

Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

Provincial Update

Thank you for your ongoing support of MAMI through your prayers and kind donations.

While we had hoped that a new year would bring a new future, we are very aware that the change of date has not automatically changed what we had experienced in 2020. What we are living and experiencing will be one of the most significant moments in most of our lives, as they say, a once in a lifetime event.

In the same way that COVID-19 has no respect for a date change, it makes no distinction between rich and poor divided by arbitrary borders or invisible walls. It is a stark reminder of our shared humanity.

A pandemic has reminded us that we live in a connected world, and an invisible microscopic virus has shown that rich or poor, one side of a border or the other we are all humans, that life is fragile and finite, that we have limited control, opportunity and choice in how we live that time. It is important to make the most of it to appreciate what we have and indeed be thankful.

While I often lament our distance from the rest of the world, in times like this it is to our advantage that Australia is so isolated. Our isolation, however, does not take away our responsibility to care for the poor, our brothers and sisters, around us. While the virus does not discriminate, the economic effects will always favour the rich and further disadvantage the poor.



MAMI and the Australian Province shifted its financial support very quickly early last year to only support new projects which focused on the poor directly impacted by COVID-19. Many live on their daily income with little savings and the idea of JobKeeper is a fanciful dream; the effects of extreme poverty risks taking a greater toll than the virus itself. Just think of the many jobs dependent on tourism. Over 2020 thanks to your generosity, we supported specific COVID-19 relief projects in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, Bolivia, South Africa and Pakistan. At the same time, we have continued our commitments to specific projects in China, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe.

This is only possible thanks to your generous support, and this generosity has been even more evident as we have not been able to do our normal parish appeals.

Despite the restrictions, the De Mazenod Family Office was established last year and has been producing many resources and held many events online. The De Mazenod Family seeks to support MAMI, our parish and school communities, Oblate Youth Australia, and all those who identify with St Eugene de Mazenod's Charism, to live their faith through that charism. Please take time to visit our website omi.com.au which has a link to the De Mazenod Family resource page.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr. John Sherman OMI for his passion, dedication, and MAMI care over the last six years. His experience and wisdom helped to keep MAMI growing over those years.

I would also like to welcome Fr. David Francis OMI, the new MAMI director, taking on the challenge of this most important role of service in our Province.

I wish you and your family every blessing this year.

God bless

Fr Chrisitan Fini OMI

From the Director

Dear Missionary Associates,

I am very grateful and thankful to God and to all of you for welcoming me as your new director of MAMI at this time of uncertainty, anxiety, challenges and pandemic. I too sincerely acknowledge my heartfelt thanks to the outgoing director Fr. John Sherman OMI, who is now the chaplain to St Eugene College and co-pastor at St Eugene parish, Burpengary, Queensland. I too owe all the past and present MAMI team a great debt of gratitude for their hard work and commitment to carry out the vision and mission of our founder, St Eugene to serve the poor and the most abandoned.



As I take up this responsibility, I am very happy to share with you a bit of my background. I was born in 1975, in India. I am the second of five children. My parents and two of my sisters and a brother still live in India. My eldest brother died of chickenpox at the age of five and has gone to heaven. Our family has a deep connection with Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux and Salesian fathers. The Sisters of the Holy Family have a strong affiliation with the Oblates in different parts of the world from the time of St Eugene and still today, particularly sharing our Oblate mission and ministry. In my childhood, I had the blessing to grow in a staunch Catholic community of faith and prayer. My parents, grandparents' and extended family members' devotions and spiritual life turned out to be the first seeds sown of my own Priestly vocation.

Before I joined the Oblates, I worked for the Indian defence force in Chennai. God intervened in my life and called me for a noble cause that is to serve God and His holy people.

Since I had regular correspondence with the Oblates from my school years, their charisma, particularly their love for the poor inspired me to leave my job and to join the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1993. I completed my Philosophical and Theological studies in Bangalore and Madras / Chennai, India. I also have a bachelor's degree in commerce. In the fifth year of formation, we were given a program (Free Regency) to leave the seminary and find a blue-collared job to feel one with the poor and learn from the challenges of the world to become special missionaries. During this regency program, I worked in a cargo movers' company, where I prepared the export and import bills to move goods to different parts of the world. This type of formation outside the four walls was remarkably interesting and challenging.

At the end of the year, I came out stronger. It moulded me to stand for values and human dignity. On July 1, 1999, I made my first profession after one year of Novitiate formation in Sri Lanka. After completing my ten years of formation, I received the final Oblation in 2003 and was ordained a priest on August 1, 2003.

After my ordination, I worked in different parts of Indian Oblate missions as a Vice-Rector, Formator, Assistant Parish priest, Mission Preacher and as an assistant Novice Master (Socius). I and two of my companions were pioneers to Ambikapur diocese in Chhattisgarh, central India to serve the tribal community and establish our Oblate missions.

From Chennai, we travelled two full nights and one full day by train.

From Jharsuguda train station, we again travelled 11 hours by bus to Ambikapur town.

It was a challenging mission because everything was new for us, their culture,

food, weather and language. I had a great opportunity to learn different languages of India as I was in different missions and places.

In 2004 before the tsunami, I was sent to Jaffna province to learn the mission preaching ministry techniques to establish a "mission preaching band" community in India. It also was a challenging mission as we were doing our preaching ministry during the Sri Lankan civil war. This mission exposure gave me more confidence in my priestly life and to commit myself fully for the higher cause of the gospel.

At the annual retreat in 2007, I expressed my wish to the Superior General Fr. Wilhelm Steckling OMI, who was our retreat preacher, to be a missionary to any part of the world. After AORC (Asia-Oceania Regional Conference) Fr. Harry Dyer OMI, Australian provincial, in consultation with the Indian Delegation Superior Fr. Francis Nallappan, OMI invited me and Fr. John Sebastian OMI to Australia. Thus, Fr. Francis Nallappan, OMI, the then delegation superior, and the First Indian Provincial Superior, sent us missionaries to Australia. We were the first Indian Oblates to come to the Australian province in 2009. In 2012, I received an obedience to the Australian province to continue my ministry in the province. Since coming to Australia I have served in schools and parishes all around the province: St. David's parish as co-pastor, Mazenod College as chaplain, St. John Vianney parish as co-pastor, St. Eugene parish as Parish Priest.

I chose John 10: 10 "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" as my ordination quote, this gospel passage has given me consolation and encouragement that Jesus is the source of life and we all have the fullness of life in Christ Jesus.

I reflect that those who follow God never really know where he will ask them to go, or for how long, or what they might be asked to do. At times God asks us to do things that seem difficult or impossible. It means that we Christians find ourselves on a great adventure and are invited to trust in God's providence and not in our own strength to inherit eternal life that our Lord Jesus promises.

After having worked in difficult tribal missions in India and mission preaching ministry during the Sri Lankan civil war, I witness how we Oblates continue meeting the basic needs of world's poorest people. Last year the Oblates, through your generous support of MAMI, were able to respond to the COVID-19 crisis in some of our neighbouring Asian countries. Your support in the hundreds of thousands of dollars helped alleviate the dire need of the poor in some of our Asian Oblate missions. This financial support was not for medical supplies, but to assist families whose income of just \$2 or \$3 a day had been decimated. This Oblate response was the equivalent of assisting with our Job keeper program that these people would never have access to for survival. Another important aspect of our Association is the formation of Oblate students for the priesthood here in Australia and our overseas missions so local Oblates can help and support their people.

We, the Oblates are profoundly grateful to you for your continued help and support to the Oblate Missionaries in their efforts to answer our common call to poor missions and our brothers and sisters in need. Your generosity enables the disadvantaged of our missions to 'step up' out of their poverty and restore their belief in their personal dignity. I too believe that the Spirit of God is all about love, respect, recognizing another's human dignity, caring for his children through us, their fellow brothers, and sisters in Christ.



Fr David with his grandma

It is a great privilege and honour to be a MAMI director. I appreciate your continued prayers, assistance, financial support through which we can bring a miracle in the lives of the poor and needy. Please pray for me, as I continue to remember you in my prayers, especially at the Altar of God. Please keep smiling and be safe. God bless you abundantly!

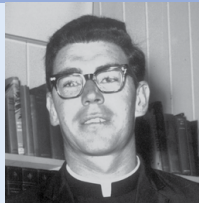
Fr David Francis OMI

WE REMEMBER

Fr. Bernard Maurice O'Brien OMI



Bernard Maurice O'Brien was born on 12 December 1937 in Melbourne and educated by the Christian Brothers at Brunswick and North Melbourne. He has a sister who is a Sister of Mercy. He joined the Oblates at Sorrento in 1955 and was sent to study at Cedara, South Africa. He was ordained in Durban on 3rd February 1962.



His first obedience was to the teaching staff at Iona College from 1963–1977 followed by 5 years teaching at Mazenod College, Lesmurdie.

His first parish ministry was 1983–84, assisting at St Paul's, Massey, New Zealand, then 6 years as parish priest at St Michael's, North Melbourne. He spent the first 4 months of 1991 doing Rosies street ministry on the Gold Coast, then his next ministries were assisting at Dernancourt, April 1991–95, Tea Tree Gully 1996–2000 and St John Vianney's 2001–04. From 2005 to 2014 he ministered at Moe, the first 4 years as an assistant, then as the parish priest.

Early in 2014 he moved to Sorrento to assist, but his health deteriorated and in October 2018 he retired to Camberwell and he moved the next month to aged care at East Hawthorn.

In January 2021 his health deteriorated further and he died on 16 January at Cabrini Palliative Care, Prahran. He was buried in the Oblate plot at Springvale on January 21, following a funeral at St John Vianney's.

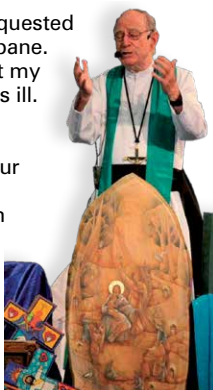
He was a warm, friendly, pastoral priest, able to use his own sensitivities to connect with people on the fringes very effectively.

Hello from Fr Sherman OMI

MAMI in 2020 for me was a year of farewells. Fr. David Francis OMI, the Director of MAMI requests 'I write a few words letting people know what 2021 is looking like for me'.

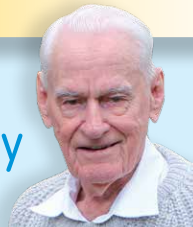
For family reasons, I requested an appointment in Brisbane. Each week I try to meet my sister whose husband is ill. It is indeed a blessing.

My appointment is to our Burpengary Oblate Community as Chaplain to St Eugene's College and Assistant Priest in the Parish, while continuing as Oblate Coordinator of Vocations.



90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Fr. Vincent McGillicuddy OMI



On December 21, 2020, Fr. Vincent McGillicuddy OMI celebrated his 90th Birthday. While strictly observing the COVID-19 restrictions, the local Oblate community and the Parishes in Partnership of Moe and Newborough offered a thanksgiving Mass at St Kieran's, Moe. The venerable Birthday Boy presided over the Mass and preached with the vigour which could challenge many of his younger confreres. He acknowledged and praised God for the many blessings he received. He particularly dwelled on the graces which came into his life through his fellow Oblates and many good people he met in his life. The simple and faith filled reflection of Fr. Vin resonated with the attendees of the Mass who kept nodding and smiling at him. The Fourth Sunday of Advent provided the Gospel passage about St Joseph listening with faith to the voice of God and following it. The faith communities in the Latrobe Valley have been truly blessed having Fr. Vincent.



Fr. Austin Cooper OMI

Fr. Austin Cooper turned 90 on 14th January, reminiscing about all his warm memories. He was in his hometown Sorrento for holidays at the time. While he

was on holidays, he celebrated Sunday Mass at St. Thomas Church, Portsea in the Sorrento parish. On his birthday, he celebrated Mass at St Mary's Sorrento where he was baptized. Some of his friends gathered and visited after the Holy Mass. Fr. Austin is a professor at the Catholic Theological College / University of Divinity where he teaches Church History and Christian Spirituality.

The college and parish communities are in a developing area north of Brisbane. Both communities are dynamic and missionary. They strive to be one community inspired by the missionary charism of St Eugene de Mazenod who is their patron. The challenges facing the Church in Australia are also our challenges. I sense in this community, the will to take up these challenges strengthened by the Presence of the Risen Jesus among us, particularly in the Eucharist.

My other ministry as Coordinator of Vocations frustrates me. There are so many wonderful people whom I believe the Lord is calling to be Priests and/or Religious. We just need more of us to identify them and encourage them to respond to their CALL.

To all of you whose Faith I admire, I say 'Let us pray for each other, as we endeavour to be Christ's witness in the world today.'

Like St. Joseph, Fr. Vincent persistently follows the call of Jesus which brought him to the OMI. The grateful and adaptable parishioners organised a BIG birthday cake and ninety candles which Fr. Vincent blew out easily at the end of the Mass (no one was surprised that he did it).



As the COVID-19 restrictions did not allow us to have a social gathering the cake was quickly cut so that the parishioners could take a piece as they were leaving after the Mass.

Later in the day, the Gippsland Oblates went on a community excursion to the town of Walhalla in the Great Divine Range to enjoy a country dinner and magnificent scenery. After dinner a stroll through the steep streets of the old gold-mining town saw the younger members of the community struggling to keep pace with Fr. Vin. Keep on keeping up Fr. Vin!

Fr Daniel Szewc OMI

Happy Birthday to Fr. Vincent McGillicuddy OMI and Fr. Austin Cooper OMI

Some of our Oblate brethren are prone to remind those of us of advanced years that today 80 plus years is really, according to current accounting philosophy, equivalent to what was formerly a mere 60 years. Most of us accept this piece of self-deception as it feeds our happy and welcome delusions! But what about the fortunate few who have either the blessing or the temerity to be nonagenarians and for whom the eighties are fast becoming a distant memory?

Some years ago, an American periodical *The Gerontologist* published an article outlining the advantages of advancing age, and of all its insights, the one that best took my fancy was the proposition that advancing years presaged a drop in one's inclination to criminal activity. I think that far outweighs the other advantages such as making better decisions and even the possibility of being less impulsive. Such considerations are important to our Oblate community life when we confront the fact that two of our esteemed brothers and colleagues, Fr. Vincent McGillicuddy OMI and Fr. Austin Cooper OMI have very recently celebrated their 90th birthday! I am delighted to report that, to our vast relief they have happily borne out the findings of the learned researchers at *The Gerontologist*!!

We are delighted to congratulate Fr. Vincent and Fr. Austin and not only wish them well but to express our thanks and admiration for their long, faithful and on-going ministry as priests and Oblates... from all of us... Ad Multos Annos.

Fr Patrick Moroney OMI

OBLATE DAY

Oblate Day: February 17 – Anniversary of the papal approval of our Congregation.



Every year on the 17th of February the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate give thanks to God for the gift of their Oblate vocation in the Church. The

anniversary recalls that day of 17th of February 1826 when Pope Leo XII approved the Constitutions and Rules of the Religious Family founded by St. Eugene de Mazenod ten years earlier. The papal approval, which came at the conclusion of the Holy Jubilee of 1825, proved to be a blessing not only for the Oblate Congregation but also for the whole Church.



St. Eugene and his Oblates received a Church guarantee that their Institute was divinely inspired. The Oblate Founder did not doubt that, but he was tormenting himself that he would not be able to convince the Pope. The grace of courage to go to Rome to seek the Pope's approval came to Eugene from the most unexpected source. It was a young and quiet Oblate, Fr. Charles Albini, who, at a community meeting, for the first, and most likely the last time, stood up and faced his Superior General, Eugene de Mazenod. Fr. Albini took Eugene firmly by the shoulders, squeezed hard with his both hands and said: 'Go to Rome, Father, go!' There and then it was decided that Eugene would make his way to the Eternal City to request that the small Provençal Congregation of the Missionaries be approved by the Holy Father.

The whole Church also benefited from the approval. Firstly, the evangelising charism treasured and shared by St. Eugene and his first companions could now be spread across the world. Some ninety years later Pope Pius XI described the Missionaries approved by his predecessor as 'specialists in difficult missions.' Secondly, the Church, which had resisted approving new religious congregations for 25 years, rediscovered that the Holy Spirit was still at work raising new charisms within the Catholic Community. The approval of the OMI was a powerful and much-needed grace that crowned

the Holy Jubilee of 1825. In fact, the following decades of the nineteenth century saw an abundance of new religious congregations, both female and male, which responded in a fresh way to the new needs of the Church and the wider society. Those new congregations, for whom approval of the Oblates blazed a trail, also reassured the Church in her missionary identity by bearing witness to the continuous active presence of the Holy Spirit.

It must have been the Holy Spirit who inspired Leo XII and his advisors to detect God's grace needed for the whole Church in the small but vibrant community of 30 Missionaries. Even today the number would not qualify any congregation for Papal approval. That is why on the 18th of February Eugene de Mazenod wrote to his close friend and co-operator Fr. Tempier: "Everyone is stupefied at this... They are surprised by the unanimous agreement of views (of Pope's advisors) and especially with the imperturbable resolution of the Holy Father."

Remembering those events, we, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate at this 195th Anniversary of the Approval of our charism in the Church, say with gratitude and conviction: Praised be Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate!

Fr Daniel Szwec OMI

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 complete the donation form on the right and mail to us. Or donate online by following the below steps.

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.

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**

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** which includes your name, postal address, EFT transfer details and Intention.

Send to: **MAMI Office**
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Camberwell Vic 3124

Name			
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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 \$ _____

One 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.

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

Comments/intention: _____

FROM THE MISSIONS



Message from Fr Charlie, Indonesia

Just to let you see what Santa gave me for Christmas this year. Santa was not late, but I am.

When I was very small (still small) as a kid back in Ireland, my father knew how I was very fond of animals, particularly monkeys. He went to a pet shop, but the owner told him that monkeys were dangerous pets for children. So, on Christmas Eve – under the Christmas tree he made a barn and grass field and put cows, sheep, horses, pigs, etc. on the grass and with a piece of a broken mirror, a lake with swans and ducks ‘swimming’ on the lake. That was one of many “Happy Christmas” we had.

Hope you all had a Happy Christmas and now a blessed New Year.

Fr Charlie Burrows OMI



Prison Ministry update – Langata Women’s Maximum Security, Nairobi

By
Fr Fidel Munkiele OMI

Letter from ‘Margaret’ to Fr Fidel in his Prison Ministry here in Nairobi:

Dear Father, I thank you very much for the gift you gave to our teachers. Since I came to Langata Prison I have never experienced such kindness. Am glad that you have started my journey as a reformed and determined woman in Christ. May God continue to make you a blessing to many, not only in material things but also through the Word of God. May God shine His grace upon you and bless your kind heart. Keep well Father. Margaret



Letter to Fr Fidele Munkiele OMI
28th September, 2020

Dear Father
I thank you very much for the gift you gave through our teachers. Since I came to Langata prison I have never experienced such kindness. Am glad that you have started my journey as a reformed and determined woman in Christ. May God continue to make you a blessing to many, not only in material things but also through the word of God. May God shine his grace upon you and bless your kind heart. Keep well Father.
Margaret Kazini

Asia Oceania Regional Council Gathering on Mission with Youth

On the 21–22 November, representatives from all across the region came together for the Asia-Oceania Regional Council (AORC) Gathering on Mission with Youth. Over the two days, representatives from Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam had the opportunity to explore the Congregation’s Vision and Mission Document for Mission with Youth and develop an AORC network for Mission with Youth.

Originally planned to be held in Hong Kong in January 2020, it was postponed to August 2020. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 and restrictions on travel, the gathering moved to an online format. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as more representatives were able to attend. The gathering began with prayer before each of the Units had a chance to share and introduce the work they are doing with the youth in their Unit. The rest of the gathering was spent exploring and discerning the Vision and Mission Document. Each session began with a short video presentation that introduced the 3 goals of the Vision and Mission, which was then followed by each Unit spending time discussing and exploring each goal and how it applies to their youth ministry. Units were asked to look at what they are currently doing in their mission with youth, what they are doing well, what could be improved and to come up with some new ideas or actions to implement in the future. After each Unit session, there was an opportunity to share with the whole region. Hearing from each Unit was very insightful and showed that many of the challenges we face in our mission with youth are universal and not just specific to our own Units.

The AORC Gathering on Mission with Youth was an incredible opportunity for the region to come together and share, forming new connections and strengthening old ones. Although we are from many different countries and cultures, we are united in our passion for the work we do with the young people in our region.

Emma Rice



Blast from the Past...

Fr. Austin Cooper’s date with destiny...



It all began in 1937, when Fr. Michael Sweeney was appointed the official General Visitor to Australia by the Oblate Superior General, Fr. Theodore Laboure. It was in this capacity that Fr. Sweeney made a Canonical Visitation to the Oblate community in Sorrento in September 1937 which also included visiting the neighbouring St Joseph’s Primary School where he was photographed sitting directly behind one of the students, Austin Cooper (circled). Also in the photo is Fr. Tom Haugh, seated third from the left, and Fr. William Byrne standing at the back. In January this year, Fr. Austin Cooper celebrated his 90th Birthday.

Upcoming Events

The hope of St Eugene to create the “most united family” is embodied within the De Mazenod Family – which enfolds all those in schools, parishes, overseas missions, youth and outreach ministries, as well as those who simply relate to the De Mazenod charism.



The De Mazenod Family vision is to create a space in which, together, we can enrich our faith journey through the charism of St Eugene de Mazenod. As our mission, we seek to be formed in the knowledge and understanding of the charism of St Eugene and build a united family that identifies with this charism. As a family, we then reach out in solidarity and friendship to the abandoned and neglected in our local communities and beyond, and we celebrate being family.

The De Mazenod Family team was busy over the COVID lockdown period to maintain an online connection as an extended family. Of particular note among our activities was the Gathering 2.0, which involved over 100 participants connected with the OMs, gathering to form a community, and be informed of the broader vision for the De Mazenod Family. The regular online prayer programs of last year will continue into 2021, beginning with the upcoming Lenten Prayer Program.

For updates of activities and resources, sign up to our email list for the fortnightly newsletter ‘De Mazenod Family Chat’ <https://bit.ly/DFMchat>. Backdated issues: <https://sites.google.com/view/demazenodfamily/family-chat-catalogue>

Nimmi Candappa



Wishing all the best to our St. Mary’s Seminarians as they begin their classes. A special welcome to Fr. David Francis OMI, Assistant Formator to St. Mary’s community.



PRE-ENCOUNTER 2021

As with much of 2020, the National Oblate Youth Encounter had to be postponed this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, but that didn’t stop over 60 young people from Oblate Youth Australia from gathering online for Pre-Encounter. Held on Sunday 10th January, young people logged into zoom to come together to break open the theme of this year’s NOYE – ‘Created in the Image and Likeness of God’.



We heard reflections from some of the young people and had discussions on what being created in the image of God means for us personally, what it meant for St Eugene and what it means for us as a community of young people. We also had time to reflect on 2020 and some of the lessons we learned about ourselves amidst all the challenges the year presented.

Although we couldn’t meet together physically, it was great to be able to catch up online during a time we would all usually be together at camp. We all continue to pray and look forward to hopefully holding the National Oblate Youth Encounter later in the year.

Emma Rice



Vocations

My Summer pastoral ministry at St. Kieran’s Parish. Normally, after finishing the end of the school year, Seminarians of St. Mary’s Scholasticate are sent to Oblate missions for their pastoral experience. I was asked to go to St. Kieran’s parish, Moe. I had a wonderful time with the Oblates in the mission. They were so kind and hospitable. During this Pandemic, the parishioners were longing to celebrate Christmas. I learned during this time how to be very close to the people spiritually despite the COVID-19 restrictions, especially through my prayers. Time does not change; however, many events are changed to follow the restrictions of the COVID-19. Through those difficult situations, Oblates at St. Kieran’s Parish, in the Diocese of Sale taught me how Oblates can live and practice the Oblate Charism by following the Constitutions and Rules that ‘create anew in our own lives the Apostles’ unity with him and their common mission in his Spirit.’ In the end, the restriction of COVID-19 still continues to prevent people from gathering in the church, however, God always helps us to create new ways of bringing God to everyone and everyone to God.

Br Luan Ha

Thank you, Sorrento Parish

During this trying time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual MAMI appeal conducted by Fr. David Francis OMI, Fr. Harry Dyer OMI and Fr. Austin Cooper OMI received lots of support from Fr. John McGinty OMI, Fr. Bill Ousley OMI, parishioners and visitors.

We are deeply indebted to God for His providential care, unconditional love, and generous support constantly shown to us through our beloved MAMI members to support Oblate Missions, Oblate Formation and Oblate Life in Australia and all over the world.



Frs. Harry, Bill, John, David.



Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

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Eucharist - the heart of our Mission.

Rosies team

Bishop Mark OMI on Ash Wednesday - Iona College

Fr. Irek OMI - China

Baptism - our journey of faith begins

Br. Peter's final vows

Fr. Gerry OMI - in Kenya

Fr. Charlie OMI - in Indonesia

CALLED TO SERVE!

We are all called by God to make this world better. The Oblate Mission may be calling YOU.

If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a Priest or Brother as a Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, www.oblates.com.au/vocations will be helpful. Fr John Sherman OMI, the Oblate Vocations Coordinator, can be contacted at jsherman@oblates.com.au or phone **0418825701**. The 'Oblates' are Priests and Brothers who live, pray and work as a team.

THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Besides missioning in Parishes and Colleges, the Oblates serve in Hospitals, Prisons, Rosies Youth Missions and Universities and where they find the greatest spiritual need.

Australian Oblates are also working in China, Indonesia, Kenya and Zimbabwe and support other Oblates missions in some 65 countries.