MARY'S ROSE NEWSLETTER

Pauline Fathers & Rosary Bouquet

Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians Marian Valley
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Fr Jaroslaw Zan OSPPE

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News from 'Marian Valley'

Dear Pilgrims,

Marian Valley at 30: A Shrine Born of Mary, Rooted in Grace

On 13 December 1995, deep in the peaceful hinterland of Queensland's Scenic Rim, a sacred space was blessed and entrusted to Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia. That space became Marian Valley - a spiritual refuge where hearts could return to God through the gentle presence of Mary.

Yet the true beginning of Marian Valley lies even further back, in a moment we celebrate every 8th of September: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her birth was quiet, unnoticed by the world - but it marked the beginning of God's visible plan of salvation. She is the dawn before the rising of the Sun, the chosen one in whom humanity gave its perfect "yes" to heaven.

In Mary's birth, we celebrate the hope of redemption being born into the world. In Marian Valley, we celebrate a place where that hope continues to unfold. Now, thirty years on, we give thanks for this shrine - not only as a physical space but as a living expression of Mary's mission: to bring Christ to the world and the world to Christ. From the moment of its foundation, Marian Valley has been lovingly cared for by the Order of Saint Paul the First Hermit - the Pauline Fathers - whose spirituality is deeply Marian, Eucharistic, and contemplative.

The Pauline Fathers brought with them not only their sacred tradition but also a powerful devotion to Our Lady of Częstochowa, the Black Madonna of Poland. It is her image that now watches over the main chapel, reminding all who enter of Mary's strength, tenderness, and unwavering protection.

For thirty years, the Pauline Fathers have quietly built a sanctuary of grace - celebrating the sacraments, offering spiritual direction, and welcoming thousands of pilgrims from across Australia and beyond. Through their prayer, humility, and perseverance, Marian Valley has become a sacred meeting point between heaven and earth.

This shrine is a place of unity in diversity. Along its winding paths and among its many chapels, we see the vibrant witness of different cultures - each honouring Mary in their own language and tradition, yet all proclaiming the same truth: that through her, we are led to Christ.

The 30th anniversary of Marian Valley is not only a commemoration of its founding but a celebration of faith lived out, of Mary's ongoing motherhood, and of the Church alive in Australia. We reflect on what Pope Leo XIV tells us about the Blessed Virgin Mary: "Mary is the living bridge between heaven and earth, the ever-faithful mother who guides the Church with gentle strength. To honour her is to embrace the path of mercy, humility, and unwavering trust in God's plan. May her example inspire all believers to live with hearts open to grace and hands ready to serve."

As we look to the next 30 years, we are invited to renew our own "yes" to God - just as Mary did, and just as the Pauline Fathers have done in their hidden, faithful service.

May Marian Valley remain a place where silence speaks, grace flows, and souls are lifted to God. May She, whose birth brought light to the world, continue to shine over this valley that bears her name - with love, mercy, and unfailing hope.

Fr. Zachary Lewis OSPPE

VOCATION enquiries for The Order of St Paul the First Hermit should be directed to: Vocations Director, Pauline Fathers, 120 Hanging Rock Road, Berrima NSW 2577

REMEMBER MARIAN VALLEY IN YOUR WILL

If you wish to remember Marian Valley in your will, the correct wording is:

Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians – Marian Valley – Pauline Fathers – ABN 24 195 762 439 – 2541 Beechmont Road, Witheren, Canungra Qld 4275

NOVEMBER MASS INTENTIONS

November is a special month of the year to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. If you would like to have Masses offered for the soul of a loved one or some of the "forgotten" souls who have no one to pray for them, please fill in the form and return the form to **Marian Valley, PO Box 104, Canungra Qld 4275.**

Cash & Cheque donations are accepted, as well as donations online through Paypal – logon to www.marianvalley.org.au/donate/

PNG PILGRIMAGE DAY

On Sunday 6 July, the Papua New Guinea community came together at Marian Valley for their annual pilgrimage to celebrate Blessed Peter ToRot.

The main celebrant was Monsignor Henryk Micek from Sydney, and he was joined by Carmelite Fr Paul Sireh from Melbourne, who were welcomed by the Prior Fr Jaroslaw Zan and Fr Richard Green from Penrose Park.

There were around 300 pilgrims who attended the day's spiritual program which included 10am Holy Hour, 11am Mass, and then a procession to Blessed Peter ToRot's Chapel, followed by lunch.

Around 30 members of the PNG community organised the readings and the beautiful singing for the mass. The PNG community also provided a delicious lunch and a cultural program of traditional singing and dancing.

Monsignor Henryk Micek
During Monsignor Henryk Micek's homily he told us an interesting story about his own experiences and how he was not expected to live after catching malaria. He praised the intervention of Blessed Peter ToRot's prayers for his recovery.

Blessed Peter ToRot
Blessed Peter ToRot, a lay catechist from Papua New Guinea, will be canonised on 19 October 2025, becoming the first saint from Papua New Guinea. He was born at Rakunai village on the island of East New Britain in 1912.

Peter ToRot was a catechist who stood up for his faith during World War II against the Japanese oppression. He was martyred in 1945 for continuing his ministry despite restrictions.

The PNG Chapel
The chapel at Marian Valley is the first shrine outside of PNG dedicated to Blessed Peter ToRot, and has a large hand-carved wooden statue of him. The chapel was opened and blessed on 19 January 2020 by His Eminence Cardinal Sir John Ribat MSC DD, from the Archdiocese of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

On Sunday 19 October 2025, mass will be celebrated at 12.30pm at the Marian Valley PNG Chapel for thanksgiving of Peter ToRot's canonisation. This is the same day that he will be canonised in Rome by Pope Leo XIV.

PNG community

OUR LADY OF MADHU

On 26 July 2025 the Sri Lankan community held their 25th jubilee feast of Our Lady of Madhu. The main celebrant was Archbishop Mark Coleridge and was assisted by Fr Pancras Jordan, Fr Vasanthan Anthonipillai, and Fr Zachary Lewis OSPPE from Marian Valley.

There were around 900 pilgrims who travelled to Marian Valley on a beautiful sunny day. During mass, the hymns and devotions were said in various languages, including Sinhala and Tamil. Following the mass, a large procession made its way down to the Chapel of Our Lady of Madhu for prayers, devotions, and concluded with some speeches. Everyone was then invited to lunch for traditional Sri Lankan food and cultural festivities.

Many of the founding members of Our Lady of Madhu Chapel were present on the day to share their stories of the past 25 years at Marian Valley. The founding members were Isidore Storey, Fred Koelmeyer and Jerome Thambidurai and their families.

The committee chairperson, Niroshan de S Wijeyeratne said, "It was a wonderful, joyful day. Very happy that everything went well."

Archbishop Coleridge joins pilgrims on the procession to Our Lady of Madhu Chapel

BISHOP COLUMBA VISIT

On Saturday 6 September 2025, Marian Valley celebrated Our Lady's Birthday. The main celebrant was Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green, who was welcomed by Prior Fr Jaroslaw Zan, and assisted by Fr Nick DeGroot from Marsden Parish. A bus of pilgrims from Toowoomba, and community groups from Brisbane were among the 480 pilgrims who enjoyed the day.

St Carlo Acutis
The next day, Sunday 7 September, following the 11am mass, pilgrims went in procession to the site of the Chapel of St Carlo Acutis for the unveiling of the saint's memorial board, and then the blessing of the site by Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green.

This was to coincide with the canonisation of St Carlo Acutis on the same day, Sunday 7 September 2025, by Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican.

Pope Leo XIV canonised another young man, St Pier Giorgio Frassati, who also has a Chapel site in the same area at Marian Valley.

Blessing of St Carlo Acutis site by Bp Columba

Pilgrims gathered for the blessing of St Carlo Acutis site at Marian Valley

ENTHRONEMENT OF STATUE

On Saturday 2 August 2025 the Filipino community celebrated the enthronement of the Holy Child image of Santo Nino de Cebu at the Filipino Chapel.

The main celebrant was Fr Andy Rivera, OSA, Rector of the Basilica Minore del Sto Nino de Cebu. Several priests concelebrated, including Fr. Rodel Rodriquez, Fr. Saldie Resolado, OSA, Fr. Francis Belcina, OSA, Fr. Louie Jimenez, Fr. Wilbur Tobe, Deacon Conrad Medequiso and Fr Philip Borla (Lismore Diocese),

It was a beautiful clear day for the 350 pilgrims who attended the mass at their Filipino Chapel, followed by a lunch featuring many traditional cultural dishes.

The Filipino community has renovated their chapel, giving it a fresh look, thanks to Mary Ann Boehme and her team.

St Nino De Cebu statue
The statue of St Nino De Cebu at the Filipino Chapel is a replica of the original image. This replica was generously donated by the Augustinian Fathers of the Basilica del Sto Nino de Cebu, who serve as the caretakers of the original image. The original image holds significant historical importance having been presented to Queen Juana and King Humabon 500 years ago when the Spaniards first arrived on the island of Cebu in the Philippines.

Interestingly, in 1944, during World War II, the basilica located in Cebu had been heavily bombed. During the heavy bombardment, the original statue fell, which left a visible "scar" on the right upper cheek and a chipped eye. The original statue was then hidden in a bomb-proof vault for seven months for safe-keeping.

Today, the original statue is permanently kept behind bulletproof glass inside its chapel within the Basilica del Santo Nino, Cebu City, Philippines.

Filipino pilgrims gathering at their chapel for mass

Filipino Chapel newly renovated

MARIAN VALLEY 30TH ANNIVERSARY

The 30th anniversary of the opening and blessing of Marian Valley, Canungra, will be commemorated on Saturday, 13 December 2025.

This special day coincides with Fatima Day, and as such, the program of events will reflect the familiar schedule observed on this occasion. The celebrations will commence at 10am with Holy Hour, followed by Mass at 11am. After Mass, attendees are invited to enjoy lunch together, and the day will continue with a Eucharistic procession at 1pm.

Throughout the years, Marian Valley has hosted a variety of activities, making it a vibrant centre of spiritual life and community engagement.

For this milestone celebration, it is anticipated that many Pauline monks, both past and present, will be in attendance. Notably, Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green will be the main celebrant for the Mass.

The Prior Fr Jaroslaw Zan warmly invites all volunteers, benefactors, and pilgrims to join in the festivities and share in the joy of this significant occasion.

Over the course of the past 30 years, Marian Valley has undergone significant development, evolving into a valued and holy place of pilgrimage for many.

Jubilee Indulgence
To mark the 30th anniversary of the opening and blessing of Marian Valley, Prior Fr Jaroslaw Zan, was able to obtain a special decree from the Vatican.

Pope Leo XIV has granted a plenary indulgence on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Marian Valley, to begin on 13 December 2025 and conclude on 13 December 2026. The decree will be proclaimed on the 30th anniversary, and we hope to have the delegate for Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Christopher Nikiel, present on the day.

The indulgence will require the usual conditions of reconciliation, holy communion, prayer for the Pope and state of grace. This is a most wonderful occasion for Marian Valley.

History
In July 1994 the Pauline Order purchased a 208-acre property on Beechmont Road in Canungra. Fr Augustine Lazur named the property 'Marian Valley'.

To transform it from a dairy and goat farm to a Marian shrine has been a lot of hard work. There was no electricity, a narrow dirt road for access, and plenty of clearing to be done.

However, under the care of the monks of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit, and with the help of volunteers, and many prayers, Marian Valley has become a special place of worship.

On 10 December 1995, Bishop James Cuskelly MSC DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane presided over the opening and blessing of Marian Valley, officially dedicating it as The Shrine of Mary Help of Christians.

Since then, Marian Valley has grown into a beautiful peaceful place of worship and retreats, welcoming pilgrims from Australia and around the world. Central to Marian Valley is the main church which is dedicated to the Black Madonna. There are also many other smaller chapels built by pilgrims, a retreat centre where pilgrims can come and stay, and a piety shop.

However, most important of all, there is daily mass, adoration, reconciliation, prayers and devotions, thanks to the Pauline Fathers and Brothers, the custodians of the Shrine.

BLACK MADONNA

On Sunday 24 August, Marian Valley celebrated the Solemnity of Our Lady of Czestochowa. The main celebrant was Fr Casimir Zielinski OSPPE, a Pauline priest from the Parish of Smithfield, Sydney. He was welcomed by Prior Fr Jaroslaw Zan.

Each year the Pauline Order celebrates the Feast Day of Our Lady of Jasna Gora, named after the Pauline monastery, where the icon is displayed. She is also known as the Black Madonna, as well as Our Lady of Czestochowa, after the city that grew up around the Monastery.

According to legend, St Luke painted the Icon of Our Lady of Jasna Gora on the kitchen table in the home of the Holy Family. In 1430 when Hussites invaded the Shrine of Czestochowa in Poland, one of the soldiers cut Our Lady's cheek with his sword. These scars are still visible on the icon today, despite numerous attempts to repair the damage.

The actual feast day of Our Lady of Czestochowa is 26 August.

Black Madonna Icon

Rev. Dr. Casimir Zielinski OSPPE JCD

Fatima Day

On Fatima day, Sunday 13 July 2025, Marian Valley welcomed special guest celebrant Reverend Fr Anthony L'Estrange Robbie, parish priest of Bondi Parish, in the Archdiocese of Sydney, NSW.

Fr Jaroslaw Zan OSPPE concelebrated the mass, which was attended by a crowd of around 300 pilgrims. Thanks to the bus co-ordinators from the Gold Coast and Grafton Parish in NSW.

Fr Anthony Robbie
Fr Robbie is a renowned preacher of many talents. He is a Conventual Chaplain to the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta.
In March 2018, Fr Robbie was appointed as the postulator for the cause of beatification and canonisation of the Servant of God, Eileen Rosaline O'Connor. A postulator is the person who guides the cause for beatification or canonisation through the judicial processes set out by the Church.

Eileen O'Connor
In 1892, Eileen O'Connor was born in Melbourne, but at a young age the family moved to Sydney. At the age of three, she was crippled by a fall that injured her spine. In 1913, she co-founded the order of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor. She lived her life in constant pain and was paralysed for many years before her death, but her deep faith and her unwavering devotion to God has inspired many generations. She died aged 28 in 1921 after a life of profound suffering and enduring mission to serve the poor and sick.

Christopher Brandt, Mark McHale, Fr Anthony Robbie, Emmanuel Mani Gbanguima, Fr Jaroslaw Zan, Br Bruno Kanamis

VALE: Mick Kent

On Sunday 6 July 2025, Michael (Mick) John Kent, passed away at the Tri Care Aged Care Home in Labrador, following a long illness of kidney issues including dialysis. He was 74 years old.

Born in Brisbane on 17 January 1951, Mick Kent was known for his many talents and had a great sense of humour. He had a particular fondness for telling stories especially those centred on his lifelong passion for trains. Over the years Mick worked as a train driver, operating not only steam locomotives, but also the heavy haulage trains that traversed North Queensland.

Mick was very musical, and loved playing the pipe organ, particularly church music. When he retired, he moved closer to Marian Valley and became the main organist. He composed the music for the St Benedict mass. This is played at Marian Valley, as well as other churches around Queensland.

However, most important of all, he loved the Catholic faith. This is what kept him going during the difficult times of illness he endured. Mick Kent's funeral was held in Brisbane at St Dympna's Catholic Church, Aspley on Friday 15 July 2025.

Rest in Peace Mick.

Mick Kent Track

Earlier in Mick's life, he was very active in bushwalking. He assisted O'Reilly's Lamington National Park with making tracks through the rainforests, including the well-known, "Wishing Tree Track." He would often take many of the Marian Valley people on guided tours of these bushwalks.

His keen interest in nature led to the making of the "Mick Kent Track" at Marian Valley. It all began when Br Luke McKay decided one day to take a walk up the cliff at Marian Valley and place a cross at the top of the cliff, which is still there today.

This gave Mick an idea to use his skills to cut a track for pilgrims to enjoy walking up the mountain at Marian Valley. Mick organised a group of volunteers to assist him in the construction of the track. They started cutting a track through the rough terrain, until they came to a beautiful clearing with wonderful views of Tamborine Mountain and the Canungra valley. At this site, a life-size crucifix of Jesus and Our Lady of Sorrows was constructed, and this is where so many pilgrims now come to pray.

The 'Mick Kent' track was opened by Bishop Columba on Our Lady's Birthday, 8 September 2018.

Over a period of 18 months, Mick and his team completed the Loop Track finishing at Our Lady of the Southern Cross. The track is now a total of 2.5 kms, and takes about 1-hour to walk. The "Mick Kent Track" is a wonderful spiritual walk through the Australian bush, particularly for the youth, thanks to Mick Kent's vision.

Mick Kent on opening day, 8th Sept 2018

VALE: Chris Rankin

Christopher Joseph Rankin, a friend and benefactor of Marian Valley, sadly passed away suddenly on 11 July 2025. He had been diagnosed with lung cancer.

Chris Rankin

Chris was born in Dirranbandi on 24 May 1947. He loved the faith and was very fond of Marian Valley. On 22 March 2023, Christopher Joseph married Teresita Lopez Cruz in the Black Madonna Chapel at Marian Valley by Fr Albert Wasniowski. The mass was attended by many of the volunteers.

Sacred Heart statue

The size of the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue is over 5 feet (1570cm), and because it was so big and had some damage, including broken hands, the Brisbane owner gave it to one of the volunteers in the 1980s. This was well before the Pauline monks came to Queensland. When the Marian Valley property was purchased in 1994, it was decided to donate the statue to the shrine, to give the Sacred Heart of Jesus a proper home.

In late 1996 Chris Rankin met with the Rector of Marian Valley, Fr Andrew Joachim Dembicki to offer a donation, after winning a substantial prize. Fr Andrew suggested to him to build a grotto for the Sacred Heart statue. Chris was delighted to do so. Fr Andrew insisted on not repairing the hands, but to place a sign in the chapel to say, "I have no hands but yours."

Sacred Heart Grotto

Over the years Chris, with the help of long-time volunteer Therese Connolly, have cleaned and beautifully maintained the Sacred Heart Grotto. Chris dedicated the building of the Grotto to honour the Most Holy Trinity, and loving memory of his dear parents, John Alexander and Nora Catherine Rankin.
The grotto for the Sacred Heart of Jesus was blessed on Sunday 20 July 1997 by Fr Andrew Dembicki.

Fr Anthony 35 years

On Monday 11 August 2025, Fr Anthony David OSPPE celebrated his 35 years of priesthood.

The day before, after the Sunday mass, the parishioners surprised him with two very large cakes.

Right: Fr Anthony cutting the cake

St Joseph's Hermitage Retreat Centre, Marian Valley has hermitage-style Retreat cabins with a magnificent Chapel of Adoration located in a serene, naturally occurring beautiful setting, and offers an opportunity for spiritual renewal to individuals and small groups. The cost is $50 per night and each cabin has two single beds and is self-contained. The serenity of the surroundings, the lovely views, as well as the close proximity of Church, daily mass, shrines and Adoration chapel, makes the Centre ideal for retreats. Contact details for all Retreat Centre enquiries: Ph 07-55 333 378 or email: marianretreat@bigpond.com