



*'May God bless you  
and keep you strong.'*  
MMK 1900

## Summer 2017

December 2017 Newsletter

### My Travels to Timor Leste

by Mary Hemmings

Recently I had the opportunity to accompany Sr Margaret Cleary, Leader of the CentreWest Region, to visit Timor Leste. This was in response to an invitation from Sr Kathy Jennings who has worked throughout this year to support the development of Associates in Dili. In my time away I was fortunate to see the work of *Mary MacKillop International* (MMI) in action.

Education is in great need of support as the troubles of the past 40 years in Timor have left the country with low levels of literacy and many challenges. For many years MMI has supported the writing of reading materials in Tetum, the local language. Originally printed in Australia, now big books, readers and posters are all locally produced in Timor.

Teachers are brought into Dili for intensive training and then MMI staff go out to their schools and mentor the teachers in their practice. A Mobile Learning Centre travels around to schools, providing extra support with literacy and music, with the provision of musical instruments, books, puppets and the



Teachers of Rainha da Paz School

like. To see the children really engaged in these activities was a great delight!

Another project of MMI is supporting parents to teach their pre-school aged children. Over many weeks the parents attend sessions at the MMI Centre where they learn to play with plasticine and use scissors to draw and cut out images, tasks which we take for granted but which are new experiences for these parents.

The dedication of the MMI staff, all of whom are Timorese, to this mission in the name of Mary MacKillop was evident. One of those who travel in the Mobile Learning Centre said to me in conversation one day, "Mary MacKillop wanted to help the poor. We therefore have to get to the schools in the mountains. Then we will really be doing Mary's work." Because of distance and isolation there is indeed a great need for educational support there.

I was truly blessed to have the opportunity to spend time in this beautiful country and to see that the spirit of Mary MacKillop is very much alive in Timor Leste.



Children reading books from the Mobile Learning Centre

# Josephite Associates in Timor Leste

by Sr Kathy Jennings

In 2008 a group of Timorese men and women were in Sydney for World Youth Day. During this time they learnt about the Josephite Associates and seventeen were inducted.

In October 2016 some from the original group asked if the Associates could be renewed as there were other people interested. Invitations were sent to come to a session in February this year to hear what the Josephite Associate Movement was all about. Much to my surprise over 20 people turned up!

Participation in a monthly formation program was explained to learn about the spirit and work of the Associates and also to learn to come together as a group. This program was based around the ideas of *friendship, prayer and service*. They were also introduced to being a group within their own parish who would work in 'mission' with whatever the priest felt was a need. Special emphasis was placed on the elderly, neglected and disabled.

Three parish groups have been formed and each of these groups meet monthly for prayer, planning of a "mission work" and a sharing of food. Four times a year the groups come together during the feast days of St Joseph, the Sacred Heart, Mary MacKillop and the

Immaculate Conception, which is a major feast day in Timor.

There was great excitement and a real feeling of deep joy one Sunday in October when four of the 'old' Associates renewed their commitment and twenty six became Josephite Associates for the first time. Sr Margaret Cleary and Mary Hemmings joined us for this ceremony. While Mary fastened the Associate badge on each new member, Sr Margaret gave them a certificate and I handed them a booklet, in the Tetum language, based on their formation program.

It has been a wonderful journey and we have a real sense of 'good' things ahead. Already there are others asking for a repeat of the formation program and it is great to see that both men and women have been attracted to the spirit of Mary MacKillop.

For me it is also marvellous to have many of the new Associates coming from the parish community. It is a whole new group being introduced to the spirit and teachings of Mary MacKillop. In her words: "Let St Joseph's true children remember their mission to seek first the poorest, most neglected parts of God's vineyard." (1900)





# Christmas Carols

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Bethany Centre

4 High St

Kensington

6.30pm

Hosted by

*Sr Majella O'Sullivan*

**Come along, bring a friend and enjoy an evening of *friendship, prayer and service***

Following Sr Catherine Clark's Reflection in St Joseph's Chapel at 5.45pm come next door to the Bethany Centre where our evening gathering will be held.

Be entertained by Sr Majella as we explore some of the traditional ways to prepare for the Christmas season.

This year we are asking participants to bring items of female toiletry which will be collected, packaged into bundles and distributed to women in need in our community through local charities.

*There will also be a raffle and a light meal will be served.*

*So, come and enjoy while helping people in need this Christmas season.*

## AND FOR 2018

### Josephites Jumping Into Justice

Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

Bethany Centre

10am – 12pm



Throughout next year our focus will be on the 'service' component of the Associate attributes of '*friendship, prayer and service*'. This is all about *Associates in Action!*

At this gathering we will launch the theme for 2018 which centres around the concept of social justice in our society. We hope you can join us for this event.

Look for more details in the next newsletter.

# Mary MacKillop's Work Continues in Timor Leste

by Lourencia

(Lourencia is a Josephite Associate in Timor Leste and also works for MMI)

Mary MacKillop was a woman who was strong in her faith. She fully committed her life to serving children and the poorest in Australia. She was a woman of compassion, justice and the dignity of every one was important to her.

Her life was an example of how to serve others with love and compassion. Mary MacKillop's work today continues through us in Timor Leste and the way we work with the people of our country using projects from Mary MacKillop International (MMI). Through MMI we also help co-workers continue the work in isolated communities.

MMI started its mission in Timor Leste through the request of Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo in 1994. Bishop Belo asked the Josephite Sisters if they could help the people in Timor Leste to read and write in their own language so that the Tetum language would not be forgotten. This request has developed into four projects:

- Tetum Literacy
- Health Literacy
- Parent Education Program
- Mobile Learning Centre which includes music, puppets, reading and games.

Today MMI staff work with others in remote areas where there is a lot of need. MMI staff always remember the words of Mary MacKillop:

***"Never see a need without doing something about it."*** (1867)



## Associate Newsletter

This newsletter is also available on the internet. Check out the web address:

[http://www.sosj.org.au/being-involved/list\\_newsletters.cfm?filter=NLSAA&loadref=544](http://www.sosj.org.au/being-involved/list_newsletters.cfm?filter=NLSAA&loadref=544)

There you will also find the newsletters of other regions. This is part of the Sisters of St Joseph website where you will find many articles of interest.

## Recycle your Newsletter

When you have finished with the newsletter, a good recycling idea is to pass it round for others to read.

## Expressions of Interest for a Weekend in Penola

Date: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018

We are trying again but at a different time of the year for a trip to Penola in 2018. This is the last weekend of the first term school holidays.

If you are interested in going please let us know by mid-February next year at the latest.

Contact Carla: 8351 1575 or [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au)

# Spring Garden Party by Carla Mastrangelo

'Windy with an afternoon shower' was the forecast on the morning of Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> October – the day of the Garden Party. This event was held as a fundraiser for the redevelopment of the Mary MacKillop Museum.

Over the preceding months there had been a lot of planning and preparation to secure donations, invite guests and sell tickets. Although ticket sales were slow initially, over 300 tickets were sold which exceeded expectations.

The event was held in the gardens at the Kensington Convent of the Sisters of St Joseph. The roses were in bloom, the green hedges had been trimmed and the leafy trees provided ample shade for some from the sun. It was a lovely setting and an ideal place for afternoon tea with friends while being entertained by a number of different acts.

When the SA Governor, the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, arrived, we all stood up while the national anthem was played. During the afternoon the Governor and his wife seemed to enjoy themselves walking around and chatting informally with people.

There was also a stall of various items for sale, a raffle and a Silent Auction which drew quite a bit of interest. Although the afternoon turned out to be a little windy, no rain came which was fortunate for all who attended.

Many thanks to the organisers, the helpers and those who came along to support the Sisters in this fundraising venture. It was a very pleasant afternoon.

It is hoped that the Museum will be completed next year. Associates are still able to donate to the redevelopment project. See page 8 for further details.



The Governor poses for a photo.



An artist's impression of the Museum

# Other News

- **St Joseph's Old Scholars Association**

An Old Scholar is anyone (male or female) who has ever been connected to a Josephite school or college in Australia, as a student or teacher.

Our Association has been in existence for 101 years. We have 3 functions every year:

March – Mass/Afternoon Tea

June – Luncheon

October – Luncheon

For further information contact Josie: 8295 3667 or josievp.44@gmail.com

- **Mary MacKillop Old Scholars Association**

The Association continues the friendships and encourages the building of life-long networks amongst past students and staff after high school. It also fosters justice and compassion, hospitality and concern for those in need and has a special relationship with the Sisters of St Joseph.

Newsletters and our popular Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179768134304>) keep people in touch with each other. Make contact and share your news.

- **Mary MacKillop Centre**

1. *2018 Josephite Calendar*

Available at \$7 each + postage & packaging

Order online: [marymackillopadelaide.org.au](http://marymackillopadelaide.org.au)

Enquiries: 8130 5916

2. *Monthly Mass (10.30am) & Reflection (5.45pm)*

*Venue: St Joseph's Chapel*

December	Friday, 8/12/2017	Mass & Reflection
January	N/A	no Mass, no Reflection
February	Thursday, 8/2/2018	Mass & Reflection
March	Thursday, 8/3/2018	Mass & Reflection

3. *Museum Redevelopment Project*

See page 8 to make a financial contribution to the project. For further information telephone 8130 5900.

***“May our good God grant you all a holy and truly happy Christmas. We can all meet together in spirit at the Crib of our loving Infant and can recommend our several wants and pray for one another. I wish you every grace and blessing of this holy time with fondest love.”***

***MMK 1881***

Saint MARY MACKILLOP

*Mary MacKillop*



## A Woman With An Open Heart

### From the Pen of Mary MacKillop

Make no reserves with God. Reject no-one. You never know what grace can do. 1871

### Scripture

Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today. *Luke 19:5*

### Reflection

Mary MacKillop brought the message of human dignity to all whom she encountered. She held in reverence each person about whom she spoke even those who had caused her great pain. Sr Mechtilde recalls how “if anyone came to her in trouble and distress, she would encourage and help them and draw the good that was in them out.” Stories abound of how people responded to her presence.

### Story from the life of Mary MacKillop

Mother Mary taught by her example. I remember how once an eccentric old gentleman was to be tended – being unable to care for himself. Mother instructed the Sisters to brush and comb his hair and long beard. Oh, our repugnance. And seeing it, Mother herself lovingly and gently did it all and then took him elsewhere for further attention leaving us humbled and ashamed. (Sr Anne Joseph Waters)

### Pause for Reflection

With whom is God inviting me to keep an open heart?

### Prayer

God of tenderness, you call all to share in your Trinity of Love. May we, like Mary MacKillop, open our hearts to all whom we encounter this day. St Mary of the Cross, defending human dignity, pray for us.

### Action

Be open to the stranger who comes into your life today.

Extract from *Praying from the Heart*  
Used with permission.



*Wishing all Associates,  
together with your family and friends  
a very blessed and joyful Christmas Season.*



MARY MACKILLOP MUSEUM ADELAIDE



I/we wish to make a financial contribution to the Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide redevelopment

DETAILS

Form fields for Title, First Name, Family Name, Address, State, Postcode, Phone, and Email.

MY DONATION

Please tick:

Form for selecting donation amount: \$20, \$50, \$150, \$500, \$1000, or My choice \$

All donations are tax deductible

I would like to make my donation by:

Form for donation methods: CHEQUE, CREDIT CARD, and EFT.

Please email or post receipt, together with this completed form, to: rebecca.reiner@sosj.org.au, or mailing address below

SEND ME MORE INFORMATION ON

Form for selecting information preferences: Making a regular gift by direct debit, Making a bequest to Mary MacKillop Museum

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO

Email or post receipt, together with this completed form, to:

Post: MARY MACKILLOP MUSEUM ADELAIDE PO Box 57, Kent Town, SA 5071

For more information: Email: mary.ryan@sosj.org.au or phone 08 8130 5900