



Josephite Associates, Victoria-Tasmania SPRING 2017



SPRING—new life emerges

Dear Associates,

What a wonderful season Spring is! The days get longer, the whole of creation is rejoicing by giving us bright flowers, green leaves, warmer days. We too need to rejoice by finding new life in our own days—trying out something new, learning something different, meeting new friends, trying a new form of prayer... My garden, like many others, was hit by the severe frost, so I am hoping Spring will also bring a rejuvenation.

An enclosure on forgiveness was given to me and I thought they were two valuable articles for all of us, as forgiveness can be a very difficult thing to deal with. Enjoy!

Frosty mornings have been frequent this year and one Sunday morning I was left with little water for my cuppa or to even wash my face when my pipes were frozen. I was told it was -4 that morning. So the water soaking my soup bowl from the previous night was used to enhance my facial complexion!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A warm thank you to those who

forwarded their subscription and especially those who sent in donations without which we would not be financially viable. I encourage all those who have not yet contributed for what they receive, to think about sending us something, no matter how small. As my mother used to say "Every mickle makes a muckle!" If you are unable to send anything you are welcome to continue to receive our newsletter.

An Urgent Request was sent to most Associates asking for help to get knickers for the **DAYS FOR GIRLS BAGS**. What a wonderful response I received! THANK YOU. We now have more than enough for over 100 bags.

Thank you for the **feast day** greetings many sent in reply to my email. Many of you got together for lunch or a cuppa. Lakes Entrance Associates travelled to Orbest for Mass and lunch. Morwell group also went out for lunch. We had a great lunch here with some friends joining us. My, how Associates can talk!!!

We have two **new Associates** being enrolled at Lakes Entrance on the Regional Day and some others in the middle of the program.

A reminder of the **ANNUAL MASS** when Associates renew their commitment. (see notice page 3)

The Heritage Centre was very busy on 8th August with a bus load, from a Melbourne parish, children from Toowoomba, and a large crowd for the Mass. Have you considered getting your parish to organise a bus to come to the

Heritage Centre. Morning or afternoon tea, or a light lunch can be provided and a talk by one of the staff if requested. Maybe your Probus group would be interested. Mary Mackillop is honoured by all faiths as a great Australian.

CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY

Those who have been coming have found these times very rewarding. Some quotes:

"The investment of time and travel for the outcome is worth every effort and minute. The opportunity to come has been a great blessing in my life."

"I enjoy coming along every month to CWM for prayerful reflection on the inspirational life of St Mary MacKillop. I also enjoy the friendships I have made in the group".

"What a joy these days have been...the rediscovery and building up of my Josephite roots"

None of these comments were from Associates!

Why not come along!

Fr Wood's Anniversary is in October (see item Page 4) On that day we thank God for him and all that has resulted from his enthusiasm.

Enjoy the coming of Spring and I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Mass. God bless each of you.

Mary Fermio rsj



Inside this issue:

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Friendship Prayer Service

SPRING REFLECTION

WHAT DO WE SEE?



Spend a few moments reflecting on this wonderful photo of lavender fields at sunrise.

What do you see?

What enables you to see?

How would you describe this field to a blind person?

What other sense is involved with lavender?

How many of us use lavender cream, soap each day?

We all know of Fred Hollows, an ophthalmologist, who became famous for his work among our First Peoples and overseas in restoring sight for countless hundreds of people and who trained many others in his methods. A well-known film clip shows Fred removing the bandages from an elderly man and Fred says: "What did he say?" "I can see again! I can see!" it is a moment of extraordinary joy for all concerned and an act of great trust. This man would only have heard about Fred and he undergoes a procedure completely unknown to him and yet he trusts.

Sometimes like an infant we simply have to trust.

Fear stops us, the fear of rejection fear of getting it wrong,
fear of being laughed at, fear of the unknown, fear of being taken advantage of,
fear of losing something, fear of losing our independence, our sight, our hearing...

At other times we can become discouraged, that nothing is working and that it all depends on us...it doesn't. We cannot always 'go it alone'. Somehow if we just don't let others help, we can become overly independent, or we think no one can do it as well as we can and they won't want to help anyway! Did we ask them?

In the words of Fr Ron Rolheiser:

Perhaps if we had all been loved perfectly, had perfect confidence, and had never been wounded, disappointed, betrayed or made to cry tears of regret, we would find it easier to believe that it is safe, that we can trust, that we have no need to protect ourselves and that we do not need to be forever anxious about how we are measuring up, how we are being perceived, how we are being understood, and whether we are worthy of love,



Take some time to look at your own life.

What do I see in myself, in others?

Can I trust others, myself, God?

Spend some time in prayer asking God to show you where you fail to trust and to help you to learn to trust.

Gaze at the eyes of the child and ask for that same trust.

*Take a walk in your garden, or along the street and **SEE** all that is new in Spring growth.*

Thank God for the eyes to see the glory and beauty of God's creation.

REGIONAL DAYS

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

23rd SEPTEMBER—Parish Centre,
LAKES ENTRANCE

**7th OCTOBER - Parish Centre, Lerderberg St
BACCHUS MARSH**

(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)
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

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

ST JOSEPH'S BY THE SEA

16 ESPLANADE WILLIAMSTOWN

Each Session 1.30-3p.m. and 7.30-9p.m.

Donation: Subsidised \$10-\$15

Cost: \$20-\$25

Gift: \$30 -\$35

21st Sept: Know your Place, Know your story, Story connects us to family and community

26th October: Earth Centre Stage Marge Abbott

23rd November Expressions of spirituality through the performing arts
Jacinta Chute

To book ring: 9397 6012

Other programs available on Brochure from above address or admin.sjbtsw@sosj.org.au

CRAFT MORNINGS

First Thursday of the month 10a.m. to 12 noon
A mixture of teaching and BYO craft is offered.
From 4th May to 7th December



ANNUAL MASS

JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

**Main Chapel
13 Havelock Road
Hawthorn East**

**1.30 p.m.
11th November 2017**

Fr Michael Kalka, Celebrant

*Renewal of Commitment
as Josephite Associates*

*Information re changes in
Governance, etc of
ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONALLY*

*Afternoon Tea
Please bring a plate to share*

Introduce others to the Associates by bringing a friend to share this Mass
Family members are very welcome.

SHARING THE DIGNITY

Last year many of you collected handbags for this group who passed them on to women in need. We have many empty handbags!!

This year we can again start collecting in September but I have a suggestion to make:

If you can put some toiletries in each bag it would make it much easier for those who collate them, and less expensive for them.

SUGGESTION: Each time you shop at the super-market you buy one item to go in the handbag. Eg. A tube of toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, hand cream, tampons, soap, face washer, brush, comb.....etc etc etc So between now and then you would have quite a few items collected. This could be a group project. Maybe one of the stores or chemists would donate some. The handbags are distributed first week of December.



MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

2017 CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY

11 am—12 noon followed
by light lunch

Friday 15th September

Monday 16th October

Wednesday 15th November.

During 2017 we are reflecting on Mary's letters to her mother Flora, at important times of her life.

Facilitated by a Sister of St Joseph

VENUE: Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St EAST MELBOURNE

Please contact us for
acceptances

P. 03 9926 9300 or

admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au



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

FUNNERY Unconventional Tales (from the Nunnery) Some years ago this little book full of tales from the Sisters of St Joseph, was printed. So here is a story shared from the book:

A MOTHER'S REVENGE

Before Sister finished her lesson to a Grade 5 class, she asked them to do a project on a story they liked best. Tony's effort was surely a gem. He drew the Hill of Calvary lavishly bedecked with flowers of every kind and colour. The three crosses stood in the centre, and under the cross was a circle of people with faces flat to the ground. In the centre of the circle was a drawing of a very big and strong-looking woman with one hand on her hip and the other holding aloft a sword.

Sister praised where she could but failed to grasp the message.

"Who are these?" she said pointing to the prone figures.

"Them's the soldiers, Sister. They were very rude to Jesus, so Mary flattened the lot of them."

ANNIVERSARY OF FR JULIAN TENISON WOODS 7th October.

Julian's awareness of the sacred at the heart of all creation says a great deal to us in our time.

He reminds us that:

- We have a responsibility to cherish the sacredness of all creation
- We do not merely live on Earth...we are part of this planet, creations of Earth.
- We need to be nurturers and healers of creation, not destroyers of earth.
- We can find God in every aspect of life and creation
- We all need time and space if we are to find our God in creation.

Suggestion: *Buy yourself some flowers or a pot plant. Let it remind you of the beauty of God.*

or *Drive to a beautiful spot and give yourself some silent space to reflect*

or *If you can't go anywhere take a beautiful picture (calendar?) and let it arouse in you a joy and delight in the work of our creating God.*



Julian, by Helen Barnes rsj

CELEBRATION IN TASMANIA

Tasmania put on a beautiful autumn day for the 150 people who travelled, not only from across the island, but also from South Australia, New Zealand, NSW and Victoria, to celebrate 130 years since the arrival of the first Sisters of St Joseph on 24th May 1887.

In Holy Trinity Church, Westbury, those assembled gathered around a focus symbolic of the Sisters of St Joseph's journey since 1887. Centrally placed was the Pugin chalice that the Westbury Sisters had used in their convent chapel and a large candle featured artwork by Therese Quinn rsj.

Prayer began with an introduction, acknowledgement of country and a welcome before singing "We are Called". Fr Richard Ross, Parish Priest of Meander Valley, proclaimed John 1:1-5. A reflection on the Josephite Word of God coming to Tasmania followed. Five Sisters told the story of the founding sisters (Srs Francis McCarthy, Stanislaus Doyle, Joseph Eather, Patrick Nolan and Teresa Prendergast) before those attending were invited to recount experiences of meeting, and working with, the Sisters over the years. Lively conversation filled the church!

Prayers of Thanksgiving were then prayed, including asking forgiveness for times when the Josephite song had been sung out of tune. The response to each prayer was:

If God is the song and we are the singers, we are filled with the fullness of God.

If God is the song and we are the singers, when we sing we are one with God.

This song, written by Chris Skinner, sm, then became the concluding song and everyone moved over to the original schoolrooms, now the Parish Centre, to continue conversations over afternoon tea.

What made this celebration so special?

Maybe it was simply the Sisters being able to share the Tasmanian founding story with the community – those with whom they have ministered and lived for over 130 years and also those within the wider Josephite community.

It was good to remember and give thanks for Fr Julian Tenison Woods, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, all Sisters of St Joseph, Federation and Fusion experiences, those who have supported the Sisters so generously over 130 years and those who nurture and enhance the Josephite spirit today. A remark made at the end of the day probably sums up the Josephite spirit:

There is no doubt about Josephite spirituality – one minute the Sisters are leading us in prayer and the next serving us tea and coffee!



Carmel Jones rsj (Taken from sosj.org.au)

REGIONAL DAY

PAKENHAM

On a sunny Saturday sixteen Associates from Pakenham, Iona, Cranbourne, Doreen and Wonthaggi arrived to share Friendship and Prayer. They also overwhelmed us with the service they had organised with collections of toiletries and bags. Sr Mary's car was so loaded up even a hurricane would not have been able to overturn it. Some things had to be left behind.

Anne-Marie Wilkinson and Sr Mary led us through a beautiful day of reflection on stories: the stories of Jesus, the stories of Mary MacKillop portrayed in art, and stories told by the Sisters who lived with her. One Associate at the end of the day said how beautiful the day was and how she kept learning more and more about St Mary MacKillop.

With the candle they were presented with all Associates will now endeavour to "let their light shine" for all the world to see. The local group let their light shine with their cooking skills and the lovely morning tea they had prepared for the visitors. Three potential Associates were part of the group and we hope they will continue with the program and soon be enrolled.



Top Right: Receiving the new prayer card

Below Right: The group holding their candle ready to go forth to let their light shine

FAVOURITE AUTHOR

If you have never read one of Monica McInerney's books you are missing a treat. Monica was taught by the Sisters of St Joseph at Clare in SA. Her books contain wonderful characters who speak words of wisdom. My latest read of hers was **LOLA'S SECRET**. Lola is a feisty 84 year old, who dresses in bright, weird combinations of clothes, often a flower in her hair. She works in a charity shop, and loves using her computer. Lola is the one the family come to for advice which she gives honestly and freely. I would love to see a film of this story with Maggie Smith as Lola. At the end of the above book, the author has Lola reflecting and I think these words are gold:

"Will everything be all right?" There was no way of telling. Lola knew that from experience. But yes, the chances were everything would be all right. It was just a matter of taking the good with the bad—not only in life's experiences, but in the people you met, in the luck you had, in the thoughts you had. There was no secret to a perfect life, because there was no such thing as a perfect life. It was a matter of finding a place for yourself in your own particular galaxy, a spot in your own solar system of family and friends. The freedom to move in and out of each other's orbits, pull towards each other sometimes, away from each other at other times."

Historic Williamstown School Turns 175

Celebrations acknowledging the 175th Anniversary of the School took place recently at St Mary's Williamstown.

Celebrations included the 175th Ball in the Town Hall; the thanksgiving Mass with our Regional Bishop, Mark Edwards, OMI, our Parish Priest, Fr Greg Trythall and past pupil, Fr Michael Kalka - all culminating with the light luncheon and spectacular school displays and exhibitions.

On 15th May 1839, a young Irishman, Fr Patrick Bonaventure Geoghegan, disembarked from the SS Paul Pry at what was then William's Town. Arriving from Sydney after a twelve-day journey, Fr Geoghegan found himself on the fore-shore of a new and growing village. He was a man with a purpose, having been sent from Sydney to the Port Phillip District by Bishop John Bede Polding to establish the first Catholic mission in the district that would later become the Colony of Victoria, in 1851.

By May 1842, influenced by the enthusiasm of Fr Geoghegan, Williamstown's tiny Catholic population had succeeded in raising the £35 it cost to erect a small timber chapel. This chapel was the second Catholic Church to be built in the Port Phillip District, and the first building of what would become Victoria's oldest continuously operating Catholic School, St Mary's. Its first principal was John Wilson, 1842-1847. The school was conducted by a dedicated lay staff until 1897 when the Sisters of the Faithful Companions of Jesus travelled daily from Richmond. Then when it was no longer manageable for them to do so, Fr Thomas Brazil (1900-1924) contacted Mary MacKillop and requested her to give him Sisters of St Joseph to run the school. These wonderful women did that for the next 99 years when Sr Anne Tuck then passed the baton to the Lay Principals to carry on the good work. As a result, the Charism of St Mary is palpable within the school community.

Much energy was put into preparing for the 130th celebrations with a committee working for over a year. Much fun was shared by past pupils, past teachers and the present community at the Town Hall Ball on the Friday night. But it was on the Sunday, 21st May, 2017, when the St Mary's community came together to honour and celebrate the school's anniversary and 175 years of continuous Catholic education in Williamstown that the true sense of reverence and gratitude for God's blessing was felt. During the Mass, Celebrated by Bishop Mark Edwards, OMI, the singing was wonderful and nearly lifted the roof.



YARRAVILLE NEWS

The Yarraville Associates group, of eight members, meet four times a year at the Yarraville convent. Their main mission is prayer and they are kept busy with novenas for the sick. All help out at the Elderly Mass in the Parish which is held twice a month at the Convent. The focus of their meetings is spirituality. All are elderly and their Mission is lived faithfully in providing prayer support for the sick and dying. *Shirley Reynolds*

HAWTHORN EAST

This group of eight members who travel from North, East, West and South of this base, have changed their venue for meeting to the Riversdale Hotel. Due to lockdown times at the Aged Care and security issues, it can be difficult to meet at Havelock Road so they decided to try the Hotel, where they were given a glassed in area in which to dine and pray. The four, who joined Sr Mary last meeting, found it quite conducive to prayer and sharing. Contact with one of the patrons, for whom they prayed, gave the evening a missionary feel and brought spirituality to the pub! As this venue is on a tram line, essential for two members, it is convenient so the next meeting in September will also be there.

Thank you to the Sisters and Regional Team who have kindly supported our gatherings at Hawthorn East Aged Care for so many years. We have enjoyed the warmth, hospitality, gardens and ambience of Havelock Road and look forward to many more inspiring and spiritual encounters at our new location. *Mim Caruso*



BOOK REVIEWS

BULLETIN BOARD

SONGS FROM A PIERCED HEART

Patricia Stephenson rsj

The Book of Psalms has for hundres of years been used by monks, priests and religious as part of their daily prayer. In this selection the author has tried to put the essence of these prayers into everyday language, that speaks to the heart, uniting us to the joys and sufferings of people everywhere.

Available from the Heritage Centre \$10

PRAYERS OF COMFORT AND HOPE

One of a series of colourful books of prayers and wise words to bring hope in times of depression, economic Hardship, physical pain and illness, loneliness and fears, anger and cynicism.

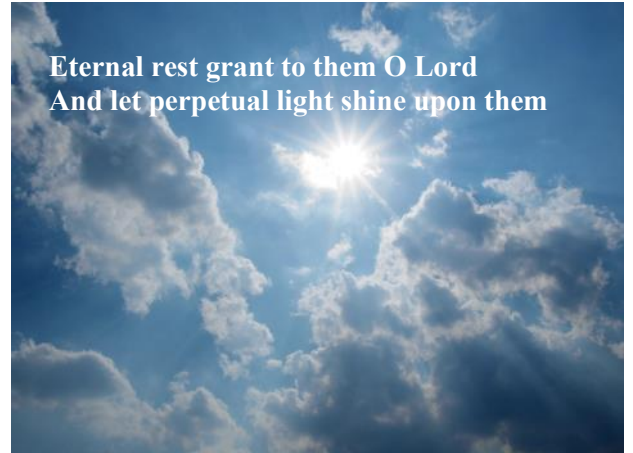
An excellent gift. Heritage Centre \$26

ONLY ELEVEN CAME BACK Stasys Jameikis

During the 1941 Mass deportations by Russia, 1505 Lithuanian men were sent to the icy region in the Russian Arctic for forced labour. After thirteen years, only 11 out of those 1505 men returned home. Stasys was one of the survivors. His factual testimony is presented in this book, for the first time in English.

Available : LSS, PO Box 777, Sandy Bay Tas 7006
\$20 inc postage

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

Joan Ryan, Numurkah

Cecelia Flanagan, Swan Hill

*Kevin Davis, husband of Kath, Morwell
and father of Sr Mary Davis rsj*

*Nellie , Devonport, mother of
Sr Carmel Jones rsj*

*Joe Zagami, brother of
Grace Belingeri, Lakes Entrance*

FROM THE OFFICE:

*All Associates are now receiving their Newsletter in colour thanks to donations and **subscriptions** received.*

Check out the sosj.org.au website for interesting articles

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For all enquiries related to Associates

DID YOU KNOW?

That as a pensioner you are entitled to 50 concession stamps a year for postage at 60c. A form can be filled in at a Post Office and you receive a card which keeps a record of each book of 5 60c stamps you buy.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - AUSTRALIA

Recently I collected 60 completed bags from the Broadmeadows group. Another collection is on the way using the 200+ knickers I bought with your very generous donations. THANK YOU.

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

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"

USED STAMPS

Used stamps have raised over \$180,000 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