



# JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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## MAM JOIN THE ASSOCIATION OF MINISTERIAL PJPs

The establishment of the Association of Ministerial PJPs Ltd in May this year marked an historic development in relation to lay leadership of ministries conducted by the Catholic Church. The Association is the peak body for the new Australian public juridic persons (PJPs) like Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

In recent years, religious institutes, such as the Sisters of Charity, have instigated the creation of ministerial PJPs as a new model of sponsorship and of lay leadership for their ministries to ensure their continuation as works of the Catholic Church. The establishing authority for the new entities has varied – some PJPs, like Mary Aikenhead Ministries, have been established by the Holy See through the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and are known as PJPs of pontifical right. Others have been authorised by Australian Diocesan or Provincial Bishops.

While the model varies, such religious-lay partnerships have in common the continuation of Church ministries. Thus, the ministerial PJPs provide for long-term stable governance of the ministries and continuance of their Catholic identity with the trustees (canonical stewards) of the respective PJPs generally having both canonical and civil responsibility for the ministries entrusted to them.

For three years, the Australian ministerial PJPs worked together to put in place their 'umbrella' body (which is comparable to Catholic Religious Australia for the religious institutes). Such a development was important as a means for the PJPs to interact formally with one another and, in a corporate sense, with the Bishops and Church agencies.

The aims of the new Association are to:

- offer a contemporary, encouraging example of Christ's mission at work in the world;
- enable the co-responsibility of the laity and clergy for the life of the Church and its ministries;
- facilitate collegial interaction between canonical stewards of the member PJPs;

- provide the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Religious Australia and other Catholic entities with a point of liaison with member PJPs and their canonical stewards;
- support canonical stewards in their ministry of governance;
- promote and proclaim Catholic identity as an integral part of the PJPs ministries.

Vatican II sought to promote the "vocation of the laity" and highlighted that "modern conditions demand that their apostolate be broadened and intensified ... An indication of this manifold and pressing need is the unmistakable work being done today by the Holy Spirit in making the laity ever more conscious of their own responsibility and encouraging them to serve Christ and the Church in all circumstances" (*Apostolicam Actuositatem: Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People*, 1963, §1).

Significantly, the Association of Ministerial PJPs is the first such 'umbrella' body of ministerial PJPs internationally. It is seeking to foster the trustees' ministry of canonical governance through a relational, collegial and collaborative approach and, recognising the diversity of the Australian ministerial PJPs, to be inclusive in supporting them and their canonical stewards to flourish individually and together as a new Church sector.

Together with Mary Aikenhead Ministries, the founding members of the Association of Ministerial PJPs are Calvary Ministries, Catholic Healthcare, Dominican Education Australia, Edmund Rice Education Australia, Good Samaritan Education, Kildare Ministries, Mercy Partners and St John of God Australia Ltd. MercyCare in Western Australia and other entities which are currently petitioning to become ministerial PJPs intend to become members, when appropriate. Together these PJPs make a major contribution to Catholic education, health, aged care and social services across Australia.

[Gabrielle McMullen](#)

*Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries*

# A PILGRIMAGE TO HOBART

*At its heart, the journey of each life is a pilgrimage, through unforeseen sacred places that enlarge and enrich the soul.*

Joyce Rupp, *Walk in a Relaxed Manner: Life Lessons from the Camino* (Orbis Books, 2005)

Twenty pilgrims from Mary Aikenhead Ministries across health, education, outreach, aged care and medical research gathered on the afternoon of 13 October to understand and immerse themselves in the early stories of the Sisters of Charity in Tasmania. Our walk to the dock area of Hobart enabled us to look up stream along the Derwent River, to think of the time when Sisters Mary John Cahill, Mary de Sales O'Brien and Mary Xavier Williams arrived from Sydney in June 1847. One could imagine the cold of that June day, the sense of remoteness and isolation as well as the harsh and primitive conditions that greeted the Sisters. The pilgrims' conversations captured, with admiration, the strength and courage of these women, their response to a 'vocational call' and their realisation that once in Tasmania, they would probably never leave. These women had already left their homeland of Ireland and, from Sydney, had again journeyed to a further outpost of colonial Australia.



The Hobart pilgrimage crossed chronological times as we traced the ministries of the Sisters of Charity in Kingston, at Mt Carmel College in Sandy Bay and then at the Ragged School and the penal era Female Factory in Hobart. We were fortunate to have, as part of our group, Sisters Helen Clark rsc, Maria Wheeler rsc, Genevieve Walsh rsc, Margaret Fitzgerald rsc and Linda Ferrington rsc, most of whom had worked in various ministries in Tasmania.

At Mt Carmel College, we were welcomed by Principal Susan Ryan, with Year 7 students proudly leading tours for our group. It was a delight to share the Mt Carmel College history and current story.

Our visit to the Female Factory in South Hobart was profound; through the eyes of a 'female convict' we experienced the bitter and harsh reality of the convict women whom the Sisters of Charity were called to serve.



The cold, dank and heartless context of the Female Factory would surely have challenged the strength and faith of those early Sisters. Significantly, the small museum cottage at the Female Factory has reference to the good works of the Sisters of Charity and the sense of respect and dignity that they gave to the female prisoners. The pilgrim group lunched in the sunshine of the Hobart Botanical Gardens; this enabled time for reflection, as well as the opportunity to learn about the different work within Mary Aikenhead Ministries of each pilgrim.

Another station in the sacred story was the graves of the Sisters of Charity at Cornelia Bay. These are the final resting place of the three pioneering Sisters as well as many others who have ministered in Tasmania since the 1840s. The liturgy at the graveside was simple in its beauty and profound in our realisation of what these tenacious women had begun so long ago. The sense that Mary Aikenhead Ministries are now working and contributing to what was begun so long ago is both a privilege and considerable responsibility. Trustee Sr Helen, pilgrimage leader, invited the pilgrims to think about their respective ministry and to ponder the contributions and legacy of our time into the future.

The pilgrimage finished with Emeritus Archbishop Adrian Doyle celebrating Mass at St Joseph's Church, a further place of significance for the Sisters of Charity. In his homily, Archbishop Doyle spoke of the courage and commitment of the early Sisters and that today their charism is embedded in Mary Aikenhead Ministries. He encouraged us to recognise that God lives in us, works through us and accomplishes the Divine Plan through us. As Mary Aikenhead Ministries, we are called to "read the signs of the times" and identify future directions through prayer and discernment.

**Margaret McKenna**

*Mission Development Coordinator, Mary Aikenhead Education Australia*

# FOND FAREWELLS IN THE EDUCATION MINISTRY



Ms April Honeyman, retiring principle, St Columba's College

During November Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries have been at farewells marking departures from the education ministry of very significant 'players'.

On Saturday, 12 November current and former Board Directors and executives of St Columba's College in Melbourne gathered with Sisters of Charity and Trustees to pay tribute to April Honeyman who provided 12 years of dedicated service to Mary Aikenhead Ministries as College Principal. Following a moving liturgy in the College chapel, we sat down to a festive lunch in the staffroom to honour and farewell April.

This year also sees the retirement of Alison Terrey as Principal of Mt St Michael's College in Brisbane. Alison has served in this role for 15 years during a key period of the school's development. College staff, Board Directors, community stakeholders, Sisters of Charity and Trustees from across her years at the College came together on the evening of Friday, 25 November at the Customs House on the Brisbane River to pay tribute to Alison.

Then on Tuesday, 29 November the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries joined Board Directors of St Vincent's College at the Royal Automobile Club in Sydney to mark the retirement of Board Chair Paul Davis. Paul has made a generous and dedicated contribution to the College firstly as Board Director and in 2015-2016 as Board Chair. He was recently appointed as Trustee of the new ministerial PJP, Dominican Education Australia (see lead article).



Retiring Mt St Michaels' College principal Ms Alison Terrey at her farewell function

We express our sincere gratitude to April, Alison and Paul and ask blessings on all their future endeavours.

Gabrielle McMullen

Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

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## A NEW FOCUS FOR JOURNEYS

As we draw to the close of 2016, our minds and hearts are caught between all that we need to accomplish before the year's end and taking time to savour and reflect on the graces, blessings and challenges experienced this year throughout Mary Aikenhead Ministries. As Trustees, we are privileged to witness the dedication, love, compassion and hope that the ministries bring through the touch of God's love in serving God's people – especially the poor and marginalised.

During 2017, each edition of *Journeys* will focus on four expressions of God's mission through the lenses of Hope, Love, Compassion and Justice. The stories will capture the joy and delight in expressing the healing, teaching and pastoral ministries which celebrate the heart of Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

Linda Ferrington rsc

Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

*God is present in the here and now, expressing our fidelity to Jesus' mission and witnessing to God Who Is With Us – Emmanuel.*

# ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL GRIFFITH



The opening of Griffith Hospital

This collaborative venture between St Vincent's Health Australia and the Griffith and surrounding communities was blessed, opened and celebrated on 22-24 September 2016.

The celebrations included the opening Mass, the blessing of the Chapel and Board Room on 22 September, official opening of the hospital and Learning Centre and a cocktail party on 23 September, and an Open Day for the community on 24 September.

There was much excitement in the community with the functions attended by Bishop Gerard Hanna of Wagga Wagga, Federal Minister for Health Susan Ley, Trustees Dr Tessa Ho and Sr Helen Clarke rsc, Sisters of Charity, SVHA Board Chair Paul Robertson and CEO Toby Hall, Charles Curran AC and Richard Haddock AM from St Vincent's Curran Foundation, senior leaders from SVHA and local mayors, civil dignitaries and large numbers from the community.

*Helen Clarke rsc  
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries*



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May the love, peace and joy  
of the holy family be with you  
and those you love this Christmas.  
Seasons greetings from the Trustees  
of Mary Aikenhead Ministries



**MARY  
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