



Good Samaritans Today

Sisters of the Good Samaritan

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan are a group of religious women within the Catholic Church who seek God – the God who impels them to be neighbour. They are women who are yearning for ‘the more’ in life, and find that ‘more’ in God and in God’s people.

For more than 160 years, women in Australia, Japan, the Philippines and Kiribati have been responding to God’s invitation to be neighbour, in community together with other like-minded women. They have committed themselves to seeking God in communal prayer, in Lectio Divina, in service to others and to a communal way of life.

Sustaining and nourishing the Good Samaritan Benedictine spiritual tradition into the 21st century has been met by the Sisters with vision, foresight and wisdom. Respect for those who have carried the tradition in the past and for those who take it into the future is clearly evident.

Oblates of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan

Oblates of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan are lay women and men who wish to share more deeply in Good Samaritan Benedictine spirituality. After a time of formation, an oblate candidate requests permission to make their oblation – a commitment to seeking God. Oblates also commit to living the Gospel message in their daily lives, with a particular focus on the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Oblates join with Good Samaritan Sisters for special occasions of prayer and celebration, and also share in the rich heritage of the world-wide movement of Benedictine Oblates.

Good Samaritan Education

For the first hundred years, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan were responsible for the administration of their schools – often within parish communities and in partnership with the laity. In the latter stages of the 20th century, the congregation acknowledged the need for a new model of governance for their schools. After a period of consultation and discernment, *Good Samaritan Education (GSE)* was instituted in 2011 as a diocesan civil and canonical entity known as a Public Juridic Person. *GSE* was established to assume responsibility from the Sisters for the ministry of Catholic education in their 10 colleges across five dioceses in three states. They are:

- St Scholastica’s College and Rosebank College in Sydney Archdiocese;

- Mount St Benedict College and Stella Maris College in Broken Bay Diocese;
- St Patrick's College, St Mary Star of the Sea College and Mater Dei School in Wollongong Diocese;
- Mater Christi College and Santa Maria College in Melbourne Archdiocese; and
- Lourdes Hill College in Brisbane Archdiocese.

As a community of faith, established to participate in the ministry of Catholic education, *Good Samaritan Education* is enriched by its heritage, now taking on new form and new expression. The staff and students in these schools comprise over 10,000 people who strive to be educational communities infused with the Good Samaritan Benedictine spirit.

Good Samaritan Partnerships

There are now many ways of being Good Samaritan as the work of the Sisters continues through the many partnerships established with those who seek to share their spirit.

In partnering with others, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan recognise that “the spiritual tradition takes on a new life and energy and shape in the lives of those who embrace it. These people make meaning in a new time, coming into discipleship with Jesus and becoming a community of mission”.

Through coming together with others seeking to make a difference in our world, Good Samaritans find new and meaningful ways of being neighbour in a 21st century context. Today, Sisters of the Good Samaritan partner with people and organisations involved in support of, and advocacy for, vulnerable and marginalised people, the environment and issues of social justice. These are among the many partnerships that continue to be inspired and enlivened by the Good Samaritan spirit.

¹ Good Samaritan Education, GSE: A Handbook, 2011, p. 4