

# Josephite Associates



## Friendship Prayer Service

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## February 2011

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### “Go on...” by Di Colborne

Our mission as Josephite Associates is to respond to the call to live the charism of Mary MacKillop in our daily lives in our own and unique way. Importantly, we support one another by our “Friendship, Prayer and Service”, as we endeavour to make a difference in our local area and so further the presence of God in our world.

The canonisation of Mary MacKillop was not just a momentous celebration; it has also challenged us to continue more fervently with our mission of keeping alive Mary’s story – the charism and spirit that has captured us.

Tradition has suggested that Mary’s last words were “Go on...” As Associates we are now taking these words as a challenge for us in 2011 – to continue with our mission that has charged us towards *Friendship, Prayer and Service* with a renewed energy and a deeper commitment and spirited vigour to live out the charism in our lives through our work, our family and our community.



“Mary MacKillop – Friend and Educator of the Poor”  
by artist Mary Brady OP – used with permission.

One of our first functions this year is our Friendship Afternoon on the 27<sup>th</sup> February (see page 3 for more details). Come along and be part of our launching of our year of 2011.

So, “Go on...” and come!

“May God bless you and  
keep you all.” MMK

## Advent Retreat Day by Mary Mattner



Over twenty people attended this day last year on the 13<sup>th</sup> November. Val De Brenni and Lucia Ciocca facilitated it, focusing on the theme "Coming Home" as well as using images of "doors" which proved to have a powerful effect on each person's individual journey.

Through Val and Lucia's sensitive and gentle encouragement, we shared uplifting, emotional, and thought provoking stories of special events and situations in our lives.

Time was set aside for listening, meditation, and sharing, as well as connecting to our own inner voice by drawing and making strands of prayer beads.



New friendships were formed while enjoying tea breaks and a delicious lunch.

At the end of the Retreat there was a sense of joy, gratitude and appreciation that God's presence had dwelt among us, giving a great sense of longing, yearning and hope for the future.



## A Musical Evening by Barbara Ahern



With another year passing so quickly it was once again December and all Associates were invited to attend a gathering with

friends and celebrate with the singing of Christmas Carols.

Sr Majella O'Sullivan rsj led us in song and entertained us with her energy, cheeriness and sense of humour accompanied by Mary Gill on the piano. The carols (both old and new) were the favourites of many present. We shared our own Christmas customs (all varied and different) and tried to imagine that *first* Christmas.

We also exchanged a Christmas decoration

with each other and reflected on the meaning of Christmas for each of us. We offered prayers of thanks as well as remembered dear ones who are living further afield.

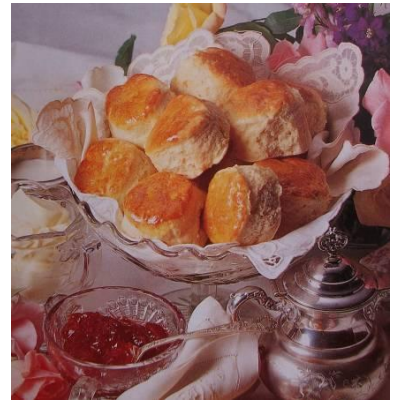
Over supper, there was a raffle drawn for the Peruvian mission and time to meet new friends as well as catch up with those we already knew. It was a lovely evening with entertainment, reflection, gift giving and socialising.



# Friendship Afternoon Devonshire Tea

Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> February

2pm – 4pm  
Bethany Hall, Province Centre  
4 High St, Kensington



Associates near and far are invited to this afternoon tea. This will be an opportunity to connect or reconnect with others who share the Josephite charism.

**We will have a sharing of experiences based around Mary MacKillop's Canonisation. Come, share your story and what it meant to you and hear from others, including those who were in Rome.**

So,... bring a friend and join us for scones, tea/coffee and a chat. (All food provided)

For catering purposes please contact Mary Hemmings ASAP on 8355 5365 or email us at [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au) if you are intending to come.



## Lenten Reflection Day

# Ashes to Easter



Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

10am – 3pm

Bethany Hall, Province Centre  
4 High St, Kensington

*Facilitated by Sr Eileen Taylor rsj*

Lent is a time to reflect on our lives in the light of the Gospels. Take some time out for yourself as Sr Eileen leads us in a day of prayer.

- 10am Start of Reflection Day
- 11.30am Mass adjacent Tappeiner Court
- BYO Lunch
- Please register by 25<sup>th</sup> March to  
Sr Eileen Taylor  
P.O. Box 57, Kent Town, 5071  
For enquiries telephone Sr Eileen on  
8130 5980 (evenings only)



## **Celebrations Continue** by Margaret Williams (Jamestown Contact)

On the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2010 approximately 700 people gathered to celebrate the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop at the Church of St Anacletus in Peterborough. Fifty of the Sisters of St Joseph attended and the Celebrant was Bishop Greg O'Kelly. The service began with a piper playing and the choir singing "God of all Hearts" honouring Mary's Scottish heritage.

A procession of children carried banners of towns in the diocese where Mary had visited and the Sisters had served. Members from Gladstone School performed a very moving spiritual dance.

A highlight of the day was when Bishop Greg and a school girl, dressed as Mary MacKillop, travelled by horse and buggy (see photograph at right) to the oval where a BBQ lunch was being prepared. John O'Dea from Pekina sang a song he composed as a tribute to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.



A wonderful day was enjoyed by all to acknowledge the canonisation and where people showed their gratitude for the endless work of the Sisters from 1869 to the present day.

## **Our Associate Country Contacts**

Jamestown	Margaret Williams 8664 1739 and Colleen Stewart 8662 4185
Murray Bridge	Jan Howard 8532 4277
Port Lincoln	Julie Palmer 8682 3655 (at St Joseph's School)

## **Other News**

### **ADVANCE NOTICE: Advent Day of Reflection**

On Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October the **Retreat Centre at Sevenhill** has been booked. This will provide a delightful venue in which to gather and find some spiritual nourishment.

*"The grounds, shrines, Stations of the Cross, walking paths and surrounding vineyards create an environment conducive to encountering God in a restful and peaceful rural setting."*

[website]

We hope that many of our Associates from the city and Mid North (and beyond) may be able to join us on this day. Travel arrangements can be made and further details will be in our next newsletter.

Mark this date on your calendar!

### **Profession of Josephite Sister**

First Profession of Sr Gail Leslie at the Kensington Chapel took place on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 in the presence of Sr Anne Derwin rsj, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph. This profession is the first to occur in the chapel since 1941.

### **Celebrations at Murray Bridge**

On Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, the Murray Bridge Catholic Parish commemorated the centenary of the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer. His Grace, Archbishop Philip Wilson, celebrated the Mass.

# Covenant Josephites

In 2010 Val De Brenni, Di Colborne and Mary Hemmings made commitments to the Sisters of St Joseph as Covenant Josephites. Here are their responses to some key questions asked of them.

## What is a Covenant Josephite?

Val: A Covenant Josephite is a woman or man called by God to live the charism of Mary MacKillop in communion with the Sisters of St Joseph for the sake of mission. This call, recognised by the Congregation, is a gift of God's spirit and an expression of the charism handed down by the founders. In communion with the Sisters, the Covenant Josephite is committed to Josephite principles and values articulated at General Chapter.

## In what way does this differ from a Josephite Associate?

Di: One of the expressions of the Josephite charism includes Josephite Associates. This group of people responds to the call to live out the charism of Mary MacKillop and support each other through friendship, prayer and service. A Covenant Josephite responds to this call to live out the charism of Mary MacKillop in close communion with the Sisters of St Joseph. Each person has ritualized this covenant relationship and abides by a rule of life, which will be renewed annually. A Covenant Josephite has a Josephite mentor, a Spiritual Director and has membership with a community and is sometimes involved with Congregational gatherings. Being a covenant relationship, the Sisters also have committed to share mutual trust, community, interaction, servant energy and supportive companionship in living out the charism in our daily lives.

## What inspired you to take up this new/other way of being Josephite?

Val: Over the past years there has slowly emerged, through spiritual direction, a sense of my being drawn by, and attracted to the Josephite charism. It was through prayer and with the aid of spiritual direction that this call within me gradually took shape and became clearer. I felt that I was being

called to a close relationship with the Josephites but didn't know what that might look like as I am happily married.

Di: I have been associated with the Josephites since I began school. All through my schooling, except for 2 years, I was educated by the Josephites – I even went to a Catholic Teachers' College, at Mount Street, North Sydney and I have taught and been leader in many Josephite schools. So this long association has been a foundational part of my life. It is the spirit – the charism – of those Josephites who have been a part of my life that has been the magnet to draw me to this covenant relationship.

## How do you express being a Covenant Josephite in your daily life?

Val: In every aspect of my life, work, marriage and grand-parenting I am attempting to appreciate simple pleasures and live a simple life style. Daily prayer has become more important to me and I also have ongoing spiritual direction and a yearly retreat. I am involved in the mission of the Josephites through my work as a Religious Education consultant at the Catholic Education Office.

Di: I aspire to live out this covenant relationship in my daily life through:

- the relationships I have with all those with whom I come in contact daily,
- my contact and relationship with the members of my Josephite community and the Josephite Congregation,
- my daily prayer life and
- presently, through my theological studies, I am deepening my relationship with God and responding in a deeper way to my Baptismal call to live out my life in service to others especially those marginalized within our society.

# Prayer Requests

Do you know of any Associates who have died or are ill and in need of our prayers? We could advise Associates of your need for prayers at our gatherings, as well as offering prayers at the monthly Masses on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

If you would appreciate assistance in this way, please feel free to telephone Mary Hemmings on 8355 5365 or let one of the Committee members know.

## News from the Mary MacKillop Centre by Sr Pat Keane

**Pilgrimages** – visit sites of significance in the life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

- Southern Districts, 15<sup>th</sup> May  
8.30am – 6pm. Cost \$80. Closing date: 15<sup>th</sup> April
- Adelaide City & Districts, 24<sup>th</sup> July  
8.30am – 5pm. Cost \$65. Closing date: 23<sup>rd</sup> June
- Interstate, 7<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October  
Travelling through SA, Vic and NSW. Closing date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July

### **Can You Please HELP?**

Due to the increased number of visitors more volunteers are needed to assist in the MMK Centre. If you are interested in St Mary MacKillop's life and work, enjoy meeting people and could spare a little time occasionally then this could be for you. The MMK Centre is open Mondays to Thursdays and on Sundays – you nominate your own dates.

### **A Reflection Day: The Ministry of a Volunteer**

Facilitated by Sr Christina Neunzerling rsj at the MMK Centre on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 10am – 3pm.

*All enquiries can be made by telephoning Sr Pat at the MMK Centre on 8364 5311.*

“See the hand of God in  
all that happens.” MMK

## Subscriptions for 2010 – 2011

Have you paid your membership for this financial year? If not, please complete your details below and post, together with your payment of \$15 which may be made by cash or cheque, to our Treasurer, Gerald Hinton. Alternatively, you can see anyone from the Committee who will be more than happy to pass it on.

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**Josephite Associates SA**  
**Annual Subscription (\$15) for 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

Miss     Ms     Mrs     Mr     \_\_\_\_\_ (other)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Post to:    Mr Gerald Hinton  
              25 Chapel Street  
              Campbelltown, SA, 5074

## Diary Dates for 2011

### ① St Mary MacKillop's Monthly Mass and Reflection

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> of each month (except Sundays)  
Time: 10.30am (Mass) and 5.45pm (Reflection)  
Place: Kensington Chapel, 286 Portrush Rd, Kensington

### ① A Friendship Afternoon

Date: Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> February

For more details please refer to page 3.

### ① WEA Walk – Mary MacKillop's Kensington

Date: Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> March  
Time: 1.30pm  
Place: Mary MacKillop Centre, High St, Kensington

Check the details in the latest edition of the WEA brochure. This walk will be led by Sr Patricia Keane rsj. Bookings through the WEA. Bring some water.

### ① Lenten Reflection Day

Date: Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April

For more details please refer to page 3.

### ① Jubilee Mass

Date: Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 10am  
Place: St Ignatius Church, 139 William St, Norwood

Ten Sisters of St Joseph will be celebrating significant years of their profession. These are: Sr Veronica Daniels (70), Srs Margaret Kenny and Maryanne Welsh (60), Srs Carmel Clarke, Margaret Nicholas, Genevieve Ryan and Veronica Slattery (50), Srs Sheila McCreanor and Susan Pollard (40) and Sr Catherine Mead (25).

### ① Annual General Meeting

Date: Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July  
Time: 2pm – 4pm  
Place: Bethany Hall, Province Centre,  
4 High St, Kensington

More details to come.

### ① Vigil for Mary's Feast Day

Date: Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> August  
Place: Bethany Hall, Province Centre,  
4 High St, Kensington

More details to come.

### ① Advent Day of Reflection

Date: Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October  
Place: Retreat Centre, Sevenhill

More details to come.

### ① A Social Gathering with Carols

Date: TBA – sometime in December  
Place: Bethany Hall, Province Centre,  
4 High St, Kensington

More details to come.



“There where you are  
you will find God.” MMK

## MEETING PRAYER & REFLECTION

We present the following Prayer & Reflection to Associates to use at Associate gatherings or to use for personal prayer. We will present this starting point for meetings and hope this format may be useful. We are following a series of reflections from Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj "Praying from the Heart – A Reflection with Mary MacKillop for each day of the week"



## MARY MACKILLOP A WOMAN WITH A COURAGEOUS HEART

### Gathering

Leader: We welcome one another as Associates and friends of Mary MacKillop.

### From the Pen of Mary MacKillop

Leader: Mary was a wonderful writer and she kept in contact with her Sisters, family and friends through her many letters. She writes in 1890: *"Have courage no matter what your crosses are."*

Let us take some time to think about these words. What does Mary mean? What were some of her crosses? What are some of my crosses? Where do I show courage?

*(Some quiet time to reflect)*

### Scripture

Leader: We listen to God's Word. A reading from Matthew 10:38:

*Whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.*

*(Silence to ponder God's Word)*

### Reflection

Leader: Mary MacKillop was a woman of faith who lived by the power of the Cross. When it came to suffering and hardship Mary MacKillop had more than her fair share. She endured many tragic deaths in her family, including the fatal drowning of her mother and a life-long battle with ill-health. Hardships also came from within the Church. Her excommunication was a very painful moment in her life as was the Commission of Enquiry which the Order endured during 1883. She wrote at this time: *"The Institute is going through a severe trial but with humility, charity and truth on the part of its members all will be well."*

### Story from the Life of Mary MacKillop

Leader: On the news of her mother's tragic death, Mary MacKillop wrote to her brother Donald in England *"You must have heard of our sad terrible loss. Everything was too bewildering at first, then the efforts to recover her dear remains, the funeral, and then came the reaction. It was sad, very sad that she must go as she did, but we must hope that her reward is great in proportion. I cannot now attempt to describe the dismay with which I heard the sad news."*  
1886

### Pause for Reflection

Leader: How have the crosses in your life called forth courage within you? Let us share our thoughts and stories.

### Prayer

Leader: We gather our reflections and stories, and place these before our God. Let us pray together:

ALL: *God our comforter, You stand with us in all our sorrows and difficulties. May we, like Mary MacKillop, respond with faith and courage in all the hardships that we face in our life. Amen. St Mary of the Cross, accepting of the cross in life, courageous of heart, pray for us.*

### Action

Leader: Let us think about what action we could take from our discussions and reflections today. For example, hold in prayer someone who is weighed down by the burdens of life. *(We share our ideas)*

### News

Take some time to discuss the Newsletter items and any group projects.