



MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Let us not love with words  
or speech, but with actions  
and in truth.

Jn 3:17-18





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01

# LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP



**MOST REV PETER A COMENSOLI**  
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE

Dear Friends,

In a year like no other in living memory, the work of Melbourne Overseas Missions (MOM) has continued to support those in need. Our Holy Father Pope Francis reminds us of the many challenges our brothers and sisters face daily:

**In our reflection on the current global pandemic, we have seen that it has made us sensitive to an even graver virus affecting our world: that of social injustice, lack of equal opportunity and the marginalization of the poor and those in greatest need. Christ's example and teaching show us that a preferential option for the poor is an essential criterion of our authenticity as his followers.**

Rome, 19 August, 2020

Grateful for recent financial support from MOM, former Melbourne Parish Priest Fr. Joe Ruys has noted that in his rural community of Checca in South East Peru, 70% of the population have been forced to seek work in neighbouring cities. The declaration of a national quarantine meant employment opportunities for these labourers ceased and families were forced back to their rural communities. Through the assistance of MOM, Fr. Joe is able to assist with basic provisions for his parish community during these challenging times.

MOM has continued to embrace opportunities to change the lives of those who struggle to survive harsh living conditions and extreme poverty especially in this difficult year. Your continued support for Melbourne Overseas Missions Annual Appeal is greatly appreciated.

May I ask that we all hold close in our prayers, the generous volunteers serving in Melbourne and overseas.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter A Comensoli'.

**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli**  
Archbishop of Melbourne



# OUR IMPACT



IN 2020, THROUGH THE  
COMBINED GENEROSITY  
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF  
MELBOURNE WE RAISED

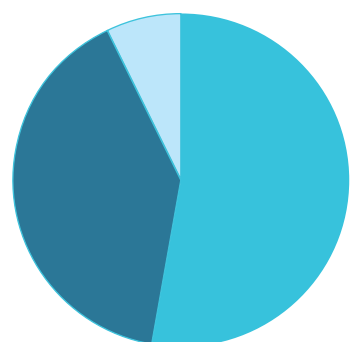
**\$197,157**

We would like to thank all donors for continuing to support Melbourne Overseas Missions in such a difficult time.

Some of our highlights  
in 2020 include:

- The refurbishment of the Kanabea Health Centre
- The purchase of a new X-Ray Machine for St. Elizabeth Hospital Hyderabad
- The continued support and development of education programs for remote and disadvantaged youth

Disbursements relative to  
project type:



Education  
Medical  
Humanitarian

THROUGH 7 PROJECTS WE  
DISBURSED A TOTAL OF:

**\$191,743**

With the eruption of COVID-19 in 2020, we responded to the call for medical aid to two hospitals: St. Elizabeth Hospital Hyderabad in Pakistan and the Kanabea Health Centre in PNG.

Despite the challenges created by the pandemic, we continued focusing our support on increasing the opportunities and availability of quality education. In PNG we have a special focus for supporting young people from remote

and disadvantaged backgrounds. This included support for 15 literacy schools in the highlands, the Bema High School, Hope Academy and Sacred Heart Teaching College. We have continued our commitment to the students from Our Lady of Pilar School and the Community of Notre Dame de Sion in Jerusalem.

**RUNNING  
TOTAL**

**\$17,207,447**

Disbursed over 52 years (1968 - 2020)



**WE WORKED IN 4 DIFFERENT  
COUNTRIES**

Working alongside religious organisations such as the Missionary Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, the St. Columban's Mission Society, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion and Missionary Priests Fr. Tony Young and Fr. Joe Ruys.



For more information visit  
[WWW.MOM.ORG.AU](http://WWW.MOM.ORG.AU)



EQUAL EDUCATION  
ACCESSIBILITY



PROVIDING COVID  
RELIEF



HYDERABAD, PAKISTAN

# SOLIDARITY IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY



**THIS DIFFICULT YEAR REMINDED US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN SOLIDARITY AND THE AWARENESS THAT NO ONE SAVES HIS OR HERSELF ON THEIR OWN.**

Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development on World Health Day 2021



**THE NEW DIGITAL X-RAY SYSTEM REPLACES THE OLD, CHEMICALLY EXPENSIVE MACHINE.**

St. Elizabeth Hospital - that has cared for the most marginalised of people in Hyderabad for the past 63 years - was already familiar with chaos before the times of COVID.

When established in 1958, famine and poverty ran rampant, the economy was in decline and the political atmosphere threatened civil unrest. Many were unable to feed themselves let alone afford medical help. Yet the staff, supported by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hyderabad, were able to save many of these lives.

Relative to its neighbour India, Pakistan was able to escape the worst of the pandemic. However, in March 2020 COVID-19 cases threatened to escalate and a snap lockdown proceeded.

St. Elizabeth Hospital not only provides assistance to the local community, but serves patients in remote locations. In recent years the Mobile Medical Outreach Program has given free primary medical care to more than 50,000 patients annually in the surrounding rural areas. The Hospital also provides a free Home-Based Palliative

Care nursing service for terminally ill cancer patients. In the context of COVID, these two services quickly became integral to the survival of many.

It is important to recognise the selfless doctors, nurses and other staff who continually put themselves in the path of the virus to help those less fortunate than themselves. These are truly our Hospital Heroes!

However, as most patients are unable to pay for their treatment, the hospital bares the total cost. This often means the hospital is unable to complete the maintenance required without support. In 2020, MOM continued to support St. Elizabeth Hospital with a new Digital X-ray system to replace the previous outdated machine.



## Mobile Medical Outreach Program

During 2020-2021, the Mobile Medical Outreach Program (MMOP) had to go into recess until all the involved medical and auxiliary staff were vaccinated. However, visits were made whenever possible. Many MMOP patients were even admitted to the hospital for free care.

In a normal year, more than 50,000 patients in interior Sindh rural areas receive free primary medical care through visits by MMOP. One such

area is the community of Jhirruk. In the previous financial year, MOM helped with housing and water supply projects. In the adjacent images, St. Elizabeth staff are pictured administering medication and care to some of the 86 families who live in Jhirruk.

We commend all those who are a part of this initiative, which provides access to basic healthcare.



## Home-Based Palliative Care Program

In 2020-2021, St. Elizabeth Hospital through its Home-Based Palliative Care (HBPC) continued to provide break-through health care in Hyderabad in a way not found elsewhere in Pakistan.

In June 2021 alone, a total of 223 visits were made to the 33 terminally ill cancer patients by St. Elizabeth's HBPC nursing and medical team. 12 of these patients are in stage 4 and 8 are in stage 3.

Dr. Ghazanfar Hassan Taqvi, head of the Maxillofacial Surgery Department at Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS) Hyderabad,

said that it is only since a meeting at St. Elizabeth Hospital on 8 May 2021 year that he came to realize the "dimension and dynamics of palliative care for my patients." He said that St. Elizabeth is the only hospital that he knows of that provides free Home-Based Palliative Nursing Care. He said it is a blessing for Hyderabad to have such a facility and hopes that it will develop further to cater to the needs of poor patients.



**PICTURED TO THE LEFT IS A TERMINALLY ILL CANCER PATIENT RECEIVING TREATMENT THROUGH THE HBPC PROGRAMME, AND ABOVE, THE PALLIATIVE CARE TEAM, ON 24-HOUR CALL RESPOND TO A PATIENT IN NEED.**



Through HBPC and MMOP, St. Elizabeth implements the call made on World Health Day, 7 April 2021, from the Vatican by Cardinal Peter Turkson, head of the Secretariat for Promoting Human Integral Development that "health inequalities are preventable through strategies that aim to ensure equal access to healthcare especially for those who are vulnerable and marginalised."



# EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

OUR LADY OF PILAR SCHOOL, JERUSALEM

## OUR LADY OF PILAR PRIORITISES ORPHANS AND OTHER DISADVANTAGED MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, GIVING THEM AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION.



*one of the things we work on most, in addition to instruction, is obviously forming good, permanent friendships among all the girls – among the Christians, among the Muslims. To us, they're all equal, regardless of their different customs at home. If you go look in a class, you won't be able to tell who is what.*

Mother Marta Gallo, Principal of Our Lady of Pilar

Our Lady of Pilar School was founded in 1923 by the Missionary Daughters of Calvary as a culturally inclusive Primary School within the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. Its founders saw the need in the Old City for more affordable, quality education for local girls, who were often left uneducated in disadvantaged families.

Due to the success of the school at Primary Level, enrolments were extended to include Secondary Education in 1954. The school currently has 210 students in 15 classrooms and 23 teaching staff.

Students are taught according to the program of the Palestinian Ministry of Education. The curriculum includes all the normal subjects for instruction, plus the learning of four languages: Arabic, English, Hebrew and Spanish. It is through the ability to understand each other within the diverse population of Jerusalem that will hopefully contribute to effective dialogue for tolerance and peace in the future.

Although there are no Jewish students, those who attend the school learn Hebrew so that in future, they can communicate with members of the Jewish community.

Our Lady of Pilar prioritises orphans and other disadvantaged members of the local community, giving them an opportunity for education that would have been impossible due to their individual circumstances. Only around 10% of Our Lady of Pilar's school families are able to support the school

financially. As such the school relies almost entirely upon privation donations from organisations such as Melbourne Overseas Missions, to continue to provide quality education in the Christian Quarter of the Old City.

Melbourne Overseas Missions has been able to support Our Lady of Pilar School by providing funds for both essential refurbishments and the purchase of modern equipment.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has devastated the local economy of the Old City of Jerusalem and many of the local families have had little or no income during the majority of 2020. Across the community, families are struggling to put food on the table, let alone contribute towards the fees for education of the children. The students who attend Our Lady of Pilar are some of the poorest in the Old City of Jerusalem. The school provides them with a uniform to give them pride in their education and to give them a sense of identity within the community.

Our Lady of Pilar provides these girls with an education that would be impossible without the direct support of the school. With MOM's support in 2020, the school purchased a small bank of laptop computers to allow remote education to continue (when possible) during extended periods of lockdown.

### INAAM



Inaam is one of our senior girls and is studying Grade 12. She is one of five sisters in the school from the same family. Another younger sibling is still at home. Unfortunately, her father died leaving their mother alone to raise the family. Inaam and her sisters are fully supported by the school to study at Our Lady of Pilar. Inaam's mother struggles to put food on the table, let alone contribute towards the costs of the children's education.

### MAYLY



Mayly is in Grade 3. Her father is extremely ill and cannot work. Mayly and her sister attend the school but her family cannot pay anything towards the costs of their education. They are entirely supported by the school. Mayly's plight is common in the local community; if the male bread-winner is unable to provide an income, the family faces certain financial hardship.

### RENAD



Renad is in Grade 3 and has another sister in the school. Her family cannot contribute any funds towards the children's education and are entirely supported by the school. Renad and her sister are flourishing at school and her family are grateful that their financial situation will not prevent the girls from access to quality schooling.

**In poor families, it is unfortunate that the education of girls often becomes the lowest priority for struggling families. Sister Marta and the staff of Our Lady of Pilar see it as their Catholic mission to find these girls in our community and educate them.**

Along with traditional instruction methods, Sister Marta is always conscious of trying to modernise the curriculum of the school, especially in the area of Information and Communication Technology. The school is constantly trying to update its banks of classroom computers. Notebooks are highly sought-after, allowing portability between classrooms and giving senior students the opportunity to take a laptop home during strict lockdowns. Some of the teachers have the ability to use phones and computers to teach via Zoom.

The school had extensive periods of lockdown and the staff have been able to continue the girls' education using limited equipment. Laptops have enabled the teachers to reach more of the students during lockdowns and

in their overall education, computers are necessary tools for learning, as the children need to be computer literate if they are to seek employment in the future.

Each year the school holds its Graduation Ceremony for the Year 12 girls, which is a culmination of many years of commitment and hard work under difficult circumstances. Over a number of years, Sister Marta has managed to gather a collection of graduation gowns and mortar boards, which she keeps from year to year. This enables the senior students to enjoy a formal ceremony without adding any expenses to the local families. It is a great event for celebration in the local community. Sr. Marta beams with pride during the annual Graduation. She is only too aware of the profound effect that Our Lady of Pilar will make on these girls' lives into the future.







# 05 SUPPORT FOR LEARNING DURING LOCKDOWN

COMMUNITY OF NOTRE DAME DE SION,  
JERUSALEM

## Education is the key to the future

From the Sisters of Sion, Sr. Trudy Nabuurs & Sr. Bernadette Lynch (Administrators of the Education Fund)

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion have been situated in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem in the Via Dolorosa since 1856. Through access to quality education, the Sisters support the building of bridges between all faiths to encourage peaceful coexistence in the Holy Land. Through the cultivation of future leaders among the disadvantaged, the community hopes to bring access and equity to as many students as possible.

Through the generosity of Parishes across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, MOM has offered its continued assistance over recent years to the Education Fund administered by The Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion. The fund contributes to the essential school fees of local children and by doing so also indirectly supports the continuation of local education

institutions.

The ongoing Education Fund has been assisting young people of The Holy Land since 2001. The fund contributes to the school fees of each child which in turn, assists the school in paying the salaries of teachers. The thinking behind our decision to commence the Notre Dame de Sion Education Fund was to make every effort possible (with the help of as many people as possible) to try to keep as many Palestinian children at school, as education is 'the key to the future'.

Ongoing education is essential and by assisting the families, we indirectly assist the schools to keep going. Good education and the forming of potential leaders may eventually contribute to the bringing about of peace between the two

peoples. We strongly believe that, if the young people have a chance for a good education, there may be the possibility of a more positive and balanced leadership in the future. Only then can we ever hope to have negotiations for justice and peace, something we daily yearn and pray for.



## COVID-19 IMPACT

Similar to the rest of the world Israel/Palestine has been hit hard by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Despite high vaccination rates in Israel, the shadow of Covid-19 still prevents international tourists from coming to The Holy Land. The local economy is highly reliant on tourists and pilgrims for their primary source of income. As such, local communities have continued to suffer greatly as many do not have the skills, education or even opportunities necessary to find other work.

Our Pilgrim house of Ecce Homo has been totally empty and closed since Mid-March 2020. By May we realized that we needed to dismiss almost all our staff as it was predicted that the Pandemic would not finish in the coming months. Some members on our staff had been with us for many years and letting them go was very painful. In fact, it was heart-breaking.

The lockdowns and home schooling in these over-crowded dwellings demon-

strated serious psychological and emotional concerns, as the pressure mounts month after month. There are families who do not have enough computers or tablets for the children to work from home.

### SOME CHILDREN HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED AT ALL IN ZOOM SESSIONS DUE TO LACK OF EQUIPMENT.

One of the staff who work with us at Ecce Homo Pilgrim House lives in a small home with her husband, 3 older sons, plus another 4 adult male relatives; all are at home during the lockdowns. She is struggling with no income and before her work stopped here, being able to come to work each day was her sanity; now it is even worse. We have had several of the women express similar stories. The number of Covid-19 cases in the Old City is almost beyond comprehension and therefore so much care is required to avoid infection.

Schools are finding it difficult to help all their students. I was able to go to several of the schools at which our students attended and contributed towards paying the fees for those students. We assisted as much as funds allowed. Naturally the schools are grateful because so many parents cannot afford to pay the fees and teachers still have to be paid.

Despite ongoing hardship, we often have very Good News Stories with the students we support through the Education Fund. Many of the students have performed well over the years, and MOM has been a huge supporter in the times you have granted a significant donation. We are so grateful to you and thank God for you daily.

## SUCCESS STORIES



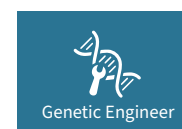
For some time we have been financially supporting a girl who is both blind and unable to walk, to attend a special school for the blind. In times of covid however, online learning has been difficult. Therefore we helped her family pay for private computer lessons. She now attends a special workplace training facility on some days and is able to manage reasonably well with the help of her family.



Another student we support, who comes from an extremely impoverished family and has struggled against all odds to continue her studies also received some recent success. Over the years we have been able to help her out with tuition fees for the University of Bethlehem. Now in her final semester, she has received high honours, with a special recommendation that she be put on the Dean's list. She and her family were delighted as were we and we thanked and praised God for all those who assisted so generously.



We have helped a number of University students graduate, many of whom have attended either the De La Salle College in Bethlehem or the Sisters of St. Joseph School. Many have been able to obtain jobs as the following:



Genetic Engineer



Teacher



Electrician



Engineer



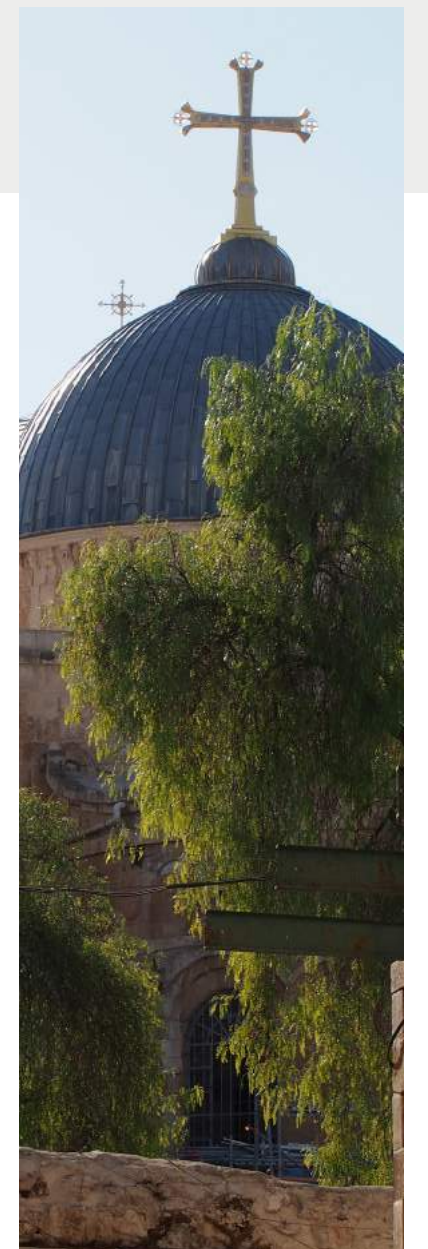
Photographer



Lawyer



Health Insurer





CHECCA, PERU

# SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

If we love one another,  
God abides in us and  
God's love is perfected in  
us.

1 Jn 4:12



## FORMER MELBOURNE PARISH PRIEST FATHER JOE RUYS, CURRENTLY LIVES WITH A REMOTE COMMUNITY OF SUBSISTENCE FARMERS IN THE TOWN OF CHECCA WITHIN THE CUSCO REGION OF PERU.

Whilst mostly known for the beauty of the nearby Andes Mountains, the local communities suffer in trying circumstances. The local people struggle to survive in such a harsh environment with a lack of infrastructure and support. The difficult situation in the area has

been compounded by COVID-19 as the region has been classified as an extreme risk in relation to total case numbers and transmission. For the local people, this means absolute quarantine which has made it impossible for many to work. In a poor country in an even poorer area

many of the locals who are employers cannot afford to support their workers during quarantine and the government cannot cope with the enormity of the crisis in these communities.

## PERU COVID-19 STATISTICS:



**2,133,812**  
CONFIRMED CASES



**197,393**  
DEATHS



**WORLD'S HIGHEST**  
DEATH RATE PER CAPITA

## THE CHARITABLE ACT OF FEEDING THE SICK, AGED AND INCAPACITATED WILL RELIEVE A SIZEABLE BURDEN ON THE COMMUNITY.

Father Joe Ruys, Missionary and Parish Priest of Checca

Thanks to the support of Melbourne Overseas Missions, Fr. Ruys has been able to create a service to support the vulnerable in these areas. This involves providing non-perishable food hampers once a month. Many rely upon these hampers for their very survival during their quarantine. Father Joe reports:

In discussing this new reality with our local doctor, we have recognised the need to respond to most of those diagnosed with COVID-19 with more regular food support in order to enable them to stay at home. We are now attempting to respond to all those facing this new vulnerability as best as we can.

We aim to provide basic food monthly to around 100 aged, infirmed, incapacitated, and COVID-19 quarantined people in the Checca District, through the agency of the staff of our community Medical Outpost. The aim is to sustain the lives and health of the impoverished and powerless people of the area.

The food provided is for sustenance. Our people are mostly subsistence farmers and can only grow produce in the rain season (November – April). Ninety percent of our district's produce is a variety of potatoes. The people also grow a small amount of broad beans, wheat, oats and barley. For those who don't have access to an income (those who are our main target group) this means their diet consists mostly of the various forms of potato – morning and night – with a very small portion of any available vegetable. Obviously, this is not a balanced diet especially for an aged

or infirmed person.

With our MOM-sponsored project, at least once per month we will provide each person with the basics, mostly non-perishables to keep them going. The actual make-up of a food hamper will vary a little depending on a number of factors, including: the individual's needs, the food that is available at the time of purchasing and the relative availability of other perishable foods. With the oversight of the Doctor at the medical post, we endeavour to supply nutritionally balanced food but this is always subject to the local supply and cost.

The typical contents of a hamper are as follows:

- Pasta, Rice, Oats, Quinoa, Lentils Beans
- Tuna, Powdered & Canned Milk
- Sugar, Salt, Matches & Cooking Oil
- Maca (an anti-anemia health food)
- Special foods including: low sugar foods for diabetes sufferers & sweets for aged and people who need to increase their sugar intake.
- Liquid Hand Washing Soap & Dish washing detergent

## WHO WE HELPED



In descending order: Marcos (76), Gregorio (88) and others receive their Covid relief hamper.



# 07 EDUCATION CREATES OPPORTUNITY

PAUPA NEW GUINEA



Since 1971, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny have been improving access to education in the rural communities in the highlands of PNG.

## REMOTE LITERACY SCHOOLS

Children in the Kamea region have to walk very long distances along to attend their local junior school. As a result, many children are not able to attend early learning schools until they are old enough to make the journey on their own. This is a significant issue as in Papua New Guinea, children who do not start school at the age of five are no longer eligible for a government supported tuition-free education.

Due to the financial circumstances in these villages, many cannot afford to send children to school if they aren't eligible for government support. The Cluny Sisters in collaboration with local communities, have established literacy schools in villages that don't have government assisted schools.

Melbourne Overseas Missions has supported the Cluny Sisters in the operation of 15 successful literacy schools in the highlands, with 720 students and 21 dedicated teachers. Enabling these children to start school will lead to opportunities for students to continue their education and gain valuable skills which they can use to serve their community.

Among the literacy program's successes is Jonathan Steven who began his education at the age of ten in his local village. At thirteen years of age Jonathan was admitted to Grade 3 at Kanabea Primary School. Each weekend he would walk home and then bring back garden food to last the week. Regardless of rain or fog, he still attended his classes. He was selected to go to secondary school, but could not afford the school fees. He saved money from raising pigs and finally achieved his aim of High School education. After leaving school he

remained in his village and helped the community in practical ways. Seeing his interest and hard work, the village leaders recommended him for special entry to teachers college. Thanks to the work of the Cluny Sisters and Melbourne Overseas Missions he is today a trained teacher, working in a remote school helping others in a similar position to achieve success.

(Jonathan is pictured below second from the right)



## BEMA HIGH SCHOOL

Within the remote highland villages of the Gulf Province, girls are often given less educational opportunities. Most students raise the funds for their tuition through odd jobs and labour during their holidays.

As earning money for tuition is very strenuous for young children, many are still not able to afford their tuition fee. It is not unheard of for families to have to keep girls at home so they're able to support their male sibling's attendance at school. The Cluny Sisters are committed to ensuring this is not the case for as many young girls in the region

as possible. Young girls who are unable to pay their tuition are supported by the Cluny Sisters and Melbourne Overseas Missions to ensure their education and future is not limited. The students send their thanks:

**With a heart full of gratitude we thank each of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny and Melbourne Overseas Missions for the help we have received. Here in the school we are studying well and we hope we can do our examination well and later we can help Cluny Associates and others as well.**



## TERTIARY EDUCATION SUPPORT

Throughout 2020, Melbourne Overseas Missions continued to support tertiary students from the Gulf Province. Students are often unable to obtain financial support from their parents as in their home villages locals often rely on trading goods or services. The scholarship fund assists 36 selected students with their tuition fees, boarding

fees, books and stationery. The majority of students attend Sacred Heart Teachers College, but some also attend other establishments such as the University of PNG and Divine Word University. It is hoped that graduates will bring their expertise back to the Gulf Province, which is in dire need of qualified workers.



## KANABEA HEALTH CENTRE

Papua New Guinea suffers from a critical shortage of experienced physicians and nurses contributing to the pre-covid nationwide health crisis. As with many injustices, children are the most adversely affected; 65% of children do not have access to basic vaccinations, 33% of childbirths result in infant mortality with only 49% of surviving children making it past their 5th birthday.

Since the formation of the Kanabea Health Centre in 1975, the Sisters of St. Joseph Cluny have been instrumental in supporting the Kamea community. Being the only facility for healthcare in the area, the sisters are responsible for 85,000 people across 14 different outposts in the surrounding highlands. During 2019, there were a total of 30,876 adults and 11,195 children treated by the sisters at the Kanabea Health Centre.

The surrounding region is defined by the lack of transport infrastructure, boasting only walking tracks and irregular plane services. The remoteness of the centre means the support it receives is very

basic causing facilities to gradually become defective. Melbourne Overseas Missions has continued its support for the Kanabea Health Clinic through an urgent refurbishment project which will ensure that the effectiveness of the clinic remains unhindered.

A great source of pride for the Cluny Sisters is their very successful vaccination program. The sisters provide vaccines for polio, tuberculosis, measles, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough, all of which often claim lives in Papua New Guinea among the unvaccinated.

In heavily controlled environments the storage and administration of vaccines is a very delicate process. In regions as remote as Kamea, the storage and administration require even greater precision.

Consequently, if the facilities are not maintained to standard, the entire vaccination process may be at risk. To remedy this, Melbourne Overseas Mission has provided the Cluny sisters with batteries for a solar system to ensure the

constant safeguarding of vaccines.

The healthcare situation within Papua New Guinea continues to be strained by the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the remoteness of villages, and low case numbers, restrictions have led to significant economic downturn.

Future policies have been announced that will ease restrictions, but may cause a rise in cases, possibly overwhelming Papua New Guinea's health system.

To reduce this risk, Melbourne Overseas Mission has provided the Kanabea Health Centre with the necessary personal protection equipment to keep the valuable frontline workers safe therefore keeping the community at large safe.

The amazing work undertaken by the Cluny sisters truly is lifesaving for the thousands who depend upon it.





08

# ABOUT US

## HISTORY

Melbourne Overseas Missions (MOM) is a humanitarian organisation founded in 1968 by Cardinal James Knox to provide assistance to developing countries as an outreach of the Catholic Church community in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

## FOCUS OF WORK

MOM has a special focus on the Kamea people in the remote mountain villages of the Gulf Province, PNG. MOM personnel are located on a face-to-face level with villages and espouse principles based on the Christian motivation of commitment to the poor. Our objectives revolve around strong upholding human rights, enhancing gender equality, self-help and self-reliance. MOM has a particular focus on education, and direct support towards improving knowledge regarding literacy, health, hygiene, agriculture, cottage industry and small business cooperatives.

## MEMBERSHIP

Our charity relies on unpaid volunteers who are appointed by the Archbishop of Melbourne and include people from religious organisations and church agencies.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chair:** Most Rev Peter Comensoli  
Archbishop of Melbourne

**Vice-Chair:** Very Rev Joseph Caddy AM  
Vicar General

**CEO:** Peter Moore DipT(Prim) BED Grad  
Cert(RE) MRE FACEL(VIC)

**Secretary & Public Officer:** Kevin Blake  
AM ME RMIT. MIE(Aust)

**Treasurer:** Roy Meiklejohn Accountant  
CPA

**Privacy Officer:** Sr. Josephine O'Kelly SJC

## Members:

Rev Trevor Trotter SSC Regional Director of  
St. Columbans Mission Society

Mrs Shirley Blake AM Appeal Director

Mr Kevin McMahon Victorian President of  
St. Vincent de Paul Society

## RESOURCES

For further information please visit our  
website [www.MOM.org.au](http://www.MOM.org.au)

## ACNC

Melbourne Overseas Missions Fund  
Incorporated is a registered charity with  
the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits  
Commissions. For further detail visit [www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au)

ABN 21 755 961 164

## WANT TO HELP?

### 01 Our Annual Appeal

If you live in the Archdiocese of Melbourne,  
donation envelopes will be distributed in your  
local parish church on the second Sunday in  
December.

### 02 Donate Directly

If you don't live in the Archdiocese of  
Melbourne or miss the annual appeal, simply  
visit [www.MOM.org.au](http://www.MOM.org.au) or use the following  
QR code.



**Contributions of \$2.00 and over for relief and development projects are tax deductible.**  
If tax deductibility is not required, MOM will have greater flexibility in responding to people in  
need, including the development of Christian belief.

### 03 Work Place Givings

If your business would like to make a more  
regular and cost-effective contribution to  
MOM please consider setting up a work place  
giving with us.

### 04 Bequests

If you are considering MOM in your will please  
contact the secretary Kevin Blake via phone  
(03) 9926 5677 or e-mail [secretary@mom.org.au](mailto:secretary@mom.org.au).



# FINANCIAL REPORT

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the members of the Melbourne Overseas Missions Fund:

SCOPE

We have audited the summarised financial report of the Melbourne Overseas Missions Fund for the Year ended 30th of November 2020 in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

AUDIT OPINION

In our opinion, the information reported in the summarised financial report is consistent with the annual statutory financial report from which it is derived and upon which we expressed an unqualified audit opinion in our report to the members dated 19th of February 2020. For a better understanding of the scope of our audit this report should be read in conjunction with our audit report on the annual statutory financial report.

CHAUNDY & HENRY  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



P W SELKRIG  
Dated 12th March 2021

1.1 INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED - 30 NOVEMBER 2020

	2020 (\$)	2019(\$)	2018 (\$)
REVENUE			
Donations and Gifts (a)	197,157	212,541	838,434
Legacies and Bequests	-	-	-
Investment Income	6,042	13,941	15,449
Sundry Income	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	203,199	226,482	853,883
DISBURSEMENTS			
Funds to Overseas Projects	191,743	217,240	967,500
Community Education	1,872	4,925	3,500
Fundraising Costs	1,872	4,925	3,500
Administration	7,747	13,839	16,149
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	203,234	240,929	990,649
Excess of Revenue Over Disbursements (shortfall) from Continuing Operations	(35)	(14,447)	(136,766)

The Note (1.1a): During the previous financial year, the St.. Paul's Overseas Aid Fund (OAF) Committee ceased packing and forwarding to Mission Stations boxes of medical supplies.

No single appeal, grant or other form of fund raising for a designated purpose generates more than 10% of total income for the financial year ended 30th November 2020

Registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS FUND INC. AA0010312



For the full audit report, financial statements and notes, please contact:

Melbourne Overseas Missions Fund Inc.  
Cardinal Knox Centre, PO Box 146  
East Melbourne 8002



1.2 TABLE OF CASH MOVEMENTS FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED - 30 NOVEMBER 2020

	ANNUAL APPEAL SPECIAL DONATIONS	TOTALS
Cash Available at Beginning of the Year	592,486	592,486
Cash Received During the Year	203,199	203,199
Cash Disbursed During the Year	202,409	202,409
Cash Available at End of the Year	593,276	593,276

1.3 STATEMENT OF CHANGES MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED - 30 NOVEMBER 2020

	RETAINED EARNINGS	RESERVES	TOTALS
Balance as at 1st December 2019	593,394	-	593,394
Excess of Income Over Expenses	(35)	-	(35)
Amount Transferred to/ from Reserves	-	-	-
Balance as at 1st December 2020	593,359	-	593,359

1.4 BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED - 30 NOVEMBER 2020

	2020 (\$)	2019(\$)	2018 (\$)
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash	593,276	592,486	606,697
Other Assets	83	908	1,144
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	17,431	17,431	17,431
TOTAL ASSETS	610,790	610,825	625,272
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	-	-	-
Provisions	17,431	17,431	17,431
Non-Current Liabilities			
Payables & Other	-	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	17,431	17,431	17,431
NET ASSETS	593,359	593,394	607,841
EQUITY			
Reserves			
Funds Available for Future Use	593,359	593,394	607,841
TOTAL EQUITY	593,359	593,394	607,841





## MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS

The Melbourne People's Mission

Melbourne Overseas Fund Incorporated is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Non-for-profits Commissions. For further detail visit [www.acnc.au](http://www.acnc.au) with our ABN 21 755 961 164



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