

Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

Christmas greetings from the Director

2020 has indeed been an amazing year.

Covid-19 has been and continues to be a CHALLENGE. For our Australian Province and our friends who through the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate (MAMI) support our missions through prayers and financial support, we have been faced with new CHALLENGES.

Each year we support financially Oblate missionary work throughout Asia and Africa. While as Oblates we endeavor to help the poorest of the poor, Covid-19 has surfaced in communities where life was threatened. You will notice among the list of countries where aid has been given, countries that have not previously been mentioned. MAMI together with the Oblate community has generously responded to the call for assistance. THANKS is a small word and quickly said but know that I say it with the deepest sense of gratitude.

In the section of this newsletter AROUND THE PROVINCE, you will notice the mention of the ongoing formation of our Oblates to respond as missionaries in our secular society. You would also have noted in our recent MAMI newsletter mention of the De Mazenod Family. Please reflect on becoming involved in this initiative where we Oblates commit ourselves together with all in our Catholic

Communities to be a missionary in our secular society.

Covid-19 challenged our traditional vocations drive through, 'Come and See Weekends'. Our seminarians responded with the initiative of an Online Vocational Discernment experience. Together we all need to encourage more people to consider that maybe the Lord is

inviting them to be Priests

and Religious.



The scene is from Kenya – an African Christmas.

On behalf of all the Oblates of the Province of Australia/ Delegation of China and those Oblates ministering in missions overseas together with the staff of our Mission Office, we wish you a grace-filled celebration of the Birth of the Lord for you and your family and friends.

You will be remembered in the Christmas Novena of Masses celebrated in our Camberwell Oblate Community.

As MAMI Director for the last five years, I have one record due to Covid-19: no other Director has said farewell in three MAMI newsletters. My thanks go to Sandra, Luisa and the staff of the Provincial Administration and the Oblates of the Camberwell Community for all their support. MY HOPE NOW IS THAT THE QUEENSLAND BORDERS ARE OPENED AND THAT I CAN MOVE TO MY NEXT MINISTRY AT **BURPENGARY AND THAT FATHER** DAVID FRANCIS CAN MOVE TO VICTORIA who besides being our Province Treasurer will be DIRECTOR OF MAMI.

Fr John Sherman OMI

Fr Don Hughes OMI 1939 – 2020

Donald Oswin Hughes was born of a well-known Fremantle family and was educated there. Seeking to answer God's call, he first went to St Charles diocesan Seminary in Perth before going to the Oblate novitiate in Sorrento, Victoria. As



Over the years he accepted many and varied appointments with great faith and enthusiasm: parishes, mission preaching, serving in Victoria, New South Wales, New Zealand, and Western Australia. In 1961 he joined the staff of Iona College, which the Oblates had opened in bayside Brisbane in 1958. As well as teaching the boys there, he helped to develop the finances and supervised a building program, and, with great enthusiasm led the parents in working-bees and fundraising in those days before there was much government funding and growing enrolments. He became well-known in the diocese for supplies and regular help with parish appeals for the missions.

In 1966 he was sent to W.A. to be the founding Principal of Mazenod College in Lesmurdie and, with his leadership, gradually developed it as a fine Day and Boarding College.

His next appointment was to the Oblate seminary in Victoria, first as Novice Master, then as Rector, then to Adelaide as parish priest of Tea Tree Gully, followed by returning to his own beloved Fremantle as parish priest of St Patrick's, then to Lesmurdie. His life achieved full circle when he was to return to St Charles Seminary in Perth - he always retained a great affection and friendship for the Archdiocese and its priests. He spent his last years back at Mazenod College, Lesmurdie and enjoyed the company of students and staff.



Don was a generous, pastoral and faithful priest to the end and greatly loved and admired by his family, those he had ministered to and by his brother Oblates of Mary Immaculate. His requiem and burial took place in St Patrick's led by his seminary contemporary Archbishop Barry Hickey, with Bishops Sproxton and Bianchini present and many priests, religious and friends.

Fr Kevin Davine OMI

Fr Donal Madigan OMI 1937 – 2020

One of the few somewhat negative comments to come from Fr Donal would be to the unsuspecting miscreant who was unfortunate enough to address him as Donald or Fr Donald, only to be gently corrected and informed that his name was Donal, an Irish name and not the more common Donald. His correct name was one of the few things on which he was more or less unbending! About most other things he was invariably tolerant and more than happy to engage in the friendliest of discussions. He was renowned among his many friends and brother Oblates for his good humour and approachability.



Fr Donal joined the Oblates of Mary Immaculate as an 18-year-old in 1956 in Dublin. For those of a mildly Determinist bent his decision to join the Oblates may have seemed a foregone conclusion. He was born in Tyrconnell Park in the Oblate Parish of Inchicore and he was reputed to have been the sixth young man

from that street to have entered the Oblate Congregation. Donal grew up under the benign influence of many kind and helpful Oblates for whom he retained a lifelong affection and admiration. As our Provincial Fr Fini remarked in his funeral homily, "Donal had Oblate DNA in his blood." He was well and happily educated by the Irish Christian Brothers at his local James St Secondary School, well within the purview and odour of the Guinness Brewery, if not in the actual authentic odour of sanctity.

All through his youth and religious formation Donal was sustained by his vision of his future years as a missionary in Africa. That, it seems, is what attracted him to the Congregation having met many returning missionaries, and that is probably what sustained him during the challenging days of his formation. Imagine his disappointment, not to mention his shock, when as a newly

Fr Michael Twigg 25th anniversary of ordination, 16th December

Any encounter with Fr Michael Twigg reveals a man on a mission, a man with great passion, energy and love for people, always keen on developing strong connections and relationships.



Fr Michael's 25 years of priesthood, for the most part, have been dedicated to Catholic Education, working in all three Oblate Colleges, living the missionary zeal of an Oblate reaching out to those who are on the fringes.

Fr Michael is an extremely gifted man with many talents, sharp-minded, quick-witted, with an amazing turn of phrase, all tempered with compassion and a strong sense for justice. His insatiable passion for including people and connecting people is one of his greatest gifts.

When you combine all these gifts and talents with his ability to laugh at himself, along with a flair for drama and occasionally a bit of bad luck, it makes for many entertaining stories and plenty of laughs.

If you have never met Michael, it doesn't take long before he tells you that he is a proud Queenslander, although up until recently he had spent most of his life interstate.



Michael Colin Twigg was born in Brisbane and educated at Iona College. He joined the Oblates in 1989 at St Mary's Seminary in Mulgrave, Victoria and was ordained in Brisbane on December 16, 1995.

His first obedience was assistant priest, St Paul's, Massey New Zealand for 18 months, and then in mid-1997, he joined the teaching staff of Mazenod College, Western Australia, for four and a half years. The next eight years were at Mazenod College, Victoria, as chaplain & RE co-ordinator, where he was known for his gifted ability as a teacher. In 2010 he was appointed the Rector of Mazenod Victoria, where he continued to drive academic excellence while also investing in improvement of the facilities and creative programs of outreach for the students.

In April 2015 he was appointed as Rector of Iona College. His vision for the future meant that he lead Iona College through a process of discernment and change, especially in the leadership structure of the



ordained priest he found himself appointed to the Oblate Province of Australia and perhaps, even more painful was the realization that he was the lone appointment for that year and some of his classmates were destined for his much hoped for Africa. Whatever emotions may have been churning within, he gritted his teeth and shortly afterwards, faithful to his vow, he packed his bags and headed 'down under'.

Irrespective of his initial misgivings or apprehensions, they never intruded on his next 57 years of devoted ministry in Australia and New Zealand. He served his people, his Congregation and his God with fidelity, kindness, marvellous patience and good humour.

Fr Donal's work was mainly in Parish Ministry and Parish Mission preaching, as it was recognised early on that he was an excellent preacher. In the early years he served as an assistant priest in places such as Camberwell, Moe, Springvale North, Fremantle and New Zealand. When, as was inevitable, he took on the responsibilities of being a Parish Priest he found himself ministering with notable success in places as diverse and as distant as Moe, Sorrento, Massey (NZ), and Eagle Vale.

For many years Donal's health was, to say the least, indifferent. Through the years he went through an amazing array of medical procedures from open heart to vascular surgery and many things in-between. Yet through it all he managed to maintain his patience, good humour and empathy for the problems and needs of others.

He was blessed with many great friendships, mostly formed with current and former parishioners, many of whom were a huge support. For many of his friends nothing was too much bother. He certainly appreciated their kindness and support. But no bonds were as important to him as those with his immediate and extended family. The family had been a major part of his life and mission all through the years and he was deeply appreciative of the closeness of that bond. To them we extend our grateful thanks and appreciation.

Sometimes it can be difficult to convey the complexity and nuances of an individual's life, so let me simply quote the Irish raconteur who, seeing the looks of confusion on the puzzled faces of the listeners remarked....

'Sure.... Yeh had to be there!'

May Fr Donal rest now in God's peace.

Fr Pat Moroney OMI



College with the appointment of a lay principal in February 2019, thus dividing the role of Rector and Principal.

While there is a running joke amongst the Oblates that Michael follows 50% of the AFL teams and still hasn't seen a premiership win, his loyalty to his faith and the Oblate mission could never be questioned. His commitment to the people he is called to serve always goes beyond what is expected. Those who have been in difficulty have experienced first-hand the best of Fr Michael's care, compassion and love.

Congratulations on 25 years of service to the Catholic Church in Australia and the Oblates as a faithful, passionate and caring priest. May the next 25 years be filled with the same passion for mission and compassion for people.

Fr Christian Fini OMI



Blast from the past...

Fr. Denis McCarthy Director of MAMI (1971 – 2004)



In January 1971, Fr. Denis McCarthy was appointed Director of MAMI by the Provincial Fr. John Hannah, and he remained in that role until he retired in 2004.

One of Fr. McCarthy's enduring legacies was the creation of the MAMI News Bulletin in the 1970's. Above is a photo of Br. Whittle and Fr. McCarthy printing MAMI News Bulletins at the Provincial House in Camberwell in 1976...

AROUND THE MISSIONS

Since the June MAMI newsletter when we reported especially on the assistance to Fr. Charlie Burrows in Indonesia, assistance has been given to the following Missions:

BOLIVIA

 US\$4,000 to assist poor affected by Covid-19

INDIA

- AUD\$10,000 to assist poor affected by Covid-19
- AUD\$2,000 donor's request for assistance to poor in India.
- AUD\$8,000 donor's request to provide furniture for a village school.
- AUD\$4,500 for two bikes for priests in a poor mission.

KFNYA

 AUD\$8,663 for a clean water project

PAKISTAN

- AUD\$10,000 to assist poor affected by Covid-19
- AUD\$8,000 assistance for a school in a poor area.
- AUD\$19,000 provision of a bus for a seminary.

SOUTH AFRICA

 AUD\$12,000 to assist poor affected by Covid-19



Furniture provided for Tallapudi St Eugene's School.

ZIMBABWE

 AUD\$15,000 provision of clean water project.

SRI LANKA

- AUD\$20,000 to assist Reconciliation Program.
- AUD\$6,000 donor's request for education assistance program.

The provision of a good water supply to Zimbabwe is interesting. A donor donated \$7,000 requesting that if possible, it be used to provide a poor village with clean water. Within two weeks a request came in from Zimbabwe for assistance to bore for water on a mission that the Oblates were just establishing, which had very little infrastructure. This donation assisted MAMI with this project.



Buttayguden mission -bike provided.



Food distribution - Kenya.

MISSION IN QUARANTINE

In February when I was flying to Poland for the funeral of my Grandmother, just a few passengers wore facemasks. Today I remember them as a prophetic sign of the world which was to change. What was to be a short five day trip ended as a seven month stay marked by a lockdown.

As I was positioning myself in this new and unfamiliar territory the words of Jesus' Great Commission resounded in my soul: 'Go and make disciples of all nations.'

This confinement in which I found myself reminded me of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus who weakened by tuberculosis was still doing her walks in the monastery. When asked to take some rest she said: 'I offer each step for some missionary, thinking that somewhere far away, one of them is worn out by his apostolic labours, and to lessen his fatigue I offer mine to God.' She has been chosen as a Patron Saint of Catholic Missions. Struck by Jesus' Great Commission and inspired by St Thérèse I found myself challenged to accept the lockdown as my new missionary land. Aware that many Catholics couldn't attend Mass, together with my family, we kept them in our Masses and prayers. In a mysterious way when my physical world shrunk, the world marked by the Holy Spirit expanded. This new missionary land provided me also







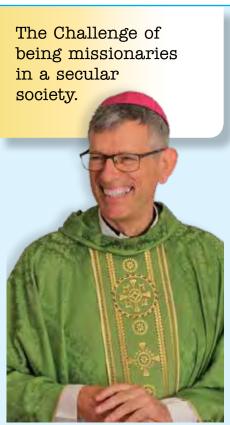
someone else to show them this

new and fascinating world of God.

Eventually, I was told that there was a seat for me on a flight to Australia. After traveling on the ghost flights I found that my living space shrank even more when I ended up in a 24 square metre hotel room in Perth to serve my compulsory quarantine. When I was entering the room I accepted it as my new missionary land: 'Go and make disciples of all nations.' St Thérèse of the Child Jesus once wrote: 'I understood that the Church has a heart and that this heart is burning with love. In the heart of the Church my Mother I will be love.' That's why I chose to turn my quarantine room into the heart of the Church. I chose to accept it and love it. I didn't have to keep myself busy to cope with the isolation. Doing little daily things with love and offering them up made the time fly. I think I tasted something of eternity. Daily Masses, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosaries, Spiritual Readings, walking up and down the room, eating from plastic boxes, vacuuming the room (not everyone can do this while staying in the hotel), Skyping or messaging became like one activity immersed in the great mission of Jesus Christ.

I've been to a wonderful missionary land which was also a solid missionary school.

Fr Daniel Szewc OMI



During lockdown on ZOOM, the Oblates in Australia have studied with the help of Bishop Mark Edwards OMI, Bishop of Wagga Wagga and former lecturer at Catholic

Theological College, and David Schutz what it means to be a missionary in a secular society. Being a missionary today will involve being co-missionaries with everyone who is baptized.

AROUND THE PROVINCE

VOCATIONS

Usually around September each year, we would be

busy organising the 'Come and See' weekend for people to visit the Oblate Seminary and see what life in the seminary is like. Due to the current pandemic, that was not possible this year. However, this did not stop the St Mary's community from putting their heads together and figuring out a way that they could still provide such an experience. Particularly, with



everything that this year has thrown up for us, we thought it imperative that we provide people with the opportunity to join together with us, to pray and to reflect on God's CALL. Normally, a 'Come and See' weekend would be hindered by demands of studies, work commitments, interstate travel, the Grand Final, and many other things. The restrictions of COVID-19 forced us to move online, and what a blessing it was in disguise. In the end, twelve young men gathered online with the St Mary's seminary community on the 26th of September for a couple of hours of prayer, reflection and discussion. The mode was simple, but allowed these people to share their journeys with one another. It was a great success, and most of all, it has helped us to realise a new way of doing 'Come and See'. We are planning for more online discernment experiences in the near future.

PIMS

Due to the current restrictions placed because of Covid, the Partners in Mission program will be on hold until further notice. We will continue to keep our overseas communities and families in our prayers.

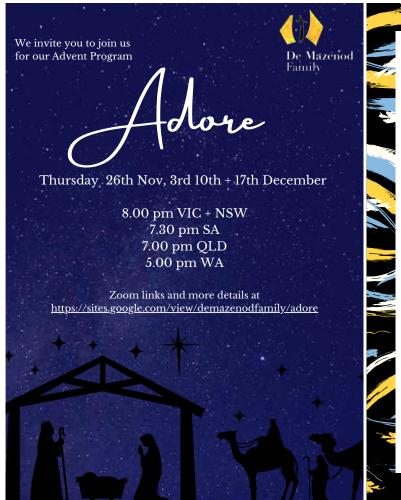
In the meantime, consider joining our online community. Details below.

Important Information

The MAMI OFFICE will close on WEDNESDAY, 23RD DECEMBER, 2020 and reopen on MONDAY, 11TH JANUARY, 2021.

St Kieran's Parish in Moe, Victoria on the 9th of August 2020 celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding and being entrusted to the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

A brochure outlining the history of the parish is available as an attachment on the www.oblates.com.au/mami





De Mazenod Family
THE DE MAZENOD FAMILY INVITES YOU TO

"Finding your place in the Family"

Sunday 29th November 2.30pm VIC + NSW 2.00pm SA 1.30pm QLD 11.30am WA

Following on from our Gathering in Fremantle in 2019, we will once again meet as a community, as a family. This years session will take place on Zoom for a session of no more than 1.5 hours.

We are excited to share with you our new Vision and Mission statements, and the projects we have been working on through 2020, plus the projects we are aiming to complete heading into 2021. If you attended the 2019 Gathering we encourage you to attend and reconnect with the family and people you met at the inaugural gathering. Everyone is most welcome to attend and see where we are heading into the future as the De Mazenod Family.

Any questions, feel free to email demazenodfamily@oblates.com.au

Register your interest here at http://bit.ly/dmfgathering2





Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

Published by the Oblate Office of Mission, M.A.M.I. Centre, P.O. Box 384, Camberwell, Vic 3124 Telephone (03) 9805 8888 Fax: (03) 9813 2696 Email: mami@oblates.com.au Web: www.oblates.com.au



At Christmas we celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of Jesus Christ.

In the true spirit of Christmas, your gift can be a gift to those less fortunate – a gift of love.

The concept is simple: make a recommended tax deductible donation to one of our programs and you will receive a Christmas Gift Card, which explains that you have purchased a gift card in place of a gift, and give it to a loved one.

An ideal meaningful gift for someone special this Christmas is a MAMI Gift Card: a gift that keeps on giving for the entire year and beyond.



Make a donation to one of these projects in the Missions supported by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.



How to order your MAMI Gift Card

- 1. Order online at www.oblates.com.au/christmas-cards
- 2. Complete the form on the reverse side of this brochure
- 3. Call us on (03) 9805 8888



of

Our Gift to You: Novena of Masses

Dear Father,

Kindly include the following intentions in the Christmas Masses.

(Optional)
Name:

Address:

Please forward this to:

MAMI Office P.O. Box 384 Camberwell Vic 3124

The Novenas of Masses for you -**Christmas 2020**

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

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

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

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If you wish to make a donation to MAMI apart from the Annual August

or 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

or 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.





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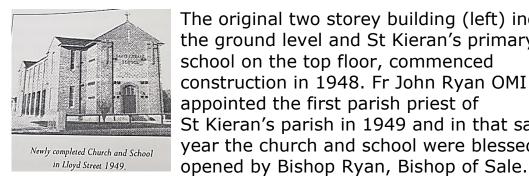
ST. KIERAN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - MOE 1970 - 2020



On Sunday 9th August 2020 the parishioners of St Kieran's, Moe, now incorporating Immaculate Herat of Mary Parish, Newborough, gave thanks to God and celebrated the 50th Anniversary, The Golden Jubilee, of the opening of the present St Kieran's Church, Moe.

The history of St Kieran's Parish, Moe commenced in 1949 with the establishment of this new faith community. Bishop Ryan, then Bishop of the Diocese of Sale, invited the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate into

the Diocese to pastorally care for the people of St Kieran's, Moe. This pastoral care extended to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Newborough in 2014 under the new banner of Parishes in Partnership, through the pastoral care and quidance of the new parish priest, Fr Harry Dyer OMI.

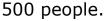


The original two storey building (left) included the church on the ground level and St Kieran's primary school on the top floor, commenced construction in 1948. Fr John Ryan OMI was appointed the first parish priest of St Kieran's parish in 1949 and in that same year the church and school were blessed and





In 1965, after 16 years of prayer and service planning for a new church begun under the guidance of Parish Priest, Fr Thomas Shortall OMI. In 1969 the building of the new St Kieran's Church was approved. The cost of St Kieran's Church was just over \$67,000.00 with a seating capacity of







On Sunday, 9th August, 1970, after much hard work and with an atmosphere of great excitement, the new St Kieran's church was blessed and opened by Bishop Arthur Fox, Bishop of Sale. Fr John Dunlea OMI, Parish Priest, Fr John Hannah OMI, Oblate Provincial, fellow Oblates, and local clergy were in attendance. A large gathering of Moe parishioners, with family and friends from near and far, joined in this faith filled celebration.

In 1999 St Kieran's parish celebrated 50 years with a written history of the parish entitled 'A *Great People'*. Thankfully, this title still rings true to this day. The Official Souvenir booklet has two different references.

From the very beginning there were many nationalities and since its foundation, Moe Parish has been blessed and assisted by generous parishioners serving the community and the wider De Mazenod Family.

It is the people of God who are the life of any parish. However, the physical building of St Kieran's church is also an important reminder to passers-by of the presence of God amongst them, even if they do not frequent our community on a regular basis. The building makes a strong and imposing statement that the life of faith is still alive and active through its people and the doors of welcome are always open. The original description for the church building in the Official Opening Souvenir Booklet highlights this: 'The porch and main entrance are soaring up inviting people'. Today, this remains a great witness to all who pass by.



Currently the Oblates pastorally caring for the Parishes in Partnership are Fr Harry Dyer OMI, PP, Fr Nadeem daniel OMI and Fr Vincent McGillicuddy OMI.

Sadly, on this milestone Sunday in 2020, amidst our new restricted way of life due to covid-19, we can only remember this occasion, rather than our usual prayerful gathering for the Eucharist, followed by a joyful community celebration in Oblate Hall. However, more importantly, we can still give thanks to God for the gift of the many faithful who have been welcomed and passed through the doors of St Kieran's church to celebrate faith filled family events such as Baptisms, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Weddings, Funerals, school Masses, Anointing



Masses, Anniversaries etc and, of course, the weekend and weekday celebrations of the Eucharist which is the source and summit of our Christian lives.

Together, over the 71 years of St Kieran's parish, parishioners, priests and religious, have continued to strive to live and be faithful to, the 'Joy of the Gospel,' which in turn,

enables the presence of God to dwell within our City of Moe. Hopefully, this souvenir edition of our parish newsletter will bring back some wonderful memories for parishioners, who, of course are a little older now, than when they were present on this day in 1970.

