



# Josephite Associates, Victoria-Tasmania WINTER 2019



## WINTER—a time of expectation

Greetings to all our Associates and especially to those across the seas. Belonging to the Josephite family gives a sense of being united in **Friendship, Prayer and Service**, knowing that there are hundreds like myself who share the Charism.

This month I have included the prayer with the reflection to save printing, as the letter from IJALT is two pages.

I heartily recommend the book **Going Back** (see review) for your reading. It is a book describing the bravery of medical personnel, soldiers, ordinary people who have suffered cruelly and find hope in a method of prosthesis which enables them to walk comfortably again. It also illustrates the importance of allowing refugees freedom to follow their careers and to use their skills for the benefit of all people. The world is a better place because Munjed came to Australia and after being freed from a detention camp, has used his skills to heal hundreds.

**Thank you to those who have forwarded their subscriptions.** Please send yours as soon as possible if you have not done so.

### Inside this issue:

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1. Letter from Mary Hemmings (Prayer included in Reflection)
  2. Article by Francis Sullivan

We need to be able to budget for the rest of the year and for the changes in 2020.

**Thank you again to those who contributed to drought relief.** I forwarded over \$2400 to Gippsland Farmer Relief, and Eaglehawk group have collected and forwarded several hundred dollars as well. This money provided pantry food for farmers in East Gippsland (141) struggling to provide for families. Members of Hawthorn East group collected in their parish and contributed to the above amount.

Another 40 bags for **Days for Girls** were delivered to Robyn and 50 are on the way. Any donations in kind or money (cheque or Gift card) can be used to buy face washers and knickers for these. I noticed in our UFS chemist a box for collection of articles for **Sharing the Dignity** bags.

Please keep the **Plenary Council** and our **Chapter** in your prayers. All together you are a wonderful powerhouse of intercession.

Two successful **Regional Days** have been held enjoyed by all attending. We now have to apply to the Bishops before we can visit the Dioceses to do these days, so please appreciate our efforts to continue them. If you have never attended one, the **Pakenham** one is very close, just down the Monash freeway. Your formation as a Josephite Associate is very important and gives you the opportunity to meet others and deepen your knowledge of Mary MacKillop.

The Core-team met at Bacchus Marsh on 18th May and have

started planning for the changes in 2020. We have been offered office space at the Mary MacKillop Heritage centre. Is there any one of you who would willingly spend a day a week or fortnight to do the office work there eg banking, mail, database records etc More information can be obtained by ringing or visiting me. Simple computer skills are needed and training given.

Let us thank God now for the rain we have received. I can't believe how quickly my "desert" front and back are now a lush green.

**I have enclosed an article by** Francis Sullivan which I hope you will find helpful during this time of history in our Church. I suggest you may like to talk about it at your group gatherings and pray for our Church and talk about what **YOU** can do in your parish to bring about healing and peace of mind for all.

June 28th is the Feast of the Sacred Heart, a very important feast for the Josephite family. There will be 12.30 Mass at the Heritage Centre on that Friday followed by a light lunch. Please advise if you are coming.

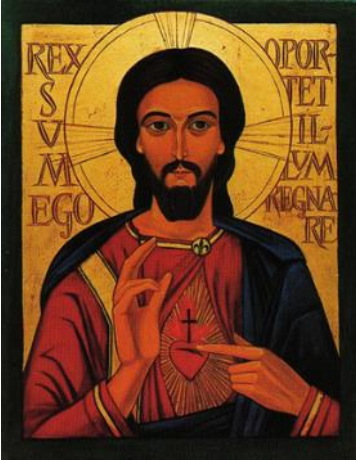
May the warmth of our love keep out the cold of the winds and may we share that love with others.

God bless. *Mary Fermio rsj*



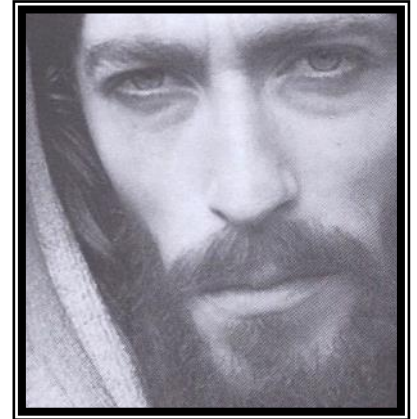
# Friendship Prayer Service

# WINTER PRAYER AND REFLECTION



## LOVE and FORGIVENESS

*Sit quietly and spend some time gazing on one or both of these images. Of Jesus. What is Jesus saying to you about love and forgiveness?*



St Mary MacKillop, in a reflection on the Sacred Heart wrote to her sisters in 1907:

*“and with this burning appeal of the Sacred Heart came such a rush of longing desire on my part to be Its lover and Its own true child, that, in a glance, the falseness of the world appeared before me; the beauty, the pity, and the generosity of the Sacred Heart in this loving appeal could not be resisted, and in Its cause, since It has deigned to raise me into It, I have never known aught but true peace and contentment of heart. Its love makes suffering sweet, Its love makes the world a desert. When storms rage, when persecutions or dangers threaten, I quietly creep into Its deep abyss, and securely sheltered there, my soul is in peace, though my body is tossed upon the stormy waves of a cold and selfish world.”*

**READ SLOWLY—followed by QUIET TIME OF REFLECTION AND PRAYER**

*What words speak to you?*

*Is there someone you find hard to forgive that destroys your peace?*

*Ask Jesus to help you find forgiveness and love for them?*

### INTERCESSIONS:

**Response: Jesus, touch our lives with compassion and peace**

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. When we feel hurt by miserly loving, indifference, injustice and unkindness               | We pray |
| 2. When we are in pain, feeling lonely, and overcome by life's struggles                     | We pray |
| 3. For those who feel isolated and lost and have no sense of belonging                       | We pray |
| 4. For those sick and injured and those who bandage the wounded and heal their pain          | We pray |
| 5. For the homeless and abandoned who wander our streets and parks                           | We pray |
| 6. For those who search out the homeless and provide help and assistance                     | We pray |
| 7. For those who suffer from addiction and lack the strength to renew their lives            | We pray |
| 8. For those who walk with the addicted, provide counselling and comfort                     | We pray |
| 9. For all refugees, stateless because of war, poverty and who seek lives of peace elsewhere | We pray |
| 10. For all who work in refugee camps, in asylum seeker centres, in immigration              | We pray |
| 11. For those who staff soup vans, food kitchens to feed the hungry                          | We pray |
| 12. For ourselves that we may generously share what we have to help those in need.           | We pray |

### PRAYER TOGETHER

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mary MacKillop prayed for the spirit of love, true charity and humility, and gave us an example of how to live this way, may we possess those same gifts. May we find true peace and contentment of heart. May your love always encompass us, shelter us, and offer us a place of refuge in time of trouble. You urge us to help one another and love one another according to your own example. May we heed your words and have the courage to live them.

We pray this in union with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



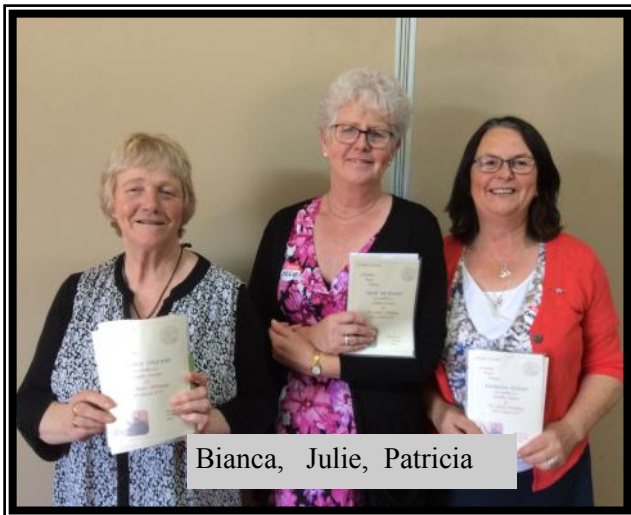


## REGIONAL DAYS

**WONTHAGGI** A lovely sunny Saturday brought fourteen Josephite Associates to Wonthaggi to share a day of prayer, reflection, and sharing on the theme of Journeying. Their day started with a journey from Morwell, Leongatha, Inverloch, Fish Creek, Mirboo North and Wonthaggi, while Anne-Marie came from Bittern and Sr Mary from Bacchus Marsh.

A dialogue with Jesus ended the first session on the Emmaus Journey. In Session two, a reading of a section from Wallaby Track Woman lead us into the many journeys of Mary MacKillop, brought home more strongly by a power point listing her many travels to New Zealand and across Australia. No wonder she became ill after many days of travelling between towns and cities. The last session gave us space for reflection on our own journey and its life-giving aspects. During the final ritual Patricia Keane, Mirboo North, Bianca Stefani from Fish Creek and Julie De Bondt from Inverloch were enrolled. The final prayer expressed our life journey from birth to old age giving thanks to God for all our experiences.

Thank you Wonthaggi for providing a lovely morning tea we all enjoyed and appreciated.



Bianca, Julie, Patricia



## NAGAMBIE

Eighteen people attended the day at Nagambie, travelling from Euroa, Girgarre, Murchison, Rushworth and Nagambie. Some of those who enjoyed the day were not Associates and Mons Hickey, retired priest who lives at Nagambie also joined us for the morning sessions and enjoyed the day immensely.

The writing of a conversation with Jesus was found to be most beneficial and all appreciated the reflection on the journeys of Mary MacKillop across Australia, New Zealand and overseas. The Nagambie Associates provided a very enjoyable morning tea and we thank them too for organising the use of MacKillop Hall with the School.



The Final prayer ritual— our Journey from Birth to Old Age

Unfortunately some of the Rushworth group are recovering from illness. Anne Ryan from a fall which resulted in broken pelvis and ribs and Ron Grinter from a quadruple bi-pass. We wish them well and hope Anne is home from Hospital and Ron is fully recovered.



**MARY MACKILLOP— Who still inspires us today!**

11 am—12 noon followed by light lunch

17th June	Monday	<i>On Pilgrimage</i>
15th July	Monday	<i>Facing the unknown journey</i>
15th August	Thursday	<i>Eucharist as Mary's inspiration</i>
16th September	Monday	<i>Friendship of her Sisters inspired Mary</i>
15th October	Tuesday	<i>Fire in Mary's heart inspires</i>
15th November	Friday	<i>An Australian inspires all Aussies</i>

**DONATION WELCOME.**

Leader: Sr Mary Fermio rsj

**VENUE:**

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert St East Melbourne.  
Ph. 03 9926 9300

Please contact us for acceptances  
to help us with catering.

admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au



Artist: Therese Quinn rsj

***A good occasion for a group to visit the Museum and attend the session***

Based on the book: Mary MacKillop, Inspiration for Today, edited by Pauline Wicks rsj

**NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE**

23rd October—2nd November 2019



Park on site of Stable School

In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop, this pilgrimage covers Melbourne, Penola, Adelaide and Sydney, accompanied by Sisters of St Joseph and designed to inform and inspire people of all denominations.

By visiting the districts and buildings where Mary and her family lived and worked and her early ministry, one appreciates more fully the struggles and endeavours of the Sisters in the early days establishing the Congregation and setting up Catholic Schools.

Former sitting room of MacKillop family, now chapel in Bayview College. Portland



For further information and a copy of the brochure contact Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre  
Ph 9926 9300



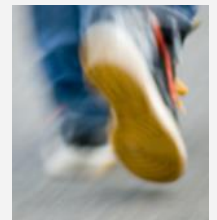
**Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre**  
**362 Albert St**  
**EAST MELBOURNE**  
**PHONE: 03 9926 9300**

**2019 OPEN DAYS**

10 a.m.—4 p.m.

**SATURDAYS:****3rd August****16th November**

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



**Feast of the Sacred Heart**  
**Mass 12.30—28th June**  
**Light lunch—Phone if coming**

**ST JOSEPH'S BY THE SEA**  
**16 Esplanade, Williamstown**  
**Programs for 2019**

- 27th June *Expressions of spirituality through the performing arts* Discussion Jacinta Chute
- 22nd August *Art, Women and Modern day spirituality* Giovanni Farquer rsj/Anmaree Iaccarino

26th September *What is God asking of choirs or musicians at this time?* Jan Maine and Angela Pezzano  
**BOOKINGS: 9397 6012 or admin.sjbtsw@sosj.org.au**



# AROUND THE TRAPS—

## CONGRATULATIONS

to Mary Wicks of Sunbury who received her Order of Australia Medal in April for her work in the local community. Mary is an active member of the Josephite Associates in Sunbury where she works tirelessly for Parish and Community. Her faithfulness to Friendship, Prayer and Service, a commitment she made some years ago, is evident.



## HAMILTON

St Mary MacKillop Parish – Western Border, a Community of Communities.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018, St Mary MacKillop Parish - Western Border, was created from the parishes of Casterton, Coleraine, Edenhope and Hamilton in Western Victoria. This new parish is made up of fourteen Catholic Communities, all with long traditions of keeping the faith alive in their part of the world. We stretch from the South Australian border to Glenthompson in the East, Goroke in the north and Macarthur in the south. We have two priests who are supported by a leadership team in each community.

“What an honour it is that our new parish is named after Australia’s first saint, Mary MacKillop. Her example, her teachings, her great faith in difficult times inspires us to face the current challenge of renewing a Church in distress, facing scandal and diminishment. (Fr Paddy Mugavin PP. 2019)

In the midst of working through the logistics of combining fourteen Mass centres serviced by two priests, Mary’s words have been very much an inspiration to us all. “Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them bravely, remembering whom you are trying to follow. Do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you all your life.” (Mary MacKillop)

Many of these areas were visited by Mary herself, especially on her travels to Penola and Portland, and the Sisters of St Joseph were a presence in the area until the 1980’s. Mary’s father Alexander MacKillop, was living with his brother Peter in Dunkeld when he died in 1868 and he is buried in the Hamilton cemetery. As a result of these connections Hamilton is a stop on the National Pilgrimage where pilgrims visit Alexander’s grave and St Mary’s church and our Mary MacKillop Chapel, where we are the proud carers of a First Class Relic of Mary.

St Mary MacKillop Parish is a vast community. Pope Francis challenges us to take the Gospel message to all, especially the young and the next generation, when he says “... find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world.” (Pope Francis) Together we endeavour to rebuild our faith communities in the spirit of the Gospel, returning to the simplicity of the message of Jesus and after the example and inspiration of Mary MacKillop and Pope Francis.

Over the last two years a group of Josephite Associates has been formed and work in providing information and a lunch for the pilgrims, a tradition started by Ted and Norma Oliver, and continued by Ted.

Noreen McLeish, Core-Team member  
Hamilton

Logo for the Mary MacKillop Region



# REGIONAL DAYS 2019

## REGIONAL DAYS 2019 THEME: ON THE WALLABY

**Arrive: 9.30 am                      Start: 10 a.m.      Finish: 3 p.m.**

### **Venues and dates:**

**PAKENHAM:** Parish Centre, St Patrick's Church, (Princes Highway)  
29th June      Pakenham Iona, Bunyip, Koo Wee Rup. And any other Associates  
Transport from Pakenham station can be arranged.

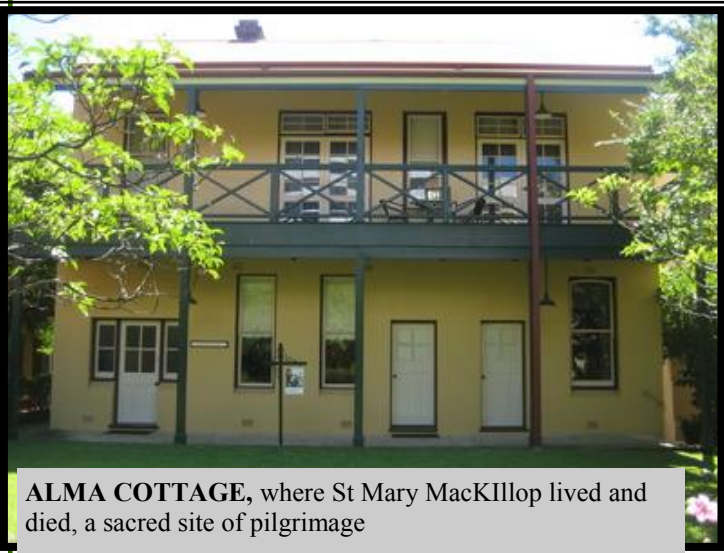
**MAFFRA:** St Mary's School Hall, Duke St.  
17th August      Maffra, Sale, Stratford, Heyfield, Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Orbost

**SEBASTOPOL:** Foyer in St James's Church, Sebastopol  
12th October      Sebastopol, Hamilton, Sunbury, Woodend, Bacchus Marsh, Melton

**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**  
**We rotate the venues to make this easier for you**

### **A PILGRIMAGE**



**ALMA COTTAGE**, where St Mary MacKillop lived and died, a sacred site of pilgrimage

In March this year, my family and I visited Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney. We stayed at Anderledy Lodge within the sacred grounds of Mary MacKillop Place. It was a wonderful Pilgrimage to the Chapel, praying at Mary's Tomb, visiting the Museum and Alma Cottage. A vibrant experience of faith and blessings! We are very grateful for the beauty we have experienced.

When I was still reading at high school in Mauritius, my country of birth, everyday I travelled from my village to school by bus, passing through a small village called 'Alma'. It was mainly agricultural land planted with sugar cane, conifers and various tropical plants. A beautiful and peaceful little town and when I stepped into Alma Cottage in North Sydney, praying at Mary's last home, I remembered with thanksgiving those school days. It was a really moving experience.

Thank you Sisters, for the legacy of the Josephite mission, which we as Associates continue to witness to and are able to enrich our lives deeply with the inspiration of the life of St Mary MacKillop. We are grateful as we continue to share the charism of Mary, a Spiritual Model for the World.

Aarti Munohur, Josephite Associate

**There where you are, you will find God**

Mary MacKillop 1871



# Why did Fr Julian Woods Found the Josephites

An article by Sr Marie Foale rsj, Adelaide published in E News April 8, 2019 Used with permission

In the year 1866 Fr Julian Woods, aided by Mary MacKillop founded the Sisters of St Joseph in Penola, SA, *for the Catholic Education of children from poor families*. But why did this busy priest working in one of the largest mission areas in the colony take this step?

*Firstly*, South Australia was a free colony where settlers enjoyed religious and political freedom and where there was no government aid for religion. Instead, according to the so-called *Voluntary System*, members of each religious denomination had to build their places of worship, support their pastors and educate their children in their particular faith. Then, in 1851 the local Legislative Council had abolished all state aid to religion and established a state-controlled system of non-sectarian secular education.

*Secondly*, in Australia where Catholics were in a minority, the bishops were afraid that children attending government schools could be lost to the church because they had gained the impression that one religion was as good as another. Consequently, the bishops pressured the clergy to provide separate schools for the catholic children. Archbishop Polding of Sydney addressed this issue in his Lenten Pastoral of 1859 when he wrote: ***We must not have the National Schools for our children. Why? Simply for this reason: that though our children must learn reading and writing and arithmetic, and history, and whatever else might be thought desirable, they must learn as Roman Catholic Children learning these things, and this they cannot, unless they are constantly breathing the atmosphere of their religion.***

At about the same time, Fr Patrick Geoghegan of Melbourne, became second Bishop of Adelaide. Coming as he did from a colony where gold was being mined in significant quantities, where there were many fine buildings and where its sizeable Catholic population enjoyed the benefits of a well-established, government-supported Catholic school system, he was shocked at the poverty of his congregation, the smallness of their churches and the lack of catholic schools in the colony.

He was horrified when he learnt of the voluntary system and the Secular Education Act of 1851 and decided to take steps to remedy this situation for, as he saw it, the catholic children of South Australia were in danger of losing their faith. Therefore, he wrote a pastoral letter decrying the existing state system as being “a gigantic machinery for propagating Protestantism, and for disaffecting or proselytising the catholic children unhappily coming within its influence from the religion of their parents.” Then after having copied large sections of Polding’s letter, he told his people that they must in conscience denounce the government schools:

***First—because they (were) proselytising schools in the hands of the Government.***

***Secondly—because in (their) poverty and sad want of schools of (their) own, they (were) bribes and temptations held out to (their) children.***

***Thirdly—because Catholics (were being) taxed to pay an odious tithe for the support of the system.***

***Archibshop Polding***

***He concluded: Remember that the work is God’s—the most precious in his sight—that he has left us to do, and that it will bear delay no longer. Let us begin it for God’s sake. Wherever there is a Pastor and a flock we implore you to make a commencement of a Catholic school. Let each do what he can.***

When Julian Woods of Penola received this letter he tried, albeit unsuccessfully, to get properly trained teachers for his area. Then he recalled the memory of the Sisters of St Joseph whom he had met in France and decided that he needed Sisters like them to manage his schools. Eventually, it became clear to him that the only real solution for his problem was for him to found a new religious order there in Penola.

While he was praying and deliberating over his problem, young Mary MacKillop arrived in the district to work as a governess for her uncle’s children. For some years she had felt called to be a religious, but, at the time was committed to the support of her family. She confided in Fr Woods and, as soon as she could leave the family, she agreed to become one of the first Sisters of St Joseph.

Thus it is clear that Fr Woods founded the Congregation in response to his bishop’s command. In fact, while Bishop Geoghegan laid the groundwork for the foundation, it was his successor, Bishop Lawrence Sheil, who confirmed the idea when he appointed Woods as Director of Catholic Education for South Australia and subsequently approved the Sisters of St Joseph as a diocesan Congregation in 1868.

(Sources listed in original article)







## STAMPS

### 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.**

### BOOK REVIEW

#### BORN SURVIVORS Wendy Holden

I happened to find this book at our local Library. A story of awesome bravery, courage and survival of three Jewish women who, after being separated from their husbands, found themselves in the same concentration camp and pregnant. After successfully avoiding discovery, and unknown to each other, their babies were born and they somehow managed to keep them alive, despite being starved, covered with lice and almost worked to death. After a seventeen day train journey, during which hundreds died, the kindness of strangers helped save those who emerged from the train alive and were free.

Sixty five years later the three 'miracle' babies met for the first time at Mauthausen for the anniversary of the liberation that saved their lives.

A heart-stopping account of fighting to survive the Nazi regime, but a celebration of our capacity to care and to love amid inconceivable cruelty.

#### WE NEED ONE ANOTHER Jean Vanier

Comprises talks offered to 'help each one of us become messengers of peace, of mercy, and of forgiveness.

#### A CRY IS HEARD Jean Vanier

"In the course of my life, it is people with an intellectual handicap who have little by little transformed me and freed me from my own fears."

Jean Vanier died in May aged 90 years. The founder of L'Arche communities which support the lives of the disabled, these now operate in over 140 communities in 35 countries on 5 continents. An author of over 30 books and countless articles, they show us the true path to peace. Pope Francis phoned Vanier days before his death thanking him personally for 'his witness'. He said: He was a man who was able to read the Christian call to the mystery of death, of the cross, of illness, the mystery of those despised and discarded."

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

We keep in our prayers those who have died  
Sr Vendremina Puiatti rsj  
Sr Helena Maguire rsj  
Dorothy, sister of Pat Gray, Maffra  
Mary Hansen, Bunyip  
Vern Hamilton, husband of Shirley, Sale  
Bernard Coloe, husband of Pat, Bairnsdale  
Leo, brother of Maureen Maartensz, Wonthaggi

### BOOK REVIEW

#### AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE

The latest copy is on MENTAL HEALTH and has some very interesting articles. Make sure you pick up your copy at the Church.

**GOING BACK** - Munjed Al Muderis with Patrick Weaver. How a former refugee, now an internationally acclaimed surgeon, returned to Iraq to change the lives of injured soldiers and civilians. He also visited Cambodia and Jordan spreading the fitting of robotic prostheses to amputees. His first book **Walking Free** tells of his escape from death in Iraq, his time in a detention camp, and his ultimate freedom to continue his study and work as a surgeon based in Sydney.

One wonders how many are still in detention unable to use their God-given talents and gifts! Try your library or bookshop

### FROM THE OFFICE:

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