



Dear Sisters Associates & Friends

Welcome to our Year 2009 journey together in the spirit of Blessed Mary MacKillop. Many thanks for all the greetings, cards and donations during the Christmas season.

VERONICA

Since our last newsletter we have celebrated and given thanks for the life of our dear Sister Veronica Ryan who, coming from Tamworth NSW, spent 34 years in the Kimberley. Some thoughts about Veronica were expressed in the prayers at her Vigil in the chapel at South Perth:

- ☉ Veronica was visiting friends until within an hour of her death. She listened in love and responded in a practical way whenever possible.
- ☉ Veronica lived her commitment to God to the full with joy and zest and showed us how to go "to the edge."
- ☉ Veronica lived the Josephite call of service to the poor and needy always looking for ways to relieve suffering and bring hope.
- ☉ Veronica's insight into Indigenous culture and the value she put on education inspired in so many the desire to learn.
- ☉ Veronica created "welcome spaces" for all whom she met.
- ☉ Veronica trusted in God and was the sacrament of God's strength to those around her.
- ☉ Veronica let God's gentleness shine through her to warm all who were hurt and lonely.
- ☉ Veronica was the hands and eyes of God's compassion for people when they reached out in need.
- ☉ Veronica brought the mantle of God's peace to cover those who were troubled or anxious.

WELCOME

Welcome to Sister Denise Casey who brings her time and giftedness to join our Josephite Associate Ministry. Some of you know Denise already as she has attended our seasonal gatherings in South Perth and Safety Bay, been the principal in schools and worked in the Kimberley.

We welcome also Sister Eileen Lenihan as our representative on the Congregational Leadership Team in Sydney. Eileen taught at schools here in our Province and was a lecturer at Notre Dame University. Eileen returned home to Ireland where she continued as a university lecturer. We assure both Sisters of our prayers and support.

CELEBRATION

On the afternoon of Saturday 24th January a wonderful celebration was held to congratulate our three Sisters celebrating their Jubilees of 70, 60 and 25 years of Religious Life. They were Sisters Anita Gallagher - diamond, Mary Engelbrecht - golden and Margaret Ng - silver. Our Associate Bishop Justin Bianchini was the main celebrant assisted by Father David Barry OSB from New Norcia.

ADVENT / SUMMER / CHRISTMAS

The seasonal days of Advent/Summer and Christmas were held at Safety Bay, Dardanup and South Perth. At Penola by the Sea Sister Kathleen Dawe led us on our inner journeys and gave us deeper insights and explanations of icons. After Eucharist in the church at Dardanup, Father Michael Leek presented contemporary stories to illustrate relationships between young and old. He spoke to a combined RCIA and Josephite Associates group. In South Perth after Evening Prayer in the chapel Sisters Pauline Morgan (Provincial) and Kathleen Hitchcock (Community Leader) spoke to us about Sister Veronica's death and brought us up to date about current events. During the cuppa in the Function room the raffle was drawn and small presents were given out.

INVITATION

An invitation is given again to Josephite Associates to send in little stories (2 or 3 paragraphs) about personal connections with the Sisters and/or other Associates.

FINANCES

With regard to finances please note that we still do not have a membership fee for Josephite Associates but once a year you may find a seed envelope enclosed in the mailing for expenses. Thank you to the many Associates who have contributed already through donations, the seasonal raffle and bring and buy stall.

REMINDER

Associates are reminded to wear their badges at gatherings and any occasions where they may be to talk about Blessed Mary MacKillop especially in this year of the 100th anniversary of her death.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mrs Mary Squire (nee McInnes and ex New Norcia pupil) Mukinbudin, WA for service to conservation and the environment through the protection and propagation of threatened species in semi-arid areas and the promotion of land care. This citation appeared in the Australia Day Honours list of AM awards and Mary is possibly the first Josephite Associate to receive it.

Let us continue our prayers for our brother and sister victims in the fire and flood tragedies in Victoria and Queensland.

May you receive many blessings in this Chinese New Year of the Ox.

Carla for Meg, Fay, Margaret, Pat, Maureen, Dot and Kate.



Blessed Mary MacKillop Centenary Year

As we work towards celebrating this centenary year we thank Sr Joan Luff for this reflection:

Death of Mary MacKillop:

Cardinal Moran visited Mary for the last time two days before her death. He said as he was leaving "her death will bring many blessings, not only on yourselves and your Congregation, but on the whole Australian Church."
(Mary MacKillop by Paul Gardiner, page 479)

One of the Sisters who was present at the death bed of Mary MacKillop gives the following account of the visit of Cardinal Moran and Monsignor O'Haran:

"His Eminence read the prayers for the dying, and gave our dear Mother the Last Blessing, whilst the Sisters knelt around. He was quite moved, and placing his hand on her head, he said: "Dear Mother General, God is about to take you to your reward. Have confidence and courage. You have a rich harvest before you, and St Joseph will be there to meet you. Pray for me, dear Mother, and I will also pray for you."

A Queensland priest while in Ireland heard of the "happy departure to her eternal reward" of Mary MacKillop. He wrote: *The sisters have reason to be proud of such a Mother, whose name and labours will ever form a bright and interesting chapter in the annals of the Australian Church ... I trust her followers will never deviate one iota from her spirit. It was that spirit that crowned her work with such success, and it is that same spirit that will render the labours of her devoted sisters equally successful throughout Australia."*

Sister La Merci wrote to the sisters who were all naturally anxious to have particulars of Mother Mary's last moments:... *"For some days previous she had not been able to receive Holy Communion, (or able to speak) but hoping against hope, I said, "Mother, do you think you can receive Our Lord? It is the first Friday, you know." She looked at me very intelligently, and said quiet clearly and audibly, 'Yes, dear.' ... A path of flowers was made all the way from the Oratory to the room. The sisters who carried the vases had let some flowers fall on the way, though unaware of the fact. When I saw them I really thought one of the sisters had strewn them to honour the Blessed Sacrament. Mother received without difficulty and with her usual fervour."*

Extracts from *Life and Letters of Mother Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) by A Sister of St Joseph* Chapter L Death of Mother Mary

What Happens at Irene Villa ?

I am often asked that very question so perhaps now, at the beginning of a new year, a look through the Irene Villa window might be timely.

Irene Villa is place of respite, refreshment, relaxation, retreat and a home away from home for many people. Some city people just need time out and for those from rural areas and regional towns it is affordable accommodation and a homely place when needing to be in Perth. Their need is often for medical reasons, or attending courses. Many are referred by **Carers WA** or other agencies that deal with needy people. Some groups like **Cystic Fibrosis**, **GROW**, and **MS Society** bring their carers in each year for a weekend of being cared for themselves.

During 2008 the staff of a country school used the accommodation a couple of times when attending in-service in Perth. Four groups used Irene Villa for a weekend retreat. The Villa is used by priests from the far North and South as a place to stay while in Perth for business or when passing through, or just for a few days off. These priests are mostly overseas born who don't have family or contacts in Perth. We have guests from interstate and overseas.

With approx 1150 bed occupancy nights (almost 4 per night) in Irene Villa last year, over the 10 months it is open to the public, you can see that it is well used. By the notes I am left by guests and comments in the visitor's book their stay is very much enjoyed and appreciated.



The Hynes' sisters and Betty demonstrate relaxation techniques at Irene Villa !

- Chris Symonds rsj





Northampton Convent

Back to the Future

On 16th December 1887 four Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart arrived in Northampton at the request of Bishop Gibney who was concerned at the lack of religious teaching orders in his diocese. As a result of a jurisdictional dispute between the Bishop and Mary MacKillop the sisters withdrew in 1890. In a remarkable example of history repeating itself, Lyn Sparling is the first Josephite to go to Northampton since then. Each fortnight she teaches Liturgical Singing at St Mary's School. This Josephite history is part of the "Faith, Story, Witness" that new and old teachers are introduced to as part of the units they do for accreditation to teach in the Catholic system.

- From Joan Luff rsj & Chris Cresswell (Archives)

In the Footsteps of Blessed Mary MacKillop

Australian Pilgrimage

18 - 28 May 2009

or

12-22 October 2009

Sydney - Melbourne - Adelaide

For information / brochure / enrolment form please contact:

Sr Christine Symonds

Phone: 08 9334 0940

Email: marymackillopcentre@sosjwa.org.au

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE THREE JUBILARIANS



Sr Anita Gallagher - Diamond



Sr Mary Engelbrecht - Golden



Sr Margaret Ng - Silver

AUTUMN / LENTEN 2009 GATHERINGS & EVENTS

SOUTH WEST AREA

LENTEN/AUTUMN GATHERING

Where: Dardanup House of Prayer
Theme: *Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*
When: Wednesday 4th March 2009 – 9am Eucharist in the Church, followed by morning tea
Bring: A plate of finger food for a shared lunch please
Presenter: Sr Christine Clarke PBVM
Contact: Annette: 9797 1156, Nancy: 9728 1037
Cost: Donation *All Welcome*



AUTUMN PRAYER DAY

Where: Penola by the Sea, 27 Penguin Road, Safety Bay
When: Wednesday 4th March 2009 (cuppa 9.30am – concludes 3.30pm)
Cost: Donation (Morning Tea and light lunch served)
Enquiries: Sr Kath Dawe, phone: 9527 2517, email; kdawe@perthcatholic.org.au

FORMATION DAY

Where: Ned Kenny Centre - Busselton
When: Tuesday 24th March 2009 - 2.00pm
Topic: Josephite Sisters in Peru
Enquiries: Gemma Greaves: Ph 9751 1391 Maura McNamara: Ph 9754 2262

AT SOUTH PERTH

LENTEN / AUTUMN GATHERING

Where: St Joseph's Convent, 16 York Street South Perth
When: Sunday 8th March 2009 - 2.30pm Prayer in the Chapel followed by Raffle.
Bring & Buy and Cuppa in the Function Room
Enquiries: Dot Caughey Ph: 9330 5019



CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Where: St Joseph's Convent South Perth 16 York Street South Perth
When: 10am Thursday 21st May 2009
Enquiries: Dot Caughey PH 9330 5019

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE(S)

Where: St Joseph's Convent Chapel, South Perth
When: Every third Sunday 7pm – 8pm from March to November
Enquiries: Sr Maree Riddler , phone: 0414 683 926 *All Welcome - Bring a Torch!*

PRAYER DAYS AT MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE 2009

- ♦ Thursday 2nd April - *Mary MacKillop and the Cross* – book by 27th March
- ♦ Thursday 23rd July – book by 17 July
- ♦ Thursday 22nd October - book by 16 October

The days begins with morning tea at 9.30 followed by guided reflection from 10.00am to 1.00pm. By donation. It is essential to book for the retreats before by ringing 93340999

PAST PUPILS AND FRIENDS - MORNING TEA

When: 10.00am to 12.30pm Tuesday 31st March
Where: Mary MacKillop Centre
Cost: \$12.00
Contact: Maureen on 9447 2346 by 19 March (bookings essential - numbers will be limited.)
All are welcome to attend the Eucharist in the chapel at 9.00am

CELEBRATING BLESSED MARY MACKILLOP'S CENTENARY YEAR 1909-2009

What: Blessed Mary MacKillop Masses
When: Re-commence May 09. Check your Parish bulletin or the Josephite website closer to the time: Go to: www.sosj.org.au/about/western_australia/SouthPerthChapel.html