

HOSPITALIER

2020 Australian



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



2020 Review

Caring in tough times

Bushfire recovery | Blessed Gerard anniversary | Women of the Order



New lieutenant:
On 8 November Fra' Marco Luzzago was elected Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta. The newly elected head of the Sovereign Order of Malta swore his oath before the members of the Council Complete of State and the Pope's Special Delegate, cardinal-designate Silvano Maria Tomasi. Fra' Marco Luzzago succeeds Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, Prince and 80th Grand Master, who died on 29 April last.





WELCOME

2020 Australian HOSPITALLER

Welcome to *Australian Hospitaller* magazine, the annual review of the Australian Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta for the year 2020.

The Australian Association had just completed its biennial Assembly as this magazine was prepared for print. The event was organised under a cloud of uncertainty caused directly by the COVID-19 pandemic and the stop and start shutdowns that we have become accustomed to here in Australia.

The organising committee was conscious of the necessity of not only having a plan A and B, but also a plan C and D during these times. It was important to have the ability to pivot and change plans quickly to ensure the best outcome under the circumstances.


Last minute lockdowns in the Central Eastern Region sadly prevented in-person participation in the Assembly and the Investitures, but the digital activity ensured we had most members involved across the nation, in person and online.

The highlight of the biennial event was that it gave members an opportunity to escape the malaise that has become one of the major symptoms of COVID-19 in the wider community. People who took part felt engaged and several used the language, 'restart' and 'relaunch' in relation to the association's launch of strategy documents. Amongst the plans and reports of the associations, our values were also discussed. Faith, Service, Humility, Courage, and Fraternity are our values inspired and based on our daily prayer of the Order.

The pandemic that reached our shores in early 2020 certainly had an impact on the works of the Order with government restrictions on movement and numbers allowed to gather. It even curtailed our rights and opportunities to worship in public. Many in our society have been affected mentally, physically and materially under the circumstances it can be reasonable to understand that many people have withdrawn from their usual activities.

This year of 2020 in review tells a different story. It showcases an Order that has members who have the courage to continue to develop our Order, not only with structural and spiritual reform but also to make the most of a tough situation and evolve our offerings so that we continue to serve the most in need. It has highlighted the need to work closely with aligned Catholic organisations and groups but also to rely solely on others or be dependent on them to facilitate some programs.

The Lieutenant of the Grand Master Fra' Marco Luzzago, was recently received in audience by Pope Francis in the Private Library of the Apostolic Palace. The Lieutenant of the Grand Master detailed the ways in which the Order had adjusted its programs in the wake of the pandemic. Pope Francis expressed his support for the Order by saying, "I love you, I am with you, go forth. Go forth and bring strength to others".

So drawing on the traditions and the daily prayer of the Order of Malta, let us strive to live our faith with humility, service, and courage and in fraternity with one another. 

John Murphy KMG
Publisher

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Extending a hand: During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Order of Malta volunteers extended a hand to the most vulnerable.

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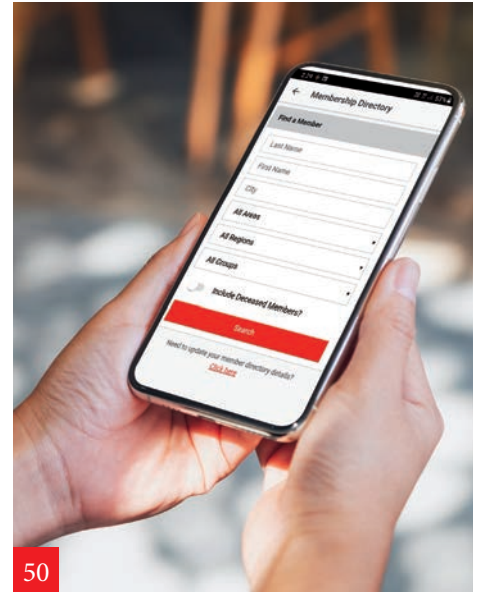
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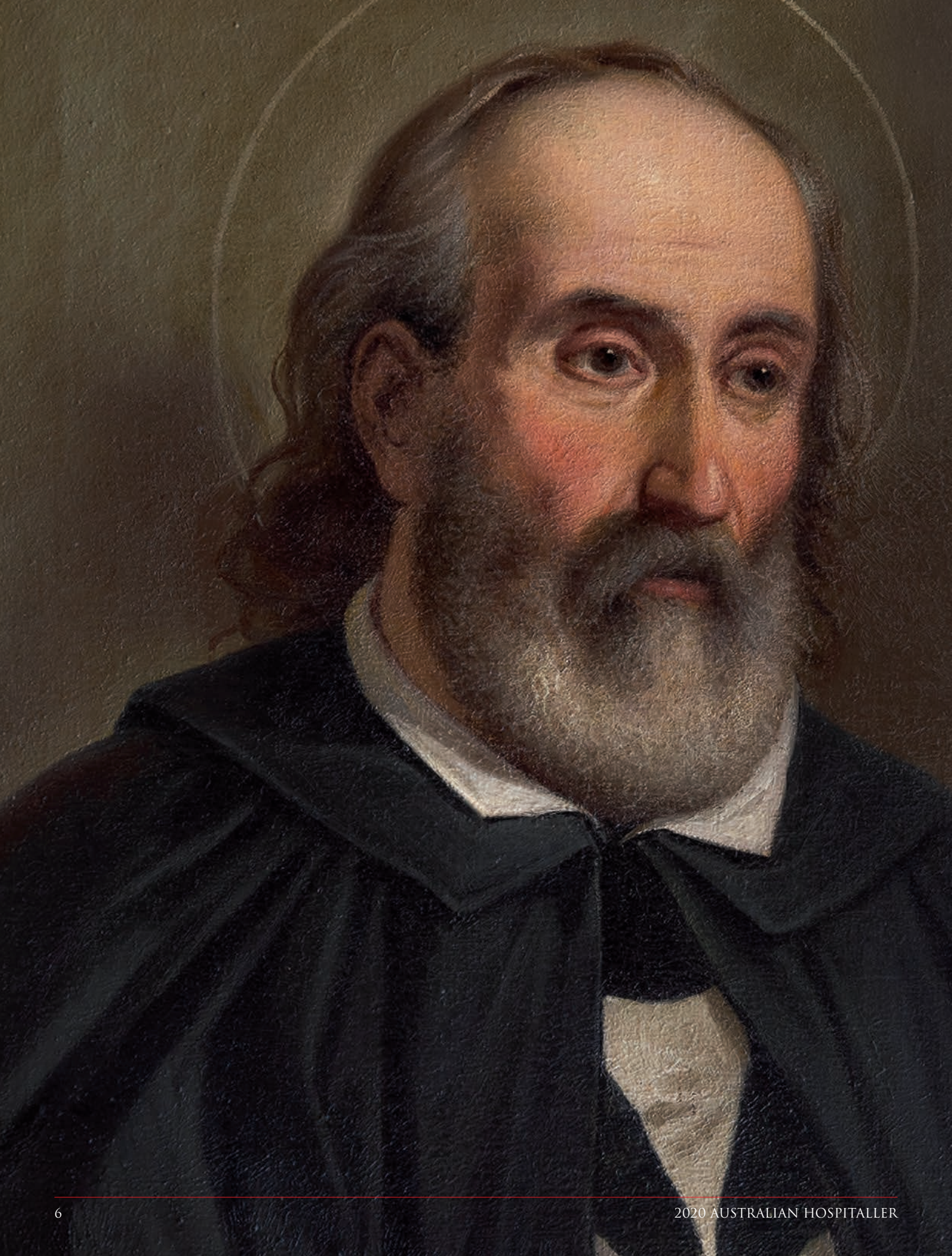
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The Order of Malta farewells the 80th Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto



*On 3 September 2020, the
Order of Malta remembered its
Founder, Blessed Fra' Gerard,
900 years after his death.*



ALIVING LEGACY

Members, volunteers and supporters united across the world to mark the 900th anniversary of the death of Blessed Fra' Gerard, Founder of the Order of Malta.



Top: The Order of Malta's delegation and Italian government representatives attended a special Mass in the Duomo di San Lorenzo in Scala, Southern Italy, to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the death of Blessed Fra' Gerard. Right: Official speeches and a presentation in honour of the Order of Malta's Founder takes place in the Piazza del Municipio.

In Italy, members of the Order of Malta gathered on 3 September 2020 for a special Mass to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the death of the Order's Founder, Blessed Fra' Gerard.

Celebrations also took place in Scala in the province of Salerno. It was here in Scala, a few kilometres from Amalfi in Southern Italy, where historians claim Fra' Gerard was born around 1040.

The village commemorated the date of Fra' Gerard's 900th passing with a solemn Eucharist at 10am in the Duomo di San Lorenzo in Scala, presided by Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, the then Pope's Special Delegate to the Sovereign Order of Malta.

"The Order of Malta will continue to exist and will make sense if love for God is able to combine love for the poor, a love that will not be limited to a simple and episodic welfarism, but that will be manifested in an intelligent and timely commitment to counteract those structures of iniquity that generate the disfigurement of the earth, social inequalities and the infinite number of the dispossessed in modern societies," the Cardinal said in his homily.

The Order of Malta's delegation also attended the Mass, led by Lieutenant ad interim, Fra' Ruy Gonçalo do Valle Peixoto de Villas Boas, members of the Sovereign Council – the Order of Malta's

government – the Procurators of the three Italian Grand Priorities, 100 Knights, Dames, Chaplains and volunteers from all over Italy.

The Cardinal exhorted members of the Order, following the example of Fra' Gerard, "to welcome and respect one another, to live in harmony and fraternal love, so that their lives as believers may be credible and bear fruit of joy and peace".

Italy's Minister for Health, Roberto Speranza, was also present to represent the Italian government, as was the president of the Campania region, Vincenzo De Luca, and the mayor of Scala, Luigi Mansi.

Following mass was a series of official speeches and a presentation in the Piazza del Municipio of a set of commemorative stamps of Fra' Gerard produced by Poste Italiane, followed by a concert of the famous violinist Uto Ughi.

A life of devotion

It is said that Fra' Gerard moved to Jerusalem in the second half of the 11th century where he began to work in the hospital next to the church of St Mary Latin, built by Amalfi citizens in Jerusalem in honour of St John the Baptist.

Fra' Gerard became head of the hospital. He was in charge of its organisation, reception, food supplies and religious assistance. He looked after the



sick and the poor and was even then called “the Lord of the sick”. The hospital grew a reputation for its acceptance of pilgrims and ability to tend to the sick, regardless of origin or religion.

The physical and spiritual suffering of the pilgrims arriving in the Holy Land between the 11th and 12th centuries, after a long and dangerous journey, was what prompted Fra’ Gerard and his confrères to consecrate their lives to serving those in need.

It was thanks to Fra’ Gerard’s charitable work and charisma that Pope Paschal II transformed the hospital into a lay religious order of the church on 15 February 1113, officially recognising the monastic community of the Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem.

By placing the Order of Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem (now Sovereign Order of Malta) under the protection of the church, it thus had the right to continue its work and elect its superiors without authority, lay or religious interference.

The Pope’s document gives an indication of the role and importance of the Order’s founder and demonstrates the significance of the service offered to the pilgrims and

the poor in the Jerusalem hospital. It also gives a list of its hospitals and hospices in southern France and Italy, proving that the order established by Blessed Gerard was not limited to the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem but already had a European dimension.

Fra’ Gerard died in Jerusalem on 3 September 1120. His successor as Grand Master of the Order of Malta was Blessed Fra’ Raymond du Puy, who between 1145 and 1153, wrote the first rule for the Order’s members. All the confrères were religious, bound by the three monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and dedicated to assisting the poor and the sick.

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Jerusalem obliged the Order to assume the military defence of the sick and pilgrims and to protect its medical centres and main roads. Defence of the faith was then added to the hospitaller mission, and the Order adopted the eight-pointed cross, still today its symbol.

For nine centuries, members and volunteers of the Order of Malta have continued to put Fra’ Gerard’s ideals of faith and charity into practice. This mission to serve the sick and the poor is the gift that Fra’ Gerard left us, and for which we

continue to remember. It is today more relevant than ever as testified by medical, social and humanitarian commitments the Order has across the world.

Acknowledge as “blessed” by the Catholic church, Fra’ Gerard’s example, based on the founding motto *Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum*, bearing witness to the faith and helping the poor, has animated the Order of Malta’s 900-year history.

The Order is now present in 120 countries with health and social care carried out by a network of 13,500 members, 80,000 volunteers and some 40,000 professionals. This includes the Order of Malta’s 300 members in Australia and New Zealand, who together with enthusiastic volunteers, continue to provide personal service to the homeless, the dying, the poor and those who continue their struggle rebuilding their lives after the bushfires that started in late 2019.

Fra’ Gerard will continue to be celebrated for his dedication to the sick and the poor, and remembered as an inspiring example to members and volunteers who serve under the Maltese Cross, now, and in the next 900 years to come. 🇻🇪

HOMILY FOR MASS FOR THE NINTH CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF BLESSED FRA' GERARD, FOUNDER OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

*St Mary's Basilica, Sydney, Feast of St Gregory of the Great, 3 September 3020.
Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP*

Today, the Church celebrates the Feast of St Gregory the Great, a highly educated nobleman of sixth-century Rome, by then a city overrun by barbarians and an empire crumbling. In his time the Plague of Justinian – the ancient Roman equivalent of COVID-19 – swept through the provinces, wiping out as much as a third of the population in some parts, and causing widespread famine, panic and rioting. Amidst social upheaval Gregory rose to being Prefect of Rome by the age of 30 but, being in poor health and hating all the trappings of high office, he often governed from his bed.

A humble man, Gregory would happily have heeded the Lord's advice in our Gospel to reject titles and privilege (Lk 22:24-30). He [was] determined to renounce wealth and power, and enter religious life. He did this by the simple method of turning his palace into a monastery and inviting a group of Benedictine monks to take it over. In a chaotic, violent world, he thought monastic calm the antidote. But his respite was short-lived. Pope Pelagius II recognised his capacity, ordained him deacon and made him Nuncio to the imperial court at Constantinople.

After doing his job there, Gregory begged to be allowed to return to the monastery. The Pope compromised by allowing him to return as his private secretary. Problem was, the pope upped and died and almost immediately, on this day 3 September 590, Gregory was elected pope by acclamation. So much for the quiet life. The man was horrified and appealed to the emperor to veto the election. Instead, the emperor sent his congratulations. He attempted to flee from Rome to avoid the office but was arrested and forced to submit to consecration as pope.

The same humility that made him resist his appointment meant that, once appointed, he resigned himself to the will of God and the Church and so he set to work exercising authority well. He understood the important truth that humility is about accepting who and where we are in relation to God and our fellows, not over or under-estimating what we can do under grace. He took the title "servant of the servants of God" as the best for a Pope. And serve he did: he was famous for his almsgiving, making the Church into Rome and the empire's principle charitable institution; he made a general reform of the liturgy – hence our term "Gregorian chant". He sought to convert rather than conquer the Barbarians and was remarkably successful. He published important works to strengthen the faith including one of the first on moral theology. He sought (like so many Popes after him) to address clerical corruption and curial reform, and he sent missionaries to deepest darkest England. When he died in 604 AD, he was almost immediately named saint by popular acclaim.

During the post-conciliar reforms, Gregory's feast day was moved, from the anniversary of his death on 12 March, out of Lent to today, the anniversary of his pontificate. As a result, he bumped Blessed Gerard off the calendar. Gerard was, like Gregory, a Benedictine monk who loved the contemplative life but whom history forced into a more active role. He was Rector of the monastic hospice of St John in Jerusalem. But in the wake of the First Crusade of 1099 that hospice was to become the headquarters for a new phenomenon known as 'knights hospitaller' and he would be their spiritual father. Like Gregory, Gerard heard in this evening's epistle: "Since we have by an act of mercy been entrusted with this work of administration, there is no weakening on our part (2 Cor 4:1-7): 'strange kind of mercy' they both probably mumbled under their breath. By 1113, Gerard's fraternity was sufficiently developed to warrant being formally recognised by Pope Paschal II as a new religious order. He lived until 1120, dying on this day nine centuries ago.

Gregory's policy of converting rather than conquering the pagans, whether they were Angles or Saxons, Goths or Lombards, was to play out in his son's thinking too. Though Blessed Gerard would sometimes take up arms with an R to defend the faithful, they more often took up alms with an L to cure and care for them. So clear was his intention one of the peace, like St Gregory's, that when all the Christians were expelled from Jerusalem, the sultan permitted him to stay and care for the hospital and its sick...

Clearly, there was in Gregory and Gerard, as in Paul, "none of the reticence of those who are ashamed of the Gospel and water it down; no, we preach truth openly in the sight of God." In two periods of violent change and destruction, like a cyclone, they were the calm centre, standing firm and holding out the promise of the Gospel to a world in flux.

In the nine centuries since Blessed Gerard's death, the Order's fortunes have waxed and waned, and it has often been entangled in politics and controversy. The number of its professed members has declined even as its number of lay members, the addresses of its headquarters and the length of its name have grown. As we now approach its millennium, the Order still seeks like Blessed Gerard to defend the faith and serve Christ in the sick poor. We lead by serving, as Christ recommends in our Gospel (Lk 22:24-30). By service that is free, selfless, loving, active and constant, we demonstrate an authoritative love and a loving authority. Ours is the way of the Good Samaritan, always ready to bandage and pour liniments, to carry, accommodate and care. Here we can draw a straight line through the history of our Order back nine centuries to its founder, Blessed Gerard, back five more centuries to another great Benedictine, Gregory the Great, and back six centuries more to the ones to whom Jesus said: "The greatest among you must behave as if he were the least, the leader as the one who serves." God bless the Order of Malta!

*St Gregory the Great, pray for us!
Blessed Gerard, pray for us!*

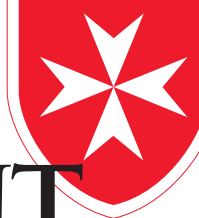


AUSTRALIANS REMEMBER

Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta gathered at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney on 3 September 2020 for a special Mass to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the death of the Order's Founder, Blessed Fra' Gerard.

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, and one of the Order of Malta's honorary conventual chaplains, celebrated the Mass.

Although attendance was limited due to COVID-19 restrictions, more than 2000 Order of Malta members, volunteers and supporters worldwide joined the Mass via livestream.



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.

In 2020 we were presented with challenges unlike any other 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, reminded us of that at the Central Eastern Region (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.

We have done our best to continue our Coats for the Homeless and palliative care programs in Melbourne and elsewhere, but the constraints imposed by COVID-19 regulations limited what we could do. It also inhibited our ability to meet and attend normal meetings, Masses and events.

Reports about the work of the Order internationally during the year from HE the Grand Chancellor, Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager and in response to COVID-19 from the Grand Hospitaller, Dominique Prince de la Rochefoucauld-Montbel, 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, Youth Camp, pilgrimages for the Holy Land and Malta, and the Asia Pacific Conference were all cancelled in 2020. Nor was I able to go to Bangkok to help invest our new members. All events have been postponed.

Work by the Executive Council

The Executive Council had anything but a quiet year. Although our members did not participate in as much "hands on" work as they 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. Though it is the work of the Order internationally, the bulk of the funds have been provided through Australian members. Our Vice President, Consoeur Prof Michelle Campbell, together with Confrères Alastair Furnival, Malcolm Irving and Ambassador 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 Confrère 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.

Through Consoeur Dr Bernadette Tobin and Confrère 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 in December to members for their information and comment. The view was to hold a non-binding plebiscite in February 2021, followed by further consideration at the June 2021 Biennial Assembly, held in Melbourne. We will also need to obtain the consent of the Grand Magistry to the proposed changes. In preparing the proposed documents, we built on the essential framework of the changes proposed in 2017.

The Order's existing structure in Australia

Presently, there are three organisations involved in the management of the Order in Australia. The first and main organisation is The Australian Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (the Australian Association). It is an unincorporated association which operates nationally with local regions. It is the body to which all members belong.

Australian Association of the Order of Malta Limited (AAOML) operates alongside it as our trustee and service company. Its members are the Executive Council members from time to time. It is and will remain, a company limited by guarantee, a common corporate structure for charitable organisations. 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 (SER) there is also an incorporated association called Order of Malta Hospice Home Care (OMHHC). Its members are the members of

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the Order in that Region, but it can 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.

The proposed changed structure

The principal aim of the proposed changes is to change AAOML from being solely a trustee company and service provider into an entity which will solely represent and govern the Australian Association instead of our existing unincorporated Australian Association. AAOML's membership will expand to include all members of the Australian Association. It will continue to operate as a trustee company and be the sole member of the OMHHC, which will change into a company limited by guarantee.

The proposed changes to the relevant constitutions have been circulated to members together with explanatory memoranda describing the detail of the changes.

We see the 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. This is something currently not available to them as members of the unincorporated Australian Association. It is also apparent that Rome wants us to operate through a corporate structure.

Operational policies

We have developed a significant number of policies to guide our actions, policies which are needed to ensure we participate in our charitable work effectively. One of the most important is the national Safeguarding Policy, whose development was led by Consoeur Maria Randazzo. As our members become more involved in hands on work, it is vital 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 for clear corporate governance. Chancellor, Confrère Scott Samson, Treasurer Confrère James Gurry and Delegate of Communications Confrère Daniel Kwok have led the way with the assistance of other Executive Council members. They have called on their experience in the field to help produce policies on conflicts of interest, prevention of fraud, crisis communications, feedback and complaints, whistle-blowers, privacy, recognition of members' achievements and volunteers. We are also working on an "emeritus membership" policy for those who, because of age or infirmity, have difficulty in engaging in hands-on work for the Order.

Confrère David Blackwell, the Southern Eastern Region (SER) Hospitaller, drew on his experience

in introducing a Risk Register to help 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, such as the Youth Camp, now scheduled for the Gold Coast in September.

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.

Confrère James Gurry, our Treasurer and leader of the Finance, Audit and Risk subcommittee, has been vigorous in transforming the Order's financial structure into a more coherent national one with all our accounts gathered into the one bank, National Australia Bank. Our accounting systems have also been made uniform and on the same software platform across the country. It will help us produce a more comprehensive statement of our accounts nationally as we also consider auditor rotation.

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 white paper which we expect to be distributed to members once finalised.

Hospitaller work and the Order of Malta Volunteers

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

He has also encouraged the growth of our volunteer program, the Order of Malta Volunteers or OMV. The numbers of young members are growing quickly in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and now Perth. The regional coordinators are Dalton Fogarty and Anna Sammut (CER), Timothy Gorton and Jeremy Mann (SER), Joseph and Alice Grogan (Northern Eastern Region) and Confrère Noel Mifsud, the Southern Central Region Hospitaller based in Adelaide, and Confrère Andrew Cichy, now a resident in Perth. We had the inspiration of a video conference 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. Confrère James Gurry has had direct experience in this 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. Confrère Steve Christie, the new 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 Regional Hospitaller Danny Higgins, and our chaplain Fr Gerard McMorro, are also exploring ways our work with the homeless can be expanded on the Gold Coast.

Spiritual life and Defence of the Faith

During the year, Archbishop Mark Coleridge was confirmed in the position of our Principal Chaplain for a term of five years, starting 1 August 2020.

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 are well advanced. Confrère Daniel Kwok has coordinated the production of those very useful works.

Our Defence of the Faith panel, now led by Confrère Seán Parnell, the NCR Regional Hospitaller, continued to inform us in advance of the issues we will likely need to defend. In that context, we co-sponsored with the Catholic Medical Association Australia an online conference on Sex, Gender and the Human Person on 30 May 2020.

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 supporting voluntary assisted dying advanced during the election campaign. Its proposed examination by the Queensland Law Reform Commission was apparently to be discarded. It has now been reinstated, after the election.

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

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

There was a Subpriory retreat held in Melbourne and organised through the SER between 27 and 29 February 2020, before COVID-19 restrictions were imposed. We also managed to hold a retreat in Sydney from 27 to 29 August. The Subpriory organised the event, which was confined to members in the CER because of COVID-19. They were both, by all accounts, very successful. Our New Zealand Region, with the assistance of the NER chaplain Fr Gerard McMorro, however, had to cancel its proposed retreat near Wellington because of COVID-19.

Technology

An unintended side effect of COVID-19 has been the use of video conferencing for Order Masses and for coordinated praying of the Rosary by different groups within the Order. This includes our candidates, their sponsors and spiritual directors, 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.

That use of technology has been facilitated by our Vice-Delegate of Communications, Confrère Anthony Gerada, who has also been very active 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 activities, as well as providing a wide range of spiritual resources for prayer lives, and a current list of members. Confrère Anthony also provides considerable software assistance to Mrs Michelle Rees in the Order's administration.

Strategic planning

We have met very regularly as the Executive Council in video conferences and completed a strategic planning day in Sydney on 17 December 2020 – held partly in person and by video conference. 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 the survey, conducted early in 2020.

The exercise was very helpful in focussing 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.

When the strategic plan reaches its final version in 2021, we will publish it to members.

One of the more encouraging events for the Order in Australia during 2020 was the award to Consoeur Prof Tracey Rowland of the Ratzinger Prize for theology. It is considered to be the highest honour in that field of study. It made us feel proud that we have her as a member of the Order. She has spoken to us at previous conferences, and we hope she continues to give us the benefit of her great learning. Her specific theological interests are the relationships between nature and grace, faith and reason, history and ontology and faith and culture.

I have been able to visit members in Sydney and Melbourne during 2019 and 2020 as President. God willing, I hope to be able to visit most other regions in the country during 2021.

Returning then to the effect of COVID-19 during the last year, may I leave you with the words of Bishop Robert Barron in an 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

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

The Subpriory forms a spiritual community to mutually support one another in the development of our spirituality, humility, and engagement with the hands-on works of the Order. Our members make a special commitment to serve the needs of the poor, sick, elderly, handicapped, outcast and the refugee through the charisms of *Obsequium Pauperum and Tuitio Fidei*. We began the year with a Chapter to elect our leadership group for the next six-year period – a Regent and Subpriory Council to guide the activities of the Subpriory in the Asia Pacific Region. Sovereign Council then ratified those elected to these positions. The results were:

- Regent: Confrère Professor David Kissane AC, KMG (Ob)
- Vice-Regent: Confrère Dr Damian Benson, KMG (Ob)
- Chancellor: Consoeur Dr Jennifer Dunlop, DMG (Ob)
- Treasurer: Confrère David Blackwell, OAM, RFD, KMG (Ob)
- Councillors: Confrère Anthony Gerada, KMG (Ob)
Confrère Daniel Kwok, KMG (Ob)

Two retreats were held for members during 2020, the first in February at the Campion Centre in Melbourne, led by our Principal Chaplain, Rev Professor Gerald O'Collins, SJ, AC. The second was held in August at the Canisius Centre in Sydney, led by Rev Fr Geoffrey Plant.

With the restrictions that the COVID-19 pandemic placed on everyone in 2020, we embarked on the fortnightly recitation of the Rosary via Zoom, which proved to be a successful means of sharing and praying together as a community.

Two members took their Promise in 2020 – Confrères Frank Testa, KMG (Ob) and Egbert Collin Yap, KMG (Ob). The Subpriory has 30 full members and 13 members in preparation, who will be due to take their Promise of Obedience in 2021. The Sovereign Council approved two new applications in 2020 to commence preparation in the persons of Confrère James Douglas, KHD and Confrère Brigadier Peter Evans, RFD, KMG. Our overall membership is 45. This includes members of the Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand Associations. Our Subpriory thus serving the needs of the Asia Pacific Region.

We are very grateful for the support and spiritual direction from our chaplains Professor Gerald O'Collins, Bishop Terrence Curtin and Dr Kevin Lenehan. An unrecognised demand on their time is the spiritual direction they give to members, especially during the year of preparation. We thank them most deeply for their generosity and support.

With the sad loss of our Grand Master in 2020, H.M.E.H. Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Temprio di Sanguinetto, a Chapter Complete of State was held in November 2020. Confrère Simon Grenfell was approved to act as Alternate for our



Subpriory, and the Council elected a new Lieutenant of the Grand Master for the next 12 months, H.E. Fra' Marco Luzzago. We anticipate both an Extraordinary Chapter during 2021 to confirm the proposed constitutional reform of the order, and then a further Council Complete of State to elect a new Grand Master.

The year of 2020 will be remembered for the global pandemic, the many related losses of life, closures of borders and restrictions on movement and economies to prevent further spread. Towards the closure of 2020, we learnt of the retirement of our Principal Subpriory Chaplain for the past 11 years, Rev Professor Gerald O'Collins SJ AC, due to ill health. We thank him most sincerely for his sterling service. ❖



Above: Regent Professor David Kissane AC KMG (Ob).
Left: Subpriory members and members in probation made a retreat in NSW when travel restrictions prevented them from going to the February retreat in Melbourne.

A PIECE OF HISTORY



EARLY EXPLORATIONS OF THE SEAS AND THE ORDER OF MALTA By Sir James Gobbo AC CVO GCMGO GCM

One of the most famous feats of navigation in history was the first circumnavigation of the world in 1522. This epic voyage which began in 1519 was led by Ferdinand Magellan and commissioned by Portugal.

The longest and most valuable narration of the voyage was written by Antonio Pigafetta who described himself as “a Patrician of Vicenza and a Knight of Rhodes”. He was some 30 years of age and had taken part in warfare at sea out of Rhodes against the Turks when the Order of St John controlled Rhodes. He had joined Magellan’s expedition as a volunteer. Magellan was later killed in the Philippines before the completion of the voyage, but Pigafetta survived to write his account, known as the “Relation” which he completed in 1524. This manuscript was dedicated to the Grand Master of the Order of Rhodes. Pigafetta had met the Grand Master, Philippe de Villiers Isle Adam, in Italy soon after his return from the voyage. The continued reference to the Order of Rhodes was because the Order was not then linked to Malta, as the occupation of Malta did not take place until 1530, well after the capture of Rhodes by the Turks.

The “Relation” by Pigafetta was not available in English until a translation from the French manuscript was published in 1994.

There was another later link between the Order and historic feats of exploration and navigation, namely, the voyages of Alessandro Malaspina who was born in 1754 in a small town near Genoa in Northern Italy. His family belonged to the minor nobility and could be traced back to the tenth century. There is no explanation as to why the family chose the thorn bush “Malaspina” as its name.

When Malaspina was eight years old, his family moved to Sicily which was then governed by Spain. He was educated in the Clementine College in Rome and studied Physics and Philosophy. He sought to pursue a naval career and began by serving a cadetship in the Order of Malta. He came to know Antonio Valdes who later became Minister for the Navy of Spain, and was head of the Order in Spain. This led to Malaspina pursuing a career in the Spanish navy and becoming a frigate captain in 1782. By this time Malaspina had achieved full membership in the Order of Malta. In 1788 his naval experience as a captain included voyages to Lima and Manila as a part of a circumnavigation of the world.


What followed was described as the Great Voyage, which lasted five years. It was primarily directed to existing and possible new Spanish colonies on the Pacific coast of both South and Central America. Malaspina voyaged to Guam, the Philippines and the Moluccas and also called at Port Jackson in New South Wales where he was welcomed by the New South Wales Corps, and stayed for a month. During this time, notes made by the expedition’s botanist, Luis Nee, were published in 1800.

Malaspina crossed the Pacific once again and eventually returned via Cape Horn to Spain. His task was not mere navigation. He was to produce a detailed report on the state of the many Spanish colonies he visited.

As a navigator and captain, Malaspina was outstanding. His careful surveys of new routes and harbours were meticulous, as was his attention to the health and welfare of his crew.

His reports on the Spanish colonies proved controversial as they included radical proposals that some colonies should be abandoned, and criticism as to the misguided pursuit and amassing of silver for the luxury trade. He offended powerful Spanish ministers and unsuccessfully conspired to unseat some of his enemies, including the Prime Minister. After a somewhat dubious trial, he was convicted and served seven years in prison. After his release he never sailed again. He returned to Italy where he lived until his death in 1810.

In 1992, Malaspina’s reputation was fully restored when the Royal Navy of Spain conducted a major international tribute to him which recorded that “his work was lost to the nation upon his conviction and forgotten for over seventy years after his death – long after Spain lost her empire as he foretold.”

Malaspina’s membership of the Order of Malta had apparently lapsed during his many absences at sea, but this was remedied in 1792 during his Great Voyage, as the King of Spain successfully requested the Pope to secure his reinstatement with no loss of seniority. 



NATIONAL HOSPITALLER

Up to the CHALLENGE

John Murphy KMG reports on the Australian Hospitaller Association's activities, highlighting the Order's national and international reach at a time when borders closed, but not the compassion and driving need to support those in need.



The year that was 2020 will go down as one of the most trying in modern history.

The year started with some of the worst and most widespread bushfires our nation had ever seen, displacing families, destroying properties, and taking lives.

We then watched in disbelief as a global pandemic ravaged the world population and made its way to our shores, spreading sickness and fear. Major cities were locked down, and our most vulnerable were put in harms way.

It forced us all to revisit our priorities; to appreciate the important things in life, our faith, and our loved ones.

As an association, we were presented with many challenges as the needs quickly changed around us due to the circumstances.

In most parts of the country, we were denied the right to worship in public and

receive the sacraments. The spiritual and psychological toll the pandemic had on the faithful was evident. The government's paramount concerns were on the population's physical health and stopping the spread of the virus.

Care for Aged Members

As all regions went into lockdown due to government restrictions, our hands were tied as Regional Hospitallers endeavoured to work out the needs in the community, while being restricted to house arrest. It was determined that perhaps the best immediate course of action was to reach out to our own members, especially those in their senior years.

Coats for the Homeless

Distribution was disrupted due to lockdowns during the early winter months but thanks to the commitment of our members in Australia and New Zealand, we were able to meet our previous distribution quotas in all regions except for the South Eastern Region due to the extended COVID-19 lockdown.

As usual, the coats were well received by those sleeping rough and the Order of Malta Volunteers were greeted with grateful smiles when the yearly coats were handed over to those in need.

Care Packs

The Care Packs came into their own with the inclusion of antibacterial wipes, masks, and gloves to help protect the homeless from the new enemy. The timing of development of this offering could not be better as these new essentials were almost impossible to source due to shortages, but the Order was able to ensure a constant supply of personal protection equipment and antiviral supplies to protect the homeless and disadvantaged.

Personal Protection

Face masks were in short supply during the first months of the pandemic, but we were able to move quickly and have our own face masks manufactured locally. They were used by members in their daily lives, as well as in the field while distributing coats and care packs to our homeless. This initiative was noticed far and wide. The Australian-made Order of Malta masks were also put to use in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Bushfire Response

Our response to the summer bushfires commenced in late 2019 and carried over into 2020. Initially, our response was directed through our Regional Hospitallers working closely with Dioceses and their parishes in the most directly affected regions. After initial needs were met with food and food vouchers, our approach took on a totally different direction.

Confrère Frank Testa coordinated a concerted effort with in-person visits to develop personal relationships and be present for those still suffering trauma.

Additional initiatives included becoming a key partner in establishing the Story Telling Centre in Milton. This wonderful work is continuing into 2021 as the real effects are long lasting and assisting recovery is a long-term commitment. More can be read in the separate article on pages 34 and 35.

International Pilgrimage and Regional Activities

Unfortunately, lots of organising came to little as we had to adjust our plans to the new 'COVID normal'. Much planning for our regular Lourdes pilgrimage and our special Malta extension had to be put on hold, much to our disappointment.



2020 was also the year for Australia to host the Asia Pacific Youth Camp on the Gold Coast. We now look forward to this happening in 2021, although it will now have only Australian participants due to regional travel restrictions. Nevertheless, this is set to be an amazing experience for special young adults and their carers to enjoy.

Friends Abroad

Our efforts to raise funds for the bushfires brought us into contact with many friends from the Order around the globe who generously came to our assistance in a time of need with their prayers and financial support. Malteser International also circulated our appeal throughout Europe, raising awareness and funds for the Australian association.

We also had the chance to come to the aid of our brothers and sisters abroad on several occasions to ensure that the Order had the resources to assist directly with those in need.

We were successful in raising money for the Lebanese Association following the horrific blast in Beirut. The Order of Malta and Malteser International were among the first responders and have continued to assist the victims of this tragic

event in conjunction with the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also had the opportunity to assist the Order in South Africa. We contributed food packages to assist aids-affected children who were left isolated and starving due to the virus affects in South Africa.

OMV

2020 also saw the creation and launch of our very own youth core in the form of OMV (Order of Malta Volunteers). Young adults aged between 18 and 35 years of age now have the opportunity to assist us with our work, serving those less fortunate and living the charism of our wider Order. I personally see this as one of our most important initiatives that will ensure we are able to continue to carry out 'hands on' work and also develop links with the future leaders of the Order. Confrère Dalton Fogarty KMG deserves a special mention for his work in the early development of the OMV as he has been very proactive in the Central Eastern Region developing important links and activities.

An exciting future is instore as we gain momentum and build this group in numbers.

A more extensive article on this wonderful initiative can be found on pages 38-41. ❖

Order of Malta Volunteers distributed coats to those sleeping rough. COVID care packs were also provided to the homeless and disadvantaged.



North Eastern Region Hospitaller: Daniel Higgins KMG

During 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic dominated every aspect of our region's activities. The pandemic's effects on so many peoples' lives should have been a wonderful opportunity for our members with their commitment to service to the poor and the sick to provide this ministry. However, the most telling effect was the restrictions we were all required to observe to prevent the virus spreading through our community.

Order of Malta Youth Camp

The North Eastern Region had been granted the privilege of leading our Association in preparing for the inaugural Australian hosted Asia Pacific Youth Camp, following on from the wonderful Camp held in Hong Kong in 2019.

Advanced fundraising and planning was conducted throughout the year, but like so many events there was no clear prospect the camp could proceed successfully with regular border closures throughout Australia and especially for entry into Queensland. It was with great disappointment the Camp was postponed until 2021.



Coats For the Homeless and Hygiene Packs

Pandemic or not, the homeless were still front and centre in our thoughts and we were able to distribute more than 1500 coats through our regular partners, though we were prevented on being hands on in connecting with people of disadvantage.

One of our members had the experience while walking through Brisbane city wearing an Order emblomed shirt to have a person approach him to ask "are those coats going to be available this year?" This is an outreach ministry and makes a difference and is appreciated by those who receive a quality item new and comforting.

We took the opportunity this year to begin supplying hygiene items including toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, moisturiser, socks, beanies and deodorants. The opportunities were limited but where we could distribute these items they were appreciated.



Passing to eternal life of Archbishop John Bathersby

In March 2020, the Archdiocese of Brisbane and our Order mourned the passing of Archbishop Emeritus John Bathersby Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem.

Regional members were granted the honour of standing vigil with the Archbishop during the period his coffin resided in state in the Chapel of St Stephen's Cathedral.

The funeral was severely disrupted as the first substantial pandemic restrictions came





into force. A small group of members were permitted to attend in robes to honour the life and service of our beloved chaplain.

Emmanuel City Mission

In August, the Order commenced discussions with Emmanuel City Mission on how our two organisations could cooperate in our ministries.

This led to members of our Order attending Emmanuel City Mission on the World Day of the Poor. We distributed coats, hygiene items and some well appreciated food items.

The success of this initial collaboration was to lead to an ongoing attendance of Order of Malta members and volunteers in 2021.

Spiritual Activities

COVID-19 was also a serious impediment to the coming together of members, family, friends and candidates. However, we were able to have several opportunities to meet and celebrate our faith together.

With Magistral Chaplain Father Gerard McMorrow appointed Parish Priest of Southport Parish the members were able to attend Masses at Guardian Angels Church, Southport in June and October.

In November, the traditional Mass of Remembrance for members who now rest in the peace of our Lord was held at St Paschal's Wavell Heights.

December saw Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem, Archbishop Mark Coleridge led a celebration of our Advent Mass with Bishop Ken Howell at Our Lady of Victories, Bowen Hills. Mass was followed by a convivial meal.

The one positive outcome from COVID-19 restrictions has been the development of the Zoom Rosary. Many members, family and candidates of

our region have been regular participants in Rosaries established by the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception, the candidates' group and the Order of Malta volunteers.

Candidates for Membership of the Order

2020 was the inaugural implementation of a national program for new members. Our region was blessed to have six candidates approved to commence their year of preparation. Each candidate had the support of two members who acted as their sponsors and assisted them in coming to know and understand the spiritual charisms of our Order. Further, each of our candidates was strongly supported in their preparation by having one of our regional chaplains assisting as their spiritual director. These new arrangements have been an outstanding success with candidates, sponsors and spiritual companions commenting how much they appreciated the faith journey the new program offers.

A special mention must be made of our two candidates Alicja and Andrzej Druzynski due to their perseverance against adversity presented by COVID-19 restrictions. They live in the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales and with their sponsors in Sydney and Brisbane and their spiritual director on the Gold Coast, they used every opportunity to engage when the border was open or through telecommunications to be very active participants. Further, they have commenced tremendous hospitaller works in the Lismore Diocese.

Safeguarding

With hospitaller works heavily restricted the opportunity for the Executive Council's new Policies for Safeguarding were still able to be developed and commence implementation. This is an important set of policies for the benefit of those we service and our members and volunteers. ❖

*Top left: A lone Knight holds vigil over the casket of Archbishop Emeritus John Bathersby Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem; Order of Malta candidates gather with their sponsors and spiritual director; Mass con-celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge and chaplains of the Order.
Left: Members and volunteers prepare hygiene packs and more than 1500 coats for the Coats for the Homeless Program.*



Central Eastern Region Hospitaller: Dr Steve Christie KMG

Like everyone, the Members of the Central Eastern Region (CER) had an unusual 12 months following the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020. Despite this, CER remained very active, as the needs of our lords the poor and sick were not diminished through lockdowns – only magnified.

The Community Care Vans

CER continued to run the Community Care Vans throughout all of 2020, both in the Sydney City and Parramatta areas. We of course had to adapt due to COVID-19 restrictions. For example, all volunteers had to wear masks and numbers were reduced to comply with social distancing requirements. However, with other charities suspending services, we felt it important to maintain a presence and provide support in these difficult times. Our care packs were beefed up to include sanitiser and face masks, which became much in demand as the pandemic unfolded. This great work was only possible due to the work of Confrère Ben Franklin (rostering),

Confrère Stephen Quain (inventory), Mr Grey Fingleton (pretty much everything to do with the Parramatta Van) and the wonderful nurses from St Vincent’s Mental Health and Homeless Nursing Unit who could provide the homeless with medical attention as required.

The Coats for the Homeless program

Our signature program, Coats for the Homeless, once again continued under the leadership of Confrère Ben Franklin. An estimated 3000 coats were distributed throughout Sydney and other areas of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Relief to the survivors of bushfires

With the severe bushfires running amok on the east coast of Australia at the end of 2019 and into 2020, many families were left devastated, with lives and homes lost. National Hospitaller Confrère John Murphy and CER Member Confrère Frank Testa leapt into action and organised relief by way of food vouchers, support and

funding the establishment of a counselling type service for bushfire survivors based in Milton, NSW.

Frank and his team made monthly visits to the Batemans Bay and Moruya parishes where they join in the Masses and offered friendship over dinners and morning teas. Fr Martins Aloga, parish priest of St Bernard’s Church says: “Your presence means a lot to us. To know that you have driven five hours to be with us helps heal some of the pain brought about by the bushfires.”

We hope that this support will see people through as they get back on their feet.

Faith activities

CER continued usual monthly member Masses, days of reflection and retreats. Deepening and defending our Faith remain the key reasons for joining and remaining in the Order.

A particular highlight was Archbishop Fisher offering Mass for the 900th anniversary of the death of our founder,





Blessed Fra' Gerard on 3 September 2020. This Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney was livestreamed globally and recorded, ultimately being watched by thousands.

The other liturgical highlight was on 5 December 2020, when Archbishop Fisher again celebrated Mass for us, this time for our annual Lourdes Day Mass, held at St Mary's Cathedral. Although numbers were tight due to COVID-19 restrictions, there were still 150 in the congregation, including 60 Knights and Dames and volunteers, and 35 malades who received the

Archbishop's blessing along with blessed Lourdes water.

For malades who had wanted to attend the Mass but could not do so, members went to their nursing homes to visit and distributed Lourdes water.

A special thanks to Confrères Stephen Chiew and Graham Beal for all they did during 2020 in organising our Masses and faith events. And of course, thanks to all our wonderful chaplains for all they do for the Order.

Membership

By the end of 2020, CER had 10 candidates in the process of preparation and formation to become Members. The completely revamped national formation materials and preparation process is serving these candidates and the Order well in ensuring a vibrant, faith-filled, active, and growing CER membership base.

World Day of the Poor

Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of 2020 was to see the creation of the Order of Malta Volunteers (OMV), headed here in CER by Confrère Dalton Fogarty. The OMV team of volunteers added momentum to all our activities, but their standout effort was to organise and run our inaugural World Day of the Poor BBQ on 15 November 2020 at St Aloysius of Gonzaga, Cronulla. With a team of volunteers cooking and handing out sausages and other delights to the locals, we were able to grow our volunteer base and raise funds and awareness to further our works for the poor. A special thanks to our Chaplain Fr James McCarthy without whom this would not have been possible. ❖



*Bottom (L-R): A gathering on the South Coast of NSW for those impacted by bushfires; First Friday Mass in Canberra with incoming Chaplains and Candidates.
Top (L-R): Homeless outreach in Parramatta, NSW; Volunteers at Lourdes Day Mass at St Mary's Cathedral.*



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

BUSHFIRE RESPONSE: MEMBERS VISIT SOUTH EASTERN RELIEF CENTRE

Members of the Order of Malta reacted to the bushfire crisis in early 2020 by connecting directly with the Parishes involved and offering immediate assistance.

In a sign of solidarity and support, members of the South Eastern region joined the parishioners at East Gippsland at Bairnsdale's St Mary's Church to pray for those most in need during this bushfire crisis.

The Parish Priest Fr Michael Willemsen, who also cared for the Parishes of Orbost, Lakes Entrance and Bairnsdale, was active at the Bairnsdale Relief Centre during the height of the disaster, supported by his parish teams. The Parish's territories included the seriously impacted communities such as Mallacoota, Buchan, Cann River, Sarsfield, Nowa Nowa and Omeo.

The Parish itself had its own care centre, manned by the local Vinnies, away from the crowded and hectic relief centre that is the first point of call for those impacted by the fires.

National Hospitaller John Murphy toured the Parish centre as well as the South

East Gippsland relief centre with Parish representatives to better understand the needs of those affected.

While the Red Cross and Department of Health and Human Services were the first point of call for victims, we worked with other community-based organisations to provide support where we could. The Order of Malta food vouchers played a small but highly valued role for many of the victims.

ASSISTANCE TO HOMELESS AMID LOCKDOWNS IN MELBOURNE

In 2020, residents in Victoria, and in particular Melbourne, were subject to some of the strictest lockdown restrictions in the world. The implications for services available to the homeless were consequently severely impacted.

Despite temporary government housing schemes that were implemented to help those sleeping rough find shelter during the pandemic, there were still many on the streets who were cold, hungry and scared.

Members gathered to assemble emergency 'COVID' hygiene packs containing facemasks, anti-bacterial wipes and personal items for distribution to the homeless.

Order of Malta members, families and friends were also able to venture out in small distribution groups to provide essential services to rough sleepers and distributed the Coats for the Homeless and COVID-19 care packs. Those encountered by our members and volunteers were grateful for the opportunity to talk and the warm coats, socks, and sanitary items they received during his extraordinary time.

COMMUNITY CARE VAN

In December 2020, the region acquired a 'Community Care' van to expand its activities with the homeless. The Community Care van was purchased thanks to a grant from the Fra' Richard Divall estate.

The van will provide safe transport for members and volunteers in Melbourne who distribute Coats for the Homeless and hygiene care packs. It will enable them to

increase the coats, care packs and medical supplies that can be transported for each outreach activity.

Most importantly, the van will allow the Order of Malta to expand the geographic distribution of services and the frequency. Historically, the Order of Malta has worked with the Vinnies Food Van to provide its outreach services. The van will enable members and volunteers to establish its own service, providing more opportunities for them to work 'hands on' with the homeless, outside of the Vinnies' food van schedule.

FOOD HAMPERS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS IN TASMANIA IMPACTED BY COVID-19

In Tasmania, members assisted foreign students who did not qualify for support from either the Commonwealth or State governments during the lockdowns, by providing emergency food hampers. Many lost their student jobs necessary to pay for rent, food and tuition, and were unable to fly home during the pandemic.

Pedro is a University of Tasmania post graduate student who worked as a casual employee in the hospitality sector. As a foreign student visa holder with two dependants (his spouse and their one-year-old child), neither his wife nor he qualified for Jobkeeper or Jobseeker. Their income was severely impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions and our food hampers were gratefully received during this difficult time.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

To mark World Day of the Poor, members and volunteers provided breakfast and hygiene packs to the homeless down by the Yarra River with all recipients very appreciative. The Missionary of Charity Sisters also received coats for the homeless and care packs that they distributed separately throughout Melbourne.

ANNUAL DAY OF REFLECTION

The Annual Day of Reflection for the South Eastern Region was held on 29 February 2020 at the Carmelite Monastery in Kew. The Principal Chaplain of the Sub-Priory of





the Immaculate Conception, Fr Gerald O'Collins SJ AC lead the Reflection. Fr Gerald asked us to reflect on the Eucharist as 'memory' – both individually and collective, 'body' – bodily presence to each other, the sign of the cross, 'identity' – the common answer to our quest for meaning, and 'expectation' – the Eucharist defines our expectations for the future. He also asked us to reflect on three prayers of repentance, intercession, and thanksgiving. Fr Gerald finished by asking us to leave the retreat as yachts, not rowboats and to make a resolution for Lent to read prayerfully one of the Gospels – for instance John. 'Abide in me as I abide in you' (John 15:4).

The day was also the last day of the Subpriory retreat where 12 members in preparation (five-day retreat) and 15 members (three-day retreat) joined in unity with 35 members of the South Eastern Region. The Day of Reflection was spiritually enriching, building cohesion and friendship between members. The Carmelite Sisters made the day extra special by their hospitality in sharing their home and nourishing us and joining us at Mass, where we were honoured to witness The Rite of Obedience. Confrère Colin Yap from the Singapore Association and Confrère Frank Testa from Central Eastern Region took the Promise of Obedience. The Promise was received by Confrère Professor David Kissane AC Regent of the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception.

YEAR OF PREPARATION

In 2020, the region had eight candidates commenced their Year of Preparation. Working through the new Handbook for the Year of Preparation, candidates

were taken through elements of the program including prayer, study, discernment and activities within the Order by our Chaplains and supported by sponsors on their journey and ensuring that the candidate participated in activities within the Order and in particular the hands-on service element of our charism.

INAUGURAL ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

To mark the end of a tumultuous year, and the dawn of new beginnings, the members, volunteers, family and friends of the South Eastern Region were invited to attend our inaugural Advent Carols Service that was held on 17 December at 7pm, in St Peter's Catholic Church in Toorak.

The carols service reflected the Advent season's growing anticipation for both the first coming of Christ and of that day when the prayer "thy kingdom come" is finally and fully answered.

Due to the Victorian Government COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time, St Peter's Church could only accommodate a congregation of up to 90 people. However, in future years it is hoped that the service will welcome greater congregations.

One of our Chaplains, the Very Rev Joe Caddy AM, presided over the service.

Dr Brianna Chesser, who at the time was in her year of preparation to join the Order, led the singing. Brianna has been a Cantor at St Patrick's Cathedral since 2009 and a member of the Music Ministry team at her Parish, St John's in Heidelberg.

Mr Daniel Brace, organist and Music Director at St Peter's in Toorak supported the Service. 🇺🇸

Left: Principal Chaplain for the Subpriory of the immaculate Conception Fr Gerald O'Collins AC SJ during day of reflection.

Top: members gather to assemble the homeless hygiene packs in South Melbourne. The operation was controlled with social distancing, masks and hand sanitiser.



Central Southern Region Hospitaller: Noel Mifsud KMG

Lieutenant of the Grand Master Fra' Marco Luzzago replied to Pope Francis' message for the 54th World Day of Peace on 1 January 2021 by saying: "With assiduous prayer and perseverance in these difficult times caused by the pandemic, I trust we will be able to perform effectively our mission in the world by helping all those who need us – the sick, the poor and the oppressed."

The following report of Central Southern Region activities in 2020 is a celebration of assiduous prayer, perseverance and humble commitment to our call as members of the Order.

Member news

We acknowledge the contribution of Regional Chaplains Monsignors Robert Aitken and Kevin Long and Fr Allan Winter who provided spiritual leadership and guidance to members throughout 2020.

Congratulations to Confrère Gregory Crafter on his appointment as a Knight of the Order of St Gregory the Great, announced by Pope Francis on October 2020.

It was with great sadness our beloved Confrère Laszlo George Ory OAM passed away this year. Laszlo was known and loved by members of the Order, especially in his hometown of South Australia. He will be remembered with great love for his active membership of the Order since investiture in 1989.

Consoeur Rita Deluca announced her retirement from active hands-on work in the Order due to ill health. Rita has been a supporter of the Order for many years. Rita continued to keep all members and the Order in her prayers.

In December, we bid farewell to SA Member Confrère Colonel William (Bill) Keegan who returned home to the United States. Bill served the Order with great compassion, humility, and dedication over the many years he resided in Australia.

Appointment of Archbishop O'Regan

Pope Francis appointed Bishop Patrick O'Regan as Archbishop of Adelaide. His

installation was celebrated on the solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians on May 25 2020 in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral. National President Confrère James Douglas formally welcomed the Archbishop.

Snapshot 2020 events:

Annual retreat

Members in SA attended an annual retreat at the Seven Hills Jesuit Monastery, situated in the beautiful Claire Valley Wine region. Fr Joe Sobb SJ gently guided members in three days of prayer, discussion and reflection on the Gospels. Thanks once again to Consoeur Mary Kennedy who faithfully organises our annual retreats.

Coats for the Homeless

Western Australia Members located in Perth distributed more than 500 coats for the homeless under the guidance of Confrère Michael Shanahan. Confrère Phil Wyld and wife Carol coordinated the distribution of 450 coats in South Australia.

Lebanon Explosion Appeal

SA Members provided a small but heartfelt \$1,000 donation to the Order's National Charitable Works Fund for the Lebanon disaster relief.

Adelaide Day Centre for the Homeless

In addition to helping to feed the homeless through a food van at the Centre, members also contributed to the cost of the service.

Australian Bushfire Appeal

With support from National Office and donations raised by members in our region, food vouchers were provided for bushfire victims to meet emergency needs.

Aboriginal community support

Sixteen sleeping bags were rushed 1196.3 kilometres from Adelaide to the Aboriginal community of Mimili to provide much needed warmth to families who lost their homes in a fire. We were blessed to receive the assistance of National Aboriginal





and Torres Strait Islander Commission staff who assisted with speedy transportation of the sleeping bags from Adelaide. This collaboration opened the door to future discussions on how we can be more supportive and hands on in our work.

COVID-19 packs

COVID-19 packs containing toothpaste, brushes, deodorant, shaving kits, mouth wash, beanies, packaged nuts and biscuits were distributed to our brothers and sisters living on the streets as well as to organisations such as St Vincent de Paul, Adelaide Day Centre (for the Homeless) and Hutt Street Homeless Centre.

Western Australia


Confrère Dr Andrew Cichy moved to WA in 2020 and was active in establishing Order of Malta volunteers. He conducted meetings with the rector of St Thomas More College at the University of WA to establish the university as a centre for volunteer recruitment, and a storage facility for the collation and distribution of care packs to the homeless and poor. St Thomas More is the only Catholic College at the University of WA and there is great potential to make a connection with the Order.

South Australia

In 2020, members participated in a range of activities including the Lourdes Day Mass held on 11 February at 10am in St Xavier's Cathedral.

COVID-19 restricted the conduct of many meetings and state lockdowns prohibited much of our usual hands-on ministry spiritual formation and fundraising activities. COVID-19 restrictions resulted in some creative responses to serving the poor and sick. Some members visited patients at Mary Potter Hospice online via Zoom and held virtual rosaries nationally. Yes, it is true God works in mysterious ways.

In Matthew 25:37-40, we read: *“Then the upright will say to him in reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you? When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you?’ And the King will answer, ‘In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.’”*

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. 

Above: At the annual Lourdes Day Mass; Members at the funeral Mass of Lazslo Ory OAM KMG.

Opposite page: Jim Golden-Brown (left) with CEO NATSIC Graham Aitken of Aboriginal Community Services. Sleeping bags for indigenous communities.



Northern Central Region Hospitaller: Seán Parnell OAM KMG (Ob)

In a similar fashion to the presence of the Order elsewhere in Australia, our works have been interrupted in a manner hitherto unseen, by the pandemic sweeping around the world. In any event, we have adapted and delivered some of our works notwithstanding the restrictions placed on physical contact with the poor.

Serving those in need in Central Australia

Fifty coats were distributed in 2020, 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 were very appreciative as night-time temperatures often fall below zero in winter.

Alice Springs' work has included visits to town camps/communities and people's homes, outreach to old people, particularly dialysis patients, distribution of coats, blankets, Rosary bead packs, and Lourdes Holy Water. Fr Prakash Menezes SVD and Fr Ollie Noclam SVD have also assisted in distributing coats to outstation communities especially those up to 250 kilometres north of Alice Springs. They were all very grateful for the delivery of coats.

Assisted by the new candidate for the

Order Matthew Kelly, Christmas presents were provided for children at Santa Teresa and Outstation communities north of Alice Springs.

We were unable to access blankets this year due to lack of availability during winter but will endeavour to distribute more blankets next year as they are deemed to be more useful to people in Central Australia.

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. As an Order, we are endeavouring to establish sustainable assistance through project and activities via good community development practice and partnerships with parishes and other agencies in this space that will 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 packaged up and distributed sanitary packs to the homeless and the poor at Ozanam House in Darwin.

This centre "provides a safe and secure place and a sense of community for those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness". Here, there are laundry and ablution block facilities, day beds, bus transport to a city medical centre, social areas, and a kitchen, among a host of other services provided by this wonderful centre.

Anticipating the Order of Malta's World Day of the Poor, we connected with St Vincent de Paul and arranged to serve breakfast to about 80 men and women between 7.30 and 9 am. The NCR Order of Malta group used this "hands on" opportunity to provide 100 hygiene bags each of which contained useful items. These items were soap, toothbrushes and paste, combs, deodorants, small towels, shaving cream, shavers, and a few hair accessories.

Homelessness is a distressing condition in our cities. While not all individuals who present here regularly or occasionally are homeless, many are displaced or have travelled far from homelands for multiple reasons. As such, it was our very great privilege to assist at this centre in a very small way that morning.

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.

Over the Christmas period, members of the Order in Darwin prepared an evening meal and distributed it to the poor and homeless on the foreshore in Darwin.

We purchased the food supplies and are grateful for the partnership of the Missionaries of Charity who assisted us in the preparation and distribution of the meal.

We prepared the meals and travelled to the foreshore at Vestey's Beach before sundown.

The beach itself is lapped by the waters of the Arafura Sea and presents a majestic tapestry of God's great handiwork to our work with the poor. The meals prepared fed approximately 30 men and women gathered around the beach under the spectacular beauty of the setting sun on the Arafura Sea.

Surprisingly, many of the poor there gathered had come from more than 1600 kilometres inland from the former Catholic mission at Santa Teresa and many were now for varying reasons staying in Darwin in the long grass. Consoeur Dr Nicole Johnson was fortunate enough to recognise many of those people as she had taught some of them at the Santa Teresa school many years ago. The joy of friendships renewed in the faces of those around was evident for all to see on the Christmas evening meal.

Given the paucity of our numbers here in the Territory we have been fortunate enough to secure the partnership with the Missionaries of Charity to undertake this meaningful task of feeding the poor on a regular monthly basis. And our thanks go to Consoeur Dr Maria Randazzo for facilitating this work.

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 apply for documents and helping them navigate the sometimes convoluted legal procedures.

Mission Visits

Members of the Order have begun reconnecting with Aboriginal Catholics on the old mission stations on the Tiwi islands and Daly River Missions. Visits to these places occurred during the year after the



restrictions from COVID-19 had passed and we were able to distribute clothing, socks, Rosary beads and other items to the Aboriginal people in these locations. Our thanks go to Consoeurs Dr Maria Randazzo and Dr Frances Booth for undertaking these journeys together to the Islands and to the old mission station at Daly River. Booklets were also presented for school children entitled: 'God speaks to his children' were well received by the school principal and the Parish priest for the day, Fr Peter Huan Nguyen MSC. Afterwards, Mass was held at the Mission Church before members continued their journey back to Darwin.

Annual Spiritual Retreat

Members of the region undertook their annual retreat during the year which was prepared by our Magistral Chaplain Father Malcolm Fyfe VG MSC. The theme of the retreat was 'the role of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God' using the eighth and final chapter of Lumen Gentium: her role and connection with the church. This was supplemented by Marialis Cultus and the apostolic exhortation for the right ordering and development of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary by Pope Paul VI. It was a peaceful and enriching quiet day and one which we all enjoyed.

We continue to hold monthly meetings to 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 Fr Malcolm. It is an important part of the life of the Order here in the Territory and is an opportunity for the Order to gather in community and prayer. ❖

Far left: Fifty coats were distributed in 2020, mostly to Arrernte people.

Left: The NT Order of Malta group prepare hygiene packs for distribution to the homeless and poor.

Above: Members of the Order visited Aboriginal Catholics on the old mission stations on the Tiwi islands and Daly River.



Korea Chair: Silvano Youngmaan Park KMG

Founded on 15 April 2015, the Order of Malta Korea (OMK) welcomed its fifth year and has further developed into a community of more than 250 volunteers (30 volunteers are new from this year), with 13 invested members (including two chaplains) and three aspirants. Silvano Youngmaan Park, now in his second term, has been leading the works of the Order as the founding president.

In Korea, the COVID-19 outbreak began earlier than most countries at the end of January 2020. As such, none of the usual programs designed to promote the organisational development and members' spiritual growth took place. Instead, OMK focused on grabbing every possible chance to serve those in need while complying fully with COVID-19 restrictions to ensure safety of its members, volunteers and most of all, the forgotten neighbours.

The aim of OMK's service, which is to directly address critical urban poverty in the city of Seoul, became more relevant in this COVID-19 crisis, leaving the forgotten neighbours in a much deeper shadow of the city. While trying to carry out its regular weekly services from the existing projects, the OMK also took the liberty of opening new projects to spontaneously

react to worsening situations and to help those who are extremely vulnerable to such changes.

As a result, a total 76 services, or more than six services per month, took place throughout 2020 with eight different projects, serving more than 10,000 forgotten neighbours. Below is a summary of those projects:

Jacket for Life

The Jacket for Life project is the OMK's third project that aims to help the homeless from the freezing cold. A total of 300 jackets were distributed to homeless people and marginalised neighbours in Seoul. The first distribution took place in December 2019, followed by several distribution services throughout the season. Leftover jackets are donated to a small community operated by a priest.

The Lunchbox Project

OMK's first project, which kicked off in June 2016, aims to provide decent meals for the poor and the sick residents of slums in downtown Seoul. More than 1000 meals were cooked and prepared in a lunchbox and provided to 250 slum neighbours until the project ended in March 2020.



Bread for Weekend

A total of 5860 bread items were baked, packed, and delivered to 130 underfed seniors per service through its weekly services in 2020. This weekly service was interrupted constantly due to COVID-19 restrictions, however OMK managed to serve nearly half of last year's volume.

Since January 2019, OMK has provided specially baked breads on a weekly basis to forgotten neighbours who can hardly afford one meal over the weekend. The Sisters of Mary bake the nutritious breads at the bakery, fully set up by OMK. OMK members and volunteers pack and deliver them to the forgotten neighbours in the city of Seoul.

Free Lunch project

Three hundred and fifty meals were cooked and served to 85 seniors on a weekly basis until the COVID-19 outbreak worsened in late spring. The Free Lunch project had to be quickly improvised. A big bag full of fruits and packaged food were distributed to an average 130 seniors every week, unless interrupted by the COVID-19 restrictions, to avoid cooking and serving food to eat in a hall. A total of 2530 meal bags were distributed throughout 2020.

OMK has run this service since September 2019, where six to 12 members, aspirants and volunteers gather at Myung





Hwi Won, a centre for poorly fed seniors, to cook and serve free lunch to 130 starving seniors on the first Friday of every month.

Emergency Relief project

In the early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak, all programs were shut down in February and March. OMK put together an emergency relief project for the neighbours whose lives are hopelessly challenged by the COVID-19 outbreak.

A total 38 pallets worth more than 15 tonnes of various packaged food and personal hygiene products were distributed thanks to the OMK Emergency Relief project. This covers nearly 2000 people including 150 children, 1220 refugees, foreign residents, seniors and homeless through 10 different dioceses and centers in the affected regions of Daegu, Incheon, Suwon and Seoul.

Senior Center project

Since June 2020, OMK started its monthly visit to Sung Woo Hoe, where 30 elderly seniors reside to bring joy and happiness with OMK's special cooking skills, and sometimes with music and dance.

Francisco's Neighbours project

With an aim to address urban poverty, OMK discovered a new district in the Changsin-dong and Soongin-dong area, both known to have poor living conditions with no aid/support by any organisation. Residents in this district the various support that OMK can provide through its new centre, called Francisco's Neighbours, physically located in the district as part of the neighbourhood.

The centre will operate in a collaborative structure, where the Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help carry out daily operations with a sister actually living in the centre. OMK is responsible for recruiting volunteers and providing the hands-on service. This includes cooking several side dishes and delivering the food each Monday to needy residents in the district. Occasional fruits and special food are also delivered to celebrate meaningful events, such as Korean Thanksgiving.

The first service took place in July 2020 and serves 30 residents on average. Since late September, it has quickly turned into a weekly operation.

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. ✖

Bottom left: OMK members visit the Sung Whoo Hoe senior center.

Clockwise from top left: OMK members distribute jackets to homeless people and marginalised neighbours in Seoul; members and volunteers pack Bread for Weekend; supporting OMK's new Francisco's Neighbours centre; and prepare Kimchi for the Sung Woo Hoe senior centre and slum residents.



Order of Malta Thailand Thailand Communications Officer: Ken Tran

The year 2020 proved to be a very special year for the Order of Malta Thailand. Despite the challenge of an extremely small 0.6 per cent Catholic population in our nation, three aspirants have been nominated as candidates for Knight and Dames Magistral Grace. The Candidates are Dr Elma Muangkroot, Dr Piyada Wattanasan, and Mr Tanon Varaya. With their approval to be members of the Order, the Order of Malta Thailand will grow to 17 Thai members, three visiting international members, one aspirant, and three full-time volunteers making the total number 24 people.

The year 2020 has also been the year of deeper spiritual development and the most active year for our humanitarian activities and projects helping the sick and the poor, especially those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, regardless of faith.

Spiritual Activities

Regular Spiritual Formation

It is customary that every Order of Malta Thailand regular meeting is preceded by Eucharistic celebration by our Magistral Chaplain. In this ceremony, we offer thanks to the Lord for his guidance, to reflect on his words, strengthen our commitments to be close to Christ, and to pray for those in need.

Fr Carlo Velardo, our Chaplain, conducts spiritual formation sessions in all regular meetings to deepen the spiritual development for our members, aspirants, and volunteers.

Annual Retreat

On 29 November 2020, the Order of Malta Thailand held a day retreat facilitated by Fr Carlo at the Salesian Provincial Center. The retreat started with members, aspirants, and friends of the Order of Malta Thailand joining parishioners at the Mary Help of Christians Church for a Eucharistic Celebration with Fr Carlo as the co-celebrant. Parishioners convened at the Salesian Provincial Center afterwards.

Order of Malta Thailand COVID-19 Relief

The COVID-19 pandemic brought financial hardship to many, especially the people in poor communities in Thailand. Its economic impact has caused many to become unemployed or lose their incomes. Catholic organisations caring for the sick and the poor also suffered from the economic strains from the pandemic. In response, the Order of Malta Thailand implemented short-term projects and activities to help and give spiritual support to those in need.

Special COVID -19 Projects

The poor and the disadvantaged were most affected by the economic impacts during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in Thailand from April to June 2020 when the government enacted the Emergency Act, resulting in temporary closures of business and travel restrictions. Many daily workers lost their income necessary to support their family. The economic downturn has brought a major reduction of donation to organisations helping the sick and the poor.

COVID-19 Klong Teoy Project

The Order of Malta Thailand responded to the plea for help from the Xaverian Missionary in Klong Teoy, a disadvantaged and densely populated area in Bangkok through our Magistral Chaplain Fr Carlo. It provided monthly subsidies of 120,000 Bahts (about AUD\$5000) from April to June 2020. A total of 360,000 Bahts (about AUD\$15,100) was given to the missionary for purchasing food and sundries for distribution by the Order of Malta Thailand. Members and volunteers went on the ground on the monthly visit to give spiritual support and food bags to Klong Teoy residents.

COVID-19 Bann Pra Bida Di Dio Project

Ban Pra Bida Di Dio Foundation, situated in Ratchaburi Province, close to the Thai – Myanmar is caring for 97 disadvantaged hill tribe children. They have lost some of their benefactors due to COVID-19 and did not have enough means to support the children under their care. The Order of Malta Thailand responded by providing a monthly subsidy of 16,000 Bahts (about AUD\$700) for 10 months to help with daily expenses and tuition.

COVID-19 Relief Activities

- On 16 April 2020, H.E. Michael Mann made an urgent request to the Order of Malta Thailand to provide infrared thermometers to screen visitors to Mae Sariang refugee camp in Chiang Rai against COVID-19. Aspirant Tanon Varaya responded the next day by shipping nine to the camp.





Bottom left: Order of Malta Thailand members visit and comfort patients in need.
Right: Disadvantaged hill tribe children at the Ban Pra Bida Di Dio Foundation, situated in Ratchaburi Province.



- On 27 April 2020, the Order of Malta Thailand donated food parcels to 12 Pakistani refugee families and an Ethiopian family who urgently need food.
- On 13 June 2020, Fr Carlo led members and volunteers to help 150 children from families financially impacted by COVID-19 at St Anna Church Samut Sakhon province. Food bags consisted of rice, cooking oil, eggs, milk, energy drinks, bottles of water, muffins, face masks and hand sanitisers. They were given to 150 school children, mostly from Burmese immigrant families.
- On 18 June 2020, The Order of Malta Thailand donated 40,000 Bahts (about AUD\$1600) to the Camillian Home Lat Krabang, a home caring and providing education for abandoned children with disabilities, to help their self-sustaining vegetable garden project.
- Just before Christmas 2020, the Order of Malta Thailand gave 5400 clinical masks and 72 first aid kits each to the Klong Toey residents and the needy hilltribes people in Tak province, Northern Thailand.

Order of Malta Thailand Annual Projects World Day of the Poor

On 15 November 2020, the fourth World Day of The Poor, the Order of Malta Thailand visited the Pra Bida Di Dio Foundation, home for 97 hill tribe children and Fatima church in Ratchaburi to distribute 320 blankets and dried foods to children at the Home (Baan Pra Bida) and the surrounding communities consisting of small villages.

Wheelchair Donations

The Order of Malta Thailand Wheelchair Project has been running annually since 2016 for the sick and poor, many living in dire poverty, in towns and remote villages. The wheelchairs provide the recipients with greater independence as they are otherwise usually

reliant on family to move from their beds.

On 30 March 2020, 20 wheelchairs were delivered to St Anna Catholic Church and four Health Centers/hospitals in remote sub districts of Ubon Ratchathani, North Eastern Thailand.

On 28 October 2020, seven wheelchairs were donated to the needy elderly in the North-eastern Thailand community of St Gerald Church, Khon Kaen province.

Winter Blankets Donation

This year, the Order of Malta Thailand distributed 2995 blankets to the poorest of the poor in children homes, and communities around the churches in North and North Eastern Thailand facing harsh winter conditions in the hills. A total 720 blankets were distributed to children. This included 200 to Sarnelli House for abandoned and abused children affected with HIV/Aids in Nong Khai province, North Eastern Thailand; 320 blankets to Ban Pra Bida Di Dio Foundation; and 200 for The Good Shephard Youth Center for needy children.


Humanitarian Activities

- On 20 January 2020, members and volunteers of the Order of Malta Thailand presented the Na Nhonnoi Hospital in Ubon Ratchathani with an Order of Malta vehicle. They have been unsuccessful for many years to secure a service medical to transport patients and medical equipment. After the ceremony, members and volunteers visited bedridden and disabled patients at their homes.
- On 5 December 2020, the Order of Malta Thailand donated a vehicle to the Holy Redeemer Church in Bangkok to transport the elderly and the sick to medical

appointments and social activities.

- On 5 January 2020, members of the Order of Malta in Thailand provided 65 students at a rural school in Ubon Ratchathani with uniforms and sports equipment. The gifts were much appreciated by both students and teachers.
- On 16 August 2020, young volunteers from St Theresa International College visited the elderly in a community in the province of Pathum Thani near Bangkok. The volunteers gave basic health check-ups and tips on healthy living for the elderly in their homes.
- On 5 December 2020, volunteers from the Nursing Faculty of St Theresa International went to Saowapa Holy Redeemer Church, Ongkharak, Nakhon Nayok to give basic health check-up, therapeutic relaxation massages, and tips on healthy living for the elderly community of the church.
- On 25 September 2020, the Order of Malta Thailand donated 100,000 Bahts (around AUD\$4100) to the Order of Malta Lebanon to help care for the victims of the explosion. A special thanks to Confrère Chartsiri Sophonpanich and his team at the Bangkok Bank for their help in facilitating the transfer.

Looking ahead

The Order of Malta Thailand gives first priority to the Charism of *Tuito Fidei et Obsequium Pauperium*. We are inspired to be active and hands-on in helping the sick and the poor in accordance to the spirit of the Order. We are in the process of drafting our code of conduct and regulations and look to host an Investiture Ceremony in October 2021. 



**New Zealand Hospitaller:
Bevan Killick KMG**

The Order of Malta in New Zealand is a relatively small part of the Australian Association of the Order of Malta. While stating the obvious, 2020 was significantly restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of its activity, The Order of Malta New Zealand experienced a shift in its centre of gravity from Wellington to Christchurch. The membership in Wellington is increasingly retired and less active. Those who continue to work, do great work on their own account, albeit not always under the banner of the Order.

We began 2020 with a family Mass on 15 January at St Mary's Pro Cathedral in Christchurch, offered by our Chaplain in preparation, Fr Chris Friel. We all gathered for a light meal afterwards.

Dinner with Renowned German Military Historian Lieutenant Colonel Dr Peter Lieb

All four Christchurch-based members attended a dinner held at the Canterbury Club on 15 February 2020. The guest speaker was renowned military historian Lieutenant Colonel Dr Peter Lieb from the German Army Staff College in Potsdam, Germany. Peter is very recognisable from his appearances on military history programs. He formerly lectured at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for 10 years. Also present to give the vote of thanks was the Chief of Army Major General John Boswell DSD. As a Military Order, it was fascinating

to hear of Peter's grandfather's journey and execution in the Second World War. Peter, his father, and grandfather have all served in the same unit of the German Army.

The Feast of St John the Baptist

Fr Chris Friel celebrated Mass at Christchurch's Pro Cathedral on the Feast of St John the Baptist. Members and aspirants were joined by members of the Most Venerable Order of St John. The Feast Day is shared by the mutually recognised Orders and by the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch.

Movie Night – "Fatima"

Members of the Order met to watch the movie *Fátima*. The film, based on the 1917 Our Lady of Fátima events, features the original song *Gratia Plena* (Full of Grace), performed by Andrea Bocelli and composed by Italian Paolo Buonvino. The movie is a must-see and we gathered for a light meal and fellowship afterwards.

The Most Venerable Order Investiture

The Most Venerable Order has been very generous with their invitations to their events nationwide. On 10 October 2020, three of our members attended the Investiture of John Whitehead CNZM KStJ as Chancellor of the Venerable Order in New Zealand. The Prior of the Order, Her Excellency the Governor General Dame Patsy Reddy GNZM QSO DStJ performed the Investiture.

*Top left: Coats were distributed to Christchurch Central Police Station for the very vulnerable people on the streets of Christchurch.
Top right: After celebrating Mass on the Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist.*

One of the attendees was Archbishop Emeritus Archbishop Sir David Moxon KNZM CStJ, former representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Holy See. Sir David has excellent relationships with both the Order of Malta and the Archbishop of Wellington, John Cardinal Dew DD. Sir David has a particular interest in modern slavery and people trafficking.

Family Advent BBQ

The year concluded with an ample Family BBQ, hosted by Professor Pablo and Mindy Gregorini and their family. Only an Argentine could start a BBQ by putting half a lamb on the grill to begin.

While this may all appear very social, there is a deep sharing of faith and values among the members and aspirants. We all continue to participate in various works within the Church and aligned to our values, not necessarily under the banner of the Order. These include in education, as a Director of Religious Studies, as an honorary consul with diplomatic duties and assisting those in times of need, in governance roles, and so on. We continue to agitate our politicians, particularly around social issues and respect for life. We continue to be challenged to deliver the Coats for the Homeless program while keeping ourselves safe due to the meth dependency and behaviours of those sleeping rough in New Zealand.

Our retreat in 2021 will see us further discern our purpose in New Zealand. ✠




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Hands on, HEARTS IN

An unfinished story of recovery in New South Wales' worst bushfire season on record.



A large bushfire at night, with a fire truck and firefighters visible in the foreground. The fire is intense and bright, illuminating the surrounding trees and structures.

On New Year's Day 2020, amid tentative celebrations in unaffected parts of Australia, large areas of the East Coast of New South Wales saw "the decade closed in an inferno with holidaymakers huddled on the beaches, whole towns devoured, dozens of homes destroyed and at least two lives lost on the deadliest day of the state's worst bushfire season on record", the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported on 1 January 2020.

National Hospitaller John Murphy and all Regional Hospitallers immediately started to plan for a meaningful response to the needs of those impacted by this terrifying, seemingly unending, natural disaster. Resisting the initial impulse to conveniently donate cash to better positioned third party charities, the Order proceeded on the principle that direct assistance and personal engagement be part of the response.

Dr Stephen Quain, Central Eastern Region's Hospitaller at that time, approached the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and the Diocese of Wollongong, and opened the path for the Order to approach parishes in Southern NSW where the bushfire was at its most intense.

Our concerned fellow members in the American, Western, and Canadian Associations donated substantially without any solicitation from us. The Slovenian Association also reached out to offer support. A call to our members and supporters resulted in a generous flow of donations. We thank you all.

On the Australia Day long weekend, a team of four members from the Order of Malta, led by Frank Testa,

visited church communities in the Batemans Bay area to provide solidarity with bushfires victims and work with local organisations to understand where best the Order of Malta could direct its assistance.

The team attended Masses at St Bernard's, Batehaven and Sacred Heart, Moruya. Impacted families at both parishes received grocery vouchers from the Order of Malta and following Mass, the team spent time at both parishes speaking with the local parishioners to understand their various needs and situations.

Among those the team spoke with, were a couple who lost everything including their 23 head of cattle. They were woken by their children at 5am as the fires approached. They rushed away and their house was destroyed shortly after.

Members also met 72-year-old Graham selling fruit by the road. He lost his house, new tractor, phone and orchard, and was selling the last stock of fruit he had from the van he lived in.

What was learned from this early work was that needs are varied and will continue to evolve and change.

Other than a period of COVID-19 restrictions, the team made monthly weekend visits to Batehaven and Moruya to attend Masses at St Bernard's Church and Sacred Heart Church and met with families and individuals that had been identified as high risk during this traumatic experience. The parish priests, Fr Martins Aloga and Fr George Azhakath, directed our efforts to ensure impact was made



through personal interaction, listening to those traumatised, and ministering to their individual needs.

After the initial phase of the disaster was over, Fr Martins Aloga mentioned the value the Order of Malta brings to the community by “being present”, as the needs of his parishioners would present themselves as they entered the recovery phase.

Fr George Azhkath echoed these sentiments, and during a Mass, used our members’ presence as an example to his congregation that their trauma and suffering had been acknowledged by the greater church community, and that others cared for their welfare and wellbeing.

With each visit, the team continued to build on the already established friendships and make new ones.

Fr Michael Dyer from St Mary Star of the Sea in Milton contacted Frank and learned from him the extreme situation at Conjola, a small lakeside suburb, where almost the entire community lost their homes. They epitomised the true depth of problems resulting from fires that had raged for months.

Recovery was a not simple matter of physical rebuilding and snapping back to normality. Nor is it a simple matter of a temporary disruption. The desperate panic experienced during the fires when one realised that there would be no help cut deep into the heart. Those who ran to the waters found themselves pelted with flying embers. Families were separated when they fled, leaving behind everything precious to them. Decisions made on the spot returned to haunt. Generations-old businesses vanished. Breadwinners were shocked, unable to take care of their families for the first time. Men hid behind forced stoicism. People died trapped in houses, in cars, outpaced by the



fires as they ran. Survivors were dazed with guilt. In a community of a hundred families, 16 suicides were recorded, the youngest being a 14-year-old.

COVID-19 made more severe what was already severe. Then came floods.

The team supporting the bushfire recovery, which included Dunstan de Souza, Steve Gatt and Daniel Kwok, could not abandon the relationships forged. They were not just hands-on, but hearts-in. Each trip for the team allowed for prayer and reflection in the Josephite retreat centre they overnight in. The team grew when Peter Evans and Tom Walker from Canberra joined in.

As the year unfolded, more targeted initiatives took place. Here are the key ones:

Story Telling Centre at Milton

The Order of Malta partnered with the Milton Ulladulla Parish to open a Story Telling Centre for bushfire victims. It was

named Shoalhaven Rising from the Ashes Centre. The centre organises recovery events, connects people with services and provides support to those impacted.

Christmas hampers boost morale in Mogo

Mogo, a small goldrush town in NSW with a population of about 300, has in recent years attracted tourists for its arts and crafts stores and heritage buildings. During the bushfires, business premises were damaged or destroyed and COVID-19 had further hindered the rehabilitation efforts with many small businesses already struggling.

The Order of Malta partnered with local suppliers to create a Christmas Hamper to support businesses in bushfire impacted communities. They were sold through the Order’s online shop.

Men’s BBQ in Milton – an opportunity to talk and heal

Despite the 40°C heat, 28 guests attended



the BBQ at Mick Ryan Park in Milton, many of whom lost their homes in the fires, and have had to continue to struggle with the trials of COVID-19.

The Bawley Point Rural Bushfire Service Squad Commander Bob addressed the group about his personal experiences and how the fires personally affected him and his mental health. He spoke passionately about how it is OK to talk about your feelings and experiences, and how important it is to allow yourself to be vulnerable. His message resonated throughout the group and encouraged others to address the group of their feelings and where they are at in their mental journey of recovery.

One man told Frank Testa that “this is the first time that I have really spoken about how I felt about it all”.

Men’s Mental Health Dinner to support Bushfire Victims


Thirty-eight guests attended the Lake Conjola Bowling Club for a Men’s Mental Health evening, co-hosted by the Order of Malta and the Shoalhaven Rising from the Ashes centre.

The event brought together men from the community impacted by the bushfires. Guests enjoyed a meal and talks from guest speakers.

Dr Tad Tietze, a psychiatrist at Shellharbour hospital and is responsible for psychiatric crisis response for acute presentations to the Emergency Department, was one of the guest speakers.

Stuart O’Neill was another, author of the bestselling *Just One Reason* – a personal account of his battle with depression and suicidal thoughts on the breakdown of a relationship. Stuart’s message supported that of Tad’s, encouraging men to stop and seek help if needed.

Stephen Chinnock, a local poet from Conjola, recited a poem he wrote since the fires. Stephen spoke about the importance of having an outlet to express your feelings, which for him, was through the art of poetry.

The Order’s work in the south coast of NSW flowed into 2021 and will recede as needs recede. Members engaged in this work will continue to experience the joys and challenges of fraternity carrying out the charism of the Order. 

Clockwise from top left: Regional Hospitalier Steve Christie with members and friends at the opening of the Story Telling Centre, Milton; Men’s BBQ in Milton gives bushfire survivors an opportunity to talk and heal; Members with Sacred Heart Moruya’s parishioners; the destruction left behind from the 2020 bushfires; and Order members connect with locals impacted by the fires.



**ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA**

VOLUNTEERS



CALL O

Order of Malta Volunteers will offer younger members an opportunity to contribute their views on how the Order can adapt and thrive in today's world, and in the future.

Internationally, the Order of Malta counts on 80,000 dedicated volunteers for the successful running of many of its projects across the world. Year-on-year, it cares for the homeless living in isolation in cities, assists refugees arriving on European shores, provides first-aid and organises medical and social campaigns, responds to victims of natural disasters, accompanies disabled guests on pilgrimages and summer camps, supports housebound elderly, and prepares nourishing food for people living in poverty in bitter winters.

These permanent volunteers include people of all

nationalities and faiths, inspired by the principles of the Order of Malta to serve the needy and forgotten under the values of the eight-pointed cross. Opening oneself up to others nourishes the spirit of new generations, encouraging their growth as people and as citizens. It is a phenomenon that the Order's volunteers experience first-hand through the many projects and schemes where young people work alongside professionals and, thanks to their efforts, become spiritually enriched and socially conscious in the future.

Two of the biggest events of the year for OMV are the Lourdes pilgrimage, where more than 7000 participants



EDUTY

travel to the Marian shrine in France, and the International Summer Camp for Young Disabled, running for more than 30 years in different European countries and in the Asia Pacific Region. Volunteers from across the world join forces to care for their disabled guests and to meet friends old and new.

The social commitment of volunteering has a special appeal for young people and inspires their resolve to volunteer for Hospitaller initiatives. As such, HMEH the Grand Master, under the auspices of the Grand Chancellor and Grand Hospitaller

launched Vision 2050 in Rome in 2013.

Vision 2050 is an international and borderless platform for all young members and volunteers of the Order of Malta to unite its young members and volunteers across the world. The aim is to provide support and assistance for volunteers involved in both local and international activities, enabling them to come together, share best practices and collaborate in their activities and discussions.

At the International Seminar in Rhodes in 2014, the Vision 2050 working group put forward a series



of recommendations on how the Order can adapt and thrive in a fast-changing world, and how the perspectives and experiences of the younger members and volunteers can contribute to its future.

This has allowed Vision 2050 to develop discussions and recommendations on increasing the active engagement of the youth, the establishment of common works of the youth across international borders, supporting their formation and spirituality, and providing the youth with representation at the centre of the Order.

For more information on Vision 2050, visit www.orderofmaltavision2050.com

National launch

In an exciting development, the Australian Association has formed its own network of OMV, a new initiative to support the Order's priorities of expanding current and future works, creating an environment of Christian fellowship and identifying and nurturing future candidates.

The OMV is a group for volunteers and young members between the age of 18 and 35 participating in coordinated works of the Order across the regions. OMV's work with members on existing and new projects, as well as involvement in activities to share and



develop their Catholic faith.

The establishment of the Australian OMV will build a corpus of young volunteers who may, in time, become Dames and Knights of the Order, and lead to future leadership opportunities.

With the enthusiastic backing of Malta Australian President, the Hon James Douglas, and the Executive Council, regional co-ordinators have been appointed to a national leadership panel under the guidance of the National Hospitaller, each reporting to and working closely with their Regional Hospitallers. Young leaders will recruit, train, and manage a growing list of enthusiastic volunteers from various backgrounds.

To date, participants in the leadership group include:

- SER – Alexander Ross KMG and Jay DeGraaf
- CER – Dalton Fogarty KMG and Anna Sammut
- NER – Joseph Grogan KMG and Alice Grogan DMG
- SCR – Andrew Chichy KMG Western Australia and Regional Hospitaller Noel Mifsud.

It is anticipated that volunteers would be recruited from families of members of the Order, university hostels, and Catholic student associations, parishes, and secondary schools Years 11 and 12 students.

OMV will work with members of the Association on existing projects, create their own projects as well as have involvement in activities to share and develop their Catholic faith. Young members may also have the opportunity in future to tap into the

global networks of the Order, be able to take part in pilgrimages, camps and conferences with like-minded youth from around the world.

In time, and when COVID-restrictions allow, it is hoped Australian OMV will participate at the 2021 Asia Pacific Youth Camp in September 2021, assist with Coats for the Homeless and Care Packages, provide home gardening help, mentor the underprivileged, visit aged care, support disaster relief and community care vans, assist international holiday camps for young people with disabilities, and attend overseas volunteering opportunities, such as at the Timor-Leste Medical Clinic.

Volunteers will also have the opportunity to participate in spiritual activities within the Order to deepen their faith.

A monthly Rosary has commenced with existing volunteers from Queensland and Victoria with members in regular contact via social media.

OMV will also work side by side with the Dames and Knights of the Order to attend monthly Vigil Mass, aged care home Masses, the annual Lourdes Mass, days of reflection, St John's Day Mass, Our Lady of Philermos Mass, Mass for the Departed, retreats, Catholic Advocacy Services, Defence of the Faith activities, and lecture series to help Catholics better understand their faith. ✝

To register interest, visit www.orderofmalta.org.au/i-want-to-help/volunteer or visit www.facebook.com/OMVAustralia

Order of Malta volunteers are involved in activities that share and develop their Catholic faith. This includes distributing Coats for the Homeless and care packages, supporting underprivileged, visiting aged care and running community initiatives that support the needy and forgotten.

Did You Know...

Discover the Rule that governed the Order of Malta, created by French Knight and first Grand Master of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, Blessed Raymond du Puy, and why he made the eight-pointed cross an official symbol of the Order.



The Rule of Raymond du Puy was written around 1140 A.D. by Blessed Raymond du Puy and the Chapter of the brothers. It codifies the primitive usages of the Hospital of Jerusalem, which most probably dates to Blessed Fra' Gerard himself, Founder of the Order of Malta. It is considered the most ancient codification of the Hospitallers of St John.

Some of its articles are taken from the Rule of St Augustine and are written in form of precepts and statutes (*praecepta et statuta*), similar to the consuetudines of other religious Orders. This text has been considered as the proper Rule of the Hospitallers and, as such, has been confirmed by various Popes, among whom Boniface VIII (1300).

The Rule was probably written in two stages. Firstly, articles one through 15 were drawn up, then articles 16 through 19 were added later.

The first version of the Rule was produced in both Latin and Old French and was amended to include new rules and statutes over the course of the Order's history.

The original text, confirmed by means of Apostolic letters, was lost at the time of the fall of St John of Acre in 1291. A copy of the Rule was again presented to the Holy See for approval and was confirmed by Pope Boniface VIII on 7 April 1300 with the Letter *Culminis Apostolici Solio*. Although it is a later document, comparison with more ancient manuscripts, both in other languages, has shown only minimal variants.

Having become inadequate with regard to new exigencies, many elements of the Rule were progressively substituted by the *statuta* and *stabilimenta* of the subsequent Chapters General of the Order. Notwithstanding, the Rule continued to be read at the beginning of provincial Chapters and Chapters General of the Order, and in the Assemblies of the four tempora: the prologus and article 1 of the Rule have been printed in the First



Title of every edition of the statutes of the Order from XV century until the Code de Rohan of 1782.

In fact, article 1 of the Rule contains two constitutive and permanent elements of the Order: the religious Vows (the “Rule of Raymond du Puy” is one of the most ancient attestations of the triad “Poverty – Chastity – Obedience” as the nucleus of religious life); and the expression “the brothers who consecrate themselves to the service of the poor” (*fratres ad servitium pauperum venientes*). These two elements constitute the Order’s specific

charism: religious Order and hospitaller Order. During the XV century the words *et ad tuitionem fidei* were added, thus creating the identity making binomial *obsequium pauperum – tuitio fidei*.

The Rule of Raymond du Puy was last translated into English more than 100 years ago, but has not been widely available.

The Grand Priory of England has republished ‘The Rule of the Order’ with commentary from the late Fr Jerome Bertram, Cong. Orat, who managed to take a medieval document and bring it to life for our modern world. It is a particularly pertinent document at present when we are told that the Order should look to the original intentions of its founder.

The man behind the Rule

Blessed Raymond du Puy was the second superior of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem (Knights Hospitaller), succeeding Blessed Fra’ Gerard.

He was said to be born in Dauphine, southeastern France, to an old and noble family.

Blessed Raymond governed the Order for 33 years. Under his stewardship, the Hospital of St John was developed and filled with goods



to support the sick and the poor. Several Popes approved it and confirmed it in its aims.

Between around 1145 and 1153, Blessed Raymond established the first Rule of the Order’s members, based on St Augustine’s. It was he who introduced among the religious the division into chaplains, Knights, and serving brothers.

From that time on, the brothers were no longer simply to be devoted to prayer and care of the sick. The Constitution of the Kingdom of Jerusalem obliged the Order’s confrères to assume the military defence of the sick and pilgrims and to protect its medical centres and main roads. Defence of the faith was then added to the hospitaller mission, and the Order adopted the eight-pointed cross, still its symbol today.

Du Puy ordered the Order’s Knights to wear the symbol of the white cross on a red banner on their cloaks and garments, as well as armour. This was considered a pledge to remain in a state of crusade in battle, to follow without cease the examples of the martyrs by giving their lives to Christ. They were to fight the Infidel manfully, armed with theological virtues, so as to practice later the works of mercy as a reward. Du Puy would say to them, you must “love, revere, and

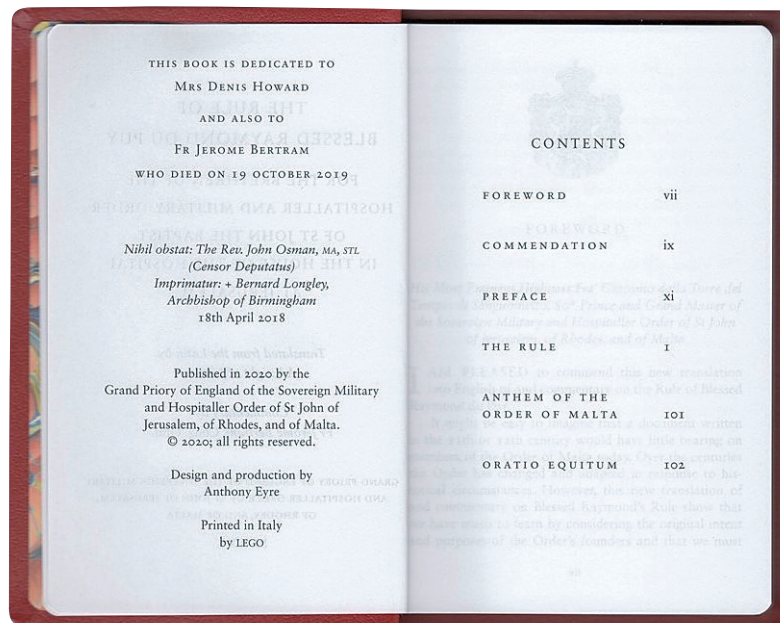
The Grand Priory of England has republished ‘The Rule of the Order’ with commentary from Father Jerome, who manages to take a medieval document and bring it to life for our modern world. Copies may be obtained from the Order of Malta Australia’s on-line shop accessed via its website.



Top: A sketch of Blessed Raymond du Puy, the second superior of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem.

Top right: Blessed Raymond is painted on the walls of St John Decapitated at Valletta on Malta.

Right: The Rule of Blessed Raymond du Puy is available from the online shop on the Order of Malta Australia website.



THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO
 MRS DENIS HOWARD
 AND ALSO TO
 FR JEROME BERTRAM
 WHO DIED ON 19 OCTOBER 2019

*Nil obstat: The Rev. John Osman, MA, STL
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preserve justice, favour, relieve, and defend the oppressed”.

Thus, the Order became “the buckler of the Kings of Jerusalem”. The Knights took part in all the battles in Palestine, led by their Grand Master and accompanied by mercenary soldiers. The blood of the brothers, like that of the Mohammedans, flowed abundantly. It was rare to see a hospitaller made prisoner. If that happened, there was no need to ransom him, for he always died in torture rather than deny Christ.

The Blessed Raymond



counselled, incited, and urged on the crusaders for their greater success at the time of the affair of Ascalon, which ended in the capture of the city. At the siege of Tyre, it was Blessed Raymond who calmed the impatient army and prevented its spoiling the undertaking by an untimely impetuosity.

An image of Blessed Raymond is painted on the walls of St John Decapitated, at Valletta on Malta, together with those of the Blessed Gerard and the other saints of the Order. The painting represents Blessed Raymond dressed in the great ceremonial cloak with the white cross, sword at his side for he was a Knight, a Rosary at his belt and a crucifix in his hand, for he was a monk. In fact, he did not cease uniting prayer and “hospitality” to the defence of the Christian poor against the Infidel, for the triumph of the Faith and the honour of his crucified God.

He died about the year 1160 and is remembered as a man of action and for his devotion to prayer. ❖

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 Magistry and its Institutions: the Grand Priories, Subpriories, National Associations and Diplomatic Missions.



The Grand Master

The arms of the Grand Master, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto are quartered with those of the Order. At 1 & 4, Gules, a cross Argent (for St 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 Sovereign 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 Fra’ Foulques de Villaret (1305-1319). This is the flag flown by the Order’s Grand Priories and Subpriories, 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

Stretch out your hands

On the fourth annual World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis reminded us to honour our brothers and sisters in need, as Order of Malta members and volunteers displayed in their own way across the country.

His Holiness, Pope Francis established the World Day of the Poor in his Apostolic Letter, *Misericordia et Misera*, issued on 20 November 2016 to celebrate the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

The theme of the first World Day of the Poor was to “Let us love, not with words

but with deeds”.

This year, on the fourth World Day of the Poor on 15 November 2020, Pope Francis issued a message for the observance at Vatican Basilica themed: “Stretch forth your hand to the poor” (Sir 7:32).

His Holiness reflected on the

importance of these words as a sacred rule to be followed in life:

They help us fix our gaze on what is essential and overcome the barriers of indifference. Poverty always appears in a variety of guises, and calls for attention to each particular situation. In all of these, we have an opportunity to encounter the



Lord Jesus, who has revealed himself as present in the least of his brothers and sisters (cf. Mt 25:40).

In his address, Pope Francis said the decision to care for the poor, for their many different needs, cannot be conditioned by the time available or by private interests, or by impersonal pastoral or social projects.

“The power of God’s grace cannot be restrained by the selfish tendency to put ourselves always first,” he said.

“Keeping our gaze fixed on the poor is difficult, but more necessary than ever if we are to give proper direction to our personal life and the life of society. It is not a matter of fine words but of a concrete commitment inspired by divine charity. Each year, on the World Day of the Poor, I reiterate this basic truth in the life of the Church, for the poor are and always will be with us to help us welcome Christ’s presence into our daily lives (cf. Jn 12:8).

Pope Francis concluded his address by reminding us that in this journey of daily encounter with the poor, the Mother of God is ever at our side. *“More than any other, she is the Mother of the Poor,”* he said. Given the Order of Malta’s dedication to the poor and our Lady, this speaks to us directly.

To acknowledge this year’s World Day of the Poor, members and volunteers of the Order of Malta across Australia participated in both

organised activities and personal acts.

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Melbourne, members and the Order of Malta Volunteers (OMV) members distributed COVID care packs directly to the homeless and through the Missionary Sisters of Charity. They also shared breakfast and warm coffee with the homeless in the city of Melbourne who were delighted to be greeted early Sunday with a smile.

In Brisbane, members, candidates and the OMV shared high quality, personal care packs and solidarity with many friends from the Emmanuel City Mission. During friendly conversations, attendees expressed appreciation for the thoughtful care packs and “early Christmas” sweets.

In Sydney, Magistral Chaplain Fr James McCarthy offered Mass at his Parish, St Aloysius in Cronulla. After Mass, the Order of Malta Volunteers hosted a free BBQ next to the Order of Malta marque, where parishioners were invited to join members and volunteers to learn about our activities to assist those in greatest need.

In the Northern Territory, members and volunteers packed 100 hygiene bags for the homeless in preparation for World Day of the Poor and connected with St Vincent de Paul to distribute the packs to the homeless who visit Ozanam House. ✠

Members and volunteers of the Order of Malta Australia celebrated World Day of the Poor with BBQs, distributing COVID and hygiene packs, and personal acts of kindness.

Being members of a RELIGIOUS ORDER

Daniel Kwok KMG (Ob) shares the value and purpose of being a member of the Order of Malta, and why it's important to fully embrace the commitments made at one's investiture.

The Order of Malta is a religious order of the Catholic Church, more specifically a lay religious order. This status is maintained by the presence of a small group of lay religious members who have taken the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, but are not ordained. (Hence, they are religious and lay, and the Order lay religious.) They are the Professed of the Order of Malta, called Knights of Justice and are recognised by the title Fra' from the Latin word "frater" meaning "brother". Today, they represent 42 of the 13,500 members globally.

The late Fra' Richard Divall was the only Knight of Justice since our inception in Australia in 1974. All other members, except for one member who was ordained a deacon in the Australian Association, are lay persons.

How graced we are to be called by

Our Lord to enter a religious order, one within the Church universal that pursues works through a particular charism. We are responders to Christ's universal call to go out to all of creation (Cf. Mark 16:15), to be witnesses "to earth's remotest end" (Acts 1:8). We are not members of an NGO or a club that does good works.

It is necessary to be clear in our mind what the Order's purpose is and what we commit to be and to do. In the workplace, it is the purpose of the enterprise and the commitments an employee fulfils to be successful. In matrimony, it is the purpose of the sacrament and the commitments made as husband or wife. Similarly, for the Order, we need to understand and fully embrace its purpose, and fulfil the commitments made at our investiture.

We read this in Article 2, Par. 1 of the Order's Constitutional Charter:

"The purpose of the Order is the promotion of the glory of God through the sanctification of its members, service to the faith and to the Holy Father, and assistance to one's neighbour, in accordance with its ancient traditions."

This statement traces back to the time Blessed Gerard founded the Order more than 900 years ago. The works he established in Jerusalem continue to this day in more than 120 countries. They are the roots of our charism, expressed in the motto *Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum*.

At our investiture, in the presence of God, and witnessed by our confrères and consœurs, we proclaim these commitments:

- We promise, in the name of God, in chivalrous fidelity, always to bear witness to the Catholic faith, to defend the Church, and to lead our lives in



accordance with the teaching of the Holy Catholic Apostolic and Roman Church

- We declare ourselves as ready, as members of The Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta, to care for our Lords, the sick and the poor, with all our strength and ability.
- We also declare ourselves ready to obey the Constitution, the Statutes, and the Rule of The Order, and so to fulfill with fidelity and diligence whatever The Order, and our superiors impose on us.

The works of the Order are at their best when our charism is integrated into the lives of members. These might be useful questions for reflecting on being a member in the Order:

- How does the way I live point to my being a member of a religious order?
- What is my role in the Order?
- What should I do if I have difficulties becoming or staying engaged as a member?

How would one maintain zeal as a member; and avoid becoming lukewarm or indifferent?

For members, perhaps, regularly revisiting the Order's purpose and its commitment statements in the spirit of *Lectio Divina* would help them stay faithful. This could be pursued at a time of reflection or a retreat. Those who do the Order's annual pilgrimage to Lourdes find it especially rejuvenating. They experience the Order at its global best as a hospitaller Order.

Perhaps one could consider taking the Promise of Obedience to embrace a deeper spirituality and greater involvement in the works of the Order.

For candidates, sound preparation for admission is essential – as are marriage preparation programs, formation programs for religious, internships for medical practitioners, and such. Short cuts and compromise can lead to all kinds of problems.

Prior to 2020, and for a long period, there were significant variations across regions in approach, content, and formality in preparing for membership. This went against the grain of being a united, national association.

Veteran as well as new members had advised that a fruitful preparation program needs to include these criteria: an active sponsor-candidate relationship, opportunity for faith formation, Order-specific resources, and fairness to those in remote locations. As a given, such a program must adhere to the requirements decreed in the Order's Regulations and Commentary. Hence, keeping to these criteria, the current national preparation program was developed in the early months of 2020. It was approved by the Prelate, H.E. Monsignor Jean Laffitte and endorsed by the late Grand Master, H.M.E.H. Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, and implemented with an inaugural cohort of 23 candidates. Many of these will be received as members at investitures at the time of our 2021 Biennial Assembly. Feedback from their experience has been used to improve the program for the next cohort.

With members regularly examining and adjusting how they manifest their commitments, and with new members adequately prepared to enter the Order, a path to glorifying God will be more soundly laid. And glorifying God is the fundamental *raison d'être* of the Order. 🇻🇪



Far left: Confrère Richard Caesar-Thwaytes preparing to read at the international Mass at Lourdes and making the Promise of Obedience.
Left: Consoeur Vivian and Confrère Sam Hardjono at the Crypt, St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney.

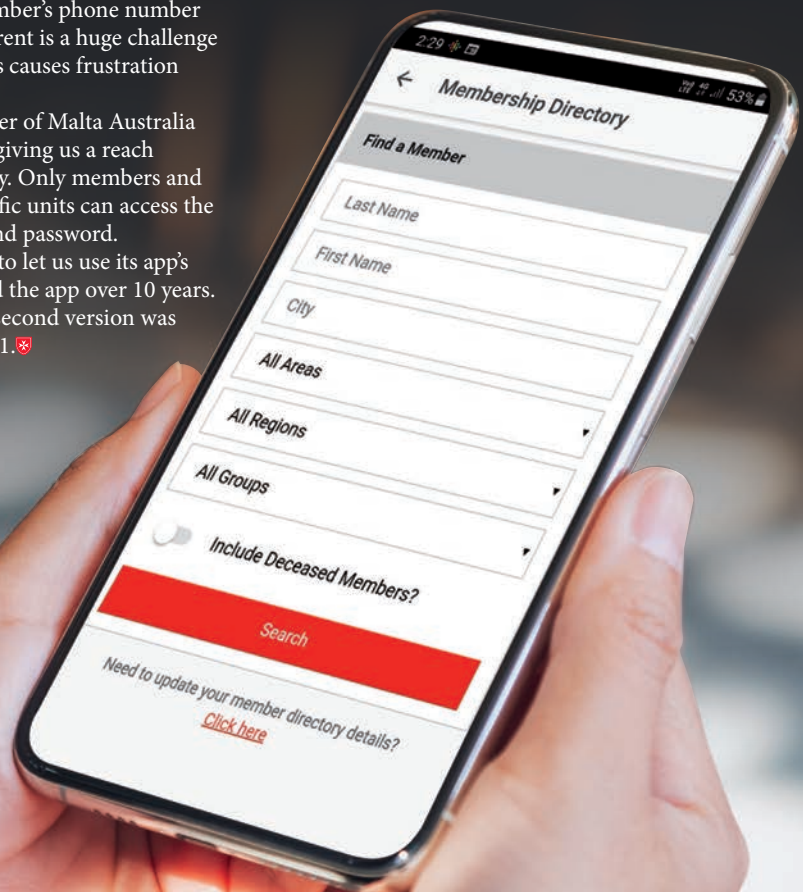
YOUR APP AND YOU

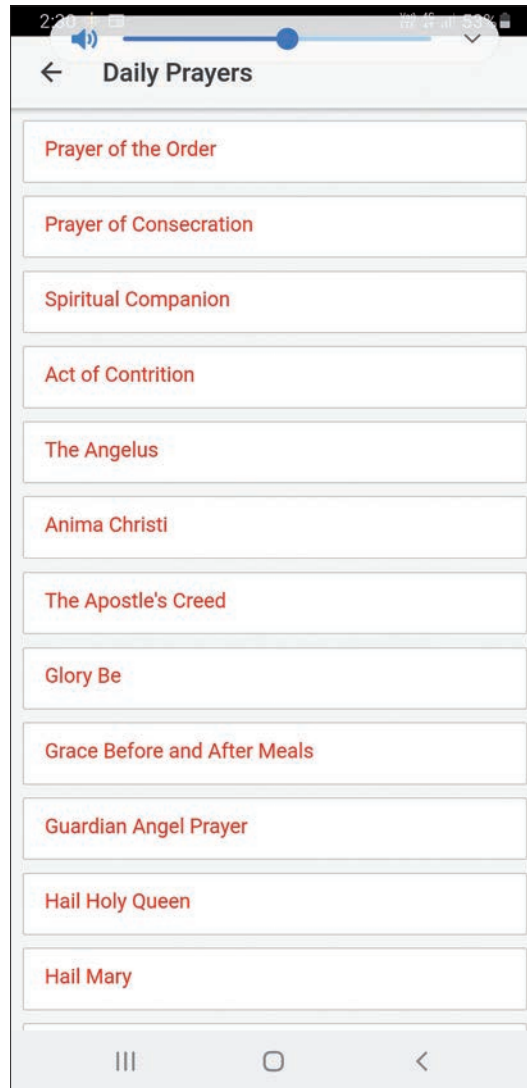
Introducing the Membership Directory to connect members, maintain communication and support spiritual growth, all at the touch of your fingertips. Anthony Gerarda explains.

The Roll of Members contains information important to us all. The “Red Book” had been an easy way to locate another member’s phone number or email address. But keeping the information current is a huge challenge as changes occur frequently and are often unreported. This causes frustration among members.

In the age of smart phones, we now have our own Order of Malta Australia App. It is designed for use by members as well the public, giving us a reach beyond our membership, while maintaining confidentiality. Only members and candidates of the Australian Association and the Asia Pacific units can access the Membership Directory area of the app by way of a login and password.

In 2019, the Federal Association in America was kind to let us use its app’s source code as a foundation to build ours. It has developed the app over 10 years. Our first version launched in 2020 and a much enhanced second version was released via the Apple and Android app stores in early 2021. ❌





Together with the Membership Directory, our app has many other resources. Following is a summary of some of them:

Calendar

- Our scheduled activities across the regions

News

- Order of Malta News - Australia and International
- Vatican News and Podcasts
- UCA (Union of Catholic Asian) News
- Australian Catholic News – from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
- Malteser International News

Videos

- Links to videos in the Order of Malta Australia YouTube Channel

Membership Directory

- Member and candidate details can be displayed individually, by Group, by Region, by Geographic Area or by a combination of filters
- Click on a member's phone number to initiate a call
- Click on a member's email address to open your email program

Mass

- Daily Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible (courtesy of Universalis Publishing)

Prayers

- The Daily Prayer of the Order, the Subpriory's The Spiritual Companion, Pray As You Go website, and more

Word on Fire

- An external Catholic resources website

Catholic Café

- A defence-of-the-faith project of the Order of Malta, Federal Association, United States.

Your app is a great tool. Besides accessing an up-to-date member's directory, you can also use it to read Catholic and Order's news, and to support your prayer life and spiritual growth. If you haven't use it, please do. Use it often and it becomes very easy to use. As easy as A,P,P.

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ACT OF CONSECRATION

H.E Reverend Monsignor Jean Laffitte, the Prelate of the Order of Malta, shares the Easter 2020 message and historic act of consecration of the Order to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Dear fellow Brothers and Sisters,
Knights and Dames of our Order,
Dear Brother Chaplains,
Dear Friends, Volunteers and Young
Members,

I am very happy that I may address to you in this Easter Sunday. Blessed and Happy Easter. The current situation related to the diffusion of the Coronavirus does not allow us to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord in our churches, with our communities of faithful, as we would have done normally. So, in communion with the Risen Lord present among us and in communion with all the members of our Order, especially with our Grand Master and with all those we serve, I will now invite you to listen to the page of today's Gospel (John 20, 1-9) that will be followed by a brief commentary.

Then I shall proclaim the prayer of consecration of our Order to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It is an historical event, a one-of-

a-kind act, that is done by the express wish and under the authority of the 18th Grand Master, the late Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, the only person who has the authority to decide it. All the members of the Order must know that from this day on, the Sovereign Order of Malta has been consecrated to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. This process involves committing the whole Order to a deepening of our spirituality at this particular moment of our history.

At the personal level, each person is invited to place themselves before God with confidence and with determination, in order to love and to serve their brothers, with the sentiments which were those of Christ Jesus, to place themselves in the school of his heart, according to the words of the Lord himself. Anyone who chooses to take this path in their life entrusts the step they are taking to the maternal solicitude of Mary: she is the privileged way which leads to her son.



THE CONSECRATION OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM, OF RHODES AND OF MALTA TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

In the name of His Most Eminent Highness, the Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto: I am now going to proclaim the prayer of the Act of Consecration of our Order to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

*O, Sacred Heart of Jesus,
O, Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Superabundant source of the living waters of the Holy Spirit and of the charity of God,
We consecrate to you, in complete submission and love, the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta.
We offer you our spirits and our bodies, our souls and our hearts, our interior and our exterior goods, everything that we are and everything that we have.
We entrust you all those to whose service we are sent, our lords, the sick and the poor.
We ask you always to recognise in them the face of Christ, the Lord.
We entrust you also all those who assist them.
We implore you to surround us all with your holy protection, especially in times of trial.
We beg you to make of each one of us, Religious, Obediences, Knights and Dames, Chaplains, Volunteers, Young Members, humble and superabundant Instruments of Your Charity and loving servants of our brothers in need.
Make of us true servants of the graces received by our family throughout the length of its history, through the intercession of our Patron, St John the Baptist, of our Founder, Blessed Gerard, respecting our traditions, being firmly resolved to be of service to the most deprived of our brothers, and in unshakable fidelity to the Holy Church and to her Supreme Pastor, the Successor of Peter.
Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place our trust in you.
Immaculate Heart of Mary, intercede for us.*

From the Gospel according to St John 20, 1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. She ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them: "they have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."

Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first. He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.


Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

The beloved disciple, in whom the tradition recognises the author of the Fourth Gospel, refers to an experience which is both personal and ecclesial. He finds himself together with Peter, both of them struck in their mourning and in their sadness at the death of Jesus, when Mary of Magdalen comes to meet them and informs them that the Lord has disappeared from the tomb in which he had been laid. Together, they begin to run. John stops in front of the tomb, allowing Peter to enter first and, in this way, to discover the founding event of the faith of the Church. John follows him into the tomb and, speaking about himself, in a formula of extraordinary depth, states: he saw and he believed.

We may ask ourselves, quite simply, what John had seen and what he believed. He sees only the empty tomb, and the linen cloths and the cloth which had been over his head, but the interpretation of this fact, already in itself unheard of, imposes itself upon him through an illumination of his spirit and of his heart. In an act of faith which is inspired by the word of the Scriptures: the disciples had not understood, says the Evangelist, that Jesus was to rise from the dead in accordance with the Scriptures. Without seeing, John believed that Jesus had risen.

Dear brothers and sisters, we find ourselves today in the same position as Peter and John when they ran to the tomb, struck, ourselves too, by sadness and, for many, by mourning, in a trial which today has struck the whole of humanity. The proclamation remains the same: Christ has risen. This does not cease to be a proclamation of joy: death has been defeated and, through the victory of the Risen Lord, the gates of heaven have been thrown open. Christ is risen. Christ is truly risen. You are the Son of God. You have the words of eternal life. A blessed Easter to you and to your loved ones; wishing you strength, hope and consolation from Christ, the Lord. ❖



NUNS FEMMA OF THE ORDER

Professor Stephen Gatt KMG (Ob), highlights the Order of Malta's three female Saints and shares the religious life of women in the Middle Ages.

A visit to the Monastery and Church of St Ursula in Valletta, Malta, unearths three treasures of the Order of Malta. The first is the skull relic of Blessed Gerard Tenque of Martigues, France, the founder of our Order. The second, is the relics of St Ubaldesca who worked for 55 years in the infirmary of the Order of St John in Pisa. She is the Patroness of Pisa. The third treasure is one of only three remaining congregations of Jerosolemitan Nuns of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

All three female Saints of the Order of Malta – St Ubaldesca (1136 to 1206), St Toscana (1280 to 1343) and St Fleur of Beaulieu (1300 to 1347) – wore the habit and veil of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. The Blessed of the Order of Malta are no less in stature than Saints in their heroic virtue. It was not until 1582 that Pope Gregory XIII categorised the 'degree of saintliness' for new candidates into Servant of God, Venerable, Blessed and Saint. Before this time, Blessed and Saint were used interchangeably. Indeed, Mary, the mother of Jesus is, to this day mostly still venerated as the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Convent of St Ursula was founded by Grand Master Hugh Lubenx de Verdalle in 1582 and was housed in the abandoned Grand Masters' Palace in Birgu to await the building of the Church and Monastery of St Ursula in Valletta, less than a three-minute walk from the Grand Master's Palace. The nuns moved to Valletta in 1595. Grand Master Verdalle also brought the relics of St Ubaldesca to the St Ursula Monastery.

The nuns were accorded the same rank as chaplain brothers of the Order and were under the direct jurisdiction of the Grand Master. They were a cloistered, enclosed, contemplative order whose nuns took the Rule of the Order of St John of Jerusalem of Blessed Raymond du Puy (c. 1150), first Master of the Order, based on the Rule of St Augustine.

There are more than 10 nuns currently in the convent in Valletta which has run continuously for over 420 years. The nuns'

AND LE SAINTS OF MALTA

primary work is prayer. They answer directly to the Holy See, more recently through the Archbishop of Malta.

Close by existed the Hospital in Jerusalem before the foundation of the Order, an infirmary run by women. This was entrusted to the Nuns of the Order of St John once Alix (Alice, Alexandra), Servant of God of the Order, who came to the Holy Land from Rome, Italy, received the habit of the Order from the hands of Blessed Gerard and became the first Abbess of the Convent of St Magdalene in Jerusalem. The habit of the nuns was a gown of red silk and a black cloak with a white cross.

Originally the 'sorores', of noble families, were relatives of Hospitaller Knights charged with praying for the Brothers, the 'fratres', and the Grand Master. They continued to pray for members of the Order for the next 800 years and continue to do so today. In the

Middle Ages, while some lived enclosed in cloister, others cared for the poor, the sick and the suffering – *obsequium pauperum*.

Female religious life in the Middle Ages drew nuns from three main groups: a) women of noble, aristocratic or powerful families sometimes coerced to join the Order to gain their families spiritual benefits or by choice, such as St Toscana Veronensis. b) volunteers, sometimes rich in celestial gifts but poor in earthly goods seeking safety within the cloister, such as St Ubaldesca, the daughter of a humble baker. And c) widows, women with special circumstances or with special dispensations who could either be fully professed sisters 'sorores' or affiliates 'consores', such as Queen Sancha of Aragon, Servant of God of the Order. In mixed houses of brothers and sisters, a Prioress would sometimes rule over the fratres and sorores, albeit rarely.



Monialis Hospitalaria in Gallia



Sanctimonialis Ordinis S. Joannis seu Melitensis

Far left: Sanctim Ord, Hospitalry in Gallia; Monialis Hospitalaria in Gallia; and Sanctimonialis Ordinis S. Joannis seu Melitensis.



When, in 1187, Salah-Ud-Din ‘Saladin’ displaced the Hospitallers from Jerusalem, the nuns of the Order were dispersed across Europe in hospitals, convents, hospices, infirmaries and commanderies.

In Italy and France they went to many houses, and large convents in Genoa and Pisa. In England, Fina, the first Abbess of the Sisters of St John, collected nuns from all religious homes of the Order and brought them to Somerset. At one time, there were more than 50 priories and convents of the hospitallers. Clerkenwell Priory in Middlesex, Greater London, remains the seat of the Grand Prior of England and hosts a magnificent Museum of the Order.

In Spain, Doña Sancha, wife of Alfonso II, King of Aragon, established the Royal Monastery of Santa

Maria de Sigena in Huesca, Aragon to “receive without dowry the poor daughters of noble families”. Queen Sancha, with her daughter Doña Dulce, withdrew to ‘her’ convent after Don Alfonso died and took the habit of the Order.

Today, only three monasteries remain with active contemplative sisters of St John of Jerusalem: St Ursula Convent in Valletta, Malta and two in Spain – the Monastery of St Jean d’Acre in Salinas de Añana, established when the Order still occupied Acre in the Holy Land in Basque Autonomous Region, and Zamorca Monastery in Castille & Leon. There are currently two Martyrs of the Spanish Civil War, both sisters of the Order, awaiting beatification – Sr. Patrocinio Chillida Manes and Sr. Visitacion Solé Yvern.

Footnotes:

1. In Malta, the Cloistered ‘Gerosalemitani’ Nuns of the Monastery and Church of St. Ursula of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem are often confused with the Ursuline Nuns who have a large presence on the Island. The “Ursolini” own homes, convents, schools and orphanages in Valletta, Pietà, Msida, Lija, Tarxien, Zabbar, Cospicua and Sliema, my hometown. The Company of St. Ursula was founded by the Venetian religious educator St. Angela Merici, in 1535, in Brescia, with the aim of educating girls. The Ursulines were brought to Malta in 1887 by Mgr. Isidor Formosa, a Maltese priest. The Rule of the Company of St. Ursula was promulgated in 1536 making the Ursulines the oldest religious order of women in the Roman Catholic Church.

2. St. Ursula herself is a rather nebulous legendary figure in the pantheon of saints. While there is very little historical corroboration, St Ursula was a Roman-Christian British virgin accompanied by 11,000 virgins who were martyred by the Huns in Cologne in 451 AD, the virgins by beheading and St. Ursula by an arrow delivered by the Hun chieftain.

3. St. Ursula is the Patroness of Gozo, Malta’s sister island.

Sisters of the St John of Jerusalem from St Ursula’s Monastery in Valletta; and a painting of Santa Flora di Beaulieu, virgin of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem.



THE BLESSED AND THE SAINTS

by Fra' James-Michael von Stroebel



St Ubaldesca, Virgin of the Order. Born in 1136 at Calcinia, near Pisa, Italy. At the age of 15, she joined the Order of St John of Jerusalem, and worked for 55 years in the infirmary attached to the monastery at Pisa, caring for her neighbour out of love for God. She died on 28 May 1206. Her body was taken back to Calcinia where it is now enshrined. Not

only is she honoured among the saints and blessed of The Order of St John of Jerusalem, she is celebrated as a patroness of the City of Pisa.



St Fleur of Beaulieu, Virgin of the Order. St Fleur (Flora) was born about 1300 at Maurs in France. At age of 13 she took the veil in the convent of the Sisters of St John of Jerusalem at Beaulieu, in the diocese of Cahors in France, where she devoted herself to tending the poor and the sick in the hospital attached to the convent. She sublimated

distractions and temptations in the love of God and in mystical experiences. She had a special devotion to Christ Crucified, to Our Lady of the Annunciation, and to St John the Baptist, the patron of the Order of St John. She died in 1347 and her relics are still in the church at Issendolus in the Diocese of Cahors.



St Toscana, Religious of the Order She was born about 1280 at Zevio, near Verona in Italy. She married a man from Verona, Albert Canoculi, with whom she began to do remarkable work for the poor. After her husband's early death, she sold all that she owned and gave to the poor. She spent her days in prayer and contemplation, and corporal works of mercy.

Every morning she visited Verona's Hospice of the Order of St John of Jerusalem to visit the sick and the poor and to wash their feet. She received the habit of the Hospitaller Sisters of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, and devoted the rest of her life to prayer and caring for the sick within the Order. She died on 14 July 1343 or 1344.

Of the eight Saints of the Order, three are women and all were nuns of the Jerusalemite Hospitaller Order: St Ubaldesca Tacchini, St Toscana Canoculi and St Fleur of Beaulieu.

Of the four Venerables and 13 Blesseds of the Order, one is female: Ven. Visitation Solé Yvern

Of the more than six Servants of God, at least four are holy women: Queen Sancha of Aragon; Zita von Bourbon-Parma, Empress of Austria and Queen of Hungary; Abbess Alix of Rome and Victoria de Azcón.

Under the Patronage of Our Lady, venerated especially as Our Lady of Philermos and Our Lady of Liesse, our Order is protected by and interceded for us by the Blessed Virgin, the Saints of the Order and the Nuns who continuously pray for all knights and dames of the Order of Malta. 🇨🇵

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Bringing LOURDES to Australia

With international travel separating the world due to the global pandemic, Lourdes Day Masses across the country united sisters and brother together in faith and spirit.

A pilgrimage to Lourdes represents one of the most significant moments in the spiritual life of the Order's members and volunteers. Since 1958, the Lourdes Sanctuary dedicates the first weekend in May for the Annual Pilgrimage of the International Order of Malta where nearly 8000 members, volunteers and malades attend.

However, for many Catholic Australians, especially for those in poor health, a trip to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in France, where Marie-Bernarde Soubirous (St Bernadette) had a series of visions of the Virgin Mary, is an aspirational but unachievable goal. Furthermore COVID-19 travel restrictions in Australia have, for now, made a pilgrimage to Lourdes almost impossible.

For those unable to visit Lourdes in person, members of the Order of Malta, brought Lourdes to Australia by hosting Lourdes Day Masses

across the country.

These special celebrations are for the intentions of everyone but 'malades' (those who are sick or infirm) are particularly encouraged to attend. A blessing with water brought from the spring at the Shrine of Lourdes follows the celebration of the Liturgy and the Order of Malta gifts each attendee receives a small bottle of Lourdes water.

The tradition of Order of Malta Lourdes Masses began in 2004, when members in Victoria arranged for large containers of Lourdes Holy Water to be shipped to Melbourne. A mass was arranged in the gymnasium at Xavier College with Archbishop Denis Hart as the celebrant and attracted a congregation of almost 400 people.

Sixteen years later, thousands of Australians participate in our Lourdes Day Masses held annually in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide, with further masses held at aged care facilities in Melbourne, throughout the year.

The Lourdes Day Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney was held with restricted capacity due. COVID-19 restrictions made the annual pilgrimage unattainable, and instead thousands of Order of Malta Australian members joined the livestreamed Mass.



Whilst COVID-19 resulted in the cancellation of most of the Lourdes Day Masses in 2020, the mass at St Mary's Cathedral, held on the first Saturday in December each year, was able to go ahead but with capacity restrictions. Thankfully a livestream of the celebration meant thousands of others across the world could join Archbishop Fisher and the congregation of 150, including 35 malades and 60 members and volunteers of the Order of Malta.

Archbishop Fisher gave a moving homily about the traditions of the Order and the church and their relevance in the modern day. He also referenced how COVID-19 had brought people together:

"Back in May the Holy Father reflected upon the way the COVID-19 pandemic has likewise united people of different faiths, quoting St Francis to the effect that we are 'Fratelli Tutti', all sisters and brothers, all in this together. His recent encyclical of that name is devoted to friendship and fraternity. There is much here for our Order to contemplate, pointing to the ways that its courtly love for our fair lady the Church and for our lords and ladies the sick might best be expressed today. Your work is to be one of and for 'fratelli tutti', the whole human family. Through you, in the words of today's prophecy, "in the days of plague and slaughter... the Lord will dress the wounds of his people and heal all their bruises".

One attendee remarked: "It was a truly happy occasion. Looking at so many smiling faces after such a tough year really lifted my spirits." ❧

"The traditions of chivalry, converted into love of the poor, the holy and the ecclesial, were amongst the founding inspirations for the mediaeval Order of Malta. The vesture takes us back to Blessed Gerard's Hospital of St John in Jerusalem and six more along the pilgrim way. Eventually they were recognised as a sovereign entity with its own territory, a military fraternity to defend the Church, an hospitaller society to nurse exhausted pilgrims and the sick poor, and a religious order for the sanctification of the members. Following Christ's charge today to His disciples "to cure all kinds of disease and sickness" (Mt 9:35-10:8), Gerard was famed for courageously and generously caring for the sick whether Christian, Muslim or Jew. This love won him the admiration not just of Christian Europe but also of the caliphate."

- An extract from Archbishop Fisher's homily for the Lourdes Day Mass celebration at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney on 5 December 2020.



Beyond BIOETHICS

How the International Association of Catholic Bioethics came to be, and why advancing thinking in bioethics will continue to support the Order of Malta's mission to serve the poor and the sick.

The International Association of Catholic Bioethics (IACB) originated from a colloquium organised in 2004 by the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute in Toronto, Canada. It was attended by representatives of many bioethics centres affiliated with Catholic hospitals and universities around the world.

These bioethicists expressed a desire to form a community that would foster regular discussions on emerging or controversial bioethical issues and facilitate collaborations. The group mandated Dr William Sullivan and the late Dr Nicholas Tonti-Filippini AO KMG (Ob) to approach the Canadian and Australian associations of the Order of Malta for support of its undertaking. Dr Tonti-Filippini was a much-respected Knight in the Australian Association of whom the Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher said in a tribute "was for decades a leading light among moral philosophers and bioethicists and by far the best-known Catholic voice in that space in Australia".

At a meeting of the presidents of all associations and priories of the Order of Malta in Valletta, Malta and an international

colloquium held in Melbourne, Australia in 2005, the IACB was established under the aegis of the Order of Malta. In 2016, the IACB was incorporated in Canada with André Morin as its first president and Dr Sullivan as the academic director. In 2017, the IACB was appointed by the Order of Malta to be the centre of expertise for all questions the Order's Sovereign Council has on bioethics and as a resource for promoting ethical reflection and practice in the healthcare works of the Order.

Dr Bernadette Tobin AO DMG GCSG is the current President of the IACB. She is a Dame in the Australian Association, a Reader in Philosophy at the Australian Catholic University, and Director of the Plunkett Centre for Ethics at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, Australia.

Dr Eamonn Mathieson MBBS FANZCA, has recently been appointed to the Governing Council, replacing long-serving confrère, Dr Ian Marshall, AM AE KC*SG KGCMG (Ob) GCM, the immediate past president of the Australian Association. Dr Mathieson looks forward to assisting the ongoing good works of the IACB. He is keen to maintain an international collaboration

by encouraging Australia's continuing engagement with the many challenging bioethics issues we are facing both in Australia and overseas.

What does IACB do?

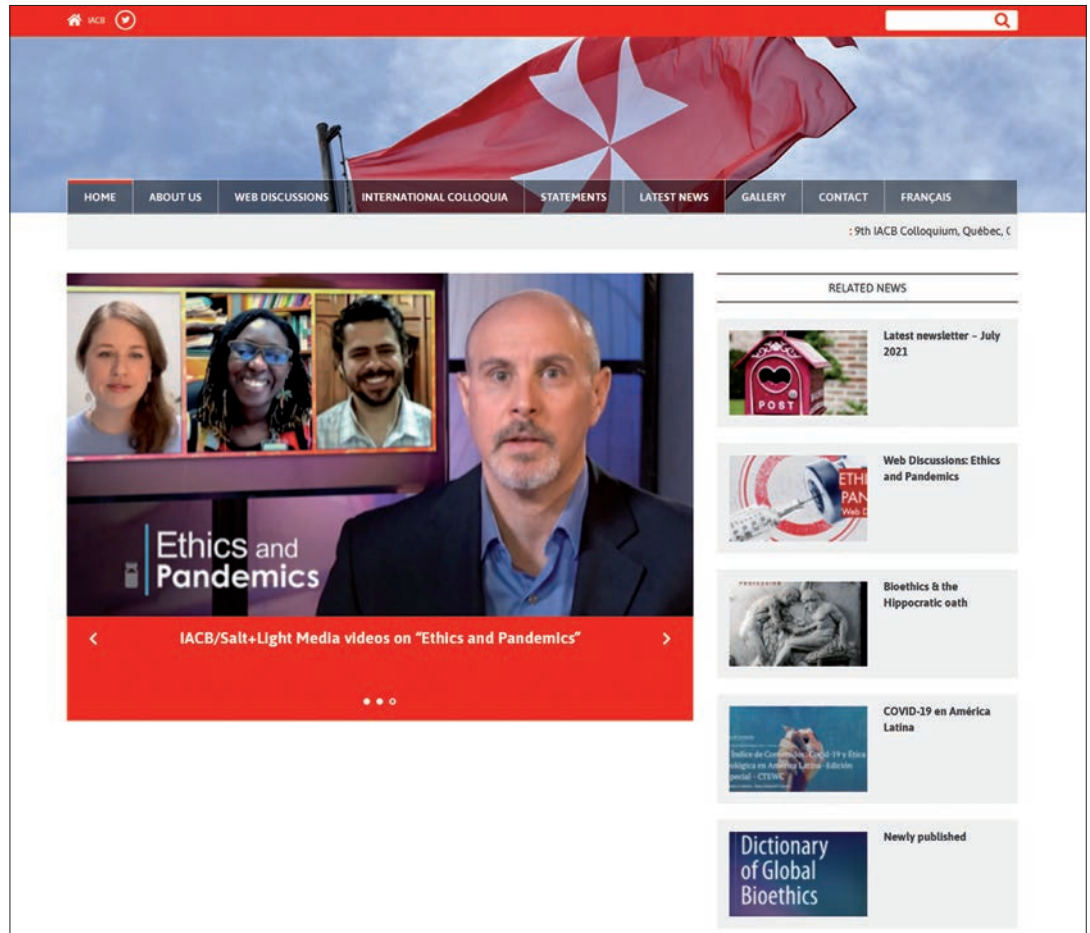
IACB is a community of bioethicists and others working in related fields to foster collaboration and promote ethics in health care and research that is informed by Catholic theological and philosophical foundations.

IACB:

- engages in research
- shares and synthesises understanding through discussions
- develops and communicates consensus statements and other resources in bioethics.

Its rigorous academic and integrated interdisciplinary approaches have earned widespread respect.

By advancing thinking in bioethics, particularly on topics in health care that affect the most vulnerable in our world, the IACB supports the Order of Malta's mission of devotedly serving the poor and the sick. As recognition of its credibility,



the Order of Malta appointed the IACB to be the centre of expertise for all questions the Order's Sovereign Council has on bioethics and as a resource for promoting ethical reflection and practice in the healthcare works of the Order.

Recent papers published by IACB can be found in its website, including:

- The value of palliative care: Guidelines for health care facilities and individual providers facing permissive laws on physician assistance in suicide and euthanasia (Montreal, 2015)
- Healing relationships and transformations in health care (Rome, 2017)
- Promoting capabilities to make healthcare decisions (Québec City, 2019)

Watch an illuminating 15-minute IACB documentary (iacb.ca/iacb-documentary), which features His Excellency the Prelate of the Order, Mons Jean Laffitte and Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem His Grace the Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher OP.

Staying productive in a pandemic

The social implications of the pandemic had forced cancellation of all planned in-person Colloquiums in 2021. They have been replaced with a series of webinars.

Seven webinars are currently in progress and

their results will be produced in a Consensus Statement entitled Ethics and Pandemics. One of the webinars focuses on 'what's distinctive about a Catholic understanding of public health?'

IACB is also collaborating with St Michael's Hospital Canada Foundation to produce a set of papers on a contemporary approach to Catholic Bioethics, with an emphasis on current social and bioethical issues raised by the pandemic.

Salt+Light Catholic Media, a television network based in Canada with one million subscribers across Canada and the United States, will produce and broadcast three episodes based on IACB's webinar series.

- Episode 1: Should I be vaccinated? What does the Church teach?
- Episode 2: Lost but not forgotten. Whom has this pandemic left behind and how might Catholics help?
- Episode 3: Dress rehearsal. From what we have learned in this pandemic how might we do better?

IACB's next Colloquium will be held in Rome in June 2022. The proposed topic is Ecology, Ethics and Bioethics. ❌

For more information about the IACB, visit iacb.ca

Clockwise from top: Dr Bernadette Tobin President IACB; the IACB website; and Dr Eamonn Mathiesen, member of the Governing Council IACB.



A terrible explosion brought destruction and death to the holy land of Beirut, but it also bought unity and human compassion to care for the critically injured and homeless.

A large fire at the Port of Beirut on the city's northern Mediterranean coast on 4 August turned the blue sky to white.

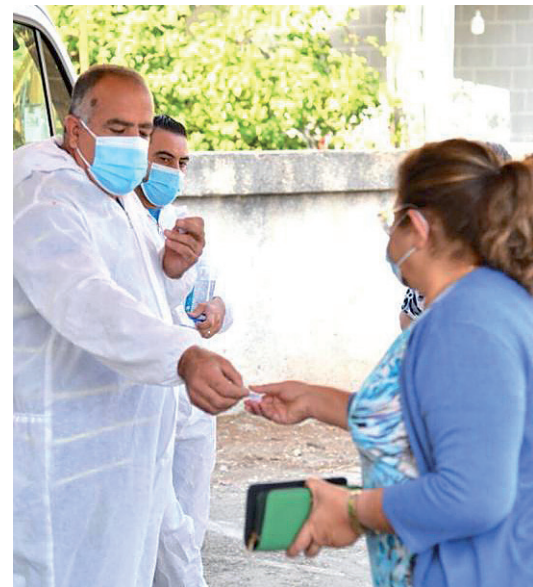
What followed was a series of blasts survivors recall like "fireworks going off", and just 30 seconds later, a colossal,

devastating explosion, the result of 2750-tonnes of allegedly unsafely stored ammonium nitrate triggered by the fire.

The explosion sent a mushroom cloud of smoke and toxic gas into the air, and a supersonic blast wave that radiated through the city, killing at least 200

people, injuring some 7000, and making as many as 300,000 temporarily homeless according to the Beirut Governor Marwan Abboud.

Glass shattered. Roofs collapsed. Walls were stripped. Buildings were flattened. People were screaming, children





TO THE

CORE

were left crying, and communities were left devastated. Life in Beirut came to a halt as the city was ripped apart. Homes were destroyed or extensively damaged, and hospitals were quickly overwhelmed. The explosion also damaged several health facilities to the point that they were no longer operational, including five hospitals and 35 schools, and many were without power, water or hygiene services.

About nine kilometres away, the explosion's shockwave blew out the windows of Beirut

International Airport's passenger terminal. About 200 kilometres away in Cyprus, the blast was also heard, causing a 3.3-magnitude earthquake.

In the immediate aftermath of the explosion, Malteser International, together with its long-standing partner, the Lebanese Association of the Knights of Malta (LAKM), who have a strong presence in Beirut, initiated a rapid frontline response. The immediate focus was on primary health care, with three Malteser International mobile medical units providing urgent medical care to 1547 people in the first days following the explosion, which helped ease the pressure on healthcare services.

They provided mobile medical and social welfare care for the wounded, restocked medical supplies, provided sanitary packs to strengthen measures against COVID-19, and provided relief for those now homeless.

More than 300 youth volunteers were mobilised in the field each day to clear rubble and shards from houses, provide and deliver ready-to-eat food and meals, evaluate damages in certain dedicated areas for refurbishment, and distribute hygiene packs following a spike in coronavirus infections.

A Malteser International response team carried out further assessment of needs on the ground.

One week after the explosion, the President of the Order of Malta's Lebanese Association, Marwan Sehnaoui, wrote a letter of appeal for the battered city.

"Here we are, in the middle of a heartbroken city

Top: The destruction from the explosion in the Port of Beirut; a rapid emergency response from the Order of Malta Lebanese Association helping those now homeless with sanitary packs and urgent supplies.







and an ever-wounded country,” Marwan wrote.

“A country that has been suffering ongoing wars and crisis since the Sovereign Order of Malta started its official diplomatic relations in 1955.

“Today, my country is bleeding, not only from the explosion but from 30 years of corruption, clientelism and mismanagement that have led to the severe economic, financial, social and sanitary crisis, toppled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“My fellow citizens are sick, hungry and in despair, they are hostages of a dysfunctional system in their own country.

“Our mission is to keep giving the hope by serving and caring for each person who needs our help, always with a smile and a gentle hand.”

In the month following the disaster, members and volunteers of the Order of Malta Lebanon worked relentlessly to provide free healthcare assistance in the most affected areas at 12 primary health care centres, five major hospitals and the main state drugs warehouse, which were severely damaged in the explosion.

The Order of Malta in Lebanon opened its centre in Chabrouh as a shelter for families who had lost their homes and needed a safe place to stay. It also developed a mental health and psychosocial support program at the Ain el Remmaneh centre, offering telephone consultations.

“Physical wounds have been treated, but the catastrophe and the sudden loss of basic security have done extensive damage to the mental health of people affected,” said Clemens Mirbach, Malteser International’s Country Coordinator for Lebanon. “Many patients have asked for sedatives to cope with the trauma experienced.”

A team of experts from Malteser International and the Pierre Fabre Foundation assessed the needs of the community that would determine the next steps in a long and sustainable recovery.


Australians reach out

Order of Malta organisations around the world rallied to provide support following the Beirut blast. The Australian Association of the Order of Malta made an initial donation of EUR10,000 (about \$16,000) to support the emergency relief effort and, following an appeal to members and donors, a further EUR\$20,000 (about \$32,000) has been raised to assist their projects for the longer-term recovery efforts.

Just three days after the explosion, National Hospitaller John Murphy was on a call in the early hours of the morning to be updated on the Order’s response as it unfolded, directly from H.E. Marwan Sehnaoui, Vice President of the Lebanese Association Patrick Jabre, Member of the Order’s Government Council, General Delegate for the Lebanese Association and Member of the Order’s Communication Board Oumayma Farah.

The explosion came at a difficult time for Lebanon, a country already suffering its worst economic crisis in decades. Almost half of the Lebanese population live in poverty, with unemployment at 35 per cent. The country continues to be impacted by a political and health crisis, and a huge burden of the region’s refugee crisis, currently housing some 1.5 million Syrian refugees and 450,000 refugees from Palestine, and rising numbers of coronavirus.

The Order of Malta Australia continues to assist the efforts in Lebanon’s capital city of Beirut. It is helping to repair and renovate the homes of elderly citizens and people with disabilities, while providing them with necessary household items. It is distributing hygiene kits containing disinfectants, reusable masks and soap to vulnerable groups.

If you would like to make a further donation, visit live.orderofmalta.org.au 

The Order of Malta Lebanon providing free healthcare and ready-to-eat food and meals for those in need post-explosion; volunteers clear rubble and shards from houses; and offering social and emotional support to the survivors of the Beirut explosion in 2020.



BOOK REVIEWS

BLESSED CHARLES OF AUSTRIA A HOLY EMPEROR AND HIS LEGACY

By Charles a. Coulombe

John Murphy KMG reviews the epic biography of Charles I of Austria, a war time tragedy of epic proportions but serves as a wonderful example of leadership and faith to Christians world wide.

The house of Habsburg is synonymous with the history of European Catholicism and monarchs. Many would say they were the guardians of Christendom between the 15th to the 20th century and, as such, has played important roles in the history of our Order.

The fact that the Order has any association with the island of Malta is in no small way due to Charles V, the head of the house of Habsburg, King of Spain and Archduke of Austria and Holy Roman Emperor, who in 1530, reached an agreement with Pope Clement VII (a Knight himself) to provide the Knights of St John a permanent home on Malta, Gonzo and Tripoli.

This biography by prolific Catholic author Charles Coulombe is of a different Holy Emperor Charles one of a modern era, 17 August 1887 – 1 April 1922. Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, the son of Archduke Otto of Austria and Princess Maria Josepha of Saxony, Charles became heir presumptive of Emperor Franz Joseph after his uncle Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated in 1914.

He was a loving husband to Zita of Bourbon-Parma, Empress and Queen, and devoted father to their eight children: Otto, Adelheid, Robert, Felix, Carl Ludwig, Rudolf, Charlotte and Elisabeth.

Blessed Emperor Charles (Karl) of Austria- Bailiff Grand Cross of Honour and Devotion of the Order of Malta was beatified on 3 October 2004 in Saint Peter's Square, Vatican City by Pope John Paul II.

We learn that Charles was an extraordinary man of many parts, a soldier, politician, Emperor, King, a husband, and father. He doesn't fit into the typical mould of a great political, cultural, war time leader and hero. In fact, the author points out that Charles has

been portrayed as a failure to common world standards. He failed to preserve the Habsburg Monarchy, was on the losing side of the Great War, and was forced into exile on the island of Madeira where he eventually died of pneumonia at the young age of 34. But as we soon learn, this is but a small part of a far greater story.

The biography is made up of three separate parts.

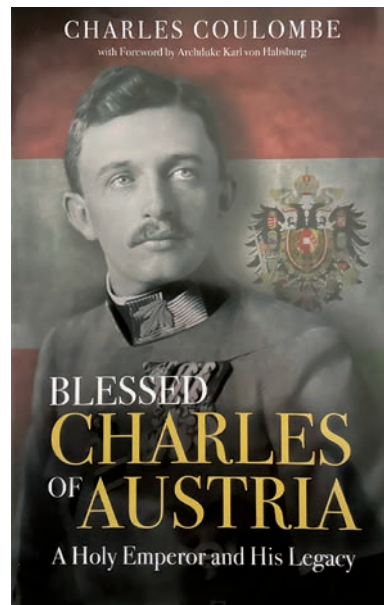
1) The Inheritance, where we learn about the history of Holy Roman Empire, the Church and the sacred monarchy, tracing the complex politics of Europe through the ages

2) The Imperial Lives in Tandem, that describes the lives of Charles and Zita and traces the events of Charles' short reign and fall during a most volatile period in history of Western Europe

3) The Legacy, which looks at the Habsburgs in the aftermath of Great War, the vision for a united Europe, the beatification of Charles, and how all this impacts today's world and our everyday lives as believers.

Charles was given a thorough Catholic education and developed a deep devotion to the Holy Eucharist, the Sacred Heart and the Virgin Mary, this faith would define his very existence. Mother Maria Vincentia, prophet and stigmatic shared with young Charles' tutor, "you have to pray a lot for him, because he will one day be Emperor and he will have to suffer a lot. He will be a special target of Hell."

The idea that Charles would become Emperor seemed highly unlikely but nonetheless the second part of the prophesy was taken seriously. A small prayer circle was formed for the young archduke including family and friends and Ursuline sisters, and this was the beginnings of the Prayer League for Emperor Karl. The prayer league was active throughout Charles' life and to this day, has been active in pursuing



and supporting the beatification and canonisation of Blessed Karl and his wife, Servant of God Zita.

Charles saw his vocation as leader as a way to follow Christ. He placed the sacred duty of a king and a commitment to peace as his focus during the course of a horrific war. He was alone among political leaders in supporting Benedict XV's peace efforts.

In relation to local politics, despite the extremely difficult times he initiated wide sweeping social legislation, inspired by social Christian teaching. At the request of the Pope, who feared that communism would overtake Central Europe, Charles attempted twice to restore his government and return to the throne of Hungary but to no avail.

Charles represents a style of leadership which is unique to our modern paradigm, one which is willing to sacrifice itself for the sake of others. To put God's will before man's and to unashamedly pursue holiness and assist others achieve the same outcome.

The author of this work leaves us with these final thoughts:

"As with Charles and Zita, the present is simply the historical stage against which we must work our salvation in fear and trembling. If we keep our Catholic faith – it's practice and profession – as our dearest treasure and attempt to mould everything in our personal, professional, and public lives after its precepts and persevere to the end in doing so, we shall win the crown".

CARDINAL PELL'S PRISON JOURNAL: THE QUIET HEART OF THE STORM

By George Cardinal Pell

Ambassador Terry Tobin reviews the first of three volumes of Cardinal Pell's Prison Journal.

The publication of Cardinal George Pell's Prison Journal by Ignatius Press in the United States comes just seven months after the High Court threw out Pell's conviction on historic abuse charges in a unanimous 7:0 jury decision.

In a society which espouses the presumption of innocence in all criminal matters, and despite the refusal of his enemies to acknowledge it, the Court upheld his innocence.

That background helps in understanding the spirit and significance of the first volume of the Journal. It records the thoughts and prayers and inner life of an innocent man as he begins what was more than 400 days in solitary confinement.

The reader is immediately struck by the notion of peace at the heart of the journal as the Cardinal records his day-by-day reflections on the world beyond the prison while living a terrible uncertainty. The trial judge had sentenced him to at least three and a half years in custody.

To understand the generosity of heart, the great intellectual range, and the lifetime of experience which shines through the often beautiful writing, the reader faces a special challenge. For years, Pell had been the favourite target of the ill-will and sheer bigotry of secularists and enemies within his own Church alike – from Melbourne to Sydney and all the way to Rome. At some stage, readers must mentally clear away a jungle of misunderstanding and misreporting. Then they will appreciate the Prison Journal as the unfolding of a rich interior life lived out in a sparse cell.

At the end of Pell's first day as a prisoner, he writes: "In every way, it is a relief the day is over. I am now at the quiet heart of the storm, while family, friends, and wider Church have to cope with the tornado."

In many ways, the Journal explores life at the quiet heart of the storm, "peace which comes dropping slow", a spiritual quest for God who is there at the heart. That said, there

is nothing ungrounded in these pages. It is full of wry, sometimes laconic observations, which are unmistakably Australian and unmistakably Christian. The Journal is a masterclass in forgiveness as a willed state, always under siege, and only achieved by grace.

Under that regime of ritual humiliations, which is the hallmark of every prison system, there are constant reminders to the prisoner that he is powerless. After being chosen for a random drug test preceded by a full strip search, the Cardinal said to his amiable warder, "that was easy enough". The warder replied, "apart from the humiliation".

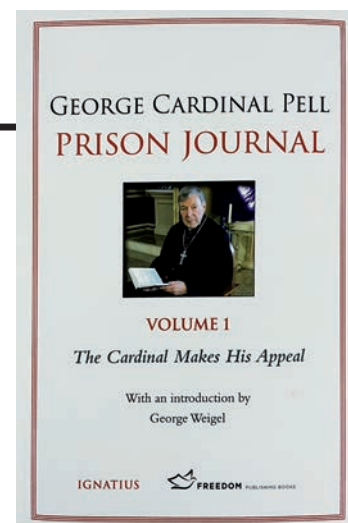
The regime sends the prisoner to face court handcuffed but without belt or braces for the prison van trip. It is a regime he says was supervised, in the most part, by decent men and women, but one which decrees a life spent 23 hours a day indoors with no direct light. This is the life of a priest forbidden to celebrate Mass, but supported by the chaplain, Sister Mary O'Shannassy of the Good Samaritans, who brought him the Eucharist. A life where hope, too, has to be prised loose.

Readers must keep reminding themselves of these harsh, quotidian facts when reading this journal as, among other things, a spiritual guide using the daily Prayers of the Church, reflections on Job and Revelation, many other biblical readings, on the mystery of suffering, on the great feasts of the Church, on death.

Threaded through it all are reports from family and friends, occasional face-to-face visits, the speculation of lawyers and sporting highlights.

Over the weeks, hundreds and hundreds of letters from the faithful in every corner of the world are in time released by the censors, no small task. They sustain Pell with stories of support, prayers and hymns, and unshakeable assurances of their belief in his innocence.

As the Easter season drew to a close, and the Cardinal sat through two days of hearing in the Court of Appeal, the consensus of



his friends and lawyers was confidence that he would be released in a matter of days. While his supporters shared their optimism, Pell's opponents denounced the prosecution for failing to bring home the bacon – even calling for the prosecution counsel to be disbarred for disappointing them, while a prominent writer derided the prosecution as "a – expletive deleted – train wreck". As time would prove, no counsel can make a bad case good. The judges left the bench having reserved their decision.

This volume ends on 13 July 2019, 37 days after the appeal was heard and 39 days before the Court of Appeal came back with its decision. Knowing the final outcome, readers will have an awful sense of dread. Soon, trust in our system of justice would be shaken. The wish to walk free after so many months would be dashed. But all that is for future volumes. There will be two more bringing the Journal to a close. Fittingly, the volume ends with an expression of gratitude for the Quadrant Editor, Keith Windschuttle, who had written that we "can only hope that the B-grade spectacle we have witnessed at so many places in the persecution of George Pell is an aberration and not a portent of some squalid, unwatchable future". Those hopes were crushed a month later when a 2:1 decision rejected the Cardinal's appeal.

The introduction to Volume 1 by the distinguished American writer and Catholic intellectual, George Weigel, captures this whole "tawdry tale" brilliantly.

Throughout his ordeal, Pell never expresses self-pity, nor rancour against his accusers. "I have felt more exasperated by one or two of the opposition lawyers and some journalists than with my accusers," he says.

As he foresaw on that first day behind bars, his family and friends and the Church share the public shaming, while – as we can now see – the free press took a holiday. ❖



OBITUARIES

Over 2020 and early 2021, the Australian Association mourned the loss of five members. We record the life stories of those members: **Archbishop Emeritus John Alexis Bathersby, Laszlo Ory, Audrey Donnithorne, Lila Marrinan, and Archbishop Emeritus Philip Wilson.**

MOST REV. ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS JOHN ALEXIS BATHERSBY DD AO (1937 - 2020)

Archbishop Emeritus John Bathersby DD AO has been remembered as a long-serving and dedicated servant of the Church in Queensland after he died on 9 March 2020. He served as the Bishop of Cairns for five years before taking on his role as Brisbane archbishop for 20 years.

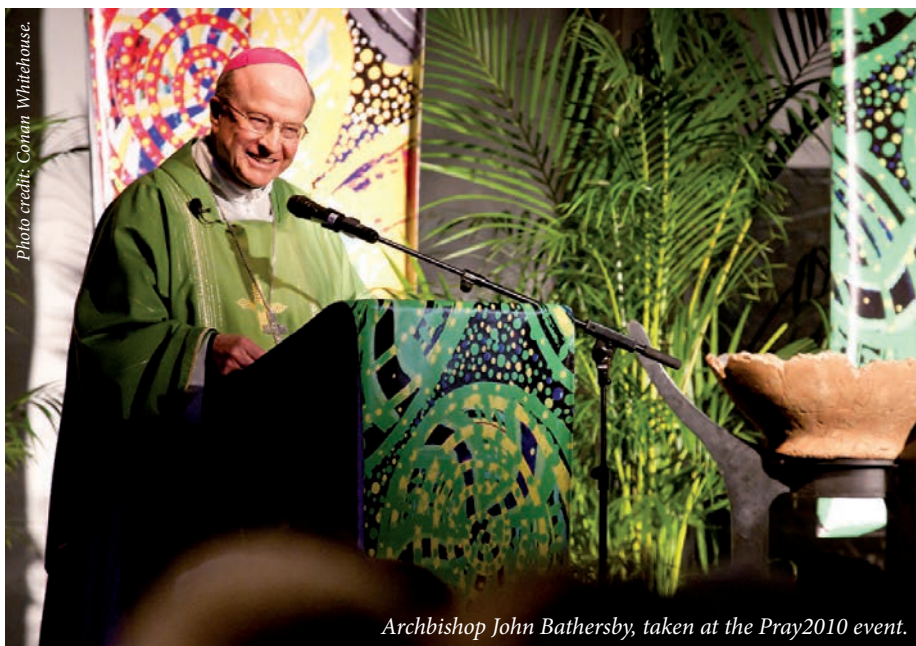
He was remembered for his emphasis on prayer, the Eucharist and the centrality of Jesus as well as a commitment to ecumenism and the laity.

His successor Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge said in Archbishop Bathersby's 20 years as archbishop, he was "no high-powered administrator or fiery preacher".

"What he brought to the office was something deeper and more enduring," he said.

"John was consumed by the desire to know and love Jesus, and he spoke of this more and more as time went by. This is his greatest legacy to the archdiocese. It led to a focus on deepening prayer, not only in his own life but in the life of the archdiocese. The mystic shone through in the little Aussie battler; and the effect of that is hard to measure but impossible to deny."

Australian Association President Confrère The Hon James Douglas remembers His Grace with these words: "It was with sorrow and joy that I heard today of the death of our former conventual chaplain and Archbishop of Brisbane, Most Rev. Archbishop Emeritus John Alexis Bathersby. He had been one of our conventual chaplains ad honorem since



Archbishop John Bathersby, taken at the Pray2010 event.

20 October 2005 and was greatly loved both within the Order and in the Brisbane Archdiocese. He encouraged Bishop Ken Howell to become involved in the Order to our great advantage as well as directing many new members to join us.

He was a leading ecumenist, highly regarded as a spiritual director and a great friend of our former president, Dr Ian Marshall, who spoke memorably about him at his valedictory dinner hosted by the Order in 2011.

It is with sorrow that we recognise his death as a loss to us in this world but with joy that we recognise that he will be welcomed into Heaven as the holy and good man that he was.

Please remember him in your prayers. May he rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon him."

Some parts of this obituary were originally written by Joe Higgins and published in The Catholic Leader.

DR LILA MARGARET MARRINAN (NEE LEE) DAME OF MAGISTRAL GRACE MBBS DCH, (LOND) (1931 - 2020)

Dr Lila Margaret Marrinan MBBS DCH, (LOND) was born in Ingham, Queensland on 17 January 1931, and sadly passed away on 30 August 2020.

She was head girl at All Hallows School, a Sisters of Mercy College in Brisbane, and graduated in medicine at the University of Queensland in 1958.

She went on to become one of the first female registrars at the Great Ormond Street Hospital in London. She returned to Brisbane and worked extensively in paediatrics.

Lila and her husband Confrère Dr Clem Marrinan moved to Coorparoo in their later years.

Lila is survived by her beloved husband Clem and son Matthew. She was admitted as a Dame of Magistral Grace into the Order of Malta on 5 February 2003, and was an active and valued member until ill health intervened.

May she rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon her.

PROFESSOR AUDREY DONNITHORNE DAME OF MAGISTRAL GRACE (1922 – 2020)

Professor Audrey Donnithorne, Dame of Magistral Grace quietly passed away in Hong Kong on 9 June 2020 at the age of 97.

Born in Sichuan in 1922 to evangelical Anglican Missionary parents, Audrey became not only a respected scholar specialised in the study of Chinese economy, but also an extremely active and ecumenical figure of the Church who had a unique gift to connect people, eras and civilizations. Her passing calls for acknowledgement of her legacy and reflection on the role that laywomen play in the Church.

At the age of five, Audrey and her family returned to England and Audrey acquired a British education typical of the late imperial period. In April 1940, she travelled through France a few days before the Nazi invasion, to spend three years with her parents in wartime China. It is during this stay that she converted to Catholicism. Back in London and having served at the Directorate of Military Intelligence of the War Office where her knowledge of China was already valued, she studied economics at Oxford University and met Margaret Roberts, later Thatcher.

After graduation, Audrey worked as a research assistant at University College London. In 1969, she moved to Canberra where she was soon appointed as head of the Contemporary China Centre at the Australian National University. With this new geographic proximity and academic status, in 1973 she started to repeatedly visit the People's Republic of China for academic reasons. These countless trips became unique opportunities to meet with an increasing number of local pastors, priests, nuns and bishops. Thus, Audrey was one of the first Westerners to reconnect with the Church on the ground and circulate across provinces.

Yet her growing scholarly focus on mainland China did not prevent her from travelling across Australia, Asia, the Soviet Union and Europe to the point of finding herself in Nazareth on the morning of Yom Kippur of 1973, the day that a coalition of Arab states attacked Israel. Her annual travels reflect her broad perspective on China, the Church and the world.

In 1985, at the age of 63, she retired from academia and moved to Hong Kong. In addition to becoming an honorary member of the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong, she started a



Consoeur Audrey Donnithorne's investiture in Hong Kong on 26 September 2009.

new informal career as an ecclesial agent. She mobilised her numerous skills and connections to humbly but actively support the rebirth of the Church in China.

As an elderly lady, Audrey regularly visited Christian communities in Sichuan, Guizhou and Yunnan. She played an essential role in gathering and circulating information, connecting people and institutions, and gathering funding. As a professional economist, she always remained pragmatic and attentive to the material autonomy of the Church.

Among the many projects she supported, Audrey set up an organisation sending language professors to Chinese universities. In addition to favouring intercultural exchange and professional training, this platform also allowed Western missionaries to find teaching jobs in mainland China and reconnect with the young population. Well aware of her critical contribution, the Holy See and the Study Mission awarded her the Pro Ecclesia et Pro Pontifice medal in 1993. In 1995, she became an honorary member of the Paris Foreign Missions Society.

In 1997, Audrey was expelled from mainland China. As she protested and asked for explanations, Chinese officials replied that she knew why. She answered that among her many sins she could not tell which ones they were referring to.

Obviously, and as all her friends know well, she never lost her British sense of humour.

She remained well connected with authorities in China, Hong Kong and abroad. She continued to nourish an intense correspondence with a wide range of scholars, Protestant and Catholic clergy members, and political leaders. She arranged the publication of countless books and ecclesial materials as well as study abroad programs for many Chinese priests and nuns. She continued to work closely with the Diocese of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Caritas and a vast number of congregations to meet the new needs of the Church in China. For example, after the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan, she set up a fund for the reconstruction of churches in her natal province.

Audrey was invested into the Australian Association of the Order in Hong Kong on 26 September 2009.

Although her physical strength slowly declined, she kept a sharp mind and fun spirit till the very end. Affected by recurrent seasonal pneumonia, she could still recite the whole Prayer of the Order by heart. She died peacefully in Hong Kong among friends. Most of Audrey's personal archives remain at the library of the Paris Foreign Missions Society.

Acknowledgements and thanks to Michel Chambon and Union of Catholic Asian News Limited.

ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS PHILIP WILSON DD JCL (1950 - 2021)

The Order of Malta's Principal Chaplain, Archbishop Emeritus Philip Wilson DD JCL was called to God on 17 January 2021. He will be greatly missed.

Archbishop Wilson was the former Bishop of Wollongong, Archbishop of Adelaide, and former president of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference.

He performed his duties as Principal Chaplain in the Order of Malta with energy, grace, distinction, and respect.

Born in the Hunter region, a young Philip Wilson studied at St Columba's College, Springwood and St Patrick's College Manly before being ordained a priest of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Later, after his ordination as Bishop of Wollongong in 1996, he became an important figure in introducing reforms to help the Catholic Church respond to the issue of child sexual abuse. Archbishop Wilson helped draft a new Church policy to deal nationally with abuse victims and perpetrators, 'Towards Healing'.

He was appointed Archbishop of Adelaide in 2001 – another milestone in his 45 years of priestly ministry. Archbishop Wilson also served as president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for two terms, from 2006 to 2010.

South Australian members especially mourn the loss of their 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.

Confrère Dr Ian Leitch reflects on His Grace's dedication to the Order of Malta:

"Every year we would have our Order's Day of Reflection, over which His Grace would preside. This was usually held at the Sisters of St Joseph Convent Chapel, a truly beautiful chapel. His Grace would celebrate Mass for us, and then put one or two spiritual questions to us. We would consider these – in this beautiful chapel – and then be led to the appropriate conclusion by his outstanding knowledge of the Gospels and his love of our Lord... That evening, members and spouses would be entertained by His Grace at dinner at his residence in Adelaide, with interesting discussions and wonderful fellowship."

His Grace was well known by the children of the Archdiocese. He prioritised conferment of the sacraments in his impossible schedule and the Archbishop's Awards bestowed upon Catholic students annually was a highlight for many young adults. Members and families were guests at the Archbishop's house for dinner where he would regale us with tales of his early life and journey through priesthood.



He was loyal and loving to his sisters and brothers in religious life, Adelaide's diverse multicultural faith community, the media, war veterans, holocaust survivors and victims of homelessness and abuse.

He drew strength, love and courage from his Marian devotion and led the annual Marian Procession attended by thousands of faithful South Australians, including members of the Order, with great reverence and solemnity.

The Australian Prayer Book of the Order was a collaborative act of love and wisdom by His Grace and Confrère Dr Ian Leitch. The Prayer Book, 'A Spiritual Companion', is a legacy of this wonderful man and his deep love of God.

Archbishop Wilson's vigil and funeral held on 2 and 3 February 2021 was attended by the National President and South Australian members of the Order, Australian Archbishops and Bishops, priests of the

Adelaide Archdiocese, religious leaders from other religious traditions, members of Parliament, friends and family.

National President Confrère James Douglas, Confrère Greg Crafter and I attended the funeral on behalf of the Order. The vigil and funeral celebrated the accomplishments of a man who gave his life so fully to Christ.

In John 15:13 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. Until his passing His Grace remained in love and service to his Church, his parishioners, especially those most vulnerable, and ultimately, his confrères and consociates in the Order of Malta.

Complied by Noel Mifsud KMG, Southern Central Hospitaller.

LASZLO GEORGE ORY OAM KNIGHT OF MAGISTRAL GRACE (1924 - 2020)

Laszlo George Ory was born in Budapest on 5 October 1924, one of two sons of Laci and Maria Ory. He was a product of the country and times in which he lived – Hungary between the First and Second World Wars, and the Great Depression.

Laszlo's Catholic faith was nurtured by Hungary's affiliation with the Roman Catholic Church. As a primary school student, he was an altar server in the Royal Chapel of Buda Castle. As a secondary school student, Laszlo developed an open-minded view to learning and absorbed literature, politics and history and was an avid sportsman.

He was further educated at the Hungarian Military Academy in Budapest. In 1944, at age 20, he volunteered his service to his country. Over the period of four years, he witnessed the devastating effect of the war in Europe, and learnt of the siege of Budapest in 1945. He became part of the huge wave of refugees that swept across Europe.

Laszlo's refugee status took him to Coburg, West Germany, where he commenced reading Law. It was also the home of his future wife, Charlotte. Political intervention meant Laszlo could not return to communist Hungary and therefore sought to emigrate.

In 1949, he arrived in Australia making his home in Adelaide. He financed Charlotte's fare to Australia by living in a tent and working at Hamilton Winery. The couple married in St Laurence's Church, North Adelaide, and eventually had a family of eight children.

The greatest tragedy Laszlo and Charlotte endured was the heartache of losing two of their sons, Nicky aged four years to leukaemia, and Mark in an accident at the age of 23. The couple nurtured friendships that would last their entire lives. They were respected members of the community.

On a foundation of hard work Laszlo's building business grew and he provided employment and support for many immigrant workers.

Ory Builders was linked with numerous Church restoration projects, such as the Scots Church, the Holy Trinity, St Ignatius Church, Norwood, and St Aloysius Church at Sevenhill. Laszlo was a firm believer in "giving back" and contributed to many charitable organisations and offered support to the Sisters of St Joseph, Christian Brothers and Jesuit Fathers, to name a few.

In 1989, Laszlo was admitted into the Order of Malta. He was an active and loyal member of the Order of Malta for 31 years.



Laszlo was always concerned for the wellbeing of migrants and refugees.

He had a strong affiliation with the Jesuit Order and was a part of the congregation both at Norwood and later in life at Athelstone. In the last few years of his life, Laszlo attended the Hungarian Church at College Park.

In 2009, Laszlo was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to the Hungarian community and to a range of charitable organisations.

Laszlo was a devoted family man and maintained a strong and loving connection

to his family in Budapest, Hungary.

He was married for nearly 70 years and maintained a devotion to Charlotte after her passing in 2018.

Sadly, as a consequence of COVID-19 restrictions, Laszlo's children were not granted access in the last 12 days of his life. He passed away on 15 April 2020.

To quote Laszlo: "The gift which helped me through a difficult life was my faith in God."

**This obituary first appeared in the Southern Cross newspaper.*



A LIFE OF SERVICE

The Order of Malta farewells its Grand Master, who shared a long life within the institution while remaining an example of humanity and generosity.

Just a few minutes after midnight on 29 April 2020, the city of Rome lost one of its most loyal and dedicated Order of Malta brothers due to a short battle with an incurable disease, His Most Eminent Highness the Prince, and 80th Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto.

In the hours following the passing of Fra' Giacomo, thousands of messages of condolences and sorrow for the death of

the Grand Master were received worldwide from volunteers, recipients, heads of state and government. Such messages were received from King Felipe VI of Spain, the monarchs of Belgium, the presidents of the Baltic Republics, of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary as well as the Russian President Vladimir Putin. Numerous messages of esteem, affection and gratitude also came from the Middle East, from several African countries in which the Order operates, and from the

Americas, Asia, and Oceania.

Italian President Sergio Mattarella described Fra' Giacomo as a "faithful witness to the evangelical counsels of charity and to tangible assistance to those most in need". German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier reflected on his "intense personal discussions" with Fra' Giacomo during his visit to German, writing that "his ideas helped me to take a new approach to the role of women in the Order and to clarify important issues concerning rite and liturgy".

In compliance with COVID-19 restriction measures, the late Grand Master's funeral was celebrated on 5 May 2020 with limited attendees at the Order of Malta's Santa Maria Church in Aventino, Italy. It was repeated four times over the same day to allow people to pay their final respects. This included relatives, the Order's government, the closest collaborators, a diplomatic mission, the doctors who had treated Fra' Giacomo over the past months, and Order of Malta volunteers. More than 10,000 people tuned in world-wide to watch the funeral broadcast live on the Order of Malta's YouTube channel.

With Fra' Giacomo's body resting in an olivewood coffin, Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, the Pope's then Special Delegate to the Sovereign Order of Malta, officiated the funeral. He recalled Pope Francis' description of Fra' Giacomo as a "zealous man of culture and faith", when he heard of the Grand Master's passing.

In Cardinal Becciu's homily, he remembered Fra' Giacomo's empathy and sincerity, his acceptance, deep faith, and love for the Pope and Church.

At the end of the masses, Fra' Giacomo was buried in the crypt of St Mary on the Aventine, alongside his predecessors, Fra' Angelo de Mojana di Cologna and Fra' Andrew Bertie.

Born in Rome on 9 December 1944, Fra' Giacomo graduated in literature and philosophy from the Sapienza University of Rome, specialising in Christian archaeology and art history. He held academic positions in the Pontifical Urbaniana University, teaching classical Greek, and served as chief librarian and archivist for the university's important collections. He published a range of academic articles and essays on aspects of mediaeval art history.

Fra' Giacomo was admitted to the Sovereign Order in 1985 as Knight of Honour and Devotion. He took his solemn vows in 1993. From 1994 to 1999 he was Grand Prior of Lombardy and Venice, and from 1999 to 2004, a member of the Sovereign Council.

He was elected Grand Commander at the Chapter General of 2004 and on the death of the 78th Grand Master Fra' Andrew Bertie in February 2008, he became Lieutenant ad interim.

From 2008 to 2017 Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre held the position of Grand Prior of Rome. Upon the resignation of the 79th Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, the Council Complete of State of 29 April 2017 elected him Lieutenant of the Grand Master for a year. In the subsequent Council Complete of State of 2 May 2018, he was elected 80th Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta until his passing in April 2020.

A man of great spirituality and human warmth, Fra' Giacomo personally assisted the disadvantaged, serving meals to rough sleepers in Rome's Termini and Tiburtina railways stations. He participated in numerous Order of Malta international pilgrimages to Lourdes, and national ones to Loreto and Assisi. He also showed great joy in taking part in the Order's international summer camps for young disabled people where he was greeted with great affection by the young volunteers and guests.

As Grand Master, Fra' Giacomo carried out numerous official and state journeys. Only in January 2020 did he make a state visit to Benin and in July 2018, to Cameroon. More recently, Fra' Giacomo travelled to Germany, Slovenia and Bulgaria for meetings with their respective authorities. During these journeys he always made a point of visiting the Order's social-health facilities to personally greet staff and patients.

A marked humanity and a profound dedication

Left and below: The 80th Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto is laid to rest on 5 May 2020; the late Fra' Giacomo shares a sacred moment with Pope Francis.



to charitable works have always inspired the 80th Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta, who will be remembered by all who knew him for his human qualities, and cordial and affectionate manner.

The COVID-19 pandemic meant that a state funeral had not been possible to celebrate the life of Fra' Giacomo. As such, on 7 November 2020, a holy Mass in memory of Fra' Giacomo was held in the The Basilica dei Santi Bonifacio ed Alessio in Rome.

The Cardinal-elect and Special Delegate of the Holy Father to the Sovereign Order of Malta, Silvano Maria Tomasi, and by the Prelate of the Order, Jean Laffitte, celebrated the service.

The Special Delegate recalled Fra' Giacomo as a humble man, very religious, honest, and determined to carry on the good of the Order:

“If we walk on the path he showed us, we should not be afraid, we can build together a future that reflects the achievements of the past and reflects the continuity of evangelical inspiration and loyal service to those most in need.”

On the one-year anniversary of Fra' Giacomo's death, numerous suffrage masses were held worldwide for the late Grand Master, whose memory lives on in the charitable activities of the Order's members and volunteers.

The Lieutenant of the Grand Master Fra' Marco Luzzago succeeds Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, Prince and 80th Grand Master.

On 29 April 2021, Fra' Marco Luzzago invited the Order of Malta's members to “unite in prayer in remembrance of an honest, generous and

profoundly religious man who lived his life in the service of the needy, of the Sovereign Order of Malta and of the Catholic Church”.

Fra' Giacomo was always prepared to place the common good before other interests or aspirations. He earned respect and common appreciation for his extraordinary humanitarian drive, self-sacrifice, and service to the poor and the sick. His life will forever remain an example of humanity and generosity for all Order of Malta members to follow. ❖

Fra' Giacomo is farewelled at the Order of Malta's Santa Maria Church in Aventino, Italy, where flags were flown at half-mast to honour the life and contribution of the late Grand Master.





ORDER OF MALTA
ASIA PACIFIC

YOUTH CAMP AUSTRALIA 2021



Empowering youth with disabilities

We empower them to overcome personal barriers by encouraging a sense of team spirit.



Building Relationships

We create a loving and friendly environment so that youth with disabilities can easily mingle with people of the same age, have fun and build friendships.



Multi-Nationals

We have guests and volunteers coming from many different countries. Friendships are forged across language and cultural barriers.



Once in a life time experience

We enable people with disabilities and young volunteers to experience various activities - sport games, cultural visits or staying up late at the disco dance.



19 - 24 September 2021

Gold Coast, QLD, Australia

If you wish to support and join the camp' please contact us: info@orderofmalta.com.au



SOVRANO MILITARE ORDINE DI MALTA
POSTE MAGISTRALI





Domenico Beccafumi: Natività. Siena, Chiesa di San Martino

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ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA

The Order's website in Australia: www.orderofmalta.org.au

 /orderofmalta.org.au  /orderofmaltaau

The Order's international website: www.orderofmalta.int

The Malteser International website: www.malteser-international.org