

## MISSION

# Christmas Card Program

Over the last few years we have conducted a very successful Christmas Card Program. In Indonesia through the goats and chooks, families have been able to earn money to send their children to school. The tool kits have helped to equip young people from our trade schools. In India the bikes have helped children in poor villages to get to school. The desk and books have helped equip Oblate mission schools in India and China.



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

One of our proof readers made this comment: 'On Boxing Day in 2014 Australians spent \$2.16 billion. Between 26th Dec – 1st Jan Australian shoppers spent an average of \$850 each. Surely there is something better to spend our money on!'

Choose the cards you want from your local Oblate College or Parish Office. Cards are also available on line from [oblates.com.au/mami](http://oblates.com.au/mami)



## Immersion program

### Partners in Mission (PIMs)



In the China Mission, both in Hong Kong and Mainland China, through the assistance of people with teaching experience, opportunities are provided for students to improve their English language ability. For many of the students this helps with acquiring valuable skills that improve their employment opportunities.

St Pius X Primary School, Holden Hill in South Australia, which is in a parish entrusted to the pastoral care of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, have developed a valuable missionary experience for their teachers which may be of interest to other schools.

Adults of any age no matter whatever your skills, who might be interested in such immersion experiences as PIMs please contact Luisa Amati at our MAMI office or email [pims@oblates.com.au](mailto:pims@oblates.com.au) for more information.

The China Immersion tour will take place next year from 16th – 28th May.  
The cost is \$1,200 double and \$1,500 single.

*Margaret, Joan and I left Melbourne on a freezing July morning on a mission – to teach English in Hong Kong for four weeks. We were Partners in Mission (PIMs), partnering not only each other but also the Oblates who are doing marvellous missionary work in China! Hong Kong is part of the China Mission. We were met in the gigantic airport complex by Oblate Fr. Slawomir Kalisz, who drove us on the scenic route to our accommodation in Kowloon at the Oblate Primary School..... Before we realised it, we were standing in front of our students at Notre Dame College, an Oblate school in Hong Kong. They were eager to learn and we were keen to teach. I admired these young people for their desire to improve their English skills in spite of their realisation that their peers were out there enjoying their summer break!*

*We used the resources that were provided, but we also improvised. The students were captivated, for instance, by the film "Paper Planes." They designed their own creations and explained their reasons for doing so. Then they attempted to outdo their classmates in distance after getting them airborne (just as in the film). It was an educational and enjoyable activity! Naturally, at times, we also spoke about Australia, because the students were keen to hear about the land their teachers had come from. The students, from Grade 4 to Year 7, impressed the five of us by their respectful and co-operative behaviour.*

Elwyn Bourbon



Elwyn and Anne Bourbon in Hong Kong

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# Our Gift to You: Novena of Masses

**"The Word was made flesh and lived among us"**

John 1:14

Christmas is a time of family gathering and remembering. The reality is that this means it is a time of joy and celebration; a time strengthening relationships and even healing.

Whatever you bring to this feast of the Lord's birth, we Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate want to support you through this Christmas Novena of Masses. It is our way of thanking you again for your support of our missionary endeavours.

You are invited to place your special intentions and prayers of thanksgiving on the other side of this note, particularly the members of your family that have gone to God this year. Please send the 'cutout' to the MAMI office. All intentions will be placed in the Camberwell chapel where Masses will be offered from 16th December to Christmas Day.



## Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

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# 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**



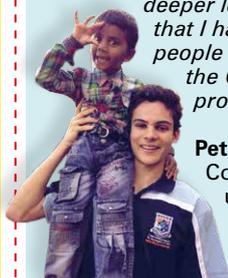
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## Missionary Immersions Experiences



Each year senior students from our three Oblate Colleges spend time mainly in our missions in China and India sharing life with the local people. These experiences are carried out at their own expense. For many they are life changing as you will see from their sharings. Several past students return on a regular basis to assist with the work being done.

*My first immersion experience with Mazenod Victoria in December 2013 to India will without a doubt not be my last missionary trip. To say that the trip made a significant impact on my life's ambitions and mindset would be an understatement. Experiencing firsthand the extent of poverty and need in developing countries was undeniably confronting and overwhelming at times. However, to see the difference that the Oblates can make in the struggling communities and the strong sense of devotion and faith in God was what changed me. To experience the sheer joy and happiness of families and children with so little, as clichéd as it may sound, made me feel like I was making a difference in the world. Since coming home I've developed a different relationship with God and an immensely deeper level of gratitude for all that I have. I would encourage people to experience any of the Oblates immersion programmes.*



**Peter** from Mazenod College, Victoria – now a university student, Peter intends working in China over the Christmas break.

## McCarthy Fund

**The McCarthy Fund, MAMI stabilisation fund, is named in memory of the Patriarch of MAMI – Fr Denis McCarthy.**



By including a bequest to MAMI – McCarthy Fund, in your will, you can ensure that your values are continued and that God's work of providing practical and spiritual assistance to the needy can continue for generations to come.

If you wish to do so, please contact the MAMI office for more information, or after looking after the needs of your own family, we recommend the following wording be included in your will.

"I give (% of my estate/the sum of \$ / my property at....) free of all duties to the Director of Mission, for the time being, of the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, now of 649 Burke Rd, Camberwell, Victoria to be applied to assist the work of the said Congregation and I direct that the Receipt of the Director or Treasurer shall be sufficient discharge to my Trustee for the said payment".

*We felt an important part to our immersion trip had been to venture out into surrounding local communities of Tallapudi and Battayagum. This had become a highlight and fulfilling experience into our trip as we were absorbed into Indian life and culture.*

*At first in what had been a few friendly faces curious to see the newcomers and say hello, quickly this had become something much larger. Hordes of locals willing to show us around their town had emerged. We were able to relate to these people through friendly discussions regarding the all-important cricket. This led us to believe that these people could be considered the 'happiest in the world.'*

*This had led on to a one of a kind Mass, spoken in the local language Telagu, complete with dancing and singing. We were able to experience the strong faith that these people shared.*

*Shortly after, back into the streets, we were fortunate enough to even venture into the homes of some of the locals. Being able to hear and see the ways they lived left us in awe as we were told that these people live in a single room 'hut', accommodating up to 10 children. None of us could believe it.*

*All in all, the memories and experiences from becoming a part of the local community and local culture had become an experience of a lifetime and definitely had become a highlight of our trip.*

**Thomas** – Mazenod College, Western Australia

## FR TIM LONG MISSION IMMERSIONS: CHINA AND FIJI

*A highly significant characteristic of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate congregation is the inherent missionary spirit of the founder, St Eugene De Mazenod. Additional to the broad range of local and interstate mission experiences, Year 11 students at Iona are able to engage in overseas mission immersions as part of their engagement in the missionary spirit at the College.*

*This year twenty-five boys and four staff (constituting two separate groups) enjoyed rich mission experiences in China and Fiji during the recent Term 3 holidays.*

*While both mission immersions were characterised by intercultural experiences, rich interpersonal encounters, prayer and reflection and a healthy approach to mission outreach, they were different in terms of one being a decidedly Asian experience with a significant focus on human interactions and sharing; the other was a Pacific context with a focus on construction and practical assistance.*

*Both groups of students found their mission immersion experience very meaningful and felt that it strengthened their sense of social justice and their faith, thus enhancing their life experience.*

*"At Iona College, we are privileged to have the strong missionary spirit of St Eugene as the basis of our response to Christ and the Gospels."*

**Mr Wayne Wilden**  
Dean of Mission,  
Iona College

