

Pallottine Family (UAC) Newsletter

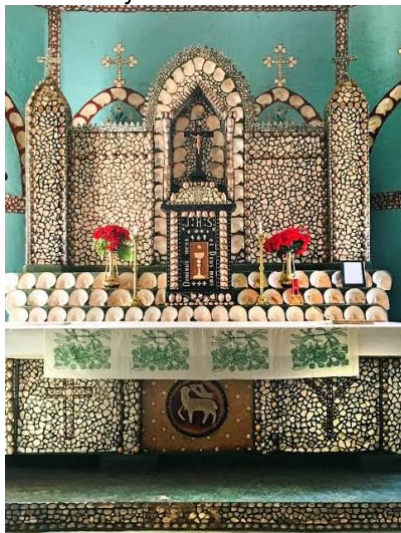
Late Winter/Early Spring 2026

Australia



2026: The 125th Anniversary of the Pallottine Priests and Brothers in Australia

At the request of Bishop Kelly the Pallottines were entrusted with Beagle Bay mission 12th January 1901, when the Trappists could no longer endure the climate. After negotiations, Fr Whitmee, Pallottine Rector General, appointed Fr George Walter, Fr Patrick White, Brothers Matthias Gasperek and Augustine Sixt who eventually arrived in Beagle Bay, 11th March 1901. In 1907, the Sisters of St John of God shared in the missionary labours.



Altar at
Sacred Heart
Church,
Beagle Bay
WA

Further Pallottine developments in Western Australia included the following:

In 1910, Lombadina mission was founded by Fr William Droste. During the First World War, suspicions ran high against the German Fathers and Brothers. A Redemptorist was appointed superior to stop the rumours. Fr Bachmeier died 1918 just as the church at Beagle Bay was completed. By the end of the war, only three priests and four brothers were left. In 1928 Bishop Raible, a Pallottine, was appointed as Apostolic Administrator of the Vicariate. Fr Ernest Worms SAC in 1930 took up the study of anthropology in Broome. With Fr Nekes, they compiled a dictionary of 26 tribal languages, myths and customs.

The Pallottines ministered in the following missions and towns: Beagle Bay, Broome, Lombadina (1911), Derby a white settlement with a leprosarium, and parish 1946, Balgo Mission under Fr Alphonse, Fr John McGuire, and then Fr Ray Hevern (1965-1989) who built up a town of 600 with its own airline. La Grange 1955-1993, Halls Creek parish 1958, Wyndham parish and school developed by Fr Benno Rausch (1964-67), Kununurra (1962). Fr Peter Willis put music to Fr Kevin

McKelson's Missa Kimberley. Much of this growth and development would have been impossible without the dedicated groups of Pallottine Brothers, Lay Missionaries and Mariana members who continued this work.

South of the Kimberley was Tardun, initially a wheat Farm to support the Kimberley missions, then a school and hostel for Aboriginal students who were taken by bus for secondary education (1945). Wandering (1945-56) followed suit. The Pallottines were committed to this work, following up with Aboriginal Chaplaincies in Perth and Geraldton.

Pallottine developments in the East. In 1937 with the assistance of Archbishop Mannix a house was acquired at Kew. Fr Worms was appointed rector with Br Josef Schungel. The mission thrust to Aborigines, hidden in many ways, came to the notice of Melbourne people when Kew was opened. Developments were the Pallottine Younger Set of 1939, the Pallottine Auxiliary. From Kew the Society entered upon a new field of the Pallottine Apostolate. Fr John Hennessy was ordained 1946, the first Australian priest. The Mother Thrice Admirable Shrine was built in 1952. Kew then became a training centre of Lay apostles, Fr Silvester came to Kew in 1951 and with Fr Hennessy built up seventeen groups of young men and women based on Vincent Pallotti's vision and influenced by Schoenstatt. Fr Silvester, Barbara Shea and others founded the Mariana Lay community for women. Lay Missionary training for the Kimberley. The Novitiate and Studentate moved from Kew to Strathfield, Sydney under the guidance of Fr Ludwig Munz. Nine young men joined the Pallottines. A house in Manly was bought for theological studies at St Patrick's Manly

In 1963 allotments of land from Kew and Strathfield were sold to build Pallotti College, Millgrove, 1963. The late 1950s and into the '60s saw the ordination of a new group of Australian priests and brothers. Youth and retreat work developed at Pallotti College under Fr Gerhard Christoph and continued under Fr Pat Jackson. When the College went over to adult retreats 1975, the youth work was transferred to Regina Apostolorum on the same property. The Cenacle Pallottine Youth Community (Casa Pallotti) of young men and women, put into effect Pallotti's vision of

priest and people as equal apostles. A team of Pallottines (Frs Henry Rohr, Jurgen Malina, Peter Willis and Jim Armstrong) and lay people, developed the Outpost Inn, Collins St Melbourne to reach out to all kinds of people in a folk coffee shop setting. The Buoyancy Foundation grew out of the need of treating heroin addicts with a methadone substitute. Spectrum Publishing came from the same setting. Br Michael began a Food Ministry to assist Sisters in busy convents.

Pallottine developments of international collaboration. When the last German Pallottines died Fr Joe Butscher (29, 09. 2075) and Fr Benno Rausch (31 July 2025), Australia was already in transition to a new development. The German superiors asked for help in the mission to India. Frs Roger McGinley, Bruno Kupke and Brian Tiernan were sent from Strathfield, Sydney (1962). The first Indian Pallottines were Fr Matthew Mattapalil and Br Benjamin Kujur. A steady stream took up significant roles. (Fr Paul Manickathan) in Riverton, Perth; Jude D Rozario at Rossmoyne Perth, as bursar, chaplain at John of God

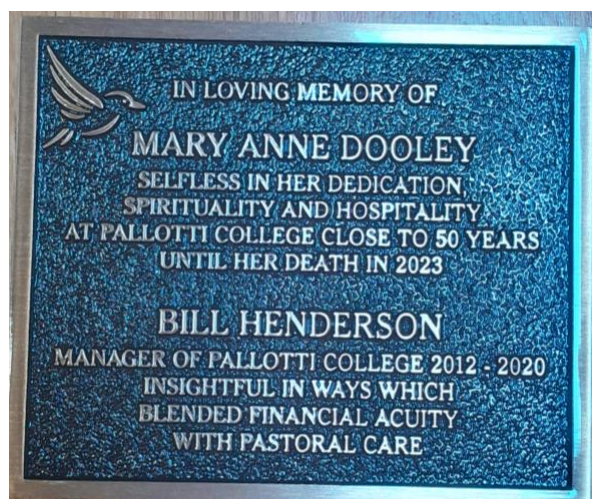
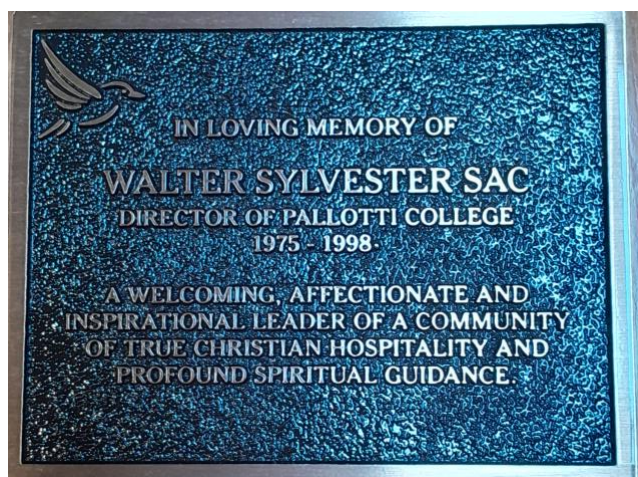
Hospital but now Regional Superior; with (Frs Ray Hevern, John Flynn and Br Vim Van Veen); Fr Shibu Joseph, Nth Ringwood and now St Andrew's Clayton South; Fr Leenus Neetany, St Anthony's, Glenhuntly, St Joseph's Elsternwick and Holy Cross, South Caulfield (with Fr Pat Jackson, and Br Lindsay Rust) and before that, at Holy Child, Dallas, and St Patrick's Murrumbena. Now Fr Siby John is parish priest of St Patrick's as well St Kevin's Ormond; Fr Ralph Besterwich, now posted to India. Fr Jacob Alavares is now parish priest at St Christopher's Syndal. As well as Indian confreres we hosted Polish confreres prior to their taking up mission work in Papua New Guinea.

On the international level, we Pallottines have reclaimed the Charism of St Vincent Pallotti, namely The Union of Catholic Apostolate of everyone called to be an apostle, in loving united action in Jesus' saving work. **This charism has been formally accepted by the Universal Church.**

- Fr Pat Jackson SAC

Plaques now placed as permanent reminders at Santhom Grove, formerly known as Pallotti College, Millgrove

Thanks go to the 11.30 Mass Community and to the Director. Fr Varghese Vavolil, for installing these plaques as memorials to some of the significant people who contributed so much to Pallotti College. Thanks particularly to Paula Kinsella for her work obtaining information and for the photos.



Daphne McGinley, a remarkable woman and long-time volunteer. R.I.P.
15.1.1937 - 4.8.2026





Pallottine Infinity Cross

- now installed on the lectern in the church at Balgo thanks to Cheryl Sullivan and Fr Ray.

Cathy Lee is holding the paper which explains the symbols used on the cross.

Dear Readers,

Whether you receive a mailed or emailed copy of the Pallottine Family Newsletter, if possible, could you kindly pay a subscription fee of \$40 per year to offset costs. Thanks to those who have already done so.

NAB (National Australia Bank. BSB: 083 347 Account No.: 569130037. Kindly include PFN and your name for our records.

-National Coordination Council

2026 Sixtieth Anniversary of Pallottine Family Newsletter

From July 1968, page 3, KNOW THE PALLOTTINES:

With Brother Frank Nissl on an Exodus in the East Kimberleys.

"Brother Frank Nissl has been in the Kimberleys for about 40 years. Early this year he came to the East. On April 4th, he celebrated his 80th birthday at Pallotti College Millgrove.. he is now staying with Fr. Alfonse Bleischwitz at Pallotti House, Manly, N.S.W.

Here we meet a Missionary who belongs to those whom the Lord sent before him. And the passage leads through desert country similar to places to the desert of Mount Sinai. Brother went to places where a Mission was to be established. This was part of his vocation, he liked to explore unknown lands. And in doing so he came into very close contact with many desert people who had not seen white men before at close range. Brother Frank did not study Anthropology or Native Psychology, but he applied these sciences in his missionary work. And that was not always easy.

It started in a large way became leader of the Great Exodus of the East Kimberleys on Sept. 8th 1939. Like Moses of old he lead a whole tribe which had been settled around Rock Hole near Hall's Creek for some years. It took him through desert country to a promised land in the south, which is now called Balgo Mission."

My God, infinite immense, eternal, incomprehensible mercy.
My God, you are infinite love, you are mad with love for me
My God, you have always thought of me
And you pour over me endless floods of graces, favours and mercies.
- St Vincent Pallotti

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

COMING EVENTS:

PALLOTTINE CENACLE PRAYER: 7.30 p.m. Bring something to share for light supper.

- **Tuesday, 22nd September.** St Andrew's Parish House, 76 Springs Rd. Clayton South. If you can't join in person, join on Zoom: Meeting ID: 816 5506 2219 Passcode: 865141
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81655062219?pwd=INtBzJdIPljwFaaBFLP6LlzpDO0rCf.1>
- **Remember in November, Sunday, 22nd November** 31a Gooch St. Thornbury. Cheryl would love you to come to her home or join in on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84552337060?pwd=rMst2bET2mb7h2vbM3edTOf9NSiUo3.1>
Meeting ID: 845 5233 7060 Passcode: 020634

International Pallottine Family Feast Day Day for Retreat, Reflection, Renewal 24 October

Gather at the Glen, St Anthony's Glen Huntly, 10.00 a.m.
Prayer, Input from Fr Eugene San SAC, Reflection, Sharing Time
Input from Mary Whiting on her trip to Kigali, Rwanda for Formators meeting
Lunch, Act of Apostolic Commitment Reflection, Mass, Finish by 3.00 p.m.
All members of the Pallottine Family are expected to annually Renew their Act of Apostolic Commitment at this time. Kindly RSVP for catering purposes by 22/10/2026 by SMS to Anne on 0429 868457 or by email to pfn@uacpallottines.au

Kindly keep Augustine Neetany, the older brother of Fr Leenus, and all the family members in your prayers. Augustine died before Fr Leenus arrived home. May he enjoy eternal life.

Australian Pallottine Family website: <https://uacpallottines.au>

A reminder that the Flame of Love Orphanage, in Keshero, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is still in need of our support. 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.

The editor, Merle Gilbo's new email address is merlegilbo@gmail.com

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