



# Pallottine Family (UAC)

## NEWSLETTER *December 2021*

### Pallottine Advent Program 2021

The Charism given to St Vincent Pallotti all those years ago remains extremely relevant in our world today. So it should be, gifts from the Holy Spirit don't go out of fashion or become stale, on the other hand we do, and therefore need to brush up on our commitment to the Apostolate, from time to time.

Fr. Pat's world famous Advent programme is scheduled to run again this year. The programme is Covid immune and both face to face and Zoom friendly.

The four sessions will be held weekly, starting in the week beginning 21st November 2021, and will break open the readings for each Sunday of Advent and relate them to our Pallottine Charism.



*Face to face sessions have been planned as follows:*

Venue	Day and Time
St Christopher's Syndal	Mondays 7:30pm Starting 22nd November
Holy Saviour Glen Waverley	To be advised
St Kevin's & St Patrick's Murrumbena	To be advised
St Anthony's Glen Huntly	Tuesdays 7:00pm Starting 23rd November
Ss Peter and Paul Doncaster East	Tuesdays at 10am

*Zoom sessions have been planned as follows:*

Venue	Day and Time
Our Lady of the Pines Donvale	Wednesdays at 7:30pm

If you would like to run the programme in your own parish or with your own prayer group, contact Steve Kay on [skay@bigpond.net.au](mailto:skay@bigpond.net.au) to receive a virtual copy of the four sessions.

If you would like to be invited to the Zoom session, please email Steve, at the above address, and you will be sent an invitation.

### REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER

For the last two years, the Coronavirus has thwarted our attempts to meet, face to face for the November Cenacle Prayer, the one in which we DO remember, in a special way, those who have lived with us, loved us and have gone before us into eternity. Hopefully November 2021 will be different. We hope so and invite you to be with us:

**Monday, 22nd November, 7.30-8.30 pm**  
**85 Studley Park Rd. Kew**

# World Day of Migrants and Refugees

On September 26 we celebrated the World Day of Migrants and Refugees and were encouraged by Pope Francis to work together to reach out to refugees and asylum seekers and give them hope of a better future. In tune with this exhortation, since earlier this year the ARM group and the Mariana Community within the Pallottine Family have been focused on finding ways of helping refugees already living in our country. You will remember that Cheryl wrote in the July Newsletter about the action that the Mariana community have undertaken offering weekend 'get-aways' to migrant families.

During the week following September 26, members of the ARM group became aware of another group called Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA), who are responding to another urgent need in the plight of the people of Afghanistan following the recent catastrophic events in their country. They are raising awareness of the fact that there are already at least 5,000 Afghani asylum seekers living in Australia, some of whom have been here for up to 10 years, and many more who are now seeking to come to Australia because of the threat of persecution and torture or even death under the Taliban regime in their country. Also, aware that the Australian government has done little to help these people, they have begun a campaign to influence our government to change some of their policies and show compassion to these people urgently seeking asylum in Australia.

Members of the ARM group have already joined this campaign by CAPSA to petition our local members of federal parliament, the relevant ministers and the Prime Minister. There are a number of reasons that the government should act immediately to respond to the current crisis. Firstly, the Afghani asylum seekers already mentioned, who have been in Australia for a considerable number of years, feel very insecure because they



are still only on temporary protection visas and many of their families still in Afghanistan are now in imminent danger of persecution or death at the hands of the Taliban. Secondly, there are many other ethnic and religious groups in Afghanistan who are also in danger and seeking asylum in our country.

For these reasons the CAPSA campaign is requesting the Australian Government to assist these people in three ways:

- By granting permanent visas to the 5000 Afghani refugees already here,
- By allowing the families of these people to come to Australia on family reunion visas,
- By increasing the number of places available to other Afghani asylum seekers from 3,000 to 20,000.

On behalf of the ARM group and in response to the words of Pope Francis, I urge you to visit the CAPSA website to learn more about their campaign, discover the reasons why the need is so urgent and join the campaign in whatever way you can. You can do this by entering [capsa.org.au](http://capsa.org.au) into your Google search and then finding the Action for Afghanistan Campaign heading.

*Marnie Ryan on behalf of the UAC ARM group*

# Pallotti College Newsletter Report



As I write this report, I am quietly positive about Pallotti College starting to take guests again after 5 months of lockdown. We all thought last year was hard, but this year has proved to be even harder as we did not have much time to try to build up again our reserves again between the two big lockdowns. Notwithstanding this, we are all looking to starting up anew, fully vaccinated and COVID safe!

During the lockdowns we haven't been idle.

- We have been able to use our place and Marjorie Maria Cove for four families in distress due to homelessness for various reasons.
- Dean has continued with online masses which have been a great way for people to not only attend mass but continue and build an online community. Before mass is often a real catch-up time! He also continued his chaplaincy support duties online at MLMC.
- There has been great work done outside in the garden and farm by Michael and Terry with David as well – we are looking forward to you being able to see the improvements.
- We have welcomed a couple of new little calves to our Highland family.
- We have welcomed Tad Zagorski onto the team again – it's a return and a very welcome one. Tad has such enthusiasm and knowledge to share and some great ideas for projects to enhance the property. Also the ragwort must be shaking in its boots!!
- Inside we have done some team room improvements and started the Nissl kitchen update. You might see it not quite finished due to funds and hold ups (still in need of new flooring, lights and ceiling) when you come but it will be functional, and you will be able to see the vision of the future.



The memorial for Bill (first arranged for last year!) is going ahead on Sunday 21st November at Pallotti – Mass followed by lunch. Depending on the restrictions, it will be sit down or more informal lunch but we will need you to let us know that you are coming (plus your vaccine status) by 12th November by email – [admin@pallotticollege.com.au](mailto:admin@pallotticollege.com.au) or phone 59662585 / 0407324224. Hope to have you join us – it will also be a celebration of the starting again – a new future! If you are not able to join us on the day, there will be a zoom link – contact the college for the link.

**Christmas Mass & supper –  
Christmas Eve, 24th December  
8:30pm. All welcome.**

Going forward, despite missing Bill's welcoming and open presence, we will hope to welcome people and give them a place of rest, relaxation, quiet and peace as always so that they can feel the presence and love of God through us. ***Pallotti in action we hope.***

**One year on...**

Sunday 21 November  
11.30am Mass  
Followed by lunch

RSVP 12 November  
Mary Anne: 0419 352 217

# PALLOTINE FAMILY FEAST DAY

## 22/01/2022

### Feast Day Eucharist & Annual Social Gathering with Fundraising for Keshero Orphanage

We are rolling two previously separate events into one big one!

It is organised by our LCC (Local Coordination Council) in conjunction with UAC-ARM.

By 22 January we should be well out of lockdown and more confident of mingling together so we have planned a celebratory Feast Day at 85 Studley Park Road, Kew.

Come along, catch up with old friends and make new ones. Bring family members, friends, parishioners, neighbours ...

**11.30 a.m.** Mass for St Vincent Pallotti's Feast Day

**12.30 p.m.-ish** Feasting - Barbecue Lunch and drinks provided.

**2.00 p.m.** Update on happenings at The Flame of Love Orphanage at Keshero in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, fundraising appeal and passing of the hat.

Our UAC-ARM group is passionate about **Australians Reaching out on Mission**. Most of you, over the years, will be aware that the UAC in Australia has been supporting an orphanage in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The situation in the DRC has been pretty desperate over the last year with a natural disaster, unstable government, Covid and then very little vaccination available. All this has added to the cost of everything, including food.

We are able to provide direct support to the Flame of Love Orphanage which is in dire need of our assistance. Some of you already may support them through direct debit or online donations. This is an opportunity to be updated on what is going on there, put something in the hat as it is passed around



or sign up to make regular contributions. All monies received go to the orphanage. None goes into administration. All goes to the orphanage. The National Coordination Council covers any costs.

For catering purposes it would be most helpful to have an idea of numbers as the NCC will supply the food, and the drink will be provided through an LCC member. If you are able to assist with setting up, cleaning up or anything else, could you kindly let Anne know.

### RSVP:

**Anne Dowling at [avdowling@bigpond.com](mailto:avdowling@bigpond.com) or leave a message at 03 9304 2926 by 17 January.**

# Rest in Peace and Joy

**Denise Wilson's death in Perth.** This news reached us just as we were going to press. Denise was long time member of the Pallottine family, serving for many years as a lay missionary and more recently as the house-keeper at Rossmoyne. We know her funeral will be lovingly prepared.



Helen Jackson

**News has just reached us also that Noela Elliot has died.** Many people who have visited Pallotti College will remember Noela as a long-time volunteer at Pallotti College. She often called herself a 'Jack of all trades'. Such a person was valuable indeed.

**Death of another veteran – Helen Jackson.** Helen was the sister of Fr. Pat Jackson SAC and of John (Dec.), James, Michael and Rose-Marie. When Helen's family migrated from Scotland in the late 1940s, she stayed behind for a while to complete her training as a teacher. That was the profession she continued with all of her life and her funeral was full of tributes from colleagues and former students. Despite the limitation of the lockdown, the funeral was so inclusive of her family and it was a blessing to be able to participate via our 'new' technology. Rest in peace, Helen. We will always remember your wonderful Scottish accent.

## Fr. Hubert Socha SAC

Dear NCC Presidents, my heartfelt greetings!

I am writing to you because - you may already know it - Fr. Hubert Socha SAC passed away on Monday 1st, August. If you will allow me, I would like to share these thoughts with you..

For me and many of you, it was a gift and a grace to have known him for so many years and to have lived with him several important moments in the life of the Union of Catholic Apostolate.

Fr. Hubert was fundamental for the revival and development of the entire Foundation of St Vincent Pallotti in the spirit of the Founder. His Historical-juridical Motivation of the Pallottine charism was decisive for the Decree of Erection of the Union by the Holy See.

Thanks to his good will, intelligence, competence and spirituality, Fr. Socha poured into his fundamental texts - among which the UAC General Statutes, the Appendices and the various Commentaries stand out - his profound love for the Founder, for the Society, for the whole Union, expressed with the characteristic of humility, listening, kindness, patience, attention to everyone, whether small or great. Truly for Fr Hubert, nothing was meaningless in the life of fraternal relations.

An expression that he loved so much and that he always used to encourage, in different ways and according to different possibilities, to live the ideal of life proposed by Saint Vincent, was: the Union is a communion of faithful of different vocations and callings at the service of the Church and humanity.

In communion with You all and the GCC Members, let us thank the Lord for we have been witnesses of Fr Hubert's exemplary life. For more than 20 years on the GCC as Canonist, Fr Hubert always sought to unify, find and bring out what could establish, flow and strengthen the core of Pallotti's charism: communion, unity.

His birth into Heaven took place on the day of the Pardon of the Portiuncula. Following the example of the Founder, he too was a Portiuncula that allowed the Pallottine charism, a gift of the Spirit, to be revived and rekindled in everyone. Now in Heaven and supported by the Founder, Fr Hubert sees the fullness of communion in the unity of the Most Holy Trinity.

At the Eucharistic celebration of his funeral on Friday 6th August, let us be spiritually united with the members of his community, of the Province, of the Pallottine Family in Germany, in giving thanks to God for the gift of Fr Hubert in our lives.

May the Lord of Life, in his merciful goodness, receive Fr Hubert into heaven and grant him the eternal reward that awaits the servants of the Good News of Jesus.



Let us also pray pray for Fr. Socha's family, invoking upon them the maternal and tender consolation of Mary, Queen of the Apostles.

Always united with you all in the love of Christ, the source of our hope and peace.

Donatella



# Renewal Commitment

Members of the UAC are encouraged to review and renew their commitment by taking part in an annual retreat and praying together in these words.

## Union of Catholic Apostolate

### Act of Apostolic Commitment

My God, Holy Father,

I give you thanks for having created me in your image, for redeeming me through the Death and Resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, for giving me the Holy Spirit.

With this faith and in response to your love which consecrated me to you in Baptism,

I, ....., declare, today, my decision to follow Jesus Christ, Apostle of the Father, in my state and condition of life.

I place all the gifts of nature and of grace, and, my life itself, at the complete service of the Kingdom of God

and of the mission of the Church,

as a member of the Union of Catholic Apostolate according to the charism

of our Founder Saint Vincent Pallotti,

for my sanctification and that

of my brothers and sisters, and for the salvation of humanity.

I entrust this my decision to Mary,

Queen of Apostles and patroness of the Union,

and I invoke the protection of St. Vincent Pallotti and of all the Angels and Saints. Amen



This year, those in Perth experienced a wonderful day at New Norcia. This was led by Fr. Robert Nixon OSB who guided them to reflect on the three Marys in the scripture.



Melbourne was just coming out of lockdown so the retreat there was by using the now familiar Zoom. Fr. Brendan Connell CP, a former Pallottine Lay Missionary, used the words of the renewal prayer to guide us to reflect on them -the Call—Come and follow: , the Following—the example of the Good Samaritan: , the Offering---in the words of Peter and John—we do not have silver and gold but what we have we give you.

# How the St. Vincent Pallotti Scholarship benefited both myself and the community.



In my role as Parish Manager at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish in regional Queensland, I often find myself stepping into areas of pastoral response for which I do not feel adequately prepared. This year the Xavier

School of Mission was hosted at Banyo's Holy Spirit Seminary, and the theme "The Spirit Calls, Apostles Listen" captured my attention as an opportunity to further my personal leadership and ministry growth, which in turn, would benefit our community.

Our parish has been very intentional over the past three years to be more mission focused, and as part of the Parish Leadership Team, I have assisted with the development of a strategic plan, and the establishment of five ministry leadership teams as we become the hands and feet of Christ in our community. While my employment is very administratively focused, my volunteer time is in creating opportunities for people to experience the Grace and Mercy of Christ in their daily lives. I love to be the conduit between Christ and someone who is searching ...

The Xavier School, quite obviously, focuses on mission. About being on mission, about being prepared for mission, and about equipping

oneself to not give up on the mission. Each day began with the Divine Office, and the day ended with Mass ... and in between an amazing banquet of speakers including Lismore Bishop Greg Homeming, Darwin Bishop Emeritus Eugene Hurley, deacons and educational leaders.

Much of the discussion broke open the topics of being sacred in a secular world, and how we are called to be apostles and live out our mission in our daily lives. Some key points that resonated with me, and I have been able to apply in our parish context.

Following the Xavier School I have undertaken further studies in leadership to better communicate our parish mission and to prioritise our strategic planning goals. I also feel more confident with my own faith journey and more equipped to assist others.

Personally attending the Xavier School of Mission was a big financial commitment for me – our parish cannot afford to support external study, and the generous support of the St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust eased the financial impact on my personal funds. I am very grateful for this encouragement and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide me, and that I may use these new found skills to make a difference for eternity.

*Christine Pingel*

30th September 2021

*“All it takes is one good person to restore hope.”*  
- (Pope Francis)

## **AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF ASYLUM SEEKERS.**

Have you ever wondered how you might be able to do something to meet the needs of people who have arrived in Australia seeking asylum? This is a question we, as members of the UAC ARM Committee have asked, and in conversation with the coordinators at the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP), have identified a few, fairly simple activities which, we as the Pallottine / UAC Family, could offer as a way of reaching out to those hoping to make their home in Australia.

You may have read in the last newsletter how Mariana Community have hosted Asylum Seeker families for a holiday weekend at Millgrove over the past few years. We, in the ARM Committee thought this could be something that others might like to participate in. Perhaps you have a holiday home, or live in one of our rural or seaside areas? Would you be interested in considering hosting a family for a weekend break?

Maybe you would be interested in taking a family out for a day – a picnic, a movie? If you have children or grandchildren who joined these occasions, there might be an opportunity for them to develop a friendship with the young ones in these families. Developing new friendships is such an important way for children to learn to live and feel accepted in Australia.

Another way could be writing letters or forwarding emails to our politicians asking that the needs of people seeking asylum



in Australia be met – and you will read, or have read, an article in this newsletter from Marnie Ryan outlining a way of participating in this process.

Of course, there are so many other needs, these are just a few that we have thought might be possible for us to partake in as another way of reaching out as active apostles. At the beginning of 2022, we will hold an information night for anyone who would like to explore the suggestions outlined above. If you would like to attend such an event or ask any immediate questions, I would love to hear from you. My mobile number is 0417 386 706 and email [cherylsullivan11@bigpond.com](mailto:cherylsullivan11@bigpond.com)

Looking forward to hearing from you and in the words of Saint Vincent remember “God will be with you in all your apostolic undertakings”

*Cheryl Sullivan*  
*UAC ARM Committee.*





## OUR EDITOR CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF LIFE, LOVE AND VIBRANT LIVING

Congratulations Merle as you celebrate 90 well lived years. We salute you and your untiring efforts to live out the directive of Pope Francis and spread the JOY OF THE GOSPEL.

Merle met up with the Pallottines in 1951 when she joined the Pallottine Younger Set. At the time, Father John Hennessy was the Rector at Kew. Soon after arriving in Melbourne from Germany, Father Walter Silvester was appointed Spiritual Director of the Younger. He then set up Lay Apostolate Training Groups and Merle immediately joined one of the Groups. Thus commenced a life enthusiastically embracing exactly what it meant to be an apostle and to follow in the footsteps of St Vincent Pallotti.

“The Charity of Christ urged us” inspired Merle as with others in the Groups she explored the meaning of Pallotti’s words:

***Binding as little as necessary,  
freedom as much as possible,  
and above all cultivation of the Spirit.***

Merle was present when in 1959 the first lay missionaries, all from the Younger Set and or the Groups, received their mission crosses in the Shrine in the grounds of

85 Studley Park Rd, Kew and headed for La Grange Mission in the Kimberleys. Six months later their first visitor from home was Merle who had been attending a Conference in Perth and decided to embark on the 13,000 mile journey north in a bumpy DCV small aeroplane.

Merle enjoyed travel, participating in two UAC/Pallottine Congresses in Rome and one Congress in Warsaw. Whilst overseas, Merle always called into Vallendar and spent a few days with the Pallottines.

Merle has been the editor of the Pallottines Family Newsletter for decades.

Keep up the good work Merle and trusting in Mary, Queen of Apostles, may She help you to deepen your prayer for the growth of the kingdom, directing your powers of body and spirit to the greater glory of God.

# NCC REPORT OF GCC MEETING

## HELD VIRTUALLY 22- 24 SEPTEMBER 2021

The UAC General Coordination Council meeting was held on line in September. Virtual gatherings are certainly not the same as being able to meet in person, still technology has served us well over these past 18 months. There is great hope that the next meeting, being the General Assembly, will provide an opportunity for a face-to-face meeting. The General Assembly was postponed from January 21 and will now be held in Rome during March 22. We all have our fingers crossed!!

In this report I will highlight two of the areas focused on during the meeting. Firstly, the invitation to participate in consultation prior to the forthcoming Synod of Bishops conference in Rome. Pope Francis has convoked a Synod of Bishops for 2023 under the title For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission. Fr Derry Murphy SAC, who some would remember as being a speaker at the last Australian UAC Congress and Maria Domke, the NCC President in Canada and a long-time member of the UAC International Formation Committee are responsible for the preparation of the broad UAC Family response. The SAC response is being prepared by two Pallottine Priests, one Fr Frank Donio, also known to many from his presentation at the Walter Silvester Memorial Lecture some years ago. Each country is invited to contribute to the UAC response, with a collated document (not more than 10 pages) being prepared by those members previously mentioned. The areas we have been asked to respond to are around: our experiences in our Church and UAC, joys,

difficulties and obstacles experienced and most importantly what the Holy Spirit is asking of us now. These questions might sound fairly familiar to us in Australia as we have contributed to the Australian Plenary Council! However, we will soon provide details of how you might participate in our Australian response to the UAC contribution.

The UAC is recognised by the Church as an International Public Association of the Faithful. A meeting of associations of the faithful, along with other similar groups, was held in Rome on September 16, 2021. Donatella Acerbi, UAC President and Fr Roque Gonsalves, the UAC Secretary, attended this meeting and reported on the outcomes, they highlighted the following quote from Pope Francis in his address to the meeting *“The charism to which we belong, must be deepened for the good, always reflecting together to incarnate it in the new situations we live. To do this, great docility is required of us, great humility, in order to recognize our limits and accept to change outdated ways of doing and thinking, or methods of apostolate that are no longer effective, or forms of organizing internal life that have proved inadequate or even harmful...”*

The Pope’s words are I believe a call for prayer and reflection as we move forward into a synodal church of Communion, Participation and Mission

**Cheryl Sullivan**

23 October 2021

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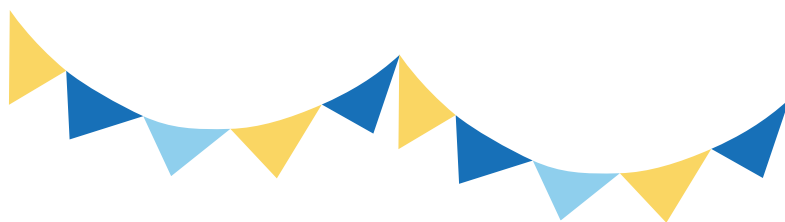
**Speaking of ‘decade’ birthdays, there have been some others recently, and other significant anniversaries.**

*Congratulations to:*

**Fr. John Flynn-----90 years of age –24th July, ordained 55 years on the 16th July**

**Fr. Ray Hevern----80 years of age –20th August, ordained 55 years on the 16th July**

**Fr. Leenus Neetany—60 years of age –21st, June**



# Clare Bowler and Tom Dickinson Broome Graves Update

Along with some of the graves of the sisters, the graves of ex Lay Missionaries Clare Bowler and Tom Dickinson have both been beautifully restored by the St. John of God Sisters in Broome. Each grave cost \$5000 to restore. I have just spoken to Mark, the Accountant and he told me that our Readers have contributed \$1,600 towards the cost. While the Saint John of God Sisters have willingly paid for the upkeep of these important graves to the pallottine family, I know any further donations would also be welcome.

Donations can be made by ringing or emailing Mark. This is a Perth number so allow for the time difference if ringing.

**Contact: Mr Mark Adiwibowo**

Ph: 08 9346 9444;

email: [mark.adiwibowo@ssjg.org.au](mailto:mark.adiwibowo@ssjg.org.au)



How many millions/trillions of words have been written/ spoken/ E mailed/messaged about the Pandemic? They have covered vast regions of our earth, many languages, many faiths, many occupations ----there is surely no limit. The known figure of people who died is 5 million people—certainly an underestimate. Many more seriously ill requiring unimaginably hard work by all levels of medical staff. Many working women and men unable to continue— how would they care for their children? 2020 and 2021 will certainly be remembered for years to come as was the ‘Spanish flu’ more than a century ago.



We’ve welcomed the easing of some of the necessary restrictions and are beginning to adjust to the new freedoms. . Christmas trees have appeared in our shopping centres. They really are too early—it’s not even Advent yet—but maybe this time they do have a special significance. We dare to think of planning to celebrate with families and friends with the hope of meeting those from whom we have been separated. :

*We pray that people everywhere will be blessed with the peace and joy and hope for which every human heart yearns.*

## 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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