

## FROM THE FOUNDER

PAULA NICOLAS

As we reflect on the final quarter of 2025, I would like to take a moment to extend my heartfelt gratitude to every volunteer who has supported St. Merkorious Charity throughout the year. Your generosity, compassion, and unwavering commitment have made a meaningful difference in the lives of so many within our community.

This quarter marked another outstanding chapter for our organisation. The Sydney and Parramatta Street Feast held in November was once again a tremendous success, bringing people together in a spirit of dignity, care, and connection. I was deeply honoured and humbled to be awarded the Dempsey Medal at the Sydney Street Feast, an achievement that truly belongs to all of you who make this work possible.

We were also proud to launch the first of our Walk & Talk sessions alongside Jason Yat-Sen Li MP. This initiative marked the beginning of something truly special, where we shared meaningful conversations while moving mindfully together. Thank you, Jason, for your ongoing support of our mission and your dedication to the wellbeing of the Strathfield community.

It was also a privilege to welcome Mayor Benjamin Cai of Strathfield to St. Merkorious Charity, where he was able to see firsthand the impact of our work and the dedication of our volunteers.

During this busy and joyful season, we were grateful to partner with the Payce Foundation to cater for the Sydney Street Choir's Christmas party. It was a wonderful event filled with warmth and celebration, and we were delighted to provide meals and hampers that were so warmly received.

I would also like to sincerely thank Mayor John Faker of Burwood for his continued support, as well as Burwood Council for their generous contributions to our Christmas Appeal. To everyone who donated, volunteered, or supported our 2025 Christmas Appeal, thank you. Your kindness ensured that many families and individuals experienced hope and joy during the festive season.

As we close out 2025, I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year. We look forward to an exciting and impactful 2026 together.

With heartfelt thanks,  
Paula Nicolas





## Parramatta Outreach Service - Every Monday Evening

PRINCE ALFRED SQUARE

Each Monday evening, our Parramatta Outreach comes to life with warmth, connection, and generosity. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, Prince Alfred Square is transformed into a welcoming space where care and community come together, with around 80 nourishing meals and care packs shared with those who need them most.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredible volunteer team for the compassion, energy, and teamwork they bring to our Monday Night Service each week, making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we support.



## Fairfield Service - Every Monday Lunch Time

FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

St. Merkorious Charity is proud to support our culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. Every Monday at lunchtime, our Fairfield service welcomes between 50 and 80 local community members to enjoy a free morning tea and lunch.

More than just a meal, this gathering creates a space for connection, conversation, and belonging — where stories are shared, friendships are formed, and both our common ground and cultural diversity are celebrated in a warm, inclusive environment.

We sincerely thank St Johns Park Bowling Club Fairfield for their generous club grant contribution, which helps make this important community service possible.



# Woolloomooloo Outreach & Fellowship Service - every Friday evening

164 CATHEDRAL ST. WOOLLOOMOOLOO (NEXT TO POLICE STATION)

Every Friday evening, our Woolloomooloo outreach becomes a place of warmth, care, and connection for around 60–80 people experiencing hardship. With the support of our dedicated volunteers, hot meals, desserts, drinks, and care packs are shared, along with friendly conversations and genuine compassion that bring comfort and a sense of belonging. A heartfelt thank you to our incredible volunteers. Your generosity lights up each Friday night, reminding us that it's not just meals being shared, but also hope, dignity, and meaningful human connection



## Rhodes Outreach Service

2 CAVELL AVE RHODES

Every quarter, St. Merkorious Charity hosts a special evening to support some of Sydney's most vulnerable community members. Each event welcomes 80–100 guests, including people experiencing homelessness, from Redfern, Martin Place, Parramatta, and surrounding local areas to the St Mary & St Merkorious Coptic Orthodox Church Hall in Rhodes.

Guests are treated to a warm, sit-down meal, along with complimentary haircuts, fresh clothing, and take-home hampers. The hall soon buzzes with laughter, conversation, and a true sense of community, providing a safe and welcoming space where people can unwind, share their stories, and experience genuine kindness without judgment.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Club Five Dock for their generous contribution to this initiative through their club grant, which helps make these special evenings possible.



# Volunteers

Volunteers are the lifeblood of St. Merkorious Charity, bringing energy, compassion, and dedication to everything we do. From cooking meals in our kitchen and packing hampers in the warehouse to serving in our outreach programs across Parramatta, Fairfield, and Woolloomooloo, they make a real impact in the lives of those we support.

Their efforts ensure our community receives nourishing meals, care packs, and a welcoming space to connect. We are endlessly thankful for their generosity, teamwork, and heart, it's their commitment that makes our mission to uplift and support those in need possible.

### Nestle - 18 Nov 2025



### Standards Australia 15 Dec 2025



### KPMG - 25 Nov 25



### St. Patricks College Strathfield



# Gamble Aware Fairfield Session

As part of Gamble Aware Week on Monday 20 October 2025, our team attended an engaging and informative session on financial literacy at Fairfield Community Centre.

We extend our sincere thanks to our guest speakers, Djimi Barber and Mariam Sidrak from GambleAware, for sharing their valuable insights and equipping our community with practical tools to support financial wellbeing.



# Homebush - Cost of Living Hub

On 10 November 2025, St. Merkorious Charity was proud to be part of the Cost of Living Help Hub, hosted by Jason Yat-Sen Li MP and Sally Sitou MP. We recognise that rising living costs are placing real pressure on many individuals and families, and that navigating available support can often feel overwhelming.

This event brought together a range of government and community services, making it easier for people to access rebates, vouchers, and financial assistance — all in one convenient location.



# Sydney Street Feast

St. Merkorious Charity was proud to provide the BBQ for more than 450 people at the Sydney Street Feast on 14 November 2025, in collaboration with the Payce Foundation and the Sydney Archdiocese. For the eighth consecutive year, this event brought together vulnerable members of our community to share a meal and enjoy a meaningful sense of connection.

We also extend our heartfelt congratulations to our Founder and President, Paula Nicolas, on being awarded the Dempsey Medal by Catholic Archbishop Anthony Fisher, in recognition of her outstanding service to the community.

A sincere thank you to everyone whose generous support and contributions helped make this event such a success.



# Parramatta Street Feast

On 19 November 2025, in collaboration with the Payce Foundation and the Parramatta Diocese, St. Merkorious Charity proudly provided a BBQ for over 300 people. Hundreds of community members gathered at the St Patrick's Cathedral precinct to enjoy free meals, live entertainment, and compassionate support at this year's fifth annual Parramatta Street Feast, held under the theme "A Festival of Welcome."

A heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful volunteers whose time and dedication helped make this event possible and allowed us to come together in support of our community.



## Walk & Talk - Hudson Park

On Saturday 22 November, we launched our Walk & Talk initiative with Jason Yat-Sen Li MP, marking the start of something truly special. Participants enjoyed meaningful conversations while moving mindfully together, as this new program extends our mission beyond alleviating poverty to caring for the whole person, body, mind, and spirit.

We sincerely thank Jason for his ongoing support of our mission and the wellbeing of the Strathfield community. A special thank you to Joya Nicolas, our SMC Sports Ambassador, for inspiring everyone to speak from the heart and connect with others while walking or running. We also extend our gratitude to our new café managers, Paul and Jean, for making our first event such a success and for their commitment to nourishing our community with wholesome, soul-food.



## Strathfield Mayor Benjamin Cai Visit

On 28 November 2025, we were honoured to welcome Strathfield Mayor Benjamin Cai to St. Merkorious Charity to see our operations in action. We sincerely thank Mayor Cai for his ongoing support and interest in the work we do to serve our community.



# Sydney Street Choir - Payce Foundation Christmas Party

On 2 December 2025 the Sydney Street Choir gathered for a joyful Christmas lunch, generously prepared and served by St. Merkorious Charity in partnership with the Payce Foundation. The afternoon brought together music, laughter, and a strong sense of community, with guests enjoying a delicious meal and meaningful connection. We thank the PAYCE Foundation for their ongoing support.



## Holy Cross Ryde

Thank you to Holy Cross Ryde for their generous donations and volunteering with us on 5 December 2025. These contributions will go towards our Christmas hampers, helping support our clients and spread joy during the season of giving.



## Burwood Mayors Christmas Appeal

Thank you to Burwood Council for hosting a wonderful Christmas celebration on 11 December 2025 and leading a generous hamper drive for our Christmas Appeal. Your kindness is helping bring joy and support to families this festive season.

We also extend our congratulations to John Faker on 25 years of dedicated service to the Burwood community. Your commitment and ongoing support of our mission is truly appreciated.



## Community Building Partnership Grant

A big thank you to the NSW Government Communities & Justice for their generous grant, which made it possible for us to purchase a refrigerated truck.

This important addition significantly strengthens our capacity to safely store and transport fresh food, ensuring that meals reach those in need in the best possible condition. It will allow us to expand our reach, improve efficiency across our services, and continue delivering high-quality support to vulnerable members of our community.

We are truly grateful for this investment in our work, which will have a lasting impact on our ability to serve others with dignity and care.



# Christmas Appeal 2025

## HazelGrove Early Education Centre - Baulkham Hills

We sincerely thank HazelGrove Early Education Centre in Baulkham Hills for their wonderful and generous Christmas donations.

Your support has helped bring hope, joy, and much-needed practical assistance to those in need. This is a true reflection of community spirit—kindness in action—and we are deeply appreciative of your generosity.



## Montessori Christmas Appeal

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Montessori Academy Australia for their Annual Christmas Appeal in support of St Merkorious Charity.

Through their generosity and community spirit, they have made a meaningful difference in the lives of many families doing it tough this Christmas. Their donations will allow us to prepare and distribute Christmas hampers filled with essential items, helping to ease financial pressures while bringing comfort, dignity, and joy during the festive season.

Partnerships like this remind us of the power of coming together to support those in need. We are truly grateful for their continued support and commitment to making a positive impact in our community.



# Rhodes Christmas Party

Our Annual Christmas Party for Rhodes Outreach Service was held on 15 December 2025, bringing together community members, volunteers, and staff for a truly special evening of celebration and connection.

A sincere thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who generously gave their time and energy to support the event on Monday night. Your dedication behind the scenes and on the day ensured everything ran smoothly and created a warm, welcoming atmosphere for all who attended. We also extend our special gratitude to those who were able to join us on the night and share in the celebration.

Events like this remind us of the power of community, coming together to share joy, kindness, and hope. We are deeply grateful for everyone who played a part in making the evening so meaningful. Here's to another year of continuing to spread love and support to those who need it most.





# St. Merkorious Charity

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL



2025



### **Essential items for donation**

#### **Packaged food:**

Noodles, tuna, chicken, spam, beans, lentils, soups, canned fruit, sweet and savory biscuits, honey, jam, sugar, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, pasta, rice, long life milk, cornflakes and cereal, gift cards.

#### **Additional Products:**

Body wash, shaving cream, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, tissues, shampoo/ conditioner, deodorant, hand wash, sanitizer wipes, new socks

Contact 0421 743 220 or  
[charity@stmerkorious.com.au](mailto:charity@stmerkorious.com.au)



**St. Merkorious  
Charity**

# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**



## **TASKS WILL INCLUDE...**

- Assist in our commercial kitchen
- Assist in the warehouse with sorting and packing
- Hamper packing
- Various outreach services
- **Hours are flexible**

Get in touch: Unit 3, 6-20 Braidwood St. Strathfield South  
[charity@stmerkorious.com.au](mailto:charity@stmerkorious.com.au)

[www.stmerkorious.org.au](http://www.stmerkorious.org.au)

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