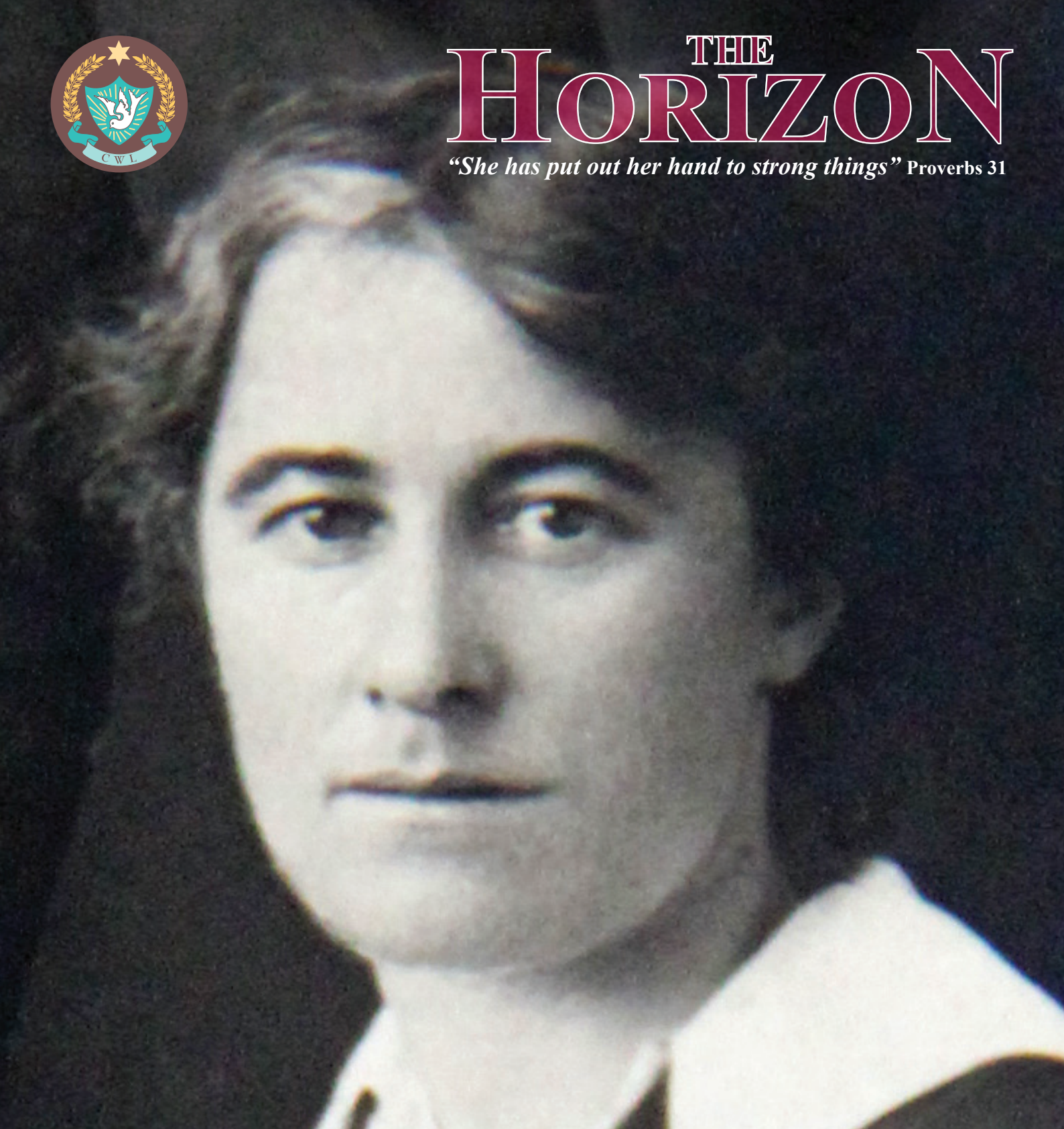




THE HORIZON

"She has put out her hand to strong things" Proverbs 31



*"It is up to Him
to point the way and
for me to follow."*

Dr Sr Mary Glowrey, Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ, Servant of God

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PRAYER FOR THE CANONISATION OF DR SR MARY GLOWREY JMJ, SERVANT OF GOD

“The Tabernacle meant much to me. In the evenings, I could see the glow of the sanctuary lamp provided I went some distance to the rear of the house. ...I used to go to my point of vantage and, perched uncomfortably on the fence, sit gazing at the light that shone through the sacristy window...”

Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ

Heavenly Father,

In Mary Glowrey, we encounter a woman deeply surrendered to Your love, and an extraordinary witness to the value of every human life. You blessed her with a brilliant mind, and led her to place herself and her gifts at the service of life. Through the practice of medicine, and her religious consecration to You, she touched countless people with Your love.

With confidence and gratitude for the life of our sister Mary, and through her intercession, we entrust to You our prayers...

If it be Your will Father, may Dr Sr Mary Glowrey soon be numbered among Your saints. We make these prayers to You through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Nihil Obstat: Reverend Gerard Diamond MA (Oxon), LSS, D. Theol
Diocesan Censor

Imprimatur: Most Reverend Denis Hart DD
Archbishop of Melbourne

Date: 29/10/12

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“I, Sr. Regina, Provincial Superior of Guntur Province, bring you good tidings... regarding the cause of Dr. Sr. Mary Glowrey (Mary of the Sacred Heart, JMJ).”

Dr Sr Mary Glowrey, Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ, was declared a Servant of God on 27th March 2013.





WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF DR MARY GLOWREY

Fr Dan Strickland MGL

What a wonderful experience! An unexpected pilgrimage to India to witness the declaration of the beginning of the Diocesan Inquiry for the cause for canonisation of the woman who may become Australia's second saint: Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ. A medical doctor, and founding president of what is now the Catholic Women's League of Victoria & Wagga Wagga, Mary left her thriving practice in Melbourne in 1920 to serve as a medical missionary and consecrated woman in Guntur, India. Until 6 years ago, I had never heard of this woman who spent 37 years of her life in medical service to the people of India. I certainly had no real idea of what I was becoming a part of at that time, when I was asked to contribute to the early stages of research and writing on her life and mission. This culminated in a phone call I received shortly before Easter, with the question: "How would you like to go to India?" It seems the Holy Spirit was moving mountains! Mary Glowrey was to be declared a Servant of God, a significant step on the path to canonisation. The declaration was to occur during Holy Week, in Guntur, India, and I was being asked to attend the historic event on behalf of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Thus began a crazy five days of preparation to get ready for the journey. When myself and Jewell Start, current president of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria & Wagga Wagga, boarded the plane for India, in the late hours of Palm Sunday, we began what was to be a whirlwind week of events that would draw us more profoundly into the life of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey, and a deeper appreciation of the faith and love that led Mary to offer her life to Jesus in the way that she did.

After a long flight, Jewell and I were greeted in the hot and humid city of Hyderabad, a sprawling place of nearly 8 million people, by the beaming faces of Sisters Fatima and Alphonse Mary, sisters from the JMJ Provincialate. JMJ, or Jesus Mary and Joseph, is the community of consecrated women that Mary Glowrey joined shortly after her arrival in India. The sisters whisked us away to their convent, and introduced us to that beautiful Indian hospitality, food and warmth that was to become a hallmark of our time there.

A good night's sleep and our morning tour of Hyderabad over, we flew on the afternoon of our second day to Vijayawada, a fast developing city in South-East India and the closest airport to the Mother House of the JMJ sisters in India. Welcomed with a traditional Indian greeting ceremony, we joined the sisters for prayer at their home in the town of Mangalagiri.

Day 3 dawned bright and hot, and beckoned us to the pilgrimage part of our journey. We made the hour and half drive past motorbikes, cows, trucks and cars to the city of Guntur, where nearly a hundred years ago Mary Glowrey had started a small clinic to begin the mammoth task of treating the medical needs of the people of that area, and in particular the needs of pregnant women. The tiny clinic is still there, along with the dispensary, lovingly maintained and still in use for the purpose that Mary originally intended it. The furniture that Mary uses remains largely in place, and still stores medication, papers and instruments. Her examining table, too, remains, and is still used to examine patients even today. St Joseph's General Hospital, founded by Mary, has of course grown and



“It was while making the Stations of the Cross one day in 1921 that I received the inspiration that what was needed in India was a Catholic Medical College,” Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ

developed enormously since her time, but it remains solidly connected to its founder, her spirit and her love. Our pilgrim journey encompassed the parish church she would pray in, and the same statue of the Sacred Heart that inspired her to take the name Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart. It all evoked for me that wonderful tangible, distinctly sacramental character of our Catholic faith: the opportunity to connect in a physical way, to touch, smell, feel and hear the sights and sounds that Mary must have experienced as she woke each morning to the heat of the Indian sun, walked the dusty paths between chapel, clinic and home, struggled with the things that we all struggle with in our journeys of faith, and ultimately returned each evening to draw from prayer the strength and love she needed to continue on.

The evening of the 3rd day was the main event—the outdoor Chrism Mass, celebrated with the Bishop of Guntur Diocese, the Most Rev Dr Gali Bali, in the town of Phirangipuram. This mass formed the context within which the official declaration of Dr Mary Glowrey as Servant of God would occur, and the diocesan phase of her canonisation process would begin. Thus it was that in the presence of some 7000 people, including over 400 JMJ sisters gathered from throughout India, that the declaration was made. It was for me a deeply moving and humbling experience to be a part of, marked with the love and prayerfulness that I came to appreciate from the people I met during my time there, as well as that genuine joy that is always a sign of the Holy Spirit's presence.

The final part of our journey involved a lightening

trip on Day 4 to Bangalore, known at one time for its gardens but now perhaps more for its burgeoning IT industry. Amidst ancient trees and a setting sun on that Holy Thursday, we gathered at the grave of Mary Glowrey. Prayers were offered, candles lit and flowers gently laid in that place of peace, just minutes before we began the sacred liturgies of the Easter Triduum. Mary spent her final months in the cooler climate of Bangalore, suffering from the cancer to which she finally succumbed in 1957. There seemed something eminently appropriate about our connection with her at the place where her final 'Passion' came to its end at the time where liturgically, for us, the Lord's Passion was about to begin.

The process of Dr Mary Glowrey's canonisation will no doubt continue to unfold in these coming years. I am deeply grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to be present at the declaration Mass in Guntur, and for the opportunity to connect in a physical way with the places and people that formed her life and work there. It is my own prayer that this will become a place of pilgrimage for many from Australia in the years to come: for people inspired by Mary's medical work, those touched by her life of love, faith and generosity, and those looking for a deeper encounter with God's love in the midst of the circumstances of their own lives.

“I have not done enough. I could have done more.”

Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ



WELCOME TO GUNTUR...

The news that our founding President, Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ, was to be declared a Servant

of God by the Most Rev Dr Gali Bali, Bishop of Guntur, at the Chrism Mass at the Infant Jesus' Cathedral, Phirangipuram, on the 27th March 2013, came like a bolt from the blue! Thanks to the kind offices of the Archbishop of Melbourne, Archbishop Denis Hart, I was deeply honoured and privileged to be able to represent the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga at this momentous occasion, along with Fr Dan Strickland MGL.

It felt somewhat surreal, and yet exciting, to be flying into Hyderabad and to be met with welcoming smiles (and beautiful flowers) by Sr Fatima and Sr Alphonse Mary. They took us to the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph (JMJ) Provincial House, which is about an hour's drive from the Hyderabad International Airport. We enjoyed a restful overnight stay and tour of city the following day before travelling to the JMJ Provincial House in Mangalagiri, where we received a traditional welcome before joining Sr Regina Mary (the JMJ Provincial Superior, Guntur Province) and her sisters in prayer.

This heartfelt welcome was repeated wherever we travelled in India, and it seemed to me to embody so much of the charism of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey—a woman who had followed so closely in the footsteps of Jesus, healing, teaching, consoling and sacrificing all for love.

Our time in India passed very quickly leaving a blur of impressions. We were enveloped by vibrant colours and noises as we travelled from place to place with cars, motor bikes, people, taxi cabs, trucks, buses, auto rickshaws and bullocks all sharing the road. The JMJ Provincial Houses in Hyderabad, Mangalagiri and Bangalore were an oasis of calm, where we were blessed to share time in prayer and contemplation with the JMJ sisters.

One of the highlights of our visit to Guntur was a tour of St Joseph's Hospital where Dr Sr Mary Glowrey had worked so tirelessly for 37 years. Walking in her footsteps was truly humbling. The places where Mary worked and lived have been lovingly preserved, and there are photos of her throughout the hospital to inspire others working in the JMJ health apostolate. We were also blessed to meet several elderly JMJ sisters who had worked with Dr Sr Mary Glowrey, and cared for her in the final months of her life. Listening to their stories made Mary Glowrey 'come to life' for us.

Being declared a Servant of God is the first of four official approvals on the path to sainthood, and signals the commencement of the Diocesan Phase of the Inquiry. So, the Chrism Mass celebrated by the Most Rev Dr Gali Bali, Bishop of Guntur, on the 27th of March was a momentous occasion. It is difficult to express in words how incredibly joyous and deeply moving it was to be present as a witness, and to

share in this experience with the JMJ sisters, the representatives of the Catholic Health Association of India, and the local community. An estimated 7000 people attended the outdoor Mass held in the precinct adjacent to the magnificent Infant Jesus' Cathedral. Over 400 JMJ sisters were present with large contingents from other provinces, some taking more than 14 hours to travel to Phirangipuram. Approximately 200 priests, led by Bishop Gali Bali, processed in and then Mass was celebrated around a beautifully decorated altar.

When Bishop Gali Bali pronounced Dr Sr Mary Glowrey a Servant of God, he presented Sr Regina Mary with scrolls in English and Telegu. His announcement was met with rapturous applause and a sea of flags, depicting the bond between Australia and India forged by Mary Glowrey, were waved by thousands present. A stunning portrait of Mary was unveiled, and Fr Dan and I placed candles before it while the JMJ sisters placed flowers as a mark of respect for the extraordinary life and work of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey.

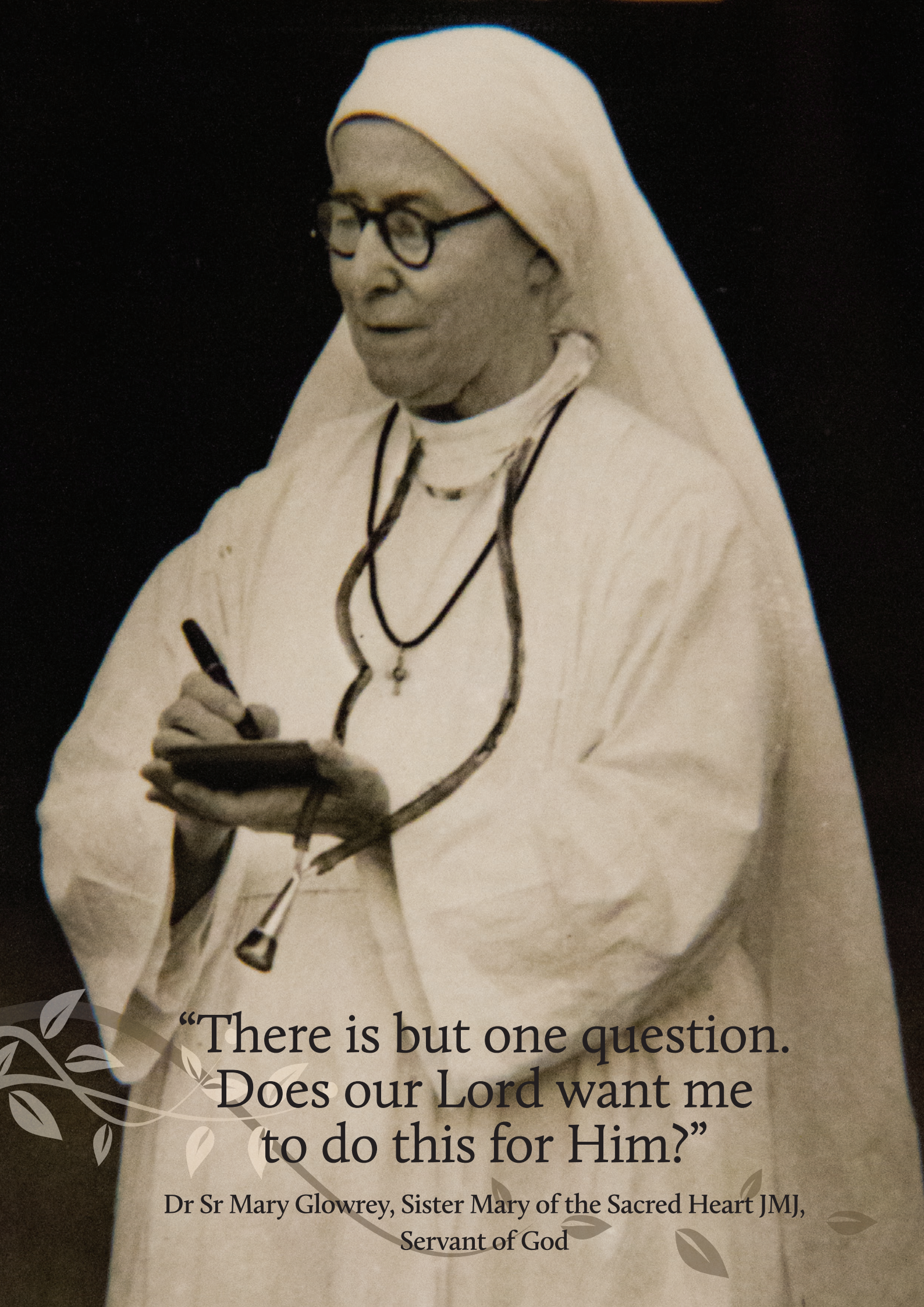
After Mass, there were many photos taken to commemorate the occasion and then we shared in a wonderful celebratory meal.

The next morning, the JMJ sisters had kindly arranged for us to fly to Bangalore to visit Mary Glowrey's grave in a beautifully quiet, tree shaded area, in the Catholic cemetery. We lit candles and placed flowers on her grave, and then prayed together with the JMJ sisters. We also lit candles and placed flowers on the grave of Dr Sr Ethel Pitt, Sr Veronica of the Holy Face, another Australian doctor. Dr Ethel Pitt graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1922. Although Ethel had not known Mary Glowrey prior to joining her at St Joseph's Hospital in Guntur in 1934, Ethel's father and Mary's mother had been playmates in Colac. Ethel Pitt was also a member of the then Catholic Women's Social Guild. In 1937, Sr Veronica was transferred to the JMJ convent in Bangalore and founded St Philomena's Hospital. It is now a 375 bed hospital and nursing college.

On the way to the Hyderabad Airport to fly home, we were invited to visit the Catholic Health Association India (CHAI) Headquarters in Secunderabad. CHAI is celebrating 70 years since Dr Sr Mary Glowrey founded the Association in 1943 to teach and safeguard Catholic principles in medical and nursing matters, and provide health care to the poor and marginalised. Although our visit was very rushed, we gained a sense of the tremendous work being achieved by this important organisation which has grown to become one of the largest health care providers in the world.

As I reflect back on our journey to India, I picture the beautiful smiles of all those we met, and I pray that if it be God's will, Mary Glowrey will soon be numbered among His saints.

Jewell Start, General President



“There is but one question.
Does our Lord want me
to do this for Him?”

Dr Sr Mary Glowrey, Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ,
Servant of God