

THE GOOD CHARITIES GUIDE

'giving is the greatest act of grace'

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2021

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GOOD CHARITIES

THE GOOD CHARITIES MAGAZINE

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Sydney French Roman Catholic Charities

A charitable organisation which began 23 years ago when His Grace Maurice Piat, bishop of Port Louis in Mauritius visited Sydney.

Our charitable association began 23 years ago, when His Grace Maurice Piat, bishop of Port Louis in Mauritius (now His Eminence Maurice Cardinal Piat) visited Sydney. Whilst here he asked our French speaking community, especially the Mauritians, for help in supporting the educational program in Mauritius.

From the start our efforts were undertaken in association with the Australian Catholic University to help educate poor children in Mauritius through the provision of qualified teachers.

Our original "Mauritian Night" later became a "Charity Night" which took place every year on the last Saturday of October. Since last year's imposed restrictions regarding public gatherings, our fundraising continues through the generosity of personal donations, selling of Malagasy artefacts and a lottery.

From 2005, in association with Caritas Australia, we have helped Mauritius and Madagascar alternatively through Caritas Mauritius and Caritas Madagascar.

In Mauritius, we supported a micro project for accommodation by providing no interest loans to the poor living in slums to build homes. Funds could be borrowed from Caritas Mauritius on condition that borrowers were employed and made repayments in accordance with their financial situation.

In Madagascar our sup-



port has contributed to the holistic social development of the poor through education for both children and adults, and health services for those in the countryside. Mobile dispensaries and small hospitals provide health care for lepers and TB and malaria sufferers on the south-east coast of the Island.

In 2007, our charitable association was registered with NSW government as the "Sydney French Roman Catholic Charities" SFRCC, (CNF/20467) and recognised by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. The official committee is made up of 11 persons (Fr Jan Chrzczonowicz as chairman). Our association is based on voluntary membership. The Committee is supported by around 30 close supporters, and meets twice a year for planning, organisation and



evaluation of activities. Independent auditors here and in Madagascar assure the transparency of our financial activities.

In 2005, we started helping Fr Pedro OPEKA of Madagascar with his endeavour of helping the poorest of the poor on the outskirts of Antananarivo. His

Non-Government Organisation, AKAMASOA" ('Good Friends') is assisted by professional teachers, health care and social workers, jobs' faculties, seven medical centres and many volunteers.

Akamasoa provides employment and education for around 25,000 under-

privileged adults and children, now including around 16000 children under 15, many of whom are orphans or abandoned.

Jobs are provided in house construction, hand crafts, agriculture, carpentry, mechanics and welding. Education is delivered through 5 kindergartens, 7 primary schools, 4 colleges, 3 high schools and 3 universities' faculties. More details can be found on: www.australiansformadagascar.org and www.perepedro-akamasoa.net.

In 2013, the SFRCC became partners with 'Catholic Mission' to improve its fundraising activities through the tax deductibility offered for personal donations going to 'Akamasoa' activities.

From 1999 to 2020 SFRCC has raised \$1,303,075. Donors average: 500. Our financial help is providing education and health care (when needed) for around 16000 children for a period of about 9 months!

On September 29, 2019 Akamasoa celebrated 30 years since its foundation. On September 8, Holy Father Francis honoured them with a visit during his apostolic trip to Madagascar. Fr Pedro and Pope Francis have been good friends since they met at University in Buenos Aires, Argentina where Fr Pedro was studying, and the future Pope Francis was one of his professors!

Donation enquiries: Fr Jan Chrzczonowicz at new email: janchrzcz@gmail.com

“As long as she’s happy, I’m happy”

- Darren’s love for his daughter

Darren vividly remembers the heart break of having his daughter Olivia taken away by DoCS. “She needed my love and my support, it destroyed everything that I believed in,” reflects Darren. Needing to find a stable place to live in order to be reunited with his daughter, the support of Vinnies helped Darren to move forward with his life.

Having separated from his previous partner due to unsafe living conditions, Darren nomadically moved wherever he could find shelter for his young daughter.

Out of work, couch surfing and without a rental history to call upon, the lack of stability affected his mental wellbeing along with depriving Olivia of a much-needed routine.

“I’d pretty much cry myself to sleep because I couldn’t give my daughter what she needed to live.”

“She always used to ask ‘Where are we going today?’, ‘What are we going to have for dinner, dad?’ – I could see that it was affecting her.”

Already struggling without a permanent place to call home, Olivia’s health suffered due to a poor diet of takeaway and quick meals stemming from a lack of available cooking facilities, while during the harsh winter months the father and daughter were stretched in their ability to manage the cold.

“We had to huddle up together with blankets, and I had a little stove cooker that I used to get going; I’d open the door up on it so we could get the heat from it.”

Reaching a crisis point after DoCS deemed the living situation to be untenable,



“Darren and Olivia have a bright future ahead now that they have a roof over their head, but many more people are facing uncertain futures. With more than 37,000 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in NSW, social support payments being stripped back below the poverty line and the expiration of the rental moratorium leaving many vulnerable to evictions and backdated debts, Vinnies is needed more than ever to ensure people are protected in their times of need. You can help Vinnies continue assisting individuals and families by making or encouraging a donation to the Vinnies Winter Appeal 2021.”

Darren turned to Vinnies where he was introduced to Danielle, one of our homeless support workers.

“When Darren first came to us he was very concerned about his daughter going in to foster care. To have any child taken off you would be a very emotional thing,” recalls Danielle.

Undertaking parenting courses, financial counselling and re-establishing communication with Olivia’s mother, Darren’s determination to be reunited with his daughter left an impression that resonated with Danielle.

“He was participating the whole way, and that’s why

it worked so well, because he wanted it. He wanted Olivia back; he wanted a home, he wanted his family,” says Danielle.

Continuing to see Olivia on visitations made possible by Vinnies, who provided assistance with transport, a major breakthrough occurred when Danielle

helped secure permanent accommodation for Darren.

With a place to call his own and Vinnies advocating to DoCS, it wasn’t long before Darren felt renewed by the love of having his daughter back in his life.

“When I got that place, she came and visited me for the first weekend, and her face was just priceless. She just ran around the house, jumping up and down saying, ‘This is ours, this is ours!’”, recalls Darren.

“It’s given me and Olivia so much freedom. It’s made me feel a lot better inside myself knowing that I have a house, and I can lock that door, and it’s mine.

“Giving her that security of knowing that’s our home; it’s improved with her school, the teachers always tell me how much she improves every year.”

With Olivia back in his life and his prospects looking up, Darren is looking forward to getting back into work while balancing the responsibilities of raising his daughter.

“I just want Olivia to be happy and have a safe and healthy life.”

“[Without Vinnies] I wouldn’t have a house and I wouldn’t have my daughter back.

“As long as she’s happy, I’m happy, at the end of the day.”

HOW TO DONATE TO THE VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Visit www.vinnies.org.au | Call 13 18 12 | In-store at any Vinnies Shop

Will you help
me find
somewhere
safe
to sleep
tonight?

You can help rescue a
child from homelessness.

HELP END THE PAIN OF POVERTY. DONATE TODAY.

Please give by calling 13 18 12
or visiting vinnies.org.au/winterappeal



Vinnies
good works

Images have been changed to protect the privacy of the people we assist.

Why ‘Education for Life’ is so important

Jane Woolford, Mary MacKillop Today’s CEO, talks about lifelong learning



Jane Woolford, CEO of Mary MacKillop Today

Education is one of the best investments a country can make to alleviate poverty. Through her time working with communities around the world, Mary MacKillop Today’s CEO, Jane Woolford, has come to deeply appreciate the relationship between education and poverty. Jane shares why she believes ‘Education for Life’ is important.

“So often, children miss out on education because of poverty. When families are in hardship, it means their access to learning is compromised. That affects their ability to live a full, healthy life. Schooling is an opportunity to build skills, capabilities, wellbeing, and confidence. Missing out on school puts a person’s chance of later gaining employment at risk. They won’t be job-ready or money-wise.

The theme ‘Education for Life’ is about enabling access to education throughout the various stages of life. As humans, we never stop learning. To ignite a passion in the earliest years means opening windows to the world. This early learning builds our own strengths so we can contribute to our community and develop compassion to help others. I think of Mary MacKillop’s words – ‘Find happiness in making others happy.’

Like Saint Mary MacKillop, Jane spent time as an educator in the classroom – teaching English at a secondary school in Western Sydney. She shared what a privilege it was to teach and build connections with students.

“Teaching showed me that the greatest impact you have is not necessarily the marks on

paper – it’s the stimulation and inspiration you provide around learning. It was exciting to see my students building a vision of their place in the world.”

Having firsthand experience in teaching, Jane has come to see the areas of significant need for education – both in Australia and overseas.

“I think back to the first time I arrived in Timor Leste in 2001, to help rebuild communities after the conflict. The Sisters of St Joseph were there helping people to support the education system. Timor Leste has come a long way but there’s still significant need – so I’m grateful to still be involved in developing literacy and life skills with young people, parents, and teachers in their own Tetun language. In the later stages of life as adults, education remains im-



Recent graduate, Hayden, a Mary MacKillop Today First Nations Scholar.

portant.

I see increased vulnerability levels where people face a lack of literacy skills, even here in Australia. There’s a real need for training in life skills. That’s why, for example, Mary MacKillop Today is running workshops in budgeting and financial literacy in Central Western NSW to give people economic independence and escape cycles of growing debt.”

Education for Life is about lifelong learning. At every stage of the life cycle, it’s important to keep learning so we can continue to grow as healthy individuals and contributing members of our community.

Thanks to our supporters, kind readers just like

you, our programs provide access to education in areas such as traditional literacy and numeracy, or broad skills for living, across the various seasons of life. Through our education and life skills programs, people develop essential skills for self-sufficiency.

Saint Mary MacKillop was a teacher and saw education as a pathway out of poverty. Everyday people through their support of Mary MacKillop Today are helping to carry on her legacy. It is the generosity and compassion of supporters that makes our Education for Life programs possible around the world, especially during this time of increased vulnerability due to the pandemic.

Celebrate Saint Mary MacKillop's legacy this Feast Day!

*"I'm a teacher,
let's start today!"*

This August give the gift of education by raising funds for Mary MacKillop Today's *Learning for Life* programs.

- *Give in Celebration* - mark this special day by inviting friends and family to raise awareness and funds for vital education programs.
- *Host an Event* - whether you want to bake, cycle, walk or run, there are lots of ways you can fundraise.
- *Involve Your Community* - we have fun ideas for your school or group to try!

MARY MACKILLOP
today

Learn more about how you can support Mary MacKillop Today. Call 02 8912 2763 or donate via marymackilloptoday.org.au/donate

Our Catholic faith and works

Today's Catholics in Sydney continue to support our agencies like the Charitable Works Fund, the Priests' Retirement Foundation and the St Mary's Cathedral National Trust.



Dear Friends,

Our Catholic faith, and our works, have shaped our history for 2,000 years and continue to do so today, both in Sydney and beyond.

Inspired by the teachings of Jesus, our faith has moved Christians to bring about charity and love in the world, which has led to the conversion of nations.

Our moral codes and canon laws have influenced legal systems across Europe, and beyond.

Institutions like schools, hospitals, aged-care facilities and many others have all largely stemmed from our Catholic tradition.

Disciplines like philosophy, astronomy, science and medicine were either strengthened or born from our Catholic milieu.

There is no doubt Catholics have many challenges at present.

However, there is also a tremendous amount of good born from our Church, and remains offered to the wider community.

Today, Catholics in Sydney continue to support our agencies like the Charitable Works Fund, the Priests' Retirement Foundation and the St Mary's Cathedral National Trust.

This in turn continues our works of healing the sick, housing the homeless and caring for our elders.

It supports our mission of providing future priests, and catechising Catholic students in State schools.

It provides material support to sustain our iconic places of worship, like St Mary's Cathedral and preserves our Catholic art, which conveys our story and truth.

These works have supported people around the world for 2,000 years, and I ask you today to please continue this ministry, so that future generations may also come to know and encounter Jesus.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to read our Catholic story, and for further considering your role in building our Church for tomorrow.

Thank you and God bless!



Michael Mendieta
Director, Development and
Fundraising Office - Catholic
Archdiocese of Sydney



St Mary's Cathedral National Trust

Over many years, Catholics, Christians, visitors and admirers of our Cathedral have made possible the building of St Mary's Cathedral through their generous gifts left to this magnificent heritage building.

Since then, similar generosity is what has preserved and cared for the Cathedral which we use today to pray, seek refuge and adore our faith.

The conservation program that protects St Mary's Cathedral is in ongoing need, as the Cathedral endures years of natural elements and human interferences.

In recent years works have included:

- Stone restoration
- Replacing roof tiles

- Conserving the Stations of the Cross
- and much more

With your support, St Mary's Cathedral can be protected and assured to last for generations to come. Serving as the heart of the Catholic faith in Sydney, the iconic Cathedral requires continual updates, maintenance and restoration.

If the Cathedral holds a place in your heart or your family's, consider remembering St Mary's Cathedral in your Will, where you can leave a lasting legacy in Sydney for the generations of people to come.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY.

My gift to help our faith and our works

For 2,000 years Catholics have been a force for good in society. To continue this great work, donate today by visiting www.ourfaithourworks.org or phoning 1800 753 959.



We invite you to join us with our ministries

The Seminary of the Good Shepherd

The heart and future of the Catholic Church in Sydney begins here - at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd and the Redemptoris Mater Seminary.

It is the training ground for future priests and deacons of the Archdiocese of Sydney and surrounding dioceses of NSW.

These seminaries are places of “intense formation”. They seek to develop men strong in faith, hope and love who are willing to give their lives to their Lord and the ones that they have been called to serve.

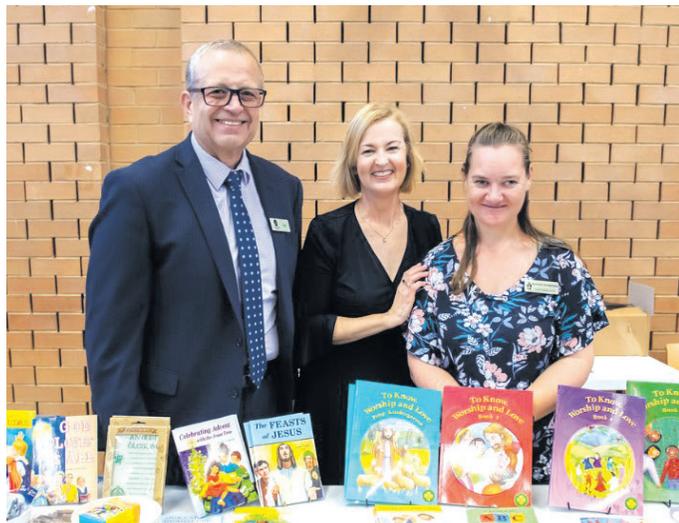
Your donation will:

- cover the daily living expenses of these seminaries which serve as houses of spiritual growth, character development and brotherhood.

- support the pastoral formation of seminarians at the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

The Seminary needs your help to form our future priests for generations to come.

CONSIDER DONATING TODAY.



The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

The formation of our Catholic children in public schools is strengthened through the volunteer catechists that are trained and supported by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD).

Since its formation in 1958, CCD Sydney has taught over 1 million students and every week, a dedicated team of over 2,300 catechists travel across NSW bringing the Good News to 30,000 children in over 400 schools. Using a pedagogy of inductive and deductive reasoning, the curriculum in-

troduces students to the love of God, the truths of the faith and opens up the pathway to the Sacraments

Your donation will:

- develop programs and resources to help spread the Gospel to children.

- provide quality training and professional development to catechists.

CCD needs your help to teach the Catholic faith to children in public schools.

CONSIDER DONATING TODAY.

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry

The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (ACM) provides pastoral care and support to Sydney's Catholic Aborigines.

In his historic Alice Springs address in 1986, Pope St John Paul II said “the church in Australia would not reach its potential until Aboriginal people had made their contribution to her life”. ACM seeks to make this hope a reality.

Operating from two premises, Reconciliation Church and its Alexandria Office, the ACM offers a range of services including Sacramental preparation, monthly cultural Mass, prayer resources, support with funerals and baptisms, prayer groups and pastoral support.

The Ministry also provides an interface between Indigenous Catholics and the wider Catholic and political community. They connect Aboriginal educators and speakers with schools and parishes. Where necessary, the ACM will act as advocates and provide counselling services and practical aid.

The ACM hopes to build ties with Nungalyina and Wontulp Bi Buya Indigenous theological colleges to support the spiritual development of Indigenous Catholics in Sydney.

Help our Sydney Aboriginal Catholic reach their full potential.

CONSIDER DONATING TODAY.



CatholicCare

With more than 100 programs running to assist those in need, CatholicCare is the social services agency of the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Every day CatholicCare's 600 staff and nearly 200 volunteers work to strengthen families, individuals and build community from their sites at Bankstown, Belmore, Cabramatta, Fairfield, Lakemba, Lewisham, Liverpool, Woolloomooloo and Sydney. Every age has its own invisible people and since its beginning in 1941, CatholicCare has cared for those who have no one else.

Following the example of Christ, their programs seek to assist anyone in need; those struggling with their marriage, new parents, crisis pregnancy

support, the elderly, the disabled, the unemployed, children in need of foster homes and those afflicted with gambling, addiction or poor mental health.

In 2018, with the introduction of CCareline telephone service, CatholicCare received over 20,000 calls for help.

Marriage breakdown, mental health issues and an ageing population are on the rise, and the need for support is only going to increase. CatholicCare hopes to expand their services across NSW, but to do this, they need your help.

Consider leaving a legacy gift today.

CONSIDER GIVING TODAY.



The Ephpheta Centre

The Ephpheta Centre is a special ministry for the deaf and hard of hearing run by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, and supported by the dioceses of Parramatta and Broken Bay.

The Centre organises weekly Mass in Auslan (Australian sign language) as well as social and pastoral outreach including a youth group, women's group, men's group, craft group and home visits.

For 40 years, Ephpheta has opened the riches of the Catholic faith to the deaf community of Sydney and hopes to do so for another 40 years.

Your donation will:

- support a wide range of initiatives for the deaf and hard of hearing including men's, women's, youth, craft and other interests groups

- help train seminarians and priests in Auslan so the sacraments can be more accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing Catholic community.

The Ephpheta Centre needs your help to spread the Catholic faith to those that are deaf and hard of hearing. Consider leaving a legacy gift today.

CONSIDER DONATING TODAY.

Priests' Retirement Foundation

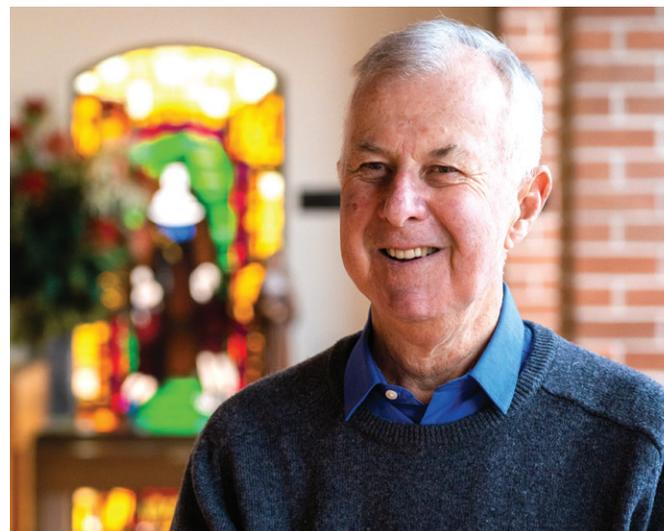
The Priests' Retirement Foundation of the Archdiocese of Sydney ensures all priests can receive the accommodation, health care and support they need in their retirement. There are now over 75 retired priests in Sydney, many of whom worked long into their 70's, caring for the spiritual life and welfare of their people. The Archdiocese gives two dollars for every dollar contributed to the Priests' Retirement Foundation.

The Priests' Retirement Foundation covers needs such as:

- Convalescence care.

- Nursing home and hostel care for frail priests.
 - Assistance in transitioning to retirement.
 - Health insurance.
 - Medical and dental expenses.
 - Assistance with board and lodging expenses.
- Our retired priests have given so much to us, and the Priests' Retirement Foundation is an opportunity to give back.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO SUPPORT OUR RETIRED PRIESTS TODAY.





OUR FAITH, OUR WORKS

Charities in the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

- Charitable Works Fund
- The Priests' Retirement Foundation
- St Mary's Cathedral National Trust
- Aboriginal Catholic Ministry
- Ephpheta Centre
- The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine
- Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Archdiocese of Sydney
- Redemptoris Mater Seminary
- University Chaplaincies
- CatholicCare

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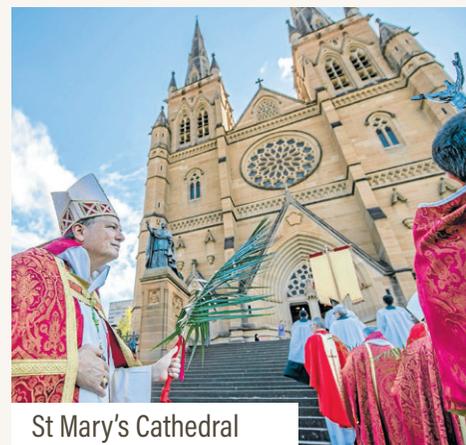
Contact our Planned Giving Specialist (Richard Allcock) today.
 Phone: (02) 9307 8443
 email richard.allcock@sydneycatholic.org
 Ask for our free Wills guide



Charitable Works Fund



Priests Retirement Foundation



St Mary's Cathedral

Consider leaving a legacy gift today.

Please send me your free gift in Wills guide I am interested. Please contact me to further discuss I am leaving a gift in my Will.

TITLE: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

SURNAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Questions/Queries

Please post to: Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, Development and Fundraising Office, Level 7, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000.
 Ph: 1800 753 959 Email: bequests@sydneycatholic.org



The Heart of God gives us a Heart for Action

The MSC Mission Office, as an apostolate of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, seeks to live out in the world God's love and compassion, unity and harmony, as revealed in the Heart of Jesus Christ.

In this we endeavour to fulfill the Great Commission to preach the Good News to all people, in our words and actions. Our first work is that of evangelisation of people near and far, to renew the world and the Church, creating a better world for all through the projects we sponsor.

This evangelisation of the Mission Office is carried out through our operation that involves main projects areas of :

- Clean Water, Health (HIV/Aids, Malaria, Leprosy)
- Disadvantaged Youth
- Environment and
- Australian Domestic and support of Missionaries.

Our generous donors make this possible together with our extended reach overseas in many countries through our various Mission Offices.

Our National Directors, Boards, MSC/OLSH/MSC Sisters and friends generate applications for practical projects, supervise their implementation and acquittal.

The love and mercy of Jesus Christ is then implemented in a practical, living and effective way.

We are all called to this Mission in the world, wherever we are.



EXAMPLES OF OUR PROJECTS

In Australia

After the bushfires of the past year, the Mission Office reached out in a small way, to those needing a hand up, to get started again. A small scale Apiarist near Ulladulla had lost millions of bees, hives and honey, and faced a huge clean up. A major part of the recovery was to re-queen the hives when there was a great shortage of queen bees. Following that there was the wait for decent rain, for the bush to recover, to provide flowers for the bees in sufficient density, to allow all the apiarists to operate and survive. To supplement the needs of the bees, a project to supply bee syrup was

initiated. Further to this was the issue of National Parks being closed to beekeepers, parts of which were unburnt with available flowers. The Mission Office was able to give \$700 for relief in this area.

Our Christian Good Works Overseas

KIRIBATI

Providing Clean Drinking Water

Sr Kateia OLSH and the Sisters in Manoku Abemama in the Pacific nation of Kirabati are very grateful to our donors for funding five new water tanks, as they now have enough tanks to collect rainwater, providing drinking water for the parents and relatives of the four newly professed Sisters, as well as others visiting the village and using the Maneaba the village's large meeting house.

FIJI

Helping Disadvantaged Youth

The MSC's Chevalier Hostel caters for underprivileged youths attending secondary schools. We have students from single parents, broken homes and at times we have ones brought in by the Social Welfare Department. Currently, we have thirteen students and two MSC staff. Their life isn't easy, as Fiji is recovering from recent tropical cyclones, as well as the effects of the Covid pandemic. While local



fundraising activities and food donations are received, the MSC Mission Office provides funds to assist in daily expenses.

IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT

This is a new project area for the Mission Office, stemming from our concern for the earth as our home. We have had indications for tree planting projects in Sudan and mangrove planting in Papua New Guinea. At present, we haven't had sufficient funds to assist with these projects. "The environment club (composed of many students) has a big concern related to the environment, a commitment to defend and protect the environment by making the space clean." (Catholic University, Yaounde, Cameroon).

REMEMBER US WITH A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

A gift in your Will to the MSC Mission Office is a gift that lives on in helping others. Your generosity allows the financing of the good work done by our Missionaries. For an information pack phone Father Roger or Sally on (02) 9697 0983.



MSC Mission Office | PO Box 177 Kensington NSW 1465 | Phone (02) 9697 0983
Email mscmisio@mscmisio.org | www.mscmission.org

Your Help is Needed

TAX TIME Donate by 30 June

PHILIPPINES

Del Monte Farm, a new project needing funds

The MSC Philippine Province aims to achieve a concrete response to the challenge of 'Laudato Si' in our care for the common home for re-creation of indigenous flora and fauna through Del Monte Farm.

Over the past 2 years, they have started the ground work by putting in place basic amenities including a farm house; training centre; demonstration farms and nurseries as well as with committed people - MSC lay partners, local farmers, peasant groups, indigenous people and other collaborators with local networks such as government agencies, religious communities and NGOs who can share the same orientation of caring for our common home Earth. \$20,000 is needed now for this project, can you help?

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Operating an Orphanage in Mbandaka

The Australian MSC mission office working with Srs Philomene Iketa and Natacha Nseke has been supporting our orphanage (CNDSC) for many years already. The work undertaken by the daughters of our Lady of the Sacred Heart in this centre, is to look after and care for the orphaned and vulnerable kids. These children are abandoned, rejected from their fami-

lies who tend to burn or kill them because they are witches, they say; they are responsible for their parents or other family members' death. From an early age, they live in streets and beg in markets with all the possible consequences for their lives. Caring for these children gives them the dignity again and provides them with education, and food.

We also have initiated a counselling service because we noticed that many of them are traumatised. For many years now, we do the work of reinserting them into foster families as they get older, in order to prepare their future in the society. However, we still pay their school fees, as most of those families are generous but can't afford to do more than give them a shelter. Sometimes they also come back to the centre for food. Your on-going support makes a difference to so many young lives.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Clean Water Project

In coastal areas due to rising sea levels, there is a greater need for clean water supplies. In the Duke of York Islands, much land is being lost to the sea including gardens, homes and even a cemetery. Christ the King Parish on Manus Island reports that villages that obtain water from wells dug along the village coastline are now waiting for low tide, in order to fetch water for domestic needs. Water tanks are desperately needed to collect rainwater, can you help?

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ROGER PURCELL MSC

Director MSC Mission Office

How often do we buy things we do not need?

This can be food, clothing, furnishings, electronics, computer programmes and apps. Do we need it? Could I give the money to someone who needs it more? It is easy to waste so many things by throwing it in the rubbish, polluting the environment. When we say we "throw it AWAY!" – where is AWAY? It is actually SOMEWHERE! in the bin, at the tip, ending up in landfill, rivers and oceans. We can easily follow trends, fashions and fads, spending needlessly on passing things. In an economy for everyone, there should be enough for all to have a good standard of living with access to the goods of the earth. Many do not have enough water, clothing, medicine, schooling, food, shelter, travel or luxury items, while others have an abundance.

Please consider a gift to the MSC Mission Office

Scan the QR code, go to our website, phone our office or complete the coupon below.

DONATE

TAX DEDUCTION: CLEAN WATER YOUTH HEALTH AUSTRALIA

NON- TAX DEDUCTION: SEMINARIANS DONATION MISSIONS

I would like to receive information about:

Remember MSC Mission Office in my Will. Volunteering my time to the Missions

Enclosed is my gift: \$50 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____ How often: Once Monthly Gift Quarterly Gift Yearly Gift

(Cheque, money order) Or please debit my credit card: Visa MasterCard Amex

Cardholder's signature: _____

Card number _____ Card Expiry Date ____ / ____

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Dr/Fr/Sr/Br: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____



To support our domestic and international projects, tax and non-tax deductible donations can be made through:
 Mail: MSC Mission Office, PO Box 177, Kensington NSW 1465 Australia | Email: mscmisio@mscmision.org
 Online/Paypal: www.mscmission.org.au | Telephone: (02) 9697-0983

Speak out against slavery

Approximately 40 million people are trapped in slavery or slavery-like conditions around the world, including Australia - ONE in four of them is a child. These are the people making a lot of food that we eat and drink, the clothes we wear and the phones and technology we use.



YOUR CALL TO ACTION...

STAND with the children who pick the coffee and cocoa beans used to produce our coffee and chocolate. Use the Make your school slavery free kit (scan the QR code below).

LEARN more about ACRATH's online resources for schools, parishes and communities who want to stop human trafficking and modern slavery.

SUPPORT ACRATH's WORK by donating today <https://acrath.org.au/donate/> We have DGR status.



Pope visits Vatican vaccination clinic for the poor

Pope Francis has repeatedly encouraged people to get vaccinated to protect their health, the health of their loved ones and the health of their neighbours.

By Cindy Wooden

Pope Francis visited the Vatican's COVID-19 vaccination clinic on Good Friday as volunteer doctors, nurses and pharmacists continued vaccinating the poor, homeless and refugees assisted by charities in Rome.

The Office of Papal Charities announced on 26 March that it purchased enough doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to inoculate 1,200 of "the poorest and most marginalised people who, because of their situation, are the most exposed" to the coronavirus.

Guests of a shelter run by the Missionaries of Charity near Rome's Colosseum were among the first to receive their shots. By the time the pope visited 2 April, the Vatican press office said, about 800 people had received the first of their two doses.

"Just before 10am, Pope Francis went to the atrium of the Paul VI Hall while vaccinations were underway for some people who are homeless or in difficulty and are welcomed and accompanied by various Rome associations," the press office said.

"The Pope greeted the doctors and nurses, watched the procedure for preparing vaccine doses and visited with people waiting for their vaccinations," the statement said.



Announcing the vaccination program, the Office of Papal Charities, run by Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, encouraged people to buy a vaccine for "our poorest and most vulnerable brothers and sisters" by making a donation online at www.el-emosinaria.va, the address of the papal almoner's office, which distributes charity in the name of the pope.

Pope Francis has repeatedly encouraged people to

get vaccinated to protect their health, the health of their loved ones and the health of their neighbors. He also repeatedly has called for global efforts to ensure equitable distribution of the vaccine, rather than policies that amount to wealthier countries buying up most of the available shots and reserving them for their own citizens.

Jesuit Father Camillo Ripamonti, president of Cen-

tro Astalli, a Jesuit Refugee Service centre assisting refugees in Rome, said in a statement March 31 that people assisted by the centre would be among those vaccinated by the Vatican.

"It is an important sign for the life of the refugees we welcome, among whom are many vulnerable people, victims of torture and intentional violence," Father Ripamonti said. The Vatican's outreach is "a sign

of closeness" to people "the pandemic has made invisible and, therefore, more fragile and more at risk of getting sick."

The Centro Astalli called on the Italian government to "multiple the pontiff's gesture" by including in the national vaccination program "the homeless and migrants who live in spontaneous settlements or in occupied buildings or reception centres." - CNS

Reach out, give life

Catholic Mission is the international mission agency of the Catholic Church in Australia

‘Catholic Mission operates in over 160 countries to support initiatives in 1,100 dioceses, including remote Australia’

Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies; the Catholic Church’s global organisation dedicated to continuing Jesus Christ’s mission in the world: that all may have life to the full.

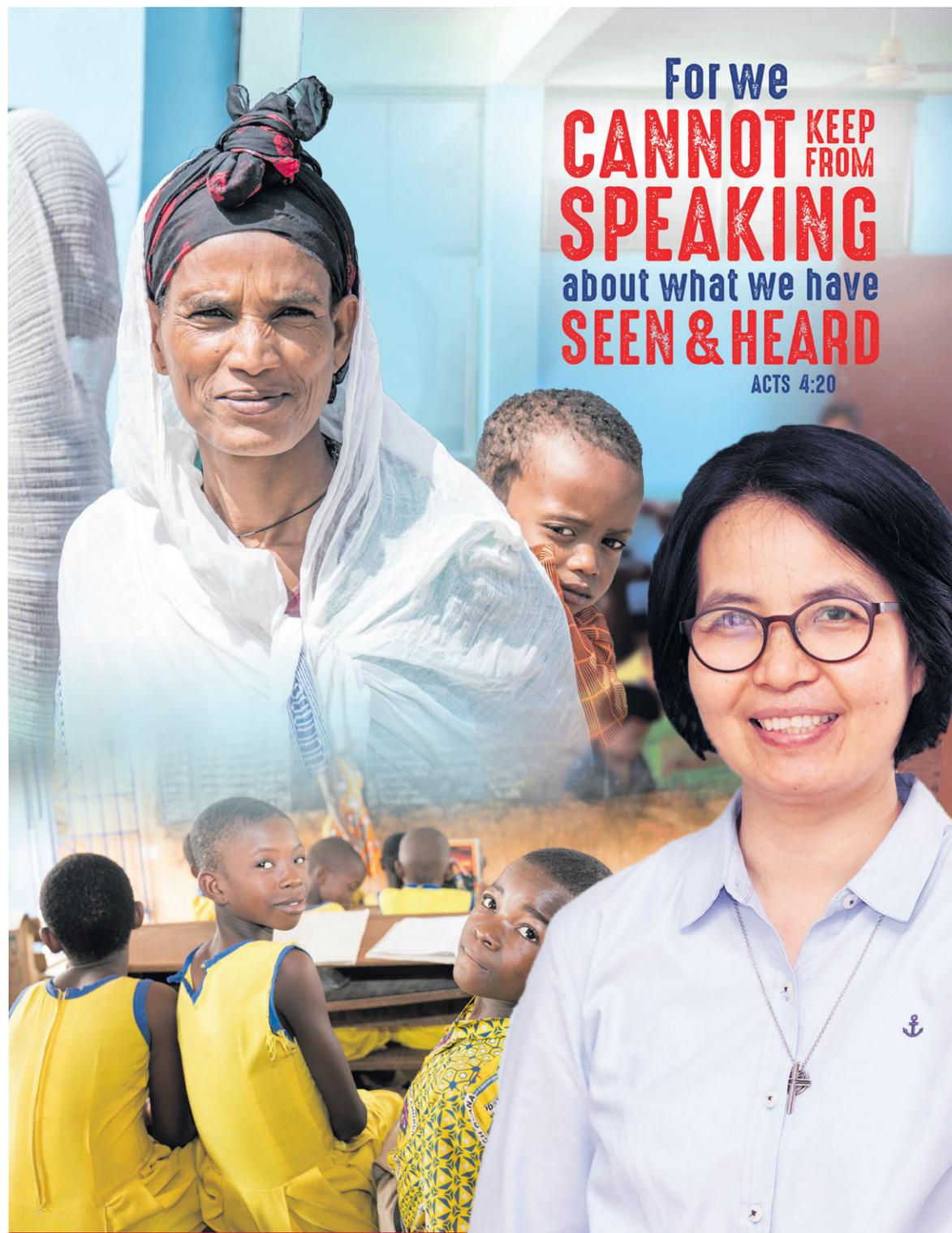
Catholic Mission operates in over 160 countries to support initiatives in 1,100 dioceses, including remote Australia. Grassroots needs are identified by local Catholics to give people the opportunity for a full, enriched life—physically and spiritually—regardless of race, stigma, religion, or gender.

Catholic Mission recently launched its major appeal for the year, supporting the essential work of the Mother and Baby Home run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Bangkok, as they reach out to vulnerable women in their time of need.

Pope Francis invites each of us to respond to what we have seen and heard, calling us to each be missionary disciples by sharing and supporting vital work like this. At a time when there is a lot of attention given to the vulnerability of women in our own society the work of the Good Shepherd sisters in Thailand, and in many other places, goes to the very heart of the Christian proclamation of the worth and dignity of every person.

Help those in need and support Sr Chalaad and the Good Shepherd Sisters by donating catholicmission.org.au

If you would like to be part of our unique mission and make a real and lasting difference in the lives of children, communities, and future Church leaders around the world, please consider a donation to Catholic Mission today. You may also choose to leave a lasting legacy to Christ’s mission by leaving a Gift in your Will.



RESPOND TO THE CALL AND DONATE BY:

Freecall: 1800 257 296

Online: www.catholicmission.org.au

Socktober kicking goals for kids in need

A nationwide schools engagement program is again shooting for success, using the game of soccer to educate and encourage support for mission projects around the world.

‘Socktober for Mission Month encourages students across Australia to make a difference for their brothers and sisters overseas through our shared understanding of the values inherent in the world game of soccer.’

The Socktober program, run by Catholic Mission, aims to engage Catholic school students’ heads, hearts, and hands in key issues of mission and social justice through powerful metaphors found in sport, especially the world game of soccer.

A Socktober Ambassador is W-League soccer star, Sarah Willacy.

“The soccer elements of the Socktober program offer a lot of fun for students, but it is the tangible lessons about the importance of serving those less fortunate that will stay with them through their life,” she said.



Socktober uses the game of soccer to educate and encourage support for mission projects around the world. The program has the backing of several bishops and archbishops from across Australia.

In the Socktober program, students are encouraged to “kick goals for kids in need” through the program, which features a six-module journey of learning and formation, packed with activities and resources, and a popular penalty shootout activity which can be held on a school’s mission day. As students kick their goals, they seek sponsorship

from friends and family, with all funds raised in 2021, supporting mission projects in Thailand.

The Socktober program also has the backing of several bishops and archbishops from across Australia.

Adelaide Archbishop Patrick O’Regan has joined with Archbishop Christopher Prowse of Canberra and Goulburn and Bishop

Michael Kennedy of Armidale, all three throwing their support behind the program.

“Many kids around the world play soccer with a ball made of rags; it reminds us how blessed we are in a country like Australia,” said Bishop Kennedy.

“We all are called to be missionaries in the church, and to do something prac-

tical with mission. So, here’s your chance to get on board with Socktober, have some fun and be helping people at the same time.”

“I hope you give generously with the head, heart and hands reaching out to those in situations far more dire than here in Australia,” said Archbishop Prowse.

“Socktober’s got my support; I hope it’s got yours.”

The 2021 Socktober program kicked off with the official national launch in Brisbane. Sue Williams, Catholic Mission’s Youth and Schools Engagement Officer for Queensland, says schools in her region are very keen to get involved.

“We had such a disrupted year in 2020, but the support from schools across Queensland and Australia was fantastic, nonetheless,” she said.

“This year with fewer restrictions on gatherings and more time in class, we know Socktober will be a great celebration of mission for students, as well as a valuable learning and formation experience.”

Primary and secondary schools are invited to register for Socktober today by heading to socktober.org.au where they can find all the resources and activities to fully engage with World Mission Month in 2021.

For further information: www.socktober.org.au
Email: media@catholicmission.org.au | Website: catholicmission.org.au

 **catholic
MISSION**

Australian priest: More homeless in Hong Kong than he's seen in 36 years

“God bless McDonald’s for their compassion to the poor, it was the only place for these people to go”, Fr Wotherspoon said.

Oblate Father John Wotherspoon loves McDonald’s restaurants, and it’s not because of the fries.

The reason the Catholic priest favors the fast-food chain is that the 24-hour stores were among the few places that allowed homeless people to stay in the late evening and early morning hours. The unofficial policy even resulted in a nickname, “McSleepers,” for the late-night denizens.

“God bless McDonald’s for their compassion to the poor; it was the only place for these people to go,” Father Wotherspoon said, noting that the restaurant chain has regularly donated meals for the homeless in Hong Kong.

But the after-hours haven of the golden arches ended abruptly about a year ago when the coronavirus pandemic tightened its grip on the city, prompting the government to order the closure of all restaurants at 6pm, recently changed to 10pm, and forcing scores of homeless onto the streets to look for places to sleep.

“When people couldn’t go to McDonald’s, that’s when things increased rapidly (for the worse),” Father Wotherspoon said.

The city’s social welfare department said there were just over 1,100 home-



Australian Oblate Father John Wotherspoon poses on Hong Kong’s Temple Street, where many shopping stalls thrived as part of a well-known night market before the COVID-19 pandemic. The loss of business forced many vendors into homelessness. PHOTOS: CNS/STRINGER

less people in Hong Kong in 2017. But charities and nongovernmental organizations say the actual number is much higher now in this city with a population of about 7.5 million. Pro-democracy protests in 2019

crippled the economy and jobs were jettisoned. The economy reached a nadir as the pandemic intensified with waves of new infections.

Social distancing measures designed to stem the

spread of COVID-19 have continued the stagnation. With the city government struggling to reverse the economic tailspin and unwilling to provide shelter for the growing number of homeless people, a crisis

was in the making, Father Wotherspoon said.

“In my opinion, this is the worst the homeless problem has ever been in Hong Kong,” said Father Wotherspoon, 74, a native of Brisbane, Australia, who has been in Hong Kong for 36 years and in the Jordan neighborhood on the Kowloon side of the city for 11 years.

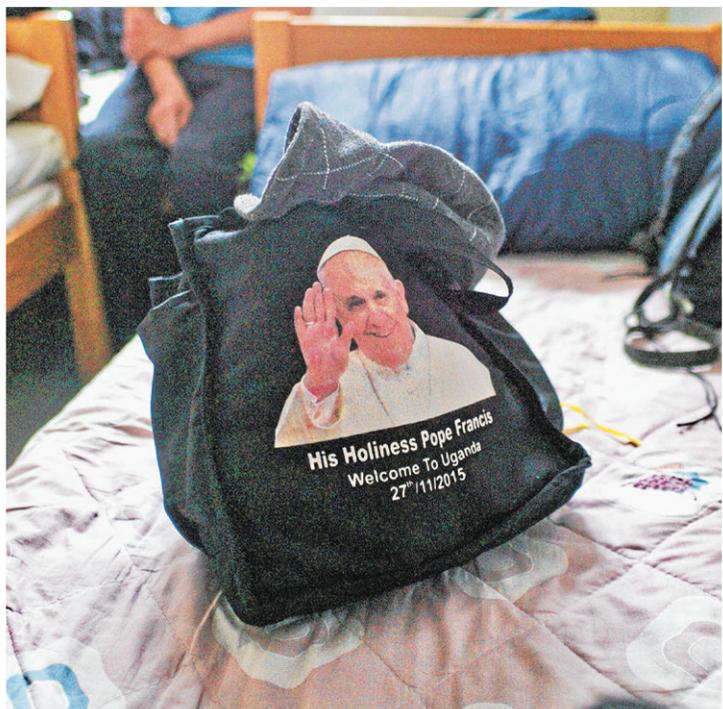
But it was a moment of apparent divine intervention that provided some relief.

A local report in a Cantonese-language newspaper last year about the looming homeless crisis mentioned the priest’s name and resulted in an unprecedented flood of donations, Father Wotherspoon said.

“It just multiplied from there,” he said. “I never looked for money. It found me.”

A friend who asked Father Wotherspoon for permission to post his bank account number on a Facebook page increased the flow of donations.

The funding allowed the priest and the NGO he started in 2016, MercyHK, to rent rooms in an apartment building in the adjoining neighborhood of Yau Ma Tei for those without a place to sleep. Some of the homeless work in a shop in Jordan opened last year by MercyHK; it sells secondhand goods. Those who



Father John Wotherspoon's tote bag that he uses to carry food coupons, an umbrella and a sweater is a memento from Pope John Francis' visit to Uganda in 2015. It is pictured in his room in Hong Kong, above. A man who wished to be identified only by his surname, Yee, works at a second-hand shop repairing electronics in Hong Kong/ He says Australian Oblate Father John Wotherspoon helped him get an apartment and the job at the shop after he lost his job and was homeless, right.



cannot work due to age or infirmity are helped in applying for government assistance.

Father Wotherspoon said he and his NGO currently rent 40 rooms for 60 people at a cost of over HK\$200,000 (US\$25,700) a month in a city with the most expensive residential real estate in the world.

Soon after MercyHK found apartments for those who used to be on the street, a restaurant in the same apartment building agreed to donate free meals every Wednesday.

The rented apartments are each occupied by two or three people of the same gender and include a shower and toilet. One man who lost his cleaning job and was sleeping in the noisy airport and other places that were open late said the peace and safety of his shared apartment was a significant improve-

ment.

"This is so much better," said 76-year-old Ah Ming, who moved into his Yau Ma Tei apartment 10 months ago. "There are no planes here."

But Father Wotherspoon said the homeless problem will get worse as the effects of the pandemic continue and the economy remains in the doldrums. There are still scores of homeless who are addicted to drugs, or suffering from mental illness, who are unsuitable to be placed in an apartment and thus remain on the street. They are still given food and support. The city's poorest district, Sham Shui Po, has an even worse homeless problem, he said.

Father Wotherspoon admitted he occasionally has difficult days.

"But it's never as bad as it is for these people," he said. - CNS.

'But it was a moment of apparent divine intervention that provided some relief. A local report in a Cantonese-language newspaper last year about the looming homeless crisis mentioned the priest's name and resulted in an unprecedented flood of donations, Father Wotherspoon said.'

We ask you to consider a Giving Pledge to Domus 8.7



DOMUS 8.7 REMEDY PATHWAY

Domus 8.7 is an initiative of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney to provide emergency housing, legal advice, health care, financial and welfare support to address the needs of people who have experienced forced labour and modern slavery.

Domus 8.7 is Australia's first 'one-stop-shop' service available to business, workers or people impacted by modern slavery to obtain support, advice and guidance on how to respond to potential situations.

Your donation enables direct services and support for victims and exploited workers.

The Global Slavery Index estimates there are 15,000 victims of modern slavery in Australia, trapped in forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage or human trafficking. COVID-19 has increased the vulnerability of migrant workers to extreme forms of exploitation and cut off the ability to escape and return home overseas.

The Australian Government does not have a



The Sydney Archdiocese Anti-slavery Taskforce was established by Archbishop Anthony Fisher in May, 2017
PHOTO: GIOVANNI PORTELLI

remedy pathway for these victims and there are currently no resources allocated to the establishment of a national modern slavery hotline.

So, what should you do if you suspect someone is a victim of modern slavery? Who do you call first? How can you make sure people are safe?

Victims, are often traumatised and have few re-

sources. They lack information about their rights and our legal system. Individuals who identify or suspect incidents of modern slavery are provided with no clear guidance on what to do. They are left to navigate a complex maze of immigration, state and Federal legal systems, welfare and social security.

Catholic organisations need a 'remedy pathway'

to rapidly respond to issues of modern slavery or slavery-like conditions. A remedy pathway is essential to ensure the safety and support of victims.

A REMEDY PATHWAY IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL CATHOLIC ORGANISATIONS TO:

- Provide the support needed for a rapid, coordi-

nated response when victims are identified

- Develop the internal capability of the Church to respond safely
- Abide by Catholic Social Teaching

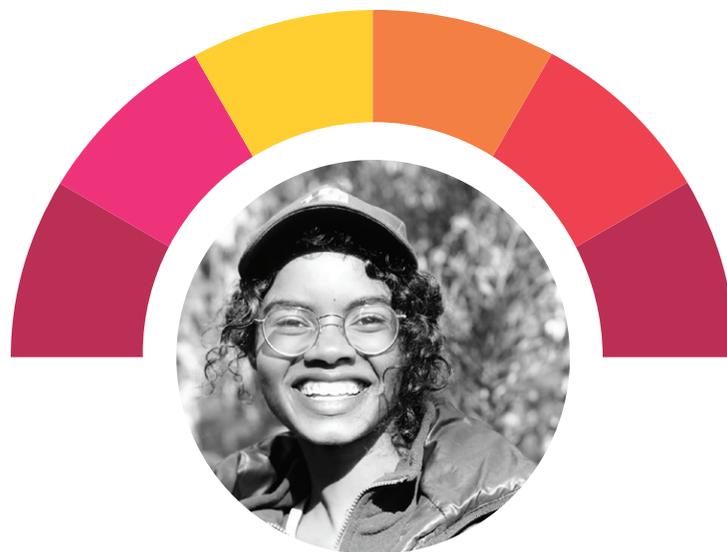
WHAT IS A 'REMEDY PATHWAY'?

The provision of remedy involves implementing actions and processes to investigate and redress impacts on workers and ensure future incidents are avoided.

The right to remedy is a basic principle in international human rights law. Unfortunately, victims of corporate human rights abuses often struggle to access adequate or effective remedy.

The Domus 8.7 service profile:

- Guidance and advice for anyone with concerns about a person or situation
- Coordination with government agencies, victim support organisations and others



“Domus 8.7 fills a gap in providing readily available support from a formal perspective, emergency assistance and addressing other needs for people trapped in modern slavery or facing exploitation in the workforce.”

- Archbishop Fisher 17th Feb 2020 SMH

- Confidential safe conversations app for the general public to report suspected incidents of modern slavery

- Practical and immediate support for people impacted by modern slavery

- Accessing the service is free for victims and workers.

my identity out of fear of retaliation against my family back home and jeopardising my visa. Everyone I reached out to told me to go somewhere else. I had no money and I needed a lot of help. So having a service like this will make a world of difference for victims of modern slavery in Australia.”

*not his real name

Survivor advocate endorsement:

Philippines-born IT professional *Joshua Cruz left his telecommunications job in the Philippines after being lured to Australia with the promise of a job in an IT firm. On arriving in Australia he found himself exploited, working seven days a week in a factory and as an unpaid housekeeper for his employer. Mr Cruz said he would have benefited greatly if a service like Domus 8.7 had been available after escaping from his employer.

“I was in a really desperate position and didn’t know who to approach for help. When I called the Philippines Embassy I was anxious about revealing

Domus 8.7 is inspired by the actions and words of Pope Francis, who has become one of the foremost anti-slavery advocates in the contemporary world. His vision inspired “Target 8.7” of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) which calls for effective measures to end all forms of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour by 2030. The Latin word “Domus” means “home” and looks to a world of freedom and family life which the Church holds to be the foundation of all human society.

SMS 0439 482 290
alison.rahill@sydneycatholic.org

PLEDGE CARD

DOMUS
8.7

PLEDGE CARD

I wish to pledge my support to the ‘Domus 8.7’ in the amount of: _____

I am enclosing a cheque for the above amount

Please make cheques payable to Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney (non-tax deductible).

I am authorising debit on my credit card details below for the above amount

Credit Card Payments: MASTERCARD VISA AMEX

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiry date: _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____

Date: _____

I would like someone to call me to discuss further how I might be able to assist Domus 8.7.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode _____

For more information please contact Alison Rahill at email: alison.rahill@sydneycatholic.org or by calling 0439 482 290

Somascan Movement raises funds to help communities suffering from the Pandemic

500 years after St Jerome Emiliani braved the influenza plague to care for the sick and orphaned, Somascan Movement Australia continues to carry on their founder's work by raising funds to help suffering communities affected by COVID-19.

With COVID-19 vaccines rolling-out around the world while many countries experience a promising decline in cases, it was a shock to witness a new wave of the virus hit India and infect hundreds of thousands of people every day.

Among the communities affected by this spread of COVID were those cared for by the Somascan Fathers, a Religious Order that since 2019 has had a presence at the Catholic parishes of St Joseph's Moorebank and St Christopher's Holsworthy.

Motivated by the concerning rise in COVID cases and deaths, a team of young adults from St Joseph's Moorebank came together for a blitz "BBQ 4 India" fundraiser from 22-23 May.

Treating parishioners to a hot bacon and egg roll and/or a sausage sizzle after each of the weekend Masses, organisers managed to raise almost \$6000 in donations which will go onto directly change the lives of many living in struggling communities in Southern India.

"In caring for the poor and the sick, especially



Members of Somascan Movement Australia put on a blitz BBQ Fundraiser at St Joseph's Moorebank to raise money for communities in India suffering from COVID-19.

those orphaned at a time of pandemic in the 16th Century, Somascan founder St Jerome Emiliani became a reflection of Our Heavenly Father's paternal love," said Alison De Sousa, Secretary of Somascan Movement Australia, an

Australian registered association and charity involving both Somascan Religious and laity.

"Thanks to the support of generous parishioners, benefactors and friends, we are able to continue our founder's work during this

pandemic by providing education, medical needs and services to our Somascan orphans in India."

The fundraiser was one of many projects undertaken by the youth from Somascan Young Adults, a ministry supported by



Somascan Movement Australia is always accepting donations to contribute to any of our overseas and local Apostolates.

Donations can be made to:
ACC Name:
SomMvtAus
BSB: 082343
ACC: 914521777

Somascan Movement Australia and founded on the Somascan Order of caring and assisting the youth in the community.

In addition to supporting regular youth initiatives and formation, Somascan Movement Australia have organised food drives for local shelters, provided aid to the poor in suffering communities, and facilitated an annual parish/school based mission, making thousands of Christmas cards for orphans in Mozambique and India.



In addition to supporting regular youth initiatives and formation, Somascan Movement Australia have organised food drives for local shelters, at right, and facilitated a mission making thousands of Christmas cards for orphans overseas.

The Parochial schools in these communities, supported by the Somascan Fathers, have thousands of students, and face the daily struggle of educating these impoverished children with a lack of teachers and basic equipment.

“Though we’re unable to solve the problems that these communities endure, we can at least bring them some joy, even for a moment, and remind them that they are not forgotten,” said Alison.

On Tuesday, 8 June, Somascan Movement Australia began promoting their first Somascan Missions Dinner Dance to be held on Friday 8 October 2021 at Macquarie Paradise, Liverpool, NSW.

The night will include a three-course meal, live music and entertainment, raffle prizes, silent auction and a live local sketch artist. All funds raised will go directly to various Somascan Apostolates around the world, providing care for those most in need.

Tickets are \$100 each or \$900 for a table of 10 and can be purchased at [somascandinnerdance.eventbrite.com.au](https://www.somascandinnerdance.eventbrite.com.au)



‘Thanks to the support of generous parishioners, benefactors and friends, we are able to continue our founder’s work during this pandemic by providing education, medical needs and services to our Somascan orphans in India.’

**THE GOOD
CHARITIES
GUIDE
2021**

THE Catholic Weekly