



Pallottine Family (UAC)

NEWSLETTER

July 2021

Mariana is a Community of women, founded in Melbourne, Australia in 1957. Inspired by the discipleship of Mary, Vincent Pallotti and others we strive to live lives of love in and for the world. Saint Vincent called us to "Respond to the needs of our times." A very obvious need in Australia is to respond to the needs of Asylum Seekers who, having fled their countries, continue to experience great difficulty when arriving in Australia due to our government's harsh restrictions on refugees seeking asylum.

Recognising the obvious needs of Asylum Seekers, we in the Mariana Community, working with the Brigidine Asylums Seekers Project, support their project financially and offer weekends at our community home in the beautiful countryside of Millgrove in Victoria. These weekends are times of fun, sharing, love and joy. The time is relatively

short and yet for the families to be able to leave the city and experience our beautiful countryside is a wonder for them. So many stories are told: The man walking up the road with a cup of coffee on a Sunday morning. He said "this is what I used to do at home and I did not think that would ever happen again"; A married couple holding hands and running, laughing up a path. Later they said that they did not know whether they could still run and had not experienced such space and freedom for many years; Children running freely around the house and up the road and being in awe at seeing cows, sheep, goats and alpacas grazing in paddocks.

Pope Francis has called us to "see a ray of hope in the eyes and hearts of refugees" on these weekends we see this "ray of hope" and it is hope. Their future in Australia is so uncertain, but for a weekend at least some of their concerns can be put to the back of their minds for a while. We who are with them are the ones who gain so much, the sharing of life stories, the friendships that can be developed along with the wonderful food the women (and men with the barbeque) prepare for us. Yes Pope Francis we "can and must all nourish this hope."

Cheryl Sullivan for Mariana Community.



"I would like to ask you all to see a ray of hope as well in the eyes and hearts of refugees and of those who have been forcibly displaced. A hope that is expressed in expectations for the future, in the desire for friendship, in the wish to participate in the host society also through learning the language, access to employment and the education of children. I admire the courage of those who hope to be able gradually to resume a normal life, waiting for joy and love to return to brighten their existence. We can and must all nourish this hope!"

~ POPE FRANCIS



Child Safety

Child Safety is of vital concern. The UAC has a child safety team working to ensure safety for all who have contact with our apostolates. If you have any concerns regarding the safety of children within our UAC/Pallottine Family, please contact our UAC Designated Persons for the protection of minors - Denise Carl at dcarl@bigpond.net.au or David Carl at merriwa2000@gmail.com

Eruption Of Volcano In Goma - The Democratic Republic Of Congo And Its Impact On The Flamme D'amour Orphanage In Keshero

Over the last few years you would have read of the Flame D'Amour Orphanage in Keshero and our undertaking to assist the orphanage with: donations towards their cost of food, purchase of animals to provide more protein in the children's diet and recently enabling the orphanage to link into the mains water system. Indeed many of you have given generously to this endeavour.

This article is to provide you with an overview of the impact to the orphanage after the recent volcanic eruption in Goma on May 25, 2021. Keshero is a suburb of Goma. Following the volcano we asked the orphanage to provide us with a report on the impact the volcano had on them. The following is a brief overview of the report received. From the broad perspective, seismic tremors continued for several days following the volcano and lava flow, ash and gas as well as multiple earthquakes destroyed homes, hospitals, schools and essential services. Children have been separated from parents, and women and girls have no shelter and are at a high risk of gender based violence. Access to food has been disrupted resulting in an increase in the price of food. An example given was of a bowl of beans increasing by 17.6% and a kilogram of apples by 20%. The water supply has been damaged resulting in the risk of many diseases, including cholera.

Specific impacts on the Flame d'Amour orphanage has been:

The increase in the number of children being cared for.

Fifteen of the displaced children have been welcomed while attempts are made to reunite them with their parents. While having an increase in the number of children to care for and the increased price of food, no assistance is offered to the orphanage. The report noted "we ask people of good will to come to our aid during these very difficult times."



Lack of medical supplies

The orphanages stock of drugs are exhausted. Toxins released by the volcano have impacted on the children (and the rest of the population) resulting in coughs, fevers, skin irritations etc.

Education

The schools are currently closed. It is anticipated that when they reopen there will be an increased demand for school fees and while the orphanage has paid for the first quarter for 2021 they need a further \$7,600 (US) to pay for the remainder of the year.

As I noted at the beginning, many of you have generously donated to the orphanage in the past and thank you for that. Perhaps for others this is something you have been meaning to do. If you are able to assist, your donation would be greatly appreciated, no matter how small.

The bank details are: **UAC Keshero Project 083-347 (NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK LIMITED) 439222523**

DATE SAVER – AN OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER FOR A BARBEQUE – SOCIALISE WITH OLD FRIENDS AND HEAR MORE ABOUT KESHERO – DATE: SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER, TIME: 1.00pm. VENUE: 85 STUDLEY PARK ROAD KEW.

Cheryl Sullivan – on behalf of the UAC ARM Committee.

40th Anniversary for Mary Whiting in the Mariana Community way of life.

Family and friends gathered with her on Easter Monday to celebrate Mary's 40 years of commitment to the Mariana way of life, at St. Oliver Plunkett Parish, Pascoe Vale, followed by a luncheon at her family home.

Fr. Dean Bradbury sac was the Presider at a very beautiful Eucharist. Mary's 99-year-old Father, Reg, was delighted to be able to accompany Mary at this celebration.

During the Mass, Mary shared her reflections on the Readings in light of her journey thus far. I am including the following 2 excerpts from the reflections because they have stayed with me, and I think they maybe of interest to the readers of this article too.

1. "During this past Lent I've been reflecting on my life, through an online Retreat for the past two weeks of Lent. It was beautiful. The first song on the Retreat alluded to the Desert, and immediately I was sitting at the Balgo Pound looking out over that wide open space; for me, such a wonderful enriching time and place. And so, I journeyed back in time and forward in time seeing how my Creator God has led me. And like Mary Magdalen in the Gospel reading, there have been times when what I am looking for is right in front of my eyes, but I don't see!

I used to wonder why Mary could look at Jesus and not know him after spending so much time with him. She was looking for Jesus, who was standing right in front of her! It was when Jesus said her name that she knew, at a deep heart level.

How do I know? Do I listen as well as look? Is there something that touches you deeply?"

2. "Gradually I have learnt 'to Be'. Deepening my 'I AM' is my ongoing journey, as I still worry about things and how they will turn out, or how things 'should' be. As Vincent says: 'Seek God in all things and you will find God in all things.' 'Breathe God in, breathe God out.' Listen for your name. Let there be Light."

Thursday of Easter week Mariana members participated in an 'Earth Liturgy' in honour of Mary, prepared by Margaret O'Neill and Cheryl Sullivan, at 'Oak Maree', Millgrove. It was particularly beautiful. This was followed by a very special meal coordinated by Cheryl.

Our love and thanks for all that you are and all that you do, Mary, keep celebrating!





St. Christopher's Primary School

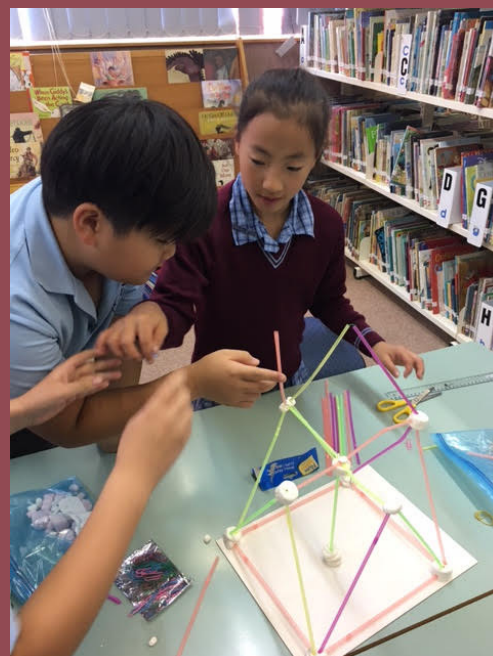
St Christopher's Primary School is a small multicultural community in Glen Waverley, in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne. St. Christopher's Parish has been in the care of the Pallotines since 1961. Since then the school has been blessed to have the support of wonderful Parish Priests, including Fr Ralph Besterwitch, the current Parish Priest and his predecessor Fr Patrick Jackson.

St. Christopher's was recently the top performing Catholic primary school in Melbourne (NAPLAN), 2019. Teachers have been working hard to personalise learning and challenge students at their point of need. Staff have also taken part in professional learning that has helped them to teach Mathematics and Science. Teachers try to make lessons engaging by encouraging problem solving, and collaboration.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic last year, our school was part of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) collective organised by Avila College in Mount Waverley. This program involved staff and Year 10 students from Avila mentoring students in Year 4 at St. Christopher's. One of the aims of the program was to help ensure that the profile of STEM is visible and valued. The program took place over a number of weeks each year and culminated in the sharing of group projects with students, parents and friends.

Students have completed a lot of hands on, team based activities as demonstrated by these photos. Each activity followed a specific process and required students to plan their constructions and make predictions. A lot of learning took place when students were asked to refine their projects and explain the improvements made.

Shane Davoren, Principal



In teams, students made a structure from straws and marshmallows that had to meet specific criteria.



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St Christopher's Parish, Syndal

Grateful for the Past, Present & Future

This year St Christopher's Parish celebrates its Diamond Jubilee (1961 – 2021). For 60 years, our Parish has been in the care of the Pallottines and we have had 4 wonderful shepherds; the late Fr John Hennessy, Fr John Flynn, Fr Patrick Jackson and currently Fr Ralph Besterwitch.

In the beginning, Masses were celebrated in the school hall, but by the grace of God and the generosity of the Parish community, the church was built. It served us well for many years. As the community grew and the Parish became more vibrant, the need to upgrade the church became apparent. After much discussion and consultation, the bold decision to commence the upgrade was taken in August 2019. God's timing is always perfect ... the completion of the upgrade has coincided with the Diamond Jubilee of the Parish!

We are excited to utilise the facilities to grow our Parish further and to reach out to those in need, which is in line with our Parish Vision. To realise our Parish Vision, we have also embarked on a Parish Renewal Journey. We have re-structured our Leadership team, re-organised Youth and Children's Ministries, continued to run ALPHA, revamped the Hospitality Ministry, emphasised Faith Formation and are working on other strategies.

Over the years the demographics of the Parish have changed considerably; we have become a culturally diverse community. But amidst this diversity, we have maintained the Pallottine spirit of collaboration and are able to work and worship in unity.

We look to the future with hope, trusting that God will continue to watch over us and that His Spirit will inspire and guide us!

Mary Tan



A Grant for Indigo Hurleigh-Craig



Indigo Hurleigh-Craig met the Pallottine family and we met her when she applied for and received a grant from the Saint Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust.

Thank you for telling us a little about yourself and your hopes for the future. Indigo writes: t6

At the moment though, I am studying for a Diploma of Theology at Notre Dame, and I am finding it both challenging and very rewarding. My plan when I graduate is to be a chaplain. However, I've always found that life tends to happen while you're making other plans. So, I am open to see where the diploma leads me in the future. I'm also interested in doing further study and possibly even getting my bachelors.

But the first thing everyone always asks me about myself is where I'm from. I have a strange accent that normally sounds American or Canadian, but really I'm just an ordinary Australian. I was born in Victoria, grew up in Queensland and then moved over to Western Australia late in high school and have been here ever since. I've never even been to the US, but I'd like to travel there eventually. The reason I have the accent, as I tell everyone jokingly, is entirely my Mom's fault, she's American so I just kind of picked it up from her.

For now though, I'm happy to keep moving forward one step at a time to see where God leads me. I have been very fortunate and I am very grateful that so far I've received a lot of support in this endeavour, including receiving the SVPST and the Barry J. Hickey Biblical scholarship to help me pay for my studies. It is my hope that in the future I will be able to pay for the good graces I've received in some way.



In this time of living with the unexpected, the Mariana Community invites you to take some time out to be in nature and welcome spring.

WHEN: Friday 17 September 2021, arrival from 4.30 p.m. – starting at 6.30 p.m. Returning home after lunch on Sunday 19 September 2021

WHERE: OAK MAREE. 5 McNamara's Rd Millgrove

THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR: GUIDED MEDITATION, PRAYER AND SHARING WITHIN THE GROUP AND PERSONAL TIME TO REFLECT, WALK, MEDITATE, GO OUT FOR A COFFEE – WHATEVER YOUR INNER SPIRIT IS CALLING YOU TO "IN THE MOMENT"

Want to know more or to book?

Contact – Cheryl Sullivan: (03) 9416 7138, 0417 386 706 or cherylsullivan11@bigpond.com

Cost \$60 per day

All meals provided with a "help yourself" breakfast.

Bringing nibbles and some drink to share is always welcome

Let us be protectors of Creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in Nature, protectors of one another and of the environment. (Pope Francis – Laudato Si)

COVID 19 INDIA APPEAL - CAN YOU HELP?

At our recent NCC meeting we discussed the tragic events happening in India, and if there was anything we could do. Apart from letting them know that they are in our prayers, we decided as an NCC to send a donation of \$1,000 to the NCC in India. This can be used for medical supplies or whatever is the most urgent need at the time.

Can you help? I extend an invitation to any of our readers to add to this amount by using the UAC bank account. Please put India in the details. We will transfer all donations received by the 20th of July 2021.

Account: Name Union of Catholic Apostolate

BSB: 083 – 347

Account number: 569130037

Thanking you in anticipation and please continue to pray for all those deeply affected by this pandemic.

Mary Whiting UAC President.

— Calendar —

Pallottine Cenacle Prayer Melbourne:

| | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|-------------|
| Thurs | 22/07 | 7.30pm | Sth Clayton |
| Sun | 22/08 | tba | venue tba |
| Wed | 22/09 | 7.30pm | venue tba |

For information: Anne Dowling 0429 869 457, Merle Gilbo 0409 964 899

Pallottine Cenacle Prayer Perth:

Venue, always, St. Vincent Pallotti, Chapel, Rossmoyne Time, 7 pm
The fourth Thursday of every month (except December)
So----July, 25th; August, 26th, September, 30th, October, 28th, November, 25th

For information: Tricia 0431 017 484, Fr. Ray 0427 776 934

COMING EVENTS

Mark in your diary **NOW**, More information **LATER**

The **2020 WALTER SILVESTER LECTURE** was one of the many victims of the Covid virus, scheduled as it was during the long lock down in Melbourne. However, the committee has been working towards a lecture this year.

The Date: Tuesday, 26th October.

Location: Australian Catholic University, Fitzroy

The speaker has been arranged and details of our second speaker are being confirmed.

The September newsletter will have all the details! .

The **RETREAT DAY and RENEWAL OF ACT OF APOSTOLATE COMMITMENT**

The Date: Saturday 30th October

Location: To be confirmed.

Time: To be confirmed.

KESHERO FUND RAISER

The Date: Saturday 26th November

Location: 85 Studley Park Rd, Kew

Time: 1pm

POSTPONEMENT OF AUSTRALIAN UAC CONGRESS

9th – 12th SEPTEMBER 2021

It is with disappointment we advise that the UAC National Co-ordination Council have made the decision to postpone the UAC Congress planned for September this year.

We continue to live in a time of uncertainty regarding COVID 19 and want the Congress to be an occasion when we can be together physically and share our thoughts, wishes, dreams and practical actions for the ongoing growth of Vincent Pallotti's charism in Australia.

We are now planning for the Congress around May 2022, so be on the lookout for more information in future newsletters. We are looking forward to seeing you all then as we gather at Pallotti College.

Cheryl Sullivan

On behalf of the NCC and Congress Planning Committee.



Have you looked at the Pallottine website recently? Someone mentioned having a problem accessing it but it should be available so keep trying—Pallottines.org.au However, it is scheduled for an 'update' soon so 'watch this space' for the latest news.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER

Please Remember That The CBA Account Has Now Been Closed.

Thank You To Those Who Have Sent Contributions And Will Continue To Do So To Our Current Account:

NAB (National Australia Bank)

BSB 083 347

Account No. 569130037

ALSO: PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME SO WE CAN RECORD YOUR CONTRIBUTION.

Pallottine Family UAC Newsletter

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www.Pallottine.org.au