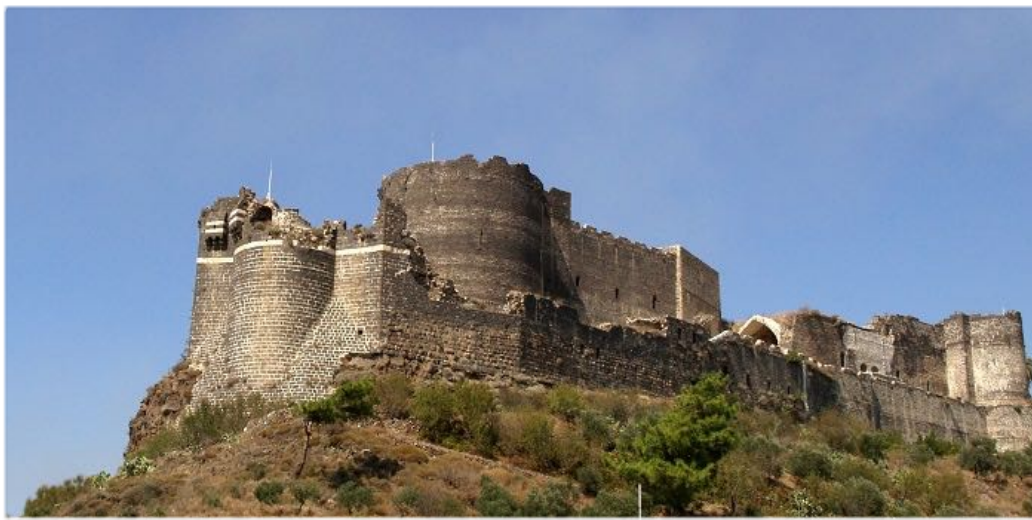




# The Order

## From the Editor's Desk

As we slowly move out of the Covid pandemic and into a post pandemic era, we look back, thankful for the many daily blessings that go unnoticed. As we look forward to the new year, we also look forward to meet future challenges and to do more for the sick and the elderly in our communities.



## Putting on the Armour of God - Margat Castle

Margat Castle, locally known as Qalaat al-Marqab, lies on a spur of the Jebel al-Ansariye mountains, south of the city of Baniyas in present day Syria.

**1**

### OPENING YEAR MASS

Nuncio, Archbishop Marek leads SMOM Opening Year Mass.

**2**

### DELIVERING CHEER

Delivering festive cheer to residents at Assisi Hospice.

**3**

### CNY LUNCH

Bringing good fortune and health to residents of St Theresa's Home for the Aged.



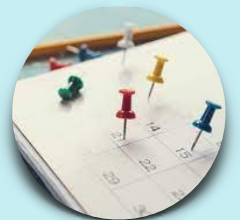
### Order Of Malta 10<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference

Theme: "Faith & Beatitudes In a Time of Uncertainty and Beyond".



### Liturgical Memorial of All Saints

Special celebration for Knights, Dames, Companions and friends.



### Event Calendar

Stay up to date and never miss out on what's happening during the year.

The Castle controlled the coastal road between Tartus and Latakia and guarded the border of the Principality of Antioch with the County of Tripoli. The first castle at this site was built in 1062 by a local landlord.

In 1133 however the castle fell into Muslim hands, to be regained in 1140 by Reynald II Mazoir. In 1186 Margat Castle was sold to our Order of Saint John, Knights Hospitaller.



Between 1186 and 1205 the crusader Hospitallers rebuilt the castle into the mighty ship-like fortress we see today. After the Battle of Hattin in 1187 Saladin's army passed in the vicinity of the castle but did not attack it as it was deemed impregnable.

Fortifying Margat Castle is a good analogy to the metaphorical putting on of God's armour through girding the loins with the belt of truth, wearing the breastplate of righteousness, putting on the shoes with the preparation of the gospel of peace (peace), holding the shield of faith, wearing the helmet of salvation, and wielding the sword of the Spirit and word of God. So that the Enemy will leave us well alone.

## OPENING YEAR MASS - JANUARY 2021



The SMOM Opening Year Mass was held on the evening of 28th January, 2021 at 6 pm. The main celebrant was our Nuncio, Archbishop Marek. Fr Edward Lim, concelebrated the Mass. Over thirty members, spouses, associates and companions attended this yearly event.

In his homily, His Grace recounted fond memories of his participation in the activities of the Order of Malta when he was based in New York, USA. He encouraged all to partake of the Holy Eucharist through Mass attendance and he emphasised this is the centrality of spiritual life which cannot be replaced by online masses. By courtesy of our SMOM Companion, Alex Yam, his picture of our Lady of Philermos was displayed during the Mass. For centuries, the icon of Our Lady of Philermos is venerated by the Knights of the Order of Malta.

It is the iconic epitome of the Marian spirituality at the core of the ancient Order of the Hospitallers of St John and her Lady's intercession is up to this day regularly invoked by the Knights during times of crisis and difficulty. By tradition, St Luke is the attributed painter of the portrait. The Mass ended with the Apostolic Blessings from his Grace.

## OUTREACH TO ELDERLY RESIDENTS OF ASK AND BISHAN – FEBRUARY 2021

### Sponsored Goodies Distributed to Eighty Elderly Residents

On Sunday the 21st February, 2021, ten members and companions of the Order participated in this outreach event in collaboration with the teams from Catholic Welfare Services and St. Vincent de Paul (AMK). They met at the carpark of Christ the King Church at 10 am. After a short briefing, our team, together with Brian Monteiro and the rest of the volunteers, proceeded in separate cars to visit the eighty elderly residents in the Ang Mo Kio and Bishan vicinity distributing bento boxes comprising of buns/cookies, oranges, token Ang Pow and goodies sponsored by our Order.

## OUTREACH TO RESIDENTS OF ST THERESA'S HOME FOR THE AGED – SEPTEMBER 2021

### Sumptuous Lunch Treat by The Order.

As part of a continuous effort to engage the residents of St Theresa's Home, the Order of Malta gave the residents another catered sumptuous lunch treat on 21st September, 2021. Even though this effort was rendered in absentia due to pandemic related visitor prohibition, it was much appreciated by the residents as expressed in a letter of thanks from the Home.

## Liturgical Memorial Of All Saints – November 2021

On this special day 18th November, 2021 for the Order Of Malta - Singapore, 32 Knights, Dames, Companions and friends came together to celebrate the liturgical memorial of All Saints Of Our Order.

The Main Celebrant for the event was none other than our Conventual Chaplain ad Honorem His Excellency Archbishop Marek Zalewski.

In his homily, he stressed the reality of the transformation of the departed souls which continues beyond this earthly life secured in eternal life through Christ's salvific sacrifice. He encouraged us to live the life of Jesus emulating the eight beatitudes as exemplified by the Saints in their lives which project the very essence of the teachings of Jesus anchored by a joy engendered by faith which is constant in spite of the persecutions and upheavals experienced in the world.

It was also an opportunity for members, companions and friends to meet and special thanks to Fr Edward for his hospitality as parish priest in permitting the use of the auditorium in the Church of Sts Peter and Paul for this special occasion.





## ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR ASSISI HOSPICE VISIT – FEBRUARY 2021

### Sharing Chinese New Year Festive Cheer to the Elderly



The annual Chinese New Year visit to the Assisi Hospice started on 4th February, 2021, with the members and companions assembling in the lobby of the hospice at 6 pm and received warmly by the Assisi Hospice representatives. After a group photograph, the visitors were distributed the CNY goodie bags containing biscuits, drinks, Mandarin oranges and angpows to the eighty hospice residents in three teams guided by the staff. We thank our Hospitaller Joseph Chew and Ms Sue Ann from Assisi Hospice for helping put this event together. Those who were present went away thanking our Lord for the opportunity to bring some cheer to the residents and family members in the hospice.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR LUNCH FOR RESIDENTS OF ST THERESA'S HOME FOR THE AGED – FEBRUARY 2021

### Lunch Treat for Residents of St. Theresa's.

Despite pandemic restrictions, the Singapore Order of Malta, in absentia due to visitor prohibition, proceeded to treat the 160 residents of the Home to a sumptuous catered CNY lunch on Sunday, 14th February, 2021. We hope to be present in 2022 to accompany the residents on the next occasion.



## FUNERAL MASS OF THE LATE GRAND MASTER, FRA' MATTHEW FESTING – DECEMBER 2021

On 2nd December, 2021 Confreres, Consoeurs, Companions and Friends of the Order of Malta, Singapore gathered at 6 pm at Sts Peter & Paul Church auditorium to remember and celebrate the life of the late 79th Grand Master H.E. The Ven Bailiff Fra' Matthew Festing. Fra' Matthew Festing was Grand Master from 2008 to 2017.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr Edward Lim, our Order's Chaplain. Apostolic Nuncio, H.E. Marek Zalewski was also present to con-celebrate. In his homily, Fr Edward reminded us that as members of the Order, we must follow the example of the Grand Master, and we have to live by the Rule. The Funeral Mass of the past Grand Master of the Order of Malta was held in Malta at the St John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta. The Mass was celebrated by His Eminence, Cardinal Silvano Marie Tomasi C.S., Special Delegate of his Holiness Pope Francis to the Sovereign Order of Malta.



## ORDER OF MALTA 10TH ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 2021

Theme: “Faith & Beatitudes in the Work of The Order in a Time of Uncertainty and Beyond”.

The Order of Malta 10<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference was held on Saturday, 16 October, 2021. The meeting was an unequivocal success and marked several firsts in the ten-year history of the Order’s Asia Pacific conferences.

It was the first time that the conference was held virtually and attendance far exceeded the usual 30 - 50 attendees. More than 130 attended the conference on 16 October.

In place of the usual 3-day meeting at one location, this conference started one month prior to the grand finale in October. This marks another “first”! Delegates from the Asia Pacific region and Europe participated in meetings prior to the conference. Pre-conference meetings typically known as Break Out Sessions started in September. The Chaplains, Presidents, Chancellors, Hospitallers and Communication Delegates met for discussion via Zoom separately.

The grand finale on 16 October lasted for a mere 3 hours - yet another “first”! The proceedings went like clockwork. Within this time frame, the Host’s Welcome Speech, recorded talk by the Prelate, addresses from the Grand Chancellor and Grand Hospitaller, reports from the Presidents and Q&A were accomplished.

At some points during the presentations, the mood seemed a little tense as presenters tried their best to keep within their allotted time, resulting in a few reports being rushed through. Despite this, valuable lessons were learnt from the Presidents’ and Hospitallers’ reports and the overall experience was enriching.

Of special mention is the Australian Association’s camp for youths with disabilities. The Covid pandemic and its ensuing challenges did not dampen their spirit to share God’s love with the less privileged. Instead of cancelling the camp yet again, they forged ahead with their mission amidst uncertain times. To surmount the huge challenges of border controls and health restrictions imposed by the neighbouring countries, a camp for the local youths was organised. As always, God’s all-encompassing love prevailed. It was evident in the video clip that the youths had an extraordinary experience.

This calls to mind our vocation and mission as members of the Order - through our works, in good times and in bad, the love of Christ is made visible and our mission is alive.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference closed with a concelebrated Mass live-streamed from Hong Kong at 5.30 pm - a befitting way to give thanks and praise to our Lord for a fruitful first virtual Asia Pacific conference.

*Contributed by Rose Lu*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	VENUE	ACTIVITY
<b>JANUARY</b>			
Every Evening Mondays-Fridays  Saturday-Sunday	7 pm - 8.30 pm  6 pm - 7.30 pm	Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church 77, Prinsep Street	Prinsep Café Exquisite (Rough Sleepers)
Every Friday	10.30 pm - 12.30 am	Blk 206, #01-1071, Ang Mo Kio Ave 1, (Bethlehem)	Night Mission (Rough Sleepers)
Thursday, 20th January	6 pm	TBA	Opening Mass 2022 Celebrant: TBA
Monday, 24th January	6 pm	Assisi Hospice	CNY outreach
<b>FEBRUARY *</b>			
Friday, 11th February  Tuesday, 15th February	10 am - 1 pm  Lunch	TBA (Subject to prevailing COVID safety guidelines)  St Theresa's Home	World Day of the Sick  Chap Goh Mei lunch for 160 residents
Thursday, 17th February	6 pm	Assisi Hospice Level 5, Meeting Room 2	EXCO Meeting (1)
Sunday, 20th February	NA	Any Church	Dedication of the Principal Church of the Order, Conventual Church of St. John the Baptist in Malta
Every Friday	10.30 pm - 12.30 am	Blk 206,#01-1071, Ang Mo Kio Ave 1, (Bethlehem)	Night Mission
<b>MARCH</b>			
Every Friday	10.30 pm - 12.30 am	Blk 206, #01-1071, Ang Mo Kio Ave 1, (Bethlehem)	Night Mission
Thursday, 24th March	5.30 pm - 7.00 pm	TBA (Subject to prevailing COVID safety guidelines)	Annual General Meeting

(1) Lunar New Year: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> February

**Note: Calendar is subject to change without prior notice.**