

THE Good Oil

INFORMATION FOR WRITERS

About *The Good Oil*

The Good Oil is the free, monthly e-magazine of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. Keeping its readers informed of the life and mission of the Sisters, *The Good Oil* publishes news, feature and opinion articles, and reflective content which aims to nourish the spirit, stimulate thinking and encourage reflection and dialogue about contemporary issues from a Christian, Catholic, Good Samaritan perspective.

Why the title, *The Good Oil*? *The Good Oil* has connotations of good news, the inside story. It also has resonance with the parable of the Good Samaritan (cf Luke 10:25-29) where the Samaritan rubbed oil and wine into the wounds of the wounded man.

The Good Oil is published each month, except in January. We publish on the third Wednesday of each month and in December on the second Wednesday. *The Good Oil* welcomes media releases and article ideas, but **if you're interested in writing for us, please contact the editor first to discuss your ideas and to negotiate placement, writing style, word count and deadlines.** To save your time and ours we do not encourage unsolicited articles.

The Good Oil Publish Dates in 2020

Wednesday February 19, 2020

Wednesday March 18, 2020

Wednesday April 15, 2020

Wednesday May 20, 2020

Wednesday June 17, 2020

Wednesday July 15, 2020

Wednesday August 19, 2020

Wednesday September 16, 2020

Wednesday October 21, 2020

Wednesday November 18, 2020

Wednesday December 9, 2020

Writing Style

The writing style of articles in *The Good Oil* is journalistic, creative or reflective i.e. we're not after academic essays or reports. We aim to provide readers with articles that are written in **an accessible, straightforward, engaging and creative manner.**

When thinking through your article, we ask you to keep in mind our mission – *"to nourish the spirit, stimulate thinking and encourage reflection and dialogue about issues of the day from a Christian, Catholic, Good Samaritan perspective"* – but also our style, format and audience.

To get a good idea of the type and style of articles we publish, writers are strongly encouraged to look at past editions of *The Good Oil* at www.goodsams.org.au

The Good Oil's Format

With each edition we aim to publish between 7 and 10 articles which may include two or three news articles, a feature article, a profile article, one or two opinion pieces, as well as first-person reflective writing through sections such as "Faith in the Ordinary", "Being Just Neighbours" and "It Occurred to Me". *The Good Oil* also publishes poetry, book and film reviews, Q&As, explainers, photo essays or photo stories and podcasts.

We try to maintain this format so as to provide readers with a sense of consistency and regularity. We also aim to imbue these sections with the key messages of the Good Samaritan Sisters: primarily, the much-loved parable of the Good Samaritan, a story about being neighbour, and the rich wisdom of Benedictine spirituality.

News stories Our news articles (around 600-850 words each) are mostly written by *The Good Oil's* editor to ensure a consistent journalistic reporting style. They tend to cover newsworthy issues and events affecting the life of the Good Samaritan Sisters and the broader Good Samaritan network.

Feature The feature article is an opportunity to explore issues, cover people and events etc. in a more in-depth manner (usually 800-1,500 words). It can be a first-person reflective or creative writing piece or a journalistic feature.

Opinion The opinion piece is an opportunity to comment on or provide analysis about contemporary issues (local, national and international) from a Christian, Catholic, Good Samaritan perspective (ideally 750-850 words). We aim to stimulate community discussion about issues in the public arena (Church and broader community) around the time we publish.

Profile The profile piece mostly features a Good Samaritan Sister or person connected with the Good Samaritan network, but it can also profile a Good Samaritan ministry (usually 1,200-1,500 words). *The Good Oil's* editor or a freelancer usually write this piece.

It Occurred to Me This column is an opportunity for the current leader of the Good Samaritan Sisters to comment on issues of significance (ideally 750-850 words).

Faith in the Ordinary This column is a comment piece (opinion piece, first-person reflective content or creative writing) that aims to connect issues of faith or spirituality with everyday life (ideally 750-850 words).

Being Just Neighbours This column is a comment piece (opinion piece, first-person reflective content or creative writing) that aims to focus on the many ways we are challenged to be 'neighbour' to others (cf Luke 10:25-29 the parable of the Good Samaritan). It's an opportunity to raise awareness of social justice issues, locally, nationally, internationally, and encourage just and compassionate responses (ideally 750-850 words).

Audience

The Good Oil is distributed across Australia and internationally to a diverse group of subscribers (over 3,000) including Good Samaritan Sisters and their friends, relatives, colleagues, partners in ministry (including teachers and staff of Good Samaritan Education colleges), Good Samaritan oblates, staff of schools with a Good Samaritan heritage, past pupils of Good Samaritan schools, members of other religious congregations, editors of Catholic and other religious media, and many other interested people of good will and faith. Other readers come directly to *The Good Oil* as a result of visiting the Good Samaritan Sisters' website. *The Good Oil* also has a Twitter presence www.twitter.com/TheGoodOilSGS

Writers are encouraged to keep the needs of this broad audience in mind when writing articles.

Other Considerations

We plan each edition in advance; please keep this in mind if you're writing time-focused pieces.

The editor reserves the right to edit and shorten articles as necessary. If we make major changes in content, we will consult with the writer.

Please include a two- or three-sentence description of yourself with your article along with a recent headshot (preferably 300 dpi graphic attachment), your phone number and e-mail address.

We assume all articles submitted are original and unpublished, and submitted exclusively to us. If your material is copyrighted, we assume you are authorising us to publish it.

We often receive requests from other religious publications, organisations, parishes etc. to republish *The Good Oil's* articles. We assume full reprint permission (in all media including various electronic media) of any item we publish, unless otherwise agreed with writers.

Unfortunately we cannot pay our opinion, first-person, and creative writers but where possible, we will promote books published by writers or their blogs, websites, social media etc.

The Good Oil is a member of the Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) and the Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA). In 2017, our first year of membership, we received one ARPA award and two ACPA awards. In 2018 we received two ARPA awards. In 2019, TGO won the ACPA *Bishop Phillip Kennedy Memorial Award for Overall Excellence in a Catholic Publication* and received three other awards for excellence in writing.

About the Sisters of the Good Samaritan

The Sisters of Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict, known affectionately as the Good Sams, are Australia's first 'home-grown' congregation of Catholic religious women. They were founded in Sydney in 1857 by Archbishop John Bede Polding, an English Benedictine monk and Australia's first bishop. There are around 200 sisters currently living and working throughout Australia, in Japan, Kiribati, and the Philippines.

Contact Us

Thanks so much for your interest in *The Good Oil*. We look forward to working with you!

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