



Dear Sisters Associates & Friends

Welcome to Winter 2009 and the 100th Anniversary of the death of Blessed Mary MacKillop.

... Listening to Winter ...

*I am listening to the seed hidden in the earth.
I am listening to the dark swallowing up the light.
I am listening to faith rising out of doubt.
I am listening to the need to believe without seeing.*

*I am listening to the season of contemplation,
to the urgency of our world's need and reflection.
I am listening to all that waits within the earth,
to bulbs and seeds, to deep roots dreaming.*

I am listening to the sacred, winter rest.

(Macrina Wiederkehr – 'The Circle of Life')

I am Listening.

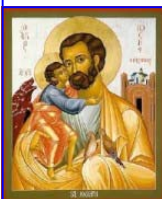
AUTUMN / LENTEN GATHERINGS

Penola by the Sea Retreat day was presented by Sr Wendy Lailey rsj with the theme being "Relationships" and questions "How close am I to myself and to God?"

The gathering in South Perth was once again a wonderful experience of friendship and prayer. Denise was welcomed by Sr Pauline, our Provincial, and it was clear by the welcome that she is already known and loved. Denise and Carla will work together as the co-ordinators / contact persons for the Josephites Associates in WA.

At Dardanup Sr Christine Clarke pbvm gave a most interesting and informative account of a visit to the Holy Land. Some were inspired to make their own visit to Israel.

ST JOSEPH'S FEASTDAY



In South Perth the Community Eucharist was celebrated by Fr John Martin in the morning. After prayer in the chapel in the evening, a special meal was shared with the Sisters from around the Metropolitan Area.

A group of men from the Confraternity of St Joseph came with Fr Don Kettle for prayer in the chapel and a talk on the life of our Sr Veronica Ryan who died in the Kimberley after 34 years of service among the indigenous people.

CWL ASSOCIATES

Three Associates are on the State Council of the WA Catholic Women's League and another ten were present at the President's Morning Tea and talk by Dom Chris Power osb from New Norcia. The Associates came from Pinjarra, Manjimup, Busselton, Bunbury, Geraldton and the Metropolitan area.

SISTER CHRISTINA NEUNZERLING'S VISIT TO WA IN JULY

Some Associates know from last year that Sr Christina is able to inspire us whilst having us enjoy her presentations and learn a lot. You are asked to keep Thursday 2nd July free for her special visit in this 100th Anniversary Year of the death of Blessed Mary MacKillop.



COUNTRY TRIP IN MARCH

Accompanied by her brother, John, Sr Carla travelled to Busselton for prayer and a session on Josephites in Peru. Thanks to Josephite Associates Gemma Greaves, Maureen McNamara and Jan Cole, all was in readiness at the Ned Kelly Centre where Josephite Associates came from Busselton, Bunbury, Quindalup, Australind, Eaton and Dardanup. On the way stops were made to visit others in Boyanup, Dardanup, Bunbury and Waroona.



SISTER ANITA'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

We celebrated Sr Anita's 90th Birthday on Sunday the 3rd May with her family and the Sisters. There was Mass at 9:30 in the Chapel celebrated by Fathers Tom and Philip. It was good to see all her family around her for this great experience. There was a wonderful spread for all to enjoy out in the front garden. We congratulate Sr Anita and wish her all the blessing for years to come.

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

Geraldton Associates

Recently I was visiting Geraldton for my sister's Golden Wedding. While I was in the area it gave me an opportunity to visit some of the Josephite Associates.

My first contact was Bernie Keogh who is the contact person for this area. I only had a short time with him as he was busy at the Vincent de Paul Shop which is a great work for our Associates. There were others whom I asked if they would like to become Josephite Associates, they were Colleen Harrington and Frankie Clancy. I will be contacting them later on.

My visit to Dulcie Valenti was a surprise. In our conversation I realized that we started school together at St Joseph's School in Queens Park. She is a wonderful Associate in the work she does, taking Communion to different families.

There were a few others with whom I was in touch, Monica Mullikin, who gives her time each Sunday to organize the hymns for Mass and plays the organ at St John's church Rangeway. I also had some time with Geraldine Mullins who does visitation and prays with people.

On my next visit to Geraldton I will meet with other Associates and have time for prayer together. I thank all these people for giving their time for visitation and prayer which is a very special way to help people in need.

Sr Denise Casey

My Experiences with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart

My first connection with the Sisters was at Moora, where I was born and lived as a child. My brother, sister and I attended a Bushies School at the convent in 1940, for my first communion and Confirmation classes. I can recall the dormitories, having wheatmeal porridge for breakfast, and syrup or molasses on cracker biscuits for recess. Sisters Basil, Callistus and Frances were the teachers and Father Reg Hynes the P.P. Another time I stayed with the Sisters after coming out of hospital and waiting for my parents to collect me.

Further connections were with the Motor Mission Sisters in the Koorda/Bencubbin Parishes in the late '70s, and early eighties. Sisters Ellis, Columbkille, Frances, Carla, Marie and Gemma preparing our children for the sacraments. Great times and memories.

Sister Carla and I attended an Associates Conference at Penola in 1994, with reps from each state, a very spiritual and uplifting experience, as was my visit to Warmun Mirringki Centre for 7 weeks volunteering with Sisters Frances and Nellie helping with seminars and retreats. A magic time. Sister Theresa Morellini often came too. I shared a night at Kununurra convent with Sister Veronica Ryan too. Times I appreciated and will never forget. **Mary Delane (Koorda)**

New Statue of Mary MacKillop

A new statue in Victoria Square, Adelaide was blessed and dedicated by Archbishop of Adelaide Philip Wilson on 22 March 2009. Adelaide sculptor, Judith Rolevink, described her work as a labour of love and depicted Mary MacKillop in her twenties holding hands with a young girl and indigenous boy. Sisters Teresita Cormack, Pat Flinn, Teresa Cooper and Mary Preston unveiled the bronze statue which is the centrepiece of the newly landscaped plaza adjacent to St Francis Xavier's Cathedral – right in the heart of the city.



At the ceremony Archbishop Wilson made a public apology to the Sisters of St Joseph over the wrongful excommunication of Mary MacKillop in 1871. He said that the statue would "stand as a sign of our affection and as an act of reparation for what happened so long ago".



Blessed Mary MacKillop Centenary Year

TWO REFLECTIONS ...

Extract from the inside front cover of Paul Gardiner's Biography

Mary's public achievement is a historical fact in Australia, but for those who knew her personally the most striking thing about her was her kindness. She was a great believer in encouragement, urging people to be kind and united. In everything she did or said, she showed respect and love for those around her, making no distinction between the rich, the high-born, and the influential on the one hand, and the lowly, the jailbirds, and the outcasts of society on the other. Love was the soul of her virtues.

Extract from Volume 111 of the Positio Informatio de Virtutibus Rome 1989.

Shortly before the Ordinary Process opened, some senior Sisters were asked by the Mother General (Mother Lawrence) to write what they remembered of Mother Mary. After labouring through a page of big writing, one old lady (Sr Genevieve) felt it was time to sum up:

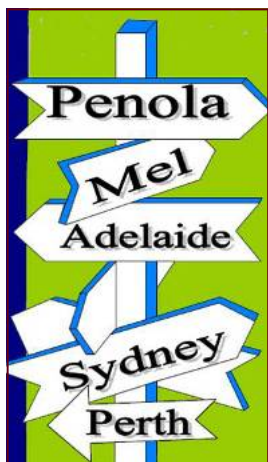
I am sorry dear Mother that I cannot relate other incidents completely except that our dear Mother was good humble charitable and kind to all

At the Process itself, each of three pioneer Sisters who had known Mother Mary for forty years – Sister Casimir, Sister Mechtild, and Mother Lawrence (the three had all been postulants in 1869) - declared that her most vivid memory of the Foundress was her kindness.

Extract from Introduction of *Mary MacKillop Women - What are they doing now?* by Margaret P Kenny rsj

In 1866 Julian E Tenison Woods co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph with Mary MacKillop. The hearts of Julian, Mary and the women who joined Mary were moved by the 'misery and wretchedness' of the 'bush children' and the 'afflicted poor'. In small groups, and with great compassion, these women moved into houses in the settlements. They were with the people in their daily lives. Life was fragile. Daily the sisters visited the homes. As the railway lines and dirt tracks snaked out into the country the Sisters followed the farmers, miners and railway workers, the women and the children. Happily, the Constitutions for the Sisters, (approved 1888), were expansive with regard to mobility and what services could be offered. The sisters shared with the people the same challenges of harsh climate, lack of water, shortage of food and uncomfortable make-shift quarters.

Education, in the many little schools the early MacKillop Women staffed, built up the self-confidence and dignity of the people. The skills they gained empowered the youth to dialogue more effectively with their world. The friendly self-giving of the Sisters drew the people to accept as authentic the passionate God whose love they expressed. From the hearts unburdened to them the sisters encountered stories of brokenness and oft hidden exploitations. An early response to the needs of the inner city people was The Providence (1868). It was effectively a 'women's shelter' and the beginning of the Social Work of the Sisters. The name demonstrated the confidence of the Sisters in a generous, caring God.



'In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage' Update

The May 2009 pilgrimage begins on the 18th. We have four pilgrims from Western Australia – five if we count Sr Rita Kelly. Those leaving from WA are Annette Morellini, Mary Rose Lee-Chi and Michela Parcilio. Along with the other 27 from other states and their 4 leaders I am sure they would appreciate your prayers as they make their *pilgrimage in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop*. - Chris S



Prayers

Prayers are asked for peace and joy in Eternal Life for Josephite Associates Nell O'Connell and John Cobb (husband of Ethel and uncle of Srs Dora and Frances Maguire)

CENTENARY YEAR OF THE DEATH OF MARY MACKILLOP 1909 - 2009

wa Josephite associates Winter 2009 GATHERINGS & EVENTS

SOUTH WEST AREA

Where: Pemberton, Karriholm
When: 2pm Wednesday 17th June 2009 followed by afternoon tea
Theme: Blessed Mary MacKillop - Australia's First Saint
Enquiries: Jo Bendotti: 9776 1241



Where: Dardanup - Church of the Immaculate Conception
When: 9am Tuesday 4th August 2009 Eucharist followed by morning tea at the Prayer House
Bring: A plate of finger food please
Cost: Donation. All Welcome
Enquiries: Annette Ph/Fax: 9797 1156 or Nancy: 9728 1037

Where: Australind - Church of the Living Vine
When: 9am Tuesday 11th August 2009 for the school community of Leschanault Catholic Primary School
Enquiries: Annette Ph/Fax: 9797 1156 or Nancy: 9728 1037

In the metropolitan area

Winter Prayer Day - Safety Bay

Where: Penola by the Sea, 27 Penguin Road, Safety Bay
When: 10am to 3.30pm Wednesday 3rd June 2009
Cost: Donation - morning tea and light lunch served
Presenter: Sr Dora Maguire
Theme: An opportunity to rediscover a new direction and purpose in our lives
Enquiries: Sr Kath Dawe: 9527 2517

Winter Gathering

Where: St Joseph's Convent, 16 York Street, South Perth
When: 2.30pm Sunday 14 June 2009. Prayer in the Chapel followed by raffle, bring & buy, cuppa in Function Room
Enquiries: Dot Caughey: 9330 5019

Sr Christina's Visit

Where: Mary MacKillop Centre
When: 10am to 2pm Thursday 2nd July 2009 - two 1 1/2 hour sessions, (11.30am light lunch provided)
Theme: The Spirit of Mary MacKillop
Enquiries: Laura (Province Secretary): 9334 0999 - Please RSVP by Thursday 25th June 2009

Winter Prayer Day - South Perth

Where: Mary MacKillop Centre, 16 York St, South Perth
When: 9.30am Thursday 28th July 2009 (amended date) Cuppa followed by guided reflection 10am to 1pm
Presenter: Sr Dora Maguire
Cost: Donation
Enquiries: Laura: 9334 0999.
RSVP: By 17th July please

Celebration for Blessed Mary MacKillop Feastday and Centenary of her Death

Where: TBA (details still being finalised)
When: Friday evening 7th August 2009
Contact: Laura for information: 9334 0999

Central Committee Meeting

Where: St Joseph's Convent **When:** 9.30am Cuppa, 10am start Thursday 20th August 2009



MARY MACKILLOP MASSES

8th of each month (unless it falls on a Sunday)
All Welcome (at South Perth Chapel)

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE(S)

All Welcome - Bring a Torch!
Every third Sunday 7pm - 8pm March to November
Enquiries: Sr Maree Riddler, phone: 0414 683 926