



JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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175 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE

Some 80 ministries founded or conducted by the Sisters of Charity were identified by the Congregation for presentation with a plaque by the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries to mark the Congregation's 175th anniversary.

All of these former Sisters of Charity ministries welcomed the invitation to receive a plaque and most ceremonies were conducted in 2014 during the celebrations of the Congregation's major milestone. Due to logistical challenges a few ceremonies were held over until this year.

Thus, St Declan's Primary School in Penshurst received its plaque on 6 February during a school assembly. The school subsequently reported,

"We had a lovely afternoon and our students are now much more familiar with the role the Sisters of Charity had in founding our school".

Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries



Fr John Crothers – Parish Priest, Sr Margaret Fitzgerald rsc, Mr Raff Del Vecchio – TMAM Executive Officer, Sr Maria Wheeler rsc, and Ms Maria Ross – Principal at the St Declan's plaque ceremony

MARKING THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

At this time of the year a number of the Mary Aikenhead Ministries have a Mass to mark the beginning of a new year.

Thus, for example, on 10 February Trustee Gabrielle McMullen attended the St Vincent's College Mass at St Mary's Church in North Sydney, on 19 February Trustees David Alcock and Gabrielle McMullen joined the St Vincent's Public and Private Hospitals for their beginning-of-academic year Mass celebrated at the Fitzroy campus by Archbishop Denis Hart, while on 20 February Trustees Michele Hugonnet and David Robinson were able to join the Sydney Outreach community for its Mass and a celebration of 25 years of remarkable service.

These very special celebrations continued in the next week when Trustees David Alcock and David Robinson were at Catholic Ladies' College for its opening Mass.

Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead
Ministries

PLAQUE CEREMONIES

WITH A COUNTRY FLAVOUR

As we near the end of the presentation of plaques, marking the presence in Australia of Sisters of Charity during the last 175 years, I am reflecting on the rich experience of connecting back with the communities that were served by Sisters in schools, hospitals and other ministries along the east coast of Australia.

The plaque ceremonies were all different but each expressed the unique and identical charism that was lived out in each community. Three of the ceremonies took us to rural New South Wales, to the towns of Bathurst, Cootamundra and Lismore where the Sisters had ministered in local hospitals, all named in honour of St Vincent de Paul. We were welcomed with true country hospitality and were encouraged to know that the memory and contribution of the Sisters are still alive in each facility.



Trustees Sr Helen Clarke rsc and Dr Tessa Ho at St Vincent Hospital, Bathurst

Sr Maria Wheeler rsc attended all three ceremonies with me, Trustee Dr Tessa Ho attended the Bathurst ceremony and Mr Robert Cusack from St Vincent's Private Hospital in Sydney (whose aunts had been Sister Administrators during the time of the Sisters of Mercy in the hospital) joined us in Cootamundra.

The plaque ceremonies have provided an opportunity for the Sisters of Charity to be remembered and honoured for their witness and dedication in Australia over the last 175 years. The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries are grateful to have been able to donate these plaques as a permanent tribute to the Sisters.

[Sr Helen Clarke rsc](#)

Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

A DIFFERENT FACE AT ST VINCENT'S COLLEGE

On Friday, 27 February this year Mr Shane Hogan completed his 5-month term as Acting Principal at St Vincent's College, Potts Point.

Shane's leadership of the College community during this time was exceptional – as well as dealing with the many routine demands on a Principal's time, he oversaw the commencement of Stage 2 of the College master plan, implemented and monitored the effectiveness of the new daily timetable for staff and students, fostered an increased awareness of Ignatian spirituality and pedagogy, and reviewed the operation of the Boarding House.

Reflecting upon his time at St Vincent's College, Shane remarked:

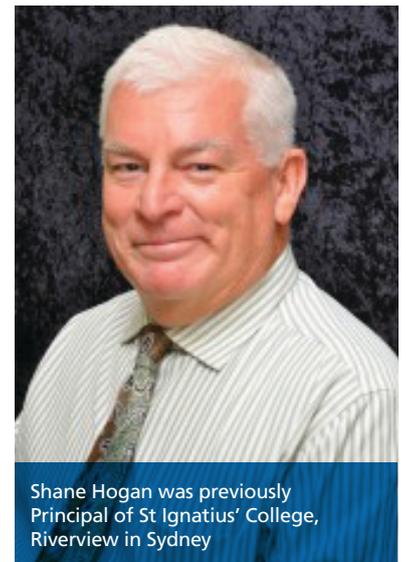
"From the first time I stood in front of the College staff and students last year, I felt a warmth and friendliness I had not experienced in my travels and visits to so many schools. The spirit and charism of the early Sisters lives on, and is very safe in the hands and hearts of the staff and students I met during my time at the College.

The friendliness and engagement of the girls has been uplifting and great fun. Coming from a school that was also formed in the Ignatian tradition, I was so impressed with the level of formation of both the staff and students and the language and actual living proof through vibrant programs and activities that ensure that these are young women on a mission to make the world a better place".

[Peter Kelly](#)

Executive Officer

Mary Aikenhead Education Australia



Shane Hogan was previously Principal of St Ignatius' College, Riverview in Sydney

LAUNCH OF THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE MODEL



On 11 February 2015, the World Day of the Sick, the new Professional Practice Model (PPM) was launched at the Bowen Hills office of St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA). The PPM is a highly innovative and thoughtful framework of service which is based on the American MAGNET Recognition Program of nursing practice. It explicitly integrates evidence-based nursing care with the reflective practice and discernment of Ignatian spirituality as lived out in Mary Aikenhead Ministries and SVHA.



Trustee Dr Tessa Ho with Aged and Community Care Mission Director Julie Walden

The importance of this integration has been highlighted in the design of the PPM logo (above right) and the missioning ceremony during which all the St Vincent's Care Services nursing leaders were formally presented by Trustee Dr Tessa Ho with a candle, which they lit from the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries' candle, and by Mr David Bryant, SVHA Group General Manager People, Culture and Communications with a PPM badge.



CEO of St Vincent's Aged Care and Shared Services Mr John Leahy and Trustee Dr Tessa Ho at the launch with Ms Christine Foley, Mr David Bryant and senior nursing staff of St Vincent's Care Services

Led by Ms Christine Foley, Director of Governance, Quality and Safety of Aged Care and Shared Services, and Ms Julie Walden, Director of Mission, the PPM launch was followed by a 2-hour workshop presenting its action plan for engaging with nursing leaders in developing more detailed content.

A full launch of PPM with the entire nursing staff of St Vincent's Care Services is planned for 12 May 2015, International Nurses Day.

A Professional Practice Manager will be recruited to facilitate this work and ensure it is embedded and sustainable as St Vincent's Care Services grows.

Dr Tessa Ho
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

REMINDER

MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES CONFERENCE, 2015

Preparations are well underway for our annual Mary Aikenhead Ministries conference to be held in Brisbane on 21-22 May 2015. We are looking forward to welcoming those in governance and leadership of our respective ministries to our key formation event.

A SIGNIFICANT VISITOR

IN FITZROY

A former doctor at St Vincent's Hospital in Fitzroy, Mary Glowrey (1887-1957), was declared Servant of God in 2013. This marked the first stage in her journey towards potential sainthood.

After commencing a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne in 1905, Mary transferred to Medicine at the end of first year and from fourth year was in the new St Vincent's Clinical School. She graduated with Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1910. Following residency in Christchurch, New Zealand, she returned to Melbourne to an appointment at the Eye and Ear Hospital and as honorary physician to Outpatients at St Vincent's Hospital. Additionally, she had a private practice in Collins Street. Mary resided at St Vincent's Hospital so that she was available for emergencies.

One hundred years ago, in October 1915, receiving a pamphlet about Indian women's and children's health changed Mary's life radically. She later wrote: "My life's work lay clear before me now ... It was to be medical mission work in India."

Due to the World War I, Mary had to delay her departure to India but during this period she returned to the University of Melbourne to undertake postgraduate studies in obstetrics, gynaecology and ophthalmology and gained her Doctor of Medicine. She continued both private practice and her positions at St Vincent's and the Eye and Ear Hospitals, in particular undertaking some of the load of male colleagues in military service.

At this time she also worked intensively with the poor and vulnerable of Fitzroy and in 1916 was the founding President of the Catholic Women's Social Guild (now the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga), which sought to address social disadvantage both by practical means and advocacy.



Dr Mary Glowrey (centre) in the Outpatients Department, St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne ca. 1914 (above)

Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ treating a leprosy patient in India ca. 1924 (right)



In 1920 Dr Glowrey left for India where she joined the Congregation of the Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, a Dutch order of Religious Sisters, and was the first nun to be given permission by the Church to practise as a missionary doctor. As Sr Dr Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ, she spent the remainder of her life serving the sick and the poor of India and was described by her fellow Sisters as "God's gift to India." As well as her health care for hundreds of thousands of India's most destitute and pioneering work in the education of Indian doctors, nurses, midwives and pharmacists, Sr Mary founded the Catholic Health Association of India. It has become one of the world's largest not-for-profit associations in the health sector.

As part of the Church's official process of determining the holiness of a deceased person (his or her cause), a postulator is appointed to investigate the person's life and works. Sr Mary Karicakunnel JMJ has been appointed the postulator for the cause of Dr Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey JMJ. With a team of others, the postulator has been examining Mary Glowrey's life and work and spiritual favours attributed to her intercession.

Much investigation has been done in Guntur, where Sr Dr Mary Glowrey spent most of her years in India and this has determined her growing reputation for holiness. As part of the ongoing process, the postulator is in Melbourne in March and April this year to examine the early years of Mary Glowrey's life. On 25 March Sr Mary Karicakunnel will visit St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne, where a presentation will be made about Mary Glowrey's time at the Hospital as a student and then staff member.

At the same time the cause of Mary Aikenhead, who founded the Sisters of Charity 200 years and has also been declared Servant of God, is being advanced by her Congregation – there will be more about that in a coming edition of *Journeys*.

Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

The photos are used with permission courtesy of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga.