



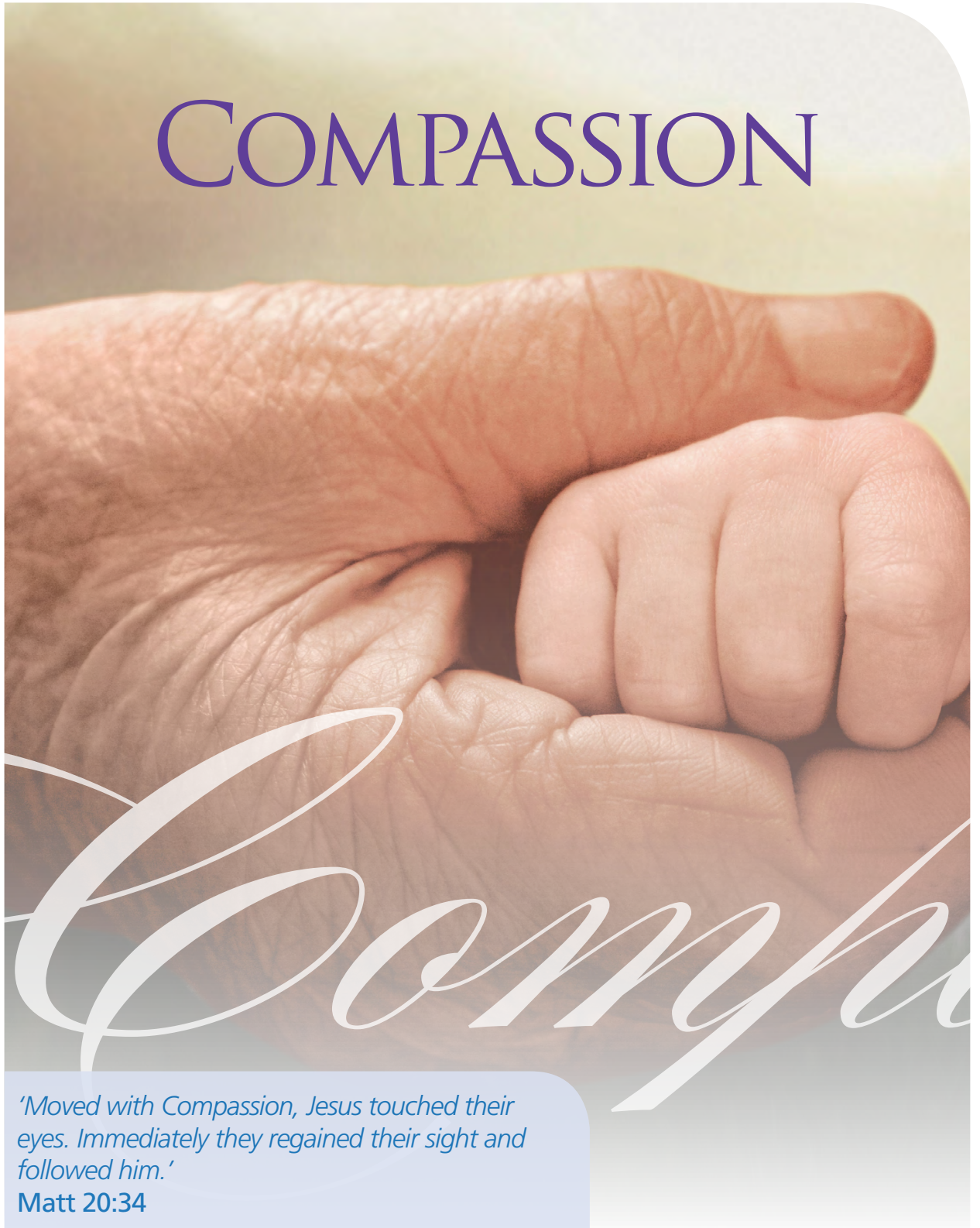
MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES

JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 3 | SEPTEMBER 2022

COMPASSION



'Moved with Compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.'

Matt 20:34

COMPASSION

I had the good fortune earlier this week to attend both the Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons and also the National Conference of Catholic Health Australia. These were rich and blessed occasions to be with others from around our nation who are committed to the Catholic provision of Health, Aged Care, Social Services and Education.

Amongst many aspects which stood out for me was the repetition of the word Compassion as being central to all that we attempt and how we attempt to carry out our Missions.

Our own values of Love, Justice, Compassion and Hope were enshrined in our Constitution by the Sisters of Charity when they established Mary Aikenhead Ministries earlier this century. In our Vision, Mission and Values document (2019), we cite the Gospel of Matthew:

Moved with Compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him. (Matt 20:34)

The Mission and Values of Catholic Health Australia (CHA) are written in their Annual Reports as follows (my bold type):

MISSION CHA supports our Catholic health, aged and community care members through policy leadership and sector engagement, enhancing their missions to provide compassionate care to all Australians. We are inspired by the ministry of Jesus and the work of Catholic congregations to bring healing, justice, comfort and hope for all, especially the vulnerable, disadvantaged, neglected and stigmatised in society.

VALUES CHA and member organisations share common values grounded in the mission of the Gospel - for the good of all. CHA and members, as ministries of the Catholic Church, are inspired by the person and mission of Jesus, who embraced the world to bring justice and healing. CHA and member organisations are committed to showing love and respect for service users and staff, providing the best care especially for the vulnerable and marginalised and to approach every encounter as an opportunity for healing, companionship, compassion, comfort, and hope.

As I reflected on the conference references, in the knowledge that this value is central to our Mission, it made me think whether there may sometimes be a continuum of Compassion.

Does it start with pity? Does it start with feeling sorry for someone? Does it involve Charity? Can I be truly compassionate to someone if I don't like them? Or think that their situation, however dire, is really of their own making? Does my motivation really define if my actions and words have compassion rather than me just doing something I think I should do and I'll feel bad if I don't? Do I realise there are many types of vulnerability including a poverty of spirit and an inability to make wise decisions in life? Can I put myself in the other's shoes?

Can I be compassionate to myself or does it only apply to what I do for other people?

I don't really know the answers to these questions for myself. I have more growing to do obviously!

What I do know is that in our schools, aged care facilities, hospital and hospital at home services, research institutes and social care situations there are hundreds of people who on a daily basis exhibit the loving care of Jesus for the sick, vulnerable and fragile who have placed their trust in our care. The sick and vulnerable have such faith in us because of the foundations of love, justice, compassion and hope which are central to works which belong to the Mary Aikenhead tradition.

It can be hard to care compassionately for others especially in periods of personal or work challenge. It may be that motivation is low on the continuum and there is compassion fatigue. Your students, patients and clients might not respond immediately the way the blind did for Jesus! Then it is fine to feel a little personal compassion too.

However, in the care given, the words spoken, the actions taken, you exhibit daily an underlying generosity and compassion which is so central to your own being and our Mission that it is just the way we do things around here. Then the loving compassion of Jesus is truly alive. This happens every day in all our Ministries. How simply divine.

[Ms Janet Freeman](#)
Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



HOBART PILGRIMAGE JUNE 2022

CONTINUING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY

May we always act more and more purely faith and love and we shall be able to do all things in God who strengthens us.
Venerable Mary Aikenhead

Defiant Voices: How Australia's Female Convicts Challenged Authority is the title of a book I purchased on our recent Hobart Pilgrimage. Fittingly, I purchased it in the shop at the Cascades Female Factory which was the site for the challenging and hard work of the three Sisters of Charity who left Sydney and arrived in Hobart aboard the ship Louisa on 20 June 1847.

Mother de Sales O'Brien, Mother Xavier Williams and Mother John Cahill were three of our original pioneer Irish Sisters in Australia and, as many know, they challenged the directions of Bishop Polding in his desire to change their Constitution and so left to travel to minister to the settlers in Hobart. This brief sentence cannot reflect or do justice to the loyalty, faith, courage and fortitude they exhibited. Loyalty, faith, courage and fortitude which they and their successors continued in their prison, health, social service and education ministries in Tasmania.

Our Hobart Pilgrimage in June, led by the amazing Sr Maria Wheeler, was scheduled to allow us to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Sisters' arrival which we did with a beautiful Mass in St Joseph's Church followed by a dinner in a nearby hotel. It was especially fitting that amongst our group was current Congregational Leader Sr Laureen Dixon, Council member Sr Teresita Marcelo, and Sr Linda Ferrington.

We were able to visit Mount Carmel College, St Aloysius Catholic College Kingston Beach, the Cascades Female Factory, St Josephs' Church and sculptures on Hobart waterfront which memorialise the struggles and bravery of the early convict settlers. Our pilgrimage concluded at Cornelian Bay Cemetery where we prayed in thanks for the legacy of these pioneering Sisters and their contribution to Australia.



Pilgrims' mass at St Joseph's Church



Pilgrims and Guests celebration dinner

The Hobart Pilgrimage is one of our three major Pilgrimages: Ireland, Parramatta and Hobart. The content and main stories of the Hobart and Irish Pilgrimages have been beautifully captured in their digital stories which have both been released in the last twelve months (see links to these below).

[Click here for Virtual Pilgrimage to Ireland](#)

[Click here for Virtual Pilgrimage to Hobart](#)

Thanks be to God for these three defiant voices. Let us hope we too will have faith, courage and fortitude when faced with moral dilemmas.

[Ms Janet Freeman](#)
Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



Pilgrims at the Footsteps to Freedom sculptures

MOUNT CARMEL COLLEGE

BLESSING OF JESUS AT THE WELL

On Monday 20 June 2022, the College celebrated a milestone. It was a cold and crisp day, snow on kunyanyi (Mount Wellington) and a slight breeze on the Derwent River when the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, a small contingent of Sisters of Charity, the Saracino family and friends and every student, via a zoomed connection, joined together to mark the 175th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity arrival to Hobart. The College community marked this special occasion with a blessing on the cross (the Trinity) and on the installation of Jesus at the Well - both are symbols of our faith and remind us that we are a part of a much larger story.

Father Michael Delaney led the community through the liturgy and a number of students marked the sacred dialogue with music and drama. It was a wonderful opportunity to stop, to acknowledge and to celebrate the Sisters who had changed the landscape of old Hobart town with their courage, their compassion and their sense of justice.

Jesus at the Well was a concept initiated by the late Ms Ida Saracino, staff member extraordinaire and a member of the College Leadership team. In one of my first meetings with Ms Ida Saracino (Director of Primary Mission and Identity), I was challenged to see the journey of the Sisters as one in which I played a part. For Ida, this journey needed Jesus. Not just any kind of Jesus, but a Jesus that invites us to interact with him, to sit with him and to be with him. Staff and students alike have witnessed the power of Jesus at the Well - he is a gentle reminder that He is on our journey, that He is in fact central to our existence.

It was wonderful to see Jesus and the Well surrounded by the Sisters who had made the journey down to be with us on this day. Their part



Sr Cathy Meese pictured with Sr Josephine Cannell



Sr Teresita Marcelo, Sr Linda Ferrington, Ms Fiona Nolan - Principal, Sr Anne Turner, Sr Maria Wheeler

in the journey of Mount Carmel College and in the journey of the Sisters of Charity, provide our students with role models for our College values of Courage, Compassion and Justice. Our continued connection with the Sisters provides the fabric of our interactions with the broader community and continues to inspire staff and students to reach out and have their eyes on others who are silenced and "invisible" and to continue the tradition that the three Sisters began 175 years ago.

Ms Fiona Nolan
Principal, Mount Carmel College



Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries Assoc. Prof. Peter Howard, Mr Richard Haddock AO - Chair, Ms Margaret McKenna, Ms Janet Freeman, Ms Penelope Wright, Mr Gary Humphrys pictured with Ms Fiona Nolan - Principal (centre)

CATHOLIC LADIES' COLLEGE

CELEBRATES 120 YEARS

This year, Catholic Ladies' College (CLC), Eltham celebrates 120 years of educating young women in the charism and tradition of the Sisters of Charity, now under the stewardship of Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

On 15 July, Sisters of Charity, Trustees and Board Directors gathered with the Principal, Mrs Stephanie Evans, staff and students to pray and give thanks for all that has been as well as look forward to all that will be. The Mass honoured the 120-year history, celebrating the heritage and legacy of Mary Aikenhead, the Sisters of Charity and the many students, parents and staff who have been part of the rich tapestry of the college journey since 1902.

Mass was celebrated by Fr Terry Kean and visitors experienced the college hall as transformed into a space of prayer, reflection and the giftedness that abounds with the young women of the college. An enduring memory, was the reverence and sense of the sacred amongst the girls.

Mass concluded with the following blessing for CLC Community:

May God who journeys with us, bless us with loving kindness and eternal gratitude for the privilege of being part of the ongoing story of Catholic Ladies' College...

May God who is present in each person in our College Community help us to live as Jesus shows us...

May God's spirit continue to make our College a place of welcome, a place where the dignity of each



Back: Sr Libbey Byrne, Ms Stephanie Evans - CLC Principal
Front L to R: Sr Joan Stapleton, Sr Josephine Cannell, Sr Patricia Walker, Sr Colleen McDonald, Sr Loretta Bani

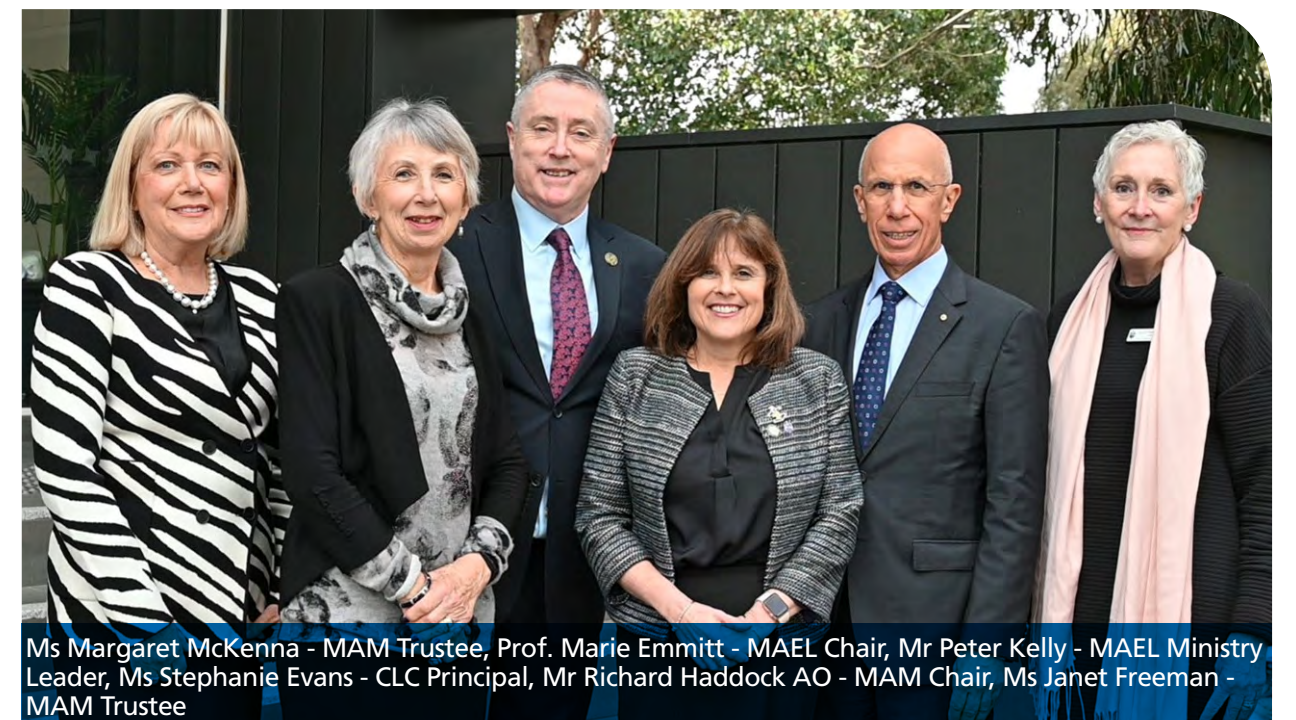


College Co-Captains - Madeline McVeigh (left) and Jessica Butterworth (right) pictured with Sr Colleen McDonald and Sr Loretta Bani.

person is sacred, a place where imagination is alive and a place where the love of Christ urges us on...

It was, indeed, a privilege for Trustees Mr Richard Haddock AO, Ms Janet Freeman and Ms Margaret McKenna to be present. Congratulations CLC on your 120th Anniversary.

Ms Margaret McKenna
Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



Ms Margaret McKenna - MAM Trustee, Prof. Marie Emmitt - MAEL Chair, Mr Peter Kelly - MAEL Ministry Leader, Ms Stephanie Evans - CLC Principal, Mr Richard Haddock AO - MAM Chair, Ms Janet Freeman - MAM Trustee

VENERABLE MARY AIKENHEAD FEAST DAY

As we know July 22nd is the anniversary of the death of Venerable Mary Aikenhead.

Each year the Sisters of Charity, as well as all of us involved in Mary Aikenhead ministries, celebrate this feast day.

I was privileged to join (via Zoom) with the Sisters in their global commemoration. It was simply a beautiful liturgy as Sisters from Africa, Ireland and Australia participated in the prayers and the liturgical service.

Towards the end of the liturgy we paused in silence to remember those Sisters who had passed away over the past 12 months. This reflection was truly very moving.

I also recently participated in the Hobart pilgrimage where we once again reflected on the courage, compassion, and deep faith of those pioneering Sisters and those who came after them.

As Venerable Mary Aikenhead's feast day liturgy came to a close, I gave thanks to all those Sisters whose shoulders we stand on in our own time and in our endeavours to further our mission.

Mr Gary Humphrys
Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



MAEL BOARD AND TRUSTEE JOINT FORMATION

The Trustees were delighted to join the Mary Aikenhead Education Limited (MAEL) Board for a shared formation session on 5 August 2022. Presenter, facilitator and theologian, Dr James Nickoloff used scripture and our faith heritage to prompt participants' thinking, reflection and discussion. The venue was the Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre - the richness of the historical story as well as the beauty of the exhibits provided the ideal setting to understand our Sisters of Charity and Mary Aikenhead Ministries' heritage. It was, as if, the presence of the Sisters wrapped around the prayer, discussion and reflection of the day. It was a graced occasion.

The program began with an exploration for our Catholic tradition and paths to God. We then spent time exploring the call to a Preferential Option for the Poor, its evolution since the Second Vatican Council and how we understand this call in today's context. Of significance for me, was a renewed appreciation that a Preferential Option for the Poor means giving priority to the needs and circumstances of others; giving this priority in our choices, our decisions and our commitments. This a call for courage and solidarity. I am reminded of the words of Irish Sister of Charity - Sr Stanislaus Kennedy, that at our best, we should strive to 'give of our substance, not of our surplus.' This is always a work in progress, there is much to do and be for others...

The formation day also enabled the MAEL Directors and Trustees to explore more deeply the MAEA



Courtesy of the Congregational Archives of the Sisters of Charity of Australia. Reproduction bust by Brian Sanstrom, original bust by Dr Charles William Maccarthy.

foundational document 'By this Everyone will know...'. The gifts and opportunities that this resource offers, including the universal commitment to a Preferential Option for the Poor, are rich in mission and formation for the continuing journey of the education ministry.

Ms Margaret McKenna
Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries

ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

St Columba's College (SCC), Essendon celebrates its 125th anniversary this year; how extraordinary to think that generations of young women have been educated by the Sisters of Charity and their colleagues since the gates of the college first opened in 1897. The college celebrated this anniversary with the Mass of the Assumption on 12 August 2022. It was a delight to join many Sisters of Charity, Board Directors, parents, staff and of course the students for such an auspicious occasion. Celebrant, Bishop Terry Curtin spoke of Mary's 'yes' to the invitation to be the mother of Christ and the legacy of the founding Sisters with their selfless and generous efforts in the establishment of the college.

Principal, Ms Rita Grima's welcome, the choice of readings and prayers as well as Congregational Leader, Sr Laureen Dixon's address at the conclusion of mass, captured the deep and abiding gratitude for what has been, the love and pride of the current era and a joyful hope and optimism for the future. It was delightful to share the students' engagement and sense of the sacredness of the occasion as well as hear of the many Sisters who had been students and staff at the college.

From the gospel, Mary's words: 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant,' continues to offer inspiration for the journey... Luke 1: 46-48

To mark the occasion, the College has a stunning image of Venerable Mary Aikenhead hanging in the foyer, upon close inspection, it is a collage of the images of the 2022 student and staff community.

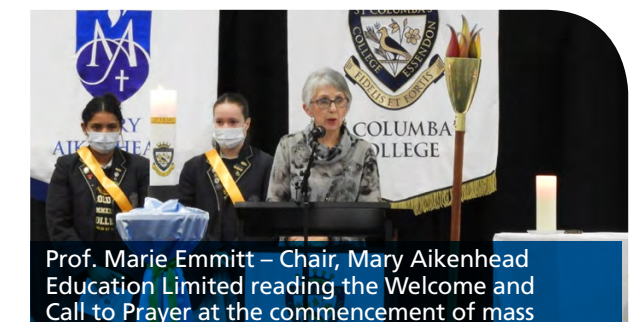
Congratulations St Columba's College on your 125th Anniversary.



Sr Teresita Marcelo – Congregational Councillor SOCA (centre) pictured with Vivian Ly and Sr Joan Stapleton



College choir performing at 125 Year Anniversary Celebration Eucharist



Prof. Marie Emmitt – Chair, Mary Aikenhead Education Limited reading the Welcome and Call to Prayer at the commencement of mass

Ms Margaret McKenna
Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



Back row L to R: Sr Libbey Byrne – Congregational Councillor SOCA, Sr Maureen Walters, Sr Teresita Marcelo - Congregational Councillor SOCA, Sr Laureen Dixon – Congregational Leader SOCA
Front row L to R: Sr Patricia Walker, Sr Josephine Cannell, Mrs Rita Grima – SCC Principal, Sr Joan Stapleton

ST VINCENT'S FOUNDATION QUEENSLAND LAUNCH

Friday 19 August 2022 was a special day for St Vincent's Health Australia with the launch of the new St Vincent's Foundation Queensland. The Foundation was established to assist with fundraising for the 3 St Vincent's Private Hospitals in Queensland, (Brisbane, Northside and Toowoomba), along with all St Vincent's Aged Care facilities, helping them to continue to provide excellent, compassionate, research-driven care to their patients and residents, while continuing to strengthen their capacity to care for those who are poor and vulnerable.

Several distinguished guests joined the Foundation Board and Executive team along with staff and patients from St Vincent's Private Hospital Brisbane for the official opening, lunch and liturgy in celebration. The day was highlighted by a group of students from St Laurence's College at South Brisbane calling in as part of their annual walkathon. The "Men from the hill" were excited to be on the streets of Brisbane after several years restricted to virtual events because of COVID. They then took part in the official ribbon cutting by St Vincent's Foundation Queensland Board member Sr Clare Nolan and Chair Prof. Michael Drew. The new Foundation was honoured to be the major beneficiary of the students fundraising in 2022.

With 2022 being the 100-year anniversary of the first St Vincent's Hospital in Queensland at Toowoomba, the goal of this new Foundation is to ensure that the spirit of care and compassion that has been delivered by the Sisters of Charity since the first St Vincent's Hospital was established in Sydney back in 1857 does continue in Queensland into the future.



Sr Clare Nolan with St Laurence's College students, Brisbane



Sr Clare Nolan cutting the ribbon (pictured with Prof. Michael Drew)

For more information on the St Vincent's Foundation Queensland, please visit www.helpstvincentsqld.org.au



Mr Chris Leadbetter Principal St Laurence's College, Mr Oli Steele CEO SVPHB & SVPHN, Mr Gregory Potent SVFQ Foundation Manager, Mr Lincoln Hopper CEO SVC, Sr Clare Nolan SVFQ Board Member, Prof. Michael Drew SVFQ Chair, Ms Anne Cross SVFQ Board Member, Ms Kathryn McKeefry CEO SVPHT, Mr Gary Humphrys TMAM Deputy Chair

AMPJP LEADERSHIP FOR AND BY MINISTERIAL PJPs

Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries is one of twelve members of the Association of Ministerial PJPs (AMPJP). Other members of AMPJP are:

St John of God I Mercy Care I Edmund Rice Education Australia I Good Samaritan Education I Kildare Ministries I Calvary Ministries I Dominican Education Australia I Catholic Healthcare I Mercy Ministry Companions I Mercy Partners I and Sophia Education Ministries.

The AMPJP was formed in 2016 as the representative body for Ministerial PJPs. It facilitates collaboration and communication among Ministerial PJPs and between them and the wider Church.

AMPJP helped Ministerial PJPs collaborate in:

- Providing activities to complement the formation that Ministerial PJPs provide to their Trustees;
- Developing common approaches to the Church's safeguarding frameworks;
- Participation in the Plenary Council and its implementation; and
- Advocacy for our schools through the AMPJP's committee for Religious Institute and Ministerial PJP school authorities.

The AMPJP brings together its members every year for a full day forum. Due to the pandemic, the August 2022 forum was the first in-person forum since 2019. The hunger to meet was demonstrated by the attendance of 51 of the total of 77 (66%) MPJP Stewards (Trustees). The August 2022 forum included discussions on synodality in Ministerial PJPs, Trustees sustaining the mission and Trustee succession.

AMPJP recently signed partnership agreements with the Church's two other peak bodies: the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia. These agreements set out the separate and shared roles of each party. The hope is that these agreements will build trust, understanding and facilitate common action.

The AMPJP sees itself as having a role in assisting the Church understand the significance of Ministerial PJPs. Recently, AMPJP produced two short animations. [The first deals with MPJPs](#) and [second speaks of the AMPJP](#). These animations are freely available on the AMPJP's YouTube channel.

The AMPJP communicates with Ministerial PJPs and the wider Church via regular email bulletins to Ministerial PJPs and their Trustees, a free monthly newsletter and information/resources on the AMPJP website. After six years of operation, the role and value of the AMPJP is clear. Increasingly, the wider Church is recognising the AMPJP as a representative body similar to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia. This was seen at the Plenary Council which passed three Decrees that required these three bodies to lead action on whole-of-Church issues.

The participation of AMPJP in Church leadership is significant as it brings the voice of the lay people who are the stewards of Ministerial PJPs and it brings the perspective of their ministries. This voice and perspective have the potential to keep the Church grounded in reality, outward-focused and attentive to the needs of the marginalised.

Mr Lawrie Hallinan
Executive Officer, AMPJP



AMPJP Member Representatives, August 2022

Back row: Peter Pritchard (Sophia Education Ministries); Peter Steane (Catholic Healthcare); Phil Billington (Edmund Rice Education Australia); Kieran McCarthy (Mercy Partners); Margaret Bounader (Mercy Ministry Companions); David Penny (Calvary Ministries)

Front row: Rosemary Copeland (Kildare Ministries); Julianna Drobik OP (Dominican Education Australia); Richard Haddock AO (Mary Aikenhead Ministries); Eva Skira AM (St John of God Australia); Moira Najdecki (Good Samaritan Education); Jennifer Stratton (MercyCare)

SR MARIA CUNNINGHAM LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Congratulations to Sr Clare Nolan who was recently awarded the Sr Maria Cunningham Lifetime Achievement Award at the CHA National Conference in August 2022.

The Sr Maria Cunningham Lifetime Contribution Award has been bestowed by the CHA Stewardship Board on Catholic health Leaders since 2011. The award is given to those who have made significant contributions to the Church's presence in health and aged care, and inspired others working in Catholic health and aged care ministries. The award recipients have enabled the healing love of Jesus to be felt by people in need. The award recipients have led Catholic ministries, but have also made impacts on the broader community.

Sr Clare has a long list of considerable accomplishments in the field of Catholic Health and Aged care. Her contribution has inspired countless men and women to see this work through its rightful vocational call - with the Mission as the focus.

It is the words on Venerable Mary Aikenhead's gravestone, the foundress of the order to which Sr Clare has devoted her life, which best encapsulates all Sr Clare has brought to those who have had the honour of knowing her:

The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me and I comforted the heart of the widow, I was an eye to the blind and a foot to the lame. To the poor I was a mother.

Job 24:13-16



Clare Nolan rsc proudly pictured with her award

FAREWELL TO MR TOBY HALL AND DR LISA McDONALD

The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries would like to acknowledge the recent departure of Toby Hall and Lisa McDonald from St Vincent's Health Australia.

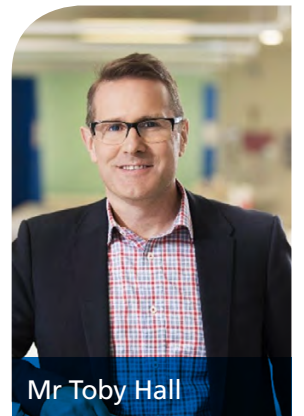
Their individual and significant contribution to the health ministry over many years is greatly appreciated by the Trustees.

The management of hospitals, aged care, social services and research is very complex particularly with the overlay of a pandemic.

The Trustees sincerely wish both Toby and Lisa God's blessing for their future personal and professional lives.



Dr Lisa McDonald



Mr Toby Hall



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