



# Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

Josephite Associates Locked Bag 3031 BURWOOD NSW 1805 (Letters only) • 5 Alexandra Ave Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)

NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2011

Dear Associates  
As you sip your cuppa, wherever you may be, I offer these words to you. Let's break them open and ponder them together, in our spirit as Josephite Associates.

Life's journey can be, and often is, compared to the seasons. What varied seasons have we encountered throughout 2011? Back in July, if you remember, rain fell consistently while fierce winds circled us as we fought for refuge either indoors or under shelters. Locked into these winter realities was the promise of spring waiting to emerge when the time was right for her to simply be!

Nature offers us so many life opportunities to reflect access and maybe change. As scripture reminds us, "There is a time for every purpose under heaven."

Vision is more than seeing. Bowell suggests, "It is an energy that can awaken a faculty of the brain and mind that can see beyond the event, horizon, beyond the known!" (Spirituality 2002, p 42) It's also been described as the energy observable in the individual who is graced with potential to dream! Vision, I believe, is about dreaming life as it is to a point of can be possibility. It is noted in the face of a child when the gift of imagination is alight with an inner possibility or experience – as I am sure many of you have encountered. It is the energy in an individual who is graced with the potential to dream – a God-given gift to each of us – if we are open to a change or simply exploring options.

Mary MacKillop was a visionary woman – it is her spirit, her charisma bound with love that has brought each of us into this our circle of Josephite Associates. Sure, many others influenced us, but the essence of truth is revealed within each of us when we make a life choice. Our choice was to live and move within the spirit of Mary MacKillop and express our connectedness with her in our own unique and flexible style as Associates. This we state through our core values of Friendship, Service and Prayer.

When Mary travelled, visited Rome or needed to say something she encouraged us to "entreat God to make us all that we should be" (1873) and she inspired us not to be too restless when life was not as we perceived it should be: "See the protecting hand of God in all that is happening" (1885). Her parting words of reassurance to others, in spite of – or maybe because of – her own life challenges, were expressed as "...May God bless you and keep you strong in all your anxieties" (1900).

How blessed are we to have actual 'relics' of her through her written word. How wise were those who walked before us and recognised the treasure with a visionary mind.

As we prepare to greet the seasons of the new Church year – Advent and Christmas, and the months flow quickly, November becoming December – let's be conscious of the gift of 'waiting'. For in waiting is the gift to dream life into a new possibility.

As we enter the third and final stage of our transition as NSW Josephite Associates into ownership through self-governance and sustainability, let's keep daring to dream. To each of you, out there in the cyberspace of JA members I express my sincere

thanks for your trust, support and willingness to 'be the change' we are seeking to create as we continue "Working Together to Ensure Our Future". Don't worry about road blocks – they actually help us actualise a vision with sharper reality.

May this Christmas unfold some special personal and communal gifts for you and those you love, may the peace of Christ continue as your sustaining life force, and may the Spirit of Mary MacKillop remain the vision of us her faithful and fully alive Josephite Associates.

My wish for you this Christmas is for whatever you have wished and written in the corner of your heart.

Take care,

*Clare*

Clare Noonan rsj  
NSW Transitional Leader  
2010- 2012

## ADVENT REFLECTION DAY

Thursday 24th November, 2011

*"Walking in the Footsteps of Mary"*

Led by Eleanor Dawson rsj

**Time: 10am – 2.30pm**

Marian Court

18 Margaret Street

STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

Contact: Lillian Stansell Phone: (02) 9746 6718

JA Office Phone: (02) 8741 2334

Cost: \$10.00 per person includes light lunch

## NEWSLETTER IN COLOUR BY EMAIL

Do you receive your Newsletter by mail?

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*Would you like to receive your Newsletter  
by email in colour?*

If the answer is YES, please email us your request at [Associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:Associates@sosj.org.au) and we will update our database and forward your newsletter in future by email.

# Noah's Ark

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.



## Irene McCormack rsj remembered twenty years on



In a very special memorial park in Lima Peru lies a labyrinth made of stones. On each of these stones is the name of someone who was killed by the Sendero Luminoso or Shining Path, the militant Maoist group that terrorised Peru in the 1980s and 1990s.

- ONE:** Don't miss the boat.  
**TWO:** Remember that we are all in the same boat!  
**THREE:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.  
**FOUR:** Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.  
**FIVE:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.  
**SIX:** Build your future on high ground.  
**SEVEN:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs.  
**EIGHT:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.  
**NINE:** When you're stressed, float awhile.  
**TEN:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.  
**ELEVEN:** No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Most people walk in and out of your life.....but FRIENDS leave footprints in your heart.

Source unknown;

received from Jan Lang JA Mullumbimby Group

### Associates Office

Locked Bag 3031  
Burwood NSW 1805 (Letters only)  
5 Alexandra Ave Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)  
(02) 8741 2334  
[associates@sosjnsw.org.au](mailto:associates@sosjnsw.org.au)

### The Editorial Team

**Editor:** Christine Sivewright

**Team Members:** Helen Bache, Leonie Bell, Anne Downey,  
Jacquie Oudin

**Design and Print:** Paul McMahan

## JA Corner

### August:

- CLT JA International Gathering at MMP

### September:

- AGM at Marian Court, Strathfield

### October:

- Kincumber Retreat

### November:

- Advent Reflection Day
- Meeting of Governance Group at Baulkham Hills

### December:

- JA Office closes 9th December and reopens 30th January 2012. Please make no phone calls or leave no voice mail messages between these dates.

### JA Office Christmas Closure:

Friday 9th December 2011

### Reopening:

Monday 30th January 2012

# A Moment in Time

(16th October 2010)

In this moment prior to the canonisation of Mary MacKillop it is as though we stand at a still point of the turning world. In this chapel, at this moment we stand in Kairos time where anything is possible; yesterday and tomorrow are both accessible to us.

If we look to yesterday we can imagine the moment when Mary MacKillop first appeared in a black dress before that small gathering at Penola. We can imagine the moment when Bishop Sheil addressed her as Sister Mary. That moment changed Australian religious culture forever. It was a moment that gave reality to what had been an ideal, a dream, a longing in the minds and hearts of Mary and Julian.

Tomorrow we see the title 'sister' heightened by the title 'saint'. Both titles indicate the universal availability of this woman who cuts through all barriers and invites us to do the same. The word 'saint' is transformative. It makes Mary visible to the whole world. As one woman in Holland said to her sister in Australia, "You have a holy woman amongst you." In Christ's words, Mary put first the kingdom of heaven and its justice, love and compassion. She is indeed a holy woman amongst us still.

Mary MacKillop does not talk about 'doing' the will of God but of being 'in' it. What a difference one word can make – and a word deliberately used. Here is the true Kairos place; in time and beyond it also. This is the place all contemplatives know and Mary was truly contemplative.

She wrote: "To me the will of God is a dear book which I never tire of reading, which has always some new charm for me." The will of God is written in our lives and in the lives of the people with whom we engage, and in the world which is being called to fulfil its potential of imaging God's love always.

As Josephites, we, and all who share her charism, have lived the pathway Mary MacKillop mapped out for us. We lived it yesterday and we will live it tomorrow. That is our commitment, to love the poor and work with them so that they can recognise they are loved in the here and now. As Josephites we are committed to God, to each other, to the world. Today we are both here and in Rome; where one is all are. We are in all places where Josephites are.

Today we thank God joyfully for all that has been: for the holiness of this woman, Australia's first saint; for the gift she is to us and to the world. We thank God, too, for the fact that the universal church is acknowledging that Mary's face is turned towards God – always – and that nothing now will ever change that.

**Colleen O'Sullivan rsj**

*This is an excerpt from the homily given by Colleen O'Sullivan rsj at the Josephite Vigil Mass at Mary MacKillop Chapel on the night before the canonisation.*

The newsletter is now available on the Web, at  
<http://www.sosj.org.au/connect/NSWAssociates.html>



[www.marymackillop.org.au](http://www.marymackillop.org.au)

## In the Footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop 2012 Australian Pilgrimage

**11th - 21st April and  
24th October - 3rd November**



The notion of going on a pilgrimage and being a pilgrim is a very ancient one that belongs to the spiritual tradition of all great faiths.

Places of pilgrimage beckon people to touch and get caught up in the atmosphere and spiritual realities that belong to their origins. However, it is not only the site that takes people deep into the heart of their faith, but journey itself.

The pilgrimage is a very personal experience but it is usually a journey with others: seeking, listening, reflecting and seeing the hand of God at work in our lives.

This Australian Pilgrimage to many of the places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry is a unique opportunity for us to absorb some of the aspects of her life and appreciate anew her role as our Australian saint.

*Please contact Sister Therese Leydon for more information or the brochure, 02 8912 4845 or [Therese.Leydon@sosj.org.au](mailto:Therese.Leydon@sosj.org.au)*

### Why go on a Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop Pilgrimage?

You will enjoy good company and accommodation.

Most importantly this is an opportunity to draw closer to Jesus by walking in the footsteps of Australia's First Saint. One highlight of my pilgrimage was Our Lady Star of the Sea Church at Robe SA -- the peace and beauty of the small church and all that nature provided there, the limitless ocean, plants, etc.

The most memorable was the evening prayer and reflection at St Mary's tomb, in darkened chapel, with our group gathered by candlelight praying as one.

I encourage all to make their own pilgrimage. "Remember, we are but travellers here" (1873).



## Six Sisters Were Real-Life Sisters



Sisters Benedict, Benita, Lelia, Patrick, Catherine, Arsenius

**A** Requiem in Autumn for 93-year-old Joanna Cotter of Ireland, Sr Benedict rsj, in the Sisters' Chapel Hunters Hill, celebrated and closed the last of the lives of six young girls from one Irish family who each became a Sister, their childhood and vocations beginning at the dawn of the last century and ending only this year in the 21st century ... all now laid to rest.

Sr Benedict rsj was the youngest of the six whose pastoral lives enriched the Church in New Zealand and Australia – places, Sr. Benedict recalled, that their mother had said, in the fine accents of Limerick, that none of her daughters would be going to; far away countries, too far away. How wrong she was. Each of the six did. And each was a Josephite Sister.

But not until 1955 did chance bring all six together in the photo, when they were in Sydney to attend a retreat.

The eldest daughter Mary (Molly), Sr Arsenius, and the next-born Margaret (Sr Patrick) spent their religious lives in New Zealand and both are buried with other Josephites at Panmure, Auckland. The next sister, Eileen (Sr Lelia), also spent years in New Zealand but was recalled to Australia.

The Cotter daughters included twins, Kitty and Ita. Kitty kept her baptismal name as Sr Catherine and Ita was professed as Sr Benita. Catherine was the most travelled of the girls – first in Western Australia, then to convents in Victoria, back to Western Australia and then to her final posting, Sydney's then outer suburbs such as Lidcombe, Panania, and Revesby. Catherine was a Sister for 44 years.

Her twin Sr Benita, however, was a Sister for 68 years – about 20 years in Western Australia and then another 20 years in Sydney primary schools as teacher, deputy and principal, but with her passion for books, information and knowledge she became librarian at the University Library at Mount Street.

Exploiting her openness to change and her passion for theology, ecclesiology and the human sciences, the library expanded almost exponentially and her major assistant was a Marist Brother, a science teacher.

In 1955, Joanna (Sr Benedict) was sent to join the staff of the new Josephite Juniorate at Newmarket in Ireland until 1963, some 20 years before she was to return to Ireland for Bridget. The seventh daughter, Bridget, had stayed home in

Limerick to care for her parents and the girls' only brother, Timothy.

Sr Benedict (Joanna) went back to Ireland on compassionate leave in the mid-1980s to claim Bridget, after "winding up the family home", and persuaded her to join her scattered sisters in Australia and New Zealand where she died 16 years later and is buried at Macquarie Park alongside the sisters who predeceased her.

The time that the six Cotter sisters gave to their vocations totalled 352 years of commitment to their faith in the service of God and his people. The Josephite who wrote a memoir for them, Sr Catherine Thom, said the Gospel message "We are already the children of God" – somehow rang like a clarion call through the chapel at Sr Benedict's requiem. The witness of the Cotter family speaks volumes about what is possible and admirable in human beings answering a call and remaining faithful to it for all those years – in their life times – 352 years.

*Extract of an article in the Catholic Weekly dated 5th August 2007. Permission obtained to reprint.*

## St Mary MacKillop of the Cross

## *Requiescant in Pace*

**Blessed Mother Mary of the Cross  
You were an Aussie just like us.  
You loved your God and fellow man,  
You saw a need and formed a plan,  
To shelter the orphan and teach the poor,  
To help the destitute and much, much, much more!**

**There were many ladies who heeded your call.  
They came to work, and gave their all,  
As Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.  
You were their leader from the very start.  
You clashed with Bishops and others, too,  
Who didn't see your dream or share your view.  
So for the Pope's approval you went to Rome;  
It was nearly two years before you came home.**

**The Sisters went in groups of three or two,  
Each community was small but knew what to do.  
They prayed and taught, visited those sick or in goal,  
Your dedicated followers, who wore the brown veil!  
Your life wasn't easy, many years you were ill,  
But at all times you followed God's will.  
Your Order spread throughout our land,  
And spread to other countries too:  
New Zealand and New Guinea,  
Ireland, Africa and Peru.  
So Blessed Mary to you we pray,  
To intercede for us today...  
To bless Australia and all therein,  
And help us all – heaven to win.**

**St Mary MacKillop – our very first saint,  
You have done Australia proud.  
Everyone in this fair land  
Will sing your praises long and loud.**

*W© 1995:2010  
Norma O'Brien JA  
Tamworth Group*

Rose Bennett (Auburn), friend of Lillian Stansell (Strathfield);  
Patricia Blanch (Tamworth);  
Jessie Borg (Penrith);  
Margaret Breen (Peakhurst);  
Esther Buckley (Nimmitabel);  
Bridget Cummins (Murwillumbah);  
Win Derwin, mother of Anne Derwin rsj;  
Kathleen Egan (Quirindi);  
Bridie Esgate (Evans Head);  
Shirley Fagan rsj;  
Kath Faulkner (Moree);  
Alex Fenwick, husband of Lola (Mullumbimby);  
Brian Freestone (Lidcombe);  
Kathleen Hamilton (Canberra);  
Colville Harper (Maroochydore);  
Helen Hird (Quirindi);  
Veronica Hudson (Peakhurst);  
Kathleen Hutton (Bundarra);  
Arthur Kempton, father of Margaret Kempton rsj;  
Anne Kennedy (Canberra);  
Frances Knox, mother/mother-in-law of Christine & Paul McMahon (Tamworth);  
Joan McDonald (Canberra);  
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Jean McTaggart (Bingara);  
Margaret Maher rsj;  
Clive Mahony (Tamworth);  
John Malone (Macquarie Park);  
May Mitchell, mother of Rosemary Mitchell rsj;  
May O'Brien (Hunters Hill);  
Ellie Plunket (Quirindi);  
Margaret Quinlan (Hunters Hill) mother of Mary Quinlan rsj;  
Ruth Ross rsj;  
Terence Rutherford (Lalor Park);  
Joseph Shields, husband of Miriam (Cronulla);  
Carmel Smith, daughter of Pat Smith (North Sydney);  
Terry Smith (Warilla);  
Nancy Stewart, sister of Una Galvin (Penrith);  
Elsie Sunderland (Thirroul);  
Sr Robert Thompson rsj;  
Pauline Thrift (Nyngan);  
Alice West (South Lismore);  
Val Young (Cooma)

### Prayers for the Sick

Megan Barnett (Lidcombe)	Christine Riley (Penshurst)
Monica Brown (Lalor Park)	Annette Rowley (Penshurst)
Dennis Clarke (Lalor Park)	Dorothy Spratt (Lidcombe)
Vicky Graham (Oatley)	Lillian Stansell (Strathfield)
Beryl Haywood (Bass Hill)	Jack Tompsett, brother-in-law of Angela Grant rsj
Paul Landrigan (Penrith)	Rex Tulloch (Laurieton)
Noelene McNeill (Barraba)	Gwen Witton (Penrith)
Helen McRedie, daughter of Joan Claxton (Lidcombe)	
Shirley Reed (Bingara)	

### Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the  
**Josephite Mission in Peru**

**Please send to:**

Stamps

5 Alexandra Avenue

Croydon NSW 2132

Phone 02 8741 2334

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# Josephite Associates, Tamworth

Around September 1989, Sisters Geraldine Kiss and Angela Grant visited St Edward's Parish, South Tamworth to gauge interest in the formation of an Associates group. In this endeavour they were assisted by Sister Frances Fleming, then Parish Associate in South Tamworth. A meeting between the Sisters and parishioners was arranged. Those in attendance included Pat Borthistle, Eileen Blanch, Noeleen Turner, Don and Lorraine Guyer, Janette and Barry Brown and Tess York and quickly a decision was reached that an Associates group be formed.

Our interest was sparked by our friendship with Sister Matthew, the Bursar at Mount Street. At much the same time as we renewed acquaintance with Sister Matthew, we first met Sister Mary Hagan, who was teaching at St Edward's School and who later became the Associates Coordinator.

The group attracted further members, including Joy Makepeace and Pat Blanch, and on 12th September 1990 Sister Angela visited Tamworth to formally enrol members as Josephite Associates and to present them with certificates and badges. By this time Sister Helen Saunders had replaced Sister Frances Fleming as Parish Associate. Sister Helen was to later become the Associates Coordinator.

Right from the first get-together in 1989 the group emphasised friendship. Meetings started with prayers from the Newsletter then social activities took over. These meetings were held at the Convent or in members' homes.

In September that year, we attended the Associates AGM at Mount Street with Noeleen Turner and Sister Helen Saunders. From the last newsletter of 1991, we learned that Tamworth was the first country representatives to attend an AGM. In 1992 in the parish church, Mary Help of Christians, Associates and parishioners celebrated with Sister Helen as she renewed her temporary vows. Subsequently, in 1996, we witnessed Sister being professed in an impressive ceremony at St Brigid's, Marrickville, attended by other South Tamworth parishioners.

In late 1993 the Associates started the phone tree. All Associates were aware of this prayer tree, which would lead generally to a happy resolution. West Tamworth Associates group was formed in 1994, and it was decided that the two groups would merge into one Tamworth group. Sister Giuseppe Walsh had been conducting the Motor Mission throughout all or part of Armidale Diocese and increased her load by taking on a central role with the Associates.

Associates were delighted when paintings by Charles Billich of Mary MacKillop were exhibited in Tamworth.

Came 1995 and what a year it was. Early on the morning of January 19th, Tamworth Associates rushed to St Mary's Cathedral to join with the Sisters and other Associates in a Morning Prayer service led by Pope John Paul II, surely a once-in-a-lifetime experience for most of us. Nobody will forget the wild excitement among the Sisters as His Holiness entered the Cathedral. Norma O'Brien, who has had several of her writings published in the Associates Newsletter, was in the best position to see it.

Very soon after the Prayer Service we rushed out to Randwick Racecourse and obtained a position trackside on the fence. We were joined soon after by a lady from the Central Coast and her 17-year-old son. He did not want to be there. His behaviour was obnoxious. He did not speak to his mother. He hurled volleys of verbal garbage at her.

After some hours the Pope arrived at Randwick and in his

pope mobile passed immediately in front of us. Just a few feet of air separated us and His Holiness. From that moment the boy underwent an amazing transformation. He followed every step of the Beatification Ceremony and the Mass, uttered all the necessary responses and when he spoke to his mother it was only to whisper his awe at something that had taken place. Mother and son departed Randwick as loving mother and loving son. Tamworth Associates were very aware of Sister Giuseppe's part in the liturgy.

Associates later took part in a retreat at Gunnedah, directed by Sister Eleanor Dawson.

Mary MacKillop Place North Sydney officially opened to the public on March 26th 1995. We were among the first to visit the museum and our guide for part of the tour was Sister Valerie Mason who moved to South Tamworth convent the following year.

At the invitation of Sister Giuseppe, and along with half a dozen other couples from across the state, we were privileged to attend the final session of the Sisters' 1995 NSW Province Chapter.

In September 1997 Tamworth Associates welcomed a visit by Jim Hazelwinkle, then aged 90 and the oldest Kincumber boy.

At the instigation of Sue Sweeney a Quiet Room, dedicated to the memory of her husband John, himself a Kincumber boy, was established at Tamara Hospital. In this room are a photo of Mary MacKillop and authenticated pieces of wood from her coffin. Several paraliturgies have been held by Associates and others here. Reflections have been led by various Sisters for the group.

In July 2006 Sisters Iris Fittler and Valerie Mason, both of whom had served the Associates so well, vacated the South Tamworth convent. The link between Tamworth and the Sisters of St. Joseph was broken. To mark the occasion Sister Judith Sippel presented the parish with an icon of Jesus. This icon holds pride of place high above the altar.

In August 2010 a stained glass window of Mary MacKillop was installed in St Patrick's Church, West Tamworth. On 17th October 2010 Blessed Mary MacKillop was canonised as St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, and the Associates shared in this wonderful celebration.

**Barry and Jeanette Brown JA**

*Tamworth Group*

## Humour

A man and his wife are arguing about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife says, 'You should do it because you get up first!'

The husband responds, 'But the coffee always tastes better when you make it.'

The wife states, 'Well, it says in the Bible that the man should do the coffee.'

The husband replies, 'I can't believe that! Show me where the Bible says that.'

The wife fetches the Bible, opens the New Testament and shows him, at the top of several pages, where it indeed says .....Hebrews!!!!

# Governor General welcomes the Travelling Sisters' Roadshow

July 28, 2011

Just six months after Australia was hit with floods and cyclones, the Mary MacKillop Foundation's Travelling Sisters Roadshow continues its journey around Australia. The tour recently included a visit to Government House in Canberra.

The Travelling Sisters Roadshow – Australian Disaster Recovery is part of the Mary MacKillop Foundation's work to continue the legacy of Australia's first saint by giving up to 80 grants of up to \$10,000 each to small community-based projects that are dedicated to assisting those who are less fortunate or in need of a helping hand.

The Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, met with Sister Julianne Murphy, one of the Travelling Sisters, to welcome the Roadshow and to discuss the work of the Mary MacKillop Foundation. The Governor-General was presented with a gift of commemorative Mary MacKillop Sainthood Wine among other memorabilia from the Mary MacKillop Foundation.

Sam Hardjono, CEO of the Mary MacKillop Foundation, said, "We are delighted to have been welcomed by the Governor-General, as we share an interest in helping the less fortunate, including those who are still recovering from some of the worst natural disasters that Australia has experienced. Australians are generous people, yet with multiple disasters to donate to, there are many small community-based projects that are working even harder to meet the growing needs around them, without any financial assistance. The Mary MacKillop Foundation is continuing the legacy of Australia's first saint in fostering this Aussie helping spirit by giving grants to small life-changing projects that will help them meet even more needs."

The meeting with Her Excellency Quentin Bryce coincided with a group of Year Seven children from St Agatha's School in Queensland touring Government House. In addressing the students, Her Excellency spoke highly of the work of the Sisters of St Joseph and her recent awareness of Mary MacKillop's friendship with Caroline Chisholm, another great Australian. She encouraged the students to be great Australians themselves as they look back and remember the day they met the Governor General!

Sr Julianne also spoke to the students about how young people can continue Mary MacKillop's Legacy today through supporting the work of the Mary MacKillop Foundation. They were particularly interested in the Green and Gold Day being held to celebrate the first anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop.

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## Coming Events Associates

### **Kincumber Retreat**

**17th to 19th February 2012**

*'Safe in God'*

This retreat invites you into the safety of God's love; A place to rest your heart and inflame your hopes for 2012.

Led by Bridie O'Connell rsj

**Cost \$220**

### **Kincumber Retreat**

**19th to 21st October 2012**

*'The Year of Grace'*

Celebrate with Mary MacKillop'

Led by Colleen O'Sullivan rsj

**Cost: TBA**

*For further information phone*

**Associates Office on 02 8741 2334**

or email [associates@sosjnsw.org.au](mailto:associates@sosjnsw.org.au)

## Coming Events Mary MacKillop Place

### **Introduction to the Gift of Prayer**

**14th November**

(11 am to 1 pm)

*Elizabeth Crilley rsj (02 8912 4861)*

### **Wednesdays with Saint Mary MacKillop**

**30th November**

(10.30 am to 12.30 pm)

*Monica Barlow rsj (02 8912 4818)*

### **Guided Meditation**

**28th November and 5th December**

(11 am to 1 pm)

*Elizabeth Crilley rsj (02 8912 4861)*

For further information

**phone 02 8912 4818**

or email: [mackillop@sosj.org.au](mailto:mackillop@sosj.org.au)

[www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au)

# In the Footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

## We Trust in God's Presence in Our Lives as She Did

**Hymn:** **Holy Ground** - *Monica Brown*  
You are here so this is holy ground  
In all that is you are here.  
This is holy ground, the ground of my being now.  
My spirit bows to you upon this holy ground.

**Reflection** (*Pray for the right things*) - *author unknown*  
I asked God for strength that I might achieve –  
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.  
I asked for health, that I might do greater things –  
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.  
I asked for riches, that I might be happy –  
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.  
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of people –  
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.  
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life –  
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.  
I got nothing I asked for, but everything I had hoped for;  
I am among all people most richly blessed. (Pause)

**Reading** (*The Beatitudes*) *Luke 6:20-23*  
Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:  
'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.  
Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.  
Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.  
Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you,  
denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man.  
Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your  
reward will be great in heaven.' (Pause)

**Psalms 46** (*Paraphrased by Fr Kevin Lyon*)  
God is our refuge and our strength,  
He is a sure help in days of trouble.  
Even when the world seems to dissolve into chaos, and  
Nations are wracked by wars;  
Yet, I will never doubt that our Great King is with us.  
He has come to save us. He counsels me.  
"Wait quietly and you shall have proof that I am God."  
Hurry blinds me to Your presence.  
Feverish activity allows not time for You.  
Only in the peace of my soul do I recognise You.  
Only in the silence of my heart can I worship You.  
Soothe my emotions; heal my anxiety; allay my fears.  
"Be still! And know that I am God."  
He is our refuge and our strength.

**Reflection** "I have in my hand two boxes  
Which God gave me to hold  
He said, 'Put all your sorrows in the black box  
And all your joys in the gold'.

I heeded His words, and in the two boxes  
Both my joys and my sorrows I stored,  
But though the gold became heavier each day  
The black was as light as before.

With curiosity I opened the black  
I wanted to find out why,  
And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole  
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.

I showed the hole to God and mused,  
'I wonder where my sorrows could be.'  
He smiled a gentle smile and said.  
'My friend, they're all here with Me.'

I asked God why He gave me the boxes,  
'Why the gold, and the black with the hole?'  
'My friend, the gold is for you to count your  
blessings,  
The black is for you to let go.' *Author unknown*  
(Pause)

**Reading** (*extract from Finding God in All Things - Brian Grogan sj*)  
"If someone asked you to give them another word for 'God',  
you could use the word 'presence', for that is what God is.  
When Moses asked God his name, God replied,  
'I am who I am', and this means 'I am present'.  
God is really saying, 'I shall be there for you'.  
God is intimately present to everything, and especially to us.  
Jesus' name is Emmanuel which means 'God is with us'.  
Matthew's Gospel ends with the marvellous statement,  
'Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time'"  
(Pause)

### Concluding Prayer

May we embody God's love in our relationships with one  
another.  
May we learn how to live our lives in love.  
May we have a spirit of openness to see God within and around  
us.  
May we become advocates of peace and harmony bringing an  
end to conflict and division.  
May we rejoice in the good we have experienced as we move  
forward in our lives.  
We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Have courage and patience and God will help you in all things.**

Mary MacKillop 1899

Prepared by the Eden Associates Group

The Website for  
**Mary MacKillop Place, Mount Street, North Sydney** is  
[www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://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.

### Email Address

Have you had a change since your last advice?  
If so, please contact us with your new details at:

[associates@sosjns.org.au](mailto:associates@sosjns.org.au)

Subject: Email address change