



# JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

Supporting one another through  
Friendship - Prayer - Service

**SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2007**



## WAITING AND CELEBRATING

**Anne-Marie Wilkinson of the Associates Core Team**

It's Advent! - My favourite time of year. Of all the seasons of the Church, this is the one in which I find the most joy and excitement. It leads me to a place of wonder and peace and a feeling of closeness to our God. Advent is the most wonderful time of waiting. It encourages us to be still... reflect... and to prepare our hearts and our lives for the coming of the Christ child.

Our society – shops and media in particular, have us focused on preparing for Christmas with gifts and food. There is a place for that too. However I don't know about you, but I really have to work hard at not getting caught up in the madness of all that. And let me say as a teacher with end-of-year with exams to mark, reports to write, end-of-year activities and liturgies to do as well as all the home tasks, trying to find quiet time to be still can be a challenge. But after a trip to Vienna a few years ago where Advent was truly celebrated in the streets I found focusing on Advent has made a huge difference. The anticipation builds each Sunday as another candle on the Advent wreath is lit.

1<sup>st</sup> **The Prophets Candle** – those special persons who spoke God's word to the people for hundreds of years before Jesus was born.

2<sup>nd</sup> **The Bethlehem Candle** – Reminding us of the time when Jesus came to us as a baby in a small town.

3<sup>rd</sup> **The Shepherds Candle** – Those men of simple faith who listened and followed the angels' instruction.

4<sup>th</sup> **The Angels Candle** – Telling us of the imminence of Jesus' arrival.

**The Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre:** All those involved in the MacKillop Heritage Centre have certainly had a time of waiting. What joy they must have felt when it officially opened in November! And what a day we Associates had to celebrate there on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November! It was lovely to see so many of you and I know that all those involved in running the Heritage Centre were thrilled with your positive responses to it. I hope you really take the opportunity to visit it again some time when you are in Melbourne and take others to see it. And those of you who live in the country areas please make use of the accommodation available, especially if you have appointments in the city. The units are just lovely and very reasonably priced for city accommodation. And those of you who didn't make it to our Associate 'open day', are encouraged to make an effort to visit when you next have the opportunity to be in Melbourne. I am just so proud that we have such a wonderful place in which to tell the MacKillop story and the work of the Sisters of St Joseph in Victoria.

**Regional Contact Persons:** Sr Margaret has been in touch with many of our Associate groups around the state asking for a contact person for each group. The Core team have decided that we need to be able to contact your groups more frequently in addition to our newsletter 4 times a year. It will help us to communicate with you more efficiently if we are able to phone or post a letter to one person and get the information passed on at your meetings and gatherings. The contact person will be able to feed information back to us as required.

**Planning for 2008:** Details about planning for 2008 are listed on a sheet included in this newsletter.

**12 Days of Christmas:** I hope that after the waiting and preparation for Christmas it is truly a spirit filled celebration that brings you much joy. I encourage you all to keep hold of that joy by continuing to celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas that lead us to the feast of the Epiphany on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January. Christmas is the season we wait for. The Church begins its celebration on Christmas Eve and continues it until that feast day. (Unlike the shops who take down the decorations and it's all over the next day!). In recent years I have taken time to read the scripture of the day and then tried to do something special on each of those days. That can be as simple as to allow myself some quiet time with a pot of tea and a lovely china cup sitting outside to reflect, or to take my daughter to a movie. It is all done with the thought that I am celebrating the Birth of our Lord. To finish I have an Epiphany gathering of some kind – friends for lunch or afternoon tea. 'The Kings' usually leave each there a little sweet treat to take home. It has become a truly special time for me and I hope it is for each and every one of you also.

May your hearts be filled with love and your souls with joy, as the Christ Child enters our lives once more. And may the Blessings of Christmas be with you always.

### **LEADERSHIP 2008 – SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH** *Sr Margaret Blampied rsj*

**Congregational Leadership Team:** On Saturday 27 October 2007, the General Chapter of the Sisters elected **Sister Anne Derwin** of the New South Wales Province to the position of Congregational Leader. Anne was the Provincial Leader of the New South Wales Province from 1996-2001. Since then, she has worked on the Congregational Shadow Process and was the Community Leader and Administrator of St Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre at Kincumber just north of Sydney. Since February of this year Anne has been the Director of the Mary MacKillop Place Mission, North Sydney.

On Sunday, 28 October, Sisters Sheila McCreanor, Ann Gilroy, Eileen Lenihan and Annette Arnold were elected to the General Council.

**Sister Sheila McCreanor** is from the South Australian Province. For the last six years Sheila has been the Secretary General of the Congregation and member of the Congregational Leadership Team.

**Sister Ann Gilroy** is from the New Zealand Province. Ann is a lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the School of Theology in the University of Auckland and in the Catholic Institute of Theology. She has been a member of the Province Leadership Team for 3 years.

**Sister Eileen Lenihan** is from the Region of Ireland. For the last 8 years Eileen has been the Co-ordinator of Religious Education at Mary Immaculate College of the University of Limerick. Previously she taught at Notre Dame University at Fremantle in Western Australia. Eileen was on the Province Leadership Team in Western Australia for many years.

**Sister Annette Arnold** is from the Queensland Province. Annette is the Deputy Principal, Director of Mission at Corpus Christi in Nundah, a secondary school for girls. She has also been on the Province Leadership Team in her province for the last 6 years.

**Province Leader – Victoria:** The Congregational Leadership Team has appointed **Sister Josephine Dubiel** as the new Victorian Province Leader to take up the role in March 2008. Josephine is from South Australia. She has been on the Province Leadership Team in that province for the last 6 years and is currently co-principal of Mary MacKillop College, Kensington, South Australia.

We congratulate our new Leadership and pray for God's blessing on them and their work.

**THE MAFFRA ASSOCIATES**  
*Sr Mary Fermio rsj*

On Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, we enjoyed a presentation by Sr Nellie Versluys on the works of the Sisters of St Joseph in the Kimberley region. The PowerPoint presentation included photos of the Sister, the people and the country where the small communities are living. The presentation on the historical aspect of the settlement of this area gave many of us a deep insight into the culture and spirituality of the people of the area and the difficulties and sorrow endured at this time. Twelve Morwell Associates joined us. The Leongatha Associates travelled forth but due to "crossed wires", thought it was at Morwell and missed out! We enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea at the end.

At each meeting the members choose a card on the back of which is placed an activity to be carried out until our next meeting when they return the card and choose another. The card is a copy of the painting by Mary Doyle of Mary MacKillop. Activities included: attend an extra Mass each week; bake a cake for someone who lives alone; pray for our Bishop; visit someone who may be lonely; say the Rosary for peace; read a book from parish library and tell someone about it.

**JUNIOR JOSEPHITES TAKE SHAPE!**  
*Nicole Allan of the Associates Core Team*

Inspired by the work and great success of the Junior Associates group that has long been a feature of Holy Child Primary School in Dallas, a new secondary school program with similar aims is currently being developed. After many years of dreaming and discussions, the program has become a reality because of the formation last year of AJASS, the Association of Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools. This Association provided the necessary network within which the program could be developed and also provides opportunities for the students involved to understand just how widespread living out the Josephite charism is!

In Victoria and Tasmania there are six schools involved in the pilot program to be run in 2008. The Junior Josephites or JJs will be a group of year seven and eight students, meeting on a fortnightly basis to look more deeply into one aspect of the charism. The program has been developed around the 'see, judge, act' framework with each meeting beginning with a story of Mary MacKillop, Julian Tenison Woods or the Sisters. The students then discern how that story can become part of their own lives and decide on a course of action to begin to live out that aspect of the charism in a real and active way. In terms two and three next year, the pilot program will include such topics as 'Mary and Julian – daring to be different', 'Mary's compassion for all' and 'What makes our school Josephite?' In term four a group gathering of all of the Junior Josephites from each of the six schools, will be organised. For the end of year eight, there will be a pilgrimage to all of the important Mary MacKillop and Josephite sites around the City of Melbourne..

From year nine to year twelve a Young Josephites or YJs Program is being developed. It is intended that this will challenge students to take up the charism in a deeper way. Years nine and ten will concentrate more deeply on the various ways in which many people, vowed and lay, have responded to the challenge to be Josephite in our world. Being a YJ until the end of year ten will culminate in a pilgrimage to Penola, to walk literally in the footsteps of Mary and Julian. Years eleven and twelve will all be about discerning vocation and working out how the charism can become a permanent part of the way we live our life post-secondary school. For those who are still part of the program at the end of year twelve, a pilgrimage to Sydney will be organised, during which the YJs will take part in a commitment ceremony beside the tomb of Mary MacKillop.

The future is certainly exciting when we remember that AJASS is actually an international association with schools from all over Australia and New Zealand on board.

## **REFLECTIONS ON THE OPEN DAY AT THE MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE**

*Irene Sharp and Linda Murcutt (Beechworth Associates)*

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of November, we attended the special day for Josephite Associates at the Mary MacKillop Centre, East Melbourne. Throughout the day, there was a steady stream of Associates from all parts of Melbourne and Victoria. We met people from Nagambie, Euroa, Cheltenham, Sunshine and Dallas. We were treated to a display of personal belongings of Mary MacKillop and saw the wheelchair to which she was confined in the later years of her life. There were also items like Rosary Beads, Scapulars and personal letters and diaries. In one room is an audio-visual reflection on the sayings of Mary. Many Sisters of St Joseph were there to welcome and show us around the beautifully restored Centre. After we had seen everything we experienced true Josephite hospitality by enjoying a lovely afternoon tea in the new Coffee Shop.

Everyone we spoke to was very impressed by the atmosphere and the spiritual experience of the Heritage Centre. We felt that Mary MacKillop would approve of the way that the Josephite Story has been told and portrayed in the Museum. We hope that all Associates will have the opportunity to visit the Heritage Centre and experience the presence of Mary MacKillop and learn more about her life.

We were very privileged to be able to stay in the Apartments at the back of the Centre. They are comfortable and tastefully decorated and we certainly felt at home.

We wish all Associates a very happy Christmas and many Blessings in the year to come.

### **MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE**

*Sr Helen Smith rsj*

During this month we have had a number of events take place at Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre. On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November those involved with the Mary MacKillop Foundation gathered for the evening to celebrate, support the Foundation, visit the museum and use the facilities of the Centre.

The following Friday, we had the official opening of both the museum and the Centre. Archbishop Denis Hart officiated at the opening ceremony and blessed the buildings. Sr. Katrina Brill, Congregational leader and Sr Anne Tuck, Province Leader, unveiled the stone commemorating the opening of the buildings. In attendance, was a large crowd of Sisters, friends and people involved with the project. We were blessed with a beautiful day so everyone gathered outside for both the ritual and the celebration afterwards.

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, we had our first school group visit the Centre. Sixty seven students from Holy Child Primary School Dallas came to visit the museum, hear an introductory talk and participate in a number of activities related to Mary MacKillop and the museum. These children were a special group as they are junior Associates and have a deep interest in and devotion to Mary MacKillop.

We were delighted to welcome a large number of Josephite Associates to the Centre on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November. It was wonderful that so many of you were able to attend especially those who travelled a long way. We hope that you were inspired by the museum and that you felt at home with us in the Centre. Thank you for your enthusiasm and support. Thank you too, to all who purchased goods from the shop and those who gave donations. When next you visit we hope that our shop will be well stocked with a variety of wares and gifts from which to choose.

On behalf of everyone at Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, may I take this opportunity to wish each one of you a happy, holy and safe Christmas and many blessings for the new year.

**THE BACCHUS MARSH CATHOLIC MUSEUM**  
***Excerpt from Bacchus Marsh News 13 November 2007***

“In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop” is an annual pilgrimage of 11 days held in October each year. It is prepared by the Sisters of St Joseph and is designed to inform and inspire people of all denominations.

Some of the places included in the pilgrimage have been Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Penola, Hamilton, Portland and Bacchus Marsh. Why Bacchus Marsh? In 1890 the first of the Josephite Sisters arrived to teach at our local Catholic School. To have had a relatively new Order of Sisters would have been exciting. Bacchus Marsh was the first town in Victoria after Numurkah to have these trail blazing sisters. How fortunate Bacchus Marsh was that we had the Sisters to teach our local Catholics for 100 years. It was in 1986 that the Sisters stepped aside for the lay teachers to take over.

This year 45 pilgrims arrived for a tour of the Catholic Museum of Bacchus Marsh, some of them having come from New Zealand. Distant relatives of Mary MacKillop who live in the Marsh, Mrs Carmel Shea and Mr Terry Fox joined the outing, as did our local retired nuns, Sisters Bernadette and Mary.

The Museum is open on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month from 1 – 4pm in St Joseph’s Oratory Bacchus Marsh.

**MARY MACKILLOP AND YOUNG ADULTS**  
***Sr Mary Ryan rsj***

As Josephite Associates, you would be well aware of the growing appeal that Mary MacKillop has for many people today! The word is spreading amongst young adults too! The Victorian Josephites are working on a number of fronts to foster Mary’s spirit in young people. One of our resourceful young adults has created a *Mary MacKillop Melbourne* website which is currently attracting many young web-surfers. The website has a great deal of information about Mary MacKillop, the World Youth Day 08 pilgrimage, and other Mary MacKillop young adult activities.

If you have access to the internet, you might like to have a look at this *Mary MacKillop Melbourne* Blogspot. Just type in: [www.mmkmelb.blogspot.com](http://www.mmkmelb.blogspot.com) and don’t forget to have a look at the ‘Archives’ section while you’re there!

We have registered with the World Youth Day 2008 organisation for a pilgrimage group of 25, which we are calling *Mary MacKillop Melbourne*. If you know of any young people who might be interested in journeying with us, please pass on this information, and ask them to contact us.

We would really appreciate any efforts you might be able to make in promoting what we have on offer for young adults at the present time. The attached flyer, can be copied and given to young adults, and/or displayed in places where they might see them. Please also consider passing the flyer on to the parents of young people as well – they just might be able to leave them around their home in places where they will be noticed by the younger generation!! Thanks in anticipation of your support!

## NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

*Sr Audrey Thomson rsj*

We now have our FIRST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATE - Peggy Walker of Nairn in the Aberdeen diocese. Peggy has been a devotee of Mary MacKillop for quite some time. She has done (and is doing) much to promote devotion to her in Scotland. Peggy organized with her Parish Priest for us to go up there to speak about Mary MacKillop. Nearby parishes were also invited to come along. The large upstairs room in which we spoke to the people was originally the priest's house. **It is, in fact, the very room in which Mary slept when she stayed in Nairn in 1873.** Father attended the talk himself and was most cordial and hospitable to us. He now wants to come here and particularly to the Cille Choirille (historic cemetery at Roy Bridge) and perhaps bring some parishioners on pilgrimage to the area. Because he is a Jesuit we wrote him a letter of thanks telling him of the wonderful part the Jesuits have played in our history. God and Mary are certainly at work in Scotland. Fr Tom Wynne (PP of Roy Bridge) is absolutely 'hooked' on Mary so we hope to have him and Ronnie Campbell enrolled as Associates soon. Ronnie's family is connected to Mary through Flora's line and they're very proud of it. Ronnie himself oozes Mary's spirit as any of the Sisters who have visited here could tell you.

## BEING MISSIONED FURTHER AFIELD

*Sr Margaret Blampied rsj*

**Sr Patricia Day rsj**, currently ministering at Ouyen will be missioned to Peru in January 2008.

**Sr Eileen Kirby rsj**, currently ministering at Warburton and on the Provincial Leadership Team has been missioned to Ireland and will take up a role at Stillorgan, Dublin in May 2008.

**Sr Marianne Zeinstra rsj** who has been ministering with the homeless, through the Hanover Mission, has been missioned to the Aboriginal people in the APY lands of South Australia. (APY is the abbreviation for *Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara*).

We pray for God's blessing and protection on these Sisters as they embark on God's Mission in another part of our world.

## PRAYER SHEETS

For the Spring Prayer, we owe a note of appreciation to Sr Judith Geddes for her reflective and informative pages.

For Summer / Advent, we thank Nicole Allan and her Glenroy Associates.



**FOR YOUR FAITHFUL PEOPLE LIFE IS CHANGED....**

Once again, we offer our prayerful support to those who mourn the death of family members. We hold up in our prayer the friends, family, Associates and Sisters who have died since the last Newsletter:

Dolly Carroll	Josephite Associate formerly of Eaglehawk
Pat Charles	Josephite Associate from Yarraville
Jean McDonald	Josephite Associate from Nagambie
Sheila Maguire	Josephite Associate from Williamstown
Mary Ley	Josephite Associate from Tallangatta
Sr Patricia Shanahan rsj	
Sr Agnes Cudmore rsj	
Don Jessup	Husband of Nan Jessup, Josephite Associate from Rushworth
Gerald Cox	Brother of Pauline Shaw, Josephite Associate from Richmond
Ila Nicholls	Sister-in-law of Noel Saunders, Josephite Associate from Melton
Sheila Barrit	Sister of Sr Joan Ryan rsj
Genevieve Jordan	Sister of Sr Rosaline Furey rsj
Mons Henry Nolan	Brother of Sr Kathleen Nolan rsj
John Mertens	Brother-in-law of Sr Monica Milner rsj
Peter Sleswick	Friend and supporter of the Associates and Sisters from Morwell
Tom McCarthy	Brother of Sr Baptista McCarthy rsj
Alf Searle	Brother-in-law of Sr Fran Mannes rsj
Leon Parker	Brother of Sr Camillus Parker rsj

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Please advise any changes in contact details to:

Josephite Associates  
13 Havelock Road, Hawthorn East 3123

## *Prayer*

O God most high and most near  
You who send glad tidings to the lonely  
And do not hide your face from the poor.  
Those who dwell in darkness you call into light

Take away our blindness,  
Remove the hardness of our hearts,  
And form us into the humble people,  
That, at the advent of your Son  
We may recognise him in our midst  
And find joy in his saving presence.

We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
Whose day draws near;  
Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen



## *Blessing*

May the God of peace bless us,  
and keep us safe and blameless  
and we wait for the coming  
of our Lord. Jesus Christ Amen