



WELCOME TO OUR NEW CREATING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT

In April, the Creating Leaders program welcomed its newest student, 15-year-old Jessica. Jessica is currently in the 10th grade and is a promising student with aspirations to become a doctor. Due to illness her father is unable to continue working and her mother's modest income selling water and biscuits is barely sustaining their family of seven.

They are already relying on family support to meet their rent and food bills and are unable to continue paying Jessica's school fees. Jessica's acceptance into the program will enable her to complete her last three years of studies at her current school.

Jessica will join the eight other children in the program who all show great academic promise and come from low-income families, often with multiple siblings. Without the support from the Creating Leaders scholarship, these students would be unable to continue in formal education.

Creating Leaders has been running for over 10 years and one of our inaugural students, Maria, recently shared with us an update on her life since graduating from the program and a message of thanks to the Order of Malta and the donors who supported her:



Dear Order of Malta,

I am very happy to have received your email and to know that the Order of Malta continues to support Timorese students who need assistance.

As an alumni of the Creating Leaders Scholarship program, I am pleased to share my adventure since graduating from the program seven years ago.

I am now a medical student at Nova Medical School – Faculdade de Ciências Médicas of Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal. I am currently in the 5th year of the 6-year course. Throughout the course, I learned a lot about a completely new universe, made new friends and went through several medical specialties that, together, shaped me and made me who I am today: a student completely passionate about medicine.

I am grateful to my family and all the entities that have supported me throughout my journey, from my time at school in Timor-Leste to my current academic career. And of course, one of these entities is the Order of Malta.

The Order of Malta offered me financial support for around 6 years when I attended the Escola Portuguesa de Díli in Timor-Leste. This support covered everything from monthly fees to school lunches and school materials. Not only that, the Order of Malta also sponsored my study visit to CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) in Geneva, Switzerland, after my team was recognized with "High Praise award" by CERN after we competed for the "Beamline for Schools" competition in April 2017. The Order of Malta, once again, helped me achieve one of the dreams I had.

In September 2017, the Order of Malta also supported me on the Díli-Lisbon travel ticket to be able to start my study here in Portugal. In the summer of 2019, the Order of Malta also financed my round-trip ticket to Timor-Leste, to visit

my family and volunteer at the Order of Malta Medical Clinic in Díli for one month. During this month, I managed to gain new experiences and learn about the reality regarding health in Díli. I learned new things that I probably won't learn here in Portugal due to the difference in health facilities and endemic cases in the two countries.

In short, the Order of Malta contributed immensely to my studies and to my adventures and experiences that I have had so far.

If everything goes well, I will finish my studies and become a doctor next year. I thank the Order of Malta for the support offered during this process.

To the donors of the Creating Leaders Scholarship Program, I sincerely thank you for the support you have given, and continue to give, to the Timorese students who benefit from this support. In a way, you are giving wings to these students' dreams and reassuring them that they too can dream and that their dreams will not remain just dreams. I hope you can continue to provide them with that little push they need.

To the Order of Malta, thank you for everything and I hope that you get all the support you need from all parties and that you continue to make the dreams of many Timorese students come true.

Sincerely,
Maria José



Creating Leaders is an Order of Malta scholarship program in Timor-Leste, Asia Pacific's poorest nation, that supports underprivileged children continue their education.

The scholarships cover the students' school fees, uniforms, transport, and lunches.

COATS FOR THE HOMELESS

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Coats for the Homeless project this year. Our members and volunteers continue to distribute our specially designed Coats for the Homeless and Care Packs to the homeless across the country.

The homeless we meet are extremely touched by the interactions with our volunteers and are very grateful for the Coats and Care Packs they are gifted with. Sadly, we have seen a significant increase in requests for assistance and some worrying trends emerging.

Homeless data reports that women over 55 are the fastest-growing demographic of homeless people and our volunteers' reports anecdotally support this.

Our distribution teams have also seen an increasing number of Australians living in their cars seeking our Coats, as the cost of living and rents continue to soar. Figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows about 5,400 clients of homelessness services were sleeping



in a motor vehicle because they did not have a home – a significant increase on previous years.

Our volunteers have also been approached by an increasing number of residents of low-income households unable to afford heating and seeking a Coat to provide respite from the cold inside their homes.

The Order of Malta, thanks to the generous support of our donors and volunteers, will continue to provide services to the homeless and disadvantaged. In addition to the nationwide Coats for the Homeless distribution, our Community Care Outreach vans in Sydney, Parramatta and Melbourne provide year-round support to rough sleepers. In Bondi, Brisbane and Darwin we provide and support regular food services and "home dining experience" for people

in need and our Community Care Centre in Southport, expected to open in late 2024, will provide a variety of services to a wide range of people suffering disadvantage.

Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au for more pictures from the distribution and details of our distribution locations.

The Coats for the Homeless project is funded entirely by donations. Only with your support can we provide help to more people struggling through the winter months. Please consider a donation to support this project.



JULY 2024
NEWSLETTER

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TWO CATHOLIC LAY ORDERS COMING TOGETHER IN THE HOLY LAND IN THE NAME OF PEACE

On 17 May, His Beatitude, Pierbattista Cardinal Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and Fra' Alessandro de Franciscis, Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Order of Malta entered Gaza and reached the parish of the Holy Family for a pastoral visit. They met the suffering population to deliver aid and convey a message of hope, solidarity, and support.

The visit was the first stage of a joint humanitarian mission of the Latin Patriarchate and the Sovereign Order of Malta, aiming at the delivery of life-saving food and medical help to the population in Gaza.

A Memorandum of Understanding establishing the joint mission was

signed between the Parties on May 14th and will be carried out by the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Sovereign Order of Malta and its worldwide relief agency, Malteser International and other partners.

The Order of Malta is already active in the region, running the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem since 1985. It is a state-of-the-art maternity and neonatal critical care centre serving poor and at-risk women, infants, and children. It serves without regard to religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay. Since the war in Gaza, the shutdown of Bethlehem continues to mean very few have salaries and as a result fewer families can contribute to their care as a medical bill competes with a bag of groceries. Exacerbating the funding crisis is the hospital's contracts with the UN and the government

of Palestine, that normally cover a fraction of the cost of some deliveries and NICU care for refugees, have also dried up.

The Australian Association of the Order of Malta, with the support of our donors, has contributed over \$40,000 to help meet the funding gap at Holy Family Hospital.

Please help us continue to support those impacted by the war in Gaza with a donation to our Emergency Relief Fund. Donations \$2 and more are tax deductible for Australian taxpayers.

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For more Order of Malta news visit orderofmalta.org.au
Follow us and learn about activities as they happen



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The Order of Malta (ABN 37 142 209 121) is a Public Benevolent institution and is endorsed by the Australian Tax Office as Deductible Gift Recipient.
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Sponsoring a child in the Creating Leaders Program costs \$100 per month. Please consider a donation to support this project.



66TH ORDER OF MALTA INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The international pilgrimage that our Order makes each May sees several thousand people – malades, caregivers, volunteers and members – come together in prayer that expresses love for one another as Christ has asked us to do.

This year, some seven thousand people, from 46 different nations, participated in the annual pilgrimage. Amongst them there were 1,200 malades, including 750 young people aged 8 to 35, as well as 230 priests, 12 deacons, 231 doctors and 152 nurses.

Grand Master Fra' John Dunlap led the pilgrimage for the second time since his election and was joined by members of the Sovereign Council, Monsignor Luis Manuel Cuña Ramos, new Prelate of the Order of Malta, and 23 bishops. The Pontifical Mass on Sunday was celebrated by Cardinal Gianfranco Ghirlanda, Cardinal Patronus of the Order of Malta; Cardinal Silvano Maria Tomasi, former papal delegate.

The Australian contingent comprised 36 members, malades and friends. They were joined by 36 pilgrims from Hong Kong, 12 from Korea and 2 from Singapore and had the privilege of caring for 5 malades under the guidance of 3 wonderful chaplains Fr Gerard McMorrow, Fr Paul Nulley and Fr Peter Choy. They also carried with them 58 Prayer Intentions submitted by members and friends of the Australian Association, which were put into a sealed envelope and placed on the altar at Masses and prayed for during the Prayer of the Faithful and during Rosaries.

In addition to the key events; the Marian Procession, the Eucharistic Procession and the Pontifical Mass, the Australian

Association's pilgrims attended Masses and Rosaries at the Grotto and the Church of St John the Baptist in Bartres. The itinerary also included a visit to the Chapelle des Lumières for prayers and to bless the pilgrimage candles, a visit to the holy baths, a tour of Cite Saint-Pierre and the Stations of the Cross. They also 'followed in the footsteps of Bernadette' by taking a path that passes the key places where she lived, from her birth in 1844 to her departure for Nevers in 1866, which form the setting for the apparitions of 1858.

Members of the Order of Malta are not only obliged to participate in the Lourdes pilgrimage, but also to live our charism by encouraging others to join. The experience of a tourist passing through Lourdes is vastly different to a pilgrimage, where we are accompanied by chaplains, celebrate daily Mass, focus on communal prayer to Our Lady, and support the sick in making this journey of faith. Members and volunteers deliver hands-on care for the malades and spend many hours with them to help make their journey easier and offering friendship along the way.

For Australians unable to visit Lourdes, Lourdes Mass celebrations are hosted annually across Australia. Those attending receive a blessing for good health and a bottle of Lourdes water for their personal use.

The most recent Mass was in held at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne with Archbishop Peter Comensoli as principal celebrant, assisted by the Order of Malta Chaplains. The Cathedral was at capacity, with approximately 2,000 faithful attending this special annual celebration.

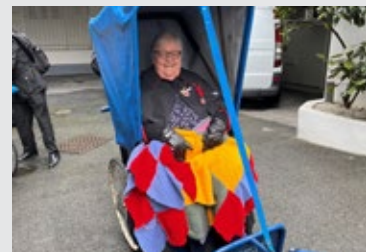
View our image galleries from the Lourdes Pilgrimage and Melbourne Lourdes Mass at www.orderofmalta.org.au

PILGRIMS REFLECT



"The highlight is always the evening Marian Procession as close to 10,000 people, by candlelight, sing and pray in unison. Lourdes is famous for its incredible miracles however, it is the minor miracles each participant experiences that draw us back again and again."

Danny Higgins, Member of the Order of Malta Australia who in 2024 attended for the fifth time.



"I've come home with a new sense of peace and tranquillity which I doubt that I could ever experience in any other situation. Lourdes is a unique and very special place and one which I have had the blessing to enjoy in every way possible over the years. I commend the pilgrimage to anyone who may be thinking about it."

Kate Scutt, Member of the Order of Malta Australia who in 2024 attended as a malade.

"The pilgrimage to Lourdes has made me aware of the size, reach and commitment of the Order of Malta to help the poor and the sick on an international scale. The annual international pilgrimage draws significant numbers of members and volunteers from many countries. Some of the European countries come as family groups bringing their children with them. It is a delight to see these young people participating of the works of the Order in their formative years."

Mary Long, Member of the Order of Malta Australia



SAVE THE DATE UPCOMING LOURDES MASSES

- * **Saturday 3 August**
10am St Mary's Catholic Parish, South Brisbane
- * **Saturday 7 December 2024**
10am at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney
- * **February 2025**
Melbourne and Adelaide (dates and locations TBA)



PRE-ORDER NOW OUR LADY OF PHILERMOS ROSES

New stock arriving in August 2024. \$35 EACH + \$27.50 flat rate shipping

The Our Lady of Philermos Rose project directly aligns with the mission of the Order of Malta. It has both spiritual significance and offers hands-on engagement with our Lords the Poor and Sick. Volunteers will distribute roses to patients in palliative care facilities, care homes and hospitals.

The charitable act of gifting the rose, and the interaction with volunteers, intends to uplift recipients. All profits will be invested back into the project.

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



17 MILLION UKRAINIANS NEED HUMANITARIAN AID

In the kindergarten in Lviv, children are increasingly seeking refuge from attacks in shelters. They are accompanied by Malteser Ukraine staff who provide them with psychological support.

As the war in Ukraine continues, millions of people still depend on aid – and will for decades to come. The war has triggered the largest refugee crisis since World War II with more than six million people having fled the Ukraine. Over five million Ukrainians are internally displaced and more than 17 million are in need of humanitarian aid.

When the Russian army invaded Ukraine on 24 February, 2022, the Order of Malta's international relief agency, Malteser International, began directly aiding those displaced by the conflict. They distributed food at the border crossings, in shelters and at train stations. As the conflict evolves, relief efforts have extended to the eastern and southern regions, with the provision of crucial supplies such as food and generators. But intensifying bombardments by Russian forces have posed significant challenges, leading to restricted operations in key hubs like Kharkiv, Odessa, Zaporizhia, and even in Lviv.

Pavlo Titko, Head of Malteser Ukraine in Lviv, observes a significant shift in the organization's approach over the past two years. "In the first year, we worked at a completely different pace. We rushed to help wherever needed most. Now, after two years of conflict, our approach has evolved into a more strategic, long-term endeavour. What was once a sprint has now become a marathon. We've had to learn to set priorities, recognizing that our capacity is not infinite. And we are not just helpers, but also victims. Our family members and friends are fighting in the war, some of our relatives have died. It is very difficult and exhausting to always focus on work while personal matters take centre stage at times. We have to constantly gather our strength to continue our work. At the same time, helping our fellow human beings is a strong source of strength and motivation for us to keep working," says Titko.

With each passing day, the psychological toll of the conflict weighs heavier on

the people. Alongside the distribution of relief supplies, offering psychosocial support has become a cornerstone of our work. Over the past two years, Malteser International has reached out to approximately 67,000 individuals in Ukraine, offering counselling and support through a dedicated team of 70 therapists. Whether through one-on-one sessions or group interventions, in-person or via virtual platforms, the experts provide assistance in navigating the emotional upheaval wrought by the conflict. Pavlo Titko remembers one encounter in particular:

"In the early days of the conflict, a mother and her children were fleeing the war in eastern Ukraine. They were on the road for three days until they reached the border. There they stood in line for another three days. It was cold and snowing at the time. They were hungry. This woman called our hotline and asked one of our psychologists for help. She later said that if she hadn't received help, she would have committed suicide. This is one of the stories that impressed me the most. But after two years of war, there are new stories every day that move me deeply. It's these stories that give me the motivation to keep going," says Titko.

"The war has made us all think about our values, about how we want to spend this life, how we want to live. Material values have actually taken a back seat for me, because they have suddenly become worthless," summarises Pavlo Titko.

The Order of Malta continues to operate both within Ukraine and the surrounding countries assisting refugees escaping the conflict. They include three members of the Australian Association.

Please help us continue to support those impacted by the war in Ukraine with a donation to our Emergency Relief Fund.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

The Order of Malta counts its dedicated volunteers for the successful running of many of its projects across the world. In Australia we are actively seeking volunteers to assist our projects that support the homeless, disabled, disadvantaged and sick.

Palliative Care Information Evening at Calvary Kooyong

On 16 September 2024 the Order of Malta with Calvary Kooyong will be hosting an information evening to introduce volunteering options at Calvary Kooyong.

Volunteering Activities might include:

- Providing companionship through visits
- Providing transport for approved purposes
- Life story activities
- Giving communion
- Administrative and fundraising support
- Aged care support

Join us for the information evening:
Mon 16 Sept 2024, 5.30pm - 6.30 pm
St Luke's Conference Centre, 1st Floor,
476 Kooyong Road, Caulfield South 3162

RSVP for the event, or for more information, please contact the team 03 9834 9568



Community Care Homeless Outreach Darwin, Melbourne, Parramatta and Sydney

Our Community Care teams visit locations frequented by the homeless to distribute essential items. These activities run year-round, and we are looking for compassionate and reliable volunteers to join our teams.



Read to Learn Tutors – Preston

The Read to Learn program assists the school in building the reading capacities and good study habits of primary school children who may not have the opportunity to read at home with their parents and/or whose parents speak English as an additional language.

As a volunteer you will tutor (one to one or small group) primary school student(s) to complete reading and maths activities.

You do not require any specific skills or qualifications to join the Read to Learn program.

For a full listing of our projects seeking volunteers and more information about what is involved, visit orderofmalta.org.au/volunteeroportunities

I WANT TO HELP

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

Direct Deposit:
Order of Malta
BSB: 083 453
Account: 44 888 189

I am happy for the Order to allocate my donation to where the need is greatest; or

I would like to support:

- Emergency Relief Fund for Gaza
- Coats for the Homeless
- Creating Leaders Scholarships
- Emergency Relief Fund for Ukraine

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

- Send me information about leaving the Order a bequest
- Please remove me from your mailing list.

Donations will be allocated to projects as requested by the donor. However if the needs of a project have already been met, we will allocate funds to another Order of Malta charitable activity.



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Please debit my credit card the amount of \$

Frequency Once only Monthly Card Type Visa MasterCard

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