

Do not believe that you cannot do what the great saints of the Church have done!
-ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI



Pallottine Family Celebration Day!

**Wednesday 22 January: Feast of St Vincent
Pallotti**

**Holy Cross Parish, 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield
South**

Mass: 11.30 a.m. followed by lunch at the Parish Hall

**There will be an update on The Flame of Love Orphanage at Keshero in
the Democratic Republic of the Congo along with an opportunity to
donate to it.**

**We want this to be an enjoyable day of celebration so bring along
friends, neighbours and family members.**

**Lunch: Sausage Sizzle will be provided. Let us know if you can bring
electric frying pan/grill, sliced onions, shish kebabs, salad, fruit platter,
dessert, or help in any way. Kindly RSVP ASAP by email to
caulfieldsouth@cam.org.au or leave a voice mail message on Anne
Dowling's phone: 0429 869 457 or let Fr Leenus know.**

Your presence will help make it a delightful celebration!

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR. WHO REMEMBERS WHAT A SHAGGY DOG STORY IS?

Thanks to Fr. Wolfgang Weiss SAC for sending a story which I believe very well fits that description!!

Fr. Wolfgang recounts that, at one stage in his life he was living and studying at the famous Gregorian University in Rome. While there he was told this story.

One day, a four-legged intruder was seen in the 'sacred' precinct. This 'invasion' caused great concern and many students joined in. Eventually, SUCCESS. There it was, in the bibliotheca (library!) --looking at books on DOG=MATIC theology!!

Thank you, Fr. Wolfgang. - Provided by Merle Gilbo

Fr Wolfgang: 75 years ago, in April 1950, I arrived in Limburg, in our Minor Seminary in order to start my Pallottine life. In July 1950 I was present at the ordination of Frs. Münz, Jobst, Silvester, Lümmer.

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 Person for the protection of minors - Marita Dunphy via maritadunphy@yahoo.com

In this newsletter, we share news, views and reflections of the way the UAC (Union of Catholic Apostolate) lives the charism and vision of St Vincent Pallotti here in Australia.

Hi Merle,

Warm greetings from Singapore on behalf of Sister Joy Shelley. We have been receiving faithfully your Pallottine Family newsletter and we just want to thank you for always thinking of Sr Joy.

She is now over 90 years of age, but her dementia has limited her capacity to recognise most of us. However, she is still pretty healthy and had just passed her recent medical exam. Her pacemaker is still working and we praise God for every moment we spend with her.

So we wish all of you, a Joyful Apostolate and God's manifold blessings upon your family!

Feel free to write to me anytime... and we will keep all of you in our prayers.

Sister Josephine Sim Canossian Convent



For many years Sr. Joy worked with Fr. Pat in Sydal Parish.

As we begin our New Year it could be good to reflect on all those people who have been apostles of God's love for us.

We entrust those who have died into God's care and pray that they are enjoying eternal life.

We call to mind those who are now living with dementia or with debilitating conditions and give thanks for those who care for them. Would they love me to visit them? Probably, yes.

Many of our Pallottine Family members are aged and face all the challenges, frustrations, grief and loneliness that may accompany that time of life as well as all the joys, freedoms and delights that are part of each day. They may now have new apostolates to carry out, such as caring for neighbours, grandchildren, or great nieces and nephews, praying for the needs of the world and the Church, or ...

Also, we may choose to reflect on if, and how we are apostles of love as we live each day.



What an Amazing Effort! \$2,989.80!

That is the amount raised by the children from Queen of Apostles Primary School, Riverton, Perth for the Flame of Love Orphanage in Keshero in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Grade Six Social Justice Group has done this for each of the last ten years in a program called Kids for Kids, but this is the most they have ever raised, even though the number of pupils has decreased. In their Confirmation Year they spend one term fundraising for the Orphanage. They have other projects in the other terms.

The handover of the cheque took place in November when the National Coordination Council (NCC) of the UAC was meeting in Perth. In the photo, with the students, left to right, are Valencia Maloney, a teacher at the school who is also a member of UAC-ARM, which is the mission committee of the UAC; Mark Brolly, NCC and GCC member; Mary Whiting, President of the NCC and Mariana Community member; Mark Ryan, School Principal; Anne Dowling, NCC member and Mariana Community member; and Tricia Wisolith, Secretary of the NCC.

Catholic Education, Perth, sent out a team to film the handover which was then used in their Christmas Social Justice video. The NCC ensures that every cent raised reaches the orphanage and that the money is accounted for.

The UAC-ARM (Australians Reaching out in Mission) committee has support for this orphanage as one of its projects. The situation in the DRC is dire, with continuing civil war which creates more orphans and increases the cost of everything. We particularly help with food, either that can be bought or produced there, such as eggs from hens, the costs of medical care and of education. Please consider joining our wide-spread, small committee. You may like to donate at South Caulfield on 22 January, or by Direct Debit or a one-off payment to: ACCOUNT NAME: UAC Keshero Project, BSB: 083 347, ACCOUNT NUMBER: 439 222 523



The Epiphany Retreat and Conference Centre at Rossmoyne No Longer Exists!

It became necessary for the SAC to sell all of the property at Rossmoyne. No doubt this was a painful, difficult decision. A property development company bought it. There is a lease back arrangement for a few years covering just the Chapel and the Pallottine Community House.

Annually the WA Local Coordination Council holds a Pallottine Family Gathering near the time the Victorian NCC members travel there for a NCC meeting. The Gathering includes the Renewal of the Act of Apostolic Commitment and a luncheon.

On 24 November 2024 a Spiritual Closure of the Epiphany Retreat and Conference Centre was incorporated into the celebration in the Chapel. A slide presentation gave both the history of the Centre and the names of the many people, who since 1991, have been involved in running, maintaining and making people welcome. Those present who had worked so hard were given Certificates of Appreciation for their contribution. There were also certificates for those unable to be present. The group photo above was taken before adjourning outside to the garden for lunch. Fittingly Tricia Wisolith is in the middle as she, with a small group, put so much effort into organising the event. Kelvin and Marlene O'Connor, at the upper right, have been very much stalwarts. Sr Dolores Moore, lower right, was unable to be there on the day, but called in the following day.

There was much storytelling and catching up shared over lunch.

In 2025, the Pallottine Family Gathering in the West will be on Sunday 26 October. Mark it in your calendar now!



Saint Vincent Pallotti Scholarship for Lay Ministry Report from Recipient

“Faith seeking understanding”, a saying by St Anselm of Canterbury, is often used to define Theology. I very much like the saying as it captures perfectly my desire to study Theology. The desire had been there for quite a while, but the many tasks of daily life put it on the back burner until I got my current part-time job in a Parish. While I started researching for the study, hesitation creeps up as it had been a long while since I finished my last university degree. There were skills I needed to re-learn and I wondered if I was up for it. Was it God’s will for me? So, I started asking Him and I also asked for an obvious answer, if He would, so I would not miss it.

I then came across the notice of St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship for Lay Ministry and decided to apply. Thinking to myself, if I got the scholarship, I would take it as an obvious “yes” sign. Thanks be to God, who through the generosity of the Scholarship Committee, granted me the scholarship. And so, here I am typing my report to share with you how the scholarship has benefitted me and the community.

I am currently studying Diploma of Theology part-time, one subject per semester. At this rate, it will take me four years to complete, I am not in a hurry. I am in my second semester, so I have passed one subject (Introducing Catholic Theology) and will soon sit the exam for my second subject (Exploring the New Testament with Mark’s Gospel). The first subject enriches me with the basic knowledge of Catholic Theology for example, how the biblical texts were produced, the role of Scripture, Tradition and Magisterium. I wrote my essay on Dei Verbum (one of the four major Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council).

The second subject opens my horizon on how I can read the Bible. Prior to this, I read/meditated on the Bible based on the literary context as I understand it or based on the homilies/preaching I had heard. Just to clear things up, there is nothing wrong with reading the bible that way, we need to start somewhere, and God can definitely speak through it, when we open the ears of our heart to him.

to him. However, I cannot dispute the fact that bringing the genre, the historical/cultural context of the time the event in the Bible took place, the ancient audience the book was written for, give a deeper, richer understanding and meaning to Bible text. It is fascinating! Students of this subject were asked to write an exegetical essay on two pericopes in Mark’s Gospel. How I see the depth I did not see before, and I was just barely scratching the surface. I knew when I started that I did not know much at all about the richness of my religion (talking about two thousand years of history!), but now I know that I do not know even much more. But I decided not to lose heart or feel overwhelmed, but to focus on my main aim which is to understand my faith better, so to love Him more, one baby step forward at a time.

I have been working in a Parish since November 2022. To pay forward what I have received to the community, I asked my manager (the Parish Priest) if I could assist, my colleague, the Pastoral Associate, to do pastoral work in addition to my work. The request was kindly approved by my manager and my colleague has kindly taken me through the RCIA journey of a gentleman who lives in an aged care centre. I am grateful that I could be involved and I am particularly happy that I could share my experience with him, talk about and show him how to pray the Rosary, and then witness him being baptised. “It is in giving that we receive” (from the prayer of St Francis of Assisi) is also proven in this occasion. I got to witness how God is still at work in calling His children “home”. I also witnessed how the loving/generous heart of volunteers who frequently visited the aged care centre bore fruits. These strengthen me.

I am hopeful as I learn more during my study, I will have even more to share with others in whichever path God will guide me to. In the meantime, my husband and my children have to bear with me “preaching” to them on what I have learned while we, as a family, continue to serve our God in our local parish and in our community.

I sincerely thank the Society (Union) of Catholic Apostolate whose grant encourages me to start my Theology study, to learn more deeply about the One we love.

Christine Tanuwidjaja

What's Happening?

Rev Jacob Alvares SAC, who has been living at Syndal Parish since he arrived in Australia, is now the Administrator of Dromana and Rosebud parishes.

Pallotti College, Millgrove is on the market. I have been trying unsuccessfully to win a Lottery Jackpot so I could buy it and keep it in the Family.

The Mariana Community is gathering at Oak Maree, Millgrove, from 5th to 11th January. The hot tip is that Cheryl Sullivan will become the Co-ordinator, with Mary Whiting as Consultor for the next four years.

The following events could be subject to change but mark them on your calendar now.

22 February: Vigil Mass replacing Pallottine Cenacle Prayer. 6.00 p.m. St Andrew's Clayton South.

19 March: UAC Annual General Meeting. Holy Cross, 707 Glen Huntly Rd, Caulfield South.

22 March: Pallottine Cenacle Prayer, St Joseph's, 71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick. 7.30 p.m.

Leader: Cheryl Sullivan

21 April: Vincent Pallotti's birthday celebrations. Mass 12 noon. 5 Doon Ave. Syndal.

22 May: Pallottine Cenacle Prayer, 2843 Warburton Hwy, Wesburn. 7.30 p.m.

Leader: Mary Whiting

7 June: Feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles. Vigil Mass. St Patrick's Murrumbena

22 July: Feast of Mary Magdalen. Pallottine Cenacle Prayer. St Kevin's Ormond. 7.30 p.m.

22 August: Feast of Mary, Queen of the World. St Anthony's Glen Huntly. 7.30 p.m. Fr Pat

25 October: Reflection Day with Renewal of Act of Apostolic Commitment.

10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. St Anthony's, Clayton South.

22 November: Remember in November. Vigil Mass. St Joseph's, 71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick. 6.30 p.m.

What news do you have to share with the Pallottine Family about changes or developments in your life? Contact our editor, Merle Gilbo, 2/26 Ford St. Ivanhoe, Vic 3079 or email merlegilbo@hotmail.net.au

Merle is the editor of this Newsletter. Anne Dowling tries to compile it but lacks knowledge and skills needed for Graphic Designing for Printing. If you're a graphic designer or know of one who could volunteer to work with/teach Anne, please leave a voicemail message on 0429 869 457. Help please!

We have a great need for volunteers to help lead the UAC in Australia into the future. Just let us know what you can do and when you can do it. Some of the areas you may be able to assist are:

- ❖ with the Formation Team
- ❖ with Prayer Promotion
- ❖ with UAC-ARM

- ❖ with IT/website/translation software/graphic design
- ❖ with record keeping, minute taking ...

The Feast of the Epiphany & St Vincent Pallotti

Saint Vincent Pallotti maintained that the Octave of the Epiphany was “one of the most luminous Mysteries of our Faith”(OCCC I, p.247). He was convinced that such a celebration was a **reawakening of the Christian people to Faith**. He did not content himself with a simple celebration, but invited all to prepare for this special event in which each person made their contribution according to their possibilities (OCCC III, pp.337-338). Furthermore, he urged people to propagate the Octave everywhere and not to limit it to determined places: “And we must celebrate it not only in the church in which the Procura of the pious Union was instituted but, if possible, in all of the communities of whatever reality” (OCCC III, 339). Just as the gentiles were invited in the persons of the Magi to adore and to offer gifts to the King of the Jews, so all must be awakened, making a holy “renewal” of spirit in order to seek Jesus Christ attentively and constantly, so that he might be **known, loved and adored**, and reciprocated in his infinite Love by the entire human race (OCCC III, pp.446-447).

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to revive our faith and rekindle our charity in order to understand more deeply and respond more creatively to this Apostolic intuition of Pallotti in the historical reality of our day.

Come Holy Spirit! Take the veil from our eyes, so that we may recognise that Jesus is Lord: God made man out of love, pilgrim of

love in our streets, crucified and risen for love, for our love. Holy Spirit, come! Give us a thirst for the Word of God, making our hearts open to the Light, humble and ready to listen, persevering in searching for the Truth which is hidden in every page of the Divine Scriptures. Holy Spirit, come! Bring us to kneel before the Eucharist to adore and yearn for the Bread become Living Love, in order that we in turn may become living Love. Holy Spirit, come! Make us capable of mourning over sin, of joyfully welcoming forgiveness, of running into the arms of Mary in order to learn to say her ‘Yes’ and her Magnificat. Come, Holy Spirit, and send us out onto the pathways of the world.

The Octave of the Epiphany today, a privileged testimony to the apostolic identity left to us by St. Vincent Pallotti. Vincent Pallotti read the pages of the history of his time, identifying the most urgent needs and immediately setting to work! He knew the details of the evil which overran the society of his time and he used all of his creativity to create a place of light and goodness in his day. The Octave of the Epiphany was one of the many apostolic strategies which entered into the heart of Rome of that time and still continues to be a reality of intense Evangelisation. As members of the Union, we would like to share the experience of the Octave of the Epiphany that we experience in our town of Riposto (Sicily). When we first became close to the Pallottine family, we did not understand the deep meaning of the Octave of the Epiphany, so greatly desired by Saint Vincent. Today, some years after making our Act of Apostolic Commitment, we recognise that this is the moment in which the apostolic identity willed by Saint Vincent manifests itself in all of its fullness. It is the moment in which, perhaps more than in any other, we are called to be rekindled and to rekindle and reappropriate the image and likeness in which we were created, helping all who walk beside us in daily life to more consciously understand their own faith.

Every year the celebration of the Octave begins on January 5th and ends on the 13th. Beyond the various times of celebration, the days are rich with formation encounters with people of different age groups. Clearly, the **route** by which we are guided is St. Vincent’s exhortation to “Revive faith and rekindle charity”: this is why a key component of the Octave is Evangelization, because it is animated by the desire to convey the message of salvation and the “good news” of the crazy Love of God for every creature.



Update on website: www.pallottine.org.au

Formerly this was a website with predominantly Society of the Catholic Apostolate information and some Union of the Catholic Apostolate news on it.

It is undergoing change and the first phase is up and running. Check it out and give Anne some feedback on it. It is now an overarching Union of Catholic Apostolate website. It naturally still contains information about the Society of the Catholic Apostolate because the members of the Society also come under the umbrella of the Union. The site gradually will include more information about all aspects of the life of the Union. Some may find the use of the word *Union* strange as it can have different connotations. Union as used by Pallotti carries more of the sense of Union or comm-union with each other. We share a common charism and mission as we strive to live as Apostles who spend time with our God of Infinite Love and then are sent with Good News to all the people with whom we live, work, study and care for.

At the Congress last July in Rome, with people from 29 countries, there was a palpable sense of being with family, of belonging and being in union with each other.

As I live my life based in Glenroy, I am connected spiritually with people from around the world. Technology such as What's App and Zoom allow us to stay in touch with each other.

Happy New Year! This greeting is passed around at this time of the year. May you have a happy and holy year. 2025. It is a jubilee year where Pope Francis calls us to be **Pilgrims of Hope**.

Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God's love.

– POPE FRANCIS

SPES NON CONFUNDIT: BULL OF INDICTION OF THE JUBILEE 2025

Pallottine Family (UAC) Newsletter

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