



Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

NEWSLETTER • MARCH 2011

Josephite Associates
Locked Bag 3031
BURWOOD NSW 1805

Dear Associates,

Welcome to 2011! I was thinking how amazing it is that we slip so easily into a New Year! Sometimes we do so from habit, once the highlights of the New Year Celebrations fade and become a memory.

Let's approach this one a little differently. Are you game? 2011 will be an exciting year as once again we venture into the unknown mystery of each day. Creation is ever singing a new song unto the Lord. So, grab your cuppa, get comfortable and let's create an inner peace rhythm, as we move into our reflective time with our God.

Walking along the sands of time during the holidays, I was touched by the magic of the sunrise. As I gazed at my God through His 'window' to a new day, I remembered what a difference light and colour make in our lives. Anthony De Mello, in his writings, often challenged us about new things; he spoke about enlightenment in life, in living. So, what is this enlightenment he talks about? Where does it fit into our lives and what difference will it make, should I decide to break open its depth and life relatedness for me? The first segment towards enlightenment is awareness!

Awareness is about self-knowledge. Prayer is the key into God awareness. Blending the levels of our inner self increases knowledge and fosters understanding. Our willingness to listen to another has the potential to soften the human heart. It may sometimes draw us into empathy. Standing in the shoes of another is one way to embrace enlightenment. I read somewhere recently: it is wiser to live a life into acceptance of others, than to overload them with expectations! I guess it's about loving them and ourselves as we are, Jesus style? "I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full" (Jesus). While we know prayer contributes to the depth of enlightenment, it is actually our daily living that frees us to practice our degrees of enlightenment; to understand life and others at a deeper, peace-filled level. You know – the kind no one can take from you? Jesus said to Philip, "Phillip, he who sees me sees the Father". How often do I recognize my God in life?

So, enlightenment to me is about living with a presence in life's reality. This presence is our spirit of connectedness to God. It continually enfolds and unfolds us into who we are. While our lived life reveals all. What do you think? Maybe, true enlightenment is the seamless alignment of God and us, in and through others! To me this truth is particularly potent during the Eucharist when the celebrant prays the words: "through Him, with Him and in Him". Sometimes it is much easier to run away from such a truth! I know it is for me. Yet, we must stay, and come to know each other better, more deeply, so that we may truly recognize the eternal love of God residing within each of us. Encountering such a truth creates trust – or as it is sometimes termed, the virtue of Hope! "In Him we live and move and have our being!"

In 2011, as Josephite Associates, let's take more risks: increase

membership, extend our friendships and invite someone else to join our circle of prayer. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop is known well beyond Australia. She is a saint for the Universal Church. You and I are part of her witness to the world today. Throw out a challenge to others, be part of her story and charism. Enlighten them as to who she was and is for all today. Do it through the life you live, the person you are and way you engage. If you and I don't tell the world about the Josephite Associates, who will?

Peace to you and yours, in country and city alike. May God bless us one and all – till next we meet.

Clare

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

A little girl you were in time
When God touched your heart and mind
To seek and find
The souls of many
Like a thriving golden pine

Compassionate and generous with your love
Your own internal struggles
You sought solace from above
Full of fight and fire
God's Will was your desire

To educate the poor
To shelter the Orphans and the Pros
Your Sisters followed
It is called "Charism on the Go"

Australia's first Saint
You did become
And to the world
Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop
A Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart Nun

Helen A Bache JA
Lakemba Group



Canonisation Reflection

Like so many of you, I hold dear my memories of the Canonisation experience celebrated with such enthusiasm and joy last October 2010. I was one of the very fortunate Sisters who made the Pilgrimage to Rome to be part of history-making on site! The group of about 140 Sisters carried the prayers and blessings of all those who generously “sent us” to represent the Congregation. Our good and provident God was truly manifest in every step of the journey and my gratitude is too big to adequately express.

Some highlights of the 10 days were anchored in the happiness of the entire group and in the conversations, meetings and building of relationships that gave a real sense of being “one in spirit”. All 8000 Australian pilgrims were there to celebrate “our hero” Mary MacKillop and each of us, like you, dear reader, can tell stories of how well we know her. Certainly Kath Evans (hers was the miracle cure of cancer) was delighted to be there with her husband Barry and two daughters and to catch up with old friends. Kath placed the reliquary during the canonisation Mass. She was assisted by Sr Niesha Allport, Principal of Penola School, and Ronnie Campbell, a relative of Mary MacKillop from Roybridge, Scotland.

The privilege that each Sister felt at having been “chosen” to attend increased our sense of unity and truly being sisters. There has never been such an occasion with so many Sisters from across the Central Congregation (Brown Joeys) and the Federation of the Sisters of St Joseph (Black Joeys) gathered in



Rose Vu and Helena Tran

one spot. Mary’s words, “May the spirit of unity and love reign amongst us” (MM 12.9.1884), were clearly evident. It was an extra canonisation blessing that, please God, we can continue to live into. There was so much packed into the days in Rome – the Morning Prayer, followed by Morning Tea hosted by Tim Fischer; the visit to St Joseph’s monument in the Vatican gardens; the Walking Pilgrimage to the places Mary visited in Rome; the Indigenous Cultural Celebration; the inspiring Vigil prayer; the Canonisation Mass; the Celebration Dinner; the Thanksgiving Mass; the Papal Audience! There was also a day trip to Assisi and time for seeing the magnificent historical and sacred sites of the Eternal City. It was little wonder that “we all came home tired but happy!” *Jeanette Foxe rsj*



Kath and Helen Saunders



Lyn Raftery catching a nap at sunrise in Bangkok airport

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The Editorial Team

Editor: Christine Sivewright

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Coming Events—Associates

Prayer Day at Oatley

14th May 2011

(10.00 am to 2.30 pm)

‘There Where You ARE You Will Find God’

Led by Jan Barnett rsj

St Joseph’s Church Hall

Frederick Street Oatley

If coming by train, turn right at Oatley Station, walk across pathway into Fredrick Street, and the church is one block along (5-minute walk)

For further information phone

Mary Gallagher on 02 9579 6893

JA's Corner

October, 2010 Continued

- Volunteer Survey Returns collated
- 29 members volunteered to be directly involved in teams
- Special thanks for your responses- all appreciated

November:

- Dedication Ceremonies being conducted across many Local Josephite Associates' Groups
- Notifications regarding the dates for Local Groups' Dedication Gatherings are to be sent by Group Leaders into office, if possible by email or mail. Advance notice of a month at least is wonderful! Hymn selection is your choice!
- Thanks to the many Local Contact Leaders who have sent such positive responses (mail and phone) regarding the Dedication Ceremonies in 2010.
- Planning began for Transition Stage 2 Leadership Ownership.
- All members were sent a letter regarding the Stage 2 changes and the possible impact of same.
- 2011 Gathering at Baulkham Hills (March 14, 15) is underway. Planning Team of Associates is responsible for this Gathering.
- 27.11.10 Volunteers met at Lidcombe
- Personnel Resource Directory is being drafted.
- Booking of facilitators for Prayer Days is the responsibility of Local Group Leader and members.
- A Procedures Directory is in Draft form and plan is to complete same by March 2011.
- Reminder notifications re sickness, death, and request for prayers must be sent direct to JA's Office. Address is Josephite Associates Office, Locked Bag 3031, BURWOOD NSW 1805.
- Sincere thanks to the many members who are sending donations, as well as their Annual Members Contribution.

December:

- 07.12.10 Meeting with Leadership Team for Josephite Associates (three members at this stage with a plan to invite two others into the Team).
- Named Leadership Team Members are: Leonie Bell, Helen Bache and Anne Downey.
- 07.12.10 Josephite Associates Office is open for your calls on Mondays and Wednesdays. On other days you may choose to leave a message and, as usual, it will be followed through by one of the Team Leadership Members.
- When you intend holding functions or Prayer Days at Local Group Level, it is important that you forward us the dates in advance. We will then include in the Newsletter for all to see.
- Are there any Josephite Associates or Friends who would like to be a phone partner for the Aged Care residents at Hunters Hill? If your answer is yes, phone the JA office on 02 8741 2334 and we will send information to Hunters Hill.

January

- Effective 2011, the usual Clare's Corner will be named JAs' Corner (Josephite Associates)
- The input will be communicated via the Leadership Team Members
- I will continue to write my usual letter to you as Transitional leader and perhaps in July 2012 some

other Leadership Team members will be the link for you and your spiritual reflection.

- Newsletters will be sent three times a year: March, July and November. Anyone wishing to submit articles for inclusion, please send direct to the Office at Croydon.
- Special Thanks to Paul McMahon who has taken us into the Digital Age with the Newsletter!
- During the Stage 2 transition I will be with the Leadership Team and you. Your support to date has been wonderful, thank you. I know you will continue to walk our new way as Josephites in the company of each other, Mary MacKillop and our God!

Reminder:

We need articles for the Newsletter. Will you send some in for us to review and include? Send some great pictures, too!

Josephite Associates Mass at Mary MacKillop Place

On Saturday 9th October, 2010 the Josephite Associates Mass was held in the chapel of Mary MacKillop Place, Mount Street, North Sydney to celebrate the impending canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop.

There was a buzz of excitement in the air and, with baton raised, the conductor, Julie Todd, commenced the mass with the choir of sixteen in full voice singing the opening hymn, "Australia's Blessed One". Kim Lafan, the organist, and Aileen Smith, the flautist, kept the music flowing so beautifully throughout the Mass.

Our celebrant, Father Graeme Malone sss, welcomed us all. Various Associates participated so willingly in the liturgy, being cross bearer, readers, gift bearers, and communion ministers, which made the Mass that extra special with their involvement. The Associates candle shone brightly from the altar, made by our talented candlestick maker, Gwen Daly.

What would we do without our photographer, Margaret Battam, who clicked away to ensure that the Mass was recorded in picture.

Our thanks to Mary Gallagher, who prepared the Liturgy; Anne Downey, who did the Mass book; and thanks also to Sister Brigette and Sister Marie for their assistance. A warm appreciation to each of you, our Associate members and friends, for celebrating the Eucharist with us.

Without exception, the choir with Julie made the chapel and heavens rejoice with their hymns of praise.

Father Graeme asked if he could keep the music, as he loved the Mass of God's Promise, which gave testimony to what was experienced by this spiritual event held by the Josephite Associates.

Helen Bache JA Lakemba Group



'To live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often'

These are the words of John Henry Cardinal Newman. It is fitting that so close to his Beatification by Benedict XVI in Birmingham, 19 September 2010, we reflect on the life of this great and courageous Churchman: Anglican priest convert to Catholicism, later Cardinal, in Victorian England.



He was born 21 February 1801 in London; his parents were John Henry Newman and Jemina Foundrinier; he was the eldest of a family of three sons and three daughters. From his French pedigree on his mother's side he was a moderate Calvinist. As a thinking man he turned to Anglicanism and in 1821 gave up the prospect of studying law and was ordained as an Anglican priest on 13 June 1824. His role in the Oxford movement was as guide, philosopher and later 'martyr'. This movement was predominantly made up of an influential group of Anglicans wishing to return the Church of England to many Catholic beliefs and forms of worship.

His 'European Tour' of 1832/3 saw him in Rome where he met Cardinal Wiseman at the English College; it was Rome that seemed to cast a spell on him which was never to be forgotten. Unfortunately he became ill in Sicily and remained there for some time, during which he composed a number of poems. It was during and after this trip that Newman took up reading the Fathers of the Church. He brought the sacramental system into finer relief and paved the way for more reforms in the Anglican tradition. His reflections led him to believe that the Church of England lay at equal distance from Rome and Geneva; meaning that it had its origins and doctrine in Rome but it refuted the 'heresies' of Calvin and Luther. As a result England stood by the Fathers of the Church.

While in Oxford he set up a religious community, at Littlemore. After 1839 his doubts about the Anglican position on Church authority began to be challenged as a result of his reading, which he never confined to Anglican thinkers. In much of Augustine's writing he was further challenged. Newman was part of the Tractarian movement: these were pamphlets, short treatises or discourses on religious subjects that were meant to be informative and creative of discussion. After many opposing tracts and confrontations with scholars, Newman withdrew to Littlemore and lived a semi-monastic life with a small band of followers, one of whom was Ambrose St John, a very dear friend, with whom he was eventually buried. Newman called this place the house of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Littlemore - now called Newman College, Oxford.

In 1841 it was evident to Newman that he had to make a decision. In 1843 he retracted, in a local newspaper, his severe language against Rome. He was eventually received into full communion with the Roman Catholic community by an Italian Passionist, Fr Dominic. As the Catholic Encyclopaedia says, the event, although long in prospect, irritated and distressed his countrymen, who would not forgive him until many years later. It is interesting to note that its importance was felt but its causes were unknown unless one took the time to read his *Apologia pro Vita Sua*, an important source of Newman's early thoughts. Though Newman might have been content with his

action of aligning himself with Roman Catholicism, he spent the next twenty five years under suspicion from both Anglicans and Roman Catholics, with his plans being thwarted and his motives constantly misconstrued. Some of his friends saw his conversion as freeing him from constraints, for his genius bloomed with a force and freedom such as it never displayed in his Anglican writings.

Nine years after his conversion to Catholicism in 1845 Newman was invited to Dublin by the Irish Bishops as rector of the newly established Catholic University of Ireland, now University College Dublin (UCD). After four years he retired, but not before he wrote the seminal volume of lectures on *The Idea of a University*, which today is referred to by many Catholic tertiary institutions as the best defence of Catholic educational theories. This departure from Dublin coincided with a period of intense troubles for Newman, 1854-60. He was offered a Bishop's post which never eventuated; Wiseman asked him to begin the revision of the English Catholic Bible, but this did not take place. A series of lectures he instigated at UCD ceased to make it to the light of day. His ideas brought swift reprisals from politicians like Gladstone, and writers both Catholic and Anglican. For over twenty years he lay under imputations at Rome, which misconstrued his teaching and his character.



Leo XIII succeeded Pius IX in 1878. The latter had lived in exile from the Curia since 1846 and understood the situation of Newman alienated from both Anglican and Catholic circles. However, with recommendations from Ullathorne, Newman arrived in Rome and was created a Cardinal on 12 May, 1879. This single event broke down the wall between Rome and England. He has been hailed as the hidden father of the Second Vatican Council. A Newman scholar, Dessain, claims that Newman's devotion to revealed religion, his conviction that what we believe is not of our own making but a gift from God, partly explain his influence on Vatican II (R. Strange, *Newman's Diffident Holiness*). Others say his writing and speech was unaffected, graceful, tender and penetrating.

Newman was indebted to the Benedictine Bishop William Ullathorne, as we were in the early days of Australia's development, but not for the same reasons. Bishop Ullathorne landed in

Australia in February, 1833. As the colony was in its infancy, he worked tirelessly to obtain more priests for the sacramental life of its people, convict and free. When Bishop Polding OSB arrived, Ullathorne returned to England to get more help for the Australian Mission. He returned with Priests and Sisters but eventually left Australia in 1840 having been partly responsible for the end of transportation of convicts. He was appointed Bishop



of many English districts, not Dioceses (the English Catholic hierarchy had not been restored since the formation of the Church of England), but he would ultimately be responsible for lobbying for such a restoration. Finally he was appointed Vicar Apostolic of the Western District of England, which took in Oxford and Birmingham, two places dear to Newman. While some English and Roman authorities were suspicious of Newman's conversion and took every opportunity to criticise him and especially his theology, Ullathorne, his Bishop, defended him. One occasion was especially important when he clashed with Gladstone about the issue of papal Infallibility. The subtlety of Ullathorne's defence is shown when he explained to the Roman authorities that Newman 'was prepared to concede lesser points to achieve his main objective': a defence of Papal infallibility (R. Strange, Newman's Diffident Holiness). No wonder there are Newman societies in France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Netherland and in Australia, to mention a few countries.

There is a lovely story told about the time when both Newman and Ullathorne were old men. Ullathorne visited Newman, who had been made a Cardinal and as the Bishop took his leave the old Cardinal sank to his knees and asked the Bishop for a blessing. Ullathorne was hesitant because of propriety. However, deeply moved he blessed the kneeling Cardinal. Later Ullathorne observed, 'I felt annihilated in his presence: there is a saint in that man!' (R. Strange, John Henry Newman: a man alive, London, DLT) Newman died on 11 August 1890 at Edgbaston, Birmingham.

So, Blessed John Henry Newman, thank you for your Kindly light amidst the encircling gloom; thank you for reminding us of the supremacy of conscience; thank you for being an example of a scholarly, wise and, in these days of pathetic celebrity-seeking, a very diffident saint.

Catherine Thom rsj



Reflections of an Associate in Rome for the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Our pilgrimage group queued in St Peter's Square from 6.30 a.m., and there was light rain. I looked at the large clouds and said to Mary MacKillop: "We don't need to get wet today; please move the clouds; someone else needs them today". My prayer was answered, and brilliant sunshine poured over us for the rest of the day. At 8 a.m., after passing security, I ran



through the square and was so excited to find myself in the front row parallel to the portrait of Mary MacKillop, which hung on the facade of St Peter's Basilica. Sister Margaret and Sister Norma (Sisters of Mercy) joined me, together with my sister, Sister Patricia Mary (LCM), who had travelled from London. The four of us were united in joy and thanksgiving as we sang, were united in prayer with all in Australia, and were blessed that we were part of this momentous celebration of the life of Australia's First Saint.

The most moving and important time of my pilgrimage was the Australian Celebration the next day in the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. Sister Maria Casey welcomed Australian Citizens and all others, no names, just one and all, a humbling moment. Cardinal Pell gave an inspirational homily. The Mass was simple and prayerful, but the climax was when Sister Anne Derwin addressed the congregation, by calling on the Holy Spirit, and asking us to pause, and think, how we would be different because of our pilgrim journey to the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop; I have never experienced such complete silence. This moment is still with me, a moment of grace.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we will be different. I know I am! As I sat behind the Sisters of St Joseph in the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. I realised that here were the followers of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the group is ageing. I thought to myself: "When I return to Australia, I will find some additional way of supporting them as an Associate." I have found a way, which is personal to me at this time, and I thank God, as well as Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The following is an extract from the Canonisation News Articles 26/10/2010. Could we pause, as we read each of the three reflections below? Then, consider how we can implement these and be more fruitful in our lives as Associates:

1. "May all of us continue to create pools of silence in our lives to enable God to keep speaking to us as God has through these days."
2. "May St Mary of the Cross MacKillop continue to accompany us on our life's journey and teach us to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ."
3. "May our nations be better places now because of the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop."

Leonie Bell JA - North Sydney Group

The Website for

Mary MacKillop Place, Mount Street, North Sydney is

www.marymackillopplace.org.au

for

Coming events, Feast and Memorial dates, Pilgrimage information and an invitation to a place of prayer with our Australian Saint.



Our Very Own Flying Nun

Picture this image on the Saturday just prior to the Canonisation ... Marie Carson rsj running down the highway chasing a 15-foot high banner of Mary MacKillop!

The banners were originally hung by North Sydney Council throughout North Sydney streets. Remember the big wind all day and overnight Friday; the banner had apparently come completely down and was blowing along the roadway. Marie had been shopping and consequently had bags etc. It was Saturday morning with traffic racing through North Sydney and it was still very windy.

Marie stood at the edge of the footpath and thought to herself, I can't let that get away. So she checked up and down the road for any cars and ducked out into the street to get the banner, only to have it blow a bit further down the road. She had to check up and down again for traffic, ran a bit further down the street, bundled the banner under her arm (no mean feat given its size) and duck back to the kerb.

Mary MacKillop was looking after you Marie! Well done!

Anne Downey JA - Lakemba Group



Kincumber Retreat - 15th-17th October, 2010

In anticipation of the Canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop on 17th October, Maureen McDermott rsj led the group in prayer and reflection on Mary's life, stressing three aspects.

- A Woman of God. Mary encourages people to find God in the midst of their everyday life, in their joys and sorrows.
- Mary of the Cross. The letter Mary wrote to her sister Annie on hearing of the death of her mother Flora shows how the cross is a sign of hope to those who follow the way of Jesus.
- Mary, Saint for our World. In her holiness, Mary calls each of us to live a good and holy life.

The following words of hers spoke powerfully to me in my work with disabled people:

God won't ask you how others have done their work. Rather, he will ask you how you have done yours and in what spirit.

Bishop Bede Heather celebrated Mass for us on Saturday evening, and spoke about Mary's vision of educating the poor. Saturday night was party time, with good food and plenty of laughter.

I thank Clare for the beautiful books each of us received; Maureen, for leading us in songs, prayer and reflection; Ellen and staff, for making us feel welcome and making the retreat weekends a special time; and the group of ladies, who continue to inspire me on my journey, with their friendship, wisdom and prayerfulness.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

Joy McDonald JA - Lithgow Group

Junior Josephite Associates

In the year of the canonisation there were 14 new Junior Josephite Associates (JJAs Year 3 and 4) at St Philomena's School, Moree. These young people were dedicated as Associates in May and given a medal of Mary MacKillop.

This is a great joy to us!

The JJAs celebrated their Christmas Party at lunch time on Tuesday 14th December and chanted their motto:

Do your bit for God;

Do your bit for your family;

Do your bit for your school!

Margaret Cusack rsj



Nina and Pat – An Update

My friend Pat is still in the dementia part of a retirement village in Cessnock. I was with her on her 85th birthday last July. In passing one day I said that I would take her to Hunter Gardens where we always took a buggy ride and she said with vehemence: "No I am not going there again. I have already been too many times." Take that! It came out with no hesitation whatever. She was always good at one liners. Other than that I ring weekly to see how she is. Please remember her in your prayers.

Nina O'Flynn JA - New Zealand

A Personal Reflection

2010 has certainly been a very memorable year for the Sisters of St Joseph with Blessed Mary MacKillop becoming a Saint. As with many others, Graeme and I watched the Canonisation on television. It was a joyous occasion and I feel sure that it would have been a significant time in the life of all the Josephite Sisters. I am sure that the Sisters and the Associates who went to Rome came back with many wonderful experiences to relate.

Elaine and I have booked our airfares to Sydney and we are both looking forward to this time when we can be a part of the future planning of the Associates Movement. It will be a wonderful experience for all those who gather in the name of St Mary of the Cross.

To conclude our year, we gathered at the Chapel at St Vincent's Hospital on the 30th December for the Liturgy of the Word, presided over by Graeme. The ladies appreciate this time together and we have the opportunity to reflect on this wonderful time of Advent. At the conclusion we have lunch together and it is always a very happy time. Each lady brings various items of non-perishable food along, with some Christmas decorations, serviettes, etc. The items are all boxed and taken to Fr Peter Karem, who in turn delivers it to a family in need. It is always such a joy to be a part of this small gesture.

*Taken from a letter sent in by Rosemary Davis JA
South Lismore Group*

Canonisation Celebrations at South Tamworth

On Wednesday evening October 20th, St. Edward's parish South Tamworth celebrated the canonisation of Mary of the Cross MacKillop with Mass followed by supper in the parish hall.

Our parish priest, Fr. John Willis, spoke of Mary and her faith as a young girl, as an adolescent, as an adult and finally as a nun, and of her contribution to the development of education, particularly in our diocese and region.

For many years we were blessed to have in our parish and schools Sisters of the calibre of Frances Fleming rsj, Helen Saunders rsj, Guiseppa Walsh rsj and Valerie Mason rsj, all of whom are sadly missed.

We extended an invitation to the Sisters at Boggabri, Werris Creek, Quirindi and Warialda, and to those formerly from our parish, none of whom were able to attend. One of the invitees suggested that we provide a report (and photos) of our celebrations. Part of our preparation was a Mass handout, a copy of the cover sheet attached highlighting some of Mary's sayings (no doubt familiar to you!).

Approximately 150 parishioners and friends attended Mass and then some 85 adjourned to the hall for a meal.

It was a great occasion to bring parishioners together. It's a pity we didn't have a current Sister in our parish to help us celebrate.

We are currently organising a trip (hopefully early February 2011) to the MacKillop centre at North Sydney.

*Trish and Grahame Tighe
St. Edward's Parish South Tamworth
(Trish is an Associate in the Tamworth Group)*



Saint Patrick's (Tamworth) Celebrate Mary MacKillop Day

On Sunday 8th August the parishioners of Saint Patrick's celebrated Mary MacKillop Day. Even though her feast day this year will be celebrated on 17th October – the day of her canonisation in Rome, the parishioners have in the past celebrated on the Sunday closest to 8th August – the anniversary of her death in 1909.

The celebrations this year began with a Family Mass on Sunday morning followed by



morning tea served by the students from St Joseph's School. During the Mass Father O'Brien blessed and dedicated a stained glass window of Mary MacKillop. This is a new acquisition to the church having been installed only the night before.

The window was made locally by Tamworth Leadlight specialist Mr Doug Weir and installed by Mr Gavin Davies. It is indeed a beautiful addition to the church and in time will become a place of special devotion to our Australian first saint. The window was donated by a grateful parishioner.

The celebrations concluded with a Parish Dinner at Joe Maguire's Hotel where each person received a memento of the story of Mary MacKillop. It was entitled "Towards Canonisation Mary MacKillop for the Church and for the World."

Norma O'Brien JA (Tamworth Group).

North Sydney Associates Group

The North Sydney group was founded in 1996 to provide for Associates who lived in parts of Sydney which did not have a local group. Its membership has varied over the years. At present, there are 12 regular members and one Sister and a few former group members who come to special occasions. The geographical spread of members is wide, from Maroubra, to Winmalee, and to Wentworthville. Members make big efforts to attend the monthly meetings, reflection days, pilgrimages and the AGM.

Because these North Sydney group members do not belong to one Parish, we have encouraged a segment of each meeting when members can share something significant about their lives. This has meant a growth in friendship and concern for each other. The addresses and phone numbers of the members have been given out with the permission of the group. This has led to quite a lot of informal contact between meetings.

Meetings follow a pattern of prayers, sharing of life and reflection on some aspect of the life of Mary MacKillop or of events in the Josephite Order. Some members are able to stay to attend Mass in the Mary MacKillop Chapel.

We are privileged to meet in the Congregational Administration Centre in one of the terrace houses first lived in by the Sisters, in the room which was the original Chapel. Several of our members are volunteers at Mary MacKillop Place or assist the Sisters in other ways. They also exercise a variety of roles in other Parish and Church organizations, such as the CWL.

Angela Grant rsj



Coming Events Mary MacKillop Place

Spirituality Program 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th February (11 am to 1 pm)

'Introduction to the Gospel of John'
Elizabeth Crilley rsj (02 8912 4861)

Listen to Kath Evans

23rd February
(11 am to 12 pm);

repeated 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm)

'A journey, life experience and intercession of St Mary
MacKillop'

Lenten Program

10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March;
7th, 14th and 21st April
(11 am to 1 pm)

'Deepening our appreciation of the Eucharist'
Monica Barlow rsj (02 8912 4818)

Spirituality Program

21st and 28th March
(11 am to 1 pm)

'Empower and experience Jesus in prayer'
Elizabeth Crilley rsj (02 8912 4861)

Wednesdays with Saint Mary MacKillop

27th April, 25th May and 29th June
(10.30 am to 12.30 pm)

Monica Barlow rsj (02 8912 4818)

Spirituality Program

9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th May
(11 am to 1 pm)

'Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew'
Elizabeth Crilley rsj (02 8912 4861)

Spirituality Program

20th and 27th June
(11 am to 1 pm)

'Guided meditation as a prayer form with the Holy Spirit'
Elizabeth Crilley rsj (02 8912 4861)

For further information

phone 02 8912 4818
or email mackillop@sosj.org.au
www.marymackillopplace.org.au

Requiescant in Pace

Helen Nolan (Blacktown):
Mary Sullivan rsj

Litany of Mary MacKillop

Words by Therese McGarry rsj and Monica Barlow rsj
Music by Joseph Drzyzga

Lord, have mercy on us.	Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.	Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.	Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.	Christ, graciously hear us.
God Creator of all things,	Have mercy on us
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,	Have mercy on us
God the Holy Spirit,	Have mercy on us
Holy Trinity, One God,	Pray for us
Holy Mary,	Pray for us
Saint Joseph,	Pray for us
St John the Baptist	Pray for us
Saint Mary of the Cross	Pray for us
Faithful to the will of God	Pray for us
Trusting in God's loving care	Pray for us
Knowing God's mercy	Pray for us
Responding to the Holy Spirit	Pray for us
Devoted to the heart of Jesus	Pray for us
Accepting of the cross in life	Pray for us
Forgiving all who hurt you	Pray for us
Defending human dignity	Pray for us
Mary MacKillop intercede for us	
On our life's journey come to our aid.	
Saint Mary of the Cross	Pray for us
Living in simplicity	Pray for us
Serving the neglected ones	Pray for us
Teaching God's little ones	Pray for us
Standing with the vulnerable	Pray for us
Serving with compassion	Pray for us
Mary MacKillop give us your passion	
May we respond to all those in need.	
Saint Mary of the Cross	Journey with us
Gift of God to us today	Journey with us
Witness of the gospel	Journey with us
Pilgrim on life's way	Journey with us
Comfort of the sick and dying	Journey with us
Strength for all the weary	Journey with us
Leading by example	Journey with us
Open to God's presence	Journey with us
Prayerful and courageous	Journey with us
Mary MacKillop remind us always	
We are but travellers here in this world.	
Jesus, Son of the living God	Lord hear our prayer
Christ hear us	Christ hear us
Lord Jesus hear our prayer	Lord Jesus hear our prayer

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Prayers for the Sick

Rose Bennett (Auburn)
Jan Cooney (no group);
May Coughlan (Moree);
Marie Crowe (Peakhurst);
Neita Edgton (Dulwich Hill);
Helen Harnette (Peakhurst);
Helen Hird (Quirindi);
Vonnie Hudson (Peakhurst);
Noelene McNeill (Barraba);
Peggy Opferkuch (no group);
Lillian Stansell (Strathfield)