



## Volunteer Profile

## LOURDES 2012 PILGRIMAGE

From its formation in the eleventh century, the Order of Malta has assisted pilgrims in search of healing. The Order continues this tradition today, by not only providing medical services and emergency relief work, but by making pilgrimages to venerated shrines around the world.

In the first weekend of May every year, Members and volunteers from all over the world travel to Lourdes to accompany the sick and disabled to pray and bathe in the holy waters. Olivia Meese, a member of the Australian delegation, shares her experience.



The lines that follow are, in a manner of speaking, my attempt to defy our national Hospitalier, Dr. Ian Marshall. Soon after our arrival at Hotel Jeanne d'Arc, he informed us that the experience which was about to begin would be impossible to put into words after its completion. Brimming with confidence, therefore, I hope that the following will give you 'a taste' of the 2012 pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Our party consisted of 15 Australian



pilgrims, 12 from Hong Kong and two from South Africa – a veritable microcosm of our organisation, the international nature of which is a prominent feature of this annual pilgrimage. Though our group offered plenty of interesting and enjoyable company, our guests of honour, the Irish Malades, would make us wait two whole days to welcome them! This gave us time to explore the quaint alpine town and its spiritual heart. As we made the most of the fickle weather of Lourdes – even this native Melbournian was amazed just how many seasons were displayed in any given day- we roamed the winding cobbled streets which teemed with uniform-clad Order of Malta volunteers and bore shop after shop full of Order of Malta merchandise and Marian statues. Some of us explored the castle on the hill upon which the Order's flag proudly flew, and many quiet, prayerful visits were made to the famous Grotto where Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette.

As enjoyable as those two days were, it wasn't until the Irish arrived that my pilgrimage really hit its stride. My first task was at lunchtime when I had the privilege of assisting a cheeky Irishman whose Multiple Sclerosis has rendered him unable to feed himself. I was struck by the humility with which he received my help and the immense patience he showed me, especially as his strong accent, my poor hearing and the noisy chatter that filled the dining room made for a potentially frustrating combination!

It was impossible to resist the joy which emanated from this group. Whether we were enjoying the beautiful view of the river and Basilica from the hospital rooftop, or battling against gravity to push the Malades and their wheelchairs up-hill and in the rain, the sense of

community and camaraderie could not be dampened. Everywhere one turned one witnessed an act of kindness – a beaming smile, a supportive hand, the offer of a blanket to stave off the cold. In a world in which physical comfort and freedom from pain is so often the all-consuming goal and measure of the 'quality' of a person's life, these signs in Lourdes were a testament to a universal regard for the great gift of life, no matter the physical limitations.

Though many pilgrims before us have left the waters of Our Lady's spring cured from the physical ailments with which they arrived, the true merit of this trip proceeds from the spiritual graces made available to us through a comprehensive programme of Masses, Eucharistic adoration, Anointing of the Sick, torchlight Rosary processions, and confession. I witnessed a most profound sign of God's abundant grace while I was pushing the wheelchair of a beautiful religious Sister after a Mass in which many received sacramental Anointing. Another Malade sought her out to share the wonderful news that the Mass we had just attended was the first since the death of his child four years ago! With tears of joy, he told her how profoundly he had just experienced God's grace and how happy he was to be 'back in the fold'. Watching the embrace that followed brought tears to my own eyes, and I knew at that moment the true value of this annual pilgrimage. Long may it continue!

If you are interested in volunteering opportunities with the Order, please email [volunteers@smom.org.au](mailto:volunteers@smom.org.au)



## ORDER OF MALTA AROUND THE WORLD

## MYANMAR: CONFLICT IN RAKHINE STATE ORDER OF MALTA TO PROVIDE AID TO DISPLACED POPULATION

Following the violent clashes between Buddhist and Muslim ethnic groups in Myanmar's Rakhine State, more than 90,000 people have been displaced. In response the Order of Malta's relief agency for humanitarian aid, will provide up to 2,000 displaced families with life-saving household items and medical support.

The Order of Malta has teams on the ground providing emergency relief to the displaced population, distributing hygiene kits and non-food items, including pans and cooking utensils, clothes, blankets and mosquito nets, to 2,000 families in the region's IDP (Internally Displaced Persons ) camps. Also planned are mobile medical teams and psycho-social support for the victims.

The Order has been active in Rakhine State since 2003 with more than 200 local staff members active in the crisis area.

As with all conflict relief operations, the Order always treats all sides with complete ethnic and political neutrality. The relief efforts will be conducted in close coordination with the United Nations in order to guarantee impartiality.

If you would like to support the relief effort, please go to page 5 to make a donation.



## We have been serving the sick and the poor for over 900 years.

## Help us continue our work by leaving a bequest to the Order of Malta.

By leaving us a legacy, no matter what size, you allow us to better plan for the future. With guaranteed funds in place, we can look to expand and develop our humanitarian activities with confidence. See page 5 to request a copy of our bequests brochure.



ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

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ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

## JULY 2012 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE - PROJECT UPDATES / INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES / MEMBER NEWS

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As President of the Australian Association I am delighted to share with you some of the many achievements and activities of the Order of Malta in recent months – almost too many to condense in the pages of this newsletter.

May was a very busy month for the Australian Association. One of the biggest events in the Order's calendar, the Lourdes pilgrimage, was attended by Members, volunteers and malades from all over the world. In the following pages one of the volunteers from the Australian delegation writes of her experiences there.

In mid-May we welcomed the Grand Master Frá Matthew Festing and two High Charges to Australia. During their historic visit to WA, Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney we were able to showcase some of the Hospitaller works of the Order and our beautiful country. Some of the highlights are contained.

This edition also contains an update on a number of our projects; the National Coats for the Homeless campaign, the Timor-Leste Pharmaceuticals project and the Ambulance rehabilitation. These initiatives which make a real difference to the lives of so many people are only possible thanks to the commitment of Members and the generosity of our supporters. Thank you for your continued support.

I hope you find this edition both informative and inspiring.

Anthony J Macken  
Antony J Macken AM



The Grand Master and Members of the Order from across Australia attend High Mass on Pentecost Sunday in Sydney's St Mary's Cathedral. Picture courtesy of the Catholic Weekly.

## VISIT OF THE GRAND MASTER, HIS HIGHNESS FRÁ MATTHEW FESTING

On the 20th May, Frá Matthew Festing became the first Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to visit Australia. During his 6 day visit, the Grand Master travelled to WA, VIC, ACT and NSW, visiting the works of the Order, Heads of State and Members across Australia.

The Grand Master visited Albany where a kinsman Lieutenant Colson Festing (later a Rear Admiral) carried the first European settlers to King Georges Sound in December 1826 as Master of the brig Amity, a replica of the brig Amity, which rides at anchor at Albany.

The Grand Master visited the Personal Advocacy Service (PAS) in Marley - a unique service supported by the Order of Malta in WA, which aims to assist the young intellectually disabled adults, 'Friends', who are supported by volunteer 'Advocates' on a one on one basis. The outcome is to better integrate the Friends into the community by instilling confidence, and making it possible for them to join in with spiritual activities in the parishes.

In Victoria the Grand Master visited a hospice in Victoria, supported by the Order.

The Grand Master visited Gorman House Alcohol and Drug Detoxification Unit in Sydney, which provides ongoing, non-judgmental support for Sydney's most marginalized people with dependencies. Since 2005 the NSW branch has provided financial support to Gorman House enabling it to remain open 7 days a week.

The Grand Master visited Campion College to talk with students.



- 1. The Grand Master with Sir James Gobbo, the Regent of the Sub Priory of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception visiting a patient at the Caritas Christi Hospice in Kew, Victoria, Australia. Picture courtesy of J. Casamento.
- 2. Gorman House residents
- 3. The Grand Master speaking with students at Campion College in Sydney. Picture courtesy of the Catholic Weekly.

For more details and pictures of the Grand Master's visit. Visit our website [www.smom.org.au](http://www.smom.org.au)





Confreere Derek Pingel taking delivery of the Coats, before shipping them to the distribution points in each state

## COATS DISTRIBUTION UNDERWAY

The Order of Malta has begun distributing 2,000 coats to help protect the homeless members of our Communities. Members of the Order will be distributing the coats personally and will also work in conjunction with organisations that help the homeless. At the time of going to press, the following distribution locations have been confirmed:

### QLD

- \* Eddies Van, run by St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace
- \* Paddy's Van, run by St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe
- \* OzCare (St Vincent de Paul Homeless Service)
- \* Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care
- \* Rosie's Van
- \* St Vincent de Paul, Toowoomba
- \* Parishes with specific homeless needs and outreach programs:
  - St Stephen's Cathedral
  - Ipswich Parish
  - Inala Parish
  - Southport Parish
  - Woodridge Parish

### NSW

- \* Gorman House at St Vincents Hospital, Sydney
- \* Matthew Talbot Hostel, Sydney
- \* Anglicare, Wollongong
- \* St Vincent de Paul Society, Gosford

### SA

- \* Hutt St Centre, Adelaide
- \* Moore St Centre, Adelaide
- \* St Vincent de Paul Society, Adelaide

### WA

- \* Shopfront, Maylands

### VIC

Distribution is handled by Members and volunteers who personally meet the homeless on the street and hand out the coats. The distribution effort works in co-operation with existing services to the homeless provided by the following organisations:

- \* St Vincent de Paul Soup Vans
- \* Ozanam Community Centre
- \* St Mary's House of Welcome
- \* Salvation Army



GIVE SOMEONE WARMTH AND COMFORT THIS WINTER

**BUY THEM A COAT.**

See page 5 for more information

## AMBULANCE SERVICE REHABILITATION



## AMBULANCE REPAIRS

The work of the Australian Associations Timor-Leste ambulance service rehabilitation continues. Thanks to the generous support of KIA, a mechanic will shortly be travelling to Timor-Leste to assist in the repairs and salvage of the inoperable ambulances and train two local mechanics to service the vehicles going forward.

The Order of Malta would like to thank KIA for its ongoing support of the Order's humanitarian work in Timor-Leste.

Furthermore, the Order has recently signed a new 2 year MoU with the Ministry of Health in regard to the Timor-Leste National Ambulance Service rehabilitation.



## TIMOR LESTE PHARMACEUTICALS

## PHARMACEUTICALS SHIPMENT

In the February newsletter, we included an article about an initiative led by Members in South Australia to provide medicines to four clinics in Timor-Leste. The clinics offer free medical services to the underprivileged Timorese in urban and isolated rural areas, who otherwise would be unable to receive treatment.

Thanks to the generosity of Members and supporters, the project has raised enough money to enable a consignment of medicines to Timor-Leste at the end of July. SA Member, Mr. Alick Haddad, a Pharmacist, who negotiated the wholesale prices has also been able to solicit some industry donations to enlarge the consignment.

However the project still needs to raise funds for the next consignment as the current shipment will only provide enough medication for the next few months. Please help if you can.

## THE COST OF TREATMENT

**\$21** would pay for 3 courses of Amoxicillin, an antibiotic used to treat a wide range of infections, such as pneumonia, middle ear infections, kidney infections and even life threatening conditions such as peritonitis.

**\$38** would pay for a year's course of Ibuprofen. In a country where most of the work is done in the field by manual labour, muscular aches and pains can be chronically debilitating. This inexpensive anti-inflammatory drug would allow the family bread winner to continue working.

**\$110** would pay for 10 courses of Erythromycin, used to treat whooping cough – a potentially fatal infection.

**\$500** would supply an entire clinic with a year's supply of Paracetamol to provide pain relief for a multitude of possible ailments.

If you are able to help, please go to page 5 to make a donation.

## MEMBERS HONOURED

Like nearly every other country in the world, Australia has a system of honours and awards so its citizens can be recognised for excellence, achievement or meritorious service. The Order of Malta would like to congratulate the following members who received awards on Australia Day and the Queen's birthday.

**Name:** CRAMOND, Ernest Humphry  
**Award:** Medal of the Order of Australia  
**Post-nominal:** OAM  
**Citation:** For service to medicine as a general practitioner and through the Australian Medical Association

**Name:** HADDOCK, Richard Michael  
**Award:** Member of the Order of Australia  
**Post-nominal:** AM

**Citation:** For service to business through executive roles with financial institutions, to the law, and to the community, particularly as an adviser to the social welfare organisations of the Catholic Church in Australia.

**Name:** RYAN, Fergus Denis  
**Award:** Officer of the Order of Australia  
**Post-nominal:** AO  
**Citation:** For distinguished service to the business and finance sectors as an executive and adviser, and to the community through philanthropic contributions to cultural, social welfare and educational organisations

**Name:** DOHERTY, Anthony  
**Award:** Member of the Order of Malta  
**Post-nominal:** AM  
**Citation:** For service to the Catholic Church in Australia, through adult faith education and pastoral care, and to the Parish of Rose Bay.

**Name:** MCMULLEN, Gabrielle  
**Award:** Member of the Order of Malta  
**Post-nominal:** AM  
**Citation:** For service to tertiary education, particularly through the Australian Catholic University, as an administrator and academic leader, to the discipline of science, and to the community.



## NSW PARLIAMENT RECOGNISE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ORDER

On Thursday, 29 March 2012, the Legislative Council of the NSW Parliament formally agreed a motion acknowledging "the remarkable achievements and contributions of the Order of Malta to the poor and sick, regardless of race or religion".

The motion warmly recognized the Order's ongoing work world-wide and particularly "the many significant contributions being made in Timor-Leste", Australia's closest neighbor by the Australian Association.

A formal presentation of this recognition was made to The Prince and Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing during his visit to Australia in May.

**Picture:** The Grand Master being presented with a Citation from the NSW Parliament by NSW Attorney-General the Hon. Greg Smith and the Hon. John Ajaka in the presence of H.E. David Scarf, Ambassador to Timor-Leste



Congratulations also to our Hospitaller, Dr Ian Marshall AE (pictured above), on whom His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has conferred the honour of a papal knighthood by creating him a Knight Commander with Star in the Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great.

Dr Marshall's role of Hospitaller is responsible for Order's charitable and humanitarian works in Australia and its near neighbours. This includes significant medical relief operations in Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea. Dr. Marshall has also on his own account, and as part of the Order been active in the the provision of palliative care services in Brisbane.

## IMPORTANCE OF PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS IN MEDICINE ACKNOWLEDGED

Recognising the study of philosophy and ethics in Medicine each year at Notre Dame, two students from the University's Fremantle Campus recently received prizes, sponsored by the Order of Malta in Western Australia, for achieving excellence in these disciplines.

Second year Medicine student, Jacky Yeung, was presented the prize for Philosophical studies in Medicine by Knight of the Order, Mr Kevin Hammond AO, a long-time supporter of Notre Dame.

Jessie Chennell, the recipient for the prize in Ethics for 2011, is currently placed at the Rural Clinical School in Bunbury and hopes to work as a rural GP obstetrician when she graduates next year.

Ms Chennell said winning the Knights of Malta prize was especially meaningful considering the extent of humanitarian aid the Order had provided to hundreds of countries around the world.

"The work of the Order, in particular their commitment to the provision of care to areas of need, is inspirational," Ms Chennell said.

"It is also something that I feel quite passionate about and would love to emulate in my future career as a doctor. To be awarded this prize was incredibly humbling and exciting."

Director of Mission at the School of Medicine in Fremantle and Coordinator of the Order of Malta members in WA, Dr Michael Shanahan, said it was important to acknowledge the significant influence of ethical practice in the delivery of medical support to patients.

"The 'good' doctor will find that for all the knowledge and skills attained, it is the wisdom, inspired by an understanding of philosophy and ethics that influence Medicine, which makes the doctor 'good'," Dr Shanahan said.

Dean of the School of Medicine, Fremantle, Professor Gavin Frost said the University was appreciative of the continued support from donors who provided assistance to Notre Dame's Medicine students each year.

"Prize giving is an opportunity to recognise those students who achieve excellence in a particular component of their four-year degree," Professor Frost said.



Jacky Yeung (top) and Jessie Chennell receive their prizes for excellence.

## I WANT TO HELP

You can make a donation by completing this donation form and returning it in the **Reply Paid envelope provided.**

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

Please accept a gift towards the:

- Timor-Leste Pharmaceuticals project
- Coats for the Homeless programme
- Relief efforts in Myanmar

I would like more information on leaving the Order a bequest.

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

Name

Address

State  Postcode  Telephone

Please find enclosed a Cheque/ Money Order

(payable to 'The Order of Malta') for \$  or;

Please debit my credit card the amount of \$

Frequency  Once only  Monthly  Card Type  Visa  MasterCard

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date  Cardholder name

Signature