



TIMOR-LESTE MEDICAL CLINIC DEVELOPMENTS

NEW 4WD AMBULANCE ARRIVES FOR THE ORDER OF MALTA CLINIC IN TIMOR-LESTE

We are pleased to announce the arrival of a new 4WD ambulance for the Order of Malta Medical Clinic in Dili.

This new ambulance is not a luxury, but a critical necessity. The clinic's previous vehicle was more than 20 years old and urgently required replacement after years of service supporting healthcare delivery across challenging terrain and remote communities.

In Timor-Leste, many people live in rural and isolated communities where poor infrastructure and limited access to healthcare present major challenges. Through its outreach programme, the clinic's staff travel to 10 remote locations each month—some requiring journeys of up to six hours from Dili on unsealed roads—to deliver primary healthcare services to more than 200 patients.

The arrival of this new 4WD ambulance will greatly enhance the clinic's ability to continue providing essential healthcare to vulnerable communities and ensure patients in remote areas can access medical care when they need it most.

X-RAY MACHINE UPDATE: A MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR THE TIMOR-LESTE CLINIC

In December, a special dollar-matching appeal was launched to raise \$135,000 for the purchase of a much-needed X-ray machine for the clinic. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of supporters, \$52,500 was raised and subsequently matched by the Order of Malta New Zealand, bringing the total to \$105,000.

Since then, continued donor support has enabled the remaining funding gap to be closed, and we are now in a position to place the order for the machine. Delivery and installation are expected by the end of Q3 2026.

This equipment will have a transformative impact on healthcare delivery at the clinic. At present, patients requiring X-rays must travel to the National Hospital in Dili—a journey that is often difficult or simply impossible for many patients.

Once operational, the clinic will be able to diagnose and treat a wide range of conditions on site, including fractures and respiratory illnesses. Given that infectious respiratory disease is among the most common presentations at the clinic, the addition of this equipment will significantly improve care for thousands of patients each year.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all donors and supporters whose generosity has made this important development possible.



68TH INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF MALTA PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes again welcomed the Sovereign Military Order of Malta for its 68th International Pilgrimage, held from 1–5 May, bringing together members, volunteers, and malades from around the world.

The pilgrimage was led by Fra' John T. Dunlap, together with senior leadership of the Order, continuing a tradition begun in 1958 to mark the centenary of the Apparitions. Highlights of the religious programme included Masses celebrated by Cardinal Gianfranco Ghirlanda and

Cardinal Arthur Roche, as well as the closing service led by the Order's Prelate, Luis Manuel Cuña Ramos.

Around 7,500 people participated in the pilgrimage, including 1,300 malades, supported by hundreds of doctors, healthcare workers, religious, and volunteers from 44 countries.

The Australian contingent of 44 participants, including four malades, experienced some travel disruptions due to heavy rain, yet the spirit of the pilgrimage remained undiminished. Pilgrims joyfully served together, formed new friendships, and renewed connections with fellow Knights and Dames from previous pilgrimages. This year also included several special celebrations: the investiture of a new member, four members taking the Promise of Obedience, and one member making the Definitive Promise, all within

the sacred setting of Lourdes.

Lebanon was once again represented despite the ongoing conflict, including the participation of First Lady Nehmat Aoun, reflecting the enduring relationship between the Order and Lebanon and the Order's continued humanitarian work in the region.

Reflecting on the pilgrimage, the Grand Master noted that Lourdes reminds pilgrims of their vocation to welcome, accompany, and place the vulnerable at the centre of their service – Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum.

The International Pilgrimage continues to embody the mission that has animated the Order since the 11th century: caring for the sick and vulnerable while sharing a common journey of faith and service.

ORDER OF MALTA 2026 ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH CAMP IN HONG KONG

1 November to 5 November 2026

Bringing together disabled youth aged 18–35, carers, and volunteers in a supportive and inclusive environment filled with fun, community, and adventure.

We are currently inviting Expressions of Interest from guests, carers and volunteers

Learn more: orderofmalta.org.au/youthcamp



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IN THIS ISSUE - PROJECT UPDATES / SAVE THE DATES / LATEST NEWS

PHILERMOS HOUSE SET TO OPEN ITS DOORS IN SOUTHPORT



Excitement is building as Philermos House prepares to open in Southport in the coming weeks, bringing a much-needed community service dedicated to supporting people experiencing hardship and homelessness in the region.

The new facility will provide practical assistance, connection, and dignity to those in need through a range of essential services, including meals, shower facilities, laundry services, clothing distribution, and welcoming spaces where people can access support and engage with the community.

Danny Higgins, the Order of Malta Regional Hospitalier leading the project, said the opening of Philermos House represents an important step forward in providing compassionate, community-based support for vulnerable members of society.

"Philermos House is about creating a place where people feel welcome, respected, and supported," explains Danny. "Every person who walks through our doors deserves dignity and the opportunity to access practical help when they need it most."

Danny emphasised that while the opening of the facility itself is an important milestone, its long-term success will depend heavily on

the generosity and involvement of volunteers.

"Services like Philermos House simply cannot operate without the support of volunteers," he said. "The contribution of community members who are willing to give their time, skills, and compassion is invaluable. Volunteers will be at the heart of everything we do, helping us create a warm, welcoming environment for those who need it." As preparations continue for the opening, Philermos House is inviting community members to register their interest in volunteering. Whether you can spare a few hours each week or assist on a more occasional basis, every contribution will help make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

In addition to volunteers, Philermos House is also seeking financial support from individuals, businesses, and community organisations. Donations are tax deductible and will help fund the ongoing operation of the service and ensure that support remains available to those who need it.

Monthly pledge donations are particularly encouraged and greatly appreciated, as they provide a reliable source of income that helps secure the long-term sustainability of the facility and its programs.

"Regular monthly donations allow us to plan for the future and continue delivering services with confidence," Danny said. "Even a small monthly contribution can have a significant impact when combined with the generosity of others across our community."

As the opening day approaches, Philermos House is calling on the local community to become part of this important initiative—whether through volunteering, donating, or helping spread the word.

Learn more about Philermos House at philermoshouse.org.au

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- * Cooking
- * Service meals
- * Laundry services
- * Shower services
- * Clothing distribution
- * Greeting & engagement
- * General help around the site

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ENQUIRE



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION: VOLUNTEER STORIES FROM COATS FOR THE HOMELESS

With the 2026 Coats for the Homeless distribution now underway, we wanted to share some reflections from the volunteers who are meeting people experiencing homelessness face-to-face. Their stories offer a powerful reminder of why this work matters and the difference a simple act of kindness can make.

"One bitterly cold evening, we noticed a young man sheltering in a dark doorway, wrapped in a thin blanket. Through tears, he told us he was cold and hungry. We were able to respond with more than just supplies – we offered a warm coat, gloves and a beanie, hot soup and sandwiches - as well as time and conversation.

As we drove away, he gave us a huge smile and a thumbs up. He looked like the happiest and most grateful man in the world." - Michael

"Hearing people's stories and learning how difficult it is to adjust to life on the street was confronting. I can't help but believe that the coats we provided not only brought comfort, but in some cases may have protected someone from serious illness – or worse.

The regulars are always happy to see us. Sometimes we have a long chat; sometimes it's brief. But even a short, positive interaction can mean a great deal to someone who is socially isolated. Often, the essentials we provide arrive at exactly the moment they are most needed." - Andrew

"We came across two gentlemen that had the Order's coats from previous years and we had to talk them into upgrading to a new edition that was fresh and clean. Their concern was that they may be taking from others in need." - Monique

"Sometimes a bottle of water, a warm coat on a cold night, or a genuine conversation can mean more than anything else we provide. It's a reminder that dignity and human connection matter just as much as material support." - Matthew



Would you like to hear more stories from our volunteers? We regularly share updates from all our projects on our social media channels.

facebook.com/orderofmalta.org.au
instagram.com/orderofmaltaaustralia/

FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE: ORDER OF MALTA COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

1. From Sydney to Rockhampton: Bishop Danny Meagher begins New Ministry

Members of the Order travelled to Central Queensland to attend the installation of our Chaplain, Bishop Danny Meagher, as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Rockhampton at St Joseph's Cathedral.

2. Thousands Participate in Lourdes Mass Celebrations

Annual Lourdes Masses were held in Adelaide and Melbourne, bringing together thousands of faithful. Attendees received a blessing for good health and water brought from the Shrine of Lourdes.

3. A Tradition of Prayer for Justice: The Red Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral

Members of Order of Malta Australia were honoured to process alongside clergy at the annual Red Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Photos courtesy of Alphonsus Fok / Diocese of Parramatta.

4. Feast of Our Lady of Fatima Procession

Members joined thousands of faithful

in Sydney for this powerful public witness of faith and devotion.

5. 84th Anniversary of the Award of the George Cross to the People of Malta

Australian Association President John Murphy was honoured to attend commemorations hosted by the Maltese Australian Association in Melbourne, marking this significant anniversary.

6. Corpus Christi Processions

Members in Brisbane and Melbourne took part in annual Corpus Christi processions, publicly witnessing to the faith on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

7. 2026 Day of the Unborn Child Marian Procession

Led by our Chief Chaplain, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, members participated in this important annual gathering, joining Catholics in prayer for the dignity and protection of unborn children. Images courtesy of Giovanni Portelli Photography.

8. Archbishop Charles Balvo: 50 Years of Service

Members gathered in Canberra to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Archbishop Charles Balvo's ordination to the priesthood and to thank him for his dedicated service as Apostolic Nuncio to Australia as he enters retirement.



CANBERRA MEMBERS BEGIN MONTHLY SERVICE AT AINSLIE VILLAGE

Members of the Order of Malta in Canberra have commenced a new volunteering initiative, staffing a monthly dinner service at Ainslie Village.

Operated by the Missionaries of Charity, the dinner service provides around 80 meals each month to

people experiencing homelessness and hardship in the local community. Order of Malta volunteers assist with preparing, serving and sharing meals, helping to create a welcoming environment for guests.


Ainslie Village is a unique social housing community that provides shared accommodation for people with high and complex needs. For many residents, it offers not only housing but also access to support services and a sense of community.

The initiative is another step in growing the Order's presence in Australia's

national capital and reflects its ongoing commitment to serving those in need through practical acts of charity and accompaniment.

The Order of Malta Australia provides numerous services to assist people experiencing homelessness and disadvantage. In addition to our Coats for the Homeless and Community Care Van initiatives, there are established food services in Bondi and Darwin. Philermos House will further extend our services on the Gold Coast, while members in Brisbane regularly support meal services at Emmanuel City Mission.

As the Order's charitable activities continue to grow, these initiatives demonstrate the enduring importance of local volunteer engagement and the Order's mission of serving the poor and the sick with compassion, dignity and respect.



shop.orderofmalta.org.au

Order of Malta Olive Wood Rosary - **\$22.50**

Lives of the Saints of the Order of St John of Jerusalem - **\$65**

Prayer Book - Grand Priory of England - **\$75**

Thank you to everyone who has supported this project! It is not too late to donate if you haven't already - the number of coats we are able to distribute each year depends entirely on the funds available to the program. Every donation helps us reach more people facing hardship during the cold winter months.

EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF DELIVERED TO EMU POINT COMMUNITY FOLLOWING MONSOON ISOLATION

When the Emu Point First Nations community was cut off from the main road due to monsoon rains and severe flooding, an urgent call for assistance was issued to support the Emu Point Nganambala School Food Program.

In response, the Order of Malta Australia partnered with the St Vincent de Paul Society NT to provide essential food supplies for the community.

With access by road temporarily impossible, the supplies will be flown into Emu Point to ensure children and families receive the nourishment they need without delay. This swift and coordinated response reflects a shared commitment to stand alongside vulnerable communities, particularly in times of isolation and hardship.

By combining our strengths, resources, and networks, we were able to respond quickly and effectively – demonstrating the power of collaboration in service of human dignity.

The Order of Malta remains committed to offering practical, compassionate support to communities in need across Australia, especially when circumstances require urgent and creative solutions.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW TREASURER NEVILLE ZAMMIT

The Australian Association of the Order of Malta is pleased to announce the appointment of Neville Zammit as Treasurer.

Confrère Neville succeeds Confrère James Gurry, whose dedicated service and outstanding contribution to the Association are deeply appreciated. We are grateful that James will continue to support the Order through his involvement on several boards and working groups.

Neville brings both strong professional expertise and a deep commitment

to the Association's mission. He has been actively involved in the Order's works through National Assemblies, Asia-Pacific Conferences, the Camps for Disabled Youth and the Parramatta Community Care Van.

Professionally, Neville has more than 20 years' experience as an accountant across a range of industries and currently works for a faith-based not-for-profit organisation in residential aged care. His financial expertise and experience in mission-driven organisations make him well suited to the role.

We congratulate Neville on his appointment and look forward to his leadership and stewardship in this important role.

I WANT TO HELP

You can make a donation by visiting 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 1897

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

- Philermos House
- Coats for the Homeless
- Timor-Leste Medical Clinic

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.



Name

Address

State Postcode Tel

Email address

Please find enclosed a Cheque/ Money Order (payable to 'The Order of Malta') for \$ or,

Please debit my credit card the amount of \$

Frequency Once only Monthly Card Type Visa MasterCard

Credit Card No

Expiry Date Cardholder name

Signature