



Josephite Associates, Victoria~Tasmania Spring Newsletter 2012



SEEDS SOWN, HARVEST REAPED

With the coming warm weather many of you will be out working in the garden—planting seeds, seedlings, weeding, hoeing, maybe watering but looking forward to the months to come when you shall reap the rewards of all your efforts.

There is great satisfaction in picking vegetables, fruit and flowers—making arrangements, bottling fruit, making jam, pickles,

We plant seeds in our gardens, but we also plant them in our lives. As grandparents you are in a wonderful position to plant seeds of values in your grand-children's lives, to teach them your skills,

your wisdom. If you were around in 20 or 30 years time you would see the fruit of this, because what we experience and learn when young never really leaves us. You are probably the best witnesses of this yourselves.

Living here in Bacchus Marsh I see the fields change overnight. Millions of lettuces are planted as seedlings, tended and harvested. Fruit trees now in blossom become loaded with luscious fruit sold along the Avenue. The trees along the Avenue are budding and will soon provide abundant shade. Let us thank God for all of this.

During July I had the great pleasure of taking the 230 children of St Bernard's school, Bacchus Marsh to the old Convent Museum and giving them the history of the Sisters in Bacchus Marsh, and adding other bits of history as well. For five days I took two groups up in the morning. I discovered my energy levels!! As well I presented the story of Sr Irene McCormack to the upper primary students on another day.

During July Williamstown celebrated 170 years of continuous Catholic Education in their parish. See report page 6 From a visit to Sacred Heart Parish, Kew we hope a group of Associates will be established there. Many Associates were present at the unveiling of a new Statue of our St Mary at St Patrick's Cathedral. See Page 11 This month I will visit Launceston to discuss the establishment of Josephite Associates in Tasmania.

During the winter I have visited many groups and am encouraged and impressed by what you do. You are planting seeds for the future generations of Associates. Keep inviting, spreading the news, sowing the seeds of Josephite life and Charism. Most of you will have received some of our new brochures to place in Churches or elsewhere. If you would like some just let me know.

The seeds that Mary and Julian have sown are bearing fruit in the desire for unity among the Josephite Congregations.

Who noticed the new heading including Tasmania, which is now part of the Victorian Province. Before too long we shall be welcoming some Associates from across the Strait.

May you all enjoy the longer days, the seed planting and the harvesting. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Mary Fermio RSTJ

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*Selling BLING at the Open Day at
St Bernard's School, Bacchus Marsh*

Friendship Prayer Service

SPRING REFLECTION

In *Kairos Magazine*, Vol 23-9, the words of Br Mark O'Connor fms, in his article *Lead us not into Temptation*, spoke strongly to me:

'For we exist only because God desires us to exist—wants us; God's desire, God's wanting, creates us and keeps us in existence... Julian of Norwich says that God thirsts for us, and that God's thirst will never be quenched until he has drawn all of us into his embracing friendship... God is always seeking us. In the midst of our temptations we must never forget God's burning desire for us! We are each the apple of his eye.'

We can forget, that the desire for God has been sown in our own hearts. As St Augustine said: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee".

Just as God has planted seeds in our hearts. we too must bear fruit of that seed by sowing seeds in the hearts of others, hoping that sometime a harvest will be reaped.

We can sow

- Seeds of compassion
- Seeds of honesty
- Seeds of forgiveness
- Seeds of love
- Seeds of prayerfulness
- Seeds of praise
- Seeds of awareness of creation
- Seeds of justice
- Seeds of kindness



Throughout her life, Mary MacKillop, sowed these seeds and the fruit that has been produced has been enriching our world for over one hundred years. Today, we as Josephites, do our best to sow seeds as she did. She lived closely connected to Jesus, the vine, the Bread of Life, nourished by prayer, the Eucharist, supported by good friends and serving others to the best of her ability. She would never have dreamt of the harvest that is now being reaped all over the world by those connected to the Josephite family.

What sustained her and gave her courage and hope was that sure knowledge that she was doing what God wanted of her. She believed her work was drawing others to God, and her own desire to return God's love is evident in her writings. These writings teach us about what is precious in our Josephite life.

Through our mission, Friendship, Prayer and Service we sow seeds and produce fruit, most of which we may never see or even know about, but God assures us it will bear fruit. When we realize God's deep desire for us, our own desire for God will blossom and this will bring grace into our lives. In this Year of Grace, let us often contemplate the Face of Jesus and acknowledge his desire for our love, and his desire for a return of that love.

Mary Fermio rsj

ANNIVERSARY OF FR JULIAN TENISON WOODS

The 7th October is the anniversary of the death of Fr Woods. You may like to pray the following prayer in memory of him, who shared our charism with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Julian, you inspired the dispirited to live faith-filled lives.	Pray for us
Julian, your influence and ministry have continued to these days.	Pray for us
Julian, you opened eyes to interest in, and care of the environment.	Pray for us
When we feel lost, or in need of direction.	Pray for us
When we feel overwhelmed by the challenges in our lives.	Pray for us
When we feel the cross weighing on us.	Pray for us
Julian, your sense of participation in God's mission sets us afire.	Be with us now
Julian, your ability to search out and value God's gifts.	Be with us now
Julian, your dedication to ministry and science prompts us to wider vision.	Be with us now
When we're struggling with issues of justice:	Encourage us
When we're making the cause of the poor our cause:	Encourage us
As we relate to people from other cultures:	Encourage us
Julian, as Josephite Associates, help us to foster friendship	Pray for us
Julian, as Josephite Associates, help us to lead simple lives of service:	Pray for us
Julian, as Josephite Associates, help us to grow in prayerfulness:	Pray for us

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY DAYS

OPEN DAYS

Walk in the footsteps of St Mary of the Cross on the following Saturdays:

20th October and 24th November
Time: 10a.m.—4 p.m.

Entry by donation; light refreshments available.
Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St. East Melbourne
For more information:
Ph. 9926 9300 Visit: www.mmhc.org.au

MELBOURNE WALKING PILGRIMAGE

Visit the important sites of Mary's Melbourne on a walking Pilgrimage that commences at and returns to the Heritage Centre.

A brochure is available for you to guide you. The walk can be done in a couple of hours or you could do it on different days. This could be done as a group or as an individual.

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY DAYS 2012

**St Joseph's Convent, 16 Esplanade,
Williamstown**
On the second Wednesday of each month
Afternoon Session: 1.30p.m.-3.00p.m.
Evening Session 7.30p.m.-9.00p.m.

12th September The Spirituality of Work
Mary Davis rsj and Judy Cain

10th October Inner Hospitality and
Welcoming the Stranger:
Monastic Spirituality as a wider Concept of Church
Yvonne Harte rsj

14th November Art and Spirituality
Therese Quinn rsj

Enquiries: Therese Quinn rsj 9397 7140

REGIONAL MEETINGS 2012

OUR LAST REGIONAL DAY

TIME 9.45a.m—3 p.m.

SATURDAY

22nd September

NORTH CENTRAL: NUMURKAH, NAGAMBIE, RUSHWORTH, SHEPPARTON

MacKillop Hall, Church St (Behind School) **NAGAMBIE**

Contact: Julie Baldwin 5794 2230

Note change: **BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH**

Host group to provide simple morning tea, tea/coffee

DONATION TO BE COLLECTED FOR CORE-TEAM EXPENSES: \$5

Associates are encouraged to attend a Regional Meeting at least once every two years unless age or disability prevents attendance. As the same program is followed at each venue another venue rather than the one listed may be more convenient. That is your choice.

Sr Mary will bring The Travelling Shop , Mobile Library and Bling!

JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES GATHERING Reflecting on the Mission

SPECIAL DAYS FOR ALL JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES PRESENTED BY

MONICA CAVANAGH RSJ

The author of Mary MacKillop, Window of Hope

**Monica will spend the day looking at the Mission of Josephite Associates
by reflecting on FRIENDSHIP, PRAYER AND SERVICE**

as revealed in the life of St Mary MacKillop

Monica, who lives in Queensland, presented some of this material at the International Associates Gathering in August 2011 and I can assure you of a highly enjoyable and enlivening presentation.

TIME: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donation \$20 BYO Lunch—Morning Tea/Coffee provided

27th October

St Vincent de Paul Parish Hall, Rowell St **MORWELL EAST**

Contact: Betty Loftus 5134 3862

Rowell St is a right turn off Vincent Road—1st right after Churchill exit or 1st left after Maryvale Road.
Look for Telecom Tower which is on Vincent Road. Parking area between School and Hall.

28th October

Conference Centre, St Joseph's. 13 Havelock Road, **HAWTHORN EAST**

Contact: Mary Fermio rsj 5367 2078 email: associatesvic@sosj.org.au

Tram 75 Spencer St or 70 and 75 Flinders St. Stop 38 Riversdale Road. Walk down to lights and turn right up Havelock Road. Allow about 40 mins from Southern Cross. Parking in car park or streets.

24th May 2012 saw a new beginning...

In 1905 our Australian Government proclaimed this day as Empire Day, a celebration of the British Empire and a mark of honour to Queen Victoria (1819 -1901), as this was the day of her birth. On 24th May flags were flown, there were receptions and gatherings with speeches, street marches and parades and, for Australian school children it was a half day holiday.

I vividly remember dignitaries visiting the school and handing out little flags and bags of boiled lollies! And it was also Cracker Night – with communal bonfires and the lighting of crackers. I remember well the popping of little Tom Thumbs, the big bangs of the bungers, the bright colourful balls exploding in the sky and the sparklers being waved around. The night sky was illuminated and we were all glad we belonged to the British Empire.

24th May is also the feast day of our Patron Saint – Mary, Help of Christians. Australians have invoked the patronage of Mary under this title since 1844, a significant time in our history when the new church in Australia needed to witness to the values of the gospel. While the images of Mary Help of Christians have changed over the years, there is little change to the notion that Australian culture can still learn much about how to live from looking to the example of Mary.

On 24th May 1887, five Sisters of St Joseph arrived in Westbury, to begin the foundation of the Sisters of St Joseph in Tasmania. These five women, led by Sr Francis McCarthy, must have felt quite apprehensive about what was before them. They had travelled from Perthville to Sydney, staying overnight with Mary MacKillop. She knew that they had been formed in their understanding of the Rule by Julian Tenison Woods and would no doubt have remembered Julian's words in a letter to her where he said:

There is no diocese which wants the Sisters so badly as that of Tasmania. I am to see the Bishop of that place today or tomorrow on the subject and whatever comes I would send Sisters there if I am asked. (Letter April 24, 1869)

I imagine Mary would have reassured them of their decision to go to Tasmania and wished them well as another chapter in the Josephite story was beginning.

The apprehension of the travellers would, perhaps, have been tinged with excitement at the prospect of responding to an obvious need in a remote area of the country. They would have been well used to travelling – Francis (37) had come from Ireland to enter the Congregation, Stanislaus (25) and Patrick (60) were also Irish. Joseph (27) was from NSW and Teresa (21) from Victoria. However, the voyage from Sydney was not all that pleasant due to high seas, rain and wind so perhaps their enthusiasm would have been dampened somewhat over the four days and there would have been huge relief when finally the Corinna arrived in Launceston.

These Sisters were heading into the unknown, leaving behind whatever security that being a Sister of St Joseph at Perthville offered at that time, but feeling reassured by the welcome that they knew awaited them in Tasmania. They would have brought little with them in the way of possessions but their trust in the Providence of God and their loyal service to mission through the local Church allowed

them to step forward confidently.

On 24th May 2012, as we mark the 125th anniversary of those five intrepid pioneers, I am struck by the similarities with 1887.

Perhaps because of our isolation as an island State, perhaps because of the vision of leaders and prophetic individuals through the years, for some time, as a group, we have increasingly felt a call to be more deeply connected with our beginnings. This led, in 1967, to the five Diocesan groups of Sisters of St Joseph (Perthville, Goulburn, Lochinvar, Whanganui and Tasmania) forming a Federation, a special form of interaction that has enabled us all to more deeply respond to the call of the Spirit through our life and ministry, sharing in the Mission of Jesus that has been entrusted to the Church. Countless enduring relationships and connections have been forged through this union.

Personal and communal prayer and discernment has led us, however, to realise that our deepest longing has been towards re-connection with our beginnings in Penola in 1866. On the feast of St Joseph, 19th March, 2012, our application to Rome for approval to formally cease to exist as a group on our own and to become one with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, was granted.

As we begin a new chapter in our Josephite history, I feel we are much like those first five Sisters who came to Westbury. There has been apprehension mixed with excitement at the prospect of a new beginning. We are moving into the unknown, leaving behind all that means security to us. Our lives, our ministries and our possessions are becoming part of the 'bigger Josephite picture'. We move from 'Black' to 'Brown', from ssj to rsj, from Federation symbol to Central symbol. The way has not been without its high seas and winds and rain. Severing formal connections with the Federation has been painful for all concerned. But our enthusiasm hasn't lagged and there is relief in knowing that our time of waiting is finally over.

The process has made us realise that, though our age may be advancing, our spirits are uplifting with new life. We have trusted in the Providence of God and we have stepped forward confident that our commitment to the Church in Tasmania can only be enhanced by this decision.

24th May 2012 is, for us, a new beginning. We are proud to be leading the way in fulfilling Julian Tenison Woods' dream, expressed in his words to Francis McCarthy in 1887:

"I think the time will come when all St Joseph's children will be brought back together again and be what they were in the beginning."

Just as Mary MacKillop reassured our first Sisters, so we have been reassured by the tremendous warmth and welcome that has been extended to us from all corners of the Josephite family.

*We are ready ... to press on into
each age as it unfolds
in a ... spirit of daring, strong in
our commitment to love ...
to confront the world of the future fearlessly.*

Dominic Morris CP—from First Draft,
Federation Constitutions

Sr Carmel Jones rsj at the dinner address to the Sisters celebrating in Tasmania, former Sister Guardian of the Sisters of St Joseph Tasmania.

AUGUST 8TH AT LAKES ENTRANCE

Two Bairnsdale Associates, Orbost Associates and Parishioners, joined Lakes Entrance Associates and parishioners for Mass in the Mary MacKillop Centre with both St Joseph and St Brendan's school children in attendance.

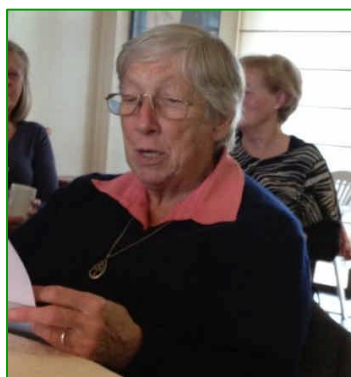
After Mass we 23 sojourned to the home of Mrs Lena Zagami where we all enjoyed a delicious lunch and shared a bottle of Seven Hills Mary MacKillop Sharaz. One bottle amongst 23, meant we could only have a taste.

Sr Maureen Philp shared her memoirs of the early days as a Josephite teacher in Orbost and her recollections of the arrival of the Sisters in Lakes Entrance in 1958. She recalled that the school at Lakes Entrance was a dance hall when they arrived and upon asking where the desks were, the sisters were told there weren't any. So in typical country style the need was soon addressed, some desks, books, pencils came from St Joseph's school, Orbost and the generosity of local families gathered tables and chairs. This was the beginning of the work of Mary MacKillop in Lakes Entrance. The school now, has white boards, computers and all equipment necessary to give the students excellent education opportunities. Sr Maureen has a wealth of knowledge on the early days in East Gippsland, and we hope she documents this valuable information.

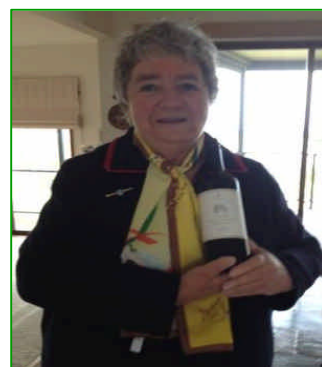
Lakes Entrance Associate Jess Harbeck, then spoke of her early school days. A most enjoyable day was had by all.



Orbost Associates



Sr. Maureen



Marie Donchi Holding Wine

170 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AT WILLIAMSTOWN

Hundreds of parishioners gathered in St Mary's Church Williamstown to celebrate this great achievement in their parish. Started in 1842 with lay principals, carried on by the Faithful Companion of Jesus Sisters from 1897 –1900, travelling from Richmond each day, to the Sisters of St Joseph who arrived in 1900, taking up residence in a convent in Melbourne road purchased by Mary MacKillop.

Bishop Vincent Long congratulated them on their past generosity and the continuing commitment to Catholic Education. The miracle of loaves and fishes, reflected on in the Mass, continued in the School Hall where plate after plate of food appeared to provide refreshments for all the visitors. The classrooms held colourful displays which depicted the hard work of both students and teachers. Congratulations to all!



REGIONAL MEETING—MAFFRA

Fourteen Associates from Lakes Entrance, Maffra, Bairnsdale and Stratford spent an enjoyable day reflecting on Julian Woods and Mary MacKillop on Mission. They made great use of the BLING display and Mobile Shop. We all enjoyed the delicious soup on a cold day.

It was a great day on Saturday. I love to go to Maffra because I have many friends there. The film reinforced to me the difficulties that Mary MacKillop and Julian Woods had as well as what the families endured. I don't always manage to make a retreat so these days are very beneficial to me. *Pat Coloe*
Bairnsdale

The quiet reflection time was very welcome. The DVD gave a good insight into the life of Fr Woods. A lovely spiritual day with other Associates.

Mary McCarthy
Maffra

I enjoyed our regional day and the DVD on Fr Woods. I had not known exactly how instrumental he had been to Mary's story or what a spiritual, loyal and interesting man he was. I always enjoy the prayer, fellowship and the chance to learn about Mary. It was great to have the day so close to home
Rosemary Wisken,
Maffra

EAST MELBOURNE REGIONAL MEETING

A very intimate group of nine met at East Melbourne for the Regional Day travelling from Kew, Kilsyth, Broadmeadows, East Brighton, Braybrook, Bunyip and West Brunswick. Despite technical problems we managed to view the DVD and to be impressed with its message and story.

All appreciated the time to reflect in the lovely surroundings and to have the opportunity to purchase articles from the shop. Unfortunately no photos eventuated. This is becoming a habit of mine! So shall let Therese report.

I loved the Fr Woods movie, teachings, sharing and St Mary's spirituality. I bought the book "God will take care of us all." It is awesome!

Therese Ventura, Bunyip

REGIONAL MEETING EAGLEHAWK

It was a wet cold day to travel to Eaglehawk, but the sun greeted us on arrival in Bendigo. Thirteen brave Associates, some in their 80's, turned up for our Regional Day.

With Annemarie Wilkinson controlling the technology we enjoyed the DVD *This Troublesome Woman* which gave them a deeper insight into the life of Fr Woods and his association with Mary MacKillop and their great affection for each other. The reflection time on his life and challenge and the time sharing the stories of Mary MacKillop was enjoyed by all. Annemarie showed us her photos of the unveiling of the new statue of Mary MacKillop in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral. The group had decided to bring a shared lunch and so we enjoyed the usual delicious food provided by these country women.

Saturday for me was very enjoyable. The DVD was most informative as I now have a better understanding of Fr Woods, the man, and what he and Mary achieved under much stress and difficulty. Reflection and meditation were good and as always the sharing of the group and friendship was great.

Maureen Bourke

A good day for me to reflect and share with other Josephyte Associates and to learn more about how we go about our lives trying to live the spirit of Mary MacKillop. Was great to learn from others about John Maitland's paint of Mary and child and the special relationship Mary shared with the children in her time.

The day was inspiring to us all.

Bill O'Brien

RESIDENTS FROM MACKILLOP AGED CARE VISIT BACCHUS MARSH MUSEUM

On 14th June fifteen residents including Sisters of St Joseph, travelled by car to Bacchus Marsh, a drive of approx one hour, to visit the Catholic Museum which had been built as a double-storey Convent for the Sisters of St Joseph in 1900, ten years after four Sisters had arrived with Mother Bernard. The first Convent was a large house part of which was used as a school and later demolished.

The Sisters and boarders lived on the top floor and the students were schooled on the ground floor. It seemed that the old school was still used until demolished later. In 1905 a large chapel was added and the Sisters of Victoria travelled to Bacchus Marsh for retreats until the property in Havelock Road was purchased.

The convent was vacated by the Sisters in the 1980's as it was too big (and too cold!) for two sisters to be rattling around in. St Bernard's parish purchased a three bed room house closer to the Church and took over ownership of the Convent which had been built by the Sisters. The top floor is rented out to tenants and the lower floor makes up the Museum, Kitchen and Office.

The Chapel has been set up as a Museum illustrating the history of Bacchus Marsh, the Sisters of St Joseph and the Catholic Church. Many old pictures and photos of parishioners adorn the walls. John Hannah, an energetic member of the Committee, cares for a lovely garden and has replaced the altar rails. In this room, the former chapel, our visitors enjoyed home made soup and sandwiches and delicious cream sponges made by Carmel Shea, who with several other Josephite Associates were hosts for the visit.

The Museum is open for visitors on request and on local festive occasions – Harvest Festival in March and Strawberry and Cherry Festival in November.

Bacchus Marsh is an area where thousands of lettuces are grown, and is famous for its apples, stone fruit and strawberries. In season hundreds flock here to pick their own fruit or purchase their choice at the local stalls along the Avenue.. Many come from the city and surrounding areas to buy their weekly vegetables and fruit, much of which is grown by those who sell them. The avenue of elm trees, in honour of those who died in World War 1, is also a tourist feature and it is along the avenues that several properties are established with orchards, gardens and shops.

Each of the drivers was presented with a jar of marmalade made with fruit from the Convent orange tree and a jar for each of the areas in the Residence for them to enjoy. They also went home with some lovely protea blooms from John Hannah's garden.

Though the day was cold all enjoyed the drive and their visit and went home after some pleasant hours.



AROUND THE TRAPS

RUSHWORTH

On the Feast of the Sacred Heart the Josephite Associates of Rushworth attended Mass and afterwards had morning tea together at a local café.

Co-ordinator, Noelle Grinter, has not been well and Maree Stewart ably stepped in to fill her role. Thank you Maree. We keep Noelle in our prayer that she will be back to complete health soon.

BACCHUS MARSH

Members of the Bacchus Marsh Associates group, some of whom are members of the Catholic Museum Committee, welcomed residents, carers and drivers from MacKillop Aged Care for a visit on 14th June. To celebrate Mary MacKillop's feast they shared in a Liturgy of the Word followed by a meal together at a local Venue. Each received a poster with words of Mary MacKillop.

SWAN HILL

The Associates at Swan Hill include prayer and reflection at their meetings followed by a visit within the Parish eg. Aged Care Centre. They have been holding regular "Knit-ins" following the 10 a.m. Mass on a weekday, with Morning tea and lunch welcome breaks. Many parishioners have been joining them and the squares they knit are made into warm rugs to be distributed to those in need. They see this as a need and are doing something about it! Well done!!

MORWELL

The Parish of Morwell had a visit from the Travelling Sisters Road show. Kevin and Kath Davis, Associates and parents of Mary Davis rsj enjoyed the visit of Sr Juliana and Mary MacKillop to their home.



LAKES ENTRANCE

For their last meeting Louise Anketell, Co-ordinator, down-loaded a prayer for Pentecost from the Josephite Daily Prayerbook site and shared their thoughts from the reading.

Plans were made for the 8th August to meet with the Associates from Bairnsdale and Orbost to celebrate this feast with lunch. See report on page 6.

HISTORY LESSONS AT BACCHUS MARSH

The Students at Bacchus Marsh, Prep to Year 6, were introduced to the History of their School, the first of which was operating in Fiskin St before the Sisters of St Joseph arrived in 1890. Archbishop Carr had purchased a residence on five acres of ground. Here the Sisters lived for 10 years. In 1900 a two-storey convent was built where the Sisters and Boarders lived upstairs and part of the School was downstairs. By reading the Foundation Stones the students learnt that the Chapel was built in 1905 and the Sisters moved out of the building in 1987 to Lerderberg St and the Parish established a Catholic Museum in the former Chapel.

A 101 year old Nature Study book was looked at noting the use of ink written with pen dipped in an inkwell. The monogram on the Habit of the Sisters was explained and differences in school and living conditions of the time were discussed.

As well they were informed of the ministry of the Sisters today in Peru and East Timor and the BLING made by the Senior Sisters to help the ministry in East Timor. Everyone seemed very happy with their visit.. Boiled lollies in memory of Mary MacKillop were distributed to each child.



SCHOOLIES WITH A DIFFERENCE!

Often the post-exams and pre-results time for Year 12 is spent at a phenomenon called “schoolies”, where one can get away from it all and celebrate. It is a means of marking that significant step from school student to that of “life student”.

For ten Year 12 graduates, all from Various Catholic Secondary colleges across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, “Crossroads 2011” was one such step. From November 26th to December 9th last year, these young women and men embarked on the inaugural ‘alternative schoolies’ experience provided by the Archdiocesan Office for youth in Melbourne. The symbol of the ‘crossroads’ is a relevant one for those embarking on post-secondary school life.

Where am I going? What will I do?

Rather than the conventional schoolies, these students chose an alternative experience. To ponder the questions, and “believe in the whisperings of God in your own heart” (MMK 1868) in the form of a 14 day pilgrimage across Western Victoria, into South Australia and on to Alice Springs.



The pilgrimage began on a wet and cold Melbourne day, as we headed west—first to Hamilton where we visited the grave of Alexander MacKillop then on to Casterton where we would spend the evening bedding down in a shearing shed! The hospitality of Fr Andrew Hayes pp, the Neeson family and parish community was outstanding and typical of the ‘true-blue’ Aussie farming community. Following a ‘good’ night’s sleep, a hearty cooked breakfast and Mass, we set off for Penola and the continuation of our journey from the birth-site of Mary MacKillop to the birth-site of the Sisters of St Joseph.

At Penola our pilgrims visited the Mary MacKillop Interpretive Centre where we were guided through Mary’s encounter with Fr Woods which led to the foundation of the Josephites in 1866. The display on Fr Julian was a surprise package for our pilgrims, as they learned of his extensive scientific, botanical, geographic and spiritual pursuits. Another highlight for them was a time of prayer, reflection and sharing at the site of the original ‘Stable School’.

Bidding farewell to the rich history of Penola, we set forth for Adelaide and the next phase of our pilgrimage and the Josephite journey.

The Mary MacKillop Centre located at Kensington, SA, provided another informative view of the work of Mary MacKillop and the pioneer Sisters of St Joseph. Included was a visit to the site of Mary’s excommunication in 1871. One pilgrim summed up the last few days when she said, ‘the image of St Mary of the Cross revealed to me was of a practical, humble, ordinary woman with a propensity to accomplish extraordinary things through her absolute, unwavering trust in God.’ Another described his experience thus: “I was inspired by her sanctity and her humanity—she seems to have been the sort of woman who laughed just as much as she prayed.”

So with Mary’s words “remember we are but travellers her” (1867) we ventured to the indigenous community of Santa Teresa 80 km from Alice Springs. Our five days of immersion with this community held varied opportunities and many moments of awareness: Times of listening to the Elders, playing with the children, experiencing the creative life of the Women’s centre, sharing the Eucharist, involvement in classroom support, gathering bush medicine, joining in the laughter and feeling the pain of injustice that is etched throughout community life. This was a wonderful time to learn first-hand the impact of government policies on an indigenous community. The importance of our respect for the human dignity of each person was as evident to us as it was to Mary MacKillop over a century ago. One pilgrim described it: ‘her presence followed us every step of the trip and my journey has helped me to understand her to be a woman worthy of admiration and imitation’.

We finished with a brief trip to Uluru and a reflection day at “Campfire in the Heart”. Alice Springs. This gave us time to give thanks, to spend time with the God of creation, the God of compassion and the God of humanity. The quality of these young participants leaves me in no doubt that the Church is in good hands. Wherever life may lead them, their compassion for all, their mindfulness for justice and their ever-deepening faith, will ensure that they “never see a need without doing something about it. (MMK 1867)

Janette Murphy rsj
Chaplain “Crossroads 2011



BOOK REVIEW



THE BOY WHO WOULDN'T DIE

By David Nyuol Vincent

He survived famine, war and 17 years in refugee camps to build a new life in Australia.

As a little boy he fled southern Sudan with his father as war raged in their country, leaving behind his distraught mother and sisters, his village and his childhood.

After months of walking with little food and water they arrived in Ethiopia only to be separated. Trained as a child soldier, soccer was the one thing that gave him joy as he was often hungry and without hope of improving his life. After 17 years in refugee camps he was offered a life in Australia.

Now living in Melbourne he works hard to support his family in Sudan, to bring reconciliation between the North and South Sudanese, doing community work for his people and playing soccer.

A must read book! Available from your library and good book shops.

GROW YOUR SOUL— an invitation

During this Year of Grace you may like to nurture your spirit with inspiring daily prayers, reflective stories and delightful photographs.

Many Associates find the **MADONNA** Magazine a great help to prayer with some spiritual reading, and reviews of excellent books. Some offered as prizes!

An extract from Sept/Oct Issue written by the Editor Chris Gleeson sj

"Prayer is a matter of letting God love me, allowing that friendship of God to grow stronger in me, tuning in to the Spirit praying in me. Just as my friends carry me in them, so too I carry in myself the friendship of God."

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UNVEILING OF STATUE OF ST MARY MACKILLOP

On Sunday 12 August, Archbishop Denis Hart, Archbishop of Melbourne, and Sr Josephine Dubiel rsj, Leader of the Josephites' Victoria-Tasmania Province, shared the unveiling of a statue of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, in the gardens of St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne, just a few hundred metres from where she was born. Mary has come home!

The larger-than-life bronze cast statue portrays a young and vibrant Mary. Sculptor Louis Laumen, explained: "The image depicts Mary descending a staircase, as if she had just been upstairs to put on her habit for the very first time."

In her welcome address, Sr Josephine promised those waiting to witness the unveiling of this wonderful sculpture that: 'We will see a Sister Mary MacKillop, not on a pedestal, but stepping down, and stepping out, with a love that is real and active, and clutching a book. And we recall Mary writing, "To me, the will of God is a very dear book which I never tire of reading ...' (1873).

After the blessing of the statue, Archbishop Hart commented that he 'sees Mary as 'a special patron ... a special friend of St Patrick's' who, on her visits to Melbourne in the late 1900's, frequently prayed in the Cathedral. He reminded all present that Mary calls us to, 'never see a need without doing something about it'. He sees this statue of Mary as 'a reminder to us to step out and follow Christ by serving those around us with love.'

Mary Ryan rsj

www.marymackillop.org.au



ASSOCIATES' BULLETIN BOARD - SPRING 2012

FROM THE OFFICE:
Many Associates are now receiving their Newsletter in colour by email. If you are still receiving it by post and would like it by email, just send an email to the address below. You can view it in colour on the sosj.org.au website, under news and events/newsletters.

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USED STAMPS

Used postage stamps have raised thousands of dollars for the Peruvian Mission. Please leave a border of about 1cm around the stamps.
Forward stamps to:

STAMPS

St Joseph's Province Centre
Locked Bag 3031
BURWOOD NSW 1805

Thank you.



THANK YOU

To all who have so promptly sent in Subscriptions and Donations. To efficiently operate an office, expenses are incurred and your generosity is much appreciated. Still not too late!

GOD BLESS YOU

*Death is not extinguishing the light
But merely putting out the lamp
Because the dawn has come.
Tagore.*

In love and prayer, we are mindful of those who mourn the death of family members and friends.

Rosemary Harty, daughter of Margaret, Sebastopol
Bernadette, wife of Bernard Conroy, Cheltenham

Sr Mary Elizabeth Murphy rsj - former
Congregational Leader

STOP PRESS!

How long is it since you looked at the Mary MacKillop Website:
www.marymackillop.org.au

Have you seen the news about :
the way the PP stopped
vandalism at Fitzroy;
the new window at Maryborough;
the Travelling Roadshow in
Tasmania?

Did you know you can place a prayer on Mary's tomb? Or sit and pray at the tomb?

Try PRAYER SPACE to link up with the prayer section.

Have you subscribed to E-News the monthly email that comes FREE.?

If you don't have a computer I am sure the Library would help or a loving grandchild.

Catch up on the Josephite News! and Mary MacKillop E-News:

Or catch up on what is happening in our Josephite family on www.sosj.org.au

And for anything about Mary MacKillop on www.marymackillop.org.au

You can subscribe to the email news and it will automatically be sent to you on a regular basis — on the 8th of every month.

AND it's FREE!