



# JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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## MAM PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND 2014

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY AIKENHEAD

After a missioning ceremony at the annual Mary Aikenhead Ministries conference and the presentation of a scroll to accompany the Pilgrims (containing the names of conference participants and Mary Aikenhead Ministries facilities) sixteen leaders from the education and health ministries left home in early May to commence a 10-day pilgrimage in Ireland following in the footsteps of Mary Aikenhead.

Trustee Sr Helen Clarke rsc as leader and Fr Darryl Mackie as chaplain accompanied the Pilgrims from Dublin, to Glendalough, to Cork, up to Foxford and back to Dublin.

At the opening liturgy in Dublin, where symbols such as pilgrim shells and stones were displayed, the Pilgrims were presented with a Celtic cross to be worn throughout their journey.

Fr Darryl led prayer services at significant sites, such as Mary's home, the church of her baptism, her grave and the Heritage Centre in Dublin, and celebrated Mass in Cork and on the final night in Dublin. Local Sisters of Charity offered hospitality on several occasions and joined the Pilgrims for the opening and closing liturgies and dinners.

Each day during the 10-day journey, the Pilgrims were encouraged to reflect on their experiences and were given time at the final liturgy to share their insights with a focus on the highlights of the pilgrimage and how it should influence their ministries back home. During the final liturgy each person was presented with a pilgrimage candle and a crucifix to honour the gift of a crucifix by Mary Aikenhead to the first Sisters on their journey from Ireland to Australia in 1838.



The Pilgrims 2014

The Mary Aikenhead pilgrimage, conducted regularly by the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, is a key formation experience that is offered to leaders in all Mary Aikenhead Ministries facilities. In 2015 a pilgrimage will be conducted from 14 July to 23 July.

**Sr Helen Clarke rsc**  
*Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries*

# TMAM GOES NORTHSIDE

The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries were recently welcomed to Holy Spirit Northside Private Hospital by its senior executives. The Trustees enjoyed a tour of the Hospital and heard about current developments first hand from the practitioners in the Hospital.

Of particular interest was a recent review conducted to examine all systems and processes from patient pre-admission to discharge. The Hospital has also recently reviewed its pastoral care program to ensure that, in a busy environment, mission is at the forefront of service.

**Mr Raff Del Vecchio**

*Executive Officer*

*Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries*



*From left: Sr Helen Clarke, Prof. Gabrielle McMullen, Ms Mary Dalmau – Mission Executive, Mr Jim Russell, Ms Daniele Doyle – General Manager, Mr Raff Del Vecchio and Dr Tessa Ho*

## AN IGNATIAN PARTNERSHIP



*Students in Kasait unpacking chairs donated by St Columba's College*

The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries were delighted recently to receive correspondence from Fr Mark Raper SJ, President of the Jesuit Asia Pacific Conference, providing an update on the Jesuit education and health project in Kasait, East Timor.

In particular, Fr Mark expressed much gratitude for the support given to the initiative so freely by our ministries, highlighting the assistance by Mr David Alcock, Business Manager, Catholic Ladies' College in a Business Manager secondment for the school, as well as the continued generosity of St Columba's College through the agency of Mr Malcolm Finger, Business Manager, in providing much-needed classroom furniture and other resources for the school.

The continuing commitment of our Colleges to the needs of others, particularly through such transformative action, is commended.

**Mr Peter Kelly**

*Executive Officer*

*Mary Aikenhead Education Australia*

# THE SISTERS CELEBRATE!

This year marks the 175th anniversary of the arrival in Australia of the Religious Sisters of Charity. The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries welcomed the invitation of the Congregation to consider a special project to mark this significant milestone. The request was for the Trustees to place a plaque at sites of ministries established and/or formerly conducted by the Congregation. Over some months, the Congregational leadership team, the Trustees and Janssen Design Associates worked together on the design of a beautiful plaque, recognising the remarkable contribution of the Sisters of Charity to the Australian Church and wider society. The plaque features the Congregational crest together with the 175 year logo and the wording, *Sisters of Charity of Australia 1838-2013 – The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries honour this place as significant in the Sisters' story.*

From their earliest years the Religious Sisters of Charity of Australia founded schools, hospitals, hospices, aged care facilities, social services and other ministries and these have served and enriched the Church and wider society in New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory. The Sisters have also ministered overseas in diverse contexts. There are some 80 sites across eastern Australia, where ministries were conducted by the Sisters of Charity – some of these are now part of Mary Aikenhead Ministries (MAM); others are within another education or healthcare system.

These former Sisters of Charity ministries were invited to accept a 175 year plaque and to have representatives of the Congregation and of the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries visit the facility for a presentation ceremony. These invitations have generally been enthusiastically accepted, with former Congregational schools and hospitals which are not part of MAM particularly appreciative of an opportunity to join in the celebrations of the Sisters of Charity. Thirty-seven ceremonies have been held to date with a similar number planned for the months ahead. A few former ministries have still to respond and the MAM office is following up these invitations.

Plaque ceremonies thus far have been conducted at the following sites:

## Catholic primary schools

- Sydney** Ashfield, Bexley, Brighton Le Sands, Cabramatta, Concord, Horsley Park, Hurstville, Liverpool, Mount Pritchard, Paddington, Shellharbour, South Hurstville
- Hobart** Hobart, Kingston, New Norfolk, South Hobart
- Melbourne** Airport West, Diamond Creek, East Melbourne, Keilor East
- Brisbane** Ashgrove, Ashgrove West, The Gap
- Canberra** Curtin

## Catholic secondary schools

- Sydney** All Saints Catholic College, Bethany College, Bethlehem College
- Hobart** Mt Carmel College
- Melbourne** Catholic Ladies' College, Penola Catholic College
- Brisbane** Mt St Michael's College

## Healthcare facilities

- Sydney** St Joseph's Hospital and Village, St Vincent's Outreach Service Bathurst
- Melbourne** Caritas Christi Hospice, Prague House, St Vincent's Public Hospital, St Vincent's Private Hospital
- Brisbane** St Vincent's Private Hospital and Marycrest Retirement Centre

While each of these occasions is worthy of its own story, two accounts of plaque ceremonies below illustrate the significance of this 175 year celebration of the Sisters' ministries.

## The Hobart Celebrations

Trustees David Robinson and Sr Helen Clarke rsc were delighted to take part in the Congregation's 175 year celebrations in Tasmania. As part of the ceremonies, plaques marking the anniversary were presented to ministries established by the Sisters of Charity.

On the morning of Friday, 20 June Mt Carmel College, Sandy Bay received its plaque and in the afternoon St Aloysius Catholic College, Kingston. At the Hobart Mass on Saturday, 21 June plaques were blessed for St Joseph's Parish, Hobart and St Luke's Parish, South Hobart and presented on the Saturday and following Monday, respectively. The plaque ceremony for St Brigid's Primary School, New Norfolk was also held on the Monday. Many Sisters of Charity from around Australia joined in the four days of celebrations at these former Congregational schools.



From left: Trustee Sr Helen Clarke in Hobart with Srs Maria Wheeler, Teresita Marcelo, Denise Hannabery and Anne Turner and Parish Priest Fr Peter Addicoat CP holding a 175 year plaque

# THE SISTERS CELEBRATE!

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## The Health Ministry in Melbourne

Monday, 8 September was a joyous day for the health ministries, the Sisters of Charity and the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries in Melbourne, with four 175 year plaques being presented to local ministries established by the Congregation. The day commenced at 9am at Prague House; the next ceremony was at 10.30am at Caritas Christi where members of the Order of Malta, key supporters of the ministry, joined the celebration. Mass in the chapel at noon was the venue for the St Vincent's Public Hospital ceremony and, following lunch, a plaque was presented at 2pm to the St Vincent's Private Hospital. The day reflected the breadth of the Congregation's contributions in founding health ministries.

Prague House in Kew provides residential care to people who are socially and financially disadvantaged, and many of whom have experienced homelessness and have a mental health condition. Caritas Christi Hospice provides palliative care and aged care services across two inner Melbourne campuses in Fitzroy and Kew.

**Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM**  
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries



## SAVE THE DATE MAM Conference 2015

The Trustees are pleased to announce that the MAM annual conference will be held in Brisbane on 21-22 May 2015. The conference is the primary formation activity conducted by the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries for leaders of their health, education, research, aged care and outreach ministries.

Electronic invitations will be sent out soon along with information about the venue.



From left: Sr Margaret Laffan rsc, Sr Helen Malone rsc, Prof. Patricia O'Rourke – CEO of SVHA's Public Hospitals Division, Trustee Prof. Gabrielle McMullen AM and Ben Fielding – CEO of St Vincent's Public Hospital Melbourne



MAEA Symposium convener Mrs Margaret McKenna, Principal of Catholic Ladies' College (left), with Sr Laureen Dixon rsc, Board Director of St Vincent's College (right), at the Symposium

## EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

On 24 July Mary Aikenhead Education Australia conducted its first Education Symposium under the theme, *We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are* (Max De Pree). The Symposium had 65 participants encompassing College Board Directors, Principals and members of leadership teams as well as several Sisters of Charity, the Mary Aikenhead Education Australia Advisory Council (MAE AAC) and Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries (TMAM).

The Symposium was an opportunity to engage in dialogue around ways by which we can ensure that the education ministry continues to grow and flourish and is taken purposefully into the future. The keynote speaker was Fr Gerald Arbuckle SM; other speakers were Mr David Robinson, TMAM Chair, and Mr David Hutton, MAE AAC Chair. The facilitator was Ms Kerry Brettell of Integro Partners.

**Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM**  
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries



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