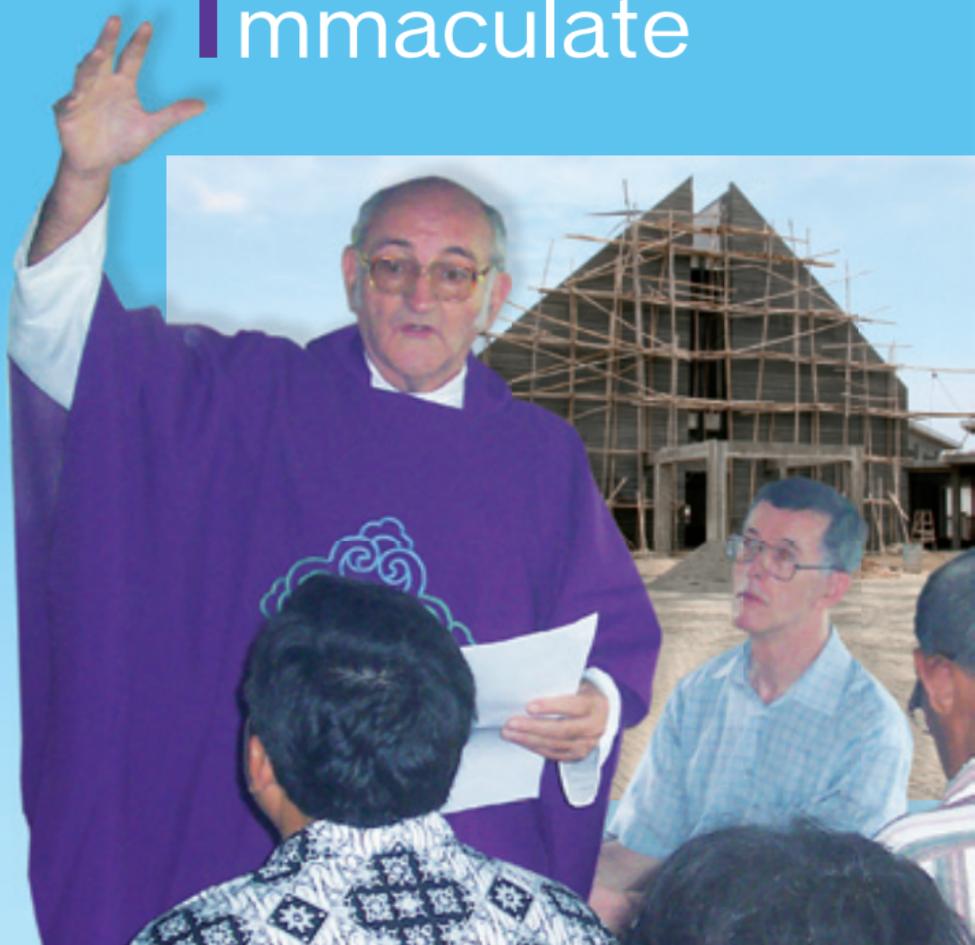


# Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate



**MAMI is an opportunity** to collaborate and share in the spirit, life and mission of the Oblates in Indonesia, China, Australia and other missions in Asia, through prayer and financial assistance. MAMI also supports the formation of Oblate priests and brothers for this missionary work.

Through MAMI you are invited to grow in your relationship with God through sharing in the spirit of St. Eugene de Mazenod, the founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. This spirit led St. Eugene to seek out and minister to the most needy, marginalised, rejected and poor.

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## Who are the Oblates?

The word '**Oblate**' comes from the Latin word "Oblatus" – an offering, something offered up – and therefore dedicated to, set aside for some purpose. The Oblates of Mary Immaculate are a religious congregation of Priests and Brothers in the Catholic Church under the patronage of Our Lady. They are essentially missionaries who work in many countries and are available for every kind of apostolic work.



The Oblates of Mary Immaculate came to Australia in 1894 and started their ministry at St Patrick's Fremantle, West Australia, a parish they still care for. In Australia the Oblates care for 12 parishes as well as three Colleges for boys – Mazenod College, Mulgrave, Iona College, Brisbane and Mazenod College, West Australia and have a fulltime chaplain to St Eugene's College, Brisbane. The Oblate Novitiate and Seminary are in Mulgrave, Victoria.



Oblates in Australia are involved in the formation of priests in Australia and for the region at St Mary's Seminary, in Victoria, they are also involved in University lecturing and a variety of chaplaincies to prisons, hospitals, colleges and youth ministry. Oblates are also engaged in outreach programs to the poor and homeless in Victoria and Queensland through the 'Rosies' organisation of volunteers. Community life is an essential part of the Oblate way of life and through MAMI the laity are invited to be part of this community and mission.



## Overseas Missions

**China** – The Australian Province was asked to take pastoral care of the Hong Kong mission in 1990 by their Superior General in Rome. Two Australian priests began work alongside two Chinese priests already working in the mission which had been started in 1966 by the Philippine Province. The mission comprised of a parish and a secondary school in Kowloon and another primary school nearby. In just over 22 years, the Oblates have made a huge impact on this relatively new frontier of Christianity. The mission now comprises three

primary schools, a secondary school and a permanent presence in mainland China through a strong affiliation with an orphanage for abandoned babies and children living with a disability.

**Indonesia** – Working in one of the most remote and poor regions of Indonesia – Cilacap in central Java since 1971, the Australian Oblates have introduced many significant and life changing projects. Oblates work in many villages, carrying out various developmental work such as fish and poultry farming, pumps, wells, village clinics, land reclamation, construction of schools and roads, nutrition and micro finance programmes. Today it is a vast ministry with some 30 secondary schools and three tertiary institutes including the highly-regarded Marine Academy.



## Worldwide Support

– MAMI also provides financial support to a number of other Oblate missions such as Kenya and Zimbabwe, Vietnam, India and Sri Lanka for particular projects and formation of priests or sponsoring education costs for overseas priests temporarily studying in Australia.

## Partners in Mission

is a program initiated by the MAMI office in 2008 that provides a lay missionary experience for MAMI supporters to work alongside the Oblates in their pastoral care programs in Hong Kong and mainland China. PIMs, as they have come to be affectionately known, volunteer for a period of 4-6 months teaching English in Hong Kong or the orphanage in mainland China. Those who qualify have the chance to develop their own faith by helping others and living in community.



## New Member

We would like to invite you to become a member of the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate.

You will receive four newsletters a year and one request each year to renew your membership by making a small donation to cover printing and postage costs. Any amount above the recommended donation will be gratefully received for the missions. (Recommended donation \$10 for family or \$5 for Pensioner)

Please complete this section and return to:

**MAMI Office, PO Box 384, Camberwell VIC 3124**

or become a member online at [www.oblates.com.au/newmember](http://www.oblates.com.au/newmember)

(Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other...) \_\_\_\_\_

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Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

My gift to help the Oblate Mission \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a  Cheque or  Money Order made payable to MAMI.

**Credit Card Payment**  Mastercard  VISA

Card Number

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I would like to make a regular donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FORTNIGHTLY  MONTHLY

*(Your credit card will be debited each fortnight or month until you notify the office to request a change or cancellation. A cumulative receipt will be sent to you at the end of the financial year if requested.)*

I require a receipt for tax purposes. (Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.)



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## As a Member

As a Member you will receive a newsletter four times a year keeping you informed about the mission in Australia and abroad. Each day Eucharist is celebrated in Australia and throughout the world for the members of MAMI and for deceased members, who are enrolled in the Register of the Dead.

## Oblate Founder

### St Eugene De Mazenod

St Eugene de Mazenod, the founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, was described by his contemporaries as a man who had “a heart as big as the world”. The impact of the French Revolution coupled with a profound experience of the love of God, led him to dedicate his life to the service of Jesus Christ and the Church. By founding the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, in Southern France in 1816, Fr De Mazenod sought to embody and communicate the Gospel of Christ to an increasingly diverse and secular world.



More and more priests joined Fr. De Mazenod and in 1826 the group was recognised as a Religious Order. The Order grew and started its own Seminaries and by 1840 the Oblates Missionaries were going to Missions in Canada, Sri Lanka and Africa. Fr. De Mazenod died as Bishop de Mazenod of Marseilles in 1861 and by the time of his death he had 450 Oblate Priests and Brothers in his Order. Today there are approximately 4,000 Oblate Priests and Brothers working in 67 countries of the World. Eugene de Mazenod was declared a Saint on December 3rd 1995.



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