

Dear Brothers and Sisters from Cottesloe & Mosman Park Parish, Fr Marcelo and Fr Liam,

I want to thank you for your love and support during this difficult time for Maria and the whole of our family.

We went to Poland for a short reconnection time with our family and the Polish parish community. Nobody expected that this one will be a longer trip. After two weeks Maria got a crossed eye (lazy eye) and we rushed to the emergency for a check. Two days later, she had her first surgery in a hospital in Warsaw (the capital of Poland) 350 km from our city. This malicious cancer Pineoblastoma WHO g4 was also causing severe hydrocephalus. To fix all that Maria suffered four brain surgeries altogether. Now she is receiving chemotherapy. We are waiting for the fourth round, after which she will be moved into radiotherapy.

After her surgeries, Maria was like switched off: no speech, no movement, no communication. The first days (during the holy week) were like a visit to the tomb of Christ, silent and full of prayers for mercy that God will give us our daughter back. Now it is much better. She made such progress. She regains her speech ability at 75%, and she understands everything with only a little short-term memory loss. She communicates in both English and Polish. However, Maria is still too weak to take care of herself. The biggest accomplishment of last time is that she can now sit in the chair by herself. What's more? She can walk when secured by an adult and she can stand up from bed with a little help, she can drink water from a cup.

Maria dreams about the time she could run, walk, be self-sufficient, read books and draw pictures. She is doing her best. She wants to challenge herself, she wants to exercise, and she wants to be back in good health. She does not want to be in the hospital anymore and she does not want to take more chemotherapy. This is very aggravating. After each chemo, she is getting weaker and weaker, due to bone marrow deconstruction. She loses her immunity, she loses her strength, and she loses her clothing. She sleeps long hours and bleeds from the nose. We need to be very careful around her and isolate her from the world around us, not to pass any bugs.

That was such a good idea from Fr Marcelo and all of you to offer us this support. It's been providential for us. We are facing unexpected expenses with the care we need to provide every day. The fund is a blessing. We feel very loved by God and by you. Thank you.

With your help, we were able to fund her professional rehabilitation with a very skilled physiotherapist that comes to our house 5 days a week when we are not in the hospital. We purchased a therapeutic wheelchair. We were able to buy all important medicines, supplements, nutrients and other products. It's a very big gift from our beloved parish in Cottesloe, a gift of the heart from you. Unexpected and received undeservedly. Thank you.

As parents, we are also worried about the next step in therapy. Six weeks of radiation into a nervous system, into the brain and spine. We know that it can be a

cause of other severe brain damage. But this is the only way to protect her life. We are aware of your prayers and this is helping us a lot.

In all this story we find out that Faith is a real gift that you can rely on, that you can hold in the most difficult moments. We find out that God is present in our lives in so many blessings. So much love. Being among our family, with our first language in our motherland. Also, receiving so much love and help from Australia. Furthermore, the doctors are amazing and the treatment goes well. Everything looks so good. So well placed. Cancer itself is a nasty thing but why not us? Why not Maria? Everything that comes from God is a blessing, even if we don't see it at the moment. Christ is risen!

God bless you.

Jakub and Ania