



Legion of Mary

SENATUS OF SYDNEY

BULLETIN

December 2024



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NATIVITY OF THE LORD—DECEMBER 25



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**Loving God,
Thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who brings peace, joy, and hope to the world. May we always be bearers of Your light and love, and may our lives continue to glorify Your name. Amen.**

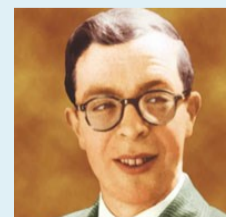


LEGION OF MARY
FOUNDED 7 SEPTEMBER 1921

Pray for
Beatification of :



*The Servant of God
Frank Duff*



*The Servant of God
Alfie Lambe*



*Venerable
Edel Quinn*

The Birth of Jesus Christ

In the quiet town of Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph arrived after a long journey from Nazareth, complying with Caesar Augustus's decree for a census. Due to the influx of people, all inns were occupied, leaving them to find shelter in a humble stable.

That night, Mary gave birth to a son, Jesus. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, as there was no room available elsewhere. This event fulfilled ancient prophecies, marking the arrival of the Savior.

Nearby, shepherds were tending their flocks in the fields. An angel appeared to them, surrounded by the glory of the Lord, causing great fear. The angel reassured them, saying, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly, a multitude of heavenly hosts appeared, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus lying in the manger, just as the angel had described. They spread the word about this child, and all who heard it were amazed. Mary treasured these events and pondered them in her heart.

Sometime later, wise men from the East arrived in Jerusalem, seeking the "King of the Jews" whose star they had seen. The star led them to the house where Jesus was. Overjoyed, they entered, saw the child with His mother Mary, and bowed down to worship Him. They presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This narrative of Jesus's birth teaches us about humility, love, and sacrifice. Born in modest circumstances, Jesus brought light and hope to the world.



Introduction

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With great joy, I welcome you to this special December edition of our bulletin, themed "*The Nativity of Our Lord*". Christmas is a sacred time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who brings light and hope to the world.

In the spirit of Christmas, I extend my heartfelt greetings to each of you. May the peace and joy of this holy season be with us all. I also wish to apologize for any shortcomings or mistakes in our service over the past year. Let us continue to grow together in love and understanding.

May this bulletin serve as a blessing to all as we welcome and celebrate Christmas with love and joy.

Happy reading, and may God bless you.

With love,

Lucy Waty
President the Senatus of Sydney



Allocutio

By: Lucy Waty

Love as the Heart of Our Service and Personal Holiness –Ch.11.1 P.67

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, we are reminded of the importance of love in our lives and in our service as members of the Legion of Mary. In his letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul teaches that without love, everything we do is useless.

Even if I could speak every language or have great knowledge, without love, it means nothing

Even if we have great gifts like faith that can move mountains or deep wisdom, it means nothing without love. Paul describes love as patient, kind, not jealous, not proud, and not quick to anger. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

As legionaries, we are called to make love the foundation of all our actions. In the *Handbook of the Legion of Mary*, in the section “Personal Holiness: The Object and Means,” we are reminded that a holy life is the main path to our mission, which is the glory of God and the salvation of souls. This section quotes Jesus in John 15:5: “I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit; for apart from me, you can do nothing.”

Love is both our tool and our goal. As branches connected to Jesus, the vine, we are called to bear fruit, and that fruit is love. With genuine love, we can face the challenges of service, reaching every soul with a gentle and understanding heart. Love is not only our motivation but also the strength that helps us to be humble, patient, and to give our best, even when we face difficulties.

This part of the *Handbook* also reminds us that every member of the Church is called to holiness. This holiness is shown in real acts of love, in every small service we give, in every kind word, and in every good intention for the benefit of others. In our service, we do not seek praise or reward but aim for the glory of God and to help others grow in faith.

Let us reflect on this:

1. Is love truly the foundation of every action we take in our Legion service?
2. Do we show patience and humility, as Saint Paul teaches in his letter?
3. How can we draw closer to Christ, the Vine, so that we may continue to bear good fruit?

May the endless love of God flow through us, and through every small action we do, may more people feel God’s presence. We are called not only to be faithful in our duties but to fill them with genuine love

Love never ends. Prophecies will end, languages will stop, and knowledge will fade. Now, these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Amen .

Please pray for :

1. The causes of Frank Duff, Edel Quinn and Alfie Lambe.
2. For all the sick or departed Legionaries, families and friends.
3. For all the newly ratified and appointed officers, and also all the active and auxiliary members.
4. For conversion of sinners, victim of natural and other calamities, all children of the world, poor and dejected in the community, poor souls in purgatory and those asking for our prayers.

5. Prayer Request:

Please pray for Sammy and his family, especially his son. For John Fernando & Family.

Please pray for one of our Legion members for their daughter, Dedodiya Yolanda Ximenes. They need our prayers for health and strength in life’s journey. Let’s pray for their path to be easier and for them to keep moving forward.

Thank You for praying with us.





**ADVENT MESSAGE FROM
FR . BENJAMIN SALIBA**



As we enter into this season of Advent we would do well to take heed of our psalmist, lifting our souls to the Lord, looking to Him with great expectation – anticipation.

Our readings over the season of advent encourage us to make great preparations for the coming of our Lord. These preparations are not your stock standard trees, decorations and presents – as exciting as all these things are, they are not the end – they point to something much greater.

In our first reading (1st Sunday Advent) we hear the prophet Jeremiah say the virtuous, the righteous branch will spring forth for David, that Israel will dwell securely and with confidence. Jesus' coming into our hearts should give us a security, a confidence that cannot be shaken by anyone, anything. For this to take root, it involves faith on our end. It involves action – faith and action, to be of any use has to have connected to it a relationship with Christ. Before the advent season we celebrate the solemnity of Christus Rex – Christ the King – we must have him at the centre, inviting Jesus, King of the Universe to dwell in our hearts, our minds, our whole beings.

If we haven't invited Jesus into our hearts as our King, giving him dominion over us - this advent season is a great opportunity to commence these preparations. How might we do this? Ancient Philosopher Socrates is quoted as saying "the unexamined life is not worth living." This is a time of examination and reflection – OF ONESELF – NOT of others, pointing fingers and blame, rather inviting God into our hearts, asking Him to make us aware of our shortcomings toward Him and toward our neighbour. If we make this a non-negotiable daily habit we start to clear a path for the Lord, who we will be able to see with greater clarity and hear with greater attentiveness and sensitivity to his voice. By examining oneself we are more prone to look to the plank in our own eye, before we look to the splinter in our brother or sister's eye. By doing so we will begin to make more and more progress in the kind of life we are meant to live, the life God wants us to live as St Paul says in his epistles. These daily examinations make us more aware of our weakness, enabling us to make changes in the way we relate to God and our neighbour. If we discover that our actions or lack thereof are serious in nature we can seek the love and mercy of God in the sacrament of penance, to clean our souls, further preparing a place for Jesus our King.

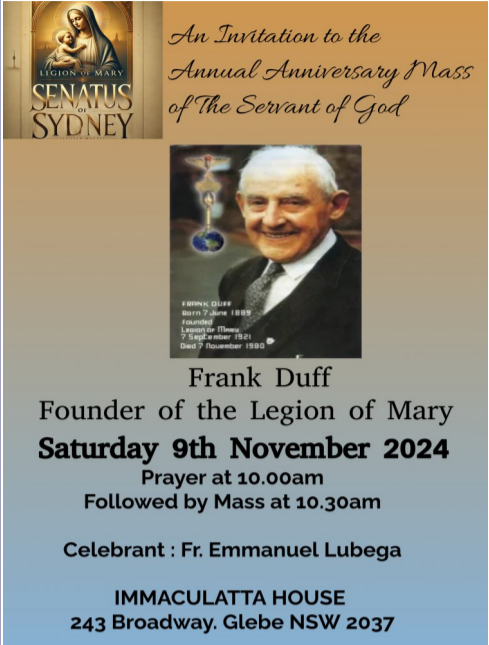
In this most powerful sacrament we encounter the mercy of God, His loving faithfulness, His desire to forgive. If it has been a long time since your last confession, if you have had a bad experience, if you are ashamed or embarrassed, believe me when I say – be not afraid.

This is a sacrament we should fly to knowing and believing with confidence that the loving mercy of God the Father is waiting for us.

Fr Ben Saliba.

“Celebrating Frank Duff Mass : A Mass of Warmth and Togetherness”

Special thanks to Fr. Emmanuel Lubega for leading the Mass and to everyone who attended. Though the gathering was small, the atmosphere was filled with joy and a close sense of community as we celebrated Franks Duff’s legacy.”



An Invitation to the Annual Anniversary Mass of The Servant of God

Frank Duff
 Founder of the Legion of Mary
Saturday 9th November 2024
 Prayer at 10.00am
 Followed by Mass at 10.30am
 Celebrant : Fr. Emmanuel Lubega

IMMACULATTA HOUSE
 243 Broadway, Glebe NSW 2037



“ 1st Legio Mariae Congress—Dili, November 15-16,2024 “

The Legio Mariae Comitium Nossa Senhora Imaculada Conceicao successfully held its First Congress, Led by Bishop Virgilio do Carmo da Silva , Focusing on the theme of service and faith with the guidance of Our Lady.



Legio Mariae
 COMISIUM
 NOSSA SENHORA IMACULADA CONCEIÇÃO DA VIRGEM SANTA MARIA MARIA

1º CONGRESSO LEGIO MARIAE

TEMA :
 “Hanesan Nain Feto no Apóstolo sira iha Cenáculo, Legioner sira mai ita lao hamutuk lori Jesus no Nain Feto ba mundo iha Kreda Ida”

Data/loron: 15-16 de Novembro 2024
Fatin: Salão UNIO Maloa, Ailoklaran-Dili
Oras : * Sesta, 14:00 – Hahu
*** Sabdu, 08:00 – Taka**

Sei Sai Orador Iha Ita Nia Congresso mak :

- Sua Eminência Dom Virgilio Cardeal do Carmo da Silva, SDB
- Sua Excelência Dom Leandro Maria Alves
- Pe. Paulus Maya, Diretor Espiritual Legio Mariae Timor-Leste
- Pe. Ludgerio Martins da Silva
- Pe. Natalino da Costa Soares
- Madre Josefina Concepcionista
- Madre Rosa Cardoso Ursula
- Maun Ribeiro K.

Pe. Paulus Maya
 Espiritual Legio Mariae

Joacina Ximenes
 Chefe Comisiu





St. Louis de Montfort: A Life Devoted to Mary

St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort was born on January 31, 1673, in Montfort-sur-Meu, France. From a young age, he felt a deep love for God and the Blessed Virgin Mary. This devotion guided him throughout his life.

Louis studied under the Jesuits and Sulpicians, deepening his faith and knowledge. In 1700, he was ordained a priest and began preaching throughout western France. His sermons attracted many, rekindling their faith and devotion.

Believing that true devotion to Mary leads us closer to Jesus, Louis promoted Marian devotion passionately. He encouraged practices like praying the Rosary and total consecration to Jesus through Mary.

St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort is renowned as a priest with profound devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He authored several influential works, including *“Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin”*, which has become the foundation of Marian devotion worldwide, including within the Legion of Mary.

De Montfort taught that devotion to Mary is not merely about honouring her, but about finding the perfect path to Jesus Christ. He saw Mary as “the most perfect and surest way to reach Christ,” encouraging all to embrace her as their guide and model of holiness.

Lessons from St. Louis de Montfort’s Life

1. Total Consecration to Mary:

De Montfort emphasized surrendering our lives entirely to Mary as a means of entrusting ourselves to her motherly love and care. This consecration is not symbolic but a profound commitment to serve God without reservation.

2. Mary, the Path to Christ:

St. Louis famously said, *“Mary is the safest, easiest, shortest, and most perfect way of approaching Jesus.”* He invites us to imitate Mary’s faith, simplicity, and obedience in every aspect of our lives.

3. Service with Love and Humility:

De Montfort highlighted the importance of serving with pure love, just as Mary served her family in Nazareth and the disciples in Jerusalem. True strength in serving God, he taught, lies in humility.

4. The Rosary as a Spiritual Weapon:

The Rosary, beloved by De Montfort, is a powerful way to meditate on the life of Jesus through the heart and eyes of Mary. He taught that the Rosary not only strengthens our relationship with God but also helps us resist worldly temptations.

A Message for Us Today

As members of the Legion of Mary, we are called to emulate the spirit of St. Louis de Montfort. Let us make devotion to Mary a bridge to deepen our faith in Jesus. Like De Montfort, we are encouraged to place our trust in Mary as a loving mother who intercedes and guides us on our journey of faith.

Let us reflect on this powerful quote:

“Through Mary, Jesus Christ came into the world; through Mary, He will reign in the world.”

St. Louis de Montfort passed away on April 28, 1716. He was canonized in 1947, and his feast day is celebrated on April 28. His teachings on Marian devotion have inspired many, including Pope John Paul II, who adopted “Totus Tuus” (“Completely Yours”) from Louis’s writings as his episcopal motto.

Reflection

St. Louis de Montfort’s life teaches us the importance of deep devotion to Mary as a pathway to Jesus. His unwavering faith and dedication to service inspire us to live our lives with the same fervor and love for God and others.

The Formation of the Meadowbank Praesidium

“MARY, MOTHER OF MERCY”



Recruitment Day at St. Michael’s Meadowbank Parish— Introducing parishioners to the mission and work of the Legion of Mary.



Orientation Session—A time to Learn, reflect, and embrace the call to serve through Mary

The journey to establish the Meadow Bank Praesidium began with a shared desire from Josefina Delavega (Vice President Senatus of Sydney) and Lucy Waty (President Senatus of Sydney) to expand the mission of the Legion of Mary. Their dedication and vision inspired the recruitment efforts, supported by the Exco members and other Legionaries. Together, they worked tirelessly to make this dream a reality.

With the blessing and support of Fr. Emmanuel Seo, the parish priest of St. Michael’s Church Meadowbank, the recruitment process began. Parishioners were invited to join this sacred mission of serving the Church through devotion to Our Lady. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Emmanuel Seo for his encouragement and unwavering support, which have been instrumental in the success of this mission.

An orientation session followed, providing potential members with a deeper understanding of the Legion of Mary’s mission and works.

The first meeting was a moment of joy and unity as members gathered in prayer to officially form the new praesidium. Under the guidance of the Exco and with the unwavering support of the parish Priest Fr Emmanuel S, the praesidium was successfully established.

The new praesidium was given the name “**Mary, Mother of Mercy**”, reflecting their commitment to bringing Mary’s love and compassion to the community. With officers elected and plans set, they are ready to serve both the spiritual and physical needs of the people around them.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the members of the *Mary, Mother of Mercy* Praesidium who have stepped up to take on their duties as officers. Your willingness to serve as leaders is a testament to your love for Our Lady and your dedication to her mission.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary guide you with wisdom, courage, and grace as you lead the praesidium in its journey of faith and service. We pray for your success and for the growth of the Meadowbank Praesidium.

A New Beginning

The formation of the Meadow Bank Praesidium is a testament to the power of faith, teamwork, and the support of the Church. It marks the beginning of a beautiful journey of evangelization in St. Michael’s Meadowbank Parish, guided by Mary, Mother of Mercy.

Let us continue to pray for their success and growth as they strive to bring more souls closer to Christ through Mary.



*Making the Legionary Promise—
A moment of
commitment and
dedication to Our Lady
and her mission.*

*“The newly formed “Mary, Mother of Mercy” Praesidium at Meadowbank-
United in prayer and mission.”*



**Dear Blessed Mother,
We place this new praesidium into your loving hands.
Guide each member with your grace and help them to serve Jesus with love and humility. Amen.**



Quotes:

- “Together in faith, united in purpose, growing in spirit.”
- “From small beginnings come great blessings.”
- “A new journey in faith begins at Meadowbank.”

Tips for Newly Formed Praesidium

1. Start with Prayer

Every praesidium is built on a strong foundation of prayer. Begin every meeting with the Legion prayers and continue to foster a habit of personal prayer, especially the Rosary. Ask the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin Mary for guidance in all your activities.

2. Build Unity and Team Spirit

A new praesidium thrives on teamwork. Take time to get to know one another and foster a sense of family among members. Support one another in both personal and spiritual growth.

3. Understand the Handbook

The *Legion of Mary Handbook* is your guide! Spend time reading and discussing it during meetings. This will help members understand the mission, structure, and responsibilities of the praesidium.

4. Assign Roles Clearly

Each role in the praesidium (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) is essential. Make sure every officer understands their responsibilities and supports one another in fulfilling them.

5. Focus on Simple Works

As a new praesidium, start with manageable apostolic works, such as visiting the sick or elderly, distributing religious materials, or helping with parish activities. Gradually take on bigger responsibilities as the praesidium grows.

6. Keep Meetings Organized and Spiritually Enriching

Follow the standard Legion meeting format. Ensure time for prayer, reports on works, spiritual reading, and discussion. This structure keeps the meeting focused and spiritually uplifting.

7. Seek Guidance from Spiritual Director

Regularly consult your Spiritual Director for advice and encouragement. Their guidance is invaluable in aligning your praesidium's efforts with the mission of the Church.

8. Connect with Other Praesidia

Stay connected with other praesidia or higher councils like the Curia or Senatus. They can provide support, share experiences, and inspire your group with their activities.

9. Focus on Recruitment and Training

Encourage members to invite friends and family to join. Host orientation sessions to help potential members understand the mission of the Legion and the importance of their participation.

10. Be Patient and Trust the Process

Growth takes time. Celebrate small successes and learn from challenges. Trust that the Blessed Virgin Mary is guiding you in every step.

Encouragement for New Members:

"Do small things with great love." – As your praesidium grows, remember that every work, no matter how simple, has eternal value when done with love and for the glory of God.



**Explore your Faith with the
Legion Of Mary**

**Join us at St Michael's Meadowbank
Parish for Fellowship, Prayer, and
Community Service .**

**Discover how you can make a
difference.**

All are welcome !

Every Saturday at 10:30AM

Contact :
Tony Kurisingal : 0481 320 222
Joan D'souza : 0425 361 233

Spread the Word!

Do you know someone who lives in the

Meadowbank area?

Invite them to join the Legion of Mary at

St. Michael's Parish!

Encourage your friends and family to explore their faith, grow spiritually, and serve the community with us. Share this opportunity with those who may be looking for fellowship and a deeper connection with Our Lady.

For more information, contact:

Tony Kurisingal: 0481 320 222

Challenges and Solutions in Legionary Service

Every service in the Legion of Mary is a beautiful mission, but like any journey, it comes with its challenges. Here are some common struggles faced by Legionaries and practical ways to overcome them:

1. Difficulty in Recruiting New Members

Challenge: It can be hard to inspire people to join the Legion, especially in a world full of distractions.

Solution:

- Be a living example of faith and joy as a Legionary; your actions often speak louder than words.
- Use personal invitations and share testimonies of how the Legion has impacted lives.
- Collaborate with parish events to increase visibility and engage with parishioners.

2. Lack of Consistency in Attendance

Challenge: Some members may struggle to attend meetings or fulfill their commitments due to busy schedules.

Solution:

- Foster a supportive community where members feel valued and encouraged.
- Consider flexible meeting times, if possible, to accommodate different schedules.
- Emphasize the spiritual benefits of active participation in Legion activities.

3. Fatigue or Burnout

Challenge: Balancing Legion work with personal, family, and professional responsibilities can sometimes lead to exhaustion.

Solution:

- Encourage prayer and reliance on Mary for strength and guidance.
- Share tasks among members to lighten the load and ensure no one feels overwhelmed.
- Remind members to take breaks when needed, focusing on quality over quantity in service.

4. Facing Rejection During Apostolic Works

Challenge: It can be discouraging when people are not open to your visits or messages.

Solution:

- Pray for patience and understanding, remembering that success is not measured by immediate results but by faithfulness to the mission.
- Approach each person with genuine love and respect, trusting that the seeds planted today may bear fruit later.
- Reflect on the example of Mary and Jesus, who faced rejection but continued their mission with perseverance.

5. Balancing Devotion and Action

Challenge: Some members may focus too much on spiritual practices or, conversely, on activities, neglecting the balance.

Solution:

- Regularly revisit the *Legion Handbook* to stay aligned with the balance of prayer and action.
- Encourage members to prioritize personal prayer time, especially the Rosary, as the foundation for all works.

6. Limited Support from the Parish

Challenge: Gaining active support from the parish community can be challenging.

Solution:

- Build strong relationships with the parish priest and other ministries by offering your support in parish events.
- Regularly update the parish about your activities through bulletins or announcements to create awareness and appreciation for the Legion.

Final Thoughts

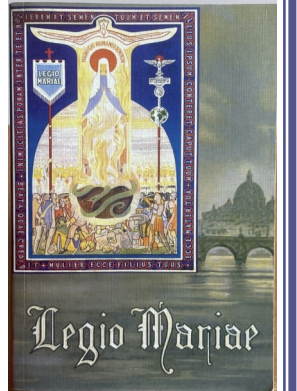
In every challenge, remember the words of Our Lady: *“Do whatever He tells you.”* Trust in her intercession and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Through perseverance, teamwork, and prayer, every difficulty can become an opportunity for growth in faith and service.





LEGION HANDBOOK REVISITED

The annual general reunion – Ch 30.2. Page175



Summary:

The *Annual General Reunion* is held near the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, gathering all members for a time of unity and joy. The event may begin with a church celebration and includes Legion prayers. The main goal is to foster unity, connection, and joy among members, with a focus on informal, friendly interaction rather than formality. The program should encourage members to socialize freely, moving beyond their usual groups. Inspired by the joyful spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, the reunion is meant to create a welcoming, family-like atmosphere.

Explanation:

This part of the handbook describes the *Annual General Reunion*, an event designed to strengthen the bonds between Legion members. Held around the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the gathering includes a time of prayer and a social evening where members can relax, connect, and share in the joy of being part of the Legion family. Formality should be avoided to allow members to feel at ease, helping them get to know each other better.

The handbook draws inspiration from St. Francis of Assisi, who brought joy to his service to Christ, inspiring those around him with his cheerful and loving spirit. Just as St. Francis spread joy, this reunion aims to bring happiness, warmth, and a sense of belonging to all members, reminding everyone that the Legion is more than just a group—it's a family united in love and service.



Quote:

- *“In the joy of fellowship, we find strength; in unity, we find peace.”*
- *“Together in service, united in purpose, bound by joy.”*



*“We gather not just as friends,
but as family near,
In unity and laughter, with joy sincere.
Through simple acts and bonds we keep,
A legion strong, in love so deep.”*



Christmas Reflection: The Significance of Jesus Christ's Birth

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, a moment when God became man to save His people. The story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem teaches us about humility and boundless love. Born in a simple manger, Jesus brought light and hope to the world.

In Luke 2:10-11, the angel said to the shepherds:

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."



This message affirms that Jesus' birth is joyful news for everyone, regardless of status or background.

Reflection:

As we celebrate Christmas, let us reflect on the meaning of Christ's birth in our lives. Have we emulated His humility and love in our daily interactions? Are we bearers of peace and hope to those around us?

Let us open our hearts to receive Christ's love and share it with others, so that the light of Christmas can be felt by all.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your infinite love and sacrifice. Help us to emulate Your humility and love in our lives. May we become bearers of peace and hope to the world. Amen.

*In humble birth, the light appears,
Bringing hope, dispelling fears.
A child so small, a love so bright,
Born to bring the world new light.*

The junior Legionaries at a recent visit to our dear friends at Calvary Nursing Home. They sang a few hymns and songs and really cheered up the residents.



*Guide the juniors with love and care,
So their faith grows strong, beyond compare.
With Mary by their side, they'll stay,
Serving the Lord every step of the way.*





Visiting St. Mary's Cathedral during the summer holidays

Nurturing Faith and Friendship

"Lord, bless the young members of the Junior Praesidium. Guide them to always walk in Your path, with love and devotion to Jesus and Mary. Help them to be a light to others and instill in their hearts the spirit to serve You faithfully. Amen."



The Junior Praesidium in Doonside

The Story of the Junior Praesidium in Doonside

The Junior Praesidium of the Legion of Mary in Doonside holds a special place in the parish of St. John Vianney. It was established in 2004 under the guidance of Father John O'Neill, who originally started the Legion of Mary in the parish in the early 1980s. At the time, Doonside lacked a junior praesidium, though others existed in surrounding parishes. Recognizing the children's need for catechetical instruction, Father John saw the Junior Legion as the perfect avenue to provide it while fostering their spiritual growth.

Over the years, the Junior Praesidium has grown from strength to strength, thanks to the ongoing guidance and support of both Father O'Neill and now Father Eugene, our current Spiritual Director. In the early days, Father O'Neill was deeply involved, attending every meeting to personally instruct the new president on the Legion system. This hands-on mentorship not only helped the juniors but also equipped the adults in charge with the knowledge and confidence needed to lead the group effectively.

Recent Highlights: Living Faith Through Action

The junior members have been active in both spiritual and community works. Last year, they performed a beautiful Nativity play, which they are excited to reprise this year. Their outreach efforts include a heartwarming visit to a local nursing home at the staff's request, bringing joy and comfort to the elderly residents, who have eagerly invited them to return.

In their schools, the juniors evangelize among their peers, encouraging attendance at Mass and frequent participation in Confession. Some older members even volunteer to teach Special Religious Education (SRE) classes in public schools.

The juniors recently enjoyed a delightful outdoor gathering in the Blue Mountains, strengthening their bond as a group while enjoying God's creation.

Reflections from the Juniors: A Joyful Journey with Jesus and Mary

When asked about their experiences, the juniors consistently express how much they enjoy the weekly meetings and the friendships formed within the group. For many, these gatherings are a time of joy and spiritual connection. Some even admit to feeling guilty when they miss a meeting—a testament to how deeply they value their time spent in the company of Jesus and Mary.

Guiding the Next Generation

As a senior Legionary assisting as vice president, it's inspiring to witness the juniors' enthusiasm and dedication. Their reports on completed works and discussions on the Legion Handbook often reveal deep insights and curiosity. Their sense of humor and camaraderie create an uplifting atmosphere at every meeting.

"It's a great joy to watch them interacting with each other in a spirit of love and friendship," shares the vice president. "They inspire us with their energy and openness."

A Call to Join and Support

The Junior Praesidium serves as a reminder of the blessings that come from dedicating time to Our Blessed Mother. As Frank Duff, founder of the Legion of Mary, once said, "Mary will never be outdone in generosity." Those who feel called to share their passion for God and His Kingdom with the next generation will find immense fulfillment in supporting the Junior Legion.

Through the Junior Praesidium, the seeds of faith are being planted in young hearts, preparing them to be future leaders in the Church. Their journey is one of joy, service, and spiritual growth—a journey worth celebrating and supporting.

Would you consider being part of this mission? Whether through your time, prayers, or encouragement, every contribution makes a difference. Together, let us help the next generation grow closer to Jesus and Mary.



LOVE YOUR PRIESTS AND PRAY FOR THEM

This piece is adapted from a post by Fr. Martinus Situmorang.
May it be a blessing for all of us.

According to recent studies, many priests leave their ministry each year. They don't leave because of a lack of faith in God. They don't step away from the calling God has placed in their lives. Most of them don't even leave for financial reasons.

Priests leave because they are overwhelmed by mental exhaustion. Unless you're a priest, you may never fully understand what it's like to carry the spiritual burdens of others. They wake up in the middle of the night to pray for their faithful families. They worry for those who are absent or distant.

Their minds are constantly occupied with preparing Sunday's message – what to preach, how to teach, and how to help us apply it. They often face criticism, being told to do better or to improve the church in some way.

Priests give their lives to their people, yet people can turn away from their priests when troubles arise, often without a word. Priests are caught in the middle of conflicts and gossip. They counsel broken marriages, comfort those in grief, and guide people in faith. They long for spiritual breakthroughs and the best for each of us, all while striving to grow in their own relationship with God.

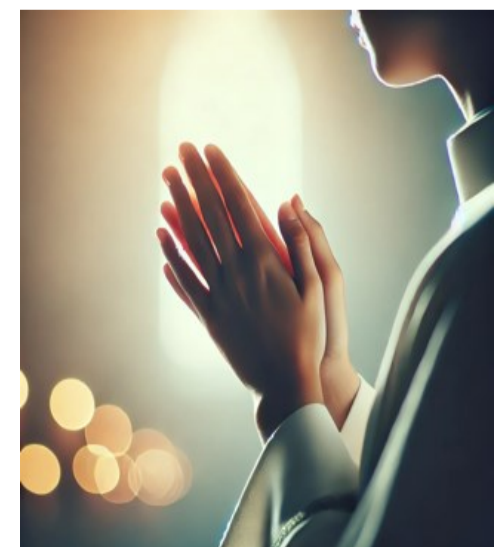
They see the messages, hear the whispers, endure the negativity, and protect the flock while guarding against challenges. They pour themselves out for others – but rarely receive the same in return.

What keeps a priest going? YOU!
You – who truly hunger for God.
You – who worship with passion.
You – the young people striving to follow Jesus.
You – the single mother who finds hope in Christ.
You – the one who walks through the church doors for the first time, seeking peace, hope, and community.

Pray for your priest. Serve alongside them. Speak with them. Encourage them. They are human too and need you more than you may realize!



***“ Lord, bless our priests with strength and wisdom.
Guide them in their mission to serve You and inspire us .
May Your love surround them always. Amen.”***

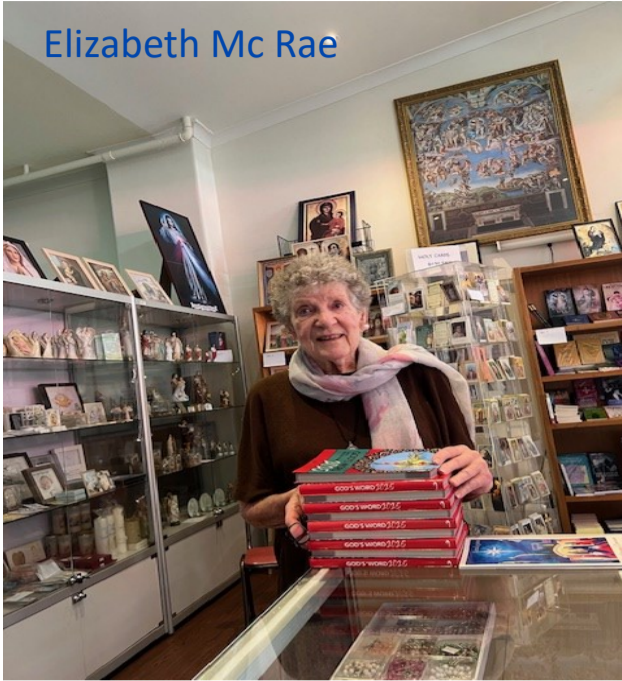




Volunteer Highlight: *Elizabeth Mc Rae's Journey at the CIC Shop*****

"A Place of Faith and Connection"

Elizabeth Mc Rae



Elizabeth and the LOM team at the CIC Shop, making it a place of service and kindness.

"Be a part of something meaningful! Join us in serving at the CIC Shop_ a place where kindness, connection, and faith come alive. Your time can make a difference!"

Introduction

Sometimes, life takes unexpected turns that lead us to places we never anticipated. For Elizabeth McRae, her journey with the CIC Shop and the Legion of Mary began with a chance discovery of a building she initially overlooked.

Discovering the Building

"When I moved to the area, I noticed a sign for the Alexander Method, a technique I had heard about before. Out of curiosity, I knocked on the door upstairs, but the lady told me they weren't practicing anymore. I didn't think much of it and went on with my life."

A Connection Through Faith

Things changed when Elizabeth joined St. Benedict's Parish. "Father asked me to become a catechist at the public school. At first, I hesitated, thinking, 'I'm not a teacher.' But my daughter Natalie encouraged me, saying, 'Mum, you can do it!' So, I decided to take the leap of faith."

To prepare for her new role, Elizabeth had to meet experienced catechists. This brought her back to the same building she had visited earlier. Little did she know, this was just the beginning of something much bigger.

Warm Welcomes and Unexpected Friendships

Initially, Elizabeth only came to the building to print and prepare lessons for the children. "The women I met there were so kind and welcoming. We'd chat over tea, and I thought, 'These are really nice people.' What struck me most was that they didn't push me to join their group or community. Their kindness, however, left a lasting impression."

Joining the Legion

Over time, Elizabeth felt drawn to the group. One day, she attended a recruitment event at St. Benedict's, where a couple asked her, "Why don't you join the Legion?" She responded, "Oh, I teach at the school." To her surprise, they replied, "But that's a Legion work!"

Curious, she decided to attend a Legion meeting. "What have I got to lose?" she thought. That first meeting had an instant impact. "I was captivated by the stories of the Roman Legion and the spiritual discipline of the Roman Legion—something about it resonated deeply. I knew right then and there that I wanted to be part of this group."

Overcoming Fears and Embracing New Challenges

Initially, Elizabeth thought her role as a catechist would spare her from duties like door-to-door visits. "I was even worried about my fear of dogs," she laughed. "But when school holidays came, the Legion members gently reminded me, 'You still have to do active work.'"

She still remembers her first door-to-door experience vividly. "I was nervous, but to my surprise, I absolutely loved it. The connections, the conversations—it all felt so meaningful. What I thought would be a challenge became one of the most rewarding parts of my journey."

Memorable Moments in the Legion

“I’d have to say meeting Mary Lee was one of the most memorable experiences for me. She was my mentor and had such a profound impact on my journey. Mary Lee’s guidance and example were truly invaluable. My wonderful experiences in the Broadway Presidium also hold a special place in my heart, which is why Broadway feels like home to me.”

How the Legion Has Influenced Her Life

“Being part of the Legion has been transformative. The handbook, the structure, the prayers, and the work have deeply influenced my daily life. But more than anything, just being a member of this community has shaped me profoundly. It’s about working for Our Lady and being part of something greater than myself.”

What Keeps Her Motivated

“What keeps me motivated is the prayer—the communal prayers we share together, like the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. There’s a sense of presence and unity in those moments. When we pray together, Jesus is there, and that is incredibly motivating.”

The CIC Shop: A Place of Community and Joy

“My experience at the CIC Shop has been wonderful. The people are kind and welcoming, and the shop itself is a place of community. If I were to encourage someone to come to the shop, I’d say this: it’s more than just a place to browse or buy—it’s a place to meet good people, find joy, and experience the warmth of a faith-driven environment.”

Final Thoughts

“For me, the Legion of Mary is the best way to do apostolic work. There’s no better system. It incorporates everything: the structure, the prayer, the mission. While you can talk about your faith with friends or relatives, doing it through the Legion is different. It’s perfect because we have Mary at the helm, guiding us.

The Legion has transformed my life. It’s given me a purpose, a family, and the tools to live out my faith in the best possible way. I encourage anyone who’s curious to attend a meeting—just one. Like me, you might find that’s all it takes to change your life.”



We’re always looking for helping hands and warm hearts!

Interested in volunteering ?

Come and see how you can be part of our mission at the CIC Shop

CONCILLIUM NEWS

Mary’s Channel of Grace

Meeting ID: 811 [4083 3503](#)

Passcode: 876433

Zooming out to the world and into souls each evening, 365 days per year at 8pm GMT.

Please continue to spread to all details to access the great blessing of Mary’s Channel of Grace.

Feedback Section

We value your opinions and suggestions! If you have any ideas, questions, or comments about our activities, feel free to share them with us.

Contact details

Senatus President: Lucy Waty . Mobile: 0414 895 884 (message only) . E: PresidentSenatusSyd@gmail.com

Thank you for your participation!

“Small acts of kindness can have a big impact. At the CIC Shop, every smile and every moment of service bring light to others”