



# Josephite Associates, Victoria~Tasmania SUMMER 2016



## SUMMER—mercy warms hearts around us

Dear Associates,

Once again we have come to the end of a year, each of which seems to gallop faster than the previous one.

This year has been a special year for all Josephites celebrating 150 years of Josephite life and remembering the past and those who worked with us.

During this month our Sisters have had thanksgiving rituals at various cemeteries for the Sisters who have shared this 150 years. The ritual will be at Stawell during November where two Irish sisters are buried, so I will be travelling there as my community has been asked to organise this one.

As well we have been encouraged by Pope Francis to look at Mercy in our lives, to become more aware of Jesus and how we follow him in his living out of mercy to all.

We are now in the time of Advent when we wait to celebrate the coming of a child who will change the world. A sense of longing for the presence of God in our lives

can enable us to find a space now and again to reflect on what this coming means for me. We hope the prayer sheet and the reflection will give you some food for thought. Thank you to Christine van Order for the Summer prayer.

During November we have welcomed Associates and Sisters to our Annual Mass, where much remembering and conversation was carried on over cups of tea. The books donated by the Congregation were gladly taken to be shared with other Associates.

Since then I have been to Eaglehawk for Advent prayer and Lunch and then travelled to Swan Hill to meet up with the Associates to share some of the Regional Day sessions many of us have shared during the year. We would love to see more of you at these, but know that age and distance can be a limiting factor. My annual visits in December to Wonthaggi and Broadmeadows are booked.

We have decided to go to Pakenham again next year as we have about 8 times the number we had at the Heritage Centre Day. Two, who travelled from Broadmeadows, found it easy and were picked up and taken to the Pakenham station. So think about it for next year. It is very important that some formation is part of your life as a Josephite, to keep you up-to-date and to encourage you in your living out of your commitment.

In this newsletter you will see the dates and venues for the Regional Days in 2017. Please make them a priority in your diary. We have planned a program which I am sure you will enjoy and benefit from.

The day for Leaders is also there and we hope as many as possible will be able to attend so that their groups will be enriched.

The Heritage Centre has begun High Teas. This could be a good way to celebrate birthdays, reunions, family celebrations. The food is always first-class and as the venue is close to trams and with parking available, it is convenient. BUT you **MUST** book in!!!

Enclosed is a request from MacKillop Family Services for help this Christmas. A service that harks back in various ways to Mary MacKillop setting up three homes in Adelaide within 12 months of arriving there. Working with the Mercy Sisters and Christian Brothers, MFS care for families across Victoria, an integral part of Josephite ministry.

Your support during the year has been much appreciated and allows us to print the newsletter in colour, which is far more interesting.

We hope you have a Christmas filled with the joy and peace of sharing with friends and family. We look forward to seeing many of you next year.

*Mary Fermio rsj*



### Inside this issue:

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1. Prayer Sheet: Advent /summer prayer
  2. Mary MacKillop Family Services Xmas or Christmas?

# Friendship Prayer Service

# SUMMER/ADVENT REFLECTION



Spend a few minutes reflecting on this painting.

Sit with Mary and Elizabeth and share the joy they are experiencing

Reflect on your own experience of motherhood, either your own or sharing the motherhood of someone else.

Let the words, thoughts arise in your heart.

Make them a prayer.

In the Spring copy of THE SWAG, the magazine of the National Council of Priests, Fr Ronald Rolheiser OMI, has an excellent article on *Carrying a Scandal Biblically*. He broadens out many ways in which we can do this. One is "We need to 'ponder' as Mary did."

He goes on to explain that to 'ponder' in the biblical sense, as Mary did, doesn't mean that she thought deep thoughts about them. To ponder in the biblical sense means to hold, carry and transform tension, so as to give it back in kind.

*An image he uses is a water purifier which takes in all kinds of impurities with the water, but it holds the impurities inside itself and gives back only the pure water. Jesus models this for us in his life. He took in hatred, held it, transformed it and gave back love; he took in betrayal and gave back forgiveness; he took in curses and gave back blessing. Or like Mary, standing at the foot of the Cross, who could do nothing, but hold the tension and to stand in silent strength, waiting until it could be transformed. There would have been other times when Mary had to 'ponder': the birth of her child; the prophecy of Simeon of a sword of sorrow; the words of the young Jesus; at the Cross; at the tomb.*

During this time of Advent let us do our own pondering

- As Church—can I transform pain and scandal to forgiveness and healing?
- As a member of a family—can I transform bitterness into reconciliation; haste into peace
- As a member of a parish and local community—can I transform loss and hardship into mercy

It is my responsibility, as much as others, to bring mercy, peace and harmony into our world.

We can only do this with Jesus and Mary as our models and with the grace given to us. Advent can be a great time of grace as we prepare for Christmas.

Our Mantra for the weeks of Advent could be:

*Come Lord Jesus,  
Come and be born in our hearts.*

*Mary Fermio rsj*





## REGIONAL DAYS 2017

## CONGRATULATIONS

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

**25th MARCH—** MacKillop Hall, NAGAMBIE

**20th MAY -** Sacred Heart School, MORWELL

**26th AUGUST -** Parish Centre, St Patricks,  
PAKENHAM

**23rd SEPTEMBER—**Parish Centre,  
LAKES ENTRANCE

**14th OCTOBER -** Parish Centre, Lerderberg St  
BACCHUS MARSH

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH** Donation \$5

**Morning Tea provided by Host Group.**  
**Travelling Shop will be available.**

**BRING A FRIEND OR SOMEONE INTERESTED**

**PLEASE MAKE THIS DAY  
A PRIORITY IN YOUR DIARY**

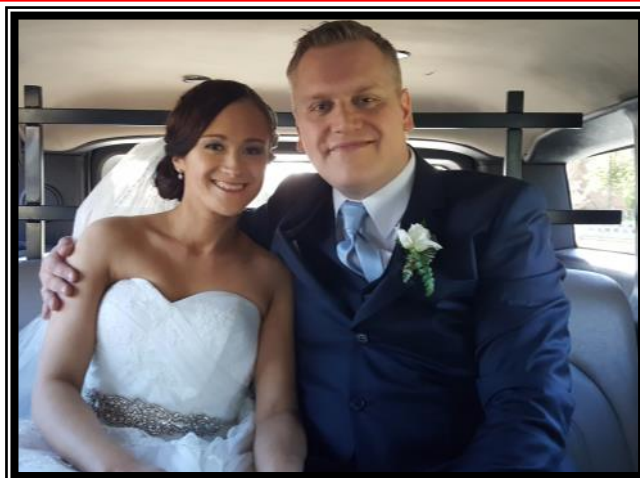
**PROGRAM:**

**SHARING STORIES :**

The Stories Jesus told.

Stories of Mary MacKillop in Art

Stories about Mary MacKillop



To Nadia Borghetti, now Bogusz, (photo of her enrolment in the Spring Newsletter) and who has since been married. We wish you every happiness in your new life as you continue to promote the charism of Mary MacKillop in your classroom at Mary MacKillop School Keilor Downs.



To Muriel and Ken Maas of Eaglehawk - Muriel her 90th birthday and also their 60th Wedding Anniversary. Ken is a keen gardener and has a lovely garden. Muriel and Ken were penfriends and when Ken went to England to meet her, that was it!



**SHARING THE DIGNITY—**This happy group at Helen Crowe's, Bacchus Marsh, spent a day filling 100 bags for women in need. All are volunteers at Soul Food, from different faiths. Helen has another 100 bags to fill!!! Associates and their friends have been very generous.

If you put **SHARING THE DIGNITY** into your search machine eg Google you will find a you tube presentation on how this developed and what happens to the bags.



# AROUND THE TRAPS

## BACCHUS MARSH

After a cancellation last year because of wet weather, the Bacchus Marsh Associates decided to travel to Bendigo this year despite the windy, wet weather forecast. After a couple of last minute changes, five of us travelled through pouring rain to Bendigo with many prayers to Joseph and St Mary MacKillop. The rain did stop long enough for us to view Jenny Steiner's sculpture of Mary MacKillop and hear the interpretation. We enjoyed a tour of the Cathedral and its history, admiring its magnificent sandstone pillars, the icon of Mary MacKillop and her relic. Hearing the story of the first priest and the Bishops who resided in Bendigo, gave us a wonderful picture of the history of Sandhurst Diocese.

We very much enjoyed lunch at the Foundry Hotel after queuing for 20 minutes to place our order. The sun came out and enabled us to enjoy a walk in the garden of a friend of Lucille and to admire the layout and blooms. We refreshed ourselves at Maccas during the day and arrived home after a very enjoyable day.



## WORKING AT MANINGRIDA Julie Price, Associate from Nagambie

In March this year, I began working for Catholic Care NT as a Family Educator.

The family room is a lovely big and newish space at the school (babies to year 12) so this is where most of my day is spent. The parents and carers of children at the school come into the room to either participate in programs or just do simple activities such as sewing, craft, art. They stay at school for two main reasons: they are worried about leaving their children because of teasing etc and also they find it very boring at home. One of the programs we have run this year is the **FAST** program (Families and School Together) where a team is put together of school staff, parents and other agencies and we meet once a week in the evening for 8 weeks. It's a great program for strengthening family relationships with each other and also with the school. The picture is of the **FAST** team with baby Amessiah!

(Julie is on the left of the mother holding the baby)



From Ashleigh Baldwin, granddaughter of Julie Baldwin, Associate Nagambie

I work as a Transition (Prep/Year 1/Year 2) teacher at Maningrida College in Arnhem Land. I am finishing my third year teaching here and have taught most of the kids in my class for the past two years. The students in my class like playing football and basketball, singing songs, taking photos, reading books and counting. My students are a happy bunch and come into school each day with big smiles and awesome attitudes. We have lots of fun and right now are doing lots of rehearsing for our big performance at the school Christmas Concert. Teaching in Maningrida is amazing fun and I love the special relationships I



am building with my students.

Watching football. Maningrida outlined by square





# MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

## Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre

362 Albert St, EAST MELBOURNE  
P: (03) 9926 9300



Mary MacKillop  
HERITAGE CENTRE  
2007 - 2017

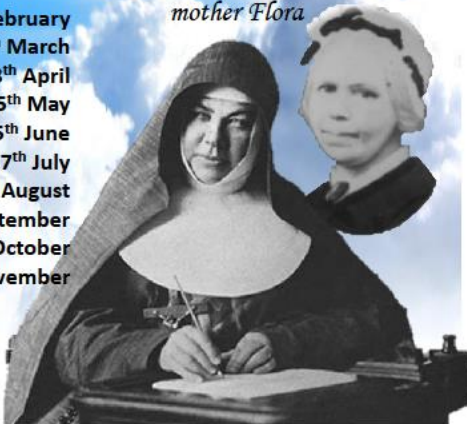
A monthly gathering for prayer and  
reflection with Mary MacKillop,  
facilitated by a Sister of St Joseph.

## 2017 Conversations With Mary

11.00am-12.00pm

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November

During 2017 we will reflect  
on Mary's letters to her  
mother Flora



For further information and  
acceptances please contact  
MMHC on (03) 9926 9300  
or admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au

## LEADERS' DAY

**VENUE:** Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre  
364 Albert St, East Melbourne.

**DATE:** Saturday 18th February 2017

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

**DONATION:** \$20.00

Lunch and morning tea provided.

**Program:** Reflection on Woman at the Well  
Sr Therese Quinn  
A Message for all in poetry/song  
Fr Andrew Hayes PP Ararat  
St Joseph's by the Sea  
Sr Therese Quinn  
Good Grief Program  
Sr Patricia Williams rsj  
Missioning Ritual

Anyone not connected to a group is  
welcome. Just let me know for numbers and  
catering.

## OPEN DAYS 2017

Mary MacKillop  
HERITAGE CENTRE  
2007 - 2017



10am - 4pm  
on the following  
Saturdays:

11 February  
6 May  
5 August  
18 November



- Take a tour of the Museum
- Visit the Gift Shop
- Enjoy light refreshment
- Pray in the Chapel where Mary prayed
- Mary MacKillop Walking Tour available @ 11am

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre

362 Albert St, EAST MELBOURNE P: (03) 9926 9300

## Celebrate the Birthday of St Mary MacKillop

All Saints Church  
King William Street, FITZROY

❖ 10.00am Sunday 15th JANUARY 2017

Mass, followed by light refreshments  
and cutting of the birthday cake.



For further information and acceptances please contact  
MMHC on 9030 9926 9300 or admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au



## High Tea @ MMHC



Percolated coffee  
Twinning's tea  
Earl Grey, English Breakfast, Green, Chamomile,  
Lemon & Ginger, Peppermint  
Chilled juice  
Apple, Orange, Cranberry  
Date and plain scones  
Served with jam & cream  
Ribbon sandwiches  
Petit fours and pastries

\$50.00 FOR TWO PEOPLE

SEATING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM - 12NOON & 1PM - 3PM

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre  
362 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002

P: +61 3 9926 9300  
E: admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au

IF AN ASSOCIATE IS CELEBRATING A MAJOR EVENT IN LIFE eg big O birthday, anniversary, an award, I would love to acknowledge it in the newsletter. Please let me know



# REGIONAL DAYS

## MAFFRA

Josephite Associates from Heyfield, Maffra and Lakes Entrance gathered at Maffra on a lovely Spring Day to share Prayer, Friendship and Cuppas with each other. Noreen McLeish travelled from Hamilton to help lead the day during which Rose Woodhouse was enrolled as an Associate. Rose has lived in Maffra for many years bringing up her family here and contributing to Parish activities especially as a member of Vinnies. Sylvia brought her from the Hospital where she is recovering from surgery to her feet and her bright personality lightened the day for all. Thank you to those who provided lovely morning tea, saw to gates being opened and other facilities available. Thanks also to Vern and Shirley Hamilton, Associates who now live in Sale, who always offer a welcoming hospitality to me when I am in the area. All were delighted with the scarves, gift from the Congregational Leadership Team to Associates during this sesquicentenary year.



## SEBASTOPOL

Thirteen brave Associates and myself gathered in the warm foyer of St James Church at Sebastopol, Ballarat, glad to get out of the 9 degree temperature outside. Four had travelled from Sunbury, one from Woodend and Hamilton and Bittern and the others were locals, including two Sisters of Mercy.

At the end of the day they were very glad to have come as they found the day inspiring and informative. By the conversations that were engaged in it seemed all had really enjoyed the day and the time together. Thank you to the locals for a lovely morning tea which also provided us with lunch. A typical Spring day of sun, wind and rain!



Anne receiving her book mark

## HAPPY CHRISTMAS



On the first weekend of November, the Core-Team spent two days at St Joseph's by the Sea, Williamstown, sharing some time of reflection and preparing the Leaders and Regional Days for 2017. As you can see by the photo we had the opportunity to look at water.

The days planned for next year should be most enjoyable for Associates and give the Leaders' further formation and ideas to use with their groups.

***Sr Mary Fermio, Anne-Marie Wilkinson, Noreen McLeish and Christine Nicholls-van Order wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year of many blessings.***

***We look forward to working with you next year.***

## ANNUAL MASS FOR JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

Over sixty Associates and Sisters gathered in the Chapel at Hawthorn East to thank God for 150 years of Josephite life. Fr Martin Fleming, our celebrant, spoke warmly of the Josephite charism that has been in Australia all these years.

The Prayers of the Faithful and the Procession of gifts were combined with Sisters and Associates, either singly or together bringing up symbols of our life. Water, Candle, a Cross, a basket of food, recalling how the Sisters have been supported with practical gifts during these years; a copy of the Constitutions of the Sisters and the Manual of the Associates; a copy of the Logo for this year; and the emblems worn by Sisters and Associates as a witness to their commitment to Josephite life.

The Josephite Associates present renewed their commitment to continue living as Josephites. They had come from Sunbury, Dallas, Broadmeadows, Rushworth, Euroa, Hamilton, Woodend, Wonthaggi, Leongatha, Warburton, Belgrave, West Brunswick, Knoxfield, Bittern, Bunyip, Koo Wee Rup, Pakenham.

During afternoon tea, generously provided by Associates, Sisters and Associates caught up with each other, sharing memories of times spent together. Sr Barbara Connolly, now 97 years came and shared time with the Associates from Leongatha where she had spent many years ministering to the people.

Many took the opportunity to buy calendars etc from the Travelling Shop.

This has become an annual event thoroughly enjoyed by all those who make the effort to come. The Mass is held on the **second Saturday of November each year.**



## RALLY FOR REFUGEES

from Margaret Sinclair, Associate who attended

It was a great day on Saturday, organised by the Refugee Action Collective. There were approximately 2000 to 3000 people there from many different groups. The Grandmas were there in their purple, Rural Australians for Refugees, Teachers for Refugees, Doctors for Refugees and many, many more. It was lovely to meet Sr Maria rsj with her banner, the first one raised at the State Library in Melbourne.

I speak to a lot of people in detention or who have been through Australia's detention system. It is not necessary to treat people in this way. I can see how harsh and harmful it is. I really worry about the long term effects both on the refugees and on our national psyche.

I hope we find our heart again.

**Please pray for the people held on Manus and Nauru,  
they are no different to you or I.**



# "What if that were me!"





## BOOK REVIEWS

## BULLETIN BOARD

### KEEPING HOPE ALIVE

**Dr Hawa Abdi with Sarah J. Robbins**

The amazing story of a Somali Doctor who defied those who wanted to dominate her as a woman. Called the 'Mother Teresa of Somalia' at one time she was feeding 90,000 people camped around her hospital. During the 2000's when Somalia was war-torn, she worked to help her people, with her daughters standing beside her.

### THE LETTER UNDER THE PILLOW

**Clare Aherne rsj**

The history of the Sisters of St Joseph told through the eyes of some of the over 800 young Irish women who travelled as missionaries to Australia and gave each Congregation the benefits of their gifts. They arrived in Australia believing they would never see Ireland or their families again. Many did not, but over the last 50 years Sisters have returned for holidays or to live permanently in Ireland.

Available at the Heritage Centre \$30

### BOOK OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER

#### THE SPIRIT OF JOSEPH Mary Cresp rsj

A wonderful book for reflection on the life of St Joseph and one which looks at the spirit of the Sisters of St Joseph throughout the world, a spirit seen by Fr Woods at Le Puy in France.

Heritage Centre \$10



*We are but  
Travellers here.*

Let us pray for the following deceased and their families who grieve their loss

**Gerald Fitzpatrick, brother of**

**Win Daniels, Eaglehawk**

**June Reiner, Warburton**

**Sr Bernadette Malone rsj**

**Sr Genevieve Robinson pbvm twin sister of**

**Patricia Robinson rsj**

**Helen, sister of Margaret Brown rsj**

### DAYS FOR GIRLS - AUSTRALIA

Broadmeadows and Maffra groups have continued to provide completed bags and other items to go to various parts of the world. The Sunbury group, has donated many items and the Eaglehawk group have also contributed bags, materials and other items.

Robyn is most appreciative of the assistance given by the Josephite Associates, as she told the group at Hamilton to whom she talked about the program.

Gift Cards/Cheques/Cash can be sent to Robyn or me if that is easier for you than posting goods.

Or contact: Robyn Suttie (Victoria) 03 5335 6761

Email: [robynsuttie@gmail.com](mailto:robynsuttie@gmail.com)

Items needed are:

Knickers sizes 10-12; 12-14; Face washers

Zip lock Bags—Large 27cmx32cm about

Flannelette and cotton material in floral or stripes

If you collect items, I could collect them and

deliver them to Robyn to save postage.

These and donations could be sent to

Robyn Suttie, 7 Banyule Drive

Delacombe Vic 3356

*"whatever you do to one of these, you do to me"*  
Words of Jesus

### 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 during this sesquicentenary year.**

### Office Address

Mary Fermio RSJ,

Editor—Associates' Newsletter,

Josephite Associates' Office,

PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh, 3340.

**OR** Email: [mary.fermio@sosj.org.au](mailto:mary.fermio@sosj.org.au).

**OR** vic.associates@sosj.org.au

**OR** Phone/Fax: 03 5367 2078

### USED STAMPS

Used stamps have raised over \$100,000 for the Mary MacKillop International Mission for Peru and East Timor. These are prepared for the Sydney Stamp Auctions by Josephite Associates in Sydney. Leaving a border of about 1 cm around the stamp assists them.

Please forward to **STAMPS**

Locked Bag 3031

BURWOOD NSW 1805

**BOXES OF STAMPS NEED TO BE DELIVERED TO:**

**5 Alexander Avenue**

**CROYDON NSW 2123**

Collecting stamps could be a group activity in your parish and schools.



**True happiness depends....  
on ourselves not on those  
around us**

**Mary MacKillop 1907**