



Josephite Associates, Victoria~Tasmania Autumn Newsletter 2014



FINDING HOPE IN DYING

My dear Associates,

This chat is being started during a week of rather hot weather, with a cool change promised today. Like many of you I find the heat rather exhausting when it comes day after day. But we can be grateful we live in today's world with fans and air-conditioning.

I remember visiting Tintinder homestead at Swan Hill one summer day when it was 40 degrees. The kitchen was separate with an open fireplace, with an iron roof and it was like an oven! I imagined a woman in a long dress, long sleeves and high neck, with thick stockings and boots trying to provide for her family. I also think of our Sisters who in the past struggled to work in heavy habits in hot classrooms and thank God I live in the 21st Century.

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Several Associates or members of their family have gone to God since our last newsletter. A special tribute has been included thanking Norma Oliver of Hamilton for her generous contribution over the years, even during her illness. We also keep Ted in mind as he misses his other half, who shared so much of the Mackillop story with him and with us. Peggy Walker in Scotland was injured in the accident that killed her son-in-law and the driver of the other car. She has been in hospital very ill for many weeks.

Victoria-Tasmania Region has a new leader who will be inducted on 19th March. Kerrie Cusack belonged to the Canberra-Goulburn Josephites, which have been fused with the Central group. Please keep her and her team in your prayers as they take up leadership for the next 3 years.

Sr Lyn Young, who many of you know, has commenced work at the Emmanuel Centre, Newstead, Tas. a suburb of Launceston. Sr Audrey Thomson is slowly getting used to a temperature above 17 degrees after her return from Scotland.

Sr Joan Healy had a letter of thanks from Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (see page 8) Any Associate or group may still like to contribute to assist these people. I have also included some details about BLAZE AID who assist in replacing fences after fires etc.

You will notice that the newsletter is now printed on white paper. This is to cut costs of printing, as white

paper is much cheaper. This may enable us to print the prayer sheet in colour. So we urge everyone to pay their subscription.

It is great to see Associates being creative in taking up ideas of Service. Also to hear that you read the newsletter from cover to cover. Any suggestions or articles are always welcome to bring to you what you want to read.

Several films well worth seeing are doing the circuit. PHILOMENA, THE BOOK THIEF and THE RAILWAYMAN. All are films that give food for reflection especially on forgiveness and being faithful to one's beliefs. All are books, two based on actual stories. They could be useful for a group to reflect and pray about at one of their meetings.

Some rains have fallen in the north and but I know more is still needed. My very dry garden had half an inch in one big shower which has spruced it up. So let us keep asking St Mary of the Cross to bring sufficient rains to the farmers suffering at this time.

May your Lent bring you many blessings and deepen your relationship with our Good God.

Mary Fermio RST



Friendship Prayer Service

AUTUMN REFLECTION

An Editorial by Fr Frank Freeman SDB in the Salesian Magazine 'kindled' my interest and imagination. The analogy was a very reflective one—one of kindling a flame.

We kindle flames in all sorts of places—in a stove, in a fireplace, we light a candle, we strike a match, we fire up the barbecue, we burn rubbish. Sometimes the flames are to destroy, sometimes to give light and heat, to enable us to cook, to see, to get warm. When we were young the flame of faith was kindled in us by our parents, our teachers, priests, friends or through our prayer and reading.

In the years after it was up to ourselves to keep this flame of faith alive, sometimes we threw cold water on it and put it out, sometimes we may have tried to smother it, to hide it. But most of us kept adding fuel so that the flame grew stronger. We cosseted the flame so that it stayed strong and gave light and hope when times were dark.

Sometimes it is helpful to recall and write down all the events of the past that helped you be a part of Church and kept the flame burning—first Communions, processions, Benediction, Children of Mary, youth groups, choir groups, priestly friends, marriage, your children's education, parish picnics and fetes, forty hours devotions, missions, visits of Bishops and Confirmation. So much is still offered to us today to help us keep the flame of faith stoked up, there is so much we can read and reflect on that we have no excuse to say "There is nothing to help me keep my faith alive!"

During Autumn we watch the leaves change colour and fall from the trees until the trees look dead. There is a tree on the nature strip of the next door house. When new residents arrived we discussed whether the tree was dead or not. They decided to give it 12 months to see what happened. How surprised we were that the tree was covered in beautiful flowers and is indeed a beautiful tree which gives much pleasure.

Many of us are in the Autumn of our lives. We may not be losing leaves, but we are losing some of our energy; our ability to 'get up and go' for some has 'got up and went'! But the sap of our lives, the flame of our faith is still smoldering there and will, when we finally breathe our last, be changed into everlasting life. An image I found very comforting after my mother died, was one that came to me in the corner of my eye about three weeks after her death. Mum and Dad were standing in the corner of a field, filled with light, standing together gazing out across the fields. I felt very sure they were both together in a place of light and joy and filled with peace, enjoying the countryside which they both loved.

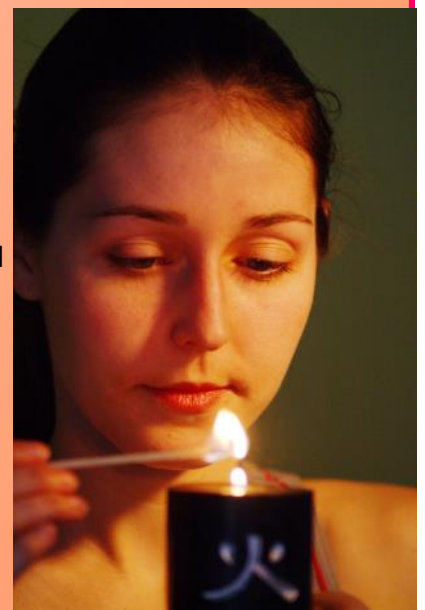
As Josephites we are committed to living our faith to promote the reign of God—a kingdom of love, justice and peace. So during this Autumn time let us rekindle our faith, and during Lent do something special—some reading, some extra prayer or reflection, use the Scriptures each day, use a book that has a reflection on the reading of each day. Some books are listed on page 11.

At the final Mass of our Chapter, Fr Hickey ended his homily with the following:

The reign of Christ, I believe, is not about Christ reigning over us in some kind of patriarchal model of sovereignty – (Eph. 1:21). Christ's reign, I believe, is "Christ being with us", watching us, loving us, leading us, guiding us, knowing us and becoming known to us in the highs and lows of life - in all the experiences of our lives – experiences that can sometimes test our faith and at other times enrich our faith... Fr Michael Hickey CP

These experiences can also be used to 'throw logs on the fire' to bring us closer to the God who loves us into being.
Happy Easter!! Happy celebration of risen life!

Mary Fermio rsj



MARY'S SISTER—MARGARITE (MAGGIE)



"On the evening of 25th inst (May 1843) at Duntroon on the Darebin Creek, Mrs A. MacKillop of a daughter." Thus was the birth of Margarite MacKillop announced to the world in the Port Phillip Gazette. Mary MacKillop, now 16 months, had a sister.

The year 1843 saw the first High Mass on St Patrick's Day and it was during this year that the father, Alexander MacKillop, lost his position with Campbell and Sons because of his attack on Rev. Dunmore Lang in an election campaign.

In October Alexander was a member of a committee formed to protect farmers facing ruin because of low prices for their produce. It seems nothing has changed.

Maggie grew to be a gracious young lady who would have attracted attention from the local, eligible males. Of a strong character, she was never afraid to confront issues such as recorded by Fr Woods in a letter to Mary (March 4, 1867) that 'Maggie privately opened her batteries about Lexie (her sister) and said they were all determined to have her away from Mt Gambier.' (Lexie was teaching there with Blanche Amsink who became a Sister of St Joseph). That 'Lexie must come to Duck Ponds and at once.' The family were fearful Lexie would follow Mary and join the Sisters of St Joseph.

A love of fashion, women's news, news about weddings, funerals etc were all included in Maggie's many letters. She and Fr Woods challenged each other over chess, at which she became very proficient.

Friends were important to her but the fear of her father's tongue made having them at home difficult.

Maggie helped Mary teach in the boarding school at Portland and she seemed to love having the family together, though she voiced concern in a letter that she hoped all would go smoothly and they could keep down the little debts. The attitude of her father seemed to make her fearful this would not be so.

An affectionate sister, it was to her that Margaret Kane wrote to tell of her brother John's death from tetanus in New Zealand. Margaret had followed him from Penola.

Always delicate with a chronic cough and made more so by rheumatic fever at Penola, Maggie lived her later years with various relatives, some making her welcome, others hurting her with their pettiness, 'borrowing' her stamps and envelopes.

Uncle Peter who lived at Lara, near Geelong, took her in and in August 1872 her health deteriorated and Fr Tappeiner SJ realized she would never recover her health.

Fr Woods hastened to her in September when she was dying. He wrote to Mary 'her dispositions are most beautiful.' He was consoled by her patience, resignation and detachment.

Maggie died on December 13, 1872. Mary wrote to her mother who had now lost her husband and three children, "How good of our loving heavenly Father to grant such holy deaths to those we so dearly love." December 17, 1872

Maggie is buried with her MacKillop grandparents, her brother Peter and four other relatives in Melbourne General Cemetery.

Sources:
The MacKillop Family—
Philomena McGuigan rsj
Archive Resource Material Book 2.



WHAT HAPPENS TO USED STAMPS?

Processing used stamps for auction as a fundraising activity for Mary MacKillop International

It is another day at the New South Wales Sisters of St Joseph Regional Office, Croydon, where Brian, Joy and the Helen come together for their twice weekly meeting to process stamps for auction to help fund the projects of Mary MacKillop International.

Stamps are received at this location from all around Australia and from various overseas countries by mail or are hand delivered. Boxes of stamps are picked up from dedicated groups who cut around them and sort them. Such groups include Oatley, North Shore, St. Joseph Aged Care, Hunters Hill and Marian Court, Strathfield.

One of our stamp supporters has 'cornered the market' by placing ads in several newspapers requesting stamps for the Peruvian mission. The volume of stamps that John collects are delivered to Oatley which is the central pick-up point. His enthusiasm has encouraged many other Associates to contribute.



What happens to the stamps once collected? Firstly, stamps are sorted into cut and uncut boxes. The cut ones are prepared for auction in box lots in categories of; under 60c, 60c, above 60c, world on and off paper, and Australian International. The uncut stamps are put into plastic bags and sent out to the cutting groups at Hunters Hill, Oatley, Marian Court, North Shore groups or Sister Helen at Orange.

Some stamps need special treatment. Any stamp albums we receive are specially prepared into their own boxes for auction. We do some research on the stamp collections, first day covers, and the wide range of philatelic material we receive to ascertain their value. They are individually lotted so that we gain the maximum price at auction. We also make up a 'mystery box'. This can be made up of several items, first day covers, unusual stamps, small bags of stamps off or on paper, etc. We endeavour to make the box interesting so that it will attract a buyer at auction. We sometimes make up a box of mixed uncut stamps of reasonable quality to attract other buyers.

Stamps are prepared for auction in circa 4kg box lots, each box holds approx. 20,000 stamps on paper and 50,000 off paper. Although it is a labour intensive work, it is very rewarding to know that the monies raised are for the projects of Mary MacKillop International, especially those in Peru. Thank you to all who participate in this worthwhile cause.

If you would like to contribute used stamps, a stamp collection or other stamp related item, please send them to:- **Stamps, P.O. Box 3031, Burwood NSW 1805 Australia or your nearest Sisters of St Joseph house.**

Helen Bache
Josephite Associate NSW

Taken from Website:sosj.org.au

Josephite Associates—Woodend - new Service activity

Our group is now helping Very Special Kids. They are located at Glen Osmond Farm, Woodend which provides respite for the families of seriously ill children. The farm covers 26 hectares and provides a peaceful, rural farm environment. It now comprises two purpose built family cottages and a large wooden, old style barn.

Families can rest, share their experiences and children can play in safety in all weathers.

We have provided furniture, toys, scooters, books and board games.



MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE 2014

HOURS OF OPERATION: Mon to Fri 9 am-5 p.m. Closed public holidays
MUSEUM AND GALLERY Mon to Fri 10 a.m.—4 p.m. By appointment phone 03 9926 9300
SPECIAL WEEKEND OPENINGS 2014:
15th March; 9th August: 18th October 29th November

ACCOMMODATION: 1 Bedroom Max 2 persons
2 Bedroom Apartments Max 4 persons B&B. Phone 03 9926

RETREATS

DIRECTED: Mon 30th June—Sun 6th July: Srs Yvonne Harte rsj and Therese Quinn rsj
Mon 22nd Sept –Sun 28th Sept: Srs Moya Unthank rsj and Eileen O'Loughlin rsj

GUIDED: Listening with the Ear of the Heart: Mon 29th Sept—Sun 5th Oct Sr Yvonne Harte rsj
Art as Prayer: Mon 13th October—Sun 19th Oct—Sr Therese Quinn rsj

PRIVATE: Individuals wishing to utilize the accommodation should contact 03 9926 9300

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: Offered at the Heritage Centre and other locations
Contact: 03 9926 9300

Directors: Srs Yvonne Harte rsj; Eileen O'Loughlin rsj; Therese Quinn rsj;
Jennifer Sanders rsj Moya Unthank rsj

PILGRIMAGES

Melbourne Walking Pilgrimage: to historic sites in the city. Brochure is available from reception

Victorian Pilgrimage: Hamilton, Portland, Penola TBA

National Pilgrimage: 22nd October—1st November: Melb, Penola, Adelaide, Sydney

Birth Site: 7 Brunswick St Fitzroy: open to public Mon-Fri 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

St Mary of the Cross Square: Brunswick St Fitzroy (opp Birth Site)

Statue of the youthful Mary and a series of bronze plaques depicting aspects of Mary's life.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Chapel in the Daniel Mannix Building of Australian Catholic Uni.
is open to the public Mon to Fri 10 a.m.—4 p.m. (enter from St Mary of the Cross Square)

MARY MACKILLOP INTERNATIONAL MISSION INC.

2014 Peruvian Winter Warmer Event— traditional Peruvian food and music, together with a glass of wine and raffles provides a warm and exciting atmosphere and the opportunity to celebrate Mary MacKillop's legacy in a very practical way. **Entry is by donation** and all proceeds going to support the women and their families in Peru. Products produced by the women in Peru such as bags, hats, scarves, children's clothing, finger puppets, bracelets, table runners etc available for sale.

VENUE: Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre **WHEN:** TUESDAY 24TH JUNE 12 noon to 8 p.m.

Mary MacKillop Heritage centre 362 Albert St East Melbourne
Provides through education, hospitality and charitable works
opportunities for all to experience and be challenged
by the creative spirit and dynamism of
Saint Mary MacKillop's Life and work

REGIONAL DAYS/RETREAT 2014

SATURDAYS 9.30 a.m. for 10 a.m. start to 3 p.m.

BYO LUNCH - Host group to provide morning tea DONATION \$5

*THEME: WALKING IN GOD'S PRESENCE WITH
ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP
What does it mean for me to be an Associate?*

- 5th April **NAGAMBIE** Mary MacKillop Hall
Numurkah, Rushworth, Shepparton, Euroa, Nagambie
- 10th May **MORWELL** Mary MacKillop Room, Sacred Heart School
Morwell, Maffra, Leongatha, Wonthaggi, Churchill, Koo Wee Rup,
- 14th June **MELBOURNE** Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert St East Melbourne
Melbourne and others who may wish to come
- 20th September **BACCHUS MARSH** Sebastopol, Bacchus Marsh, Woodend, Sunbury
Sebastopol will supply morning tea.
- 4th October **ORBOST** Mary MacKillop Room, Browning St - Hall is in School Grounds
Orbost, Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance
Maffra if they wish.

*We would love to
see more of you at
the Melbourne
Days—*

Drawing by Frank Pash



JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES WEEKEND RETREAT

Living into an Australian Spirituality

*A time to reflect on the Aussie gift of generosity, hospitality, 'a fair go'.
The Spirit of one Aussie saint as embodied in Josephite Associates, friends and
Companions is reflected in prayer, friendship and service over the weekend.*

Presenters: Lynette Young rsj, Jenny Scally rsj Kathy Cuthbertson (Associate)
4th—6th April 2014 (Friday 7.30 p.m.—Sunday 3.00 p.m.) Cost \$100 RSVP 28th March 2014
Emmanuel Centre, 123 Abbott St. Newstead, Launceston Tas 7250
Phone: 03 6334 1082 Email: office@emmanuelcentre.org

SUPPORTING ASYLUM SEEKERS

*Melbourne March—March 16th. One of our Josephite Associates, Margaret Sinclair, a
mother of three children, plans to march in support of asylum seekers. Would you like
to join her?*

*"I'm not much of a demonstrator or protestor, but I am looking at Marching in March on Sunday the 16th in the city (12noon) - it is a vote of no
confidence in the current federal government. I think there are lots of groups with lots of different agendas (climate change etc) but I want to
march for the asylum seekers, and will be holding up placards to this effect. And perhaps not just for asylum seekers but because there has been a
lot of negative press about Catholics recently, particularly since Abbot has loudly proclaimed himself to be one."*

Contact Margaret: 0417 031 533 email: tmsinc@bigpond.net.au to arrange a meeting place.

ANNE-MARIE SPEAKS OF HER MINISTRY

"I have come that you may have life and have it to the full" John 10:10

This is my favourite line of scripture as it really speaks to me of what it means to live any life commitment with courage and vitality. As a Sister of St Joseph who lives into God's mission in the 21st Century, I feel so enlivened by the many ways I encounter God's presence in my life.

As a religious Sister, the three areas which influence my everyday living are my relationship with God, my relationship with others including the Sisters I share community with, and my ministry which happens to be in teaching High School students in the areas of Religious Education and History.



I always wanted to be a teacher but never in my wildest dreams did I ever contemplate the possibility of religious life! As a 19-year-old university student, I felt God calling me to look at my life more closely. As I named it to be the possibility of religious life I wasn't even sure if this was an option for a young adult today. Lo and behold I soon discovered that religious life was an option and it was a very much alive and flourishing.

As a teacher, I have the privilege of working with incredible young women who are our future leaders. It never ceases to amaze me how we never stop learning in life. There is so much I have personally discovered from my students through their sharing and insights. In a world where the media can be demeaning of the youth of today, I wonder how society might change its stereotyped image if it were to be a fly on the wall in the reality of our young people today?

We live in a very secular world where people are searching for meaning in their lives. In my own experience of living Josephite life I have certainly found myself at home as a Sister of St Joseph and have made some amazing connections with the Sisters and those I minister to and with. These are connections I would have never made had I not dared to be different in following my own dreams.

In recent times the world has been mesmerised by the 'Pope Francis Effect'. He has become a symbol of hope for many in his down to earth approach and emphasis on what is at the heart of our faith – living into the Gospel values. If we jump back 150 years and think about what Mary MacKillop was doing, we know she was living into this very same premise in her own patch in the world. At times this led to personal devastating consequences, however, she never lost focus on what was at the heart of her commitment – her relationship with God and others.

I believe Mary MacKillop has left all who share in the Josephite charism a blue print for us to live by as we endeavour to carry on her legacy today. This encompasses being in touch with God, being in touch with self, being in touch with others and being in touch with reality. Whether we are living in the city, a rural community or a third world country we are called to be bold and dare to be courageous as we live life to the full in all its dimensions.

From the website: sosj.org.au.

A series of articles to introduce readers to the Sisters who are pictured in their ministry. Anne-Marie made her life-vows as a Sister of St Joseph during January 2014.

Do your best and God will bless your efforts.

Do your best and God will bless your efforts.

THE JOSEPHITE CHARISM WAS HERE

While reminiscing with Margo at Sunbury before Christmas, she told me how welcoming Sr Roseanne was when she arrived there. She had lived for 43 years in Pascoe Vale and felt very much a stranger at her first Mass. Sr Roseanne, recognising her as a stranger, spoke to her and then said she would be up later for a cuppa. Over the years Roseanne called in many times, left notes "Welcome to Sunbury" "How are you enjoying Sunbury". Margo became involved in the Parish in true Josephite spirit washing dishes, whatever! When she moved again a Josephite Associate she had met at Sunbury helped her to feel at home in her new parish, took her to Mass and helped her to get to know the ropes. For all this she has been most grateful. At this last parish, where Margo lives in a retirement village, she has finally, in her eighties, made her debut! A lovely young man was her partner for the formal part and the Palma Waltz. What an event!

FAREWELL NORMA

Many of you would have met Josephite Associates, Ted and Norma Oliver of Hamilton, when you went on pilgrimage.

Ted always took pilgrims on tour around the town and had great pride in taking them to Alexander MacKillop's grave where he related his story and presented each pilgrim with a booklet. He and his lovely wife Norma kept that grave in pristine condition for over twenty years.

Norma and her team provided food for the pilgrims
in the evening and for many afternoon/morning teas.

On 1st February Norma died at home after a long illness.

We remember her with great love for her kindness, love and unstinting generosity. The money raised by the lunches etc went to Joseph's Corner in the western Suburbs, a counselling Service set up by the Sisters of St Joseph for families with drug and alcohol addiction. Both also worked for the Moira Kelly Foundation and Emmanuel Kelly sang at her funeral. As well many hours were spent on Parish activities and her many family members were frequently contacted by phone and Ipad and much in the way of advice was passed on. As was mentioned Norma was a feisty woman, who seemed never to tire of doing something about many things. As a true Josephite if she saw a need she tried to do something about it. I am sure Mary and Julian, Flora and Alexander welcomed her with great joy and gratitude.



THANK YOU FROM ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE

Sr Joan Healy received the following letter from ASRC:

Thank you for your generous donation to ASRC...Not only are you making it possible for the ASRC to continue to lead the way in working for real social change, but you are ensuring life is better for the thousands of people who come to us for help. In the past financial year ASRC:

- Provided over **20,000 hot meals** through our Community Meals Program
- Supplied weekly groceries for 120 families—over 75% have no income
- Provided **7,490 Metcards**-reducing social isolation and allowing clients to pick up their weekly food at ASRC
- Secured over **200 employment and education** opportunities through our Employment Service and catering social enterprise
- Legally assisted over **450 asylum seekers from 56 countries**—successfully representing 83% at the primary stage of the refugee process

All of this has been achieved with minimal Government funding, with more than 95% of funding coming solely from the community, philanthropy and donations such as yours. (Joan had sent over \$1500 in cash plus LOTS of donated food.)

**Donations may still be sent to: Josephite Associates Footscray Branch, c/- Sr Joan Healy rsj
36 Essex St, FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011**

AROUND THE TRAPS

WONTHAGGI

On a lovely December day Associates gathered at Star of the Sea Church Inverloch for Mass during which Beverly Ware was enrolled as a Josephite Associate. After Mass the petitions to Mary MacKillop, which had been placed in a box at both parish Churches, were placed in a brazier and burnt. Three yellow balloons with the words Peace, Love and Hope written on them, were released.

We gathered for lunch at Par 3 situated along the Inverloch Road . A farewell gift was given to Sr Lynette Young, who will minister at the Emmanuel Centre at Launceston beginning in 2014.



KOO WEE RUP

Associates from Iona-Bunyip and Koo Wee Rup (7 of the latter now live in Pakenham) gathered at the Presbytery for an end of the year gathering in their Parish. Margaret Seuren was enrolled as a Josephite Associate having finished her introductory program .

Before lunch a decision was made to meet as one group four times a year, rotating the venue between Iona and Koo Wee Rup. Dates were set for the Tuesday of the third week of the month the newsletter is posted. This will enable those from different parts of the Parish to get to know each other. At present they have no resident priest as Fr John Allen died during the year and the Diocese is waiting for new Bishop to be appointed.

A delicious lunch was shared and enjoyed and thanks go to the secretary of the Parish, Ann Nunn who organised the venue for the group.



MEMORIES OF ST MARY'S BAIRNSDALE

The Centenary of St Mary Immaculate Church, Bairnsdale on 19th October 2013, has brought back many memories of my 20 years in the Parish before I entered the Sisters of St Joseph.

In this Church I was Baptised, made my First Confession and Communion, was Confirmed, farewelled my Mum and Dad, and some dear friends, attended weddings and spent many hours working. While at the Primary school which was next to the Church, we were encouraged by the Josephites to

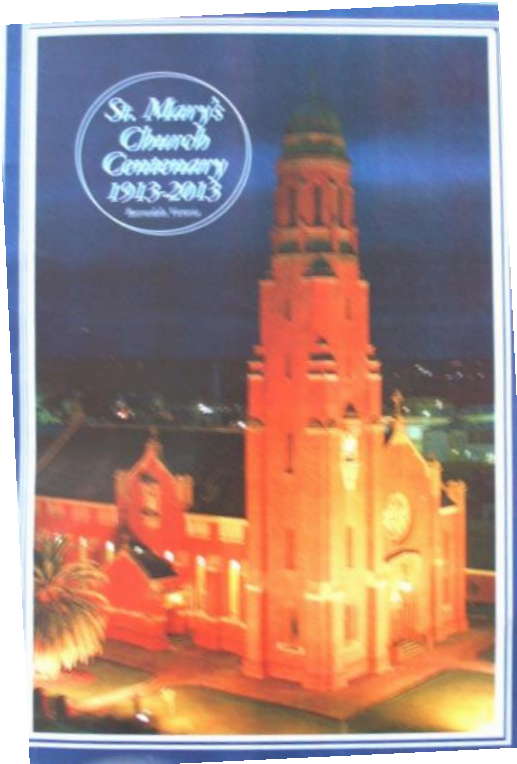
make a visit each day. Many times we walked in, handkerchiefs or bags on our heads (no school hats or scarf which was a popular hat covering); times spent jockeying for positions when going to monthly confession to try to get to our favourite priest if two were there; innumerable Sunday Masses sitting up the front with the Sisters who kept very sharp eyes on our behaviour. The Forty Hour Devotions when I tried to fill an hour of quiet with some form of prayer or reading, probably helped me to be at home in silence!

In the flower sacristy many hours were spent cleaning brass, or washing down the side altars on a Friday, scrubbing the tiled sanctuary floor each month, doing vases of flowers for the weekend. The High Altar had six vases and the two side altars two or four depending on how many flowers were available. All this was done under the tutelage of the Sisters and Sr Cleopha Hill during my last year at school. During the holidays, when the Sisters were away, I would set up for Benediction on a Sunday.

Easter was a time of great activity especially if one was a flower strewer during the Procession on Holy Thursday at 7 am Mass, when we wore our white dresses and veils, and looked like angels. The school choir sang at all important ceremonies, mostly Latin hymns, the words of which we did not understand, but had been typed out by one of the Sisters, cut out and pasted on card. But we stood on seats in the choir and sang our hearts out, as Sr Stanislaus conducted. (We were too scared to do otherwise!) As Children of Mary we attended the early Sunday Mass dressed in our blue cloaks and white veils filling the three front seats. During my teenage years a wonderful choir prepared for Christmas, singing in four parts under the expertise of Hans Sanders. In those days the congregation did not sing or join in and Father said Mass

with his back to us, speaking in that unintelligible language, Latin. Thank God for a Missal, which was in English and Latin!!

Here in this Church I made the decision to become a Sister of St Joseph, spurred on by the words on a little prayer card of Mary MacKillop: *Try always to be generous with God.* I pondered, that if I couldn't be generous with God, I couldn't be generous with anyone! And they were only women like me, so if they could do it, so could I!



The paintings, which covered the ceiling and upper walls of the Church, never appealed to me as many are ugly, but they were a useful distraction for many children trying to count the legs in the paintings of hell and purgatory. Some wise child assured us there was an odd leg!

For me this Church was an essential ingredient of my faith, a place that allowed me to find God in prayer and liturgy, the parish that was the glue that gave me friends through Parish groups eg Children of Mary, Younger Set, Badminton Club, Poker Club, Annual Balls, Holiday Dances and the Choir. It was in these groups that we learnt to relate to the opposite

sex and to have the time and occasions to check out their credentials!!

So being present at the 100 year celebration of this, the third Church in Bairnsdale, was a must and my sister Pat and I met old friends and had a thoroughly good time.



BOOK REVIEWS



BOOKS HELPFUL FOR RELECTION DURING LENT

Available from Pauline Books and Media
7 Denmark Hill Road, Hawthorn East 3123
Ph 03 9882 4538
Email: Melbourne@paulinebooks.com.au

*Daybreaks— Daily Reflections for
Lent and Easter \$1.95

*Sundays under the Southern Cross -
Year A Matthew Mary Coloe pbvm About \$10

*God's Word 2014 - Daily Reflections \$14.95

*Madonna Magazine—4 times a year \$39 year
Jesuit Communications Reply Paid 553
Richmond Vic Ph 1300 728 846

Email: subs@madonnamagazine.com.au
Articles and a reflection for each day based on
Scripture of the Day.

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Desert Spaces—Joan Chittister \$9.95

Lent is for Loving—Sheila Cassidy \$16.95

Joy in the Journey—Daily Reflections Lent
2014 By Gwen Costello \$2.95

Not by Bread Alone Daily Reflections Lent
2014 By Robert F Morneau \$3.95

The Ignatian Workout for Lent 40 days of
Prayer Reflection and action for Lent
By Tim Muldoon \$9.95

Sacred Space for Lent 2014
By the Irish Jesuits \$3.95

Further information obtainable from
Pauline Books and Media

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BLAZE Aid need help

Blazeaid is a volunteer organisation which relies entirely on donations and receives no Government funding.

This group was set up by a couple at Kilmore, Kevlin Butler and his wife, to help replace fences destroyed by fire and flood. They have worked across Queensland, NSW and Victoria providing tools, equipment, safety gear for volunteers, day-to-day running costs, tool maintenance, food etc.

Property owners are generally required to provide their own fencing materials. Sometimes they cannot afford to, as fencing is often not insured or under insured.

Donations can be Tax Deductible and are not used for administration costs.

They are now returning their trailers of tools to the Wallan, Kilmore, Riddell's Creek area and are looking at nine months work and need donations and volunteers.

CONTACT: Blazeaid Inc 70 Kilmore East Road
Kilmore East Vic 3764

Ph. 0418 530 471

Website: Blazeaid@gmail.com

DONKEYS CAN'T FLY ON PLANES

Stories of survival from South Sudanese refugee children living in Australia \$20

Available from:

Kid's Own Publishing
C124 Abbotsford Convent
1 St Heliers St
ABBOTSFORD VIC 3067
Ph 9078 1168

www.kidsownpublishing.com

All proceeds from the sale of this book go to Bor Orphanage and Community Education Project to support child victims of war in Bor, Sth Sudan Art work by children using popsticks, wool, buttons beans, seeds, paper etc.

A collection of 25 true survival stories written and illustrated by South Sudanese refugees with the help of staff at the Latrobe English Language Centre and Liddiard Road Primary School in Traralgon. They will touch the core of your heart.

A copy of the book is available from:
Readers' Emporium, 121 Franklin St Traralgon
Collins Bookstore in Sale
Or on the website: <http://bocep.org.au/>

This book would make an excellent addition to a school library or as a gift for children/grandchildren..

ASSOCIATES' BULLETIN BOARD - AUTUMN 2014

FROM THE OFFICE:

Many Associates are now receiving their Newsletter in colour by email. If you are still receiving it by post and you 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.

Office Address

Mary Fermio RSJ,
Editor—Associates' Newsletter,
Josephite Associates' Office,
PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh, 3340.
Email: mary.fermio@sosj.org.au.
OR Fax: 03 5367 2078
For all enquiries related to Associates

USED STAMPS

Used postage stamps have raised thousands of dollars for the Peruvian Miss Ple. Please leave a border of about 1cm around the stamps.

Please forward stamps to:
STAMPS

St Joseph's Province Centre
Locked Bag 3031

BURWOOD NSW 1805 Thank you

As postage has increased members of the group may like to contribute to the cost as part of their service.



Life is changed, not ended

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

David, Son-in-law of Peggy Walker, Scotland
Killed in a road accident

Daniel, son of Maureen Maartensz, Wonthaggi

Marg Mason, Swan Hill

Vonnie Lee, Iona

Rita Kane, Morwell

Bernadette Jackson, Diamond Creek

Clifford Dunn, brother of Sr Loretto Dunn rsj

and Clare Pree, Broadmeadows

Norma Oliver, Hamilton

Fr Tom Lees, SJ

Fr Leo Donnelly, Columban, Peru

John Fitzpatrick, brother of Win Daniels, E/hawk

SUBSCRIPTIONS

You will find included with this newsletter a form to return with your Subscription for 2014 (\$20) As we need to update details especially with regard to Email addresses, would **everyone** please complete the form and return with the Subscription.

We are very grateful for the extra donation some of you are able to include.

THANK YOU

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!