

Josephite Associates

Friendship ♦ Prayer ♦ Service

Autumn Newsletter

1 March 2010

Everything God blesses will prosper 1890

Greetings to all Associates, Sisters and friends as, this year, we celebrate the long-awaited Canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop.

The formal canonisation ceremony will take place in Rome on October 17 with thousands of pilgrims from Australia and many from NZ planning to attend, along with church leaders.

A press release from Sr Anne Derwin, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph reads *"It is my hope that Mary's example will continue to inspire many today, especially our young people, to live with the same deep faith in God, the same hope and the same selfless charity. Mary MacKillop was a bold and pioneering woman. To her all people were equal. To her all people deserved a fair go....Mary MacKillop is a relevant model of holiness and service for all of us today. We look forward to celebrating this in Rome, and*

throughout Australia, New Zealand and beyond later this year."

It is our hope that there will be celebratory services in each diocese of New Zealand to give everyone the opportunity to honour this 'ordinary woman who did extraordinary things'. I hope that you will all be able to celebrate this historic occasion with other Associates and friends throughout the year.

As we move along on our Lenten journey towards the celebration of Easter, let us open ourselves to God's powerful goodness given to us at every moment of each day. May we, like Mary MacKillop, live with deep faith, with trust and hope in God and with selfless charity as we *"Entreat God to make us all that we should be"* 1873.



Jill McLoughlin rsj

News from Associate Groups around NZ

Gisborne



The Gisborne RSJ Associates are a warm, merry bunch who gather each season for prayer, learning, fellowship and afternoon tea. We meet at the local convent. Sr. Marie Hogan is our convenor but others take turns to lead the meetings.

On Saturday November 21st 2009, we gathered in the Parish Centre of St. Mary's Star of the Sea. Mrs. Diane Strevens, whom many of you will know, was our special guest and leader for the afternoon. There were about 35 associates present and Diane began by introducing herself and then we all introduced ourselves to her. Prayer and song followed then, with the aid of a power point, Diane talked about the three ideals the Sisters of St. Joseph live by, to live simply, travel lightly and to welcome all with hospitality. We then broke into small groups of 4 and read the scripture readings of the Christmas Story, Matthew Ch2 v 1-12 and Luke Ch2 v 1-20. We looked at how these three ideals were reflected in the accounts of Jesus birth, we found it most interesting. Diane then asked us to share some of our insights. We closed with song.

The highlight for 6 of us, including myself, was the presentation of lovely certificates and a warm welcome by Diane to full membership of the Gisborne RSJ Associates. We are a varied group, some were educated many years ago by the Sisters and some of us are fairly new to the Josephites but have grown to love them and appreciate them in our midst. We are also enjoying reading and learning about Bl. Mary MacKillop. The afternoon concluded with a delicious afternoon tea.

Just a little note of humour: I had told my dear Salvation Army husband all about the Sisters [whom he knows] and the group and that I was to be received as a member. Just as I was leaving he rather apprehensively asked "Are you going to become a nun?"!
Breda Bernstein.

*Those receiving membership certificates were:
Genie Arahill, Breda Bernstein, Heather Gordon, Cushla Liddell, Maria Lovelock, Michelle Townshend.*

Dunedin

Congratulations to Denise and Brian Mitchell, Dunedin Associates, who recently received a papal blessing to mark their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated this great occasion with their eight children, parish community and friends. *Trish Clark*



Mission Bay



Jo Rivalland is off to South Africa to catch up with family. We pray for her safe travels, great meetings with family and for sure a return to our group. She was so proactive and helpful as secretary of the Mission Bay Associates.

Barbara Thompson

Rotorua

Associates held our get-together lunch at Valentines in November 2009. We had a very happy, relaxing time together with our two sisters, Carina and Colette, despite two of our associate members having lost their husbands very recently. We are a small group but we regularly meet and find the newsletter a useful resource for sharing our thoughts and reflections.

Miyoko Hammersley



BOOKS FOR SALE

Sr Sheila McCreanor's book *Mary MacKillop On Mission: To Her Last Breath* - correspondence about the Foundations of the Sisters of St Joseph in New Zealand was launched in December 2009 at Mission Bay. Copies available from Sr Margaret O'Neill, 30 Holgate Road, Kohimarama, 1071. \$30 (incl. postage and packaging).

Also copies of *MacKillop Women* - the story of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in Aotearoa New Zealand are still available from the same address at a cost of \$40 (incl p & p).



Prayers Please

For the following Associates who are ill. May they have a speedy recovery.

Mary Phillips, Colleen Flatts and Colleen Larsen from the Mission Bay Group.

We remember in our prayers those who have died: Alex Millar, husband of Hilda (Rotorua Associate). Karen Nowell, Thames associate and niece of Sr Angela McArthur, who died peacefully on November 18 2009 after a valiant battle.

Pat Murphy, husband of Marie Murphy who passed away quietly on February 6 at St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor)

We send our sympathies to their families and friends. May they all rest in peace.

More News and Information

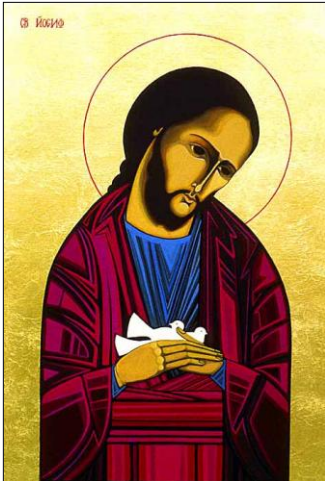
2010 Australian Pilgrimages

In the Footsteps of Blessed Mary MacKillop

12-22 April & 12-22 October

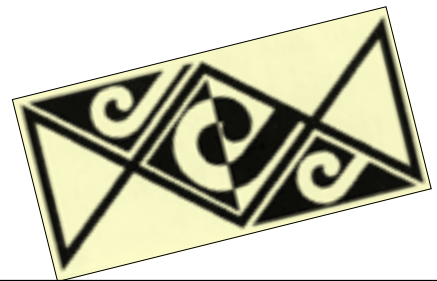
For more information download the brochure by going to:

<http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/spirituality/documents/Brochure2010.pdf>



Happy Feast of St Joseph

If you are in Auckland please join us on St Joseph's Day
Friday 19th March at the Mission Bay Convent
Liturgy - 6.30pm
Followed by supper - please bring a plate
Please bring a small item for the raffle basket (in aid
of House of Bethany and Beautiful Daughters)



DONATIONS

Thank you to all those people who have kept our newsletter going by sending donations. If you are able to afford \$10 to cover the newsletter costs we'd be very grateful. However we don't want to lose touch with you so if you are unable to afford this, please continue to enjoy the newsletter. All donation should be sent to Diane Strevens, 2/35 Selwyn Avenue, Mission Bay, Auckland 1071. Please make cheques out to *St Joseph's Associateship*.

THANK YOU!

Grateful thanks to the Gisborne Associates who prepared the Summer/Christmas prayer sheet. Thank you to the Dargaville Associates who put together the Autumn 2010 prayer sheet included in this newsletter.

Apologies if you received a newsletter with an incorrect title eg. Miss instead of Mrs or vice versa. I was adding a change of address and suddenly (as computers do) all my Mr, Mrs, Miss, Fr etc shifted, and I didn't know what belonged to who!! If this is a concern, please email me and let me know the correct address. di.strevens@xtra.co.nz