



# Josephite Associates, Victoria-Tasmania SUMMER 2017



**SUMMER—may the warmth of family be yours.**

Dear Associates,

We have once again moved into the month of December and again the last twelve months seem to have flown by.

For many 2017 will be the year of disasters—hurricanes, fires in housing towers, attacks on pedestrians, in railways, mass shootings, raging fires, threats of nuclear war. Many have lost their homes in these tragedies and their Christmas will be very different from the one they spent last year.

**How will your Christmas be spent? Will it in some way remember those who have no home, missing family members, suffer financial poverty? The reflection on Cambodia may inspire you.**

During the year I have made a point of visiting some of the groups I have not seen for a while and had the pleasure of sharing stories of Mary MacKillop, prayer and cuppas with them. Everywhere I meet men and women who live the Josephite Charism faithfully, working to make this world a better place wherever and in whatever way they can.

In May I reached the milestone of three score and twenty and am very grateful that I am still able to travel around Victoria for regional days and visits to Associate groups. For how long? We shall see.

**Leaders' Day** is to help leaders in their formation as Associates with an opportunity to meet others and know what is happening in the future. We hope most can come.

**Regional Days** are also noted in the newsletter. Please make these a priority for your own formation, social contacts and a time for yourself. Our program this year is based on Pope Francis' call to be missionary disciples with the story of Irene McCormack, who with four local men, gave their lives as disciples of Jesus.

The **Core-team** spent a very happy and fruitful weekend planning both these days and we are sure you will enjoy them. The Sisters at St Joseph's by the Sea at Williamstown gave us first-class hospitality and shared many laughs with us.

My trip to **Hamilton** was a very special time. Noreen has recorded an article about this day when a first class relic of St Mary of the Cross was placed in their new chapel. I have also visited Leongatha where Colleen has agreed to be leader. I thank Maureen Casey for her years of leadership there.

Some of you are having to move into Aged Care residences. Remember you are always an Associate and Prayer may be your only service But please let me know your change of address.

Our **annual Mass** was again a very special time for all who came. We welcomed another Associate and were inspired by Fr Michael's challenging words. The Sisters present were very affirming in their comments on the Mass and the afternoon gathering.

Please read carefully the section on the **Financial Overview**.

One morning was spent filling the many bags you contributed with toiletries. Helen, who co-ordinates this, has been thrilled with the support in kind and in money, which has made it so much easier for her.

I hope the Advent prayer will enable and encourage you to find a few minutes each day for yourself as we wait again to celebrate the coming of Jesus. May we welcome him whom we encounter in those we meet each day, and those we travel and shop with.

May your family be blessed at this time as you gather together to share gifts, food, memories, maybe grief. May your Christmas Mass be a time of joyous celebration, as we thank our good God we live in this lucky country. Peace, joy and happiness be yours.

*Mary Fermio rsj*



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# Friendship Prayer Service

**CAMBODIA—Tabitha House Build - September 2017**  
**From Associate Louise Anketell,**

My husband Michael and I were truly privileged to again volunteer our time and service to a few victims of the Cambodian Pol Pot atrocities, by way of building houses for them. A team of 18 arrived in Phnom Penh on 9th September, travelling from WA, ACT and VIC aged between 10 and 75 years. Before beginning we had a 'get to know the team night' in the form of a Cruise on the Mekong River.

The following morning we gathered for Orientation to help us fully understand the plight of the Cambodian people and our role as international volunteers. Janne Ritskes, founder of the Tabitha Foundation, gave us a talk followed by a visit to Tuol Sleng genocide Museum and the "Killing Fields" of Cheung Ek. Between 1975 and 1978, about 17,000 men, women, children and infants, including nine westerners, were detained and tortured here. A very confronting experience, but necessary for us to appreciate the suffering of these people.



The build this year was in a village outside of Siem Reap, a 6hr bus ride from Phnom Penh. On day four we were greeted at the building site by Cambodians who will be recipients of the completed houses. This is a truly humbling experience, because, by the grace of God, we were born in a free country, unlike these delightful people, welcoming us, total strangers, greeting us with their hands clasped as in prayer, bowing graciously. I felt as though this role should be reversed! We are blessed to have everything—electricity, running water, comfortable toilets, excellent cooking facilities etc but in this village they have none of these; children don't even have a ball to play with yet they are such happy people.

During the wet season the temperature is 30 degrees + with 95% humidity. My job was to rehydrate the team every 30 minutes as hammering down floors and cladding is very sweaty work and I also prepared lunch. When our work is finished, the 'handing over' ceremony takes place. Each family receives a handmade quilt with 'THE KEYS OF THE HOUSE'. A moment of unexplainable emotions. Everyone is overjoyed, is quite an understatement. Volunteers from all over the world have built 769 house so far this year impacting the lives of 6,200 people.



Cambodian families move out of buildings as depicted far left and move into their new house as depicted on the right.

*"I am so grateful to my God for the honor of serving these people— I thank my God for each of you who help make this happen—I thank my God for all our staff, men and women who are faithful in their work—always encouraging others to live their dreams. How very good that is!"*

*Janne Ritskes (Founder of Tabitha Foundation Cambodia)*

**REFLECTION:**

***Spend some time in thanksgiving.***

***Spend some time in prayer for the Cambodian people especially for those who work for peace and may be in danger.***

***How can I this Christmas live simply as if I also lived in this environment?***

***With whom could I share some of what I have?***



## REGIONAL DAYS 2018

## LEADERS' DAY 2018

**TIME:** 9.30 arrive for 10 am start  
Finish approx. 3 p.m.

17th March **MURCHISON CHURCH**  
North Central: Rushworth, Euroa  
Nagambie, Numurkah, Shepparton

21st April **LEONGATHA**  
South/West Gippsland: Leongatha,  
Morwell, Wonthaggi, Fish Creek, Mirboo

26th May **PAKENHAM** St Patrick's Parish Hall,  
142 Princes Highway, Pakenham  
Koo Wee Rup, Pakenham, Iona  
( Associates elsewhere who wish to come can  
be met at the station. 30 min drive from the city)

18th August **SUNBURY** Western Group:  
Bacchus Marsh, Sunbury,  
Sebastopol, Woodend, Hamilton

6th October **ORBOST**  
East Gippsland: Bairnsdale, Sale,  
Orbost, Lakes Entrance, Maffra, Stratford

**BYO LUNCH Donation \$5**

**SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2018**  
**Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre**  
**362 Albert St, East Melbourne.**  
**Arrival 9.30 am for 10 am start.—3 p.m.**

Donation \$20  
Morning Tea and Lunch provided.



**THEME OF THE DAY:**  
***Missionary Discipleship***

SESSION 1: Reflection on Mary Magdalen  
Sr Therese Quinn rsj

SESSION 2: Reflection on words of Pope Francis  
Noreen Mc Leish

SESSION 3: MacKillop Family Services,  
Jenny Glare

SESSION 4: 2020 Vision for Josephite Associates  
Anne-Marie Wilkinson

FINAL RITUAL: Commissioning of Associates  
Core-Team Members

**To use car park please ring 9926 9300**

## OVERVIEW OF FINANCE

To give you some idea of the finances involved with the Josephite Associates in Victoria, we present to you the following information. As you will see we are very dependent on donations. The costs for the Leaders' Day and Regional Days outweigh the contribution we ask you to make. We are very grateful for the 50% who financially support the operating costs of keeping Associates connected, informed and enabling us to provide formation through Leaders and Regional Days.

These figures are to November 2017

### **INCOME:**

**Subscriptions: \$3045: (152 paid) Donations \$2,725** which includes Regional Day donations some of which are passed on to Core-team members towards their petrol costs. Leaders Day: \$420

### **EXPENSES:**

Newsletters plus postage and stationery \$37—\$2,773 (Av of \$900 inc postage per issue)

We **Post over 350, email approx. 100**

Leaders' Day Expenses— Lunch \$500: Donation/gifts for presenters: approx. \$300:

Candles for Regional Days: \$160

Core-Team Lunch and accommodation for 2 day Sydney Conference: \$930 (members paid own air-fare)

Toner for printing materials for Introductory Program, Application Form Brochures, Correspondence,

Materials for Regional Days, etc \$350.00

Badges (First is a gift, any others cost \$4) \$80

Debit Card Fee for year: \$24.

Expenses to come: Newsletter approx.\$900;

Weekend of planning at Williamstown for Core-Team:

accommodation/facilitator for personal formation session. \$465

Core-team members cover cost of travel and evening meal. Sunday lunch for 4 \$62.00

Most of Petrol for travel and phone calls of Co-ordinator paid by Sisters of St Joseph. This would amount to several hundred dollars per year. May we urge all who receive the newsletter to contribute if they can.

Anyone suffering real hardship is not required to do so.

From 2020 the Associates will be responsible for all expenses. Thus the need to inform you of the situation is important.  
Core-Team Members

# MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

## 2018 CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY THE DEVOTIONS AND SPIRITUALITY OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS

“God will take care of us all”

11 am—12 noon followed by light lunch

FEBRUARY	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>
MARCH	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>
APRIL	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>
MAY	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>
JUNE	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>
JULY	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>
AUGUST	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>
SEPTEMBER	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>
OCTOBER	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>
NOVEMBER	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>



St Francis Church  
Melbourne

Facilitator: Sr Mary Fermio rsj

VENUE: Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre  
362 Albert St EAST MELBOURNE

Please contact us for acceptances

P. 03 9926 9300 or just turn up!

admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au

## CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS

15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018

All Saints Church

King William St , FITZROY

11 a.m.

Tram 11 or 96 Collins St

Stop 13 Brunswick St (Hanover St)

Feel free to take something to share for a  
cuppa and cutting of birthday cake.



## HAPPY CHRISTMAS

*From the Josephite Associates Core-team in Victoria and Tasmania.*

*We wish you every joy and blessing  
and may the peace of Christ fill  
your hearts and homes.*

*Sr Mary Fermio*

*Christine Nicholls-van Order*

*Anne-Marie Wilkinson*

*Noreen McLeish*

*Kathy Cuthbertson -Tasmania*

*(Circle)*



# ANNUAL MASS -JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

Fifty Sisters of St Joseph and Associates gathered in the chapel at Hawthorn East for our Annual Mass. They travelled from Pakenham, Iona, Sunbury, Woodend, Hamilton, Bittern, Broadmeadows, Deer Park, Carlton, Brighton, Richmond, Taylors Lakes, Sydenham, Koo-Wee-Rup Sydenham and Mornington.

Fr Michael Kalka, our Associate Celebrant, spoke so enthusiastically about our Mission as Josephites using the words of St Paul from the first reading: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience." The living out of these words is all we need in life.

After his homily all Associates renewed their commitment and Maureen Ellis from Mornington was welcomed as a new Associate, who had done the Introductory Program at Hamilton. During the prayers of Intercession items representing the Josephite commitment of Associates were carried up. As it was Remembrance Day a prayer for those who had died in wars and those still serving our country, was included.



Anne-Marie Wilkinson, who had prepared the Mass booklet accompanied the singing on her guitar. We are always grateful for the generous way in which Anne-Marie uses her gifts at our liturgy celebrations and regional days.

After Mass all moved to the Conference Room for afternoon tea and plenty of communication! During this time Sr Kerrie Cusack, Regional leader of the Sisters, joined us. Anne-Marie, who is the Vic-Tas representative on the IJALT team, gave an update on the work of the team towards the 2020 vision for the Associates which includes full leadership of the Associates and looking at unifying areas such as governance, formation programs, enrolment rituals, and finance. Sr Mary Fermio spoke of the generosity of Associates in providing assistance in money and in kind for two projects they have been involved in: Days for Girls and Sharing the Dignity. The Co-ordinator of the Days for Girls in Ballarat feels she has been blessed with the wonderful support she has received, which means she does not have to do fundraising herself as many working with the program need to do.

Thank you to the Associates who provided such a lovely afternoon tea, and a special thanks to Aarti who helped set up, poured tea and did the washing up.



Maureen Ellis signing the Associates Register



# REGIONAL DAY

## LAKES ENTRANCE

On Saturday 23rd September, when a gale blew all day and the temperature reached 36 degrees, we reached the magical number of sixteen Associates (inc Sr Mary and Sr Lyn) who came from Maffra, Heyfield, Stratford, Sale, Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance. Comments at the end were: this was a marvellous day, the best ever. Good for my soul. During the morning we enrolled and warmly welcomed Rev Canon Barbara Logan from Lakes Entrance, as a Josephite Associate.

The theme of stories developed this year, has been most enjoyable for all and encouraging for Associates to be like Mary and let their light shine. Having an opportunity to view art work of Mary, which most would never get to see in situ, has been enlightening, as we considered what the artist was saying.

Louise and Margaret made pots of soup which we tucked into at lunch time. Anne-Marie made a stupendous effort getting up at 4 am to be there on time. All were most appreciative of the effort to get there by members of the Core-team. For us it is always uplifting and life-giving as we experience the friendship, prayer and service of other Associates. During the next week, a member of the Lakes group, Jess Harbeck and her husband David, died. May they rest in peace.

Photo: Barbara signing the Associates Register.



**BACCHUS MARSH** On a beautiful Spring day Associates and those interested, arrived at Bacchus Marsh from Hamilton, Sebastopol, Sunbury, Woodend, Bacchus Marsh, Bittern and Melton, so we passed the magical number of 16 totalling 24 all together. All shared their thoughts on the various art works of Mary MacKillop assisted with the aid of the large screen. Different insights are gathered at each day as Associates see different aspects of Mary's life in the sculpture or painting. All enjoyed the day and those from Melton, who are considering becoming Associates, felt the day was well worthwhile. A total of seventy-eight have attended the five regional days across Victoria, a small number when you consider we post and email over four hundred newsletters. But we know those who attend appreciate the preparation and effort make by the Core-team to give them a day to remember.



# AROUND THE TRAPS

## HAWTHORN EAST

Some of the group gathered at their meeting in the Hotel where they prayed together. Mary Graffeo (East Brighton) Mim Caruso (Keilor Downs), Mary Calea (East Brighton) Catherine Zuccala (Ashwood) with their prayer sheets after a meal together. A few apologies that night!!



**BROADMEADOWS** Five of the group met with Sr Mary for prayer at their meeting and enjoyed a light lunch together after. They are all involved in the parish and in doing bags for Days for Girls.

**YARRAVILLE** The group met as usual at the Convent at Yarraville and enjoyed reflecting on the art work of St Mary MacKillop and sharing their thoughts and insights. This group are a very strong praying group and reports of Novenas they had made for the sick of the parish were given. Some move with difficulty but bring a cheerful presence to the group.

**LEONGATHA** Thirteen Associates and potential Associates gathered at Leongatha on a sunny September morning travelling from Leongatha, Wonthaggi, Mirboo North, Fish Creek and Korumburra. We reflected on the art work of Mary MacKillop, sharing stories of her life and work, and joining in prayer and song. Some of us shared lunch before Sr Mary travelled home.

Many thanks to Maureen Casey who has lead the group for many years. The new leader is Colleen Maher who lives in Korumburra and was a member of the Core-team earlier. Colleen is in the yellow top in the centre of the photo.



**HAMILTON** On a sunny Sunday at Hamilton we welcomed three Associates into the Josephite family—Marie Cook, Maree Bell and Trish Irving. Associates, Leo and Mary Dalton from Koroit joined us with Ted Oliver, resident of Hamilton. After Mass we processed to the church Foyer (the original Church) where Fr Peter Wood msc blessed the new chapel of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. A first class relic of St Mary (a strand of her hair) in a silver reliquary will be embedded in the large crucifix on the wall. Also displayed is a framed picture of The Vision and a large piece of toile hanging on the wall. With the blessed Sacrament present, this will be a quiet prayer spot and a special place for pilgrims to visit. We then adjointed to Henriz's for lunch. *Noreen McLeish*



Back Row: Leo and Mary Dalton, Ted Oliver, Marie Cook and Trish Irving  
Front: Noreen McLeish, Maree Bell, Sr Mary Fermio



Crucifix with Relic attached



Marie, Trish, Maree and Sr Mary



## IN THE MIDST OF LIFE

**Jennifer Worth** author of *Call the Midwife*  
 In this book, Jennifer reflects on her nursing career and her experiences of sharing a time of death with her friends and patients. They are stories of warmth, humour and humanity as she shared the joy, fear, anxiety and peace of people as they approached death. It is also a record of how approaches to the treatment of the dying has changed over the last sixty years. Well worth reading. Try your Library Other books *Call the Midwife*; *Shadows of the Workhouse*; *Farewell to East End*.

## IN ORDER TO LIVE **Yeonmi Park**

A heart-wrenching story of a family living in North Korea and their struggle to survive starvation. Yeonmi and her mother fled to China, suffered through being sold to traffickers and finally got to Mongolia and from there to South Korea. Here they were reunited with the second daughter who had fled two days before them. Changing her way of thinking was one of the hardest tasks for Yeonmi, as she found her feet in her new land. Your library should be able to obtain a copy.

## NO PLACE TO LAY ONE'S HEAD

The story of Françoise Frenkel, translated by Stephanie Smees. As a Polish Jew, Françoise had to leave her bookshop in Berlin and escape to France. As Germany invaded France and controlled the lives of everyone, finding a safe spot became more and more difficult, as she tried to find a way to friends in Switzerland. The loyalty and strength of many, who put their own lives at risk, is exhibited in her story. Try the library also.

### FROM THE OFFICE:

*All Associates are now receiving their Newsletter in colour thanks to donations and subscriptions received. Check out the [sosj.org.au](http://sosj.org.au) website for interesting articles*

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 For all enquiries related to Associates

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord  
 And let perpetual light shine upon them



Let us pray for the following deceased and their families who grieve their loss  
 Mary Farrell, Leongatha  
 Joseph Dick, father of Sr Sharon Teresa  
 Jack Nunn, husband of Pat, Koo Wee Rup,  
 father of Anne, brother of Sr Agnes rsj  
 Jess and David Harbeck, Lakes Entrance  
 Judith Bourke, Koo Wee Rup  
 Matilda Andeuza, Warburton  
 Samantha, daughter of Evelyn Stephens,  
 Leongatha

## DAYS FOR GIRLS

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU

I just want to say thank you to all the Josephite Associates and friends, who have so generously contributed to the Days for Girls Kits by their much appreciated donations of face washers and knickers in particular, along with other items and cash donations.

I was at the Days for Girls Annual General Meeting in Brisbane recently and was part of a Fund Raising discussion. They wondered why I was so quiet. In the end I had to admit I have no need to fundraise because of your generous donations. They were a little envious I think !!!

Thank you.  
 Robyn Suttie on behalf of  
 Days for Girls Ballarat.

