

# Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate



## Christmas wishes from the MAMI office

Dear MAMI, every year Christmas comes around to remind us of God's love that He gave us His only Son. Christmas is the beginning of a classic love story. Christmas is the living promise that we are never alone. No matter where we are in life, no matter in what condition we find ourselves, no matter how far we might stray, or how unfaithful we are, God, the supreme lover, will pursue us in love! It is a never-ending love.

We would like to use this wonderful occasion to express our heartfelt gratitude for the ongoing support and generous contributions you have given to the Oblate Missions throughout the year. On behalf of all the Oblates of the Province of Australia/Delegation of China and those Oblates ministering in missions overseas together with the staff of our Mission Office, we wish you a grace-filled celebration of the Birth of the Lord for you and your family and friends.

You will be remembered in the Christmas Novena of Masses celebrated in our Camberwell Oblate Community.

We wish everyone a very Holy, Happy, Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

### Important Information

The MAMI OFFICE will close on  
Thursday 22nd December 2022  
and reopen on  
Monday 16th January 2023.

## From the Director

As a young boy attending St John Vianney's Primary school in the late 60s and early 70's I had the privilege of working for MAMI under the direction of Fr Dennis McCarthy. What that meant was that I, along with my classmates would fold the MAMI Newsletter and put them into envelopes for the wonderful gift of a few lollies! It was at that time I came to know the Oblate story, the work of the Priests, and in particular the missionary work I now realise I was a part of.



The example of the many Oblates I came to know in the Parish and in Mazenod College, Victoria, led me to see that a life of service was one that I wanted to pursue. My formation at St Mary's Seminary in Mulgrave confirmed my vocation and so I was ordained in 1991. Now some 30 years later after many different ministries, I have come to the office of MAMI Director and taken my place in the long line of Heroes who inspired me, helped to form me, and to whom I am most grateful.

When St Eugene de Mazenod founded the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate he did so with a vision to serve the most abandoned. He fulfilled this by inspiring young priests who had similar ideas to join to form a religious family which would include many youths and especially allow everyone to whom they ministered, to know that they were partners in this mission.

I have come to realise that the Charism which St Eugene gave is best served and communicated if we recognise that we are part of the Family he founded. As Religious, Lay Associates, Partners in Mission, Friends on the Streets (Rosies), employees in our ministries, and members of MAMI we can identify ourselves as Oblates and truly members of the De Mazenod Family. We are partners not just as Oblates but with Christ, whose mission and message we continue to serve.

In September and October this year, Oblates from around the world gathered in Rome for a General Chapter meeting, an event held every six years. This Chapter faced the task of appointing a new Superior General, the head of our Congregation, who is missioned with carrying St Eugene's Oblate cross, to continue, and indeed

further, our Founder's Charism. We are grateful for the work and fatherly care of Fr Louis Lougen who has just finished his term of twelve years as Superior General. We thank Fr Luis Ignacio Rois Alonso, a man we affectionately call "Chicho", for accepting the role of guiding us for the next term.

It is also wonderful to be able to congratulate, thank and celebrate the fifty years of Priestly ministry of Fr William (Bill) Ousley. He was one of those Oblates who, in my years as a student at Mazenod, inspired and challenged me. We also welcome to our Province Fr Kashif Ghoury, originally from Pakistan, as well as two new missionaries who have offered to join us in our work. Fr Didier Indibi has joined the Province and comes to us from the D.R. Congo.

*continued...*

...continued cover article

Fr Marco Ratelolahy was, until recently, working in Madagascar. We will share his story in a future newsletter but for now, it is wonderful to know that members of our Family who were once in Mission Countries are now Missionaries in their own right!

This year also marks the fiftieth Anniversary of Catholic Theological College. Fr Austin Cooper, who still teaches at the College, was a founding member and Master of the College numerous times. As a graduate of the CTC, I am grateful for this ministry which has formed so many Oblate, Diocesan, Salesian, and Franciscan Priests as well as many other Religious and Lay men and women.

Work continues with the formation of the De Mazenod Family through the ministry of Emma Hoad and Emma Rice. They form part of a team with Tony Coghlan who works with Charism formation with our Colleges and is now working with the various Primary Schools in Oblate Parishes. Emma Rice also works with Oblate Youth and is in the process of organising the next National Encounter as well as the upcoming World Youth Day which will be in Portugal next year. Now that we are no longer isolated and can travel freely, we can continue our work of bringing Hope to the world.

Funds raised by MAMI in recent times have gone to help those supporting the needs of the people of Ukraine who are served by Oblates both in Ukraine and in Poland, assisted victims of floods in Pakistan, contributed to a water pumping project in Senegal, helped projects related to the support of Formation in Southern Africa, India, Nigeria, Kenya, and Senegal as well as our Seminary here in Australia. We have also been able to help with the continued work of Fr Charlie Burrows in Indonesia with support for education, land reclamation, and road building. We are particularly thankful for the work done in our Colleges in the fundraising events, Mission Action Days, which the students organise and run each year. The funds raised have gone to support Ukraine, to purchase a bus for St Eugene's School in India as well as the many other needs we are called on to meet.

I hope that as Sophia of Blackburn reads this edition of "her newspaper" she will be happy to know a bit more about our family. Unfortunately, I cannot answer her questions about football teams as I don't support any! When it comes to AFL and indeed any sport really, I classify as an Agnostic.

This Newsletter celebrates who we are and what our family has achieved. As MAMI associates you support us and our missions not just with your generous gifts but more particularly with your prayers. St Eugene always said to his missionaries, wherever they were, that when they joined in prayer at the foot of the Cross they were together. Please know that you are prayed for and with and that we appreciate the unity of your prayers.

Fr Eric Alleaume OMI

## Ukraine 2022



## William Ousley 50th anniversary of ordination

William John Ousley was born on 7th September 1946, in Randwick, Sydney. He was educated at Iona College – the first student to be enrolled. He joined the Oblates at Lovely Banks, Geelong in 1965, studied at St Mary's Seminary Mulgrave, and was ordained on 27 November 1972, at Wynnum, Brisbane.

Fr Bill's first obedience was to the teaching staff of Mazenod College, Lesmurdie from January 1973-May 74. From May 1974 to August 1989, he was on the teaching staff of Mazenod College, Mulgrave and he completed a BA in 1979, then a Dip Ed at Monash University. In 1984 as part of a sabbatical, he assisted at St Patrick's Fremantle from August to November and then completed a spirituality course at St Beuno's, Wales.

Fr Bill spent 1990 and 91 teaching at Iona College, before serving as assistant priest at Tea Tree Gully for 3 years followed by assisting at St Paul's, Massey New Zealand until the end of 2000. In 2001 he supplied at Dernancourt and Moe, before joining St Eugene de Mazenod, Burpengary, where he stayed till the end of 2003.

From 2004 to 2008 he was helping at the Camberwell Community House with supplies etc, before 2 years assisting at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sefton, 15 months at Springvale North, then assisting, at St Mary's Star of the Sea, Sorrento, where he remained until April 2021.

Since then, Fr Bill has been at Mazenod College Lesmurdie as chaplain, assisting Fr Michael McMahon. On November 27th he will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

Jenny McPherson

## WELCOME TO THE PROVINCE



### 50 years of Catholic Theological College, Melbourne.

#### Fr Austin Cooper

In 2022 Catholic Theological College in East Melbourne celebrated 50 years since its founding, under Archbishop Knox. It has always been open to the whole Church: while having a primary responsibility to provide academic formation for clergy, it has also been open to religious and lay people.

The Oblates are proud that Rev Professor Austin Cooper OMI, AM was not only its founding Master, but he continues still to lecture there in Spirituality and Church History. In addition, he had 2 further terms as Master, from 1992 to 1994 and again from 1998 to 2002. He is a Professor in the Department of Church History and has led 15 overseas study tours as part of his courses in Christian Spirituality. His areas of expertise include Cardinal Newman and the Oxford Movement.

Congratulations to both Catholic Theological College and Fr Austin Cooper for a fruitful, wonderful 50 years of ministry and education that has provided a great resource for the Australian Church.

**Jenny McPherson**



#### Fr Kashif Ghoury

I am Fr. Kashif Ghoury OMI, from Pakistan. I was ordained a priest on the 8th of November 2014, in Multan Cathedral, Pakistan.

Since 2014 onwards I had been serving in Quetta Vicariate, Pakistan. Then I was asked to render my services in Australia. I accepted and arrived in Australia on the 11th of July 2022. For almost two months, I was in the Camberwell community, in Melbourne. Then I was assigned to St. Eugene Parish, Burpengary, QLD. I arrived at Burpengary on the 15th of October 2022 and since then I am residing in this Parish. It's a wonderful parish with so many catholic practicing families. I am new to the place, people, culture, and religious traditions. I am enjoying my ministerial life to the fullest. At present, I am given the responsibility to celebrate the Eucharist, Nursing homes, to administer sacraments. It's a busy parish and I am enjoying life with all the parish activities. It is great to be part of Australia as it's becoming a source of enrichment to my pastoral, spiritual, and religious life. I sincerely thank God, Fr. provincial and all the concerned who offered me this opportunity to experience a wonderful part of this world. I am happy and enjoying life, here in Burpengary, Australia.

**Fr Kashif Ghoury OMI**



#### Fr Didier Indibi Lutondo

I am Fr Didier Indibi Lutondo OMI from The Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa. On the coming 10 November, I will complete 3 months in Australia. My first impression is that Australia is a great cultural diversity. Australia homes people from all over the world. People are very friendly. It is for example common to receive a smile from someone you don't know when your eyes meet. They have a high sense of respect for the law and human; you can see it when exchanging with people by their references to what is allowed and what is prohibited.

Moreover, social relationships look cold. Everyone seems to be in their world and focused on themselves. In the metro for example everyone is focused on their phone or their book without worrying about what is happening around them. Also, although I do not yet spend time in any parish to know how much people practice their Christian faith, some signs that can show that there is a concern. For example, the insignificant number of seminarians who do theological studies at the University of Divinity to which is attached the centre where I have been learning English, can be a sign of a vocation crisis and a weakening of faith. However, overall, I am more marked positively by the way things run here.

As for me, I feel good, and my English skills are gradually improving. This makes easy my integration process. I rely on your prayers. Thank you

**Fr Didier Indibi Lutondo OMI**

### New Superior General

On Thursday, 29 September 2022, the 37th General Chapter of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate elected Fr. Luis Ignacio Rois Alonso, O.M.I. as its 14th Superior General for a term of six years.

Fr. Luis Ignacio Rois Alonso, O.M.I., was born on 4 December 1963 in Madrid, Spain. He professed his first religious vows as a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate on 19 September 1982 and received priestly ordination on 21 May 1988.



Within the Congregation, he has held the following roles: Vocation director for the Province of Spain (1988–1992), Superior of the Scholasticate in Pozuelo, Spain (1996–1999), Provincial of the Province of Spain (2000–2004), and General Councillor for Europe (2004–2016).

From 2017–2022 he served in the Western Sahara Mission of the Mediterranean Province.



**INDONESIA**

**Photos Project of Talud Sayap – Bantarsari Village, Cikerang 2022**

This is another one of our continuing land reclamation projects, necessitated by very heavy rains in this dry season and causing unseasonal flooding. The government raised and widened the dykes in the upper area of the project following our example in our former project. This necessitated the raising of the culvert and watergate structure so that the earthen dyke would not be washed into the waterway taking water-laden sediment into the water-logged rice fields. The addition was built on the original structure so flood waters would not flow over the gate/culvert structure. The river will continue to rise as not all the sediment is washed into the rice fields but the higher the river the stronger the flow of water and sediment and will more easily flow into low-lying land and this will also overcome saltwater inundation caused by sea rises. The costs for materials and labour is ± AUS.\$ 2,000, overcoming another small problem but a big impact saving houses and land from excessive flooding.

I sent you a copy of a small project – hard surfacing a village dirt road which had made life difficult for villagers in the wet season. TROCAIRE Ireland gave us € 8,000 and with AUS \$ 1,900 from M.A.M.I., we were able to complete the 3 Kms of the road, now passable in the wet season by motorbike and small vehicles.

M.A.M.I. funds help with many projects and help us have a multiplier effect. Many thanks for all the help.

**Fr Charlie Burrows OMI**



**Thank you for your ongoing support.**

Everyone enjoys receiving their MAMI magazine. Sophia of Blackburn South, Vic is one of them. Sophia always asks: “Where is my newspaper” as she enjoys looking through the MAMI and asking her mum: “What football teams do all these people follow?”

We hope you all enjoy receiving your copy of the MAMI which keeps you informed of all the Oblates and our missionary endeavours. Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Apologies ...**

Since the beginning of the year, we have been transitioning to a new Online Management System. As with these things there are teething problems.

We have recently discovered that emails we believe had been sent never arrived in inboxes! This means that many, if not all, receipts from the recent appeal which were sent electronically will not have arrived. We are currently trying to resolve this issue.

If you had requested a receipt to be sent by email and have not received one, please contact the office and we will send it to you by “snail-mail”. (Who says the old methods have been superseded!)

Thank you for your understanding.



## DE MAZENOD FAMILY

After online De Mazenod Family gatherings in 2020 and 2021, we were very excited to finally be meeting people in person for the De Mazenod Family Gatherings in 2022.

After much discussion, we had initially planned to have a single national gathering to be hosted in Queensland. However, it became clear that there was still quite a bit of hesitancy for interstate travel when we were in the planning stages at the beginning of the year.

It was then that a decision was made to bring the De Mazenod Family Team to each state. It was also around this time that Nimmi Candappa decided to resign as Charism Coordinator, so Emma Rice stepped up and has taken on the role of the De Mazenod Family Coordinator.

The goals we have set for the DMF Team for the Gatherings for this year are:

1. DMF Team to visit communities
2. Connect Ministries
3. To make the De Mazenod Family known
4. For each community to identify/name/formalise a connection to the DMF, whether this is a portfolio on the parish council, a prayer group, a commitment to run programs in the community, etc.



For each State, the Gathering consisted of three key sessions which included synodal listening, a reflection taken from articles by Fr Frank Santucci, and a guest speaker in video form by Mrs. Mary Tyrell from Friends of St Eugene in the Anglo-Irish Province. There is also plenty of time for sharing and discussion amongst the activities that go with the sessions.

As we planned the program, we had a theme underlying to help guide us as a team: Prepare the Ground, Plant the seed, and Water the soil.

This underlying theme inspired our gift to the communities of potted and planted seeds with a closing prayer and reflection on the Mustard Seed Parable and the things we might need to continue to grow our faith, just as the mustard seed might grow.

The events were well attended, and we have already far exceeded the numbers we would have anticipated if we had held a single national gathering with approx. 140 participants across the five Gatherings. The De Mazenod Family Team is excited to see where and how the De Mazenod Family can continue to grow from these gatherings.



### Emma Hoad and Emma Rice



# Adore.

2022



Online sessions running via  
Zoom each Thursday in December



## OUR ADVENT PROGRAM – 2022

Adore is the De Mazenod Family Advent Program and it is back for 2022. Over the past couple of years our program has been centred on Sunday's scripture through December leading to the birth of Christ. This year, we have decided to be a little more adventurous and try something new. This year we are going to spend some time focusing on Mary, and her early life, explored through art.

This Advent, we hope this program allows you time and space to forget about the busyness of our daily lives, and to stop and prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord while trying to find the beauty in all that is around us.

### Online sessions on Thursday evenings

Our online sessions will be each Thursday in December leading up to Christmas. A breakdown of the time zones and the zoom link are below.

VIC and NSW 8.00 pm

SA 7.30 pm

QLD 7.00 pm

WA 5.00 pm

For more information and to find the zoom link to join us head to our website —

<https://demazenodfamily.com.au/programs/adore/>

## OBLATE YOUTH AUSTRALIA UPDATE!

After a very quiet few years Oblate Youth Australia is finally back and we have a busy 12 months ahead! In September we held Re-Encounter, which was our first national event back since NOYE 2020. It was so great to have our community gather once again, and you could feel the excitement about what the next 12 months have in store for OYA.

The two main events we have coming up in the next 12 months are the National Oblate Youth Encounter and World Youth Day. Details for both events are below.

### NOYE is back in 2023!

We invite young people (year 12 – 30 years old) to come and explore this year's theme: "Created in the Image and Likeness of God..." whilst sharing in the charism of St Eugene de Mazenod.

WHEN: 5– 8 January 2023

WHERE: Mazenod College, VIC

COST: Free

For more info & to register visit: <https://bit.ly/NOYE2023>



## WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023!

In July 2023 we will be traveling to Lisbon, Portugal for World Youth Day. We have our itinerary and are now taking Expressions of Interest for the pilgrimage. The indicative cost for WYD has been quoted at \$9440 and this includes airfares, accommodation, registration for WYD, tours and most meals.

For more info & a detailed itinerary visit:

<https://bit.ly/OYAWYD23>



## Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

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Are you wondering  
what to give as a gift for  
Christmas this year?

Give someone  
*a gift of hope* this Christmas



At Christmas we celebrate the greatest gift of all,  
the birth of Jesus Christ.

In the true spirit of Christmas, your gift can be a  
gift to those less fortunate - a gift of love.

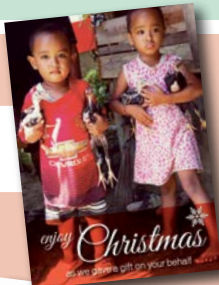
The concept is simple: make a recommended tax deductible  
donation to one of our programs and you will receive a  
Christmas Gift Card, which explains that you have purchased  
a gift card in place of a gift, and give it to a loved one.

An ideal meaningful gift  
for someone special this  
Christmas is a MAMI Gift Card:  
a gift that keeps on giving for  
the entire year and beyond.



Make a donation to one of  
these projects in the Missions  
supported by the Missionary  
Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Chickens  
\$10



Development  
\$15



Toolbox  
\$20



Education  
\$25



Goat  
\$30



### How to order your MAMI Gift Card

1. Order online at [www.oblates.com.au/christmas-cards](http://www.oblates.com.au/christmas-cards)
2. Complete the form on the reverse side of this brochure
3. Call us on (03) 9805 8888



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# Our Gift to You: Novena of Masses

Dear Father,

Kindly include the following  
**intentions** in the **Christmas  
Masses**.

(Optional)  
Name:

Address:

Please forward this to:

**MAMI Office**  
**P.O. Box 384**  
**Camberwell Vic 3124**

# The Novenas of Masses for you – Christmas 2022

As the world returns to normal after our time of isolation and turmoil, we look forward to being able to celebrate the great Feast of Christmas without any restrictions. We hope that we can get back to the way things used to be and join with family and friends to give thanks and share the many gifts we have not been able to give. Of course, we know that things will be different and more than likely be focused on the true meaning and essentials of what we are doing. Some traditions, however, will not change because they capture the truth of the presence of God in and around us.

When God gave us the gift of His Son He showed us the importance of sharing not just with those whom we love but also with those who are isolated, unknown, and without hope. Jesus gave us the challenge, by his example, of being the hands of God in the world. As we gather, we will share our stories, renew our relationships, reconcile our differences and give thanks as well as offer hope as we exchange gifts. This we will do for those we love and I am sure, given the opportunity, for those in need we don't know we love!

As members of the Family founded by Saint Eugene de Mazenod, we each share our stories, experience, and gifts. This time of year is one when the memory of loved ones who have left us is felt most keenly. As the spiritual Fathers of our Family, the priests of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate want to support you at this time and offer the gift of a Christmas Novena of Masses. This is our way of thanking you for your support of our common missionary endeavours.

You are invited to place your special intentions and prayers of thanksgiving on the other side of this note, particularly for the members of your family that have gone to God this year. Please send the 'cutout' to the MAMI office. All intentions will be placed in the Camberwell chapel where Masses will be offered from 16th December to Christmas Day.

If you wish to make a donation to MAMI apart from the Annual August appeal, your gift is always happily received. **Please note that if you tick to receive a tax deductible receipt, your gift can only be used for community development projects and not religious work of the missions.**

|         |       |          |  |
|---------|-------|----------|--|
| Name    |       |          |  |
| Address |       |          |  |
| City    | State | Postcode |  |
| Phone   |       |          |  |
| Email   |       |          |  |

I have enclosed a Cheque/Money Order made payable to MAMI for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

or debit my credit card:  Mastercard  Visa the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Once off payment  Monthly payment

Card number

Credit card expiry date   /   CCV number    (final 3 digits printed on card back)

Card holder's name (as appears on the card) \_\_\_\_\_

Card holder's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I require a tax deductible receipt.

Comments/intention: \_\_\_\_\_

I do not require Christmas cards.

## DONATE TO THE 2022 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

To ensure your cards are received in a timely manner, please return your slip to the MAMI Office no later than 5 December 2022.

| Projects               | Price   | Quantity | Value |
|------------------------|---------|----------|-------|
| Chooks                 | \$10.00 |          |       |
| Developmental Projects | \$15.00 |          |       |
| Toolbox                | \$20.00 |          |       |
| Education Fund         | \$25.00 |          |       |
| Goats                  | \$30.00 |          |       |

**Postage and Handling** **\$5.00**

Send to: **MAMI Office**  
**PO Box 384**  
**Camberwell Vic 3124**

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

or **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER**  
FOR **TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS**

CAN BE MADE TO:

**Oblate Missions Developing  
Countries Fund (OMDC)**  
**NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK**  
BSB NO.: **083 347**  
ACCOUNT NO.: **45500 7380**

or **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER**  
FOR **THE RELIGIOUS WORK OF**

**THE MISSION** CAN BE MADE TO:

**Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
(MAMI)**  
**NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK**  
BSB NO.: **083 347**  
ACCOUNT NO.: **45489 0669**

Please send an email to: [mami@oblates.com.au](mailto:mami@oblates.com.au) which includes your name, postal address, EFT transfer details and Intention.



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