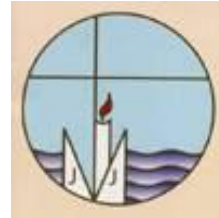


Josephite Associates



*Friendship
Prayer
Service*

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Autumn 2013

Mary MacKillop named as Patron of Australia

A Media Release from January, 2013

A formal decree approving St Mary of the Cross MacKillop as second patron of Australia has been received by the President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Denis Hart.

The Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments Cardinal Cañizares Llovera issued the decree on 15 January, 2013, in response to a request from the Archbishop Hart and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

While many Catholics in Australia already consider St Mary MacKillop as a patroness in this country, the formal process was initiated by the Australian Bishops who expressed the wish of the people of Australia for a further official recognition of Australia's first canonised saint.

Archbishop Hart expressed his delight that the process has led to the confirmation of Mary MacKillop's great example.

"In many ways, the process of officially naming her as a second patron was simply confirming what Australian Catholics already see, that the example and vision of Mary MacKillop is our *modus operandi* as a Church, particularly in our service of the poor and marginalised, and our commitment to Catholic education. This confirmation from the Holy See is most welcome", he said.



The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the order founded by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, and all those associated expressed their delight and gratitude for the decree.

Sr Anne Derwin, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph said that this was another important honour for Australia's first saint.

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"We realise that since her canonisation many, many Australians have come to admire and appreciate her strong dedication to people in society, especially the most vulnerable, that they have a fair deal, that children receive education and love, and that every person is recognised and valued", she said.

"We are all delighted and hope that Mary's values of generosity, inclusion, kindness, commitment and reliance on God's Providence and Goodness, become the hallmarks of our country."

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A Snapshot in the Life of Mary MacKillop

15	Jan	1842	Birth of Mary in Melbourne.
		1860	Works as a Governess in Penola where she meets Fr Woods.
	Jan	1866	Opens a Catholic school in Penola in a converted stable.
19	Mar	1866	Wears a black dress as a symbol of Religious Consecration.
	Jan	1867	Bishop Sheil addresses her as "Sr Mary".
	Jun	1867	Moves to Adelaide. Opening of a school, Orphanage, Refuge and Providence.
15	Aug	1867	First Religious Profession.
	Dec	1868	Bishop Sheil approves the Rule of the Institute of St Joseph. Death of Alexander MacKillop – Mary's father.
8	Dec	1869	Makes her final Profession. Leaves with the first Josephites for Queensland.
	Apr	1871	Returns to Adelaide.
	Sep	1871	Excommunicated by Bishop Sheil.
23	Feb	1872	Excommunication lifted.
	Mar	1873	Mary leaves for Rome.
	Mar	1874	Second visit to Rome.
	Jan	1875	Returns to Adelaide.
	Mar	1875	First General Chapter. Mary elected Mother General.
		1881	Second General Chapter. Re-elected as Mother General.
	Nov	1883	Bishop Reynolds expels her from Adelaide.
	Mar	1884	Novitiate opens in Mount St, North Sydney.
	May	1886	Death of Flora MacKillop – Mary's mother – in a shipwreck
	July	1888	Confirmation of the Institute and Central Government. Mother House transferred to Sydney.
7	Oct	1889	Death of Fr Woods in Sydney.
	Dec	1889	Third General Chapter. Mary becomes Assistant General.
	Jan	1892	Becomes seriously ill in Melbourne.
	Jan	1894	First visit to New Zealand.
	Mar	1896	Fourth General Chapter. No election.
		1897	Visits South Australia and New Zealand.
	Jan	1899	Fifth General Chapter. Elected Mother General.
	Jan	1902	Medical treatment in New Zealand.
	May	1902	Suffers a stroke in New Zealand.
	Dec	1902	Returns to Australia an invalid.
	Mar	1904	Sixth General Chapter. Re-elected as Mother General. Seriously ill in South Australia.
	Oct	1904	Returns to Sydney.
8	Aug	1909	Death of Mary in Sydney.



*"God will
carry you
safely
through
every
struggle."
MMK
1870*

Mary's legacy continues through sainthood and beyond...

“Standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us”

In October 2012 the universal Church proclaimed the *Year of Faith*. This started so as to mark fifty years since the beginning of the Second Vatican Council. Its purpose is for Christians across the world to focus more deeply on Christ and to “rediscover” our faith: *“...faith is a gift to rediscover, to cultivate and to bear witness to” because the Lord “grants each one of us to live the beauty and joy of being Christians.”* (Year of Faith website)

In light of this, our Associate Leadership Team decided to offer a different opportunity to gather at the beginning of this new year. For each of us, we are a Josephite Associate because of a connection to and involvement with the story of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph. The Sisters lives have been entwined with the lives of people in our schools, parishes and other areas of life. Many of us have been taught by or worked with the Sisters over the years. Over the past 147 years Mary and her Sisters have left us a legacy that we share in today: a legacy of faith and lives of service that have continued the mission of Jesus.

For our gathering we chose to meet at the Josephite cemetery at Mitcham as it is the place where most of the SA Sisters have been laid to rest. The lives of these Sisters who have gone before us, and others who remain with us today, have touched our lives and enabled our faith to be enriched.



Sr Catherine Clark rsj led us in a reflection about the story of the cemetery and the stories of a few of the Sisters. She invited us to walk among the plaques on which the names of Sisters, since the 1880's, are inscribed. This enabled us time to share with others who were present about those Sisters who have shared our lives.

Using the words of the song “*Standing on the Shoulders*” ⁽¹⁾ Sr Catherine linked our lives with the Sisters. The Sisters have struggled and been challenged, have been trail blazers and have provided stability in times of considerable difficulty. Just like us, there were some who really struggled with life and caused consternation for others, while others, such as Sr Monica Phillips rsj, provided great support and leadership of the Sisters at a time when the Congregation most needed it.

I am standing on the shoulders of the ones who
came before me

I am stronger for their courage; I am wiser for
their words

I am lifted by their longing for a fair and brighter
future

I am grateful for their vision, for their toiling on this
Earth

We are standing on the shoulders of the ones
who came before us

They are saints and they are humans, they are
angels, they are friends

We can see beyond the struggles and the
troubles and the challenge

When we know that by our efforts things will be
better in the end

I imagine our world if they hadn't tried
We wouldn't be here celebrating today ⁽¹⁾

(1) “*Standing on the Shoulders*” Joyce Johnson Rouse
©1995 Rouse House Music from Love Large CD by
Earth Mama® at www.earthmama.org

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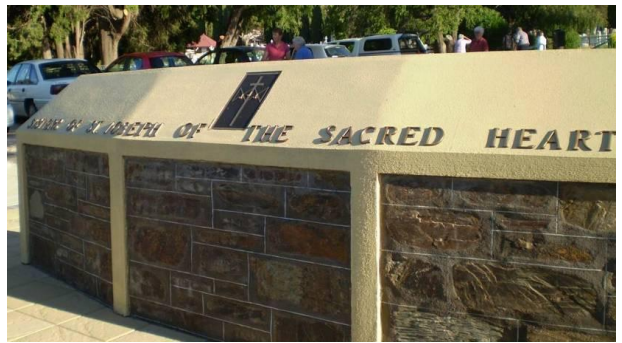
May we all, in this Year of Faith, find ways to enkindle our faith. In our homes and communities may we make a difference – just as those who have gone before us.

And so, in this Year of Faith we will continue our tradition of having a focus to raise funds for a Josephite ministry. During 2013 we will work towards contributing to the Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission.

In 1994 the Sisters responded to the request of Bishop Belo to help the Timorese who were an oppressed people living in an occupied country. Today the Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission is carried out by a *“variety of people who recognise the particular gift which Mary MacKillop brought to the world. She upheld the dignity of all people. She relied on the providence of God. She devoted herself to the education of the poor.”* (SOSJ website) Working with the people of East Timor, projects focussed especially in the fields of education and health, and continue to improve the lives of a people who are working to build a better future. We look forward to your generosity in continuing to support raffles and the like when we gather.

In 2012 our fundraising efforts were focussed on the Mary MacKillop Foundation. Through small projects the Foundation is able to support groups and individuals. Many of you may recall Carlton Lang from Aboriginal Support Services who spoke at one of our gatherings last year about the value of the help from the Mary MacKillop Foundation for their work. Through money raised from raffles and lucky squares and with some funds from our account we have been able to provide the Foundation with \$1000 to continue this ministry.

by Mary Hemmings



HECTORVILLE ASSOCIATES CELEBRATE 10 YEARS

FRIENDSHIP, PRAYER and SERVICE have always been the focus of our monthly gatherings for OVER 10 YEARS now.

Reflecting on 2012, we were and still are blessed to have Fr Anthony join us early in the year and celebrate a Home Mass and Anointing of the Sick.

We treasure the friendships and bonding together created at each light and joyful gathering. We continue to learn, and the topics that Srs Majella O'Sullivan and Eileen Taylor rsj present each time not only inform and challenge us, but help us to understand more of the Bible, the Gospels and, of course, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. We are given the opportunity to share our stories and to listen to what other people have to say. We show our concern for one another and remember the intentions specifically asked for in our *prayer time* together.

At the beginning of 2012 we had 18 faithful and loyal men and women. Sadly since then two of these treasured friends have died - Kevin O'Sullivan (6.7.12) and Kathleen Morrissey (15.9.12). We continue to remember them and their families in our prayers as we do all who have lost loved ones throughout the year.

Thank you to the wonderful people who allow us to gather in their homes. Each time we finish with a 'cuppa and chat' and their hospitality is appreciated.

A luncheon together completed the year.

We give thanks for the many blessings we have received, and as we are true Associates of St Mary MacKillop, we look forward to continuing our FRIENDSHIP, PRAYER and SERVICE in 2013

By Margaret Emery



RIP Josephites

*We remember with love and gratitude
Sr Winifred Murphy
who entered eternal life on
26th October, 2012*



*"Let us be entirely
God's." MMK, 1890*

Postage Stamps

Used postage stamps provide some extra income for the Peruvian mission. If you would like to collect used stamps, please leave a sizeable border of paper, eg 1cm around the stamps. Stamps can be sent to the Province Centre or posted to *Stamps for MMIM*, PO Box 1508, North Sydney, NSW 2059.

A Musical Evening by Carla Mastrangelo

When the time arrived for our musical evening last December, it turned out to be a most enjoyable event – frivolous at times but with an endearing message from the pen of Mary MacKillop and from each one of us who attended.

In her usual iconic way, Sr Majella O'Sullivan rsj led us in song through some well known Christmas carols, accompanied by Mary Gill on the piano and Claire Leahy on violin. We also sang some of the carols the "Aussie" way. Most notable was the Australian version of the Twelve Days of Christmas where on the fifth day "...my true love sent to me, five kangaroos" (do you know it?) and each time we were meant to stand – that is, if we remembered amongst all our silliness and laughter.

With the carol *The First Noel*, we know the three wise men brought "...gold and myrrh, with frankincense." Sr Majella asked us to consider what if they were three wise *women* instead – what would they have brought or done? Someone yelled out 'nappies', another 'a casserole' and still another 'they would clean the stable'. How practical is that?

Last year as part of the evening something different was tried instead of the exchange of Christmas ornaments. For each one of us Sr Majella had prepared a Christmas card each with a different saying from the writings of Mary MacKillop (read some of these sayings on the left and right borders). We were asked to write a Christmas message "To a friend" that spoke of the 'gifts' we wished to give at the time, for example, the gift of love, of family, of friendship, of peace, etc. These were then randomly distributed to those present during our blessing time when *A Blessing of Angels* was recited. See our *Prayer Page* (page 8) for these blessings which take us on a journey through Christmas and Easter.

The evening finished off with a lovely supper where we chatted and renewed connections. Thank you to all who came along and participated so willingly.

P.S. Here is Sr Majella's Christmas joke:
Q: What is this Christmas Carol?
ABCDEFGHIJK MNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
The answer appears in the bottom left hand corner of this page.



A: Noel (no 'L')

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A Journey with Mary

Thursday, 21st March
7 pm
Bethany Hall, Kensington



Facilitators: Val De Brenni & Lucia Ciocca

During Lent this year we will reflect on the **Stations of the Cross** in light of Val De Brenni's book, "*Stations of the Cross: A Journey with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop*". We know that Mary was no stranger to suffering, and even though she encountered many difficulties she remained true to her faith: 'Mary finds strength and meaning in the cross of Jesus' (pg 4).



Come along so we may *journey* together, and as we pray the Stations, may we too find strength and meaning in the cross of Jesus in the hope that our lives will also be transformed.

Please RSVP by telephoning Pat Sandretti on 8264 9658 or email us at sa.associates@sosj.org.au by Friday, 15th March if you wish to join us for this event.



Diary Dates for 2013

🕯 St Mary MacKillop's Monthly Mass and Reflection

Date: 8th of each month (except Sundays)
Time: 10.30am (Mass) and 5.45pm (Reflection)
Place: Kensington Chapel, 286 Portrush Rd, Kensington



🕯 Stations of the Cross

Date: Thursday, 21st March

For more details please refer above.

🕯 Celebrating the Feast of Mary MacKillop with AGM

Date: Saturday, 10th August

More details will appear in the next newsletter.

🕯 Reflection Day

Date: October

More details will appear in the next newsletter.

🕯 Musical Evening

Date: December

More details to come.

"Pray humbly with
confidence and fear
nothing." MMK, 1873

A Blessing of Angels



May the angel of annunciation bless you, inviting you daily to awaken to the God-life within you.

May the angel of Joseph's dreams bless you, stirring your spirit to trust the many ways that Mystery whispers to you.

May the angel of birthing bless you, calling forth wonder, awe, and gratitude for all that has helped you to become your true self.

May the angel of Bethlehem-songs bless you, tickling your soul with laughter and joy, heralding hope and good tidings to you.

May the angel of the journey to Egypt bless you, guiding and protecting you as you travel the inner and outer roads of your life.

May the angel of desert wilderness bless you, bringing courage when you experience bleak, intense searching and struggle.

May the angel of prayer bless you, gathering you closely to the divine Beloved who longs for your embrace.

May the angel of children on the lap of Jesus bless you, helping you to see the beauty and freedom of your inner child.

May the angel of the agony in the garden bless you, offering you solace in times of tribulation.

May the angel at the tomb of resurrection bless you with faith and trust that all shall be well.



***Wishing all Associates, together with your families and friends,
a very HAPPY and BLESSED EASTER***