

COMMUNITY EVENTS SUPPORTING OUR WORKS

Over recent months, several community events have provided opportunities to raise awareness of the Order of Malta, welcome new volunteers and support people experiencing hardship and homelessness.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION STAND AT PARRAMATTA CATHEDRAL

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who visited the Order of Malta volunteer information stand at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, in August, and to the Cathedral for giving our Members the opportunity to speak with parishioners at all Masses throughout the weekend.

A special mention also to the Members and volunteers who generously gave their weekend to staff the stand, speak with visitors and share their passion for the Order's mission.

We were delighted to receive more than 50 enquiries from people interested in volunteering with the Community Care Van in Parramatta, supporting people experiencing homelessness.

A NIGHT OF HEART, COMMUNITY AND GIVING BACK

Galilee Catholic Primary School in Bondi used its annual Winter Sleepout to raise funds and awareness in support of the Order of Malta's projects.

Students and families built cardboard shelters, gaining an insight into what it

might be like to spend a night without secure and comfortable housing.

Daniel Kwok, Vice-President of Order of Malta Australia, attended as a guest speaker and spoke about the Order's work supporting people experiencing hardship and homelessness.

Families also collected toiletries and other essentials, assembling 25 hygiene packs for guests attending the Order's Community Care Kitchen in Bondi.

The school has supported the Community Care Kitchen for several years, with families and staff previously providing homemade treats and fruit salads for guests at the weekly food service.

Thank you to the students, families and staff for their generosity and ongoing support of our works.

MUDGEERABA CUBS SUPPORT THE HOSPITALLER WORKS

Regional Hospitaller Danny Higgins recently visited the Mudgeeraba Cub Scout Troop to speak about homelessness, disadvantage and the challenges people can face throughout their lives.

Danny was impressed by the children's understanding, empathy and thoughtful questions. Their compassion was put into action, with troop leaders encouraging the Cubs to bring dry goods for people in need who will visit Philermos House.

The troop collected more than seven full supermarket bags of essential items, including tinned tuna, instant noodles, baked beans, muesli bars and other pantry staples.

Thank you to the Mudgeeraba Cubs for their support.

CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER

Every year since the early 1980s, the Australian Association of the Order, has been produced an Annual Christmas Card for use by Members and friends.

It always maintained the same theme, an image of the Madonna and Child Jesus with his cousin John, very familiar to us as John the Baptist, the Patron Saint of our Order.

This year on the front cover we have The Virgin and Child with St. John the Baptist,



COULD YOUR COMMUNITY HELP?

Schools, parishes and community groups can play an important role in supporting the works of the Order of Malta — whether by helping us recruit volunteers, raising funds for our projects or collecting essential goods for people in need. If your school, parish or community group would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us at
info@orderofmalta.org.au
to find out how you can help.



RENEWING OUR VOCATION: THE IMPORTANCE OF RETREATS AND PILGRIMAGES

For members of the Order of Malta, spiritual retreats and pilgrimages are important opportunities to deepen our relationship with Christ and renew our commitment to the spiritual mission and charism of the Order.

Pilgrimages offer a unique opportunity for spiritual renewal. By stepping away from our ordinary routines and journeying together in faith, we encounter Christ through prayer, the Sacraments and, particularly for members of the Order, through our service to those who are sick and vulnerable. Pilgrimage reminds us that our charitable works are not separate from our spiritual life — they are an expression of it.

The annual Order of Malta pilgrimage to Lourdes is perhaps the clearest expression of this vocation. Members, volunteers, chaplains, carers and pilgrims come together to pray, serve and accompany the sick, putting our faith into action and experiencing the joy of service in community.

Retreats provide a precious opportunity for prayer, reflection and fellowship. They allow participants to pause amid the busyness of everyday life, listen more attentively to God and reflect on how they are called to live their vocation. This regular spiritual renewal strengthens our faith and helps us return to our works with greater humility, compassion and generosity.

At the time of going to print, retreats are planned for Brisbane in September and Auckland in October, providing further opportunities for members and friends of the Order to come together in prayer and reflection.

SYDNEY SILENT RETREAT

In August, 25 members, candidates and friends of the Order gathered for the



Sydney Silent Retreat with our Magistral Chaplain, Fr Greg Morgan.

Held in an atmosphere of prayer and silence, the retreat provided a welcome opportunity to step away from the busyness of everyday life, allowing participants to deepen their relationship with Christ and renew their commitment to the service of God and those in need.

DARWIN REGIONAL RETREAT

In July, members, volunteers and friends of the Order gathered in Darwin for a regional retreat led by Conventual Chaplain *ad honorem*, Bishop Charles Gauci.

Centred on the theme "Disciples on Mission," the retreat provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on what it means to live our Christian vocation and our call to serve others.

We encourage members, candidates and friends of the Order to take advantage of these opportunities for prayer, formation, fellowship and service.



ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA

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WINTER OUTREACH BRINGS WARMTH, DIGNITY AND HOPE TO HOMELESS

Across Australia, members and volunteers of the Order of Malta have once again taken to the streets this winter, distributing our specially designed Coats for the Homeless to people sleeping rough in cities, regional centres and rural communities in every state and territory. Along with coats, our outreach teams are providing food, hygiene packs, warm clothing and, perhaps most importantly, a compassionate presence for those experiencing homelessness.

Since the initiative began more than 15 years ago, more than 50,000 specially designed Coats for the Homeless have been distributed, providing warmth, dignity and hope to thousands of vulnerable Australians facing the challenges of winter.

Homelessness continues to affect communities across Australia. Around one in every 200 Australians is experiencing homelessness, and each day many people seeking emergency accommodation are turned away because there are simply not enough beds available. For thousands of people, winter means facing freezing nights, rain and illness with little protection.

Over the years, the program has grown into much more than a coat distribution initiative. During outreach

visits, our dedicated volunteers also provide hygiene packs, socks, underwear and food packs to people doing it tough.

Yet, while these practical items are greatly appreciated, they are often not the most important gift we offer.

For many people experiencing homelessness, a friendly conversation, a listening ear and the knowledge that someone genuinely cares can be just as valuable as the food or clothing they receive. Our volunteers build relationships founded on respect, compassion and human dignity—living the Order's mission of serving the poor and the sick.

Our commitment to supporting vulnerable Australians extends beyond winter outreach. Through initiatives such as our Community Care Vans, Community Care Kitchen and Meal outreach services in Darwin we continue to provide practical assistance throughout the year. This commitment will soon be strengthened with the opening of Philermos House in Southport, Queensland.

We thank our volunteers, supporters and donors whose generosity makes these programs possible. Together, we continue to ensure that people experiencing homelessness are met not only with practical assistance, but also with compassion, friendship and the reassurance that they are not forgotten.

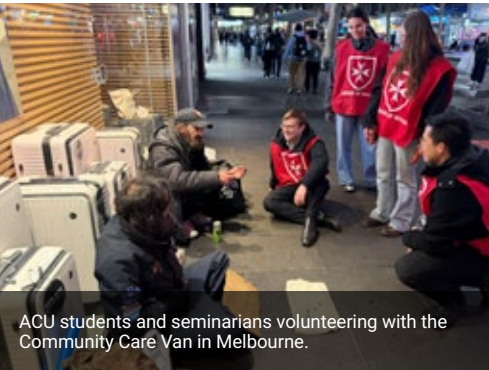
Our 2027 Coats for the Homeless volumes are dependent on funds available for the project when we place the manufacturing order in November. Please consider a donation to support next year's distribution.



Coats for the Homeless being distributed in Perth after being delivered to St. Mary's Cathedral



New volunteers Jack, Kim and Nick providing a new regular homeless outreach service in Hobart.



ACU students and seminarians volunteering with the Community Care Van in Melbourne.

ORDER OF MALTA
MEDICAL CLINIC,
TIMOR-LESTE

2026: WHAT WE HAVE
ACHIEVED SO FAR

The first nine months of 2026 have been an important period of growth and progress for the Order of Malta Medical Clinic in Dili and our mobile health outreach program.

Between January and September 2026, the Order of Malta Medical Clinic and its mobile outreach teams provided 11,341 patient consultations, including 1,207 antenatal visits, while identifying and responding to 426 cases of malnutrition.

Our mobile health teams also delivered regular outreach services across 12 targeted locations, bringing essential primary healthcare to communities where access to medical services can be difficult.

Alongside our regular clinical services, 2026 has brought several important milestones for the Clinic:

- * **A new ambulance with Starlink connectivity** was delivered, enabling telemedicine consultations and improving communication and coordination between our field teams and hospitals. This new capability will be particularly valuable when our teams are working in remote communities where access to specialist medical advice can be limited.
- * **A renewed three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health** has strengthened our long-standing partnership and our commitment to supporting Timor-Leste's national healthcare system.
- * **A new partnership with Instituisaun Sekuler ALMA**, a mission supporting children with disabilities, as well as children who are poor, abandoned or orphaned. Through this partnership, we are bringing primary healthcare and regular health monitoring directly to students at the ALMA School, helping vulnerable young people access medical care and early intervention when they need it.

Looking ahead, we will continue to strengthen the services available



through the Clinic. Plans are underway to introduce X-ray imaging and basic laboratory services, further improving our diagnostic capabilities and enabling our medical team to provide more comprehensive care to patients.

We will also continue to expand our mobile outreach and nutrition programs, helping ensure that essential healthcare reaches people who may otherwise face significant barriers to accessing medical services.

A NEW NEED: HELPING US
PROVIDE SAFE MEDICATION
MANAGEMENT

For many years, the generosity of our supporters has helped the Order of Malta Medical Clinic in Dili provide essential medical care to people who might otherwise struggle to access it.

As the Clinic continues to grow and expand its services, we also need to ensure that we have the right systems, expertise and resources in place to maintain the highest standards of patient care.

During a **Ministry of Health audit on 27 July 2026**, the Clinic was advised that we now need to employ a **dedicated pharmacist**.

Until now, this important function has been supported by a volunteer pharmacist. We are deeply grateful for the commitment and expertise provided through this arrangement.

However, as the Clinic and its outreach services continue to grow, a dedicated pharmacist is now essential to ensure the safe and effective management of medicines across all our services.

- The pharmacist will play a vital role in:
- * **Managing and monitoring medicines.**
 - * **Advising our medical team on the safe administration and use of medicines.**
 - * **Monitoring the use of medicines and vaccines.**
 - * **Reporting medicine and vaccine use to the Timor-Leste Government.**

Employing a dedicated pharmacist will cost approximately **\$700 per month**. This represents a new and significant ongoing expense for the Clinic, but it is an essential investment in the safety, quality and sustainability of the care we provide to our patients.

COULD YOU HELP US
MEET THIS NEW NEED?

We are asking our supporters to consider becoming a monthly donor to help us meet the ongoing cost of employing a dedicated pharmacist.

A regular gift of **\$25, \$50 or \$100** each month could make a meaningful contribution towards this important role. Every gift helps us maintain safe and effective medication management for patients visiting the Clinic and those reached through our mobile health services.

If a monthly commitment isn't possible, a **one-off donation** would also be greatly appreciated.

Your support helps us not only provide medical care today, but also build the capacity and systems needed to deliver safe, quality healthcare to the people of Timor-Leste for years to come.

A MISSION TO
FIRST NATIONS
COMMUNITIES

On Sunday, 16 August, members and volunteers of the National Council of Australia of the Order of Malta travelled with the Northern Territory St Vincent de Paul Society to two remote First Nations communities, Daly River (Naiyu) and Emu Point.

The vehicles were filled with donations gathered for the communities, including food, warm clothing, blankets, towels, hygiene items, reading glasses and sporting equipment. This mission continues a partnership with the Society that has strengthened the reach of both organisations in serving remote communities.

After travelling more than 300 kilometres from Darwin, the group arrived at Emu Point, on the traditional lands of the Ngan'gikurunggurr people. There is no church in the community, and Mass is celebrated in a simple shed. Yet, surrounded by the community, this humble space became sacred ground.

Fr Rodrigo and Fr Jonathan celebrated Mass, during which rosaries, crucifixes,



medals, scapulars and other devotional items were blessed for distribution to community members. Afterwards, the group shared morning tea and spent time with community members, including Elder Margaret, listening and sharing in fellowship. The mission also highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by the communities. Severe flooding during last year's monsoon left many homes uninhabitable and caused significant damage to the church and parish facilities at Daly River.

Repairs and recovery continue, with remaining donations entrusted to the priests for distribution to those unable

to return home.

This mission is more than the delivery of material assistance. It is an opportunity to build relationships, listen and stand alongside our First Nations brothers and sisters. In doing so, we are reminded of the Order of Malta's charism of service to the poor and sick and of our call to encounter Christ in those we serve.

Members may arrive believing that we are bringing something to others, only to discover that they receive far more in return — through their welcome, dignity, faith and friendship.

From Monday to Friday, guests will be able to access:

- **Breakfast: Cereal from 7:15 am, with a cooked breakfast available subject to volunteer availability.**
- **Lunch: Served from 12:00–12:30 pm.**
- **Laundry: Clothes washing and drying available until 11:30 am, subject to volunteer availability.**
- **Showers: Shower facilities and toiletries available until 11:30 am.**
- **Clothing: A limited supply of good-quality second-hand clothing.**

Looking ahead, Philermos House also hopes to facilitate Angels Kitchen on Sunday afternoons, providing takeaway meals, bakery items, fresh fruit and vegetables, and clothing to people in need. Longer term it will also serve as a welcoming hub where guests can access a variety support services from partner organisations.

Please consider making a donation to help Philermos House provide these essential services to people in need.



The devastating flash floods that struck Nepal on 26 August have claimed more than 1,100 lives and caused widespread destruction, leaving thousands of people displaced and in urgent need of assistance.

Through Malteser International, the humanitarian relief agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta, emergency support is reaching some of the worst-affected communities in Nuwakot District.

Working with local partners KOSHISH and RSDC, Malteser International is providing essential supplies including food, tarpaulins, blankets, mattresses,

hygiene items and water purification supplies to more than 2,000 people. Psychosocial counselling and psychological first aid are also being provided to help survivors cope with grief, trauma and displacement.

Malteser International has worked with partners in Nepal since 2012, including supporting communities following the 2015 earthquake.

Order of Malta Australia invites members and friends to support this vital relief effort. Your donation can help provide essential assistance and compassionate care to families affected by this devastating disaster.

Image credit: Prabin Shrestha/KOSHISH

PLEASE DONATE TO
OUR EMERGENCY
RELIEF FUND
AND HELP BRING
HOPE AND
PRACTICAL SUPPORT
TO THOSE AFFECTED
BY THIS DISASTER.

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:

- ☐ Coats for the Homeless
- ☐ Philermos House
- ☐ Timor-Leste Medical Clinic
- ☐ Emergency Relief - Nepal

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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