

Pallottine Family (UAC) Newsletter

Australia

Autumn 2026



QUEEN OF APOSTLES PARISH, RIVERTON WA

After many years of some parishioners requesting that we make the foyer lighter, brighter and more welcoming finally the refurbishment of the Church Foyer took place in the month of January 2011. You may also be pleased to know that the skylight has incorporated a glazed Pallottine Cross.

Also at the same time the carpeted area in the body of the church was replaced after many years of wear and tear. We now have a blue carpet in that area, chosen as our patroness is Mary, Queen of Apostles. And the final result is beautiful, bright and welcoming as you can see from the photos... and if you get a chance to visit come and see for yourself.

After 18 months as Assistant Priest in Riverton W.A. Father Shibu Joseph is transferred to Park Orchards Parish, in Melbourne. On a warm and balmy Saturday evening on 12th February, outside the Church after the Vigil Mass for the Sunday, the Parish of Riverton, farewelled Fr Shibu with a speech, a certificate of appreciation, a monetary gift and two large Thank You cards signed by many parishioners who expressed their heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for sharing his many gifts and spiritual help. He will be missed in the Parish, in particular by the Youth. The Social Committee provided the drinks and nibbles, and an enjoyable evening was had by all who attended. During his 18 month stint in the West, Fr Shibu also ministered as school chaplain at Ursula Frayne College, as did Fr Jude previously.

DID YOU KNOW that the first Mass celebrated in our Parish was held on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on 25th March 1951? This year we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of that significant beginning of our Parish. We will be commencing with a 4 day Parish Lenten Retreat led by Abbot John Herbert OSB of New Norcia on 21st March 2011 finishing with a Solemn High Mass at 7pm on Friday 25th March concelebrated with Bishop Don Sproston and our Pallottine Fathers. This will be followed by dinner in the Hall.

From the
Pallottine
Family
Newsletter
March 2011

In 2026 we mark the 60th Anniversary of the Pallottine Family Newsletter

Extracts from past newsletters will be included in this year's editions.

Our thanks and appreciation go to all those who have contributed to it over the years and to the editor: Merle Gilbo.

We also are grateful to those who have paid their subscriptions to offset costs of compiling, publishing, and postage.

It would be appreciated, if by 30 June, recipients of the Pallottine Family Newsletter could contribute \$40 per year to help defray costs to: NAB (National Australia Bank. BSB: 083 347 Account No.: 569130037. Kindly include *PFN* and your name for our records.

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 about 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

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

We pray for those who have gone to their eternal reward . . .

Sister Alvera



It was with great sadness that we heard that Sister Alvera, the founder of the Flamme D'Amour orphanage Keshero, in the Democratic Republic of Congo died on 27th February 2026.

Many of you have supported the orphanage over the years both prayerfully and financially, for which she was extremely grateful and always sent prayer and thanks for all who assisted the orphanage in Australia.

She will certainly now be wrapped in the arms of the God of Love – that Flame of Love she believed in and lived.

Fr John Winson SAC

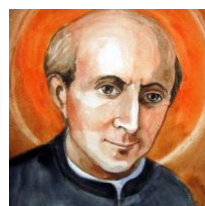
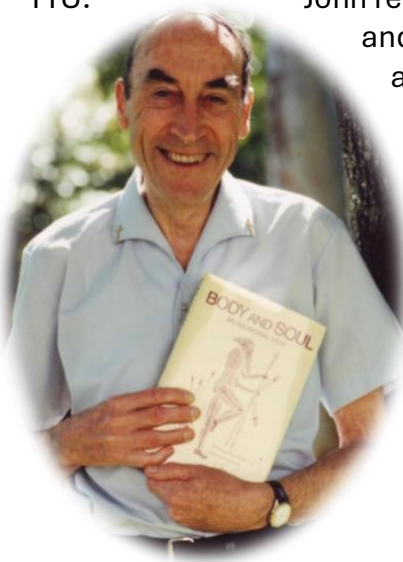
On 23rd of April, after much suffering, Fr John Winson returned to the Lord he had served faithfully all his life. John was born in Bairnsdale on the 20th June, 1930 to Walter Power Winson and Mary Frances Winson (née Grogan). After a long illness he died at St Michael's, Nazareth House, Camberwell on the 23rd April 2026 with his sister-in-law, Faye, and niece Margaret, at his bedside.

John was a pharmacist by training. He felt called to the diocesan priesthood and studied at Werribee for 4 years. He then chose to be a Pallottine, entering the novitiate year at Strathfield, Sydney and studying theology with us at St Patrick's Manly.

John and I were ordained in Melbourne 1964. He was a great inspiration to me as we sought to promote St Vincent's spirituality and vision of all called to be apostles. John translated Italian works on Pallotti and these have had widespread circulation. After ordination, John cared for Aboriginal youth at Beagle Bay and Riverton, and with Aboriginal apostolate at Manly NSW. But his heart was more in retreat work, spiritual direction, and counselling with the Teams of Our Lady family groups from 1960 -1990. For this he studied at Pecos Monastery, USA, Hofbauer Centre, Melbourne, and YTU.

John retired to Nazareth House in 2017. He continued to be a man of great joy and welcome as he celebrated with the Pallottines, the family, the staff, and Sisters his 60th anniversary of priesthood. Rest in peace, John, as your good deeds go before you.

-Fr Pat Jackson SAC



Fr John's funeral Mass was celebrated on Thursday, 7th May at St Christopher's, Syndal. His burial was at Melbourne General Cemetery in the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers plot.

As seen in these pictures Fr John bore a remarkable physical resemblance to the man whose charisma he lived!

‘Caritas Christi Urget Nos’ – Saint Vincent Pallotti

The love of Christ urges us on – at **90 Years Young**



A celebration of Fr Pat Jackson’s 90th Birthday was held at St Anthony’s Hall on Sunday, 1 February 2026. Commencing with Mass, we were treated to a fascinating narrative of Fr Pat’s long life, including the early years with his family, and more than sixty years of priestly service.

Joined by his family and friends, the extended Pallottine community, and parishioners from across Melbourne, we enjoyed lunch and celebrating together.

After having returned from time with his family after Christmas, Fr Pat said he is ‘ready to get back to work. Fr Pat is truly empowered by love. We are very grateful for him. - Marita Dunphy

‘Dressed in my Indian sari and beads, I was pleased to be the occasion for family, friends and parishioners to celebrate together.

Grateful thanks to the parish team, led by Fr Leenus for hosting so many on my 90th Birthday.’ Fr Pat Jackson



New SAC Regional Council



Photo from Inauguration of new Pallottine Regional Council – St Vincent Pallotti Chapel Rossmoyne.
At foot of crucifix: Fr Jude, next to him: Fr Paul, Front row: Fr Leenus

Following the elections at last year’s SAC Assembly, the new Regional Council for the Pallottine Priests and Brother in Australia commenced its term of office on 1st March.

Regional Leader: Fr Jude D’Rozario. Vice Regional: Fr Leenus Neetany. 2nd Consulor: Fr Paul Manickathan.

Pallottine Family Communications: Would you like to be added to any of our lists?

There are several ways in which we communicate with our members and friends. We have email lists:

1. for those who receive this newsletter online;
2. for those who receive general emails that give news of coming events, deaths, *Apostles for Today* along with other information from the UAC General Secretariate in Rome and other news;
3. for those in a Prayer Group who make prayer requests and pray for those requests to be granted, and information on Prayer Activities such as Cenacle Prayer.

If you would like to be added to any of these groups, please email Anne Dowling at pfn@uacpallottines.au with your name, email address and the list you would like to be added to: 1,2 or 3 as described above and I will give your details to the person who manages that list.

UAC-ARM: Australians Reaching out on Mission

Currently the UAC-ARM committee has four active members. We really need more members so as to be as effective as possible. Our meetings are held on Zoom quarterly as we have members in Melbourne, country Victoria and Geraldton. Skills needed: Compassion. Understanding of conditions and problems in developing countries. Creativity: in ways of fundraising, Identification of possibilities, etc.

If you have some of these please join us. Your presence would enrich us and our work. For further information contact Cheryl at cherylsullivan11@bigpond.com

One of our passions is continued support for The Flame of Love Orphanage in Keshero, a suburb of Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Our assistance is very important in providing food, medical care, and education for the children there in a very troubled part of the world. Donations can be made one-off or regularly by direct debit to NAME: UAC Keshero Project, BSB: 083 347, ACCOUNT NUMBER: 439 222 523. Also, please keep the children, their carers and all those in troubled parts of the world in your prayers.

Coming events



Feast of Mary Queen of Apostles

Saturday, 23 May.

St Vincent Pallotti had a great devotion to Mary under the title: Queen of Apostles. He commissioned the painting of Mary praying with some women and the apostles in the Cenacle/the Upper Room at Pentecost. It is an important feast for the Pallottine Family. It is celebrated on the Saturday after the Ascension each year. It will be incorporated into the Liturgy of the Vigil Mass of Pentecost at St Anthony's Glen Huntley at 6.00 p.m.; at St Joseph's Elsternwick at 6.30 p.m. and at the Vigil Mass at other parishes under the pastoral care of SAC priests.

Cenacle Prayer: Monday, 22 June 7.30 p.m.

Prayer Leader: Mary Saunders. Stay at home in the warmth and take part in a Zoom session.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85762413896?pwd=R1qHaVQbFSDxsKMrDJ5rqCHT70PKYu.1>

Meeting ID: 857 6241 3896 Passcode: 214957



FAST24 2026: Always Returning, Always Becoming

The 11th FAST24 took place at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish, Riverton, from 6–7 March 2026, with the theme “Always Returning, Always Becoming.”

78 people gathered over 24 hours of fasting, prayer, reflection and fellowship during Lent — the highest participation since the global pandemic. We were blessed with inspiring speakers from Singapore, Malaysia and Perth, including Gregory Tan, Desi Perera and Stephanie Kee, Isabelle Ochtman, and Philip Boon, who shared honest stories of faith, struggle and returning to God.

FAST24 began on Friday evening with a simple shared meal prepared and donated by parish volunteers, followed by the Stations of the Cross and a keynote reflection by parish priest Fr Paul Manickathan SAC. Gregory Tan’s deeply moving testimony of grief, faith and rediscovering God touched many hearts.

Saturday included talks, prayer, creative activities and conversations about faith. The Emmaus Table session facilitated by Mark Brolly, invited participants and speakers to listen to each other and reflect on the theme together.

The fast concluded at the Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass, where participants wore the white FAST24 T-shirts they had designed and coloured earlier that afternoon — a reminder of our baptismal calling. Afterwards, everyone gathered again in the parish hall to break the fast together in celebration.

For many of us, FAST24 was a powerful reminder that the journey of faith is ongoing — we keep returning to God, and He continues forming us into who we are meant to become. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making FAST24 a space where we could experience Lent in a refreshingly different way.

St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust

A fund has been established for some time from which the interest each year is given to suitable applicants for study purposes or experiences that assist them in pastoral work or projects. One of the requirements is that at the end they furnish a report to the Scholarship Committee. On the following pages are extracts from these reports so that you can see how valuable and important these scholarships are for the recipients and for those with whom they work.

Reports/Extracts

It was a blessing and an honour to receive a scholarship from the St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Fund in 2024. The scholarship was put towards paying fees for semester one of my degree – Licentiate in Canon Law/Master of Canon Law, with Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada. Due to the great expense of this degree, this financial assistance was greatly appreciated! Appreciated beyond words.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the beginning of my canonical formation with St Paul University and have completed three of the 20+ subjects required to obtain the licentiate. These include Introduction to Canon Law, General Norms and Sanctifying Office. Although I have many subjects to complete I look forward to deepening my understanding of the law, functions and pastoral heart of the Catholic Church.

I have recently launched a small project I am undertaking whilst studying canon law, 'The Code Podcast.' Through interviews with canon lawyers all over the world, the podcast explores various topics pertaining to Catholic Church law. It aims to provide practical insights to assist listeners understand how the Code of Canon Law affects the Church, Clergy, Religious and the Laity today. I have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of many canonical experts happily agreeing to be interviewed. This podcast is available now on Spotify and YouTube.

The past 12 months would not have been possible without the grace of God, and one of those graces was the scholarship I received. From the bottom of my heart I thank the board, donors and administrators of this scholarship fund. You have provided me the opportunity to undertake study within an area of the Church that is so very much needed presently, and made it possible for me to access the wisdom and insights of canonical teachers and experts.

I look forward to updating you in the future when I have completed these studies.

Thank you again. Know you are in my prayers, as I ask you to keep me in yours.

God bless,
Marilyn McIntyre
2nd Year Master of Canon Law/Licentiate Student
(St Paul University)

Encountering Jesus as a child encouraged me to volunteer in many ministries with a great passion to lead others towards God, however, I lacked articulation to discuss the kerygma and Catholic teachings in a profound and knowledge-based manner. Many times, the burning desire to study theology and become better equipped to serve others in their journey towards Christ had entered my heart however I was unsure of my abilities; my financial position was strained and so I surrendered the outcome to God.

I prayed intently, spoke to many people about the focus for my study and through these discussions, I was pointed towards the St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship for Lay Ministry. This made the decision easy, if I was a successful recipient, then I would go ahead and if not then I would seek other avenues to extend my knowledge and direction. The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship for Lay Ministry's YES was pivotal in my journey and so I am extremely grateful for the generosity of the Committee, in granting me the scholarship....

A significant area of growth for me has been in prayer. Understanding now that prayer must be intentional and grounded in surrender, not dependent on emotion and spontaneity alone. Through journalling, contemplative prayer, Scripture, silence, and reflection on the kerygma, I rediscovered the foundational truth of God's unconditional love and my identity as His beloved child.

Personally, I learned that effective leadership requires vulnerability, trust, and reliance on the Holy Spirit rather than control. I have applied this by creating psychologically safe environments within ministry teams, where people are encouraged to share openly, ask questions, and acknowledge uncertainty. Now team discussions are facilitated to make space for healthy disagreement and reflection, rather than avoiding conflict. Time management principles, particularly prioritising the "big rocks," have been implemented by sharing the importance of scheduling prayer, family time, rest, and personal wellbeing, recognising that sustainable ministry flows from a healthy leader and healthy teams. Development of these healthy teams has allowed us to expand our youth connection within the parish with an outward focus which has seen over 27 high school students interacting with faith and two searching to join RCIA in 2026....

Missionary and pastorally, I see the importance of shared vision, clear structures, and intentional succession planning and have begun mentoring emerging leaders, stepping back to allow them to lead, and clarifying roles and pathways for involvement within ministry teams. This has fostered greater ownership, confidence, and participation among team members.

In summary, this year has formed me more deeply as a missionary disciple. Understanding fully that we don't have to do it all, we are not alone, but rather a piece in the puzzle and it is bringing others on the journey that is significantly important.

Thank you once again for your generosity. Blessings

Barb Conlon

I wish to send through my sincere thanks for the opportunity to gain a scholarship of \$1000 which enabled me to attend the ACYF in Melbourne in 2025. The scholarship donation was integral in facilitating my travelling with and supporting a group of young people from my college and parish community. It was a truly transformational experience of faith, sharing, prayer and engagement. Kind regards Bernice Roche

Becoming Pilgrims of Hope - Transformational experiences at the Melbourne ACYF (Australian Catholic Youth Festival).

Imagine attending a Catholic four-day event with masses, reconciliation, adoration, as well as mini sports, great speakers and thousands of enthusiastic young people singing, praying and learning about their faith. Part praise and worship, part conference—the theological discussions at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival were unique with the encounters designed by Bishops, Religious and Young People to showcase what it means to live out your faith authentically in 2025 as a young person.

I was blessed to attend the ACYF as a group leader for students from my school along with six other young people from my Busselton Catholic parish. We attended as part of the Bunbury diocesan DYMO delegation to the ACYF in Melbourne from 28 Nov - 3Dec 2025. We described the experiences overwhelmingly as 'transformational'.

Our group were delighted to spend time with Bishop George Kolodziej, Bishop of Bunbury, the Australian Bishop Delegate for Youth on the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry. Bishop George's clear message to the ACYF and all youth is "*that Jesus loves each one of the young people of the church so very dearly, Jesus is in love with us and wouldn't change a thing about the young people*" furthermore he explained that God desires each of us to use our gifts to build the Catholic church and further promote God's message, mission and goodness and peace throughout the world.

Our group walked the streets of Melbourne early several mornings offering sandwiches, fruit and conversation as we connected with homeless people we met. This simple act of empathy and engagement reminded us of our own blessings and our call as Christians to live out Christ's mission in a tangible way.

Throughout the days, we engaged in interesting workshops designed to provoke thoughtful conversation. Celebrations of daily masses, prayer and the sacrament of reconciliation were highlights for my group of pilgrims. We learned new hymns, met new people and saw the universal church on display within a gathering of 6000 other enthusiastic young people. This witness drew many of our group to encounter moments of transformation, deeply embedding a desire to know more about God and be involved more in the Catholic Church.

Upon returning from our Melbourne ACYF pilgrimage experience, several of our delegates attended a Bunbury Diocesan pilgrimage and mass to celebrate the end of the Year of Hope. Furthermore, training was undertaken by three delegates who became new Youth Leaders at the Diocesan Summer Camp, supporting more young people from the Diocese to engage with their faith. The ripple effect of attending an event like the Melbourne ACYF continues as a new Catholic Parish Youth Group is starting up.

Prayers for the success of these initiatives are welcomed. The impact of ACYF has seen gentle, ongoing encouragement through the work of the Holy Spirit that young people can re-connect and further grow their faith experience. Myself personally, as well as the young people who attended the ACYF have been actively engaging in Catholic youth activities and our Parish community has witnessed young members of our church being able to stand up and speak about their experience, detailing what is important to them as young Catholics, as they continue to explore and engage in developing new ways to give outreach to the community.

Blessings upon blessings: our God is so good!

Ms Bernice Roche ACYF Group Leader 2025.

I am deeply grateful to the members of St Vincent Pallotti whose generosity enabled me to complete the Personal Vocation Mentor Training through the Inscape Center for Personal Vocation, affiliated with Franciscan University. This formation has significantly strengthened my ability to accompany others as they discern their God-given gifts, vocation and purpose.

More personally, it has changed the way I see God at work within myself and in the people around me. In this sense, it has been deeply transformational. It has shaped not only the way I coach and mentor others, but also my everyday interactions, helping me to build people up, give them hope, and encourage them to live with greater purpose and meaning.

Since completing the training, I have mentored a number of individuals navigating seasons of transition, uncertainty or loss of direction. Helping people recognise how God is already at work in their lives, and how their unique gifts are intended to bless others, has proven profoundly life-giving. I have seen many grow in renewed hope and confidence, stepping forward courageously to follow the promptings God has placed on their hearts.

The scholarship came at a providential time. While caring full-time for my sick elderly parents and temporarily away from paid employment, I did not have the financial capacity to undertake this formation program, despite sensing God's call to do so. In God's providence, I discovered the St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship, and what seemed beyond reach was made possible.

For this reason, I will always remain profoundly grateful to the members of the St Vincent Pallotti community whose sacrifice and generosity of heart enables others like myself to respond to God's call and place our gifts, together with yours, at the service of His Kingdom. With gratitude in my heart, I wish you God's every blessing.

Lukas Rajnoch 6 February 2026

In September of last year, I was blessed enough to begin my postgraduate studies at the Katholische Hochschule ITI, only 20 miles outside of Vienna. The ITI is a Pontifical University founded by our beloved Pope Saint John Paul II in 1996 as a specialised institute for theological studies. After completing my Bachelor of Arts at Notre Dame University in Perth, I was seeking to extend my knowledge of the faith, especially when considering that before I hope to evangelise I ought to humbly learn the truth from our Holy Mother, the Church. A Pontifical Institute founded by our Holy Pontiff was surely a fine place to start.

The St. Vincent Pallotti family was made known to me at the beginning of my studies, and the faith-filled work they do in the name of the Gospel—especially in my native Australia—was inspiring to me. After reading about their charism of missionary work begun by their holy founder, it seemed evident that my own vision for my future was aligned with their activities. It was with the help of the St. Vincent Pallotti family and their generous scholarship that I was able to begin my studies at the ITI, undergoing the *Sacrae Theologiae Magister* (Masters in Sacred Theology).

As I expressed in my application for the scholarship, the STM provides a necessary foundation for teaching catechesis and promoting evangelisation—an essential prerogative of missionary activity. Not only do we delve into the richness of St. Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae*, but we examine contemporary issues of ecumenism in relation to both other Christian denominations and other faith traditions, moral theology, soteriology, and sacramental theology—to name a few disciplines. Further, and essential to any theological studies, the ITI ensures its students live and breathe Sacred Scripture (promoting the reading of it in the original Hebrew and Koine Greek), which, if we are to follow in the footsteps of Christ in propagation of the Gospel, is vital to all our lives both in our missionary work *ad extra* and personal sanctification *ad intra*.

Certainly, it must be said, that studies of theology are of no avail if we do not intend to live our lives in charity and in devotion to one's neighbour. As the great theologian Dionysius the Areopagite says, *bonum est diffusivum sui*, goodness is self-diffusive. Following my graduation, I hope that I will be able to give of any knowledge I have gained for the promotion of the faith either in the sphere of education for university students, or missionary/catechetical activity to those who are not situated to gain further education.

I want to graciously thank the Pallottines for their generosity and charity, it has been the most wonderful adventure here in Austria which I would not have been able to undergo were it not for them. I hope to yield satisfactory fruits from their kindness for the good of Christ's Church. *Pax in Christi*.
Esther Sumich.

Australian Pallottine Family website:

<https://uacpallottines.au>

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