



District Dialogue

A weekly snapshot from around the ANZPPNG District and beyond

With Br Timothy Peter FSC



Every child deserves a safe start in life... and a toy for Christmas!

With your help we can give the children of Khushpur exactly that this Christmas!

The De La Salle Brothers conduct the National Catechist Training Centre (NCTC) in Khushpur, Pakistan. In Urdu, the native language of the Pakistani people, 'Khush' means happy and 'pur' means land. In English, this would suggest that the NCTC is located in "Happy Land". However, the realities are far from that!

The Creche at the National Catechist Training Centre, Khushpur, Pakistan seeks to support the children of the families who have moved to Khushpur to be trained as catechists. These families have made the decision to support the mission of the Catholic Church in Pakistan, but their children need our help to flourish.

The Creche which provides care for the children is very basic, they have very limited supplies of toys, educational resources, and necessities such nappies, refrigeration to keep milk and food cold, and play equipment including books and toys.

All children have the right to be safe, to be cared for in environments which are good for them, and which ensure that are not only safe but healthy.

Together, this Christmas, we can make this happen and enable our Lasallian ministry in Khushpur to create and sustain a vibrant and safe place for the young children there.

Together we can make our Lasallian Creche in Khushpur a happy place!!

To donate please click on the QR Code or visit www.lasallianfoundation.org.au

Donations in Australia are tax-deductible.



Opportunity: Brother Representative at St. Vincent's College Ashfield

An opportunity is available at St. Vincent's College Ashfield for Brothers to be a part of the vibrant community! The school is seeking a dedicated and compassionate Brother representative to join them in 2024. This voluntary position offers flexibility, allowing the Brother to tailor their involvement according to their own schedule.

Following Br Pat McCarthy's decision to focus on his work at Oakhill College, we are now inviting Brothers to consider taking up this important role. Br Pat has been an instrumental part of the school, and they are looking to continue the wonderful tradition of having a Brother's presence.

In the words of Br Pat, "All care and no responsibility" encapsulates the nature of this role. You will experience the satisfaction of contributing to the community without the burden of administrative duties.

If you would like to know more about the role, please contact Br Pat McCarthy (patfsc@gmail.com).

If you are a Brother interested in this unique opportunity to share your expertise and wisdom with the school community, please contact Br Tim.



Update from Br Visitor

It has been the tradition that the Br Visitor and Professional Standards Officer join our Lawyers from Carroll & O’Dea for a Christmas lunch. This year we had lunch in Circular Quay.

Thank you to La Salle Catholic College Bankstown who raised \$10,000 through Mission Action Day. The donation will be used for repairs and maintenance projects at La Salle High School Campus 2 in Faisalabad and La Salle Girls’ High School, Sant Singh Wala.

Over the weekend, Br Naqash took his Perpetual Vows in the De La Salle College Mangere East Chapel. The event was a great success, with representatives from John Paul College Rotorua and Francis Douglas Memorial College New Plymouth, as well as two Brothers from Pakistan in attendance. I would like to express gratitude to Br Pat and the Community who helped organise the event. This momentous occasion is a testament to the dedication and commitment of Br Naqash.

As you are aware, our current office lease at La Salle Centre/Flinders Centre will expire on 31 March 2024. Given the high costs associated with renting this space, we continue to explore options for our relocation. If you know of any potential locations for our office, please send them to me. For reference, our current space includes 16 offices (including a large space for Young Lasallians), a boardroom, a storage/utility room, a kitchen/lunchroom, and nine parking spaces, with a total floor space of 428sqm. We will be reviewing the current office setup and requirements into the future.

La Salle Centre will close for the summer break from 15 December 2023 and reopen on 15 January 2024.

Br Alf arrived in Melbourne last week. He will return to Papua New Guinea on 21st January. Br Ben Tin is currently in Vietnam visiting Brothers and attending his Sister’s Diamond Jubilee in Religious Life.

Happy Birthday to Brothers Benilde Nguyen and Br Zafar Iqbal who celebrate their birthdays today.

I return from New Zealand late on Wednesday. While in NZ I will take the opportunity to visit Br William Harnett.





News from my Brothers

*80th Birthday Celebrations
for Br Phil Elwin*





Perpetual Profession of Brother Naqash Sarfraz

The Perpetual profession of Br Naqash, a Pakistani national Brother, residing in Auckland, New Zealand, occurred in the College Chapel at De La Salle College, Auckland on the 25th November 2023.

The ceremony took place in the presence of Brother Tim Peter, Visitor, Brothers Sajid Bashir (Pakistan Sector Coordinator), Peter Abraham and Amir Raza from Pakistan, Brothers Michael Carrol, Lewis Harwood and Peter Ryan from Australia, Brother Thomas Yapo from Papua New Guinea, along with Brothers Jack Iremonger and Pat Lynch from Aotearoa New Zealand. This was a unique occasion bringing together Brothers from the four Sectors of the District.

The celebrant was Father Martin Wu, the college Chaplain plus priests from the local area. A feature of the occasion was the active involvement of the New Zealand Sector Council led by Anna Zsigovitz, plus a haka welcome by the students of De La Salle College. A significant contingent of staff and students from Francis Douglas Memorial College, New Plymouth and John Paul College Rotorua also participated alongside Aucklanders.

The ceremony was lively and an inspiring affair as Brother Naqash was received into full membership of the De La Salle Brothers.

Source: Br Patrick Lynch



Click [HERE](#) to see more photos from the event

Keep an eye out for the full story in Lasallian Outlook

Museum Visit

Source: BR William Shaw

More than 10 years ago I visited the railway museum in Thirlmere, NSW as part of a program related to studying Museum Sciences at University of Sydney.

This led to the wish to revisit it after its modification and rebuilding which was then in the future. I have been intending to do a revisit at some time in the future and now it has been done.

Recently I took a trip on the Transport Museum Express which I had booked in October. This train was led by the famous steam locomotive 3801 which has only recently been returned to service.

Although I was travelling alone I was lucky to be seated near railway enthusiasts who were keen to spend a day with the exhibits. After a trip of about 3 hours we arrived. I was amazed at the changes that had been made since I was there before. After roaming through the various exhibition halls I came to the Roundhouse with the turntable that was used to change the engine around. After what seemed a long time we could see the 3801 in the background, through an open entrance to the round house. The various photographers were waiting to see their favourite in its glory. And it was spectacular. I have included photos showing the engine at different angles although the spectators (note the one in red) stood in the same place..

After lunch some went on a short return trip to Buxton. The interesting thing here was when I looked at the photos I took of the engine, being moved to the other end of the train, and the strange things that happened to the imaging. The image appears to distort the reflection of the carriage in the engine as it passed by. The hospitality of the volunteers at the museum as well as those on the Express to and from Thirlmere was tremendous. It showed how volunteers are able to express themselves in the way they help others.

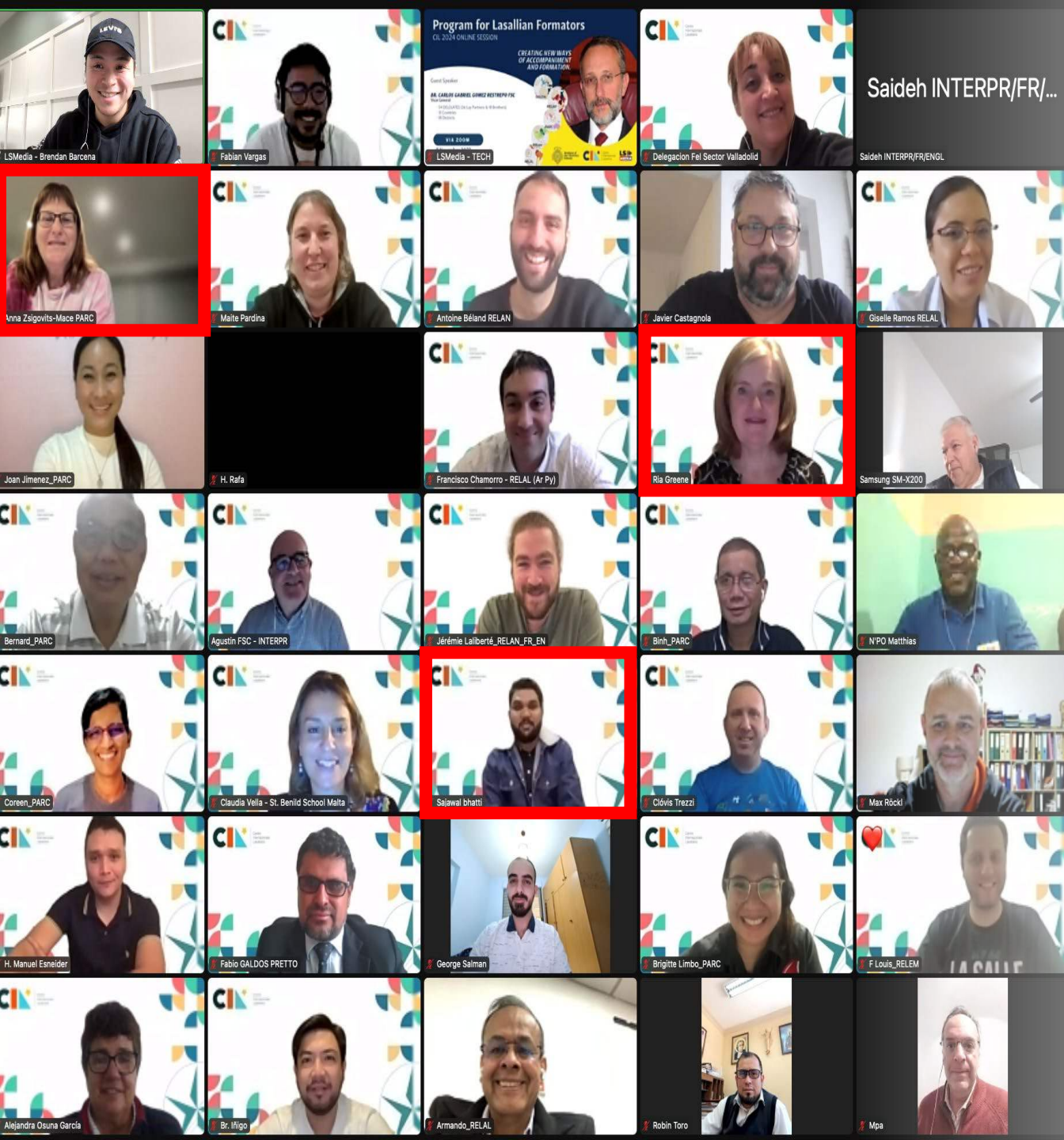
At the end of the three or so hours we had the trip back to Sydney. The day was a great experience that over 9 hours enabled me to achieve something I had long hoped to do.



An update from Bethlehem

After seven weeks of war we are, for the most part, still confined to the West Bank. However, some restrictions have been lifted, and those with religious visas have a three-hour window each day from 6am to 9am to enter into Israel through the pedestrian checkpoint. It still seems a little surreal to say war, but we had friends with us last night celebrating Thanksgiving Day, and I overheard our youngest guest, an eight-year-old girl, say to her mother, "Before the war, we could go on more class excursions." The church leaders in the Holy Land sent out a letter recently calling on congregations to stand strong with those facing afflictions in Gaza and the West Bank, forgoing any unnecessarily festive activities and encouraging priests and congregations to focus more on the spiritual meaning of Christmas. The Brothers community here in Bethlehem remain safe and continue to be convinced of our call to stand with the people of Palestine.





Formation for Lasallian Formators

On November 09, 2023 the CIL delegates (Formation of Lasallian Formators 2024) had their first online preparatory meeting. Fifty delegates across the Institute attended this meeting. It provided the opportunity to the participants to familiarize and connect with their group members before they go for the in-person training sessions.

Brother Rey Mejias FSC (Secretary for Formation) welcomed the delegates and Brother Carlos Gomez FSC (Vicar General) gave a keynote message. In his message he emphasized the importance of formation in the institute. He used the word 'itinerary' which means travel plan. It has a similar meaning in our formation also. Our formation plan is also an itinerary for us. He said, "For us it is a pilgrimage, a formation plan, but an itinerary open to surprises, open to inspiration, open to the collective construction of the project. And it also has another very beautiful characteristic: that it is not directed exclusively at the formation of the Brothers, but it is for the formation of all Lasallians committed to the educational mission, committed to the Lasallian Mission which is carried out in 80 countries in the world, in many places."

He further spoke about the leavening project saying that the challenge is set for all the Lasallians throughout the world by Brother Armin Luistro FSC (Superior General) to become a leaven. The leaven is the invitation made to all the Lasallians for the renewal of their formation programs, from outside, inside, within and below.

Source: Br Sajawal Bhatti



ANZPPNG Representatives: Br Sajawal Bhatti, Ria Green and Anna Zsigovits-Mace



Celebration of Feast of the Presentation of Mary





Prayer resource

A Prayer Service in Solidarity with our Vocation Team on: “Disciples with Many Faces.”

Click [HERE](#) to download.

Source: Br Joseph Bufalo



Visitors to the Mangere East Community

La Salle Global

International Virtual Summit

The International Association of La Salle Universities (IALU) invites you to the International Virtual Summit, a space that will bring together speakers from around the world and aims to identify and encourage global perspectives on different issues of global interest.

Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81221312345>

For more information, click [HERE](#)

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
La Salle
UNIVERSITIES

IALU
INTERNATIONAL
VIRTUAL SUMMIT
NOVEMBER 28-30

INTEGRAL
ECOLOGY

BUSINESS

HIGHER ED AND
CONFLICT

LASALLIAN
MISSION

HIGHER EDUCATION
IN AFRICA

THIS SPACE WILL BRING TOGETHER PANELISTS FROM AROUND THE LASALLIAN WORLD.

THE SUMMIT AIMS TO IDENTIFY AND ENCOURAGE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON DIFFERENT ISSUES, PROVIDE A SPACE FOR REFLECTION, AND PROMOTE FURTHER CONVERSATIONS.

**REGISTRATION
OPEN!**

6:00 AM
CALIFORNIA

8:00 AM
MEXICO

9:00 AM
NY / BOGOTA / LIMA

10:00 AM
LA PAZ

3:00 PM
PARIS / ROME / MADRID

4:00 PM
BETHLEHEM

10:00 PM
MANILA

11:00 AM
BRASILIA

Lasallian Ministries

A Testament of Dedication and Commitment

De La Salle Caringbah proudly celebrates the recent ordination of one of its former students, Fr. Željko, who embarked on a remarkable journey and was successfully ordained as a priest just last week.

This significant achievement is truly remarkable and emphasizes his dedication and commitment to his faith and the service of others. It brings great joy to not only the school community but also to the wider church community.

We are delighted to learn that he has been appointed as a second Assistant Priest at OLF, a position that acknowledges his talent, knowledge, and expertise in his chosen vocation.

May his journey as a priest be filled with blessings and meaningful connections as he continues to spread the message of love and hope in his role at OLF.





LMS Team gather at Cronulla for Formation Day

Recently the LMS team took some “time out” for a Formation Day at Cronulla. The day was led by Br John Cantwell (Director Emeritus Formation). The theme of the day was ***Ministry and Inclusivity***. The day was a workshop style, and considered the deep questions – What is God’s mission? What does God want? How did the Founder interpret the words in St John’s gospel, “so that they may have life and have it to the full”? And, what is meant by the term “salvation”? In considering these questions, the team was constantly reminded of the words of St John Baptist de La Salle - ***Domine, opus, tuum — “Lord, the work is yours.”*** The team was also asked to personally consider their own personal and professional needs to ensure effective delivery of the Mission. A planning day will be held in early December as the team brings closure to another academic year and looks forward with hope to serving Lasallian Ministries across the District in 2024.

The Diary

- District Council – 4 December
- Safeguarding Meeting – 6 December
- Farewell for Michael Egan – 6 December
- Pakistan Brothers Life Committee – 8 December
- Sr Antoinette's Last Day – 8 December
- PAK Sector Mission Council Meeting – 9 December
- La Salle Centre Closed – 16 December to 14 January





Other News

- [Catholic Religious Australia \(CRA\)](#)
- [News from the Dream Team](#)



New Resources: Food for Faith

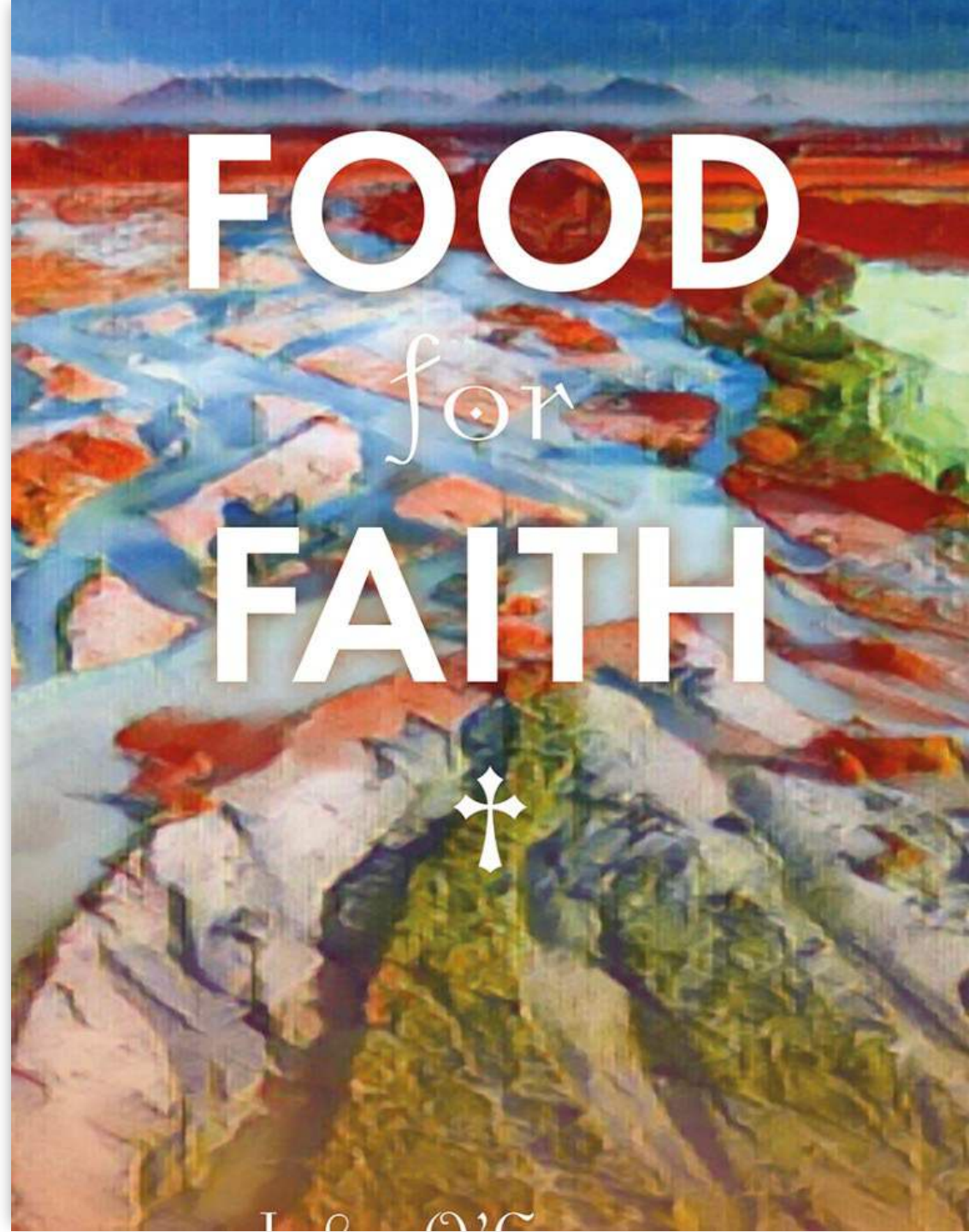
I thought the La Salle family might be interested in a selection of my website reflections which I have just published in book form. I know that a number of the brothers follow the daily reflections through Lent and Advent and might be interested in the collection.

I have aimed it primarily for parents of our school students who may not be connected with religious structures, but who (in my experience) do have strong faith. I wanted to encourage them.

Here is the link for small orders direct from the printer.

<https://www.copypress.co.nz/shop/food-for-faith/>

Source: Fr John O'Connor (Affiliated Member)



The Lasallian District of Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea, is committed to ensuring that all children, young people and adults at risk are safeguarded from harm, and are respected and nurtured.

There is a clear expectation that at all times and under all circumstances, everyone will uphold the ethical and moral commitment we have to those we serve.

Importantly, the ongoing evolution of our practices and policies is informed through genuine engagement with children, young people and adults at risk.

*To view our policies, visit
<https://www.delasalle.org.au/policies>*





Contributions are always welcome

Please send your news stories and photos to Kate Mason (katemason@delasalle.org.au)

To unsubscribe to this mailing list, please contact Kate Mason.