

# Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

## From the Director

Greetings to you in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Blessed Mother!



and ministries in areas such as Indonesia, China, Colombo, Jaffna, India, Vietnam, Kenya, Pakistan, Bangladesh, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria. Your donations change lives and empower the poor in developing countries. Our Australian Province depends greatly on MAMI to help provide as much as possible to respond to the many needs of the poor. You continued to respond to those most in need in a year when we believed we might have been forgotten or set aside waiting for better times.

We pray and wish that you are all in good health by the grace and blessings of God. It has been a strange and difficult 19 months at home and around the world. Isolation, shutdown, vaccination, death, variants, loneliness are just some of the words that we have heard too many times. Yet, on a higher and most encouraging note, we are delighted to say our MAMI family has not forgotten the poor and disenfranchised.

During the last twelve months, we have continued to support the work of our Oblates serving the poor around the world through spiritual and humanitarian works – feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, clothing the naked, and bringing the love of God to those in need. We support Oblate missions

I recall the inspiring words of St Mother Teresa of Calcutta, "At the end of life, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by 'I was hungry, and you gave me to eat, I was naked and you clothed me, I was homeless and you took me in.' Hungry not only for bread – but hungry for love. Naked not only for clothing – but naked for human dignity and respect. Homeless not only for want of a room of bricks – but homeless because of rejection."

We are deeply indebted to God for all the help and support that we have received through and from you, MAMI (Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate) to support the poor in our Oblate Missions all over the world and the Oblate Life in Australia.

**Fr David Francis OMI**



## 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 23rd December 2021 and reopen on Monday 17th January 2022.



## Conversion of St Eugene de Mazenod

St Eugene de Mazenod embraced a crucifix as the main feature of the Oblate clothing. In the 1818 Rule, he wrote: 'This crucifix will be like the credentials of their embassy to the various peoples to whom they are sent.' His sensitivity to the symbolism and spiritual power of a crucifix reflected what he wrote as a young priest recovering from typhus in December 1814 about one Good Friday and particularly about the cross presented for veneration: 'Never was my soul more satisfied, never did it feel such happiness.' The reason for that satisfaction and happiness was because 'this good Father, notwithstanding my unworthiness, lavished on me all the richness of his mercy.' That mysterious Good Friday was a moment of Eugene's conversion but if we wanted to use the image of the Prodigal Son from the Gospel it was the moment of the encounter with the merciful Father rather than the beginning of the return journey. Venerating the crucifix on that Good Friday Eugene was given the grace of conversion, not so much from bad to good but from the mentality of a slave who needs to work hard for his master's favour to the spirituality of a son who is loved unconditionally. In the mystery of the Cross, the young man discovered 'this good Father' who embraced him with the outreached arms of his Crucified Son like the father from the parable embraced his returning son.

That is why the outcome of that encounter on one Good Friday moved Eugene to declare: 'What more glorious occupation than to act in everything and for everything only for God, to love him above all else, to love him all the more as one who has loved him too late?'

What is called today an Oblate crucifix is not simply a feature of a religious outfit but an invitation for the missionary wearing it and for those to whom the missionary is sent to reclaim the spirituality of a child of God loved unconditionally.

**Fr Daniel Szwec OMI**

## LET US CELEBRATE

# Fr Austin Patrick Cooper OMI Celebrates 65 Years of Priesthood



Austin Cooper was born on January 14, 1931 at Sorrento, Victoria, an area his family had lived in for a very long time – his grandmother's family were there in the 1830s, and his grandfather purchased the Sorrento Hotel in the 1890s.

He attended Assumption College, Kilmore, studied law for a year at Melbourne University, and joined the Oblates in March 1950. He was sent to Kildalton Abbey, Piltown, Ireland to study and was ordained there on 16th September 1956, completing his studies in June 1957.

He arrived back in Australia late in 1957 and worked at Eagle Junction while attending the University of Queensland (BA Hons in history), followed by Iona College in its first year.

He was nominated as the first rector for the future St Mary's Seminary and sent to study in the scholasticate of the Eastern American Province, Oblate College, Washington DC in 1961 and 62 to prepare for the ministry of rector and to gain experience of scholastic life. While there he completed an MA in History at the Catholic University of America.

As the Mulgrave premises was not ready, in 1963 he took up residence

at St Joseph's Lovely Banks (Geelong), along with Fr Pat Slattery and 4 first-year scholastics, before moving to Mulgrave in August. As the founding Rector of St Mary's Seminary, Mulgrave from 1963 to 73, one of his achievements was establishing a close relationship with the nearby Monash University and combining the traditional training in philosophy with a university degree. This was an innovation.

Fr Cooper served as Provincial from 1976 to 1983.

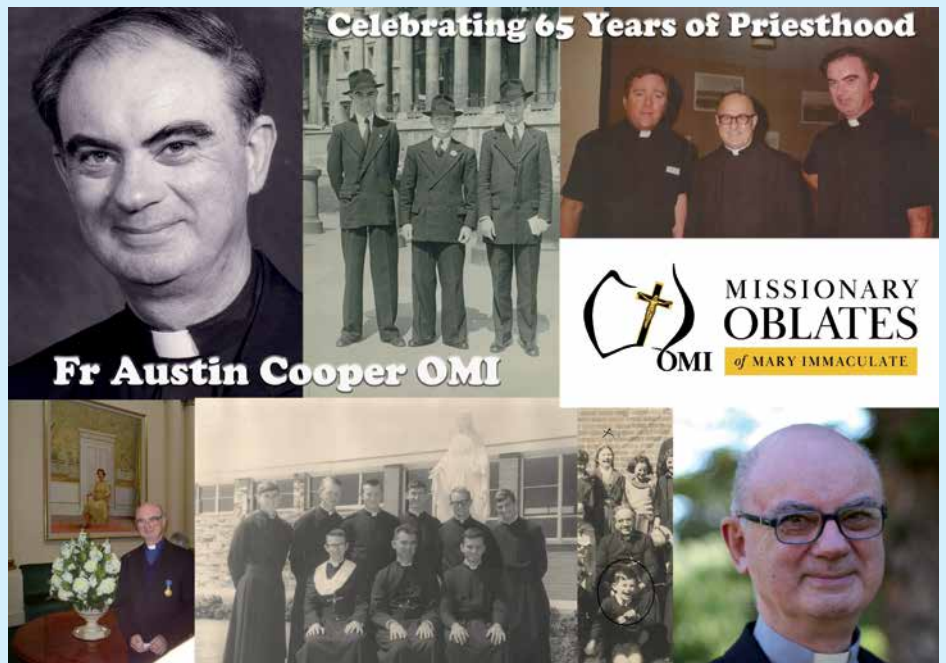
He has an MA from the Catholic University America, and a PhD from Monash University (1972), and has had a significant academic career: Foundation Master, Catholic Theological College, Melbourne, 1972–76; Vice-President of Melbourne College of Divinity, 1974–76; President of Melbourne College of Divinity, 1976–78. He has been a lecturer at CTC since 1972, including two further stints as Master, from 1992–94 and then again 1998–2002. He is a Professor in the Department of Church History at CTC (continuing in 2021) and led overseas study tours as part of his courses in Christian Spirituality. His areas of expertise include Julian of Norwich and Cardinal Ronald Knox.

In 2004 Fr Austin received the Order of Australia for services to Theological Education.

Fr Austin has been an outstanding priest. He is highly capable, a man of prayer and deep spirituality, inspirational to many students; and kind, with a lovely sense of humour.

His writings include the history of the Australian Oblates up to 1994, *A Little By Ourselves*; books on Julian of Norwich, The Cloud of Unknowing and John Henry Newman, *A Developing Spirituality* (2012). An anglophile, his Ph.D. thesis was on the Oxford Movement.

**Jenny McPherson**





## 50 years of Fundraising for MAMI

My name is Carmel Farrow, Honorary Oblate of Mary Immaculate (H.O.M.I.). I am a parishioner of St Pius X, Dernancourt, South Australia. I have been active in the Parish since 1955, two years before the arrival of the Oblates to South Australia. Hence I have had the privilege of knowing and serving 42 Oblate priests over this time (63 Years).

I married my husband Alf in 1957 and we had 43 wonderful years together before he was taken to God. We had two children Garry and Terri, two granddaughters, and now five great-grandchildren.

I have served on all committees in the Parish and have raised funds for MAMI., Church, School, and Colleges by calling Bingo and other fund-raising events.

Missionary work is at the centre of the church's activity because it is a practical way in which the command of Christ to spread the Gospel to all people is fulfilled.

The Australian Province formed an overseas Mission in Java in 1971. This was of particular interest to our Parish as Fr Dave Shelton who was to go to Indonesia had been assistant Priest in our Parish.

The Indonesian Auxiliary was formed to organize fundraising events to support this Mission. We started with about eight ladies. We worked hard selling raffle tickets, having cake stalls, dinners, and whatever we could do to raise money.

After a few years, one by one the members dropped out and I was left alone. That didn't deter me, I was more determined to keep fundraising. So, with

the help of my husband and two children I started the first-ever Midnight Bingo. This was a great success, so I held midnight Bingo on the Sunday night of each long weekend.

Another popular session was every Anzac Day. I ran a Bingo Cruise on the Port River. Tens of thousands of dollars were raised in those days.

Then the Casino opened, poker machines came in and the numbers for Bingo dwindled. Unfortunately, I had to stop calling Bingo after 46 years as my voice suffered and no one was prepared to take over.

For the past 12 years with the help of a few others, we had a very successful Melbourne Cup Luncheon, but with Covid-19, we were unable to hold it last year and again this year.

All these events were successful twofold as they raised lots of money for the Missions and were a great social life for the Parish.

Regular visits from the Director of M.A.M.I. reminded us that our Parish boundaries are a lot wider than we might realise.

Through the publication of the M.A.M.I. newsletter we are kept informed of how the money is spent, the progress of the various self-help projects, and a knowledge of Christ in action.

Ultimately it has been the lay people who have made the Oblates work possible, by our love, prayer, support, and belief in their call.

Our Missionaries need the prayers of all and they need our financial support to put the message of Jesus into practical action.

From teenager to the octogenarian, I feel I have grown up with the Oblates, but then I have also grown old with them. I have always felt part of the De Mazenod family and it was made official on the 25th of March 2012, when I was installed as an Honorary Oblate of Mary Immaculate.

**Carmel Farrow H.O.M.I.**



## De Mazenod Family

COVID or not, the last few months have been busy. In August we held the Annual Online Gathering of the De Mazenod Family, bringing together over 120 participants from the various ministries including Oblate Parishes, Youth Ministry, Oblate schools, and Outreach services connected to the Oblates. The aim of the Gathering was to annually connect the various ministries and members – to inform, unify and engage the wider Oblate community across the common foundation of St Eugene's charism. We were encouraged and challenged by Seminary Rector Fr Andrew Chen's reflection on Being the Most United Family based on St Eugene's charism. In addition to updates on the current projects in line with DMF's Vision and Mission, and an exploratory tour of our new website, we even had a spot of 'speed dating' to allow participants to spend a few minutes getting to know others. Spurred on by a suggestion of Fr Louis Lougen, a surprise guest to the Gathering, the Moments of Grace Program was then created. Designed as a lead-up to the 200th anniversary of Mother Mary's reassurance of St Eugene's newly founded order on 15 August 1822, the Moments of Grace Program contains a reflection or activity on the 15th of each month.

The newly constructed website gives ease of access to this and many other prayer resources, including the Harvest Prayer program that continued through October to draw together those that continued to be separated by COVID lockdowns. Links to various short courses on St Eugene and his charism along with means of better understanding our secular world are provided through the website.

## Blast from the Past...

### Oblates Meet Olympic Champion

In June 1956, Frs. William Cagney, Daniel Breslin, and Desmond O'Donnell met the Irish Olympic athlete Ron Delany who was in Melbourne preparing to compete in the Olympics. Ron Delany went on to win Gold in the 1500 metre event held at the MCG at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.



L-R: Fr. William Cagney, Ron Delany, Fr. Daniel Breslin, Fr. Desmond O'Donnell

## OBLATE YOUTH AUSTRALIA

### RE-ENCOUNTER

On Saturday 18th September, members from Oblate Youth Australia gathered together online for Re-Encounter. Re-Encounter is usually an opportunity for those who have attended the National Oblate Youth Encounter (NOYE) in the past, to come together to reconnect and build on friendships made at NOYE. It also gives the community an opportunity for formation and is usually when the AGM is hosted. For the second year in a row, OYA was forced to host Re-Encounter



online. 25 young people came together for a short formation session, breaking open the Moments of Grace program that the De Mazenod Family shared. The formation was followed by an afternoon of trivia and

the day ended with a Zoom Mass for our community. OYA has been unable to gather since NOYE in January 2020, and whilst we are desperately waiting to be together once more, we are grateful for the technology available to us, and the small moments of grace it can provide. We ask that you keep the members of OYA in your prayers as we patiently wait for our next NOYE.

# AROUND THE MISSIONS

## HAITI

Let us pray for Haiti!

As you are aware of in the news, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 struck Haiti. Several hundreds of people have been reported dead and missing. Two priests died, 200 Catholic churches were destroyed and 150 were damaged in the south and many schools were reduced to ruins. Oblates were very much affected this time, and two employees went missing, not sure if they have been found now. A lot of material damage has been reported. If you would like to offer support to Haiti, you can donate through MAMI. 100% of the funds donated will go directly to Haiti. Please offer prayers for the protection of Haiti.



## SOUTH AFRICA



St Joseph's Farm, South Africa

**Investing in a Harvest for All**  
OMI Australia supporting projects for self-sustainability



OMI Australia



OMI South Africa

## HONG KONG

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Hong Kong opened its first Benefit Store for the Poor on March 19, the feast day of St. Joseph.

The Benefit Store for the Poor is run with the help of numerous volunteers from the two Oblate parishes, the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate, the Oblate Youth, and four schools where the Oblates are ministering. They have contributed their time and talent to assist as staff.



## INDONESIA

Greetings from Cilacap,

I send you an update of the reforestation project – here, they use the word for greening. This project started in the year 2000 and in 2011 the Justice Department signed an M.O.U., with the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Forest present, with Y.S.B.S. to rehabilitate the forests and protect the fauna on Nusakambangan Prison Island – an area of 12,000 ha. The M.O.U. was for 2 years but as this is a long-term project, we continue with the local authorities to protect the area and the very poor farmers who plant trees and maintain them. 30% of trees are fruit trees and the fruit is the property of the farmers and there is a small rice-growing area to produce rice for their daily needs.

The area has no roads, no electricity, no sanitation, no schools, no health facilities, no permanent housing and so only the poorest of the poor live here as there is no permanent right to live here and we "protect" them.

Fr Charlie Burrows OMI



## COLOMBO

MAZENOD COLLEGE, ANURADHAPURA, SRI LANKA, ANOTHER OBLATE EFFORT.

### Background Information.

Due to vagaries of weather patterns (widespread flooding and severe droughts), the people of the North Central Province in Sri Lanka, whose main occupation is cultivation (paddy, vegetables, and fruits), undergo immense suffering and hardships. This situation of utter poverty has prevented the parents from providing a suitable education to their children. Hence, there is a correlation between poverty and education.



### A Response of the Oblates

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate, quite conscious of the above-mentioned situation, felt that no meaningful progress will take place in the lives of the people until

and unless the educational standard of the farming community is raised. The Oblates felt a call to respond to this situation by starting a college that would ensure knowledge, genuine attitudes, skills, respect for each one's human dignity and religious beliefs. It will also promote respectful relationships among the students, teachers, and parents, thereby also fostering inter-religious dialogue.

The Oblates are convinced that education would be the key that will unlock flourishing of life for the farmer-families, promising also gainful employment and social integration. Thus, the Oblate Administration decided to start a college and named it Mazenod College in Anuradhapura.

Since we don't have a building for the college, we made use of the Oblate institution which is already there for this purpose. The opening took place on the 7th of January 2018 in the above-mentioned Oblate house with 37 students (boys and girls). Now they have gone up to grade 3 and the total number of students has risen to 169. For 2022 we have already got applications from 45 students. Among these students, there are Christians, Buddhists, and Muslims. Thus, we see there is a huge demand for this College.

There are permanent teachers and a visiting teacher as well. The students have facilities for dancing, chess, basketball, and volleyball. We concentrate on teacher training activities too.

Parents' meetings take place on the last Saturday of the month. Competent persons are invited to address the parents of the students on relevant topics and the attendance of the parents has been quite good. Through such meetings, we hope to maintain close contact and communication with the parents of the students and thereby accompany them also in the process of life education and guidance. Our college has become a good ground for interreligious dialogue since there are Christians, Catholics, Buddhists, and Muslims.



### Urgent Need for Suitable Buildings

Since there is a lack of space for the extension of the college right now in the premises of the Oblate Centre, Anuradhapura, we have bought 9-acres of suitable land for the construction of the new buildings. It is to construct the new building we sought financial assistance from the Province of Australia. We are very much thankful to the Province of Australia and the members of MAMI for raising funds for the construction of the building and for providing us already an amount to begin the work. However, due to Covid, travel restrictions, and lockdown, we were not able to commence the construction yet. On behalf of the students, parents, teachers, and the members of the Colombo Province we would like to thank the Province of Australia and the members of MAMI.

## AROUND THE MISSIONS

### KENYA

#### COVID-19 Pandemic: Effects and Crisis in the Parish



The world is currently facing a difficult situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Church is not spared. This situation is affecting seriously our pastoral work at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, in Nakuru Diocese/Kenya. As a pastor, I can't meet with Christians to celebrate the Eucharist together. Their participation in daily and Sunday masses has been restricted. Our Christians who are now at home, following the Ministry of Health's instructions are missing Mass and sacrament. We created a WhatsApp group to pass our communications with Christians through it and also daily masses, other means are also helping us to keep in touch with them. It seems to work well, we receive encouragement from the people. Some few Christians do attend masses to represent others, and some come to pray in the adoration chapel during the day, at their own time. This situation has made us feel lonely especially on Sunday since we were used to having Christians around. We remain available to the demand of the people and closed to them as well. Some of our Christians do ask for family masses privately, to avoid gatherings. We do visit some of them at their home to keep in connection with them. This situation affects the faith of the people and the financial situation of the parish since we survive from Christian donations. Christians are also facing challenges since some of them have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Many of our people don't have a permanent job, they do the temporary job daily (Kibarua). This time it's difficult to find that temporary job. Many businesses and shops have closed. Those who are farmers, can't sell their products since there are no buyers. Old people in the parish, don't have support from people of goodwill and cannot go out to work, since they are aged and fragile for Coronavirus. The sick people can't go to the hospital because of lack of money and also the fear of the virus. We experienced one case within our parish jurisdiction, which came from Mombasa to Nakuru. Since then, we didn't experience another case within the parish, but we are taking serious precautions for prevention. Since people are at home, their budgets have been increased without expectation. Some couples and families are experiencing serious issues, and some are almost broken because of a lack of financial support from the men. People have become stressed and some women have gone back to their parents' homes since they can no longer sustain their children. We pray that this pandemic may end soon, that we may go back to normal life.

Fr. Faustine, OMI, Larmudiac Parish, Kenya



### POLAND

#### NINIWA – Youth Ministry, Poland

The youth ministry in Poland is called 'NINIWA' which is the Polish name of ancient Nineveh – a place where the prophet Jonas preached. As for him, we try to preach the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus. But at the same time, we know that deep in our hearts we are also like the ancient habitants of this city – we need to turn ourselves to God instantly.

The NINIWA movement was born in 2004 as a proposition for youth in our Oblate parishes in Poland. Our formation takes place during weekly Friday meetings. There is a time for prayer, catechesis (faith, personal development, or Oblate Charism), sharing, and spending time together. Once a week the community has the Eucharist. The NINIWA community is focused not only on themselves but try to serve the parish and evangelize in the youths' environment.

During each year we have 3 opportunities for country-level meetings: 2 of them are prepared by chosen earlier local communities which invite the others. The third is the "Festival of Life" in Kokotek which gathers up to a thousand young people from all over Poland.

That was in 2008 when we arrived in Kokotek in South Poland and started a small retreat center. In 2017 the Oblates bought an old (a bit neglected) holiday resort nearby. After all necessary renovations, it is now a beautiful place that can host up to 200 youth. The only missing place is a chapel. Still, now we've celebrated in a big room arranged for a religious celebration. Fortunately, this year we've started building a new chapel. We hope that at the end of the year we will celebrate the first Holy Mass.



NINIWA Team is a group of bikers who have been to all the European countries plus Siberia, Syria, Israel, and Morocco. For a few years, there is also a walkers' part of the Team that hiked in Poland, Romania, Spain, and Georgia.



Plenty of thematic retreats with dance, basketball, volleyball, etc., We hope that NINIWA and Kokotek will serve our youth to meet Jesus and get to know Him better. We do all our best not to disturb Him in what He will do there.

# PIMs



## NO UNIFORM, MANY FACES AND ONE SMILE

Usually, when we think of volunteers, we might come up with the image of some special event where many people are trained to help out for the smooth operation and success of the initiative; all wearing a colourful uniform with the word "volunteer" printed on their back... Here in Beijing, we are preparing for the Beijing Olympic games and of course, many young people are trained and hopefully, soon we will see their nice and fashionable uniforms.

This time I would like rather to talk about those volunteers who are engaged in several ordinary activities connected with the Oblates' presence in China, they are coming literally from all over the world, and so with many different faces and ages, but all with one smile as a sign of their dedication and desire to share talents and time.



With our migrant children, we do have mostly international students (Burundi, Ruanda, France, Venezuela, USA, Korea, Hong Kong...and China of course!), so during the summer camp, we did experience different colours and voices through activities and songs.

In Beijing, we follow the Our Lady of China (OLC) English speaking community and thanks to the volunteers for hospitality, liturgy, choir, and catechists, the deep feeling of being very "catholic" in the sense of being very universal does not need explanation.



Different cultural backgrounds, different ways of expressing the common faith, and yet a deep sense of belonging that invites us to go behind the appearances and move forward is what makes us all part of the same family.

For all the above we remain grateful to our volunteers; no uniform, many faces but just one smile!

Fr Giovanni Zevola, OMI



## VOCATIONS

### Greetings from St Mary's Scholasticate!

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every one of you for your ongoing support financially and with your prayers for the formation of young men towards Oblate missionary life.

The pandemic has changed our lives forever and caused much pain and suffering, let alone disrupting our normal life if we still remember what that normal life was like. The community at St Mary's has been shielded from much of the impact from Covid-19 through its regular rhythm of prayer, study, and community life. Although we are stripped of much of the external pastoral interaction with the wider world, internally, through this intense period of community living, the fraternal bond has been strengthened and deepened. As it was commented, we are living our second novitiate, with more intentionality.

During the extended period of lockdown in Victoria, the live streaming of the Mass from our chapel has been a wonderful window through which you, MAMI members, could have some insight into the prayer space of our community, and at the same time, we could be in spiritual communion with all of you.

I hope that when normal travel is resumed, we can welcome you personally to our community for a face-to-face meeting. More importantly, I will welcome some closer involvement from you to be



Congratulations Bro. Jesington on your renewal of religious vows!

part of our ministry of formation here to accompany these young men on their initial formation, to help them grow in their human maturity and holiness.

Currently, at St Mary's, there are three brothers, Br Luan Ha (from the Vietnam mission), Br Joshua Nash (from the Australian Province), and Br Jesington Logu (from Jaffna Province, Sri Lanka), together with Fr David Francis OMI, and myself, as the formation team.

We are also waiting for 4 more brothers to join us from Africa, two from Namibia and two from Cameroon. Hope they will join us as soon as the national border is open again to the rest of the world.

Once again, our deepest gratitude to you all for your general support and fervent prayer for us here, and we remember you in our daily celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Yours in St Eugene de Mazenod and Mary Immaculate.

**Fr Andrew Chen OMI, Rector**



## OBLATE MISSION ACTION DAY AT IONA COLLEGE

We were blessed this year to celebrate a traditional OMAD (Oblate Mission Action Day) on Friday 8 October. The day started with a whole college liturgy in our new Provence Centre to remind students where the money raised on this day was going. Then the fun began, we had many of our traditional activities like Hotshots, Golf Ball challenge, Lolly Wheel, and Lob a choc. The highlight was the Dunk Tank, thirty staff and seniors volunteered to get dunked and there was a constant line of customers ready to pay for the chance to dunk them. Even our Rector Fr Michael Twigg OMI was dunked numerous times. The day concluded with us gathering again in the Provence Centre to watch a staff band perform, hear the winners of events and raffles announced, and of course, the total amount raised on the day, \$52,000. Many thanks go to all the dedicated students, staff, and parents who made this day possible.

**Mrs. Samantha Ryan**



As we take up this year's challenge of being the most "United Family" we, as the De Mazenod Family seek to do this through dedicating this year to reflect, explore, and be open to "moments of grace".

We will mark this over the next 12 months by preparing something on the 15th of each month to reflect on, to share and to celebrate together.

[www.demazenodfamily.com.au](http://www.demazenodfamily.com.au)



## 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.



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# The Novenas of Masses for you – Christmas 2020

A Novena of Masses will commence December 16th and end with the Christmas Eve Mass in the Oblate Community of Camberwell.

2020 has been a strange year for so many of us. Know that you have been in the prayers of the Oblate communities throughout the Australian Province.

As each of us gazes on the Nativity Crib in our local churches much that has happened to us, our family, our friends and the larger community may flash through our minds. For some it may be the death of a dear one; others the loss of jobs which has affected our quality of life; others may have been adversely impacted by the isolation of lockdown or earlier in 2020 by bushfires or drought. For many of us, it has not been all gloom. There have been times of wonderful grace. The reflection on the birth of Jesus into our world invites us to be full of hope for 2021. Whatever you have experienced in 2020 and what you hope for in 2021, we invite you to express your intentions and be companions with us through this Novena of Masses. United in the great mystery of the Eucharist, we want to pray with you and for you knowing that at Christmas we celebrate 'THE LORD IS WITH US'.

If you wish to make a donation to MAMI apart from the Annual August appeal, your gift is always happily received. To assist our administration and avoid confusion you might like to use this donation slip. **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.**

|         |       |          |  |
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I would like further information on making a bequest in my will.

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

## DONATE TO THE 2020 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

| 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**

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PO Box 384  
Camberwell Vic 3124

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

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FOR **TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS**  
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**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:  
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**(MAMI)**  
**NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK**  
BSB NO.: **083 347**  
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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.



**Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate**

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