

PALLOTTINE FAMILY (UAC) NEWSLETTER



Spring 2025

Australia

In the East:

Annual Reflection Day



Saturday, October 25 from 10.45 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

St Andrew's, South Clayton: Cnr Springs & Bunney Rds.

All members of the Pallottine Family are warmly encouraged to come, reflect, and pray together as followers of the Charism of St Vincent Pallotti. During Mass in the afternoon, the annual Renewal of the Act of Apostolic Commitment will take place. We do this each year about this time in unity with members from around the world at the time when Rome officially accepted our statutes. Everyone interested is invited to participate in this day.

RSVP: for catering purposes for lunch by 23/10 to **St Andrew's: 9551 5666** or **SMS Anne:0429 869 457**

PALLOTTINE CENACLE PRAYER: Monday, 22nd September at 7.30 p.m.

Come and pray with us at St Christopher's Syndal.

Stay and get to know each other afterwards over a light supper.

If you can, bring a plate of food to share.

email: claytonsouth@cam.org.au

In the West:

HOPE



A Retreat Day for the Pallottine Family, October 10, 2025, at New Norcia Monastery

Starts there at 9.00 a.m and concludes with 4.15 p.m. Mass

Fr. Robert Nixon, OSB and Sr. Hilda Scott, OSB

Cost \$100. Limit of 25 attendees. Bookings: SMS - Trish on 0431 017 484

PALLOTTINE CENACLE PRAYER: Last Thursday of each month at Rossmoyne Chapel

Annual UAC Day at Rossmoyne, Sunday, 2nd November, 11.30 a.m. in Chapel

The annual Renewal of the Act of Apostolic Commitment will be part of the celebration there.

Afterwards we will renew connections with each other as we share lunch and catch up with some members of the UAC National Coordination Council from the East who will be here after their meeting here.

Nationally:



In June, the National Coordination Council held its triennial elections. Those elected to the Executive are: **President:** Mark Brolly; **Vice President:** Mary Whiting; **Secretary:** Cheryl Sullivan. The other members are Rev. Dean Bradbury SAC (ex officio); Tricia Wisolith: LCC President; Fr Pat Jackson SAC: Formation; Anne Dowling:

Bursar, Prayer Promoter, IT/C. There is a vacancy for a SAC priest after Fr Ralph's return to India.

Celebration of life – Fr Benno Rausch SAC – 22nd August 1930 – 18th July 2025



On the 31st July, we gathered at Saint Christopher's Syndal to farewell Fr Benno Rausch SAC. This celebration marked another significant "end of an era" for all of the Pallottine Family in Australia. Since 1901 we have been blessed with the presence and dedicated service of German Pallottine Priests and Brothers. With Benno's death, we said goodbye to the last of our German sons of Pallotti.

Benno had served in Australia for the past 65 years. Over those years his apostolate reached out and touched the hearts of many. This was certainly evident in the breadth of people who came to celebrate his life – those who had holidayed at

Marjory Maria Cove, people from Casa Pallotti, members of the Raftis Family, his confreres and Pallottine Family members.

Richard Gooden and Faye Gray (nee Raftis) presented the Eulogy and Fr Pat Jackson the homily. They each spoke of the amazing apostolates that Benno had accepted, with openness, over the years: Parish work in Victoria and Wyndham in Western Australia a place that stayed close to Benno's heart; His acceptance of leadership role as Regional Superior in the 1970's and Philosophy lecturer for SAC students; Casa Pallotti and various youth apostolates and outreach to those on the margins of society.

Perhaps for many of us, one of his lasting legacies will be his work at Marjory Maria Cove and his living in his small home, Camaldoli, from 1987 until his move to Residential Aged Care in 2019.

At Marjory Maria Cove, Benno and Hazel Raftis, a dedicated apostle and close friend who worked beside Benno, welcomed and offered hospitality to many families, including those newly arrived in Australia. These people became lifelong friends and were there to celebrate at his funeral.

In Benno's own words "We do everything possible to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people who come to us." This was certainly something achieved by Benno at Marjory Maria Cove and beyond. Rest in peace faithful son of Vincent Pallotti.

Cheryl Sullivan

August 4, 2025

The poignancy of the sale of Pallotti College was emphasised less than four weeks after the farewell Mass with the death of Fr Benno Rausch, who was based at Millgrove for about 40 of his almost 66 years in Australia – the last in a 124-year unbroken line of German Pallottine priests and brothers since the first Pallottines in Australia arrived at Beagle Bay in 1901. Fr Benno's funeral was at St Christopher's Syndal on 31 July, after which he was interred in the Upper Yarra Cemetery at Wesburn, virtually in the shadow of Pallotti College.

- Mark Brolley



Pallotti College farewelled

By Mark Brolly



About 200 people participated in a Eucharist marking a farewell to Pallotti College, Millgrove, after 60 years as a cherished place of formation, retreat and renewal under the Pallottines.

The Mass on 22 June, led by Australian Pallottine Regional Leader Fr Dean Bradbury, came eight days before ownership of the Millgrove property formally passed to Catholics of the Syro-Malabar Rite through its Eparchy (diocese) of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne.

The preacher, Passionist priest and former Pallottine lay missionary Fr Brendan Connell, said the farewell to Pallotti College was a time of both lamentation and thanksgiving.

Certainly, the Mass and subsequent catered gathering was a time of reunions, reminiscences, sorrow that this time had come and gratitude for all Pallotti College has meant to generations of the Pallottine Family, the wider church and community.

A Facebook post by the college on 24 May said: “It is with joy and sadness that we announce that the Pallottine Community are handing on Pallotti College Retreat Centre to a new owner.

“We welcome the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle of Melbourne, who will take over the running of Pallotti College in July.

“Under the guidance of the Syro-Malabar Church, Pallotti College will continue to be the wonderful place of retreat and contemplation that it has been for many years.”

As of 30 June, the new name of the college is Santhom Grove.

In its own statement announcing their change of ownership, the eparchy paid tribute to the Pallottines, who they said had “faithfully guided and nurtured this sacred space for many decades”.

“The Eparchy affirms that all current retreats, events, and ministry activities will continue as normal, ensuring a seamless transition and ongoing service to individuals, families, parishes, and the local community,” the statement continued, with the assurance in bold type. “The Eparchy is committed to honouring the legacy of the Pallottine community by upholding the values of prayer, hospitality, and spiritual renewal that have defined the college since its founding.”

Syro-Malabar Catholics are in full communion with Rome, one of the 23 autonomous Eastern Catholic Churches in communion with the Pope. It is the second largest Eastern Catholic Church after the Ukrainian Catholic Church and follows the East-Syrian liturgy dating from the third century.

The Syro-Malabar Catholics have more than four million members worldwide and trace their origins to St Thomas the Apostle, who landed in Kerala, India, in 52AD. St Thomas was martyred in India in 72AD.

A Syro-Malabar Catholic presence in Australia dates from the 1960s and the community has had considerable growth here in recent years. Last November, the Eparchy celebrated the opening of its cathedral in Epping, in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

The foundation stone of Pallotti College was laid in January 1963, just after Vincent Pallotti was canonised, and opened in 1966, principally to train Pallottine priests and brothers. In 1975, it opened as a centre for retreats and renewals. In the years since, the college, and the Millgrove property more generally, has hosted schools, weekend events, conferences, congresses, jubilees, funerals, ecumenical events, youth and families (at Casa Pallotti), those in need of recovery from trauma and tragedy (at Marjorie Maria Cove) and different expressions of spirituality (at Montserrat). In 2008, Millgrove hosted pilgrims for World Youth Day in Sydney at a preparatory event, Pallottine Youth Encounter (PYE). At other times, it has hosted meetings of Pallottine and brothers from Australia, Asia and the Pacific, as well as a variety of Pallottine Family (UAC) gatherings.

To this writer, who is now in his mid-60s but has participated in events at Millgrove since childhood, the Pallotti College property – in its beautiful setting in the Upper Yarra Valley – seems to fit well the Celtic Christian description of a “thin place”, where the veil between Heaven and Earth seems very transparent indeed. The biggest challenge was coming down the mountain and carrying the charism back into “normal” life.

It is a time to be thankful for all Pallotti College has meant to so many people and to trust in God to lead us forward.



People gather in the Chapel.

Photographer: Lawrence Whiting

END OF AN ERA

WELCOME SANTHOM GROVE

Friday 11th of July saw the end of an era with the opening ceremony of Santhom Grove (formerly Pallotti College) as the new Pastoral & Community Resource Centre of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne.

The Chapel, the site of many liturgical celebrations over many years, was the venue for a very moving programme commencing with a prayer service led by the Syro-Malabar Youth Ministry Team and followed by an official Lamp Lighting Ceremony.

Welcome addresses were given by Msgr. Francis and Bishop John stressing the continuation of Santhom Grove as a religious retreat centre offering a place for prayer, reflection and renewal first established by the Pallottine order following in the spirit of St. Vincent Pallotti and his all-encompassing vision.

His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, having flown specially from India to attend the opening ceremony, gave the Inaugural Address to the overflowing congregation and to audiences both in Australia and India via a TV link.

Finally, more personal welcomes and best wishes were given by local State Members of Parliament, the Indian Consul and the Pallotti College Advisory Board.

In true Indian hospitality people were then able to mingle and socialise over a beautifully presented “High Tea” There was a real spirit of optimism and excitement throughout the afternoon as what was “The College” gains a new lease of life as Santhom Grove.

- Gavin Broderick



Final Meeting of the Pallotti College Board

With their tasks and purpose completed, the Board of Pallotti College Millgrove, met for the last time on 14th August.

We thank them for all their work over the years and remember John Elkin who had been the chair for many years. Thanks Gavin for then taking on this role. They steered the course through the difficult and painful course of selling the College. Thanks.

Photographer: Lisa Brick



Internationally:



Newly elected:

General Coordination Council 2025–2030



Photo of some of the members: L-R Fr Edward Froling SAC, Domenic Cherukara, Sr. Monika Jagietto SAC, Sr Stella Marotta CSAC, John Rotramel, Gabrielle Acerbi, Fr Gilberto Orsolin SAC, Sr. Josephina D'Sousa SAC, Fr Xenon Hanas SAC, Mark Brolly, Br Stephen Buckley SAC.

MEMBERS:

Ex-Officio members:

Fr Xenon Hanas SAC: Ecclesiastical Assistant. SAC Rector General. Rome based. From Poland

Sr Stella Marotta CSAC: Superior General. Pallottine Sisters. Rome based. From Italy

Sr Josephina D'Sousa SAC. Superior General. Pallottine Missionary Sisters. Rome based. From India

Elected Members:

Gabrielle Acerbi: President. From Rome Italy. Guest speaker at Australian NCC AGM a few years ago

Fr Gilberto Orsolin SAC: Vice President. From Brazil

Dominic Cherukara from India

Sr. Monika Jagietto SAC from Poland

Sr. Tensy Palampambu CSAC Italy based

Rosita Cipolla from Italy

Fr Liboire Ambomo Eloundou SAC Cameroon

Mark Brolly from Australia. NCC President

John Rotramel from Milwaukee USA

Pablo Fernández Conde from Argentina

Substitutes

Fr Edward Froling SAC from Germany

Brigitte Proksch from Austria

Br Stephen Buckley SAC from Ireland

May the Holy Spirit guide and inspire them as they work together leading the UAC so its members will enliven enthusiastically the Charism of St Vincent as apostles in their homes, Church and world.

Some memories that the Farewell Mass and Closure of Pallotti College triggered for me



Pallotti College Millgrove has been part of my life for more than fifty years. As a young teacher and an incredibly young school principal I participated in a number of sessions there with Fr Walter and Sr Josephine. Over the years these sessions were valued by lots of teachers. I enjoyed the setting and the experience.

In 1987 I experienced the College differently when I was a volunteer on the College Team. The day started with Mass, then breakfast and working till it was time to pray the Angelus. Physically tiny and unassuming but very strong, Br Joseph Schungel managed to perfectly ring the college bell so that it resounded precisely 12 times – a feat that few could do. Serving meals meant meeting all the people and groups staying at the College. There were many but some were quite memorable.

There were times spent in the kitchen when team members could catch up with each other. Then on Friday nights the weekenders would arrive to help and have fun. Who could forget Kezza, Mary Ward and Lorraine Cosgriff arriving? They would liven the place up. Like so many whom I met there, Kez and Mary are no doubt enjoying their heavenly reward. Mary Anne Dooley and I were in the same class at secondary school. Karen (Blackie) and I shared a bathroom between our bedrooms.

There were Pallottine Family (UAC) weekends where I came to know and share with so many people inspired by the vision of Pallotti. We would listen, pray, plan and work together as well as

having some fun. Who could forget Fr John Winson playing the part of a lugubrious Funeral Director or imitating the laugh of a kookaburra?

In more recent years, I, with Mark Brolley and a few others, were support people for the Pallottine Caminos. I would have loved to take part, but my knees wouldn't have coped with the walking. It was beautiful watching people transform as they took walked, reflected, shared and prayed. They really were Pilgrims of Hope.

I have also spent time there over the years with my sisters in the Mariana Community. We have held gatherings there as well as joined with the local community for Sunday Masses when staying down the road at our house, Oak Maree.

My memories are of an extremely spiritual and beautiful setting; of lots of vacuuming, setting up chairs and so on. There were also the encounters with God present there in the setting but even more so in the people on the team and in those who came to stay there.

I am so grateful for all my experiences there that have helped shape and form me. It was wonderful to see and catch up with so many people at the Farewell. Now we enter a new era, where we are called to continue to live and share what we have been given. There is sadness as we leave the College behind, but I also have a sense of adventure and anticipation as we now “step on to unfamiliar shores and follow you again, O Lord.”
- Anne Dowling

Would you like to share YOUR memories?

This issue contains so many memories of Pallotti College that they will surely bring to light some of your own. We're sure our readers would like to hear them. Why not 'put pen to paper' to use an old expression, or by some 'modern' method and send to Anne or Merle for the next issue (which will be the Summer one)? Do it today, so it doesn't get put on the long finger and get forgotten.

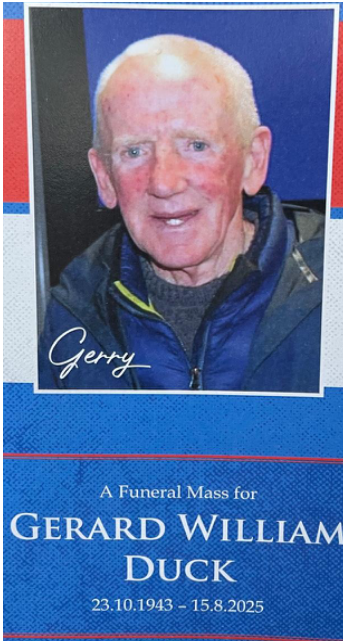
Merle: merlegilbo@hotmail.net.au

Phone: 0409 964 899

Anne: prayerpromoter@uacpallottines.au

SMS: 0429 869 457

Vale



Gerard William Duck

Gerry was a much loved Pallottine Lay Missionary who was a great supporter of the Pallottine priests and the Pallottine Family. He lived at 85 Studley Park Rd. Kew for some time before retiring to Ballarat where he died at Nazareth House on 15th August. Mary Saunders was a

eulogist at his funeral. This photo is from a photo of the front page of his funeral booklet.

Child Safety is of vital concern

The UAC has a child safety team working to ensure safety for all who have contact with our apostolates.

If you have any concerns regarding the safety of children within our UAC/Pallottine Family, please contact our UAC

Designated Person for the protection of minors:

Marita Dunphy via maritadunphy@yahoo.com

UAC-ARM Australians Reaching Out on Mission

We are a small group greatly in need of new members. We normally meet four times a year via Zoom as we have members in Victoria and Western Australia. Please contact Cheryl on 0417 386 706 to discuss ways you might be help to help.

One of our projects is supporting the Flame of Love Orphanage at Keshero in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It is an area where there is unrest and fighting which has led to an increased number of orphans as well as increased costs, especially for food.

Our group is extremely grateful for the donations received from Casa Pallotti and from other donors who donate monthly or with one off donations. We would like to be able to thank all donors personally but in some cases we don't know the person behind the name. We know the money is being put to good use as we have a process for checking on this.

Donations can be made by regular Direct Debit payments or one-off ones to:

ACCOUNT NAME: UAC Keshero Project,
BSB: 083 347, ACCOUNT NO.: 439 222 523

In this newsletter, we share news, views and reflections of the way the UAC (Union of Catholic Apostolate) lives the charism and vision of St Vincent Pallotti here in Australia.

Pallottine Family (UAC) Newsletter
2/26 Ford St. Ivanhoe, Victoria, 3079