

# Josephite Companions, Aotearoa

Friendship ♦ Prayer ♦ Service

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*Summer Newsletter*

*1 December 2012*

*Dear Associates, Sisters and Friends,*

*At this time of Advent the Church calls us to be mindful of the potential to recognise the Sacred in our daily living, as we wait for the coming of our God – in creation, in our selves and in one another. Maybe we can ask ourselves: Are we waiting for God? Searching for God? Or birthing God? Can we, like Mary, play our part in bringing to birth within ourselves the incarnate God.*

*During Advent we hear the voices of the prophets:  
John's voice speaks strongly to us:*

## **A Voice cries in Today's Wilderness...**

From the dream-filled land, Cry!  
What shall I cry?  
That all earth is sacred ground,  
the dwelling-place of God.

From the rushing wave, Cry!  
What shall I cry?  
That earth is drenched with mystery  
dancing over the face of the deep.

From the restless wind, Cry!  
What shall I cry?  
That the Spirit rushed through  
the one placed in her path.

From the burning flame, Cry!  
What shall I cry?  
That creation is ablaze with the holy;  
To see, is to be consumed.



## News from the South

In March, the Parish Priest of Opihi area - Temuka, Geraldine and Pleasant Point - took a pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Shrine in North Sydney. We were all accommodated at Anderley Lodge for our five-day stay, bed and breakfast and dinner if ordered - most comfortable!

The first day Father offered Mass in the Chapel of the Temuka Wing of the complex. Then we went to the main Chapel to visit and pray at Mary MacKillop's grave, a tour round all the Chapel and then a longer tour through the attached museum.

Tuesday we visited the Gore Hill cemetery where Mary MacKillop was first buried and also spent some time admiring the Memorial Wall. The New Zealand panels were of great interest.

On Wednesday we visited the Rocks area where the Sisters of St Joseph worked for many years assisting and teaching children of poor families. We also saw the area where the bubonic plague started! Later we visited St Patrick's Cathedral and saw the beautiful commemorative statue of Mary MacKillop again cast in bronze.

Thursday we travelled by ferry up to Parramatta spending a few hours around there before returning to Mount St. All were interested in the "shop" at Mount St and many purchases of Mary MacKillop items for people back home and ourselves were made.

The tour was from 11th March (a Sunday) returning home on Friday 16th March. Another item of interest is that the Opihi Parish is to be known as - St Mary MacKillop Parish. I think all in this area will be pleased of our new patronal name. The naming will be celebrated at the Masses on the weekend of 11/12 August. Sister Colleen Keeble is coming to Temuka for that weekend.

### Mary Fitzgerald - Temuka



**Monday 12 March 2012 outside the Chapel of St Mary MacKillop, Mount Street, North Sydney.**

**Back:** Shona Scannell (Pleasant Point), Sr Lorraine Gaines, Margaret Bray (Geraldine), Pat Cameron, Fr Brian Fennessy, Isobel Sullivan, Helen Mackle

**Front:** Harry & Jean Ipenburg, Mary Fitzgerald, Angela MacLeod.

*The statue of Mary is cast in bronze.*

## Followers of St Mary MacKillop

The Dunedin group of the Josephite Associates met in the St Peter Chanel parish hall on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November to listen to Sr Jill McLoughlin's very informative presentation about St Mary MacKillop's history in New Zealand which began in 1894 in Temuka where she set up her first school. "St Mary walked the land and loved this country." She said her closest association with Dunedin was Port Chalmers where she set up St Josephs school. Followers gathered from Port Chalmers, Queenstown and around Dunedin. Sr Jill is from Christchurch and brought her parents, who were on holiday from Hamilton, to meet the group.

One of St Mary's favourite readings is from the Collossians 3, "Clothe yourself with Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Meekness and Patience." This she lived by and all her teachings that she passed on to her sisters were based on this. This is only one of her teachings which are based on her own life and the many crosses that she lived through.

The afternoon concluded with raffles, the proceeds being presented to Sr Jill along with a plaque presented to her by Trish Clark, the Otago leader of the Josephites. This was followed by afternoon tea and a friendly chat with old friends and new members.

***"Remember we are but travellers here"***

Quotation from St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's Tomb.

**Denise Mitchell**

## News from the North

Fourteen Josephite Companions from Dargaville and Whangarei gathered at the Dargaville Parish Centre on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October. Over the past few years our groups have enjoyed meeting and sharing together. So now this has become an annual event.

Sr. Winn rsj led us in a thoughtful and prayerful reflection of our own faith journeys. She helped us link our personal journeys with St. Mary MacKillop's own story. Sr. Winn also shared how the Year of Faith could be a wonderful opportunity for us all to learn about and renew our faith. Sr. Winn lives in Orewa and works for the Orewa Parish.



Besides prayer and formation, we were also treated to a filling lunch and tasty morning and afternoon teas. We all enjoyed another great Josephite gathering in the North.

Special thanks to Dargaville Josephites for hosting our day.

**Jane Gunson, Whangarei.**



## Sisters of St Joseph, Whanganui:

These Sisters came to New Zealand in 1880 from Perthville, near Bathurst **NSW**, of the racing car fame! They were also founded by St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods. Because of historical circumstances they became Diocesan (working in a diocese under the local Bishop) and therefore worked in separate but federated groups in Tasmania, Lochinvar, Goulburn and Perthville (NSW) and in New Zealand.

Currently the Sisters in Whanganui have applied to Rome for approval to fuse with the larger group of Josephites. If this occurs there will be one group of Sisters of St Joseph in New Zealand with St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods as founders. We will keep you up to date with this news!!

### **WHANGANUI COMPANIONS:**

The Josephite companions in Whanganui are a group of people who largely focus on activities at the Josephite Retreat Centre there.

During each year we prepare liturgies which are held monthly on a Sunday afternoon and hopefully provide a prayerful, challenging and inspirational space for reflection. This year the theme at the Retreat Centre has been the Earth Charter and so our prayers have been focused on this.

Like the Auckland group who gather at Mission Bay we gathered for Mary MacKillop's feast day for prayer and a shared meal.

To enable us to be more conscious about our spirituality during the year we have e-mailed weekly reflections centred on Mary MacKillop, Julian Tenison Woods and St Joseph, to those who have requested them.

We also hold an educational day on Josephite spirituality annually. This is to help people recognise that they can be spiritual right where they are... it's about the Josephite charism of seeing the sacred in the ordinariness of our everyday lives.



## National Australian Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage

In October I was privileged to participate in the National Australian Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage. From the moment we gathered together in Melbourne, the focus wasn't on the destination and the sights, but rather the journey, placing ourselves in the shoes of Mary, her family, and Fr Julian Tenison-Woods. In this way we could absorb aspects of Mary and Julian's lives as together they inspired the Josephite order. The pilgrimage was over 11 days, and we travelled from Melbourne to Portland; Penola, Adelaide and Sydney. I would certainly recommend this to anyone interested in reflecting more about Josephite Spirituality and how it relates in their own lives.



**Sr Monica Barlow is the Pilgrimage Co-ordinator and** she can be contacted on: [mmp.ministries@sosj.org.au](mailto:mmp.ministries@sosj.org.au)

The Pilgrimage is limited to 36 participants and it is very popular so make sure you book early.

**Helen Dougherty, Whanganui**

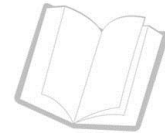


Helen is on the right third from the front.

## ***Looking ahead - 2013:***

At our last meeting, our Companions Leadership Team discussed the possibility of visiting cluster groups of Josephite Companions throughout New Zealand. This would be with the purpose of meeting, sharing and to foster a greater awareness of Josephite spirituality and support the living out of this in daily life.

Watch this space for further information.

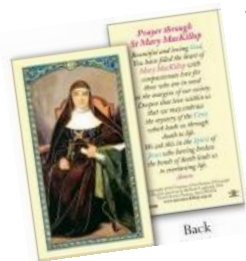


### **Psalms from A Pierced Heart:**

Compiled by Patricia Stevenson rsj

This is a revised edition of the original book compiled by Patricia with illustrations.

Cost is \$20. These copies will be available in the New Year - you will hear further.



### **Mary MacKillop inspirational cards:**

These have New Zealand scenes photographed by the Sisters and with Mary's quotes superimposed.

These are business card size...an ideal gift.

\$15 per pack of 35.

Available from: Srs of St Joseph

30 Holgate Road

Kohimarama

Auckland 1071

### **Prayers please:**

Gayle Dodunski, a member of our Leadership team from New Plymouth, has recently had a mastectomy and is awaiting appointments with surgeons regarding further treatment.

Gayle would love to be remembered in prayer by all of us at this time.





### **Kids' camp:**

**This has been part of the Central Josephites' focus for ministry and an annual event has been held in various centres that gathered children around the Josephite/Mary MacKillop values and charism.**

**This January the camp will be held in the Hokianga.**

**With luck, next year's will be in Taumarunui!**

### **For Your Information**

- Josephite Website – [www.sosj.org.au](http://www.sosj.org.au)  
Associates/Josephite Companions can be found under:  
'News & Events/Newsletters'
  - Mary MacKillop enews – anyone can subscribe, it's free! This is a monthly newsletter.
  - Mary MacKillop website: [www.marymackillop.org.au](http://www.marymackillop.org.au)
  - Whanganui Josephites: [www.ssj.org.nz](http://www.ssj.org.nz)
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***As the time of waiting is fulfilled, from the voice of a child comes words of wisdom for us all:***

**SHARON'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

**She was five,  
sure of the facts,  
and recited them  
with slow solemnity  
convinced every word  
was revelation.  
She said  
they were so poor  
they only had peanut butter and  
jelly sandwiches to eat  
and they went a long way from home  
without getting lost.  
The lady rode a donkey, the man walked,  
and the baby was inside the lady.  
They had to stay in a stable  
with an ox and an ass (hee-hee)  
but the Three Rich Men found them  
because a star lited the roof  
Shepherds came and you could  
pet the sheep but not feed them.  
Then the baby was borned.  
And do you know who he was?  
Her quarter eyes inflated  
to silver dollars.  
The baby was God!  
And she jumped in the air-  
whirled around, dove into the sofa  
and buried her head under the cushion -  
which is the only proper response  
to the Good News of the Incarnation.**

*John Shea*



May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust this  
Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.

May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One  
who offers you peace. May you bring this peace into our world.

*Joyce Rupp*