



## Winter 2013



### Josephites at Work in East Timor

*In our Autumn newsletter this year, Mary Hemmings, in her article "Standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us", wrote about our fundraising focus for 2013, namely the Mission in East Timor.*

*The following passage gives us some details of this important work. It is hoped that Associates will support our giving this year through raffles and the like. The text and photos are courtesy of the Sisters of St Joseph and are used with permission. Ed.*

The work of Mary MacKillop International (MMI) in East Timor began with the response of the Sisters of St Joseph to the request by Bishop Carlos Belo in 1993 to help the people of East Timor. He spoke of his hope for "the building up of a new society in peace, reconciliation and forgiveness."

The work in East Timor 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. The staff work together in that spirit to foster a range of opportunities for the advancement of the people of Timor-Leste, especially through literacy education in the Tetun language. They support the people in health education, advocacy, compassionate care and other educational and cultural initiatives.



Above right: MMI staff member with a teacher from Becora School conducting a reading class.

Right: A music class at Bedois School.



For more information or to donate online visit the website [www.sosj.org.au/what-we-are-doing](http://www.sosj.org.au/what-we-are-doing)

## These are the 2013 Jubilarians



### 70 Years Professed

Sr Joan Barry and Sr Nora Kerin

### 60 Years Professed

Sr Robert Aitken, Sr Anne Fitzgerald and  
Sr Pat Sealey

### 50 Years Professed

Sr Augusta Bresba, Sr Ann Leesue,  
Sr Elizabeth Murphy and Sr Marie Victory

## From Provinces to Regions

by Sr Anne Derwin rsj

*Sr Anne Derwin is the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. In this extract of her article she writes about the changes to the internal structure of the Congregation. The full article may be read online at [www.sosj.org.au/news-events](http://www.sosj.org.au/news-events). The text and image come courtesy of the Sisters of St Joseph and are used with permission. Ed.*



In the early days once the Congregation began to move beyond South Australia, Mary MacKillop began appointing Provincials to care for the Sisters and their work in places where she could not be continually present herself. Over the years Provinces have been established and for the past thirty years six Provinces have served the mission.

The 2007 General Chapter of the Congregation, invited Sisters to look at the current reality and 'envision fresh ways of governance that would free the gifts and safeguard and direct the mission entrusted to us.'

The exploring over these years has led to the decision to organise the Congregation into five Regions:

- New Zealand, Queensland and Peru
- South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory
- New South Wales and East Timor
- Victoria and Tasmania
- Ireland and Scotland

Regional Leader Sr Marion Gambin, with the assistance of her team and in close collaboration with the Sisters of the Region, will be responsible for the life, ministry and governance of the Congregation in SA, WA and the NT.

As ministerial religious women we are always on the move responding as needs change. Mary MacKillop instilled this way of being into the Congregation from the very beginning. As we move into the change to Regions, we take heart from our Founders:

**'Do not be troubled about the future of the Institute. I am not. God whose work it is will take care of it.'**

Mary MacKillop to Sr Annette Nenschke, 1898

**'It is God's own calm, quiet work and let us do it in God's own calm, quiet way.'**

Julian Tenison Woods to Mary MacKillop, 1873

# Celebrating Mary's Feast Day

(with Annual Reports & information on East Timor)



**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> August**

**12pm – 3pm**

**Chapel & Bethany Hall**

**Province Centre**

**4 High St, Kensington**

To celebrate the “8<sup>th</sup> August Feast Day” of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop all Associates are invited to a liturgy followed by a BBQ lunch. The liturgy will include a recommitment ceremony for Associates.

Cost will be \$5 per person. Bring a friend, and if you are also able to bring a small salad or dessert to share that would be helpful.

For further information and for catering purposes please telephone Pat Sandretti on 8264 9658 or email us on [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au) by 29<sup>th</sup> July if you wish to join us.

## Healing and Hope

**Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September**

**1pm – 3.30pm**

**Bethany Hall**

**Province Centre**

**4 High St, Kensington**

**Facilitator: Sr Angela Mahar rsj**



Grief and loss can seem a bit scary, and often is associated with death and dying, and of course it is felt most keenly at these times. However, this session will also focus on some of the hidden griefs that sometimes go on in our lives and are not noticed. Hopefully, this will provide an opportunity to reflect on some of these.

Our Facilitator, Sr Angela, has spent 25 years in schools both as a teacher and in administration. For the past 16 years she has been engaged as a Counsellor in the Riverland, Pt Pirie and now Whyalla. Counselling is her passion, particularly seeing the positive difference it can make in the lives of people. Sr Angela “loves working in the rural area.”

Please RSVP by telephoning Pat Sandretti on 8264 9658 or email us at [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au) by Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> August if you wish to join us for this gathering.



# An Evening with *The Stations of the Cross*

by Pat Sandretti



In her book *The Stations of the Cross: A Journey with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop*, Val De Brenni immerses the reader into a well-known narrative. Along the

way we read quotes from Mary MacKillop and ponder some questions related to our own life story.

This is how it was on the evening of Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March when a group of Associates, Sisters and friends gathered at Bethany Hall, Kensington for a prayerful reflection on the Stations. Val, the author and presenter, set the scene with a thoughtful display while the music of "Panis Angelicus" created a reflective mood.

Photographs of the Stations of the Cross from the Mary MacKillop Chapel in Sydney were

used in the presentation. As we followed Jesus on his journey to Calvary we read the many words of wisdom Mary MacKillop shared on her devotion of the Cross.

We were led to contemplate on our own response to the questions asked in following Jesus' Way of the Cross, for example:

- Can I follow Jesus' example in my daily life?
- How did Mary MacKillop respond to the crosses in her life?

After the announcement of each Station and reflection, a gong would sound and a candle was lit and placed on the table. This solemn ritual continued for each of the fourteen Stations.

The evening finished with supper and a chance to catch up, wishing each other many blessings for the Easter season.



## RIP Josephites

*We remember with love and gratitude*

Sr Eileen Travers who entered eternal life on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2013

Sr Teresita Cormack who entered eternal life on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2013



## Thank You

For their ongoing support of the Associates we extend our sincere thanks to:

- **Rebecca Reiner**, SA Regional Secretary, for her help with photocopying the newsletter and its placement on the website,
- **Trish Cain** for her assistance by email in the distribution of the newsletter and reminders of upcoming events.

*"God loves courageous souls." MMK, 1890*

# *Catherine's Column*

**by Sr Catherine Clark rsj**

**~ Sister Monica Phillips ~**

Anna Phillips, whose grandfather had refused a peerage from an English king, migrated with her family from County Mayo in Ireland and landed in Victoria in November 1855. She had known Father Woods in Portland during his time in the South-East of South Australia. After his move to Adelaide, he maintained a correspondence with her about the work that the Sisters of St Joseph were commencing there, and encouraging her to join them.

In early December 1867, Father Woods wrote an almost pleading letter to her encouraging her to come to Adelaide and become part of the work from the beginning of the following year. He made much of the gifts she would bring, and of the difficulty of running four schools with only eight current members of the Institute, let alone how much she would ease his worry about the other "external works of charity" that had already commenced. On the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1868, in another letter, Father Woods spoke of the disappointment of her many friends who did not want her to leave them. He let her know that the Sisters now numbered ten with six others who would join in the future. He concluded by begging her to let him know when she could come.

Anna entered the Josephites in Adelaide on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1868, taking the name of Monica. She was the twenty-first woman to join the Order. She was described at the time as a very accomplished woman. In mid 1868, as a postulant, Monica and a novice, Gertrude Hayman, opened the school at Macclesfield, with 7 pupils. In a letter to Mary in June 1868 Gertrude speaks of Monica going to Adelaide for her investiture. At sometime in the next 3 years she was

appointed to Wallaroo, a school which commenced in 1869.

In April 1871, when Mary returned from Queensland, Monica was recalled from Wallaroo to replace Angela Carroll as Mistress of Novices. Father Woods, although now absent from Adelaide, made a great effort to have Monica go with Mary to begin the foundation in Bathurst. This was resisted by Mary.

At the time of the excommunication in September 1871, she was one of the 47 Sisters expelled from the Congregation, and in March 1872 she was in the group restored to membership at St Ignatius Church, Norwood. She was described by Mary as one of the steadiest and most reliable Sisters in the colony. She was one of four Sisters called before the two Bishops conducting the Episcopal Visitation in Adelaide in June 1872, and she was one of Mary's four Councillors at the time of the purchase of the Kensington property in September of that year.

At the time of Mary's expulsion from Adelaide by Bishop Reynolds in November 1883, before she left the Mother House, she appointed Monica to take the place of Sr Calasactius as Assistant General. Monica was also appointed as Mary's Vicar in the Mother House in Adelaide. Adelaide was still the Mother House of the Congregation but its Superior was forbidden to live there.

It was largely due to Monica, a quiet gentle woman, who always maintained the confidence of the Sisters that the Josephites continued to survive in South Australia. She

*cont next page*

was unafraid of the Bishop. Her astuteness and loyalty enabled the group to hold together and survive the greatest pressure. In Easter Week in 1885, when the Bishop led a tirade against the Sisters, he first condemned Sister Calasanctius. Monica was the one who left her place in the chapel and knelt before him to defend the good name of her Sister. The Bishop responded by belittling her for doing so.

At this time the Sisters were given the choice to accept the Bishop's demands and come under his authority, or leave. He told them that if they decided on the latter they would not be accepted in Sydney. They had until the next day to decide. It was Monica who that night, sent a telegram to Mary and to Archbishop Moran in Sydney to test the validity of his statement. As Mary was not at home she did not get the telegram until late on the following day. However, Bishop Moran responded prior to the arrival of Bishop Reynolds at Kensington, stating that there was no truth in what he had said. Mary confirmed this fact also.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1885, Bishop Reynolds announced to the Sisters in Port Lincoln that he was removing Sister Monica from Office and was replacing her with Sister Michael Quinlan, sister to Sister Hyacinth who had remained in Bathurst at the time of the withdrawal from there. He claimed that he had the right to do this because he had appointed Monica after Mary's departure.

Again, Monica stood firm and informed him that before Mary departed it was she who appointed her to the Office she now held.

During the long period of conflict there were floods of letters from the Adelaide Sisters to Mary referring to the enormous pressure that Monica was under, and the impact it was having on her. However, none condemned her. It was her quiet, firm leadership, the clarity and accuracy of her letters to Archbishop Moran and to Rome and her clear understanding of the issues, which kept the Sisters together and enabled them to survive the most troubled period in their history. Her gentleness, loyalty, prudence and good-sense enabled Mary to confide in her and to trust her implicitly. At one of the most difficult times in Mary's life she wrote to Monica, underlining the first phrase to show how much it meant to her:

*"Your unswerving fidelity and that of a few more like you is about the only thing that makes me keep up. For very shame I cannot desert those who are so faithful in the dark hour."*

Again in 1901, when Mary was once again Mother General, she wrote to Monica:

*"If all were as faithful and loyal as you, I would have but little sorrow. You have never pained me...."*

Monica continued to live in this spirit of fidelity until her death in 1914. She is buried in our cemetery at Mitcham.

*"All depends on prayer;  
begin with it and end  
with it." MMK, 1890*

## **The Sisters Need 📩 YOUR 📩 Help**

At our February gathering this year, at the Mitcham Cemetery, Sr Catherine Clark rsj spoke about the significance of the site as well as the history of some of the Sisters who are buried there. Time was given to wandering through the graves in the hope that maybe we would remember a few of the Sisters and be able to write or recall their story.

*This is where Sr Catherine, on behalf of the Sisters of St Joseph, needs your help!*

In addition to the newsletter, an extra page has been included. Whether or not you were present at the gathering, please use this page to write your memories about any of the Sisters and post or email (details given on the extra page) to Sr Catherine who is collecting these stories to add to her collection before they are lost in time.

# Diary Dates for 2013

## ☼ St Mary MacKillop's Monthly Mass and Reflection

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



## ☼ Celebrating Mary's Feast Day

Date: Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> August

For more details please refer to page 3.

## ☼ Walk through Kensington & Norwood

Date: Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> August

For more details please refer to the WEA brochure.

## ☼ Healing and Hope

Date: Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September

For more details please refer to page 3.

## ☼ Reflection Day

Date: Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> October

Time: 10.30am – 3pm

Place: Murray Bridge Church Hall

More details will appear in the next newsletter.

## ☼ Musical Evening

Date: December

More details to come.

May the Love of God  
shine through us  
May the Hope of God  
sustain us  
May the Challenge of God  
transform us  
  
Amen

## Subscriptions for 2013 – 2014

Membership for the next financial year is due soon. Please complete your details below and post, together with your payment which may be made by cash or cheque, to our new Treasurer Julie Langman who will also be at the gathering on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> August.

The increase in payment to \$20 is due to higher costs mainly with the newsletters, travel representations and guest speaker fees.

### Josephite Associates SA

#### Annual Subscription

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Payment: ☐ \$20 or ☐ \$15 concession

Name: Miss/Ms/Mrs/Mr/Other \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (M) \_\_\_\_\_

Post to: Julie Langman, 16 Greenwood Cres, Glenalta 5052



# MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE ADELAIDE

APRIL	
8	St Mary MacKillop Mass 10.30am & Morning Tea St Mary MacKillop Reflection in Chapel 5.45pm
8	St Mary MacKillop: Easter Woman 1.30pm - 3.00pm

MAY	
2	Working with Dreams 7.30pm - 9.30pm
14	Working with Dreams 7.30pm - 9.30pm
8	St Mary MacKillop Mass 10.30am & Morning Tea St Mary MacKillop Reflection 5.45pm
16	E-Conference: 10.00am - 3.00pm The Gospel of Mark: Crucified & Risen Messiah
Launch of Website - Mid May	

JUNE	
8	St Mary MacKillop Mass 10.30am & Morning Tea St Mary MacKillop Reflection in Chapel 5.45pm
18	Refugee Week: I was a Stranger 11.00am - 12.30pm Repeated 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Visit our new website: <a href="http://www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au">www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au</a>	



BETHANY CONFERENCE CENTRE



MARY MACKILLOP  
EXHIBITION CENTRE

JULY	
8	St Mary MacKillop Mass 10.30am & Morning Tea St Mary MacKillop Reflection in Chapel 5.45pm
29	A Quiet Stroll with God * 9.30am - 3.30pm Repeated 7.00pm - 9.00pm

AUGUST	
5	Remembering to smell the flowers * 9.30am - 3.30pm Repeated 7.00pm - 9.00pm
8	St Mary MacKillop Mass 10.30am & Morning Tea St Mary MacKillop Reflection in Chapel 5.45pm
12	What's in a kiss? * 9.30am - 3.30pm Repeated 7.00pm - 9.00pm
19	Personal Jottings * 9.30am - 3.30pm Repeated 7.00pm - 9.00pm

SEPTEMBER	
8	Grief 1.30am - 3.30pm
23	Living the Joyful Mysteries Today 9.30am - 3.30pm

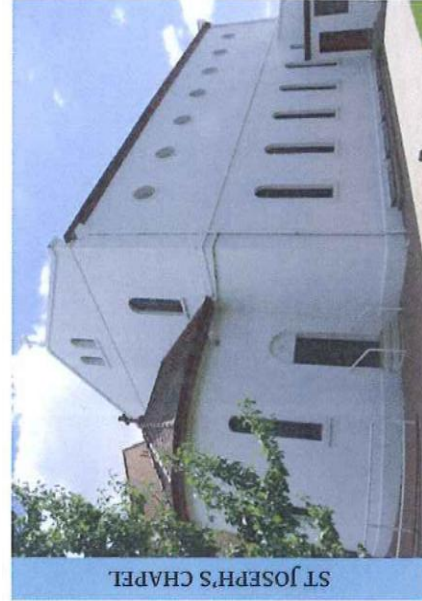
\* Inspired by  
*The Little Brown Book: Mary MacKillop's spirituality in our everyday lives*  
By Sue and Leo Kane

For more information about any of these events,  
please visit our website - to be launched mid May 2013:  
[www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au](http://www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au)  
Details of all these events will be advertised  
each month throughout 2013

OCTOBER	
8	St Mary MacKillop Mass 10.30am & Morning Tea 5.45pm St Mary MacKillop Reflection in Chapel
8	Julian Tenison Woods 1.30pm - 3.00pm
11	St Mary MacKillop: 9.30am - 3.30pm Life's Symphony *
16	E-Conference 10.00am - 3.00pm Gospel of John: The Love of God Made Visible
18	St Mary MacKillop: 9.30am - 3.30pm A Pub full of farmers *
25	St Mary MacKillop: 9.30am - 5.30pm How do I treat the lepers in my own life? *

NOVEMBER	
1	St Mary MacKillop: 9.30am - 3.30pm What role models do we want for Australia today? *
8	St Mary MacKillop Mass 10.30am & Morning Tea St Mary MacKillop Reflection 5.45pm
21	Dealing with Grief and Loss 7.00pm - 9.00pm

DECEMBER	
8	Reflecting with St Mary MacKillop in Advent Part A 7.30pm - 9.00pm
9	Reflecting with St Mary MacKillop in Advent Part B 9.30am - 3.30pm



ST JOSEPH'S CHAPEL



SISTER: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORIES

Please return to: Sr Catherine Clark  
25 Phillips St, Kensington, 5068  
[cathclark@bigpond.com](mailto:cathclark@bigpond.com)