



Mercy Ministry
Companions

Update

Welcome back !?

The start of each new year brings a sense of adventure and excitement and in that spirit, I warmly welcome you to 2022 and all the positive possibilities that it holds.

In doing so, I am mindful that many of the staff across the Ministries have not had much of a break at all. Many have been caring for people around the clock – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Ministries are varied (and include hospitals, aged care, home and community care, disability accommodation, domestic violence shelters and foster care) and have now been dealing with the challenges of Covid for the last two years. We are grateful for the ongoing dedication and commitment of our Boards, Leaders and Staff to protect those that we care for and serve.

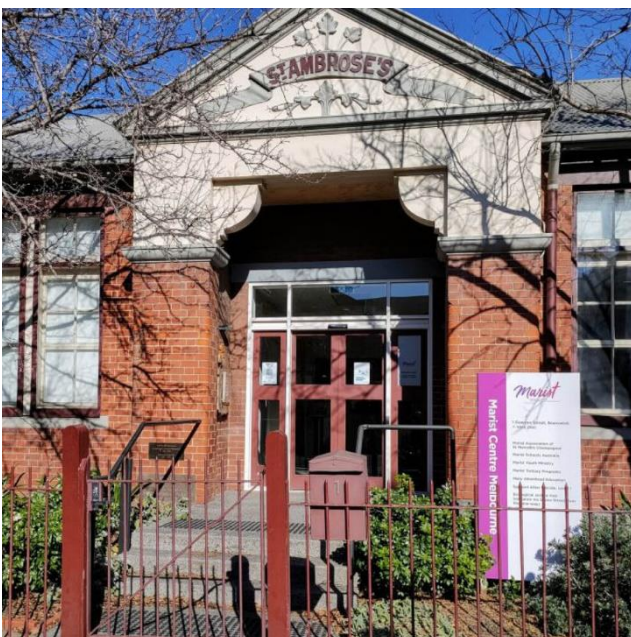
In a similar vein, as our 14,000 students and teachers return to their schools, our hope for all of our staff and Ministries is simply a “regular” year of work, rest and play.

MMC has had an exciting start to the New Year with the appointment and commencement of our Executive Officer, Anthony Loschiavo, and the finalisation of our new office in Brunswick. We will look forward to welcoming you when we move in! In January, we also welcomed Helen Boland, who is familiar to many of you, to Melbourne having moved from Canberra.

Wishing you all good health and more joy in the coming year.

Margaret Bounader (Chair)

New National Office



After careful consideration of a number of possible options, we are pleased to advise that the National Office of Mercy Ministry Companions will be based at the Marist Centre Melbourne in Brunswick, Victoria.

We have received a very warm welcome from the Marist group based at the site, as well as the other Church entities who call the building home!

Our new postal, physical and registered office address is:

1 Dawson St, Brunswick VIC 3056

We are currently fitting out our offices and look forward to seeing you there in 2022.

Welcome Anthony Loschiavo



The Trustee Directors are pleased to welcome Anthony Loschiavo to Mercy Ministry Companions in the role of Executive Officer.

Anthony is an experienced lawyer and has senior executive experience as a director, general counsel and company secretary in diverse entities ranging from not-for-profit organisations through to ASX listed companies. He comes to MMC after 19 years in senior roles at a major Australian law firm.

Anthony has been a Facilitator in directors' duties and the legal environment for the Australian Institute of Company Directors for over 20 years.

He has a particular interest in emerging ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) issues and is a strong advocate of the views espoused by the Council for

Inclusive Capitalism with the Vatican where our commitments, actions and solutions aim to create stronger, fairer, more collaborative societies, ultimately improving the lives of people.

Anthony has been exposed to the charism and ethos of Mercy through a previous role as a director at Mercy Education Limited and is very excited to be closely involved at the start of this Mercy PJP journey. Previously he was a director of Bayley House, a not-for-profit organisation which offers services to people living with disabilities.

Anthony has a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Law from Monash University and a Post Graduate Diploma of Management from the Melbourne Business School.

The Executive Officer is the key support for the Trustee Directors as they work to deliver the vision and mission of Mercy Ministry Companions. In this respect the core activities of the Executive Officer will be:

- Providing high level advice and support to the Trustee Directors across their governance roles;
- Operationalising the MMC directions identified by the Trustee Directors;
- Coordinating communication and interaction between MMC and its ministries on behalf of the Trustee Directors to facilitate their effective governance of the ministries;
- Collaborating with the leaders of the MMC ministries to develop and strengthen the ministries' overall identity and capacity within the MMC mission and vision; and
- Liaising with the ministries with respect to property matters for McAuley Property and actioning operational matters that arise.

With this in mind, Anthony is looking forward to meeting with Ministry Chairs, Directors, CEOs and senior staff over the coming months.

Trustee Director Meeting

The Trustee Directors were very pleased to hold their January meeting “live” at the new National Office at Dawson St. Five Trustee Directors were present in person with two dialling in via Webex.

Some of the key outcomes of the meeting included:

- Reflecting upon the journey to this point and our goals for 2022 and beyond
- Considering our contribution to the Synod on synodality
- Finalising the topics and calendar for Board formation
- Exploring how we will engage with the Ministries about their formation needs
- Lunch with the Board Chairs of Mercy Health and Mercy Education
- Considering our approach to strategy and the specific range of topics we will consider
- Reflecting on our stakeholders and our ongoing communications strategy
- Receiving a detailed briefing on active issues with McAuley Property
- Considering various Ministry Board minutes and reports
- Reviewing decision requests for Mercy Health and McAuley Community Services for Women
- Confirming the dates for a Ministry Gathering in October (see below)
- Considering current safeguarding issues
- Reviewing our government compliance activity

Save The Date...

	<i>Entrusting Ritual for Mercy Ministry Companions</i>
FRI 25 MAR 2022	St Michael the Archangel Church, Stanmore
@ 2PM	Please join us to celebrate this significant event in the history of the Sisters of Mercy and of the Australian Catholic Church

	<i>Ministries Gathering</i>
THU 27 OCT 2022	Melbourne
FRI 28 OCT 2022	Further details to follow but CEOs and Board Chairs are asked to put these dates aside

A Change of Scenery...

It has been an unusually busy Christmas & New Year for our Ministry Governance Officer, Helen Boland, who was based in Canberra. In mid-December Helen’s husband accepted a new role in Melbourne and they have now relocated the whole household in just four weeks!

The family are now settled in Melbourne and Helen is looking forward to less Zoom-ing and more real people.

Reflection

The Feast Day of St Josephine Bakhita – the patron saint of victims of modern slavery and human trafficking is celebrated on 8th February. On this day Catholics are encouraged to pray for all those affected by the crimes of modern slavery and human trafficking, and the people that volunteer and work to eradicate this crime.

St Josephine Bakhita, also known as ‘Mother Moretta’ was kidnapped at the age of nine and sold into slavery. Such was the trauma experienced that she forgot her birth name and her kidnappers gave her the name Bakhita meaning ‘fortunate’. Flogging and maltreatment were part of her daily life. She experienced the moral and physical humiliations associated with slavery.



It was only in 1882 that her suffering was alleviated after she was bought for the Italian Consul. This event was to transform her life. Although she was treated more humanely she remained a slave and upon reaching Italy was transferred to another family.

Urgent travel arrangements led her owner to place her in the temporary care of the Canossian Sisters. During this time Bakhita became a Christian, and with the legal support of her catechists she was formally declared a free person by an Italian court in 1889.

Bakhita joined the Canossian Sisters and her next fifty years were spent witnessing God’s love through cooking, sewing, embroidery and greeting visitors. She was a source of encouragement and her constant smile won people’s hearts, as did her humility and simplicity.

As she grew older she experienced long, painful years of sickness, but she continued to persevere in hope, constantly choosing

the good. During her last days she relived the painful days of her slavery and more than once begged: ‘Please, loosen the chains... they are heavy!’.

Surrounded by the sisters, she died on 8 February 1947. February 8 has been designated as a day of prayer, reflection and action to end the injustice of human trafficking.

Sources:

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/solidarity-and-justice/anti-slavery/patron-saint-st-josephine-bakhita/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josephine_Bakhita

Prayer



PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

We pray for the victims of human trafficking that they may be brought to freedom and rebuild their lives after the traumatic experiences they have suffered.

We pray that St Josephine Bakhita, sold into slavery as a child, intercedes with God for those trapped in a state of slavery, so that they will be released from the shackles of captivity.

We pray for all those who are dedicated to eradicating modern slavery and human trafficking that they will have the courage and strength to reach out and overcome challenges.

We pray that by our actions as consumers we always reject as gravely wrong any goods or services tainted with slavery.

We pray for our governments that their laws will protect victims of human trafficking and reject goods and services from sources associated with slavery and forced labour.

We pray that the Church will continue to defend and free victims of human trafficking and be a source of love, hope and faith to bring the vulnerable and enslaved to find healing for their wounds. *Amen.*

St Josephine Bakhita, Patron Saint of Slavery Victims, Pray for Us.



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC
**ANTI-SLAVERY
NETWORK**

acan.org.au

Contact Details – General Communications

ministries@mercyministrycompanions.org.au

Use this email account for all communications from ministries to MMC, including:

- Newsletters
- Invitations
- Questions
- Decision Requests

mpl@mercyministrycompanions.org.au

Use this email for all requests for support with all MPL property matters, including:

- Planning permit requests
- Building permit requests
- Heritage enquiries
- Disputes with neighbours or councils

Contact Details – Staff

Anthony Loschiavo

Executive Officer

anthony.loschiavo@mercyministrycompanions.org.au

Annette Schneider RSM

Formation Coordinator

annette.schneider@mercyministrycompanions.org.au

Helen Boland

Ministry Governance Officer

helen.boland@mercyministrycompanions.org.au

Joe Konynenburg

Transition Manager

joe.konynenburg@mercyministrycompanions.org.au

Trustee Director Meetings 2022

Month	Meeting (Day 1 of 2)	Papers Due	Location
FEB	MON 28 FEB	MON 14 FEB	Mercy Education, Fitzroy VIC
MAR	THU 24 MAR	THU 10 MAR	Sydney NSW
APR	THU 28 APR	THU 14 APR	Mercy Connect, Albury NSW
MAY	MON 30 MAY	MON 16 MAY	Mercy Health, Heidelberg VIC
JUN	MON 27 JUN	MON 13 JUN	Mercy Services, Newcastle NSW
JUL	MON 25 JUL	MON 11 JUL	Mercy Health, Montrose VIC
AUG	MON 29 AUG	MON 15 AUG	Mercy Education, Perth WA
SEP	MON 26 SEP	MON 12 SEP	McAuley Community Services for Women, Footscray VIC
OCT	THU 27 OCT	FRI 28 OCT	Ministries Gathering, Melbourne
NOV	MON 07 NOV	MON 24 OCT	MacKillop Family Services, Blacktown NSW
DEC	MON 12 DEC	MON 28 NOV	Melbourne VIC