

March 2009

PO Box 243,
Taigum Qld 4018



NEWSLETTER

*Friendship *Prayer *Service

Josephite Associates

Thank You

Dear Associates,

A special welcome to our new associates. You are all most welcome and we look forward to meeting you at some of our gatherings in the near future.

Recently I have been visiting our Associates in Clermont, Capella and Allora. I would like to thank you all for the wonderful way you live the spirit of Mary MacKillop in your daily lives. I would also like to thank you for your great hospitality.

In the last couple of weeks I had the privilege to be at a lay led liturgy and was touched by the way the whole community

supported and affirmed the person who was responsible for the liturgy at the weekend. I was also very aware that the community in their responses and prayer were open and aware of the wider church community in their actions and their prayer. Actually it was after the liturgy that I saw real faith put into action. There was a young couple who had just arrived in town with a young baby and I noticed a few of the parishioners meeting them and telling them what was available in town so they would feel welcome, etc. What do we do as outreach in our communities?

Lent

Last week I was reflecting on one of the Lenten Weeks and I was reminded to look at the covenant relationship that I have with my God so I thought, as we continue through Lent, that this may be a good reminder for us all to reflect on the more important things of our lives and where God and I fit into that overall plan.



Donations Welcome

If you are able to assist with donations towards the running costs of the Associates it would be greatly appreciated. The costs include newsletters, envelopes,

postage, car expenses and hire of an office to run the Associates. Please send donations to Sr Joan Finucane, P.O. Box 243 Taigum Q 4018

Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage 2008

Finally, after many years, my dream was realised when I stepped on board the Virgin Blue Flight due for Sydney and the start of an epic adventure to take part in the Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage. Thirty nine pilgrims from all over Australia, New Zealand and even Italy were the participants. We began our journey at Mount Street with a get to know you session. The four Sisters guiding our way, Sisters Genevieve Carroll, Margaret Knagge, Therese Leyden and Marie Foale were an absolute delight. Nothing fazed them (on the surface anyway).

Once the introductions were over we were split into 2 groups, one listening to the history behind the pilgrimage and Mary MacKillop and the other visiting Mary MacKillop Place and the tomb. We swapped over later in the day and then finished the day with a visit to the Rocks and other interesting places visited by the Sisters.

Two days later we flew to Melbourne and from there boarded a bus which took us to Adelaide via the Great Ocean Road, Mount Gambia and Penola. Every day was filled with more of the life and times of this great woman, Mary MacKillop. Sitting on the bus was a pilgrimage in itself because we were travelling in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop.

Sometimes we touched a doorknob she touched, or drank from Julian Tenison's Chalice, from which she drank. We even sat in

the Chapel where she was excommunicated and walked through the same door she left by after her excommunication. I was blessed too when my Powerpoint Presentation on Mary MacKillop was shown in the Church at Penola. Everything about the Pilgrimage was a journey of faith.

There were many miracles on this journey and many faith-filled moments, not least when the Associates renewed their pledge to the Movement and when the Sisters, about half of the group, renewed their vows.

This was a journey I would encourage everyone to make, at least once in their life. The memories are indelibly marked into the tapestry of my life now and I thank God for the friends I made, the journey accomplished and the miracle of coming even closer to that great woman of Australia, Mary MacKillop.

To all those I journeyed with, you are sadly missed in my everyday life now but I remember each one of you in my prayers and closing thoughts before I sleep each night. Thank you Lord, for allowing me the privilege of making this journey.

Catherine Finlay

PS: I am well rested now. On doctors orders I spent a month in bed and 4 months later can claim to be almost free of the effects of the shingles.

We Remember

Mervyn Kelly RIP (Joyce Campbell's brother)

Dan Browne RIP

Hannora Costello RIP (mother/mother-in-law of Joan Mason and Trevor Evans)

Jack Rush RIP (father of Father Ormond Rush)



Mary MacKillop Corner

Mary MacKillop's mother was Flora Hannah MacDonald who was born in Fort William, the major town of the area in which the MacDonald glen was situated – the area known as Lochaber. (One of the Conference rooms at Mary MacKillop Place bears this name.)

Her father Donald McDonald was the proprietor of the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William at the time.

Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Scotland, is a popular place for tourists today. In July each year hundreds of hikers come to Fort William to climb Ben Nevis as it is more accessible in the summer time. In some ways Fort William (a military name) is a misnomer for this town which is situated on a beautiful loch among the mountains of the area. Those people who remember learning about the Caledonian Canal which links all these lochs



will have some idea of the area. Loch Ness is the second loch up in the series of lochs which the Canal joins.

Flora had two brothers, Donald and Alexander. Her mother and the three children left Scotland for Australia in

December 1839. During the difficult steamship journey to Australia, Alexander died of typhoid fever. The remainder of the family arrived in Melbourne in April 1840 and in July 1840, Flora MacDonald and Alexander MacKillop were married. Flora's father, Donald did not arrive in Australia until April 1842. Mary MacKillop was devoted to this grandfather who played a major part in her childhood years.

INVITATION

We Celebrate the Feast of St Joseph 2009

Sisters, Families, Associates and Friends

Your are all warmly invited to share the joy of this wonderful day.

When: Saturday 21 March
Where: Corpus Christi Church, Nundah
Commencing: 10:00am

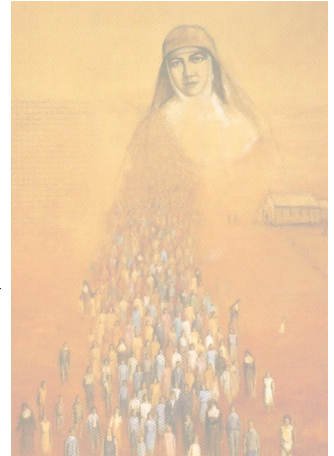
To be followed by morning tea at Nolan Hall, Bage Street, Nundah

RSVP: before March 14
To the Province Administration Office
Ph: 3266 1300
Fax: 3266 5377
Email: sosjadminqld1@bigpond.com



Blessed Mary MacKillop

"Be calm and full of hope'
"Have courage no matter
what your cross is"
'Remember that we are but travellers here'



LENTEN PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND EXAMINATION

Father, you planted me on earth.
You fenced me around with the love of parents,
family and friends. Their care towered over me.
In the shelter of this tower, I grew in safety and peace.
I put out early blossoms. I filled up with leaves.
People have great hopes in me.
You had great hopes for me.
But now the brief year of my life is passing.
The harvest in approaching.
Especially this Lent, I ask myself: what fruit have I to show?
What if, after all this care that you and
your friends have lavished on me,
I have nothing to offer but sour grapes.
May you, Lord, have mercy on me and,
with your patient care,
help me provide the fruits of your love.
Amen.

Marist Messenger March 2003

This Autumn, let us pause and allow the falling leaves to remind us of the call to be vulnerable, the call to be open to the possibility of being hurt, the call to accept and to grow from the daily dyings of our days and to love as Jesus loved.

Go for a walk in the forest or just down the street if you have some trees nearby whose leaves have turned. Let your heart roam through leaves. Think thoughts of vulnerability. Pick up a leaf. Take it home with you. Place it somewhere where you will see it often. Let it remind you of the call to be vulnerable.

Take time to browse through a Gospel. Note all the times that Jesus opened himself to hurt and misunderstanding. Allow yourself to be a bit more open and vulnerable to someone whom you love. Surrender yourself a bit more to God's power working through you. Let Autumn be a time when the value of vulnerability is strengthened in your life.

The Vulnerability of Jesus

- Lk 4:1 - 13: in the desert... where for 40 days he was tempted by the Devil
Mk 6:1 - 6: in his home town teaching ... many were astounded this teaching and they took offence at him.
Mk 7:1 - 23: in not being understood ... the Pharisees questioned him on not observing the tradition of the elders.
Jn 19:1 - 9: as he faced Pilate ... was flogged and the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head and dressed him in a purple robe.
Lk 22:39 - 46: in his agony to the Mount of Olives to pray and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

Fresh Bread - Joyce Rupp osm

REFLECTIONS

Feast of Saint Joseph

19th March 2009

St Joseph

Foster-father of the Son of God

Diligent protector of Christ

Head of the Holy Family

Joseph most just

Joseph most chaste

Joseph most prudent

Joseph most strong

Joseph most obedient

Joseph most faithful

Mirror of patience

Lover of poverty

Model of workers

Glory of virgins

Pillar of families

Comfort of the afflicted

Hope of the sick

Patron of the dying

Terror of demons

Protector of Holy Church

Pray for us

The Lord made him master of his house

and set him over all his possessions.

Pray for us, Saint Joseph,
that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

St Teresa of Avila

I do not remember ever having asked anything of St Joseph that he did not grant me, nor can I think without wonder of the graces God has given me through his intercession.

St Joseph, pray for us your children, now and at the hour of our death.

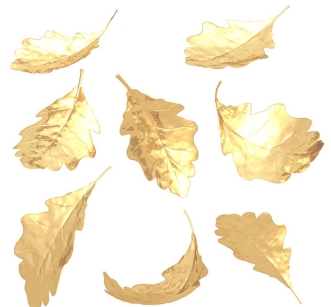
Amen.

An Autumn Prayer

God of the ever-turning seasons, our actions and deeds often end up far from the mark and our spirits seem to die and go adrift like leaves in the Autumn wind. Yet we rest in the hope of a new life that blossoms like the spring flowers. Through spiritual rebirth we stand to inherit the blessings of your kingdom, and become joint heirs with your son.

Time and again our focus seems to be on those things that are not eternal. Turn our eyes toward you and immerse us in the waters of your redemption. Guide us Lord. As pilgrims in this barren land, we set our faces toward the rising sun of your glorious resurrection. Bring your church to the fullness of her flower. May her leaves bring healing to a world full of hurt and darkness. Make her an oasis of rest for the weary. Amen. *Jay Weaver*

Autumn 09

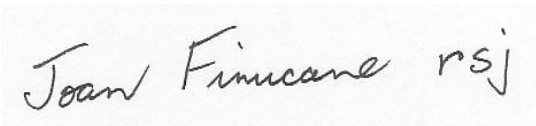


DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- Saturday 21 March 10:00am Feast of St Joseph at Corpus Christi Church, Nundah to be followed by Morning Tea in Nolan Hall. RSVP Ph 3266 1300 by 19 March
- Saturday 21 March Rockhampton Associates 2:00pm
- Monday 11 May Moorooka Associates - Mary MacKillop Centre Annerley 10:00am
- Saturday 30 May Retreat Day Nolan Hall, Nundah 9:30am. RSVP Sr Joan Finucane 3865 1837
- Saturday 30 May Soiree night at Corpus Christi Cultural Centre, Buckland Rd, Nundah. 7.00 pm. RSVP 3844 0840
- Tuesday 9 June Allora Associates 9:30am
- Saturday 18 July Associates' Celebration in honour of Mary MacKillop, Moorooka Catholic Church, Hawtree St, 10:30am followed by Morning Tea. All welcome. RSVP Joan 3865 1837
- Wednesday 5 August Dr Rachel Kohn, BA, (Hons) Lecture to be held at Corpus Christi Cultural Centre, Buckland Rd, Nundah at 7:00pm. Tickets from JAN Qld Inc on Ph 0738440840 or email janqld@bigpond.com.au.
- Saturday 8 August Eucharist to celebrate Mary MacKillop's Feast Day 10:00am in St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane; other Dioceses to be advised.
- Sunday 8 November Mary MacKillop 100 Concert, featuring Rupert McCall. 2:00pm Brisbane City Hall.

May the blessings of this Lenten time help us each prepare for the great feast at Easter.

Yours sincerely



Sr Joan Finucane



Notification of address/details change:

Preferred Title: _____ Full Name: _____

Changes: _____

