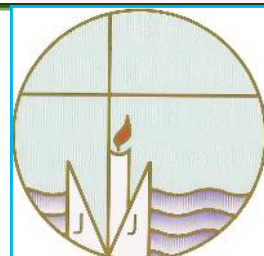




Josephite Associates, Victoria-Tasmania SUMMER 2019



SUMMER—sand, sea, holidays

Dear Associates,

At last the time has come for me to write my last Editorial. It has been my pleasure to share with you the happenings in my life and to bring to mind for you what is happening in the Josephite world.

The **Annual Mass** was a joyful time of thanksgiving and looking forward. Afternoon tea gave all the opportunity to catch up with friends and meet new Associates.

The **last ten years** have been a joy for me meeting so many wonderful men and women who share the charism I have lived for 61 years. The days we have gathered together, in small or large groups, have been life-giving and I know I am a better person for my ten years working with you. I shall miss these times very much.

But I can assure you that the members of the Core-team are dedicated Josephite women, who will use their skills and spirituality to continue to lead you in your commitment to Josephite life. I thank them for the joy I have received working with them, for the laughs, the prayer, the sharing of sessions across Victoria. So I

leave you in their capable hands.

Diane Corro is a new member of the team and introduces herself in this newsletter. You will note that Diane has many skills and gifts to add to the team and much experience in living the Josephite charism in her many ministries.

Please note the **NEW ADDRESS** for the office which will be visited regularly to deal with mail etc. Leaders please make sure you inform the Team of **deaths of Associates, of changes of address** etc so that the Database and Mailing list is kept up to date. Copies of the Database are kept in Sydney, Melbourne and at Hawthorn East where Aarti has the mailing list for the Newsletters also.

All team members will be connected to the **new email address**, noted on the last page. Some changes will occur next year with the change over and with new publications from the IJALT.

Subscriptions in 2020 will have **added to them \$10** which will be forwarded to IJALT in Sydney to help cover their expenses. This year Subscriptions equalled Donations and 152 Associates paid their subscription.

We are fortunate that in setting up the **new office** we do not have to provide a Laptop to work on. We also thank the Regional Leadership Team for giving us the projector that we use at Regional Days.

Thank you for your prayers during our **Chapter**. We have a new Congregational Leadership Team, lead once again by Sr Monica Cavanagh. The process for

choosing our Regional Leader and team will be completed in the new year. The changeover will occur on the Feast of St Joseph 19th March. Your prayers will be appreciated during this time.

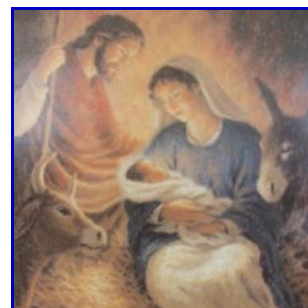
The **Reflection/Prayer** is more a personal one this time. Many of you I know meet for some Advent prayer together and then celebrate friendship with a meal. Enjoy!

Next year I plan to spend a couple of weeks on pilgrimage to Adelaide via Hamilton and Penola. I have travelled this road many times, but this time I won't have to count heads on the bus, lead prayer, check times, places, etc etc. A new museum has been opened at Kensington in Adelaide, so I plan to visit that and spend Holy Week at Penola.

In the Nov/Dec **FAR EAST** magazine Fr Bobby Gilmore had a statement which I quote: *"Are we in an age in which animals are humanised, humans are animalised and compassion is a crime?"* He gave examples of people being treated as criminals for helping needy people. Scary!

May your Christmas be one of joy spent with your families and friends. . May God's blessing enfold you with peace, joy and happiness.

Pray for *Mary Fermio rsj*



Inside this issue:

- 1 Editorial
 - 2 Reflection /Prayer
 - 3 Regional Days/Introducing Diane
 - 4 Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre-Annual Mass
 - 5 Around the Groups/Christmas greetings
 - 6 Regional Days 2020/Leaders' Day
 - 7 Sisters in early Gippsland cont
 - 8 Bulletin Board
- Enclosures:*
1. Article: Neighbour and victim

Friendship Prayer Service

SUMMER PRAYER AND REFLECTION

REJOICE AND BE GLAD

WHAT IS HOLINESS? An article by James Martin SJ gives us five takeaways from Pope Francis' new and very practical exhortation. As we live **ADVENT time** and approach the New Year, we often think of New Resolutions for the year. Maybe one of these could be a practical way of becoming holy. In his Sermon on the Mount Jesus said: REJOICE AND BE GLAD! Why should we—because God, as Francis reminds us, calls us all to be saints.

1. **HOLINESS MEANS BEING YOURSELF**—Pope Francis reminds us of examples of holy lives lived very simply. St Therese of Lisieux, found holiness in doing small tasks; St Ignatius of Loyola sought God in all things; St Philip Neri, was renowned for his sense of humour. I would add Mary MacKillop, an ordinary woman doing ordinary things. We are not meant to be cookie-cutter versions of them, but to be ourselves, to find our own path, to bring out the best in oneself.
Do I know a SAINT in my parish? Am I comfortable being myself?



2. **EVERYDAY LIFE CAN LEAD TO HOLINESS.** A mother, father, a student, a lawyer, teacher or gardener. Francis calls them "Saints next door". All we need to do is to 'live our lives "in love" and "bear witness" to God in all we do. Francis points out this is done in everyday life: a loving parent raising a child, thanking someone for a service, caring for a sick friend or neighbour, helping out an elderly person. Walking around with 'lowered eyes' or withdrawing from people are not signs of holiness. But being caught up in the rat race can distract us and cause a lack of balance in our lives.
Do I believe that I can be a holy person?

3. **BE KIND** "**Gaudete et Exsultate**" is filled with Pope Francis' advice for living a life of holiness. Eg don't gossip, stop judging and most important, stop being cruel. That goes for online actions too. Pope Francis comments: "defamation and slander can become commonplace...since things can be said there, that would be unacceptable in public discourse, as people look to compensate for their own discontent by lashing out at others...in claiming to uphold other commandments, they completely ignore the eighth, which forbids bearing false witness or lying and ruthlessly vilifying others".



What positive act of kindness was I responsible for this week? TO BE HOLY, BE KIND!



4. **THE BEATITUDES—A ROADMAP FOR HOLINESS**
The Beatitudes are not only what Jesus means by holiness, they are also a portrait of Jesus himself. So we are called to be
Poor in spirit, meek, peacemakers
To hunger and thirst for righteousness
To be merciful

Pope Francis describes **MERCY** as helping and serving others, but also forgiving and understanding.

How far have I travelled on the roadmap for holiness? Humility is recognising the truth!

5. **AVOID GNOSTICISM AND PELAGIANISM** Strange words, but put simply they mean:
GNOSTICISM: Knowledge is more important than being charitable and doing good works. Tempts people to think that they can make the faith "entirely comprehensible" and leads them to want to force others to adopt their way of thinking. Being a know-it-all is not going to save you.
PELAGIANISM: the idea that we can take care of our salvation through our own efforts. Feel they don't need God's grace and act superior to others, because they observe certain rules. This can rob us of humility, sets us over others and leaves little room for grace.
Am I avoiding these attitudes? Am I dependant on God's grace?
PRAY A DECADE OF THE ROSARY: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

REGIONAL DAYS

SEBASTOPOL

A very happy group of about 20 Associates gathered in St James' Church Foyer at Sebastopol on the Southern side of Ballarat. They had travelled from Hamilton, Woodend, Sunbury, Bacchus Marsh, Taylors Lakes and Sebastopol. Many appreciated the first session and the experience of writing a dialogue with Jesus, which is a beautiful and intimate way of praying. Amazement resulted at the extent of Mary MacKillop's journeys across Australia and between Australia and New Zealand, even after her Stroke and how difficult many of these journeys were for someone who experienced chronic illness. .

We had the joy of enrolling Diane Corro from Bacchus Marsh and introducing her as a new member of the Associates Core-team, keeping the number at four after Sr Mary Fermio's retirement as Associates Co-ordinator, a position she has held for 10 years. Sr Mary noted this was her 50th and last Regional Day.

(Anne-Marie Wilkinson can beat that number!!)



INTRODUCING DIANE CORRO— NEW MEMBER OF CORE-TEAM

Because I recently joined the Associates' core team Sr. Mary asked me to write a few words by way of introduction. My connection with the Josephites goes back about 25 years when I was a newly converted Catholic in Tasmania. It was the friendship of the Josephite sisters along with the Emmanuel Centre community they had established, who helped me to find my way within the Catholic Church. As part of the Emmanuel Centre community I went on to set up several Christian meditation groups, led prayer days and times of retreat. I spent some ten years or so as part of the Tasmanian Catholic Justice and Peace Commission and also six rewarding years as a member of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

My professional background is social work; a career I enjoyed immensely.

Various roles enabled me to work with and walk alongside the homeless, people with mental illness, low income families struggling to make ends meet, people with intellectual disability and people in crisis. At the time of my retirement a couple of years ago I was teaching in the social work department at La Trobe University and working as a prison chaplain.

On a personal level I am married to Pedro and have one daughter and two step children. Retirement is a wonderful time and I am grateful now for times of solitude where I have opportunity to read, reflect and pray, walk in the bush, paint icons, reacquaint myself with knitting and quilting, play ukulele, sing in a women's choir, talk with friends and watch the weeds grow! My response as a lay woman at a time of challenge in the Catholic Church is to see it as an opportunity for new structures to emerge in which lay people can take a greater role in shaping our destiny as the people of God. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months.

Diane Corro (formerly Craig)



Diane Corro at her enrolment

CALENDARS

There will be no order form for the Calendar with this newsletter. As numbers are limited this year, you are advised if you wish to purchase calendars to contact the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre as soon as possible.

Telephone: 9926 9300

They can be posted or collected.

The Heritage Centre will be closing on 19th December and opening early in January.

DONATIONS TO HELP BUSHFIRE VICTIMS

BLAZEID was founded by Kevin and Rhonda Butler to help build fences after bushfires.

Donations are Tax Deductible and can be sent to Blazeaid, PO Box 73, KILMORE 3764

Phone Nos 0418 530 471 or 0417 552 116 Rhonda

The work is done by volunteers but money is required to buy steel posts and fencing wire.

For more information google Blazeaid

VINNIES I am sure would pass on donations.

Some POST OFFICES accept donations.

EVENTS AROUND MELBOURNE

CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY MACKILLOP—

11 am—12 noon followed by light lunch

TOPIC FOR 2020:

THE VIRTUES OF ST MARY MACKILLOP

Monday 17th February
Monday 16th March
No Session APRIL
Friday 15th May
Monday 15th June
Wednesday 15th July
Monday 17th August
Tuesday 15th September
Thursday 15th October
Monday 16th November

DONATION WELCOME.

Leader: Sr Mary Fermio rsj

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

Ph. 03 9926 9300 Email: admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au

Based on the book: The Virtues of Mary MacKillop—Paul Gardner sj



Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St
EAST MELBOURNE
PHONE: 03 9926 9300

2020 OPEN DAYS

10 a.m.—4 p.m.

SATURDAYS:

- * *Pray in the Chapel*
- * *Tour the Museum*
- * *Visit the Gift Shop*
- * *Enjoy light refreshments*
- * *Mary MacKillop Walking Tour leaves at 11 a.m.*

**Please contact us for acceptances
to help us with catering.**

ANNUAL MASS

A joyful celebration of the Eucharist led by Fr Michael Kalka was participated in by about 60 Associates who travelled from Euroa, Rushworth, Wonthaggi, Morwell, Hamilton, Woodend, Iona, Pakenham, Koo Wee Rup, Mornington, Sunbury and Rye and areas around Melbourne, plus several Sisters who joined us in the Chapel. Sr Maryellen, a member of the Congregational Leadership Team and Mary Hemmings Chairperson of the IJALT joined us as we gathered to farewell Sr Mary Fermio after 10 years as Co-ordinator of the Victorian Josephite Associates.

During the Mass Lisa Villa and Melissa Keast, Hawthorn East Group, and Mary Helen Richardson, Rye, were enrolled.

Mary Helen has two sisters who are Josephites: Sr Loreto Dunne, and Clare Pree,

Associate, of Broadmeadows.

Each person received a bookmark made by Sr Mary Fermio.

During afternoon tea many lovely words were said about Mary by Sr Maryellen, Mary Hemmings and Anne-Marie Wilkinson on behalf of the Victorian Josephites. The beautiful flowers pictured here were presented to Sr Mary as well as several gifts. The atmosphere was a very happy one, with much laughter, though tinged somewhat with sadness after 10 years of friendship and sharing. Sr Mary spoke of the years as being life-giving, working and praying with so many women and men across Victoria.



AROUND THE TRAPS—

DAYS FOR GIRLS

After many years of collecting, sewing, collating, purchasing the **Broadmeadows group of Associates** have decided it is time to stop. Together the team have contributed hundreds of bags that have helped young girls to live a normal life. Items will still be collected by me if individuals or groups wish to leave them at the Heritage Centre or even send a donation for purchasing goods. Robyn has sent the letter below to Agnes and her team to thank them. She also told me a group is starting up in Bacchus Marsh so goods can be given to them. I wish to make a special thank you to Margot Forster, a 92 year old Associate from Taylors Lakes, who has left many bags of items at the Heritage Centre which she has brought by train. And a big thank you to all the others who have contributed in some way.

It is with much appreciation that I want to acknowledge the outstanding contribution that Agnes Moran and her team have made to ensure that Days for Girls kits have gone out into the world (Cambodia, Zimbabwe) making a huge difference to the lives of hundreds of girls enabling them to continue their life changing education.

Our partnership has been over a number of years and the work of Days for Girls Ballarat has also been blessed by the donations and support received from the Josephite Associates and for this we are truly grateful.

Thank you.

Robyn Suttie, Co-ordinator Ballarat.



As we journey through Advent towards Christmas, may we live joyfully during this time of waiting for the coming of the Christ Child.

We have enjoyed our journey with you this year and look forward to sharing time together at our Regional Days in 2020. A Blessed Christmas to all.

Noreen McLeish, Christine Nicholls-van Order

Sr Mary Fermio, Diane Corro, and

Anne-Marie Wilkinson



Taken in the Chapel at St Joseph's by the Sea
Williamstown

REGIONAL DAYS 2020

REGIONAL DAYS 2020

THEME: Arrive: 9.30 am Start: 10 a.m. Finish: 3 p.m.
Venues and dates:

2nd May Morwell Tennis Club Room: Central Gippsland: Morwell, Wonthaggi, Leongatha, Traralgon

23rd May Murchison Catholic Church, : Rushworth Group, Nagambie, Shepparton

27th June Pakenham St Patricks Parish Centre: Pakenham, Iona, Koo Wee Rup, Melbourne

29th August Bacchus Marsh, Parish Centre: Bacchus Marsh, Woodend, Sunbury, Melton, Sebastopol

19th September Lakes Entrance: Parish Centre: Lakes Entrance, Maffra, Bairnsdale, Orbost

BYO LUNCH - DONATION of your choice.

HOSTS PROVIDE MORNING TEA

PLEASE NOTE THESE DAYS IN YOUR DIARY AS A PRIORITY
As part of your on-going formation, we hope you attend at least
one Regional Day every two-three years

LEADERS' DAY 14th MARCH 2020

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St, EAST MELBOURNE

Commence: 9.30 for 10 am Start - Finish about 3 p.m.

THEME: SERVICE AS NEIGHBOUR

MORNING TEA and LUNCH Provided Donation \$20

Heritage Shop will be open during lunch

Leaders will be notified by letter early 2020.



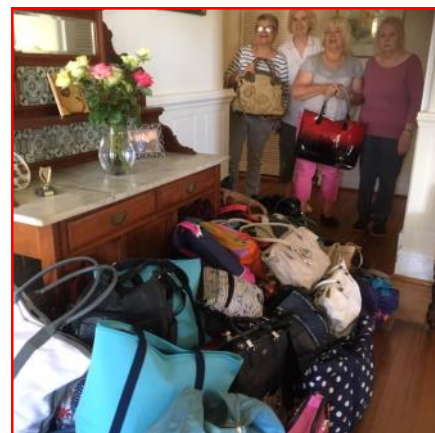
SHARING THE DIGNITY BAGS



Helen Crowe and her team at Bacchus Marsh filled 80 bags with toiletries etc for the Sharing the Dignity collection, to be distributed to refugees, asylum seekers, homeless women and women affected by Domestic Violence.

This was able to be done thanks to the generous efforts of Associates and Sisters, collecting bags and toiletries to be used.

Thank you all for your wonderful efforts. I will still collect bags etc for Helen as she relies on your efforts to complete this number of bags.



"Find happiness in making others happy"
Mary MacKillop 1889

THE JOSEPHITES IN GIPPSLAND

article taken from SOUNDINGS Spring Ed 1995 (a former Josephite communication) Lynette Young rsi

The first foundation in Gippsland was made in Traralgon in 1902 by Srs Mildred, Camillus, Leonard and Marcella. Father Coleman had asked Mary MacKillop herself to send him some sisters to take charge of his school. One letter described the first few days of settling in "...tempting dishes were got up in real city style" by the ladies of the parish. "The Ladies washed up and left us in our glory..." A mission was in progress and one parishioner was not very impressed with the missionary who was "...knocking spots off the people." "Well look here, Sister," he remarked, "he's sending them to hell and as I don't intend going there, not a fut (sic) will I put there to his mission...I don't believe in that kind of religion"

A parishioner recalled that the sisters lived out of a suitcase, food was provided by the butcher, baker and Cincotta family and their shoes were mended by the Italian bootmaker. The children were trained in their religious duties, particularly how "not to sag through the long Gospel" in Holy Week. He spoke of how all their spare time was given to taking care of the Church and visiting the people as pastoral not social visits.

I am reminded of Mary MacKillop's writing on the Necessity for the Institute where she described that the Sisters, "...must do all the good they can and never see an evil without trying how they may remedy it." They did this by instructing converts preparing Catholics for the Sacraments, conducting the Sunday rosary and a meditation on scripture, visiting the reluctant, reminding the tardy privately and visiting families of children so that they may help on the ministry in the schools.



Mary MacKillop was directly responsible for the opening of Maffra in 1905 by Bishop Corbett. School was opened on the first Monday in September by some of the sisters who formed the new community of Sisters Carmilla Brewer, Borromeo, Venantius, Giovanni Vaughan and Hilarion the music teacher. Children rode long distances to school and it was not an uncommon sight to see the Sisters providing a warm breakfast of a sandwich and milk out of the meagre pantry that had been collected for them by the Catholic Women's Social Guild. There are also recollections of the priest travelling by "...medium of a

buggy and horse...invariably late owing to bad roads and inclement weather. With the advent of the motor car. They always travelled with Mr Cowel, a champion axeman on these occasions, as we had to clear the road of fallen trees to allow sufficient space for us to drive through. Mayor Cullinan of Sale wrote in his recollections, "I have often seen the priest leave Sale for Omeo in the dead of night, accompanied by a doctor. It was usual for the priest and doctor to travel together on these long journeys of 120 rough miles which were made in comparatively quick time if a change of horses were available."

The Sisters' journey to open Omeo in 1909 took two days by horse drawn jinker. Even today the names of many of the bends following the torturous Tambo River Valley are indicative of the adventures to be had by unwary travellers. Names like, Devil's Backbone, Battle Point, Hell's Gate, Prices Downfall, Haunted Stream, Piano Bridge, Tongio Gap and \$1000 Bend, suggest innumerable stories for the creative mind.

The four sisters who came to Omeo were Srs Carmel Bremer, Bernard O'Connell, Denis Travers and Etienne Lyons. All had come from larger towns in either NSW or Ballarat and Kyneton, so the isolation of being on the High Plains and snowed in during the winter months would have been a new experience for them. Mary MacKillop was very conscious of the kind of personnel needed for isolated, country areas. The Sisters who opened Omeo were very talented women as is evidenced by the music results, the concerts, the Inspector's reports and the amount of adult education offered to townspeople. On Wednesday afternoons when businesses closed in the town, Sr Carmel held needlecraft lessons for adults. Sisters also tutored young people who asked for help in their preparations for entry into the Bank, Post Office or other Govt. departments.

Appreciation for their work was shown by Bishops and clergy in their addresses to the people. It was not uncommon to read "Soon you will have in your midst the Sisters of St Joseph—that Australian Order that has done wonders especially for country parishes. They are children of the soil, know the wants of the people and are prepared to make great sacrifices". Fr Woods summed it up: *We shall be used by our Lord's heart as the sling was used by David against the great weapons and strength of Goliath*





STAMPS

BULLETIN BOARD

USED STAMPS

Used postage stamps have raised \$312,000 for the Peruvian Mission. Please leave a border of about 3cm around the stamps.

Please take note of border to be left

Please forward stamps to:

STAMPS

Locked Bag 3031

BURWOOD NSW 1805



BOXES OF STAMPS TO:

5 Alexander Avenue,

Croydon NSW 2132

Thank you

As postage has increased members of the group may like to contribute to the cost.

**Eternal rest grant to them
O Lord, and let perpetual
light shine upon them**

Basil Kalka, father of Fr Michael , Altona
Pat Dean, Melton, formerly Broadmeadows
Dorothy Bishop, Swan Hill
James, husband of Lorraine Tellis, Melton

BOOK REVIEWS

BACK ON TRACK Bernie Shakeshaft with
James Knight

How one man and his dogs are changing the lives of rural kids. Like Mary MacKillop, Bernie is making a difference. Always a wild kid, it took him a while to find his place. After working in India, in Northern Territory, with Indigenous people, he realized the system was letting kids down. So he started BackTrack in Armidale, NSW. Fourteen years on the inspiration and charisma of Bernie has caused juvenile crime rate in Armidale to drop significantly. When reading, one has to accept the language as part of the scene.

Available from Target. Every sale contributes to the program. Google BackTrack and you will find film clips, documentaries and information.



BEFORE I FORGET Georgette Noellat

Another entertaining book from Georgette and what a gift she has to convey humour, her own embarrassing situations, animal stories etc. effortless strokes of laughter, tears and memories. Stories of the time she and Jan lived at Toora. A must for anyone contemplating farm life, leaving farm life, who have lived farm life, or just interested in a good laugh, a good cry and a good read. Try your Library or ring Georgette.

See Spring issue for her phone number.



NEW RELEASE

A CUPPA WITH MARY

Sue and Leo Kane

The authors of the 2 LITTLE BROWN BOOKS have compiled another containing meditations on the words of St Mary MacKillop for each day of the year. Designed to give us moments when we can pause and allow our souls to catch up.

I have found this book a very practical source of prayer.

Larger in size. Price \$25

Available from

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre.



FROM THE OFFICE:

PLEASE NOTE NEW OFFICE ADDRESS:
FROM JANUARY 2020

JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES VIC
MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE
362 ALBERT ST

EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Or

vic.associates@sosj.org.au

All mail to go to this office.

Anne-Marie Mobile contact:

0409 429 463

Items for Newsletter: Send to

Mrs Noreen McLeish

3 Lonsdale St

HAMILTON VIC 3300

Noreen.mcleish@gmail.com.

vic.associates@sosj.org.au

Introductory Program sheets to

Noreen McLeish also.