

Josephite Associates

Friendship ♦ Prayer ♦ Service

Autumn Newsletter

1 March 2011



Dear Associates, Sisters and Friends,

As this is our first newsletter for 2011, the Leadership Team sends their best wishes for the New Year. We hope that you continue to live in the spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, trusting in God's unconditional love, and sharing that love with the people you meet in 2011.

In this newsletter we have a lively report on the canonization celebrations in Arrowtown; information on a new picture book for children about St Mary MacKillop of the Cross, written by a member of the Associate Leadership Team, Sr Jill McLoughlin; a brief report of the August meeting between our Associate Team and the Whanganui Team; and a selection of prayers taken from *Mary MacKillop: a Window of Hope* by Sr Monica Cavanagh.

This will be my last Josephite Associate newsletter. I have been coordinating the newsletter for nine years, and feel that it would benefit from a different voice and a new look. Thank you to all the people who have sent in reports on what has been happening with your Associate group or any other news connected with Josephite happenings. I am hoping to move into helping refugees to make a home for themselves in the Auckland area – another way of “making room for all”.

Warm regards, **Diane Strevens**

**Retreat and Reflection Days
Mary MacKillop Centre
56 Selwyn Avenue, Mission Bay
Auckland**



The programme for 2011 includes:

- guided and contemplative retreats
- days of reflection, including *Living Simply in a World of Plenty* and *Spirituality for the Second Half of Life*.

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DUNEDIN DIOCESE CELEBRATES THE CANONISATION



Margaret Hyland as St Mary of the Cross (left) and Angela Verry as Sr Cecilia with children from St Joseph's School, Queenstown

On Thursday 4th November Trish Clark and Denise Mitchell from the Dunedin Associates headed to Queenstown by bus to attend the celebrations in Arrowtown taking place over the weekend.

On Friday, 153 children from St Joseph's School, Queenstown sang, danced and acted out the story of how St Mary of the Cross established the school in Arrowtown in 1897. St Patrick's Church in Arrowtown was packed out.

On Saturday two groups of about 50 people, led by David Clark from the Arrowtown museum, went on

a tour of places of interest connected with St Mary of the Cross. The walk ended at St Mary MacKillop Cottage, where we were greeted by Margaret Hyland, dressed as St Mary, who welcomed everyone. The Lakes District Museum education officer, Angela Verry, acting as Sr Cecilia, conducted a class of children from St Josephs School, dressed as 1897 pupils, in reading, writing and arithmetic lessons, as well as prayer and good manners. For example the boys were told that young ladies should be served first! Tony Hanning from the Catholic Education Office, presented Margaret Hyland with a plaque in recognition of her work over the years in restoring the MacKillop Cottage, and also the great contribution she and her team had made to the canonization celebrations in Arrowtown.

Sunday Mass was the highlight of the weekend. The procession, which assembled outside the church, marched through Arrowtown, where many people were lining the streets. It was led by the Queenstown Highland Pipe Band, followed by Kevin Burdon carrying the St Mary of the Cross banner from the parish church. They were followed by 14 Sisters of St Joseph, including the Provincial Leader, Sr Colleen Keeble, all wearing their turquoise canonization scarves, Josephite Associates, and the many parishioners, friends and ex-pupils from all over the diocese. Bishop Colin Campbell, Fathers Tony Harrison, Maurice White and Michael Hill were joined on the march by representatives from other Christian churches in Queenstown and Arrowtown.

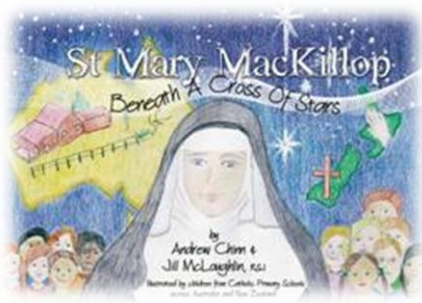
"I found the walk to the Athenaeum Hall, where the Mass was held, and the Mass spiritually uplifting – the spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was truly with us. The song A Cross of Stars says it all!"

After Mass lunch was served, including a massive "Australasian" pavlova, made with 150 eggs and covered with cream and strawberries. It was just great to have a chance to mingle with the Sisters, who came from all over New Zealand and Australia, priests and many friends from the whole Diocese of Dunedin.

For myself, this was a once in a lifetime happening that has left me on a spiritual high! Thank you, dear God, for our St Mother Mary of the Cross MacKillop, our Australasian saint.

Denise and Trish also attended celebrations St St Peter Chanel Green Island, St Mary Star of the Sea Port Chalmers, St Mary MacKillop Balclutha, and Holy Name North Dunedin, where they were both pupils.

'St Mary MacKillop: Beneath a Cross of Stars' Picture book



This book is based on Andrew Chinn's song about Mary MacKillop, "A Cross of Stars". We sang the song at several of our Canonisation Thanksgiving Masses recently. Andrew invited me to write a narrative of Mary's life for the book. The artwork comes from primary school children in Catholic Schools across Australia and New Zealand, which have had a Josephite presence. Four NZ schools contributed. At the book launch, a group of children asked Sr Anne Derwin to present a signed copy of the book to Pope Benedict XVI when she was in Rome. Their wish became a reality!

Recently I received a special letter which I would like to share with you. In gratitude – Jill McLoughlin

From the Vatican 25 October 2010

Dear Sister Jill,

The Holy Father wishes me to express his gratitude for the kind gift of an inscribed copy of St Mary MacKillop: Beneath a Cross of Stars presented to him during the General Audience of 13 October 2010. He appreciates the beautiful work involved in its creation. His Holiness will remember you, Mr Andrew Chinn and the illustrators of this book in his prayers. He invokes upon you God's abundant blessings.

*Yours sincerely
Monsignor Peter B Wells
Assessor*

Meeting of Whanganui Associates and Josephite Associate leadership Team

Your Leadership Team met up with the Whanganui Associates in Christchurch last year – one week before the earthquake struck! We shared the different activities we had all been engaged in during the past year, looked at the variety of ways in which the canonization was being celebrated in Aotearoa New Zealand, and discussed future plans, including possibilities for working together to share the charism. As so many of our members are or have been teachers, there was a lot of interest in ways we could keep the charism alive in schools with a Josephite tradition. During our time in the garden city we visited Mary's brother, John MacKillop's grave.



Whanganui Associates and your Josephite Associate Leadership Team at John MacKillop's grave in Christchurch, August 2010

**Prayers for deeper compassion and awareness in our world
through the intercession of St Mary of the Cross.**

Loving God we thank you for the example of Mary MacKillop who in her living of the Gospel witnessed to the human dignity of each person. She faced life's challenge with faith and courage.

We pray through her intercession for our needs. May her holiness inspire us to be people of hope, love and forgiveness. We make this prayer through Jesus the Lord.
Amen

Gracious God, we praise and thank you for the gift of Mary MacKillop to our world. May her life inspire us to reach out to those who are suffering hardship and injustice. Fill us with joy as we celebrate her genuine goodness and heroic holiness.

We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Sr Monica Cavanagh *Mary MacKillop: A Window of Hope, p.26, 85..*



*We pray for the repose
of the souls of:*

*Joan Coleman (Auckland Associate)
Des Dodunski (father of Gayle)*

May they rest in peace



to all the Associates who
sent in donations to help
towards the cost of the
newsletter in 2010.

The Leadership Team really appreciates your
generosity and support.

Josephite Associate Leadership Team



Below are the names and contact details for all members of the Associate Leadership Team in case you want to get in touch with someone near your area.

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