



With winter upon us the Coats for the Homeless project has begun its distribution for 2014. Members of the Order will distribute coats personally and will also work in conjunction with organisations who work with the homeless to ensure that the Coats are distributed to those who need them. This year we are distributing 2,800 coats across Australia – a 12% increase on last year. This brings the total number of Coats distributed in the last four years to 9,300. At the time of going to print the following distribution locations have been confirmed:

NEW SOUTH WALES

The distribution is conducted by NSW Members directly to the homeless and in conjunction with and through the following:

- * Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets
- * Gorman House at St Vincent's Hospital
- * Matthew Talbot Hostel, Woolloomooloo
- * Mission Australia, Parramatta
- * Vinnies Van, Sydney City
- * Catherine Villa, Parramatta
- * Tierney House at St Vincent's Hospital
- * Anglicare, Wollongong and Southern Highlands
- * Shellharbour Hospital Emergency
- * Vinnies Night Patrol, Dubbo and Canberra
- * Salvation Army, Auburn
- * Our Lady of Lebanon Community Centre Harris Park
- * Catholiccare.
- * Members of the Order 'Street Handout' distribution

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- * Hutt Street Centre (Adelaide)

- * The Adelaide Day Centre,
- * St. Vincent de Paul - Adelaide branch
- * Pt Lincoln volunteer group

QUEENSLAND

- * Eddies Van, run by St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace
- * Paddy's Van, run by St Patrick's College
- * St Vincent de Paul. Across a broad range of areas
- * Rosie's. Across a broad range of areas
- * Several Catholic parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Brisbane, South-East Queensland

VICTORIA

Distribution is by hand by Members and Volunteers who conduct their distribution efforts in co-operation with other organisations including:

- * St Vincent de Paul Soup Van, City area, with Members and Order of Malta Volunteers from Newman College:
 - All Saints Church, Fitzroy
 - Fitzroy Gardens, East Melbourne
 - Flinders Street Station
 - Hanover House, South Bank
 - Queen Victoria Market, North Melbourne
- * St Vincent de Paul Soup Van, Footscray and Maidstone, with Members and Order of Malta Volunteers from Newman College:
 - Whitten Oval, Footscray
 - Caravan Park, Maidstone

- * The Salvation Army Soup Van, City area, with Members and Order of Malta Volunteers from ACU:
 - Parliament Station
 - Treasury Gardens, East Melbourne
 - Southern Cross Station
 - Melbourne Aquarium
 - Swanston Street
- * Gatwick Hotel, St Kilda, with Members and Order of Malta Volunteers from Newman College
- * Corner Stone Relief Centre, Dandenong, with Members and Order of Malta Volunteers from Mannix College

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- * The Shopfront, Maylands
- * The Holy Spirit of Freedom Community Outreach Ministry

Invitation

**COATS FOR THE HOMELESS
FUNDRAISING LUNCH IN ADELAIDE**

The South Australian Branch of the Order of Malta, will once again be holding a lunch to raise funds for the, "Coats for the Homeless project."

The lunch will be held at noon for a 1.00pm start at the Adelaide Pavilion, on July the 6th 2014.

Tickets can be purchased from Rita De Luca at rita.deluca@bigpond.com at a cost of \$60 per person.

Proceeds from the lunch, raffle and auction items, will go a long way towards providing funds to purchase coats for the homeless.

AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

- * **Ipswich City Council** who have generously donated \$20,000 to the Coats project
- * **The Sisters of Charity Foundation** who have supported this project for the third year with a \$10,000 grant.
- * **TVSN** who have again made 'Coats for the Homeless' it's charity of the month in July. Not only does this include a \$10,000 donation, it also promotes the project on it's channel.

\$100 will buy three specially designed, warm shower-proof coats for people who find themselves without a home this winter.

Whilst fundraising efforts have been successful, there is a growing need for additional funding so that we can continue to grow this project to meet demand. If you would like to make a donation to the Coats for the Homeless project you can donate online at www.coatsforthehomeless.org

Alternatively complete and return the donation form on page 5.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2014: ONE IN FOUR PEOPLE IN LEBANON IS A REFUGEE

Agency warns of growing tensions in Lebanon and Iraq



One out of every four people living in Lebanon today is a Syrian refugee, leading to increased tensions in the country. Malteser International, the humanitarian relief agency of the Order of Malta, warns ahead of World Refugee Day. The agency is helping relieve tensions by lessening the burden on local health infrastructure, launching a new mobile clinic in one of the country's poorest regions which will treat refugees and local residents alike. As of late May,

nearly 1.1 million Syrian refugees have been registered or await registration in Lebanon, which has a total population of 4.1 million, UNHCR reports.

"More and more, the region's hospitals and health centers have struggled with lack of funds to treat patients – both refugees and locals," says Malteser International's Lebanon program coordinator Conrad Hoyos. "Because their resources are limited, health care providers often restrict treatments to emergency cases only and are not able to provide adequate care for patients with chronic diseases."

In Wadi Khaled, a remote valley in the northeastern Akkar region near the Syrian border, the local population of about 30,000 people is host to an even larger number of refugees. "Even under normal times, living conditions there are challenging, with poor infrastructure and few job opportunities," Hoyos says. "The region's financial and human resources are more than overstretched," he adds. "In the absence of public transport, sick refugees can only reach the nearest health center with great difficulty." The next hospital is located in Kobayat, a nearly 20-mile drive over mountain roads.

Malteser International has delivered a specialized and equipped Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) to the primary

healthcare center of Wadi Khaled. The MMU is equipped with examination devices such as electrocardiograph and ultrasound. The team is composed of two general physicians, two nurses, a social worker and driver. Together with another, already operational mobile unit, villages in the area can be visited once a week. All services and medication are offered free of charge. If more intensive care is needed, the patients are brought to the nearest hospital.

The agency is also concerned about the current humanitarian situation in Iraq, where attacks by the terrorist group ISIS have led to massive flows of refugees within the country. More than 500,000 people have fled Mosul, Iraq's second largest city. Malteser International has supported health projects through local partners near Mosul in the past, and is currently assessing the needs on the ground for subsequent relief efforts.

Malteser International has been working in Lebanon in cooperation with the Lebanese Association of the Order of Malta since 2012.

It has also run several projects providing emergency relief in Syria and Turkey. In 2013 alone, its aid reached at least 185,000 people.



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 plan for the future. With guaranteed funds in place, we can look to expand and develop our humanitarian activities with confidence.

If you would like to receive a copy of our bequest brochure, please complete and return the form on page 5.



ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

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ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

**JULY 2014
NEWSLETTER**

IN THIS ISSUE - SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES / BRANCH FUNDRAISERS / PROJECT UPDATES

MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITALER

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this July edition of our Newsletter which is filled with updates from numerous projects that we have shared in previous editions.

Members and Supporters have been busy raising funds for our National Coats for the Homeless campaign. This year we have increased our production volume and expanded our distribution network (detailed on page 3) so that we can help more people who find themselves on the street this winter. Thank you everyone who has supported this wonderful campaign.

We have also included an update on some of our projects in Timor-Leste. This time last year we reported on the ground breaking ceremony at the site of the new orphanage at Hera. Now we can report on the opening of the building which will provide a home to 22 boys. We have also been successful in delivering another Pharmaceutical shipment to Timor which is detailed in the following pages.

In the February 2014 edition of our Newsletter, we reported on the emergency response efforts of the Order following the Typhoon Haiyan. Many of you generously supported this project which provided invaluable aid to affected families. In this edition we will provide an update of the longer-term recover efforts that are underway.

In addition to our Charitable works we have also participated in and hosted a number of spiritual events. Contained are details of Lourdes Day Mass celebrations that have been held in Australia in addition to our participation in the annual Lourdes pilgrimage.

All of these projects and events that 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.

Best wishes

Ian Leitch

Dr. Ian Leitch RFD, MB BS, FRACS



NEW ORPHANAGE, FUNDED BY THE ORDER OF MALTA, OPENS IN TIMOR-LESTE

On 29 April an Inauguration Ceremony was held for the opening of a new orphanage in Hera, Timor-Leste. The construction of the orphanage was managed and funded by the Order of Malta and will be operated by the Dominican Sisters of Timor-Leste.

The ceremony was attended by the First lady of Timor-Leste, Sr^a Isabel Ferreira Ruak, Father Santiago Gonzalez OP and Members of the Order, Ambassador David Scarf AM and Frfrere Collin Yap, who identified the project and raised the money to fund the build through Members of the Order in Singapore.

The orphanage will be home to 22 boys from the ages of 8 to 26 years. The new building is a stark contrast to their previous home on the same site – a zinc roofed dormitory with incomplete bathrooms and toilets and where the children slept two to a single sponge mattress on the floor.

Farming and crop growing were already underway at the site, providing the

Orphanage with food security and developing practical skills amongst the children.

Without the Orphanage, it is likely that many of the children would be living on the street. Thankfully these children are able to finish high school, with some going on to University.

To view pictures of the Orphanage construction visit www.orderofmalta.org.au



The Australian Association is committed to providing humanitarian support to Timor-Leste. If you would like to donate to these projects, you can do so on page 5.

DELIVERY OF MEDICINES PRESENTED TO THE FIRST LADY OF TIMOR-LESTE

At the end of April, the Australian Association delivered another consignment of pharmaceuticals to Timor-Leste.

The Order's Ambassador, David Scarf AM delivered the medicines to the First Lady of Timor-Leste, Sr^a Isabel Ferreira Ruak in the Presidential Palace, who then presented them to Sisters Cristina and Monica from the Congregation of the Sisters of the Reparation of Our Lady of Fatima. The Congregation, operate a clinic in a very poor part of the country near the town of Maliana close to the Indonesian border.

Both the First Lady and the Sisters were delighted at the donation of medicines which included Bepanthen Cream, Betadine, Paracetamol,



Brufen and Pentavite Multi Gummies – medicines taken for granted in Australia but virtually unattainable there.

There is an ongoing need for medications in Timor-Leste. As one of the world's poorest countries (ranking 162th out of 182 countries in the United Nations Human Development Index), the Timorese are faced with a myriad of health challenges including high maternal and infant mortality, illness and death from preventable diseases,

high prevalence of malnutrition, poor reproductive health and poor access to safe water and sanitation.

Currently we are averaging two shipments a year to clinics in Timor-Leste. However to enable them to provide year-round treatment we need to provide four deliveries a year. To achieve this we need to raise a further \$30,000 in 2014.

If you would like to support this project, go to page 5 to donate.



RECOVERY EFFORTS CONTINUE AFTER TYPHOON HAIYAN

In February newsletter we reported on the emergency response measure of Malteser International communities in the Philippines after Haiyan, the strongest typhoon on record. Since, Malteser International has working with communities in Samar and Bantayan to "build back better".

"Currently, the majority of people in the disaster zones are still living

in tents and makeshift shelters," reports Cordula Wasser, Malteser International's program manager for the Philippines. The organization and its local partner, Order of Malta Philippines, will help rebuild 1,200 heavily damaged houses in four villages on Samar and Bantayan islands. "We will train the village residents in repair and construction, so they will be actively rebuilding their own houses with support from our engineers and technicians," Wasser says. This time, the homes will be designed to resist future typhoons.

Helping families recover their livelihoods and earn an income is also a focus of the next phase. "Immediately after the typhoon, the survivors were completely dependent on humanitarian aid," Wasser explains. Now, they need help to get back on their feet again. "We will teach the villagers to write business plans and apply for bank loans, and we will help community-based organizations create and manage revolving loan funds," she adds.

During the emergency relief phase, Malteser International distributed packages with food, household and hygiene items for nearly 18,000 people. They also set up large-capacity tents to be used as temporary classrooms and child-friendly spaces, provided school materials to nearly 2,500 children, and purchased tools and equipment for residents to clear the villages from debris.

To view more pictures from the rehabilitation efforts, visit www.orderofmalta.org.au

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Every May, Members of the Order from around the world fill the streets of Lourdes. This year, some 1,300 malades were among the 6,500 pilgrims who attended this annual pilgrimage, including a delegation of 51 from the Australian Association.

To see more pictures from the 2014 pilgrimage or to read an account of the pilgrimage from one of the Australian pilgrims, visit www.orderofmalta.org.au



LOURDES DAY MASS CELEBRATION IS SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND QUEENSLAND

Lourdes Day Mass celebrations are hosted by the Branches across Australia and are celebrated for those who are in need of comfort, care, healing and hope, and for their carers. It is an expression of the Order's mission to defend the Faith and give comfort to the sick and the poor. Those who attend the Mass receive a Blessing for good health and are also provided with a bottle of Lourdes Water for their personal use.

On 11th February Members in South Australia hosted Lourdes Day Mass celebrations at St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Adelaide.

On Saturday 3 May, the Queensland Branch celebrated its annual Lourdes Healing Mass at St. Pashcal's Church, Wavell Heights.

Save The Date: - Upcoming Lourdes Day Mass celebrations in other states:

- * MELBOURNE, VIC - Saturday, 6 December 2014, St Patrick's Cathedral
- * SYDNEY, NSW - Saturday, 6 December 2014, St Mary's Cathedral



More pictures from these special Masses can be viewed at www.orderofmalta.org.au



ORDER OF MALTA LECTURE SERIES HELPING CATHOLICS TO DEFEND THEIR FAITH

At a time when many people seek to question the continuing role and relevance of the Catholic Faith, the NSW Branch is hosting a series of lecture to equip ordinary Australian Catholics with the knowledge and arguments to defend our beliefs.

- Lectures to date have included:
- * A Synopsis of some contemporary controversies in Bioethics
Lecturer: Dr Bernadette Tobin
 - * The Hour of Woman is Approaching...: Is the Church Ahead or Behind that Moment?
Lecturer: Anna Krohn
 - * The Grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation: Healing for a Broken World
Lecturer: Owen Vyner
 - * The Three Theological Virtues: Why do faith, hope & love matter in the 21st Century
Lecturer: Prof. Tracey Rowland

If you would like to listen to the above lectures or read/listen to interviews with the lecturers, visit www.orderofmalta.org.au

If you would like to be notified of the date of the next lecture, please email info@smom.org.au



WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES?

Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au

- More pictures from the events and projects detailed in this newsletter
- Get the latest updates as they happen
- VIDEO: A year in Review – looking back at the relief activities of Malteser International in 2013
- Gorman House Detoxification Unit – April 2014 Newsletter available to download

I WANT TO HELP

You can make a donation by completing this 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:

- Coats for the Homeless
- Timor-Leste humanitarian projects
- Timor-Leste pharmaceuticals projects

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

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

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