moment... I just had this very strong sense that felt like the Holy Spirit, that now is the time for us to move towards something like a Plenary Council”. Working with a committee, Archbishop Coleridge’s proposal to the Australian Bishops Conference advocating a Plenary Council. It was overwhelmingly supported by the Conference.

**Listening and Discerning with the Holy Spirit 42:06**

During a time of crisis, the Plenary Council provides a canonical yet organic process to dialogue, listen and



discern, together. We must embrace “listening to each other in a new and deeper way, and also listening to the voices out there, the alienated voices, the marginalised voices, the hostile voices, listen to them all, in order to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit”.

**Laity is Important in the Church 55:50**

The profoundly ecclesial act of the Plenary Council encourages the participation of the laity to embrace the universal call to holiness and mission.

“The Order of Malta, at its best, is uniquely well poised to not only take its place within this new dynamic... but to provide leadership. Lay involvement is absolutely fundamental, and also lay leadership.”

Archbishop Coleridge calls us “to be as imaginative and as bold, not only in speaking, but in acting... that is what I hear the Holy Spirit saying to the whole Church and saying in a particular way to the Order of Malta, committed to *Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum*. ✠

*“An Hour with Principal Chaplain Archbishop Mark” was filmed by Adrian Dyer and directed by Joseph Grogan KMG on 17th December 2021 at the Episcopal Office of the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane. Anthony Gerada KMG (Ob) provided the music.*

Visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUPrU7ekIfI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUPrU7ekIfI)

*Clockwise from opposite page, Archbishop Coleridge with: President James Sholto Douglas KHD; His Holiness Pope Francis; and Justice Martin Daubney ACU Chancellor.*

# Timor-Leste OPENING OUR HEARTS

H.E. Ambassador Terence Tobin QC

After unavoidable delays and shutdowns for travel, the presentation of credentials by ambassadors to the President of Timor-Leste took place in a virtual ceremony at the presidential palace in Dili on 11 November 2021.

**A**fter unavoidable delays and shutdowns for travel, the presentation of credentials by ambassadors to the President of Timor-Leste took place in a virtual ceremony at the presidential palace in Dili on 11 November 2021. Over a dozen non-resident heads of mission were able to attend remotely from various centres around the world. This event is the final stage in the official recognition by the host government of ambassadors who have been nominated to head diplomatic missions there.

In the case of the Order of Malta, along with representatives from Israel, Bangladesh, Denmark and Azerbaijan, the occasion was an excellent opportunity to outline the work of the Order in Timor-Leste over the past decade. Ours is captured in this extract from my address at the presentation:

“In accordance with its role as a neutral, apolitical and independent presence dedicated to humanitarian works, the Order of Malta, in cooperation with the Government of Timor-Leste, has been able to play a part in advancing the health and wellbeing of the people through our medical clinic in Dili, through our maternal and infant welfare services, through the scholarship program for the poorest students, always working in partnership with local institutions – orphanages and schools, food programs and emergency relief – such as was delivered by our volunteers to some 20 families left homeless after the terrible rains over Easter.

For my part, Your Excellency, and speaking on behalf of the embassy I want to assure you that we are committed to continue working in harmony with the government and to inform the associates and friends of the Order in the Asia and Oceania regions of the great advances in health which the Democratic Republic has made since its independence and to encourage them in increasing their support to bring about further progress for the people in the decade of the 2020s.”

As Australian members of the Order would know, the clinic, which is next door to one of the poorest suburbs in the capital, provides free medical care for the local people with special emphasis on maternal, neo-natal and infancy health. Alastair Furnival was appointed to the role of Counsellor at the embassy by our Foreign Affairs Department in Rome. He has mapped out an outreach program which will enable a doctor, a nurse and an assistant to travel in an ambulance acquired by the Order to villages away from Dili which do not have any means for young mothers with babies, and for the ill and the elderly to get to local medical or nursing care. This will be a single step in bringing the clinic to them.

An equally important development in 2021 occurred during an exchange with the Grand Hospitaller at the Asia Pacific Conference which, because of the pandemic, was hosted online by the Hong Kong Association. He drew attention to the special needs of the people of Timor-Leste

and invited the other regional associations to support the work of the Australian Association in setting up local structures to work for the poor and the sick.

Before the conference, the embassy provided his office with a paper – The First 1000 Days – highlighting the devastating long-term health effects of malnutrition and poor sanitation, for mothers and their infants in the period from conception to age two, in Timor Leste. The paper was prepared by the embassy with expert input from Professor Michelle Campbell, Dr Robert Costa, Dr Cathy Costa from the Clinic Oversight Committee with the vital engagement of Malcolm Irving. The Grand Hospitaller took the opportunity to recommend our work to a large regional ‘gathering’ from South East to North East Asia. The engagement of members of the Order beyond Australia from Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore and ideally Portugal, the former colonial power, will be essential if the work is to take root among the Timorese people.

The scholarship program Creating Leaders, an initiative of David Scarf in his time as ambassador, funds nine students from primary to secondary school. Despite interruption to schooling throughout the Island in 2021, three new students from year 9 at the Jesuit college at Kasait, a half hour drive along the coast west of the capital, entered the program at the end of 2021. There have been five new or soon-to-be sponsors who came forward last year. There is good reason to expect the embassy target of 30 students can be met in the 2022-2024 triennium.





Finally, Graziella da Cruz, who has done invaluable work for the embassy for several years, assembled a team of half a dozen or so volunteers to respond to the Easter Sunday flood disaster which caused widespread losses of life, homes and infrastructure.

Archbishop Virgilio Do Carmo da Silva of Dili immediately answered a request from the embassy and suggested that the Hera district an hour's drive out of Dili, was in particular need. Within days Graziela's volunteers had visited the homeless, flood devastated families there. They brought essentials for nearly 20 families who were housed on the open verandas of a

recently completed convent school building, making a number of trips on damaged roads.

The photos of volunteers in Order of Malta vests carrying food and other essential supplies to the children of destitute families, even before the floods subsided, was inspiring. It was a reminder of the core mission of the Order as a Catholic and charitable institution. It was also, personally, a wake-up of sorts. It pointed to the need, in the next three years, to inspire a corps of local Timorese associates and volunteers; and for them to take on the job of bringing the Order home. ❖

*The Order of Malta's clinic in Timor-Leste is next door to one of the poorest suburbs in the capital. It provides free medical care for the local people with special emphasis on maternal, neo-natal and infancy health.*



# LOURDES

## Day Mass

A pilgrimage to Lourdes represents one of the most significant moments in the spiritual life of the Order's members and volunteers. For Australians unable to visit Lourdes, the Lourdes Day Mass celebrations are held annually in major cities where those attending receive a blessing for good health and a bottle of Lourdes water. Due to COVID, in 2021 the Masses were only held in person in Adelaide and Sydney.



*Lady of Lourdes Mass and Anointing of the Sick at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral Adelaide.*





*The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP Archbishop of Sydney oversaw the Lourdes Day Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. Although it only had a small congregation of 130, the livestream was viewed by thousands wishing to participate in this special Mass.*





# The Order of Malta in HUNGARY

By Barbara Piazza-Georgi

A unique set of circumstances and characters converged 30 years ago in Hungary, to create one of the largest operations of the Order of Malta in the world. It did not come out of the blue: it marked the worthy return of a prestigious actor in Hungary's early history.

The early history of the Order in Hungary begins almost as early as that of the Order itself: the first record dates to 1138. Hungary was a border area of Christianity, still at war with pagans; also, it was on the land route to the Holy Land. So, few Hungarian knights went to the Holy Land: they worked at home, taking care of passing pilgrims, tending to the sick and fighting against local pagan threats. At the same time, they helped finance operations in the Holy Land. King Andrew II himself went on the Fifth Crusade and donated generously to the Hospitaller castles of Margat and Krak des Chevaliers, for which he was made a Donat of the Order.

There were dozens of hospitals, convents, and churches of the Order of Saint John in medieval Hungary. They also helped with law enforcement and functioned as notaries public. During the Mongol

invasion of 1241 they fought alongside the King, who escaped thanks to the Knights, and survived to return and rebuild the country.

The Hungarian knights fought bravely but hopelessly against the invading Turks. By the 16th Century, as Hungary was partitioned between the Turks and the Austrian emperors, the autonomy of the Order in Hungary ceased. Surviving knights were merged into the German "langue" and into the Austrian Grand Priory.

## Birth of the Association

All changed with the split-up of the Austro-Hungarian empire at the end of World War I. In 1925, diplomatic relations were established between the Order and Hungary. In 1928, the Association of the Hungarian Knights of Malta (MMLSZ) was created, with 40 members who transferred from the Austrian and Bohemian units. In 1933, MMLSZ

bought its current house in Buda Castle and began to establish its Hospitaller activities.

But then came the catastrophe of World War II and the Communist takeover. MMLSZ was banned, and its severely damaged house was nationalised. Most of the Knights fled to the West; those who stayed were branded "enemies of the people". Several disappeared or died in prison, most were deported to remote areas of the country.

Yet MMLSZ reorganised itself in 1953 "in exile", with seat in Rome, gathering – in a long-distance relationship – those dozens of members who had fled to the West. It supported refugees of the 1956 revolution, especially for their further education; but its long-term focus was on sending relief packages to individuals in Hungary, mostly to those whose social class caused them to be persecuted as "enemies of the people". In 1966, it created a literary award to encourage émigré Hungarian writers.





### Return, and the blossoming of the Charity Service

By the late 1980s, the Order could appear more openly in Hungary. In 1987-1988, MMLSZ sent 28 truckloads of medical and humanitarian goods – collected by members living in France and Germany – to the Hungarian Catholic Church, with the approval of the Communist government. This is where Father Imre Kozma, a young dynamic parish Priest in Budapest, and his team of young volunteers, entered the picture. They were tasked to help with distribution. Then Csilla von Boeselager, a Dame of the Order living in Germany, joined the operation: she and Father Kozma became its leaders. In February 1989, the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta was legally registered. It was still only about distributing truckloads of donations secured through MMLSZ (mostly Csilla herself) in the West; but almost immediately, the German refugee crisis of summer 1989 exposed the young organisation to an extraordinary, also politically dangerous, challenge, which it met brilliantly and with much media exposure. Then came the Romanian revolution of December 1989 and the Yugoslav war two years later, which Father Kozma and his young team faced with the expertise and confidence inspired by their recent success. These successful humanitarian interventions established the Charity Service as the

*Clockwise from opposite page: Apor Vilmos statue in Budapest; East German refugees in a camp on parish grounds in 1989; Ambulance service funded by the Order; The house of the Order in ruins in 1945; The house of the Order restored in Buda Castle today; Historical photo of Bishop Apor with children.*

## BLESSED VILMOS APOR, BISHOP AND MARTYR

*On 2 April 1945, the much-loved Bishop of Győr (pictured opposite page, with children), in western Hungary, was fatally shot by a group of drunken soldiers of the invading Red Army. Many women and girls had taken refuge in the episcopal palace: the marauding group had discovered them and wanted to drag them away. The Bishop stood in their way and tried to reason with them, but one youth let loose a deadly volley from his machine-gun.*

*The sight of the unarmed, brave prelate collapsing in blood frightened the drunken youths, who slunk out without harming the women. The Bishop lived long enough to be told this. He whispered with a smile: "It was worth it then!"*

*Bishop Vilmos (William) Apor had been ordained in 1914. He was deeply committed to social issues, especially the protection of women, poor children, and religious education. He was known as "the parish priest of the poor". He supported Catholic renewal movements.*

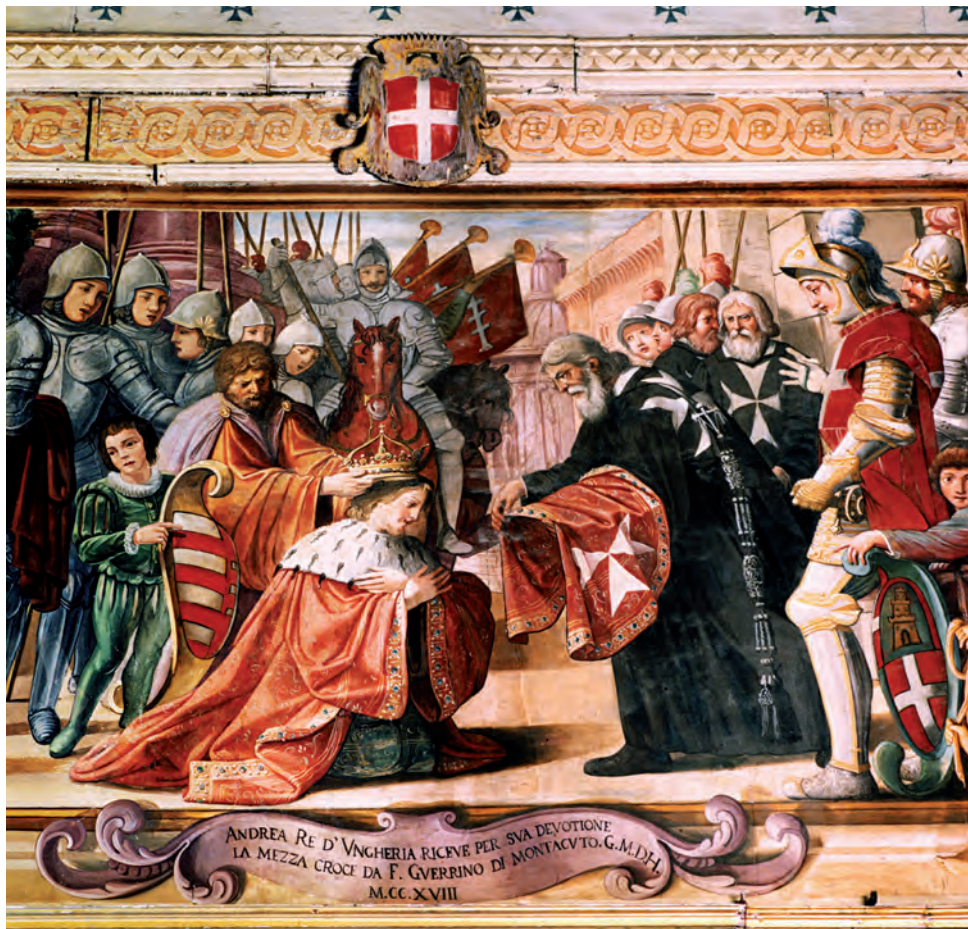
*The scion of one of Transylvania's historical Hungarian families, he joined the Order of Malta in 1937 as Conventual Chaplain Ad honorem.*

*When he was consecrated Bishop in 1940, his brother Gábor Apor – who later became Grand Chancellor of the Order of Malta – stood the expenses of the celebration, while the new Bishop celebrated by paying the accumulated debts of a local orphanage. As a Bishop, he took political stands too. In 1944, he condemned the persecution of the Jews: "Whoever betrays the fundamental principle of Christianity, that of love... and proclaims that it is lawful to torment human beings, be they Blacks, or Jews... as much as he may boast about his Christianity, he is like a pagan or a public sinner." He wrote to the Fascist Minister of the Interior, to the Regent and to the Cardinal Primate, protesting the deportations.*

*On 7 July 1997, Pope John Paul II granted him the title of Martyr. He was beatified on 9 November 1997.*

*Let us pray that Blessed Vilmos Apor may one day become one of the Saints of the Order!*





best-known and most respected Hungarian charity institution.

In 1990 the Order established diplomatic relations with the new post-Communist Republic of Hungary. It recovered its house, which underwent extensive repairs and refurbishing. On 27 January, 1996, the seat of MMLSZ officially returned to Buda.

And the Charity Service grew. Father Kozma and his team, imbued with the spirit of Christian social activism – unusual for the society of that time, which was still steeped in a Socialist mentality of passiveness and “passing the buck” to the state – started a service to the homeless, assistance to the disabled, emergency and ambulance units, and other social services. The Charity Service quickly established branches in the whole country, attracting hundreds of like-minded people who were coming out of the woodwork in these early post-Communist times. It gradually became a privileged partner of the government, which recently transferred several State-run schools and social institutions to its management, recruited it as an implementing partner for the Hungarian bilateral aid program abroad, and entrusted it with the national program for the integration of the poorest settlements (see box opposite page).





In 2021, the Charity Service had an annual budget in the order of US\$70 Million, of which about half were Government subsidies, 20 per cent project grants and 20 per cent beneficiaries' contributions. Out of this budget, it operates – mostly through salaried staff – 24 retirement homes, 57 homeless shelters of various kinds, 15 schools, 38 institutions for the disabled, 11 service points for addicts, 6 family shelters, 51 child-oriented services, 12 health centres or services, as well as soup kitchens, home care services, mobile services, and an ambulance service. On an average day, the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta serves over 22,000 people. It also runs humanitarian programs in Africa and the Middle East on behalf of the Hungarian government. It is currently running a large program of support to Ukrainian refugees and aid to Ukraine.

As for MMLSZ, today it has about 160 members: fewer and fewer live abroad, as the old émigré Hungarians die out, or return to spend their last years in Hungary. MMLSZ is thus returning to the normal set-up of a National Association of the Order, enhanced by an exceptionally strong and largely independent “auxiliary” service, and enjoying a privileged relationship with the national government. The Order’s house was recently beautifully enlarged and renovated, thanks to a government grant. In addition to the work of the Charity Service, MMLSZ members organise the annual Lourdes pilgrimage, operate a lending service for home care equipment, organise a biannual charity ball to finance participation in the Order’s international summer camps for the disabled, and help Hungarian-speaking communities in Slovakia and Ukraine, often together with the Hungarian branch of the Johanniter Order. Since 2017, MMLSZ has organised an annual public scientific conference in Budapest, on subjects relevant to Christian life and ethics. ❖

*From opposite page clockwise: Group photo at Lourdes Mass in 2022; Playground at the Presence Program; East German refugee camp on parish grounds in 1989; King Andrew I of Hungary Donat of the Order.*

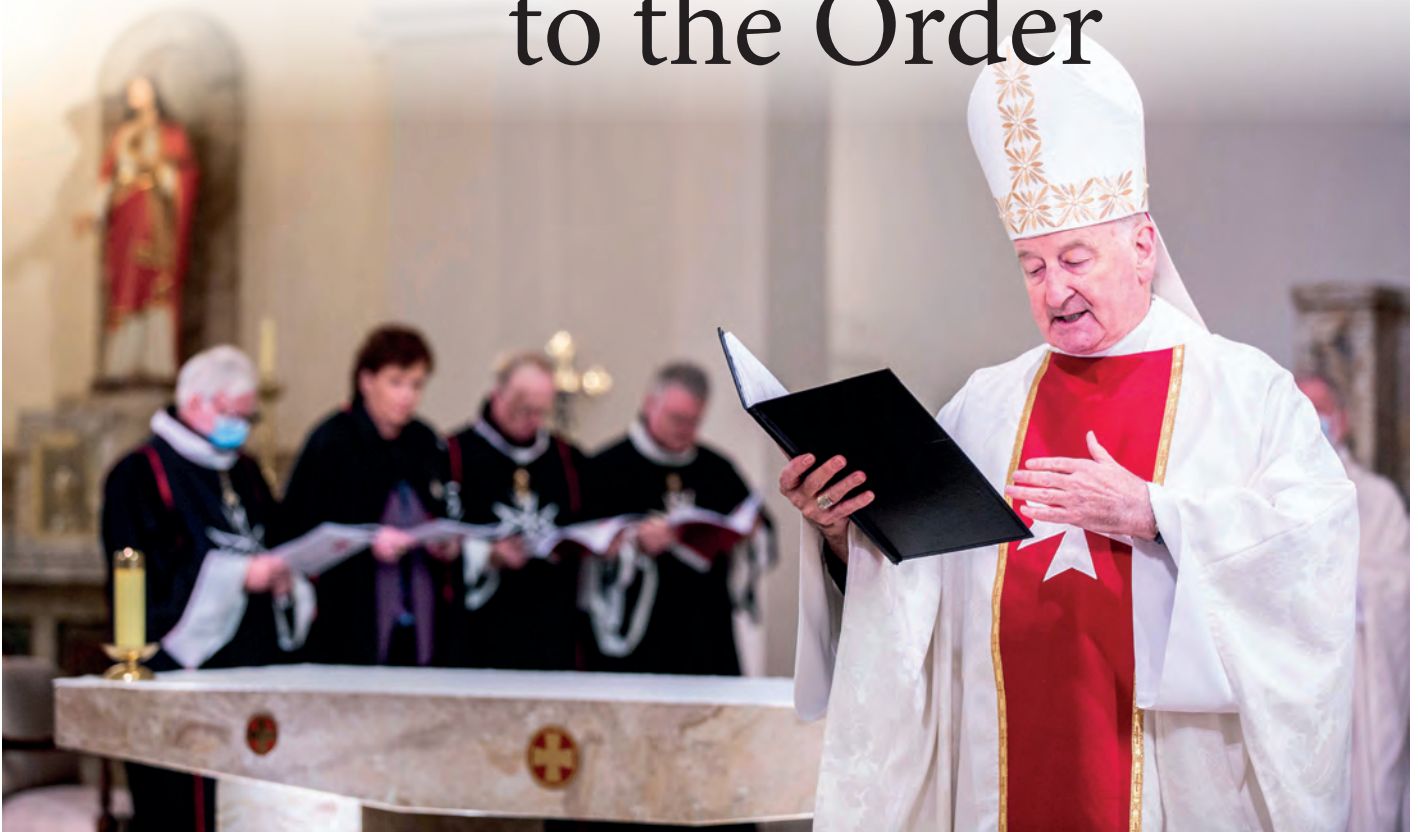
## THE PRESENCE PROGRAM

*The Hungarian Charity Service runs one of the largest and most successful social integration programs for disadvantaged (mostly Gypsy) communities in Europe. It started 20 years ago, when a Confrère who worked full-time for the Charity Service, one of Father Imre Kozma’s original team and an experienced social worker, started a project in one of the poorest settlements of Hungary, based on two principles: full-time presence by the project team, and tailored interventions in all priority areas, based on specific local needs and requests. This approach, called integrated local development, is well-known in development theory as a best practice, but rarely used, because it is too long-term for most financing modalities, and because it needs serious funding, expertise, and committed, loving staff of the kind that is not easy to find in bureaucracies or development agencies. The project, in this case, included among others an after-school remedial program, a health clinic, a mother-and-baby club, setting up small local enterprises (notably a workshop for dismantling and recycling electronic waste), and ombudsman services.*

*This first pilot initiative became – after many years of struggle! – a success story: the village is now served by local entities and the private sector, with some interesting innovative activities. The project went on to other settlements, with new ideas: a mobile playground, teaching music, football, small enterprises for women, a carpentry workshop and training centre.... A few failures, but many successes: enough to secure financing by the European Union, which tried to spread the model to other countries of the sub-region. Eventually, the Hungarian government adopted it as its national strategy for the 300 poorest settlements of the country. Our Confrère, Miklós Vecsei, became State Commissioner for overseeing this program, which still executed by the Charity Service, but now with a dozen other Hungarian faith-based NGOs as its subcontractors, and serious Government and EU funding. The full-scale project covering 300 villages has only been running for a couple of years, but “watch this space” for possibly one of the great success stories of the Order of Malta in our era!*



# The Role of **CHAPLAINS,** A Special Blessing to the Order



**W**e are blessed and grateful to have in our Order the liturgical and pastoral care of 30 chaplains in Australia and New Zealand. As a lay religious Order which membership is almost entirely from the laity, our spiritual development would be poor and unguided without their gifts, love, time and experience.

All our chaplains have their hands tied with responsibilities way beyond their primary appointments. Parish priests take care of more than one Church. Vicar generals, auxiliary Bishops, Archbishops, and one much loved Cardinal are all stretched beyond many CEOs we know. Even chaplains who are retired Priests are not exactly enjoying any substantial period of quiet and rest in their senior years.

Yet, and especially in the last two

years, we have received so much from our chaplains. They celebrate our regular Masses, lead retreats and days of reflections, conduct seasonal spiritual programs, write for our formation handbooks and manuals, support our Hospitaller works, join us on our pilgrimages, act as spiritual directors. They conduct our popular monthly online “Hour of Reflection with a Chaplain”.

Two chaplains are active in our National Formation Team, advising and supporting the ongoing spiritual development that members are obliged to pursue. One Archbishop was generous to provide time to direct candidates preparing for membership.

Chaplains are essential to the liturgical life of the Order and the spiritual growth of its members, aiding “the sanctification of its members” (Constitutional Charter Article 2).







The duties and activities asked of chaplains are found in Regulations for Conventual Chaplains Ad Honorem and Magistral Chaplains (2011) (Article 5, Parts 1 and 2 and Article 6). They are numerous and demanding. We cannot expect the entire list to be fully discharged each year by any one chaplain. Our hope is that shared amongst chaplains, and over time, they would be.

The activities of our chaplains build the spiritual environment of the Order. This environment in turn inspires and nourishes the spiritual development of members and promotes their sanctification. Members would all be familiar with what the regulations ask of our chaplains:

- Celebrate Masses (monthly, feast days of the saints and blessed of the Order, remembrance)
- Participate in the liturgical ceremonies of the

- Order (e.g.: investiture of new members)
- Assist candidates in their preparation for membership
- Assist members as spiritual directors in their ongoing formation
- Conduct religious education courses
- Join our meetings and pilgrimages (eg: our annual Lourdes pilgrimage)
- Lead retreats and days of recollection, especially in Lent and Advent
- Write short reflections on the spirituality of the Order
- Support / participate in the works of the Order
- Keep in touch with the Principal Chaplain, informing him of your activities in the Order
- Deepen your knowledge about the Order's spirituality, history, traditions, customs and laws in order to assist and enlighten its members.

These are all abundantly evidenced in the life of our Order in Australia and New Zealand.

We are blessed and grateful!

I won't be speaking out of line if I were to end with this word to our chaplains: Collectively, members are blessed with a wide range of resources, skills and capabilities and will always be enthusiastic to be asked to support you in your needs. ❖

*Clockwise from opening image: Most Reverend Terence Curtin STD DD VG; Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA; Bishop Ken Howell; Fr Anthony Robbie with President James Douglas; Fr Gerard McMorrow; and Bishop Richard Umbers at his investiture*





# BOOK REVIEWS

## THE VENERABLE ADRIAN FORTESCUE, KNIGHT OF THE BATH, KNIGHT OF ST JOHN, MARTYR

Fr John Morris S.J

### Mark Dorney KMG reviews the 1887 biography of Sir Adrian Fortescue

**S**ir Adrian Fortescue was a widowed and remarried husband and a father of five who was already recognized as a Venerable at the time of the original publication of Fr Morris' work and shortly afterwards declared a Blessed by Pope Leo XIII in 1895. Blessed Adrian and his fellow Knights of the Order – Blessed Fra' David Gonson and Venerable Fra' Thomas Dingley – were the early modern Saints of the Order martyred under King Henry VIII – all of whom are discussed in Fr Morris' book. Blessed Adrian's spiritual life is especially relevant to most of the Order's lay members today, as uniquely in the last 500 years he was the only Saint of the Order who was neither a professed religious, nor a cleric nor a King. Blessed Adrian was a lay member of the Order, the same as the Knights and Dames of the Third Class today who comprise most of the Order's modern members.

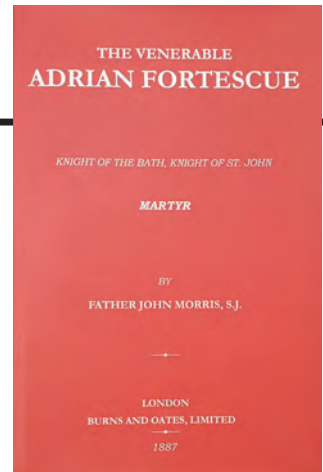
Fr Morris's book reveals useful insights on the practical spirituality of Blessed Adrian, which modern members of the Order can themselves profitably reflect on:

- Faithful to the Catholicism of his Forbears – Blessed Adrian was made a (secular) Knight of the Bath in 1503. His ancestral family name was derived from Forte-Escu meaning "strong shield", his personal banner bore the family's coat of arms which recalled his forbears' strong courage in defense of the faith in the Holy Land and his personal motto "Loyalle Pense" spoke of his loyal intent. This loyalty to the faith was to be sorely tested and ultimately proven in the sacrifice of his own life.
- Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy – Blessed Adrian took seriously the works of mercy, such as almsgiving and intercessory prayer for the departed loved ones. Coinciding with the funeral of his first wife in 1518, Blessed Adrian gave alms to 946 poor persons and made

offerings for 67 Masses to be said on the first month anniversary of her passing and performed similar works on the first year's anniversary of her death. Blessed Adrian was subsequently re-married in 1530.

- Piety and Devotion – Blessed Adrian prayed the Divine Office and the last page of the Australian publication reproduces useful spiritual maxims written by him in his personal Book of Hours. His daily duties as a secular Knight did not derogate from this personal piety, with Fr Morris' work citing words handwritten in Blessed Adrian's copy of On Absolute and Limited Monarchy in 1532 underscoring the continuing importance to him of

- loyalty, truth, forgiveness (beginning with forgetfulness of wrongs suffered) and custody of the lips (silence).
- Order of St John – At the age of 56, Blessed Adrian was invested as a Knight of the Order in 1532 at a time of increasing tension between Henry VIII and Rome. Less than two years later, he – in common with all the English nobles – was called to London by Thomas Cromwell and requested to swear to Henry VIII's Oath of Succession (March 1534). Saint Thomas More's refusal to take that oath led to his imprisonment (April 1534). Later that same year, Blessed Adrian followed him into custody for the first time – providentially for a Knight of St John –





- Blessed Adrian's arrest occurred on the Feast Day of the Passion of St John the Baptist (29 August).
- Confraternity and devotion to Our Lady – Blessed Adrian also joined a Fraternity of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) in the English summer of 1534. He had a sincere devotion to our Lady, requesting, amongst the few permitted possessions in his gaol cell, not one but two pictures of the Blessed Virgin. The Dominicans were long known for their special devotion to the Rosary and modern Order members, inspired by Blessed Adrian, may wish to consider joining one of the Rosary Confraternities sponsored by the Dominicans today.
- Heavenly Patrons: Saints Thomas Becket, Thomas More and Blessed Adrian - Blessed Adrian, like Saint Thomas More, had a special devotion to their compatriot Saint Thomas Beckett (similarly martyred for standing up for the Church's liberty). Blessed Adrian named his second son after St Thomas (May 1534) and paid for Masses to be said commemorating the eve of St Thomas Becket's translation (6 July 1534) – one year to the day before St Thomas More's own martyrdom (6 July 1535). Order members today, standing with the modern Church in her contemporary struggle against militantly secular governments, can likewise turn to their confrater, Blessed Adrian, to intercede for them and for the Church in their needs.
- Persecution: Secular laws subordinating the

Church and unjust prosecutions – Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy (November 1534) purported to declare the King Supreme Head of the Church in England. Blessed Adrian in his own hand struck-out a pre-printed (1536) acknowledgement of the King's claimed supremacy from the Missal in his personal possession, an act of high treason under King Henry VIII's laws. He was therefore re-arrested (February 1539) and, with Venerable Fra' Thomas Dingley – in an unprecedented proceeding without trial, without evidence being presented and without the opportunity to present a defense – was unjustly attainted of high treason by parliament (not a court) (10 May – providentially on the Feast of our Lady's Immaculate Conception) and beheaded (8 July 1539).

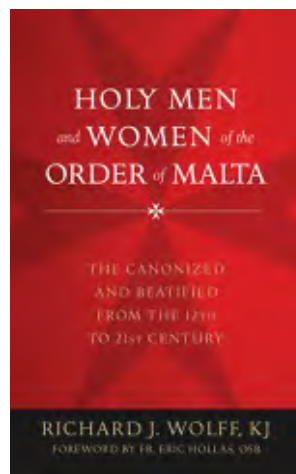
Contemporary Catholic readers in Australia may themselves reflect on whether they are today seeing the early stages of a more modern persecution of ordinary Christians (and of their Church leaders), unjustly targeted by secular authorities and laws which have become increasingly intolerant of the Church, what it teaches and believers that remain faithful to it. They – as Blessed Adrian himself looked to St Thomas Becket – can look for inspiration to the faithfulness and fortitude of Blessed Adrian, as they confront the more subtle persecution of cultural intolerance, employment exclusion, administrative tribunals and (in some cases) court actions against believers. ❖

## HOLY MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

By Fra' Richard J Wolff

With a storied history of being fierce defenders against the Church's enemies, the members of the Order of Malta are professed "monk-warriors." They act as the noble, chivalrous, and battle-scarred Knights while also the servant of the poor and sick. For hundreds of years, the Church has been indebted to them for their military prowess. But the Order of Malta was, and is, much more than what legend and history celebrate. From its 12th Century foundation, it has been a religious order. At its core are the three evangelical vows that lay religious men and women (for much of the order's history) have taken.

This book brings to the fore the religious nature of the order, so long overshadowed by its glorious military tradition and, more recently, its global charitable activities. It focuses not on the monk-warrior but on the 20 plus members of the Order who have been canonized and beatified for their extraordinary lives of love, prayer, and dedication. The book offers the reader a series of brief biographies on some of the most diverse groups of Saints to come from one religious Order, from peasants to Popes and everything in between.



In applying historical analysis to the lives of these holy men and women, the author demonstrates that one need not hide behind hagiographic generalities or far-fetched stories to find examples of true virtue in the lives of these Hospitallers. ❖

*Left: Blessed Adrian Fortescue, Italian School (Lombardy). 17th Century. From the collection of Grand Magistry, Order of Malta.*



# Sir JAMIES GOBBO

## requiem

Most Rev Terence Curtin STD DD VG

Requiem for Sir James Gobbo AC CVO QC,  
+7.11.2021

Is 42:1-3, Ps 23,

Romans 8:35.37-39, Jn 14:1-7

**W**e are gathered to commit Jim Gobbo, Sir James, to the compassion and generosity of God, to God's strength and holiness, to recall Jim and all we knew of him, to ourselves and each other, and so to speak before God, trusting in God's power and that God will raise us up. In this setting death makes us historians, and it also makes us theologians, for we need to consider God since Jim lived by that reality. As Shirley said to me yesterday: "There was a deep faith in his DNA; he was born into it!"

The family chose the readings we have just heard. They are beautiful, and in their own way they tell Jim's story. Isaiah speaks of the chosen servant, endowed with God's spirit to bring true justice to the nations. Writing to the Romans, the apostle Paul is sure that nothing that exists can ever separate us from the love that God, revealed in Jesus, has for us. Properly understood, Christian faith is not primarily about something we do for God. It's about what God does for and in us. It is not so much an account of human aspiration as it is a revelation of divine desire.

There is a gentle urgency about Jesus's words in our gospel. "Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God still and trust in me." This is a rallying cry to faithfulness as Jesus draws near to his passion and death through which he will return to his Father. It is a rallying cry to us, his disciples who will also go into death, but with the confidence born out of Jesus' resurrection



*Image credit: Victorian State Government*

from the dead. And he goes on to tell us: "In my Father's house there are many rooms... I go to prepare a place ... so that where I am you may be too." The Greek word used here for rooms means lasting dwelling places, and Jesus calls this, "my Father's house", deepening our awareness that God really is a Father and a loving parent to us.

I came to know Jim Gobbo when I became a chaplain in the Order of Malta, a global lay religious order of chivalry with a nine-hundred-year history, committed to the care of the poor and the sick (treasured as "our Lords the sick") and the defence of the faith. The enterprise, the vocation, continues,

not by displays of power and grandeur, but in the wholehearted giving of self and talents – to Christ present in the poor and the sick, to Christ who is to be worshipped in faith and truth and love. Jim Gobbo was one of its earliest members in Australia, and he was devoted to it. One of its charitable works is to distribute coats to the homeless. As Flavia told to me, he would head out late in the evening to do this, with her thinking that he really looked like he needed a coat himself!

To be homeless is a human tragedy that is defined not only physically in terms of living on the street, under bridges, in empty buildings, in boxes, or in refugee centres.



Homelessness is also about the deep personal sense of “not belonging” – sometimes for a moment, or sometimes constantly and tragically, even in the most affluent situation or in the midst of the happiest crowd. Which is why we need what Jim describes in his autobiography as “the clear beauty of the Gospel narrative”.

The roads we travel in our lives are many. Some are smooth and straightforward, others challenging, some are plain wrong and misleading, others again are also beautiful and very good. There are many things to do in the world, but it is not said that we are meant to do them all. Each of us has a unique calling, which is ours and no one else’s. Jesus reassures us that there is an infinite love awaiting us at the end of our mission in this world. “There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not, I should have told you.” God has a home to which we are all invited. Home is the place where you belong. In the words of the poet Robert Frost, “Home is where, when you go there, they have to let you in.” It also means we must respect every person we meet, no matter how different they are to us, for the Father’s house has many rooms and not just one.

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of a good home, especially in the life of a young person. To have a home is not just to have a house. It is to have close ties with other people. It is to have a set of relationships in which to stand. Ideally, it is to have people who accept us for what we are; people who give us a feeling of belonging; people among whom we are free to be ourselves, and who by accepting us bring us healing and peace.

It’s to arrive in your ancestral hometown of Cittadella and find the railway platform crowded with extended family to greet you, each to be kissed on both cheeks. For Jim it was to inherit family qualities of hard work, honesty, good manners and religious faith. It meant to live with courage and self-sacrifice, and a special word in Italian, “gentilezza”, a natural dignity and courtesy in dealing with others. Belonging also had other moments, when, like every little child in Italy, you turn up, aged seven, dressed in a blue smock with a large blue bow under the chin, and not speaking a word of English, to start your education at Errol St State School, North Melbourne! A lesser person might then have sworn off all things Italian for life, but this was not Jim’s way, and our multicultural Australia has been graced by his efforts to deepen our love affair with Italy.

Our human consciousness knows only what natural knowledge knows, but there is a sense of greater things which ever haunts us and calls us on. In his poem “The Four Quartets” T. S. Eliot put it this way, “We must be still and still moving / Into another intensity / For a further union, a deeper communion.” There is an infinite love that awaits us at the end of our mission in this world – a home with many rooms, for all the varieties of seekers and believers, with space for each of us in God’s dwelling



place, one of mercy, peace and joy, a hidden glory. As he was dying, Pope John XXIII put it this way, “My bags are packed. I feel like a schoolboy going home for his holidays.” As a boarder at Xavier College, Jim would certainly have known that feeling.

So there’s the goal to our lives, and there’s Thomas’s question as well. “But how can we know the way to where you are going?” The answer Jesus gives is strange, “I am the Way.” Usually we speak of someone as leading the way, by word and example, going ahead, a pathfinder, but here the claim is direct. “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” So the path we take, whatever it is, is lived in relationship. For us Christians, true God, true man, Jesus is our Way. What we have is not a road but a person, who loves us and walks with us. It makes all the difference, because when the way is a person then the reality we live by takes on the language of love.

The achievements of Jim Gobbo are many, not least that he was Governor of this state. It’s clear to me that none of this would have been possible without the constant love and support of his wife Shirley through 64 years of marriage, and the home they had together, blessed with the arrival of Jeremy, Flavia, Olivia, Daniela and James.

There is a tiny poem in a novel by Nikos Kazantzakis which reads, “I said to the almond tree, ‘Sister, speak to me of God.’ And the almond tree blossomed.” In Jim Gobbo, in his life of faithful service to others, his gentilezza, we have seen the blossoming. Let us now give praise to the God of whom it speaks. ❖

*This requiem was read for The Hon. Sir James Augustine Gobbo AC CVO QC (1931 - 2021). See next page in obituaries for a tribute of his impressive life.*



# OBITUARIES

Over late 2020 and 2021, the Australian Association mourned the loss of four members. We record the life stories of those members: **Edward Idris Cassidy, Fr Peter Gillam, Confrere Giorgio Marcuzzi, Sir James Gobbo**

## *THE HON. SIR JAMES AUGUSTINE GOBBO AC CVO QC (1931 - 2021)*

It is with great sadness that we report that Confrère Sir James Gobbo, AC, CVO, KGCSG, former President of the Australian Association and former Regent of the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception, died in 2021.

Sir James, known as Jim to many, was born the second son of Italian migrants in Carlton in the midst of the Great Depression, yet rejoiced in both his Italian heritage and his Australian homeland. He rose to become Governor of Victoria – the first Australian state governor of non-Anglo-Australian background and the only Australian to hold the positions of President of a National Association and Regent of a Subpriory of the Order of Malta, and Subprior of a Subpriory of the Venerable Order of St John.

Born in Melbourne on 22 March 1931, from the age of three he spent his early childhood living in Cittadella in the Veneto region of Italy before returning with his family to Australia a year before the commencement of the Second World War. He attended Melbourne's Xavier College and was a member of the school's legendary 1948 winning Head of the River crew. He gained entry to Arts/Law at The University of Melbourne and on graduation in 1951 was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, completing his legal studies at Magdalen College, Oxford. He left Oxford with a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Arts and a prestigious rowing Blue. After returning to Australia in 1957 he lectured at The University of Melbourne for five years before focusing on his career at the Victorian Bar, later becoming a prominent barrister and Queen's Counsel through the 1960s and 1970s, ultimately being appointed to the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1978.

In 1982, the same year he was made a Knight Bachelor in the Queen's New Year Honours List, the Fraser government approached him with an offer of a position on the High Court of Australia, an offer

that Sir James selflessly turned down on the basis that the move to Canberra would be too disruptive to his family.

In 1994, Sir James retired from the Supreme Court and was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Victoria. In 1997 he was appointed by the Kennett government as Governor of Victoria, a position he held from 1997 to 2001.

Sir James's numerous interests and commitments outside of the law included his involvement in the Italian community, particularly the Italian welfare agency known as Co.As.It. In 1959, he was one of the founding members of the 'Immigration Reform Group' which advocated for the abolition of the White Australia Policy. And in 1975 he was appointed to the Federal Immigration and Population Council by the Fraser government, where he proceeded to work to combat public prejudice of 'boat people' arrivals during the late 1970s. From 1982 he chaired the Multicultural Task Force and was instrumental in setting up the Australian Bicentennial Multicultural Foundation, which he subsequently headed from 1987.

Through the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s he served on a great many boards and foundations, particularly to do with health and community welfare. He served as the Chairman of the Council of the National Library of Australia, of the National Advisory Commission on Ageing and of the Council for the Order of Australia. He was appointed Victoria's first commissioner for Italy in 2001.

In 1988, Australia's bicentennial year, Sir James was instrumental in establishing the Palladio Foundation, later to be renamed the International Specialised Skills Institute, which provides opportunities for Australian artisans and craftspeople to travel overseas to develop their skills.

The Catholic faith was always a deep source of spiritual support for Sir James and his reception into membership of the Order of Malta in 1974 as a Knight of Magistral



Grace provided him with a personal commitment to serve the poor and the sick, while defending the faith.

Sir James was one of the original 13 foundation members of the Australian Association of the Order of Malta, who also included NSW Supreme Court judge Dennis Mahoney AO QC, surgeons Halley Beckett and Lionel Lockwood CBE, NSW Solicitor General Reginald Marr DFC QC, barrister William Deane QC, barrister and professor of law Prof. Daniel O'Connell, artist and portrait painter Paul Fitzgerald AM, noted antiquarian Dr Nicolai Savoy-Soubotian, Dr Ernest Kirby AM and Anne Kirby, as well as Ambrose Galvin and his sister Mary Moore. The first President of the Australian Association was Dennis Mahoney, while Sir James served as the Association's second President, only stepping down on his appointment as Governor of Victoria.

In 1986 Sir James oversaw the establishment of Order of Malta Home Hospice Service (Victoria) Inc, to carry out visitation and in-home help services, later expanded to provide bereavement



services and home visitation service for the sick and the elderly in Melbourne's Inner East, which became Order of Malta Hospice Home Care (VIC) Inc (OMHHC). In 1998 he was instrumental in establishing the partnership between the Sisters of Charity Health Service Ltd, OMHHC and Melbourne Eastern Palliative Care, known as Eastern Palliative Care (EPC) Association. Today, EPC is the largest single provider of community and home-based palliative care services in Victoria.

Sir James was always a hands-on worker for the needy and was an early advocate for the Order's winter Coats for the Homeless campaign. He staunchly believed that members of the Order should be on the frontline, whether in soup kitchens or handing out coats. On bitter Melbourne winter nights he was often to be found at well-known homeless congregation points offering coats and a chat to many of the city's most vulnerable citizens.

In 2006 Sir James made the Promise of Obedience, binding himself ever closer

to the Order that had become his spiritual home. Two years later, in 2008, he took on the role of inaugural Regent of the newly established Australian Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception and oversaw a growth in Australian, and later Australasian, members entering the Second Class of the Order.

In recent times, Sir James continued to play an important role in the life of the Australian Association, both as an executor of the estate of his close friend and confidant, Ambrose Galvin, and as executor and trustee to the estate of friend and spiritual companion Fra' Richard Divall AO OBE, directing funds according to his friends' wishes to support the work of the Order, especially in palliative care.

In all his endeavours, Sir James has always been thankful for the divine providence that brought him to Shirley, his wife of 64 years, and their five children. Shirley has been a constant companion and supporter of the works and activities Sir James has involved himself in, from the Bar to the Bench, supporting multicultural

policy, the development of Co.As.It. and the International Specialised Skills Institute, to his activities and roles within the Order of Malta. He was extremely proud of their 13 grandchildren and more recently the birth of their great-grand daughter. He leaves to all of them a great legacy.

In 1993, Sir James was made a Companion of the Order of Australia for his service to the law, to hospital administration and to the community, particularly through the promotion of multicultural affairs. He was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy in 1998, made a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory, and a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 2000. In 1995 he was conferred a Doctor of Laws by Monash University.

For his service and commitment to the Order of Malta, Sir James was promoted to Knight Grand Cross of Magistral Grace in 1982 and later conferred the Ribband (Sash) of a Knight Grand Cross in 2017. He was also awarded the Grand Cross of the Order pro Merito Melitensi in 2012.

## *CONFRÈRE GIORGIO MARCUZZI (1929 - 2021)*

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It is with great sadness that we pay tribute to the passing of Confrère Giorgio Marcuzzi.

Giorgio Marcuzzi was born in Zara, Italy (now Croatia). He arrived in Australia in the early 1950s and settled in Bonegilla north-east Victoria.

From that initial entry into Australia, he entered the travel industry in Melbourne, working for shipping line Lloyd Triestino.

Giorgio continued to have a successful career in travel with ALITALIA airlines, as it brought him all over Australia. In his career, he moved to Brisbane in Queensland, Adelaide in South Australia,

and Sydney in New South Wales as State manager.

Giorgio made an impressive contribution to the business world as the President of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Sydney. He also proved himself a highly intellectual man as he was admitted as a member of MENSA.

Of course he found his strong calling to serve as he was invested as a Knight of the Order of Malta.

Giorgio retired to Adelaide where he lived with his wife Corinne, daughter Adrienne and son-in-law Richard. Giorgio was grandfather to three and became a great grandfather in January 2021.





# OBITUARIES

EDWARD IDRIS CASSIDY AC (1924 - 2021)



Edward Idris Cassidy was born in Sydney in 1924. It has been suggested that a lack of closely knit family ties was a probable reason for his move after ordination to the Diocese of Wagga Wagga and the reason his Bishop, Phillip Henscke suggested he go to Rome with a view to joining the Vatican's diplomatic service

By the age of 31 Father Cassidy had obtained a Doctorate in Canon Law at the Pontifical Lateran University and a Diploma in Diplomatic Studies and had entered the Vatican diplomatic service

He was created an Archbishop in 1970 and Cardinal in 1991 under the title of Maria in Via Lata

A man always at consummate ease in any company, whether it be His Holiness the Pope, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the president of the Lutheran World Federation or an ordinary man in the street.

I first met His Eminence on the steps of Sydney's Cathedral: he was skilfully disguised in a cloth jockey's cap and a buttoned-up overcoat. Not knowing whether he was associated with the Order

or was a Sydney citizen using the Cathedral as a short-cut to the CBD, I struck up a conversation which led to years of pleasant correspondence.

After his retirement and an absence of 50 years in 2001 he returned to his native Australia to live quietly in Newcastle where, fluent in Italian, he ministered to the Italian community

We don't know why he chose Newcastle as his place of retirement, but the fact he was a keen surfer and a competent golfer may possibly have influenced his decision.

He has the distinction of being the first Australian in the Vatican's Diplomatic Corps and was obviously the first Australian to hold the many positions he did in his stellar career. He was also the last Vatican appointment to the Republic of China (Taiwan).

In this distinguished career, his greatest contribution was undoubtedly to the cause of interfaith unity.

His diplomatic career is a study in its own right. Suffice it to say His Holiness Pope John Paul II described him as "an experienced Papal Representative, with an

array of skills acquired in various parts of the world," including the Far East; South Africa in a difficult period of political and social turmoil; and the Netherlands where his wise counsel was greatly appreciated at a troubled time for the Church in that country.

He was subsequently appointed the Substitute or Deputy of the Secretariat of State, which Pope John Paul II described as "a position of the highest responsibility and closest participation in the universal ministry of the Successor of Peter." It is certainly a position of the greatest importance in global diplomacy.

As if the responsibility of Deputy Secretariat of State was not enough, at the end of 1989 Pope JPII asked him to take on another role; as President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. His Holiness was convinced that the progress of ecumenical endeavors was a central element of his own papal ministry, especially after the collapse of Communism, and especially in building relations between the Catholic Church and Judaism.



In 2003 Cardinal Cassidy was appointed a Bailiff Grand Cross of Honour and Devotion, a fitting honour for a man whose life was devoted to a cause essential to the core of the Order of Malta's existence – service to all, irrespective of race, colour or creed.

In December 1989 he began his defining work as President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity. If anything qualified him as an ideal member of The Order of Malta it was this.

To those of us with clear memories of the Second Vatican Council, one of its profound legacies is the acceptance that we are all one people of God, an acceptance which gave birth to the Church's ecumenical endeavours, ongoing with ever increasing momentum to promote interfaith dialogue, ideally to promote even unity, with which we are all familiar today.

Arguably the Order of Malta has more than pulled its weight in the field of promoting interfaith unity, including

efforts by Australians, as exemplified by His Grace, the late Archbishop John Bathersby (RIP), Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem whose ecumenical career included roles as a Member of the International Catholic-Methodist Dialogue, Co-Chairman of the Australian Catholic-Uniting Church Dialogue, President of the National Council of Churches and importantly Co-Chair of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Working Group. And John Bathersby is only one example of many.

In 1999 Cassidy published the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of justification which was widely regarded by many as an "ecumenical peace document and in 2005 on the 40th anniversary of the Vatican's declaration on ecumenism, *Nostrae aetate* he published his "Rediscovering Vatican 11- Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue", also regarded as significantly contributing to interfaith co-operation.

In 2003 Cardinal Cassidy was appointed a Bailiff Grand Cross of Honour

and Devotion, a fitting honour for a man whose life was devoted to a cause essential to the core of the Order of Malta's existence – service to all, irrespective of race, colour or creed

It would seem if ever there was one who was well credentialled to be a member of our Order, surely it was Cardinal Cassidy.

He has been described as "a model of decency and integrity".

We can be certain of his heavenly rewards but he also received his share of earthly awards. In 1990 he was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service to religion and international affairs. In 2006 the Church of the Latter Day Saints in Australia presented him with the "The John Simpson Award for Standing for Something", a unique recognition I feel amongst members of our Order. Mormon Elder Paul Sybrowsky justifiably recognised Cassidy's role in building interfaith relations across the world.

## FR PETER GILLAM (1938 - 2020)

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We received the sad news of Rev Fr Peter Gillam's unexpected death during the night of 2 March 2020. Fr Peter was parish priest at Hendra, Queensland in 1979 when he was appointed the first and much-loved Magistral Chaplain of the Order of Malta in Queensland.

Fr Peter concelebrated with Bishop John Gerry the Inaugural Mass in Queensland in 1979 as well as the 30th Anniversary Mass in 2009 of the then Queensland branch (now North Eastern Region), both times at the Church of Our Lady Help of Christian, Hendra.

Fr Peter served the spiritual needs of our members generously in and around Brisbane. During his active time with the Order, most of our spiritual activities were held in his parish at the Church of Our Lady Help of Christians, Hendra, and in the chapel at St Joseph's College, Nudgee. He gave invaluable support to our palliative care work at Mt Olivet Hospital. He was particularly supportive when the branch in Queensland underwent a period of renewal



*Fr Peter Gillam with our Conventual Chaplain Archbishop John Bathersby travelling Ireland circa the late 1960's*

in the 1990s. He has been in retirement for more than a decade.

The Order of Malta in Australia is deeply indebted to Fr Peter for his guidance and

support to our members and for our works. The members of the Order of Malta in Australia offer our condolences to Fr Peter's family and to all those who love him.

# MAKE YOUR WAY to the Lowest Place

By Daniel Kwok KMG (Ob)

**A**t the Last Supper, one of Jesus' final instructions to His apostles, and to us, is this: "If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you" (Jn 13:14-15).

Separately, in a parable, He instructed similarly: "Make your way to the lowest place" (Lk 14:10). Humility is a subject that several of our chaplains advocate we reflect upon in the Order. You might ponder on why they comment so. Humility is an elusive virtue. Pride, egoism, and self-preference are natural human conditions, and they rob us of peace, both interiorly and with one another.

The thoughts, words and actions they stir are often believed as right and defensible. But they leave us agitated. Jesus expressly asks us to follow Him and learn from Him for He is "meek and humble of heart". We must. Only then He will give us "rest" (cf. Mt 11:29), the peace that only He can give.

A suggestion for feet washing at one of our retreats was turned down with the sad reason: "We are not ready for that". Understandably, much to transcend before cringe can be overcome. Boardroom dynamics sometimes make their way into the Order, toxifying relationships and diminishing its service to the poor and the sick. Conversations are combats for self-assertion and self-referencing as though airtime is more important than air.

When we say the Order's prayer daily, we ask for God's grace to be "forgetful of myself". We are really praying to put self aside, attending only to the good of others. To be detached from our self-importance, our opinions, our eminence. Franciscan spiritual writer, Fr Richard Rohr, terms one of his five hard truths bluntly as: "You are not all that important."

We are, after all, merely instruments for



God to do His work. St Bernadette is often quoted: "The Blessed Virgin used me like a broom. What do you do with a broom when you have finished sweeping? You put it back in its place, behind the door!"

Jesus, our incarnated God and Creator, "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave... humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross" (Ph 2:7-8). Whatever lowliness we assume cannot be lower than the perfect model. Indeed, without imitating "our highest teacher and lawgiver, Jesus Christ... no amount of study of Sacred Scripture or theology, nor any efforts at good works are able to achieve anything lasting. In vain are all our labour unless they are accompanied by humility," writes Thomas à Kempis.

French Jesuit theologian Fr Leonce de Grandmaison helps us to contemplate

further: "Jesus served his brothers in humility, as a slave, a servant... without preference: Peter, John, Judas... Without demanding any reward. In the spirit of love and total dedication, seeing God His Father in them. He said, 'I will serve!', and thus closed and healed the great wound from which the lifeblood of humanity flows, the wound of pride, independence, egoism, self-determination, living for self."

Do we serve without preference? Are we happy to work with anyone, whatever the chemistry or history? Do we serve with all our heart? We must not forget that in the Order, "we love the same master, we are labouring at the same task, we share the same treasure".

Our Lady saw only her lowliness when she obediently said "yes" to Our Lord. St John the Baptist also knew lowliness when



he announced that he must decrease for Jesus to increase. What humility to relinquish the following of thousands, pointing them away from him and to the Lamb of God. (cf. Lk 1:48, Jn 1:29)

Still, the fire of pride can easily be sparked. St Jose Maria Escriva identifies a condition common to humans young and old everywhere. There is “an almost sickly touchiness that takes offence at words and actions that are in no way meant to be insulting.” Bitterness simmers. Heated words leave our mouth. Scores are kept. Yet, the saints tell us that humiliations are means to humility.

Only with the divine assistance and grace of God can we overcome pride, the cause of humanity’s first sin, and to which we are all most prone to. Perhaps we can start by praying daily a prayer that some members are already familiar with – The Litany of Humility – composed by Rafael Cardinal Merry de Val (1865-1930), the Secretary of State under Pope Saint Pius X (1865-1930). The litany lists in the first part the many facets of pride – the sweetness of vainglory, the pain of injury to tightly held egos – and in the second part examples of generosity that accompany humility. In the third and final part, the litany circles back to the perfect humility of Our Lord Jesus and whose help we need to “follow Him.” ❖



Left: Jesus Washing Disciples Feet, The New Testament in Eighty Pictures, Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld. 1882  
Above: Blessed Fra' Gerard personally serves the sick.  
Postage stamp of the Order of Malta.

## THE LITANY OF HUMILITY

*O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, Hear me.*

*From the desire of being esteemed,*

*Deliver me, Jesus. (Repeat after each line)*

*From the desire of being loved,*

*From the desire of being extolled,*

*From the desire of being honoured,*

*From the desire of being praised,*

*From the desire of being preferred to others,*

*From the desire of being consulted,*

*From the desire of being approved,*

*From the fear of being humiliated,*

*From the fear of being despised,*

*From the fear of suffering rebukes,*

*From the fear of being calumniated,*

*From the fear of being forgotten,*

*From the fear of being ridiculed,*

*From the fear of being wronged,*

*From the fear of being suspected,*

*That others may be loved more than I.*

*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it. (Repeat after each line)*

*That others may be esteemed more than I,*

*That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase, and I may decrease,*

*That others may be chosen, and I set aside,*

*That others may be praised and I unnoticed,*

*That others may be preferred to me in everything,*

*That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should.*

*Lord Jesus,*

*though you were God, you humbled yourself to the extreme of dying on a cross,*

*to set an enduring example to the shame of my arrogance and vanity.*

*Help me to learn your example and put into practice so that, by humbling myself in accordance with my lowliness here on earth,*

*you can lift me up to rejoice in you forever in heaven. Amen*





# FRA' MATTHEW FESTING

In honour of Fra' Matthew Festing, former Grand Master of the Order of Malta (1949-2021)

**F**ra' Matthew Festing, who died on 12 November 2021 in Malta aged 71, was Prince and Grand Master of the Order of Malta from 11 March 2008 until his resignation on 28 January 2017. He was only the second Englishman in history to have been elected to the role.

In his time as Grand Master he visited many countries where the Order of Malta carries out its charitable works and oversaw many international conferences and meetings of the Order, to encourage

and support their worldwide projects. In all his endeavours, he never lost sight of the spiritual motivation of the Order and its mission.

Fra' Matthew was born in Tarsset, Northumbria and educated at Ampleforth and St John's College, Cambridge, where he read history. He served in the Grenadier Guards and held the rank of colonel in the Territorial Army. He was appointed OBE by the Queen and was one of her Deputy Lieutenants in the county of

Northumberland. His professional life was as an art expert at an international art auction house.

In 1977, he became a member of the Order of Malta, and took solemn religious vows in 1991, becoming a Professed Knight of the Order. Between 1993 and 2008 he was the Grand Prior of England, a role which had been in abeyance since 1806, and re-established by fellow English Grand Master, Servant of God Fra' Andrew Bertie, in 1993. In this position he led missions





of humanitarian aid to Kosovo, Serbia and Croatia after the recent disturbances in those countries. He attended the Order's international annual pilgrimages to Lourdes every year of his adult life, where he was a familiar figure assisting the arriving pilgrims.

The funeral was celebrated by Cardinal Silvano Maria Tomasi, Special Delegate of the Pope. The Archbishop of Malta, Charles Scicluna and the Prelate of the Order, Msgr. Jean Laffitte, concelebrated.

The highest authorities of the Order of Malta took part in the funeral service, led by the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, Fra' Marco Luzzago. Present were the four High Charges, members of the Sovereign Council and numerous Professed members of the Order. Alongside them were members of the Order of Malta in their traditional church robe.

Arriving in Malta to pay their last respects to Fra' Matthew were his brother, nephews and friends.

To pay homage to the 79th Grand Master and to testify the strong historical ties with the Order, the President of the Republic of Malta George Vella, Prime Minister Robert Abela, together with the highest institutional offices and numerous ambassadors accredited to Valletta, attended the funeral.

"Through the choice of becoming a Knight of Justice, Fra' Matthew dedicated his life to the mission of the Order, a mission that has remained constant through the centuries: *Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium*



*Pauperum*, the defense of the Faith and service to the poor," stated Cardinal Tomasi in his homily.

"After nine centuries, the mission of the Order continues to inspire and it advances on the main road of the Church, faithful to its teaching and to all those who like Fra' Matthew – and may he rest in peace – tried without fear of their limits to implement the Gospels' message," Tomasi then added.

Fra' Matthew Festing is the 12th Grand Master to

*The funeral of Fra' Matthew Festing was celebrated by Cardinal Silvano Maria Tomasi, Special Delegate of the Pope, and concelebrated by The Archbishop of Malta, Charles Scicluna and the Prelate of the Order, Msgr. Jean Laffitte, .*





rest in the crypt of the Co-cathedral. The last Grand Master to be buried there was Fra' Luis Mendez de Vasconcellos in 1623, although according to reliable sources, in the same crypt – built in the 16th Century – rests in an unmarked tomb the Grand Master Fra' Francisco Ximenes de Texada, who died on the island in 1775.

The crypt is located under the main altar and contains the remains of eleven Grand Masters who

led the Order from 1522 to 1623, including Jean de la Cassière, the one who commissioned the Church that would become the Co-cathedral of St. John, one of the main examples of Baroque architecture in Europe.

On the day of the funeral, the flags of the Magistral Palace and Villa in Rome and those of all the Order of Malta's institutions, embassies and medical and social centres around the world were hoisted at half-mast as a sign of mourning. 🇲🇹

*Fra' Matthew Festing is the 12th Grand Master to rest in the crypt of the Co-cathedral.*



# A pilgrimage to *The Holy Land*

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SOVRANO MILITARE ORDINE DI MALTA  
POSTE MAGISTRALI





Joos van Cleve: Trittico dell'Adorazione dei Magi, Chiesa di San Donato, Genova

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ORDER OF MALTA  
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