



Missionary Sisters of Service

A MISSION OF LOVE AND SERVICE INTO THE HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

NEWSLETTER

MSS mark momentous occasion in change of leadership

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In an historic moment for the Missionary Sisters of Service (MSS), Archbishop of Melbourne, Peter A. Comensoli, issued a decree appointing Good Samaritan Sister, Veronica Hoey, as the Canonical Delegate for the MSS for the next three years. This marks a new model of leadership and governance for the MSS as the community continues its journey toward completion and fulfilment as a congregation.

Archbishop Comensoli issued the decree on 10 October 2024, with the appointment of Sr Veronica Hoey as Canonical Delegate commencing from 11 October—a significant date for the MSS community. The date marked the 62nd anniversary of the commencement of Vatican II and is also the Feast Day of St Pope John XXIII, both sources of great inspiration for the MSS community and its founder, Fr John Wallis. The appointment of Sr Veronica as Canonical Delegate marks the completion of a 12-year period of discernment for the MSS, along with extensive community consultation, which saw the community looking ahead and preparing for the time when the congregation would no longer be able to elect a ‘full general government’, or leadership team from within its own members.

Stancea Vichie, former congregation leader of the MSS for 12 years, says, ‘As our community of women journeys toward completion—or fulfilment, as we like to say—we have continued to work toward good governance and administration to ensure the ongoing life, mission and charism of the MSS into the future. We are thrilled that Sr Veronica accepted our invitation to be Canonical Delegate for our community of women for the next three years, and perhaps beyond that. It simply means that she will have oversight of our congregation, to ensure that the life and mission of the congregation is moving forward in a good way.’



From left: MSS Stewardship Council members, Mary O'Dea, Prof. Gabrielle McMullen and David Alcock; Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli; Stancea Vichie MSS; Veronica Hoey SGS; Bernadette Wallis MSS; Emerging Futures Collaborative MSS Business Manager, Glenn D'Souza; Stewardship Council member, Sauro Antonelli. Photo: Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

To mark the momentous occasion, the MSS hosted an online ritual on 16 October, to formally acknowledge the appointment of Sr Veronica as Canonical Delegate of the congregation, and to provide an opportunity to formally welcome and thank her. Forty people joined the Zoom, including MSS from across the various states in which they live: Hobart, Tasmania; Toowoomba and Mackay, Queensland; Port Pirie, South Australia; and Melbourne, Victoria. There were members of the MSS Stewardship Council, Highways and Byways board members and staff (including former staff); Emerging Futures Collaborative Ltd staff, and other friends and colleagues who contribute to the MSS's work and mission.

Read the full story on the
MSS website: www.missionarysisters.org.au/news

Bruny Island pilgrimage closes off 80-year anniversary of foundation celebrations

We're delighted to close our year of celebrations to mark 80 years since our foundation with a pilgrimage to Bruny Island, Tasmania, a place of deep significance to the MSS. Twenty-five friends of the MSS, including a relative of Fr John Wallis, joined us on this special pilgrimage, deepening their knowledge and connection with our story, both past, present, and into the future. We share some of their reflections below, and you can always read more on our website: www.missionarysisters.org.au/news



2024 Bruny Island pilgrims



Ginette and Glenn D'Souza



Carmel Merrey and Denis Fitzgerald



Alicia Deak



Mary Williams



Mary Heinemann and Brian Lennon



Elena Ariste and Marilyn Huber



Jane Collopy and Lorraine Groves MSS



Marg Casey, Ginette D'Souza, Catherine Carr, Stancea Vichie MSS

The "gold" for me this weekend included the richness of each person and the strong sense of shared endeavour. Thanks to all who participated and best wishes to all other members of the MSS extended community.

-Denis Fitzgerald

Gathering with friends and strangers to share a deeper experience of the MSS charism, in Christ, to reanimate our spirits for life in our world.

-Catherine Carr

It's been an immersion into the MSS charism, and I think we bottled it this morning, when we invited everyone to share what drew them in.

-Corrie van den Bosch MSS

Strengthening bonds with like-minded people in sharing in the depth and wealth of their connections with the MSS in a gospel-centred environment.

-Marg Casey



Top row: 2024 Bruny Island pilgrimage group; Carmel Merrey. Second row: Happy walkers; Marg Casey and Maria Attard; Rita and David Alcock. Third row: Tani Langoulant and Jane Collopy; Stancea Vichie MSS, Corrie van den Bosch MSS, Fr Graeme Howard, Bernadette Wallis MSS. Bottom Row: Liz Jordon and Bernadette Wallis MSS; Bruny Island, Tasmania.



Foundation of MSS celebrations in Whyalla, South Australia

It was a joy to celebrate our 80-year anniversary of foundation in Whyalla, South Australia, as well as marking 52 years of the MSS being in the Port Pirie diocese. Friends, family, and colleagues joined Cheryle Thomson MSS, who has worked in the Port Pirie diocese for many years, along with some of our sisters from Melbourne. A big thank you to all who joined us. For more photos and info about our celebrations across the various locations where our sisters, live, see: www.missionarysisters.org.au/news



Photos from the Whyalla celebrations



Congratulations to Frances McShane MSS

Congratulations to Frances McShane MSS, who was awarded the Guildford Young Medal for Service to Community in Tasmania last month. Frances was among a group of six people who were awarded the medal at St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Hobart, Tasmania. The award recognises those who have made a substantial contribution to the mission of the Church in Tasmania.

Congratulations Frances (who also celebrated her 90th birthday last month!) We all rejoice with you and thank you for your faithful commitment to so many people over many years, especially as you have so often reached out in love and friendship to the most forgotten people. Our good wishes go with you for the years ahead.