



# St. Merkorious Charity

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*At St. Merkorious Charity, we assist the less fortunate to relieve them of the misery that builds up when hunger consumes every waking moment with thoughts of desperation and futility. Our program opens the way for people to realise that they are not forgotten, and that someone cares enough to visit them, talk to them, and support them in their time of need.*



## A word from the Founder

As the demand for help in our struggling communities rises, we are always looking at new ways to respond. Increasing the skills and experience of our volunteers has been instrumental in the growth of St. Merkorious Charity as we venture into new avenues that will make us a more sustainable charity. Catering is one aspect that we are good at and what better way than to offer our services. It was a pleasure to be part of the Sushi Making Day, Harmony Day, St. Paul's Mission Easter Dinner and the Father Dawood Lamey Spiritual Conference. I'm also thrilled to note that all profits and proceeds are put straight back into the charity to help feed more people.

## Sushi Making Day- 15 March

St. Merkorious Charity hosted a sushi making day lead by PAYCE Foundation Chef, Shane. The volunteers were given the opportunity increase their skills and to create different sushi and rice paper rolls. The results were delicious and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.



**Increasing  
the skills of  
our  
volunteers**



## Harmony Day Catering Event- 21 March

In conjunction with PAYCE Foundation, St. Merkorious Charity catered Harmony Day celebrations held at the Morris Iemma Indoor Sports Centre, Riverwood. Our Asian infused noodles and sandwiches were the most popular on the menu. It was lovely to see culturally diverse members of the community coming together to celebrate harmony and enjoy the festivities.



**Helping to feed the  
community members of  
Riverwood**

## Craig Laundy MP Visit- 23 March

We were pleased to receive The Hon. Craig Laundy MP and Cr John Faker, Mayor of Burwood, as they visited our centre with interest. Mr Laundy and Mr Faker have been a loyal supporters of the SMC and are always willing to advise and help us out where possible.



**Building relationships  
with those in  
government**

## St. Paul's Mission Easter Dinner- 28 March

The volunteers from St. Paul's Mission held their annual Easter Dinner which as always, was a great success. The homeless attendees were picked up from the City in buses and brought to the venue. Dinner was served, mass was celebrated then the Fr Youssef Fanous distributed hampers donated by St. Merkorious Charity consisting of essential items for the homeless attendees.



**Feeding  
the  
homeless**



St. Pope Kyrillos VI and St. Habib Girgis Coptic Orthodox Church, Monterey

## Father Dawood Lamey Spiritual Conference, Wollongong 19-22 April

St. Merkorious Charity had the pleasure of catering for an extraordinary weekend in Wollongong where over a thousand Coptic and non-Coptic community members gathered to be in the presence of the inspirational Fr Dawood Lamey who visited from Egypt. The faith strengthening conferences are held annually in Sydney and Melbourne. The weekend consists of mass, worship and inspirational sermons by the renowned priest. SMC provided breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert, tea/coffee and snacks over the four days. Thank you to all the volunteers who drove out to Wollongong to assist with serving food as well as our Chef and Kitchen Hand who spent most of the weekend preparing, cooking and traveling to and from the venue. The event was a great success and allowed us to gain valuable experience in the food catering industry.



SMC Volunteers



SMC Volunteers and Fr Dawood Lamey



Smiles from everyone

**Spiritual guidance  
was complimented  
with hot comfort  
food**

## Fairfield Service

Every Monday, (except for the last Monday of every month) SMC offers a free meal to the community members of Fairfield. The day is always a success as the community comes together to sing, pray, enjoy activities and share a meal together. If you or your company would like to volunteer on the day, please call our office and we can fill you in on the details.



Preparing for the Fairfield lunch



Games and Prizes every week

## Fairfield Hub

Held on the last Monday of every month, the Fairfield Hub has been a great way to reach out to the needy in ways other than food. Volunteer Hairdressers, donated second hand clothing, homeware/kitchenware and toys are available on the day for the community to take home. Next time you clean out your cupboards, please remember SMC and we will be able to give your preloved items a new home.



Talented volunteers sharing their skills.



**We appreciate the  
compassion  
and generosity you have  
demonstrated through  
your kind donations**

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