

# Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

## From the Director

The new year has well and truly begun and is now nearly a quarter over! Despite this, we still remember Christmas last year and all the very many blessings it brought as well as our New Year's resolutions which we hopefully have kept up.



who worked for many years in partnership with the Oblate who had the role of Provincial Treasurer. Leon was integral to the running of MAMI, especially on the financial side of things making sure that funds were properly managed and accounted for. I thank him on your behalf for his years of service and ministry.

I would also like to thank the students and staff of our Colleges for their support in the fundraising activities of the 'MAD' – Mission Action Days, morning teas, and other activities. Your generosity goes a long way in our efforts to help the most abandoned in our world. I know that these activities are a lot of hard work to organize but very much fun to be a part of. When the two go hand in hand a lot of good is the result.

It was wonderful to be part of the National Oblate Youth Encounter held at Mazenod College Victoria in early January. It was well attended and has resulted in an upsurge of attendees at Parish Youth Groups in Adelaide and Melbourne. This gives us great hope for the future.

We recently bid farewell to Leon Jongebloed, the Assistant Bursar,

It is with gratitude I write to thank you for your support of the MAMI Christmas cards. You may have noticed that the Chickens, Goats, and Toolbox cards had a facelift. I thank Christina Widiartanti, Fr Charlie's office manager for her help in sourcing the new images. We were able to raise \$19,980 in total from the sale of all the various cards and general donations. We will soon send the funds to Indonesia, Africa and Vietnam along with your best wishes.

Once again, the first week of January saw the launch of the annual Sorrento appeal. I thank Fr John McGinty, Fr. Angelo Wijewickrama, and Carmel Barrett for their help especially those who attended the Masses on that weekend. We were able to raise \$3615 which will go to those in need.

I am a great fan of the Australian singer / song Writer, Paul Kelly. His ability to tell a story in a very simple

*continued...*



We are thrilled to extend an invitation to all members of the De Mazenod family to embark on a journey of discovery, reflection, and connection. Originally designed for the dedicated staff of Oblate colleges attending an international education conference, the De Mazenod Family Education Network Charism Pilgrimage is now open to everyone eager to explore the profound heritage and spiritual legacy of our beloved founder, Saint Eugene de Mazenod.

### What to Expect:

**A Spiritual Awakening:** Immerse yourself in the rich history and spirituality of Saint Eugene

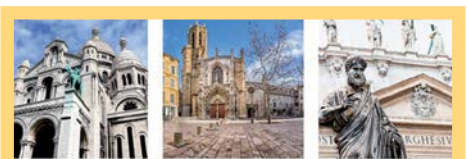
de Mazenod. Experience the transformative power of his charism, which has touched countless lives around the world.

**Historical Exploration:** Walk in the footsteps of Saint Eugene, visiting significant sites and shrines where he found inspiration and solace.

**Community Building:** Connect with fellow members of the De Mazenod family, building friendships and a sense of unity that transcends borders and generations.

**For more info visit:** [www.omi.com.au](http://www.omi.com.au) or contact Tony Coghlan:  
Email: [tcoghlan@omi.com.au](mailto:tcoghlan@omi.com.au)  
Phone: 0488788137

God Bless,  
**The De Mazenod Family Team**



DE MAZENOD FAMILY  
EDUCATION NETWORK

## CHARISM PILGRIMAGE

PARIS - AIX EN PROVENCE - ROME

**13 DAYS/10 NIGHTS**  
**19TH-30TH JUNE 2024**

Join us as we pilgrimage to the significant sites and places of St Eugene's life. For more info visit: [www.omi.com.au](http://www.omi.com.au) or contact:

Email: [tcoghlan@omi.com.au](mailto:tcoghlan@omi.com.au)  
Phone: 0488788137



...continued cover article

and memorable way is the hallmark of his talent. One song in particular, "From Little Things Big Things Grow" is the story of the Gurindji Strike and the work of Vincent Lingiari who after nine years was able to restore the Land of his People and the resulting establishment of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976. The title of the song is, for me, also a reflection of our Mission and work as Oblates in Australia and indeed throughout the world. I believe that sometimes the little things we do will always have a great impact. Like the young boy who gave his lunch – five loaves and two fish – to Jesus who blessed them and shared them amongst 5000 people, whatever we do and whatever we offer in Jesus' name will always become a great blessing.

We all know Fr Charlie's story well and can recognise that what he has achieved, with our help, over the years started from a simple 'food for work' program and has grown to become a life-giving and life-changing ministry. Indonesia has grown from being a Mission of the Australian Province to being a Province in its own right. Hopefully, we may see some Indonesian Oblates come as Missionaries in the Australian Church in the future! We can celebrate his work and give thanks for all Fr Charlie does. You can read and see pictures of the 'Gua Maria', a grotto on the Prison Island near Cilacap. This infamous island was on the news a few years ago. It is good to know that even in a place of despair, the presence of Our Blessed Mother can be a source of hope.

I am personally grateful to you all for your support of Oblate Formation. Even today this is still a work of MAMI and even though the young men studying for the Priesthood in St Mary's Seminary in Camberwell Victoria are all from overseas, we support them and the Provinces they come from in the knowledge that they will return to their countries as great missionaries and hope that maybe they will choose to join the Australian Province and work here amongst us.

Brother Luan Ha is one of these young men who has recently been ordained as a Deacon. Luan comes to us from Vietnam along with two others. Please pray for them and ask God to strengthen their vocations and maybe give them love for us 'Aussies' so that they choose to stay. I have asked them to share their stories, albeit briefly, and tell us about the mission of Vietnam. You can read about it in this newsletter.

Easter will soon be upon us, and we will join again with family and friends to share a meal and maybe some treats as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. In the meantime, of course, we can prepare for this great feast by becoming aware of our own needs, especially our need for God's help and mercy. The De Mazenod Charism team has prepared a Lenten Reflection program which you may wish to take part in. The details are available in this newsletter.

May our love and prayers for one another continue to unite us as God's family under the care and patronage of Saint Eugene de Mazenod. May God bless you all and grant you, and indeed the whole world, His peace.

**Fr Eric Alleaume OMI**  
Director

## Welcome Fr Antony David Raj David Raj Antonysamy



We welcome Fr. Antony David Raj, OMI from the St. Eugene Province of India. Fr David comes from Tamil Nadu, from a traditional catholic family with an elder brother and two younger sisters, three of whom are married and settled. He did his schooling with the Salesians and participated in the activities of his parish such as serving as altar boy, choir, catechism, cultural activities, and other groups.

He says, "I strongly believe that the seed of my vocation to the priesthood was sown by my own family members, relatives, friends, and parish priests. It's they who encouraged and supported me to march forward in this way of life".

Fr David joined the Oblates in 2010, did his philosophy and theology studies in India and was ordained in Chennai in 2021. After ordination, he was Assistant Priest in Kanchipuram and Kerala parishes before arriving in Melbourne in December.

He says he is open to learning and wants to preach the kingdom of God and follow in the footsteps of the Apostles, St. Eugene and all the Oblates. He is enjoying his time in Melbourne, especially the animals at Healesville Sanctuary, the National Gallery, and the Oblate hospitality.

**Jenny McPherson**

## Fundraising for the Oblate missions

The staff at Mazenod College, Victoria have been very generous in their support of the Oblate Missions through community eating. Hot beef rolls on one occasion and pulled pork rolls on another at lunchtime have raised money for the Oblate missions and our local mission of Rosies Oblate Street Outreach. This is an example of a simple, but effective way, through which we can all come together to enjoy each other's company and show our support of brothers and sisters in need through living the Oblate charism.



## From St Mary's Scholasticate

### Three Vietnamese Oblates in Australia

#### Br Thai

My name is Thai, and I come from Vietnam. I am part of the Vietnamese delegation. The calling to become an Oblate arose from the moment I participated in the ceremony commemorating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation. I completed two years of philosophy and a year of pastoral ministry. Then, I was sent to Australia to continue my formation. I was happy to join the Oblates, as I experienced the international nature of the Oblate community, learning and sharing with brothers from different countries. I thank God for the way He prepared me and the love He has shown me.

#### Brother Ha

Brother Luan Ha was born in the South of Vietnam. After finishing High School, he went to the city to find a new future. Fortunately, he met and worked with Oblates for two years. In 2014, he decided to join the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Br Luan took First Vows in 2016. Then he began his Oblate formation by studying Philosophy in Vietnam. After that, he was sent to Australia to study English and Theology. After four years of study, he has completed the required studies in Theology. He has also experienced various pastoral works in missionary settings. On the 16th of February 2024, Br Luan was ordained to become a Deacon.



#### Brother Hieu

My name is Vincent Nguyen Trung Hieu, but everyone calls me 'Hieu.' I hail from the southern part of Vietnam. I have spent the last 12 years living in the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. During that time, I completed four years of temporary vows, including two years of philosophy, one year of pastoral work, and one year of living in Australia. I am passionate about the Oblate Charism, which involves becoming a missionary of Good News and sharing the message of Jesus with everyone, especially those who are poor or marginalised. Thanks to the generosity of the Oblates in the Australian Province, I am currently studying Theology at Catholic Theology College.

**Fr Andrew Chen OMI**  
Rector

## OBLATE YOUTH

### NOYE 2024

National Oblate Youth Encounter 2024 was a smashing success with 75 participants from 8 different Oblate communities around Australia gathering for a 4-day experience at Mazenod College, Mulgrave. The theme this year was 'You are the light of the world'. After 24 years it is great to see how Oblate Youth Australia continues to grow and lead young people to encounter Jesus Christ and learn who they are in the eyes of God.

A big thank you to all our Oblate fathers and brothers who were present amongst our youth and to the National Coordinators and Hosting Community for their tireless efforts in making this such a successful encounter. May we all continue to let our lights shine for all to see!

Thanks,  
**Emma Rice**



# AROUND THE MISSIONS

## INDONESIA

I am sending you a copy of the external audit of Y.S.B.S. for the year 2021. The Land and buildings etc. have been handed over to O.M.I. Indonesia Province and are not part of the audit. O.M.I. is committed to freely loaning land, and building equipment to the schools and work units of Y.S.B.S. All schools' fees etc. stay in the schools and are only asked to send financial reports to Y.S.B.S. Central Office.

I am sending a photo of the "Integrity Pact" of Cilacap Parish to ensure a "Child-Friendly" place of worship – with the local government and the program was first implemented at our Church with members of other religions, former Bupati – Lady, Head of Police, Army, Navy, Judiciary, Local House of Representative, etc. present. Again, at the Christmas Vigil Mass, the Present Bupati – now a man also came to our Church with all the above to wish all present a Happy Christmas.

Many thanks,  
Fr Charlie Burrows



If you wish to make a donation to MAMI apart from the Annual August appeal, your gift is always happily received. To assist our administration and avoid confusion you might like to use this donation slip.

Please complete the donation form on the right and mail to us. Or donate online by following the below steps.

Please note that if you tick to receive a tax deductible receipt, your gift can only be used for community development projects and not religious work of the missions.

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER FOR **TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS** CAN BE MADE TO:  
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**NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK**  
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I have enclosed a Cheque/Money Order made payable to MAMI for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

or debit my credit card:  Mastercard  Visa the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 One off payment  Monthly payment

Card number

Credit card expiry date   /   CVV number    (final 3 digits printed on card back)

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Card holder's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I require a tax deductible receipt.

I would like further information on making a bequest in my will.

Comments/intention: \_\_\_\_\_

## AROUND THE MISSIONS

### GUA MARIA

I am sending you some photos of "Gua Maria" where since Dutch Times there was a natural statue of Our Lady. In earlier times it was more pronounced, but the limestone process continues to drip and drop.

An earlier "Bupati" regent asked me to advertise the cave for "Religion Tourism" to help the local economy and I have done this. It is now a popular destination for Catholics to honor Our Lady. Recently a Catholic Man from Semarang gave me funds to beautify the cave, put in toilets, electricity generator etc.



There are four caves on the Island with religious significance – one for Islam – Sigit Sela (Mesjid Sesa – Mosque), Gua Rahayu for Buddhist, Gua Putri for Javanese Native Religion, and all are places of pilgrimage.

The Rotary Project provides the road and bridges to their site – I send you photos we recently helped to repair Sigit Sela for Islam.

The Island is off limits to non-personnel of the Justice Department, but they tolerate pilgrims, as income helps poorer villagers adjacent to the island, selling food, drinks, coconut etc.

The Head of The Navy (Army) is taking an interest in this area as they have a Post nearby for security for the main Indonesian Oil Refinery – 35 Miles away in Cilacap.

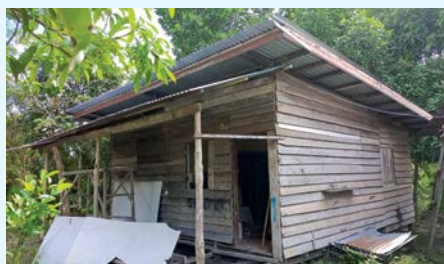
Fr Charlie Burrows



### TARAKAN HOSTEL

Greetings from North Kalimantan, Indonesia.

May the year 2024 will bring so many blessing to the ministries of MAMI. I had executed the project with the support of MAMI Funds we received. I bought LCD, Portable sound system and Screen Projector. With the help from the MAMI donors, I could finish the renovations on the house. Thank you very much for your support and help. I hope that this report will give you an overall image on the work I had done.



## VIETNAM

After the government of Vietnam opened the border to other countries, some French and Vietnamese Oblates such as Fr Roland Jacques, Fr Thom Nguyen and other Oblates who belong to the Province of France came to Vietnam to consider if the Province of France should open a new mission there. They first worked in three main areas: Hung Hoa Province, Hue Province and Sai Gon City.



After the French Province received reports from these Oblates, Father Bernard Dullier the Provincial of French Province carefully considered and then sent a request to the Superior General in Rome to open a mission in Vietnam in June 2002. However, on 17th of April 2007 Fr Superior General and his council officially decided to establish the Vietnam Mission according to the Canon Law.



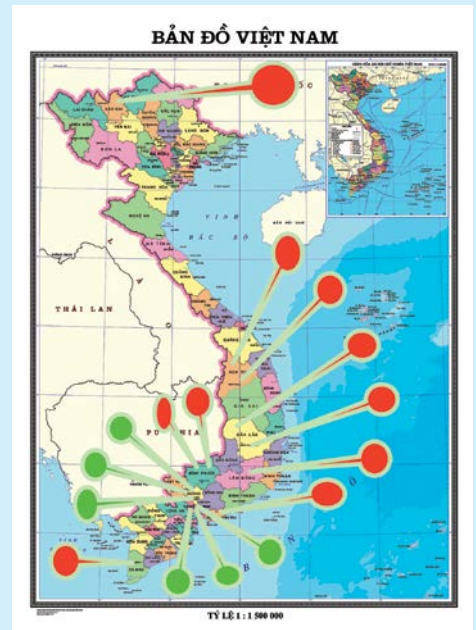
Not stopping there, the Mission of Vietnam continues to grow and develop. In 2023, Father Superior General, Louis Lougen and his council decided that the Mission of Vietnam became the Delegation of Vietnam, continuing directly under the French Province.



Nowadays, the Delegation of Vietnam has five institutions for training Oblates including two houses for students or candidates, one for pre-novitiate, one for novitiate, one for philosophy and one for theology (Green)



Moreover, the Delegation of Vietnam also has different missionary communities scattered throughout the country (Red)



### Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

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# MISSIONARY OBLATES

OMI of MARY IMMACULATE

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## Oblate Ministries



Missionary Association of  
Mary Immaculate

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[omi.com.au/mami](http://omi.com.au/mami)



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Australia

**Oblate Youth Australia**

[oblateyouth.com.au](http://oblateyouth.com.au)



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Family

**De Mazenod Family**

[demazenodfamily.com.au](http://demazenodfamily.com.au)



St Mary's  
Scholasticate

**St Mary's Scholasticate**

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De Mazenod Family  
Education Network

**De Mazenod Family  
Education Network**



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**ROSIES**  
Friends on the street

**Rosies Victoria**

[rosiesvic.oblates.com.au](http://rosiesvic.oblates.com.au)

**ROSIES**  
Friends on the Street



**Rosies Queensland**

[rosies.org.au](http://rosies.org.au)



无玷圣母献主会

**Oblates China**

[oblateschina.org](http://oblateschina.org)



**OMI World**

[omiworld.org](http://omiworld.org)

## Oblate Schools



**Mazenod College  
Western Australia**

[mazenod.wa.edu.au](http://mazenod.wa.edu.au)



**Mazenod College  
Victoria**

[mazenod.vic.edu.au](http://mazenod.vic.edu.au)



**IONA College**

[iona.qld.edu.au](http://iona.qld.edu.au)



**St Eugene College**

*Dare to grow in faith, hope and love*

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