



COATS FOR THE HOMELESS 2016

This year we have ordered a record 6,000 of our Coats for the Homeless. This is a 100% increase on last year and reflects the growing number of Australians sleeping rough because of the lack of adequate shelter.

The Coats are expected to be available by April, where our Branches will co-ordinate the distribution in each state. **A gift of \$100 will buy three of these specially designed, warm, shower-proof coats.**

COATS FOR THE HOMELESS FUNDRAISERS IN QLD

The Queensland Branch of the Order of Malta has committed to ordering a record 2,000 coats for the homeless this year. To help fund this major commitment, the Branch is holding 2 major fundraising events in the first half of the year:

COATS FOR THE HOMELESS FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

The latest in our series of keynote speakers will be The Hon. Shane Stone AC PGDK QC, former Chief Minister of the Northern Territory and Member of the Order.

Shane is a former school teacher, barrister and Member of Parliament, which included serving as Attorney General. He is now a director of public and private companies in Australia and the UK. Shane is currently Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Chairman of the Federal Government's Northern Australian Advisory Group. He is a Companion of the Order of Australia and recipient of National Awards from Malaysia and Indonesia.

A great raconteur he will be a lively and interesting keynote speaker.

Date: Tuesday 1st March 2016

Location: The Brisbane Club, 241 Adelaide Street, Brisbane

Time: 7.15am – 9.00am

Subscription: \$60 per head

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ANNUAL ARCHBISHOP'S DINNER

Following on from the success of last year's dinner where The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane and Magistral Chaplain of the Order delivered a stirring Oration on the spirituality of the Order we are holding another dinner this year.

This year's guest speaker will be His Excellency The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland. The Governor is a member of the Venerable Order of St. John of Great Britain, which has links with the Order of Malta as both organisations are members of the "Mutually Recognised Orders of Saint John". The Venerable Order and the Order of Malta have signed Conventions in 1963 and again in 1987 recognising each other and their mutual co-operation through such projects as the St John Eye Hospital, London.

His Excellency will be accompanied by Mrs Kaye de Jersey, and the Governor will address guests. Archbishop Mark Coleridge will also be in attendance.

Date: Friday 1st April 2016

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Subscription: \$200 per head

For further details please contact: Michael Greene

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Please support us! Donations \$2 or more are tax deductible and can be made using the response coupon on page 5.

COMMUNITY CARE VAN PROVIDES AID DURING SYDNEY'S HEATWAVE

This Summer, Sydney has experienced sudden and dramatic fluctuations in temperature. These conditions often catch the homeless by surprise, making them particularly vulnerable to heat related illness during the warmer months. In response the NSW Branch's Community Care Van is distributing water, sunscreen and sun hats and a Nurse from St Vincent's offers healthcare.

Heatwaves cause more deaths in Australia each year than any other natural disaster, and have a greater negative impact on population health than any other natural hazard.

"The evolution of the Community Care Van project to distribute water and sun protection, came through discussions with St Vincent's Hospital who highlighted a real need for preventative measure to help those sleeping on the streets during the summer months" explained NSW Branch Chairman David Hall AM. "Providing this service is very much aligned with our mission to assist the Lord's poor and the Lord's sick".

On a 'typical' Summer night 35 bottles of water, 20 hats and 16 bottles of sunscreen are distributed by the Community Care Van to the Homeless.

During the winter months, the Van will return to distributing the Order's Coats for the Homeless, water and healthcare to the city's homeless population during the colder weather. Last winter the van typically distributed 40 coats on each 'run' until stocks ran out. Consequently the NSW Branch has increased its distribution volume to 2,500 Coats in 2016 to fulfil the demand from the patrons of the Community Care Van and the existing distribution network.

If you would like to support the Community Care Van and its services to the homeless, you can do so on page 5.



The Order of Malta is a Public Benevolent institution and is endorsed by the Australian Tax Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient. ABN 37 142 209 121. Licence: SA - CCP1722, WA - 21310.



1,000 COATS GIFTED TO THE HOMELESS IN ROME FOR CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, 1,000 of our Coats for the Homeless were distributed to the rough sleepers of Rome. The donation was requested by a Member of the Order in the UK, Confrere Simon Grenfell, who on learning about this Australian project thought it would be the ideal Christmas gift from the Order of Malta to Rome's homeless during their cold winter. Confrere Simon, contacted the Australian Association to place an order with our manufacturers for our specially designed Coats. The coats were quickly manufactured, shipped directly from the factory and arrived at the Vatican just before Christmas.

The Coats are being distributed at a soup station run by the Grand Prior and Military Corp of the Order in Rome. The spread of this Australian initiative continues to grow in momentum with both the Portuguese and Scandinavian Associations looking to adopt the project.

Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au

- Regular updates of our Charitable Works
- Galleries: from Spiritual Activities and Fundraising Events
- Information on upcoming activities

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IN THIS ISSUE - SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES / PROJECT UPDATES / UPCOMING EVENTS



ON SATURDAY, 5 December, St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne and St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney joined the celebration of the Lourdes Day Mass.

St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne was filled to capacity and was concelebrated by Archbishop Denis Hart, along with Auxiliary Bishop Terry Curtin and four other priests. Young volunteers from Newman College, Loreto, Genazzano, De La Salle and Xavier colleges, assisted Members of the Order in distributing the Lourdes water and rosary beads to all those attending the Mass.

The Principal Celebrant at the Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, was Bishop Terry Brady, assisted by a NSW Branch

Magistral Chaplain, 40 robed Knights and Dames processed and assisted the malades, with readings, offering gifts, the Water and the collection. Bottles of water from Lourdes were distributed by Members of the Order and volunteers from the Young Order of Malta. The Mass achieved a record attendance of malades and robed members of the Venerable Order of St John who processed with the robed NSW Branch members.

The Lourdes Day Mass is an important event for the Order of Malta with Branches organising annual celebrations each year. The celebrations are open to all but those who are sick or facing health challenges and wanting good health

are particularly encouraged to attend. A Blessing of good health takes place during the celebration of the Liturgy with water brought from the Shrine at Lourdes.

UPCOMING LOURDES DAY MASS CELEBRATIONS IN OTHER STATES:

SA - 11th February at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, 10:00am

QLD - 7th May at St Paschal's Wavell Heights, 10.00 am

ORDER OF MALTA ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

SAVE THE DATE: Friday 29th April – Tuesday 3rd May 2016

Photography: Giovanni Forcellini: 1, 3, 5 & 8; Casamento Photography: 2, 4, 6 & 7.



PAPAL KNIGHTHOOD AWARDED TO ACU VICE-CHANCELLOR AND MEMBER OF THE ORDER, PROFESSOR GREG CRAVEN

Article: Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, Media and Communications Office

POPE FRANCIS has awarded Australian Catholic University (ACU) Vice-Chancellor Professor Greg Craven one of the Vatican's highest honors. Professor Craven was appointed to the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great for services to the Catholic Church in Australia in a ceremony in Sydney.

Professor Craven was appointed to the highest grade of the Order, as a Knight Grand Cross. Only six other Australians have received this honour.

In an investiture ceremony attended by family and colleagues of Professor Craven on 6 December, the Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher OP installed Professor Craven in this ancient Order of Knighthood of the Holy See.

In his speech, Archbishop Fisher spoke of the many years of dedicated and faithful service that Professor Craven has given, not only to the advancement of Catholic higher education in Australia through his work, firstly at the University of Notre Dame Australia in Fremantle and more recently at ACU, but also to the many and varied ways that he has lent his wisdom and intellect to the Church more generally through service on numerous advisory boards and committees, including the National Catholic Education Commission and the Truth, Justice and Healing Council.

Archbishop Fisher said Professor Craven encapsulated the true spirit of the Second Vatican Council and its call for greater lay collaboration in the mission of the Church. He noted that

it was no coincidence that Professor Craven was awarded his Papal Knighthood in the same week that Gaudium et Spes (the seminal Vatican II document on lay collaboration) celebrated its 50th anniversary.

'Greg Craven is an immensely gifted man, a man of faith, a loyal son of Christ; a distinguished exemplar of Vatican II's teaching about the role of Catholic laity in the world.' Archbishop Fisher said.

Receiving the award was both a great honour and a humbling experience, said Professor Craven.

'I was astonished, humbled and grateful to receive the award,' Professor Craven said.

'The thing that pleases me most is that the award really marks not anything I personally have done but the emergence of ACU in its 25th year as one of the leading Catholic universities in the world.'

Pope Gregory XVI established the Order of St Gregory the Great in 1831. It is bestowed upon Catholic men and women in recognition of their personal service to the Holy See and to the Catholic Church through their work, their support of the Holy See, and their exemplary faith in action in their communities.

In 2015 Australian Catholic University is celebrating 25 years of people, learning, and achievements that continue to bring about real change for communities

YOUNG ORDER OF MALTA QLD MEMBER RECEIVES COMMUNITY LEADER AWARD

Article: The Catholic Leader



Picture: Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge congratulates Joseph Grogan, recipient of the annual Community Leader award for Volunteer of the Year 2015, presented by The Catholic Leader in recognition of Joseph's dedication to the Young Adult Ministry (YAM) of the Cathedral of St Stephen and the Young Order of Malta (Qld). Courtesy: The Catholic Leader/Alan Edgcomb

Volunteer of the Year Joe Grogan, who is a familiar face to Mass-goers at St Stephen's Cathedral, received the award for his steadfast commitment to the Cathedral's Young Adults Movement among other volunteer organisations.

All five winners were among the 15 finalists chosen from more than 60 nominations for the 2015 awards party, hosted by The Catholic Leader.

Managing editor Matt Emerick said the annual awards showcased the country's "backstage helpers".

"There are many Catholics in Australia who prefer to hide behind their generosity and goodwill, working quietly and humbly, which in itself is not wrong," Mr Emerick said.

"But The Community Leader Awards is a way of recognising their hard work and hopefully, will inspire them to 'press on', as St Paul says, in the good race."

"I want to thank all the five winners and our special People's Choice awardee for committing yourselves to the faith and to the service of the faithful."

"No doubt your actions will inspire more people in the Catholic Church in Australia to work humbly for God's kingdom here on earth."

WORKS OF THE ORDER AROUND THE WORLD AT CHRISTMAS



Nepal:

Aid for almost 1,700 earthquake affected families

In the mountain villages north of Kathmandu belonging to the districts of Khavre and Novakot, Malteser International has been active since December with its partners RSDC and Indrawathee distributing winter relief packages to almost 1,700 families, in order to better protect them from the cold and the snow. The packages contain jackets and scarves for children and adults, as well as stoves, blankets, mattresses and tarpaulins.

"For the earthquake affected families living at high altitude who are still living in emergency shelters, the winter is especially bad," reports Jürgen Focke,

Malteser International's Logistics and Coordination Manager for the emergency relief efforts in Nepal. *"Even though the sun makes life a little bit more bearable during the day, the temperature in the mountains drops like a stone to freezing point and below during the afternoon."*

Representatives from the village communities selected the families that needed help most urgently – principally families with many children and older people living in tents and emergency shelters in the highest settlements. *"Before we distribute the aid to the families, we explain basic fire safety measures to them, to make*

sure that the stove doesn't cause any accidents, as well as providing some essential hygiene training to make sure that sicknesses don't spread," said Focke.

Because of political problems related to the implementation of Nepal's new constitution in September 2015, blockades on the Nepalese border with India – across which most of the country's essential supplies must pass – have led to severe shortages of food, medicine, and fuel throughout Nepal. Many businesses have been forced to close, and numberless families have lost their incomes. Daily life has become a struggle, and the work of aid agencies has been made immensely more difficult. *"We are very happy that despite the blockades we were able to provide these winter kits to the people that need them, and that we could support local producers and businesses to do it,"* said Focke. Financial support for further winter relief measures is being supplied by ADH – Germany's Relief Coalition, and the European Commission.



Iraq:

Winter clothing for 13,000 refugee children

The Dohouk region are home to around half a million displaced people who have fled there seeking safety in the mists of the violent conflict that is consuming the region. At the refugee camps Bersevi II and Khadia, Malteser International has provided 13,000 children and young people with warm shoes, trousers and pullovers, as well as scarves, gloves and hats. *"Strong rain and snow, as well as temperatures as low as minus 10 Celsius have made conditions for the refugees, which were bad enough, significantly worse,"* reports Malteser International's Program Administrator Stefan Jansen from Dohouk. *"Many of*

them are spending the winter in tents, so they urgently need blankets and warm clothes." Since the beginning of 2015, Malteser International has been responsible for a medical center which provides treatment facilities for 10,000 people in the Bersevi II camp, which is run in close collaboration with local health authorities. Most of the camp population is composed of Yazidis – a religious group which is persecuted with extreme violence by ISIS. In June 2015, we opened a further medical facility in the Khadia camp for 15,000 refugees and displaced people. Our work in Iraq is supported financially by the German Federal Foreign Office.



Winter relief for 750 refugee children

The Lebanese Order of Malta began to distribute blankets and winter clothes to refugees in November of 2015 – long before the onset of freezing winter temperatures and heavy rainfall. Around 750 refugee children from Syria and Iraq living in northern Lebanon's Beqaa valley, as well as in the diocese of Mount Lebanon were the primary recipients of the material. According to the assessment of the UN refugee agency UNHCR, it is only possible to provide marginal assistance to the more than a million refugees living in the country – a task that will be made even more difficult by the winter. The many refugees living in the poorest regions of the country, inhabiting improvised tents and shelters, garages or cellars are worst affected, and many of them are unable to access even the most basic of facilities. Malteser International's winter relief to Lebanon is being supported by the Austrian Foundation 'Nachbar in Not'.

ORDER OF MALTA COMMEMORATES THE 450TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT SIEGE OF MALTA

Article: Anthony Gerada

Four hundred and fifty years have passed since the momentous historic event, when Jean de Valette led his troops and the Maltese militia and populace in the defence of the islands of Malta and, indeed, Europe's southern borders, against an armed invasion.

To commemorate the occasion, Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta worldwide were invited to attend the programme of events held over three days in early September 2015.

On 6 September, Malta Archbishop Charles Scicluna and Imam Mohamed El Sadi led a procession from Couvre Porte in Vittoriosa to the city's parish church of St Lawrence. There, an interfaith service was held with the two religious leaders praying for peace.

In the evening, the President of Malta hosted the Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta at a gala dinner at Verdala Palace. The palace was built in 1586 by Grand Master de Valette and used by the Knights as a hunting lodge. Today it serves as the official summer residence of the President of Malta.

The next day members of the Order of Malta were hosted by the Prime Minister of Malta for a lunch at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta in the evening the members of the Order were hosted at the village of Mellieha on the north-west of the island to partake in the village's "Festa" of Our Lady of Victories.

On Sunday, the third and final day of the events, members of the Order attended

a Pontifical High Mass at St Johns Co-Cathedral, the conventual church of the Order of Malta.

Archbishop Charles Scicluna spoke about the importance of peace and how the Order and Malta as well as small communities have much to give to the world. He described the Order as the first European Union. Knights from the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and the Venerable Order of St John also attended the service.

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:

- Timor-Leste Humanitarian Projects
- Coats for the Homeless
- NSW Community Care Van

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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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