



# Josephite Associates, Victoria~Tasmania Winter 2014



## **FROST AND SNOW, PRAISE THE LORD**

My dear Associates,

This week we have been enjoying some balmy Autumn weather, when one can sit out in the sun and relax for a time.

Since our last newsletter we have had the joy of welcoming the Sisters of St Joseph of Perthville into our Congregation at a moving ceremony on 3rd May. The Lochinvar Congregation have made the decision to stay as they are. So of the five Federation Congregations four have been fused with us. Before he died Fr Woods made a statement that all the Sisters of St Joseph would once again be one.

We have also had two of our Regional Days which have been most enjoyable for all. We look forward to meeting Associates at

the Heritage Centre, Orbost and Bacchus Marsh. Bacchus Marsh is just a 40 min train ride from the city and is now accessible through Myki—and of course Saturday and Sunday is free for Seniors. So some of you may like a trip to the country and join us for this Regional Day and meet Associates from the Western area. If you decide to come let me know and we shall arrange for you to be met, as it is quite a long walk from the Station.

We still have some people doing the Introductory program to become Associates. One of the sessions for the Regional Days is reflecting on What does it mean for me to be an Associate? Those at the Morwell day gave some wonderful responses which we hope to share with you later in the year.

At the Morwell Gathering we heard of the wonderful work done for young women in Third World countries through DAYS FOR GIRLS.. Some of the Associates were helping with this cause. See page 11 of this newsletter for further details. Photos can be seen on the website .

Mount St Joseph's College at Altona West is celebrating 50 years having been founded in February 1964 when four Sisters, including myself and Sr Vendremina, began with 64 girls from the surrounding Primary Schools. The School now caters for over 800 girls who celebrated with great joy and song at St Patrick's Cathedral. A jubilee dinner was also enjoyed and a back-to-day will be held in October.

Our new Regional Leader, Sr Kerrie Cusack and her new team are meeting with the Sisters and looking at new ways of living our community life. For us it can be a very exciting time as the Holy Spirit leads us into the future. Sr Kerrie hopes to be at the Regional Day at the Heritage Centre in June, so those who come will be able to meet her.

The Associates at Beechworth have requested a talk on the work of our Sisters in Peru so Chris Van Order and myself will travel there in June taking with us some of the handcrafts of the Peruvian women. The talk will be at the school and all will be welcome.

Nine of us from Bacchus Marsh walked the Mary MacKillop sites in the city of Melbourne one Tuesday. This walk is very moving as we visit the places where Mary lived.

Each Monday I am at the Heritage Centre in East Melbourne helping in the shop, if any of you would like to call in for a visit and a cuppa.

Wishing you every blessing and good health during these winter months.

*Mary Fermio R SJ*



One of the decorated cows at the Park in Murchison

### **Inside this issue:**

- 1 Editorial
- 2 Winter Reflection
3. Lexie MacKillop
4. Regional Meetings
5. Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Programs for 2014
6. Regional Days  
Prayer and Spirituality Days 2014
7. Centenary Leongatha
8. Leaders' Day 2014
9. Around the Traps
10. Retreat Launceston, Tas.
11. Book Review  
Days for Girls
12. Bulletin Board

#### Enclosures:

1. Prayer Sheet: Sacred Heart

# **Friendship Prayer Service**

## WINTER REFLECTION

During this month of June we celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart, a feast very dear to the heart of Mary MacKillop and Josephites. Mary wished to be called Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart but Fr Woods insisted in the title Of the Cross. Her sister, Lexie, took the name Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart, when she joined the Good Shepherd Sisters.

This devotion was very strong in the Church at that time, as many of us remember ourselves. Every Church had a statue of the Sacred Heart; we were encouraged to make the nine First Fridays; homes were consecrated to the Sacred Heart and most Catholic homes had a picture of Jesus with this title.

This devotion goes back to the 17th Century when Margaret Mary Alacoque was born in July 1647. Her father died when she was 8 and from the age of 9–13 she suffered a paralyzing illness, during which she made a vow to enter religious life. Later she changed her mind and enjoyed a normal young adult's life and considered marriage. A vision, which she saw while returning from a dance, showed Christ being scourged and she believed she had betrayed Jesus by not following her vow and entered the Visitation convent at 22 years. In 1673 she experienced Christ's presence while at prayer and heard him say he desired to show his love for people in a special way by encouraging devotion to "the heart that so loved mankind."

Margaret Mary encountered many difficulties with regard to this and other private revelations, which caused ill health. Fr Claude de la Colombiere, her spiritual director, believed her testimony and put it in writing. In time, and after a rigorous examination by Church officials, the devotion spread and was accepted throughout the church.

Margaret Mary died on 17th October 1690 and was canonized in 1920. She frequently prayed the words of Ps 73: "What have I in heaven and what do I desire on earth but Thee alone, O my God."

When we consider the ways we use the word 'heart' we can fully understand why Jesus chose this way to reveal his great love for us—to love us with all his heart! When we read the writings of St John—Gospel and letters— the message John seems to be emphasising is God's love for us and here is a man whom we are told was "the one whom Jesus loved", so he is writing from personal experience.

Let us this month allow the personal experience of God's love for me enter my heart by means of prayer and reflection. Maybe we could read the first letter of John, stopping when drawn to do so, and letting the words sink into our own heart. We can also say "I am one whom Jesus loves" and I always use the present tense. For me Jesus not just **loved me**, but still **loves me**—as I am, warts and all.

Can we, like Mary MacKillop say:

I quietly creep into Its deep abyss;  
and securely sheltered there,  
my soul is at peace. May 21, 1907



## MARY'S SISTER—ALEXANDRINA (LEXIE)

Born on September 18, three months after 11 months old Alexander had died, Alexandrina (Lexie) was the fourth daughter of Alexander and Flora MacKillop. At this time the family were living on a property between the Merri and Darebin Creeks, north of Melbourne.

Two months later Victoria celebrated permission to separate from New South Wales with great fireworks displays, sports and gymnastics at South Melbourne Cricket Ground where children enjoyed 20,000 buttered buns. Victoria officially became a separate colony on July 1, 1851.

Another event of this year was the discovery of gold near Clunes and the following year the rush to the goldfields began. Melbourne became a deserted city and food, fuel and water prices became exorbitant. Families with little money would have found it extremely difficult to raise healthy children.

We know little of Lexie's childhood years but when she was fifteen she was in Penola with Mary and Annie, helping to establish the new institute, the Sisters of St Joseph.

The family was very concerned about Lexie throwing her lot in with Mary, and her mother, her sister Maggie and her aunt Julia all expressed their concern.

In that same year Lexie moved to Mount Gambier and with Blanche Amsink, who later became Sr Francis Xavier, opened a school to 12 children. Life became difficult for Lexie and she herself began to have doubts as to her vocation as a Sister of St Joseph. Annie declared that "Blanche could never forget she was an English aristocrat," and Blanche considered Lexie was disinclined to be a sister.

By April 1867 Lexie had decided she was not meant to be a Sister of St Joseph and went back to Penola where her missionary zeal found an outlet in bringing healing and true affection to the Aboriginals and other poor folk of the district. She used every opportunity she had to teach the faith and to obtain baptism for these people.

Lexie proved herself a gentle, delightful character, kind and ready to help or nurse the aged and the needy. So it would not be surprising that in 1871 she entered the novitiate of the Good Shepherd Sisters at Abbotsford, taking the name Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart.

Fr Julian Woods preached the sermon at her final profession on August 20, 1876. As Mistress of Novices for seven years, she gave evidence of her wisdom and prudence and was loved by all, continuing her readiness to help anyone in need.

By November 1882 Lexie's health had failed due to heart trouble and rheumatism. Her mother, who died December, in which month she had lost three loving members of her family, was in Lexie's thoughts at this time.

Flora hurried from Penola to be with Lexie and she and Annie were with her when she died on December 31, 1882. The Archbishop presided at her Requiem Mass and 26 priests were present. Lexie was originally buried at Abbotsford. Her remains have since been reinterred at Kew cemetery.

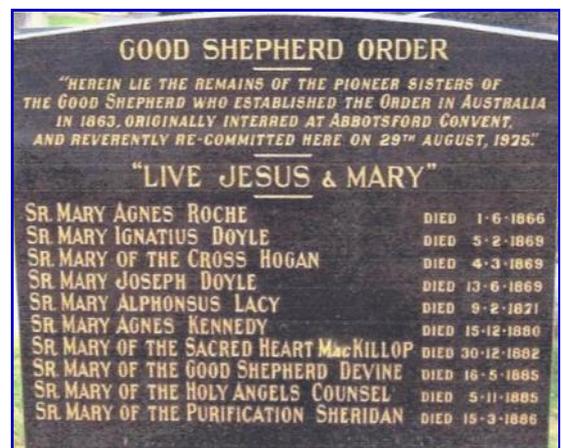


Mary heard the news in Sydney where she had gone on business. Being seriously ill at the time, her letter to her brother Donald was not written until January. She told him of the kindness of the sisters at Abbotsford and of her last conversation with Lexie on the way to Sydney—mostly about him. She concluded, "There are only three now left out of eight."

Victor Feehan in *In Search of Alexander MacKillop* wrote about Lexie, "She died a selfless and generous daughter, who, like her sister Mary brought comfort and love to the poor, needy and lost."

### Sources:

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



# REGIONAL DAYS 2014

The first Regional Day was at **NAGAMBIE** in their very functional MacKillop Hall. A pleasant park area is adjacent which allows space for reflection and walking. Nineteen Associates from Rushworth, Euroa and Nagambie enjoyed the day of reflection. One comment I received was that it was the best day yet. The DVD on the Seven Circles of Prayer suggested different ways of praying and finding space for ourselves.

Time was also spent on reflecting on “what does it mean for me to be an Associate”? I am hoping some of these will be forwarded so that we share them with other Associates. The local group provided a very sumptuous and delicious morning tea for which all were grateful.

**MORWELL** was the venue for the second regional day attended by 16 Associates coming from Morwell and Maffra on a very wet, Saturday morning. From the comments at the end all enjoyed the day immensely and found it very valuable. The group was challenged to speak to others about what being an Associate means to each of them, and to invite others to share what they obviously treasured. All agreed that being an Associate was well worth while and enabled them to deepen their spirituality through friendship, prayer and service.

We look forward to the next Regional Day at Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre on 14th June.



Photos from Nagambie



**Photos from the third Session at Morwell—What Does it mean for me to be an Associate?**  
Anne-Marie is using her Ipad to record what had been written during their reflection. We hope to gather these thoughts during the year to share with other Associates.



# 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:**

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 Suitable for a Parish/s group

**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. **CANCELLED**

2014 Peruvian Winter Warmer Event TUESDAY 24TH JUNE 12 noon to 8 p.m.

## MARY MACKILLOP FOUNDATION—ANNUAL DINNER AND AUCTION

FRIDAY 29TH AUGUST— MOUNT ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

133 MAIDSTONE ST, ALTONA WEST.

FOR TICKETS CONTACT HERITAGE CENTRE: 9926 9300

**WANTED:** New items suitable for silent Auction and Bidding Auction.  
Eg Handcrafts, Household items, Books, Art Work, Jewellery

These can be left at 13 Havelock Road, Hawthorn East, St Joseph's Convent,  
with Sr Mary Fermio at 68 Lerderberg St Bacchus Marsh  
Or at the Heritage Centre, 362 Albert St East Melbourne.

# REGIONAL DAYS 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?*

14th June **MELBOURNE** Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert St East Melbourne  
Melbourne and others who may wish to come from anywhere!

20th September **BACCHUS MARSH** Sebastopol, Bacchus Marsh, Woodend, Sunbury and.....  
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.

*Drawing by Frank Pash*



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

## PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY DAYS 2014

**Venue:** St Joseph's Convent, 63 McBain St ALTONA 3018 Corner of Civic Parade

**When:** Third THURSDAY of each month

**Afternoon Session:** 1.30 p.m.—3 p.m.

**Evening Repeat Session** 7.30 p.m.—9.00 p.m.

19th June **Exploring Celtic Spirituality "God with us at every moment"** Moya Unthank rsj

17th July **Living the joy of the Gospel—Pope Francis Encyclical** Yvonne Harte rsj

21st August **Reflecting together on the Blessed Eucharist** Eileen O'Loughlin rsj

18th September **We live by Hope. Or do we?** Patricia Williams rsj

23rd October **Brigid of Kildare—Woman of Strength and Gentleness** Doris Testa csb

TBA **Healing of our Aboriginal Spiritual Wellbeing  
And our Sacred Land** Elizabeth Pike

13th November TBA Carmel Crameri rsj

**RSVP Therese Quinn rsj**  
9397 8081 or email: [therese.quinn@sosj.org.au](mailto:therese.quinn@sosj.org.au)

# CENTENARY OF ST LAURENCE'S LEONGATHA

Many events in the Parish of St Laurence O'Toole, Leongatha, Vic., were participated in over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March, to celebrate the Centenary of the Church and the arrival of the Sisters of St Joseph in 1914

On the Saturday evening about 150 parishioners, Sisters and visitors enjoyed viewing the display of old photos and a celebratory dinner in the huge Gymnasium on the school grounds. Appetisers were served before the meal and past students recalled their years of primary education. Sr Jose Noy rsj spoke of her arrival from Holland as a child and boarding at Norah Hogan's, as she could not catch the bus to school. Another Student recalled the changes in education over the 100 years.

'At one time,' she said, 'if you got a bad report your parents gave you a talking to. Now if you get a bad report, the teacher gets a talking to!'

One of the highlights of the meal was an Ipad on each table containing over 200 photos of school life past and present, school groups and teachers. Diners were able to sit and find themselves, their children and grandchildren and modern day activities of children dressed up for book week etc. Some photos recalled the old school sports games such as overhead and tunnel ball.

On the Sunday morning the Church was full for Mass celebrated by the Parish Priest Fr Peter Kooloos with Fr John O'Kelly, former PP, concelebrating. During his homily Fr Peter outlined the growth of the Parish in 1913. "The original timber Church was moved across the road to become the first school rooms and the first stage of the Church was begun and opened November 1913. A convent was then built for the Sisters. All this was done," he reminded the Congregation "without any Government assistance. The Parishioners responded with faith and generosity and we celebrate this today, and this spirit of faith, generosity and self-sacrifice has continued to the present time."



In 2000 a Parish Centre, small Mass Room, foyer and kitchen were added to the Church, the architect cleverly incorporating the design into the style of the Church. Refurbishment was completed in 2010. These additions have proven a wonderful blessing to the parish, and a place of gathering before and after Mass, as well as a place of display of Church photos for the Centenary.

After Mass a huge bell, which had rung for the Angelus years before and had been sited in two different places on the Church grounds, was blessed in its new position at the front of the Church. Mr Kevin Slater rang the Angelus, while Fr Peter led all in its recitation. The mighty sound of the bell rang out across the town and will continue to be rung at midday.

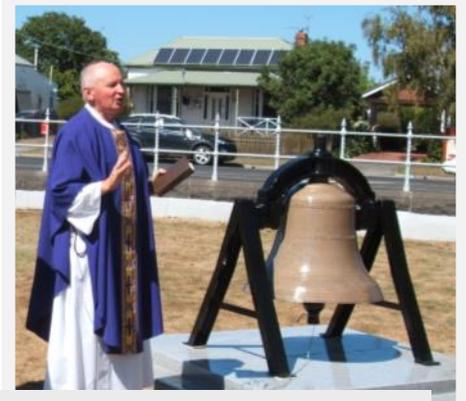
Following the Mass a picnic lunch was enjoyed by the Sisters and some families in the school grounds. A popular Sister present was Sr Barbara Connolly, in her mid-nineties and who, with Sr Helena MacGuire, who will be 100 this year, were the last



Sr Barbara catching up with friends.

Sisters of St Joseph to live in Leongatha and left only about 6 years ago. Sr Jose Noy met many school friends and Sr Agnus Nunn, who had been the last Josephite principal at St Laurence's was very busy meeting up with old friends. Sr Maureen Philp, the last Sister to teach in the school also caught up with many friends and past pupils.

A Centenary Mass on the Monday was an occasion for the priests of the Diocese to get together and remember their days as priests in the Parish. The Parish now includes Korumburra Parish with outreach Churches at Mirboo North, Meeniyar, Tarwin Lower and Loch. During the last couple of years Fr Peter Kooloos has also acted as Administrator in the Yarram and Foster Parishes with the help of the two assistant priests of Leongatha supplying for Mass at weekend. Congratulations to all involved, for a splendid weekend.



Fr Kooloos blessing the Angelus bell



St Laurence O'Toole School, Leongatha



# LEADERS' DAY

On 1st March 26 Associates gathered at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre for a day for Leaders of Associate groups and others. We always feel welcome at this venue and were looked after by Sr Anne Tuck. This day is also an opportunity to do some shopping in the Heritage Centre's well stocked shop.

After welcoming all, Sr Jennifer Sanders presented a very interesting session on Ignatian Spirituality, including a history of the life of St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits. During her session we participated in a gospel contemplation in the Jesuit tradition which all seemed to enjoy by the response. The Spirituality of Mary MacKillop was deepened by her Spiritual Director Fr Tappeiner SJ in Adelaide, and Fr Andeledy SJ in Rome.

Noreen McLeish followed morning tea with a presentation on Associates, who and what they are. She began with a most compelling video from YouTube beginning with a cellist in a town square play Song of Joy. As he played, people stopped and gradually other musicians joined him completing an orchestra of string, brass and percussion instruments. One child climbed a pole to see better, others stood and conducted the music and everyone enjoyed the wonderful music. A wonderful analogy of how a song commenced by one person attracts many others who join in, just as Mary MacKillop started her song and now hundreds play this Josephite song with her.

After lunch Sr Audrey Thomson gave a session on her ministry in Scotland with some beautiful photos on a power point. It was obvious that Mary MacKillop is impacting on her family's native Scotland. Sr Joan Healy followed with a description of the new Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Footscray and the work being done there. She also thanked Associates for their generosity to this work. **(Donations may still be sent to: Josephite Associates Footscray Branch, c/- Sr Joan Healy rsj36 Essex St, FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011)**



As our final prayer we enrolled Margaret McDonald of West Brunswick as an Associate. Margaret hopes one day to have others join her there. I am sure all left feeling enriched by the day with new ideas and a new enthusiasm.

**"Irene and myself travelled down from Beechworth for the Leader's Day and we had a very rewarding time. We particularly enjoyed the talk given by Sr. Audrey about her stay in Scotland as we both spent time with her and Teresa and had a fantastic time learning about the places that Mary's family lived and experiencing true Josephite hospitality. The day was also very special as we gave Sr. Joan Healy a boot load of rice and other food for the Asylum Seekers that she works with in Melbourne. The food was donated by the children and families of St. Joseph's School in Beechworth. Thanks Sr. Mary for providing these great days for the leaders of our Associates Groups."**  
**Linda Murcutt and Irene Sharp, Beechworth.**



Audrey Thomson, Irene Sharp, Linda Murcatt and, Faye Donohue enjoying their lunch



Each session presented was informative and reflective and learning about Ignatian spirituality was most interesting and inspiring. Mim Caruso

# AROUND THE TRAPS

## NAGAMBI Associate wins award

Maureen (Moz) Fowler was awarded the title of Volunteer of the year for Victoria 2013 for her work with Nagambie Health Care for 11 years. This started when Maureen's mother became an Aged Care Resident and she became involved in organising and running activities for residents. Her citation reads 'Maureen's presence makes everyone feel good. ....She is sometimes called out at night to provide comfort for someone dying alone. Families are grateful for her presence, her gentleness and kindness.' The term 'Salt of the Earth' has been applied to Moz who is calm, kind and never judgemental. We are very proud of you Maureen, a worthy recipient of this award—which is evidence of the Josephite Charism you are blessed with.



## RUSHWORTH

Rushworth Associates had an interesting twelve months in 2013 travelling to Rochester for Mass on St Joseph's Day followed by lunch at a local café. Two new Associates were enrolled in May, and a special meeting in June looked at recommending changes for the Associates Handbook.

The Feast day of St Mary of the Cross was a day of celebration with Mass with St Mary's school children. A meeting and BYO Lunch followed. In October the 80th birthday of Nan Jessup was celebrated with a meal at a café after Mass celebrated by Fr Joven.

The Regional Meeting at Murchison was hosted by the Rushworth Associates in November who welcomed those who travelled from Nagambie and Numurkah. During the year members were involved in taking Communion to the sick and housebound as well as other ministries in the Church and community.

*Report sent by Noelle Grinter*



Rona with Sr Mary

## BACCHUS MARSH

Celebrating Rona Lawrence's 90th Birthday at her favourite pub—the Greendale Hotel. Rona still drives herself to the meetings from her mud brick home at Greendale, about 15 mins from Bacchus Marsh.

Rona is renowned for her winter evenings by the hearth— story telling, poetry and song keeping up her Scottish traditions. Bread and Wine are provided to nourish the body and the rest nourishes the soul.



Rona's House

# ASSOCIATES' RETREAT LAUNCESTON

The retreat weekend was an excellent opportunity for Tasmanian and Victorian Josephite Associates to continue to deepen and share our faith journeys. New friendships were formed among accepting, hospitable trusting and caring companions. In the spirit and words of Mary MacKillop, "The faith was warm in their hearts."

The Emmanuel Centre provided a peaceful haven for reflection, listening, meditation, prayer, togetherness and spiritual growth. It reflected truly that the light of Christ is alive and that God is truly with us. The following words of one of the participants sums up the spirit of the Emmanuel Centre and its people –

- Holy place
- Healing space
- Happy place
- Home place
- Heart space
- Your place
- My place
- Holy Spirit place



The peace of Christ is alive there and we Associates experienced this great gift of Jesus. Worshipping at Mass on the Saturday evening was a unifying faith experience. We felt part of a strong prayer community.

This Retreat built up our spirituality and it reflected the vision of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods to work and be with the ordinary people. Overall, in the words of one Associate, it was a beautiful retreat weekend enjoyed in a Josephite heartland.  
*Chris Nicholls-Van Order, Woodend*

The Josephite Associates Retreat weekend was held at the Emmanuel Centre in Launceston on 4-6th April. The theme for the weekend was *Living into an Australian Spirituality*. We began the weekend on Friday evening with prayer and each of us sharing a little of our own story. Chris, Bruna and Dolores had joined us from Victoria and it was lovely to hear a little about their lives and what the Associates are doing in their areas. During the weekend we focussed on the Associates Mission Statement where we support one another by Friendship, Prayer and Service (Hospitality) to make a difference in our local area.

Sr Lynette Young rsj engaged us with her story telling and reflections from Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. Those present took the opportunity over the weekend to get to know each other better over a cuppa during breaks or in sharing in the sessions. The weather was beautiful with some people taking advantage of walking the Labyrinth during quiet times. Except for our Victorian friends having their plane cancelled out of Launceston on the Sunday, the weekend was a success. Our time together was insightful, fun and communal.

*Kathy Cuthbertson*



# BOOK/DVD REVIEWS



## **THE FIRST PHONE CALL FROM HEAVEN** Mitch Ablom

The author of *Tuesdays with Morrie* has again enchanted us with a story about mysterious phone calls from Heaven, from deceased relatives to their loved ones and the effect on the town of Coldwater. A book I just had to finish to discover the end.

I would say that this book will have different effects on different people, exactly as described in the book!

## **THE TIME KEEPER** by Mitch Ablom

Another unusual from this excellent writer. In this book he looks at our obsession with time and by using the character Father Time helps us to realize how this affects our lives and relationships with others.

## **EXCEPT IN OBEDIENCE** Marie Crowley

Another intriguing book by the author of *Women of the Vale*. Here she gives the history of the Josephites who worked in the Ballarat Diocese staffing the tiny schools of Bungaree, Dunnston, Dunnolly and Creswick during the late 19th Century and early 20th. A great researcher, Marie picks up the hardships of that time and the isolation the Sisters felt, which brought about hard but wise decisions.

Available at the Heritage Centre \$24.95

## **THE SWAG**

Newsletter of the National Council of Priests. The last edition has some wonderful articles looking at the effects of sexual abuse in the Church on other priests and the members of the Catholic Church, and ways to make this humiliating experience fruitful for our own spirituality.

The site [www.theswag.org.au](http://www.theswag.org.au) is a paid subscription site for an annual on-line fee of \$25.

By post subscription is \$33 by contacting:

NCP NATIONAL OFFICE  
PO BOX 295  
BELMONT VIC 3216

Many religious and parishioners subscribe to this excellent newsletter and 18 parishes have bulk subscriptions. Reading it will keep you up-to-date with the thinking of the Church in Australia and across the world. Maybe, have one subs for your group and share it. Four issues are compiled each year.

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM** The Joy of the Gospel written by Pope Francis available from Catholic Bookshops. A must read and also suitable for reflection and discussion in your group.

## **DVD SOPHIE SCHOLL, The final days**

A very impressive DVD which I obtained from the local Library and which was recommended in the Lenten Program from Brisbane. Spoken in German it is very well sub-titled.

The story of three students in Germany who were arrested and executed for distributing leaflets telling the true story of what was happening in the war. Sophie was truly a Christ-like figure and the film is of the last six days of her life, most of it depicting the interrogation by a police officer, whom she challenged about what the Nazi system was doing to Germany.

## **DAYS FOR GIRLS-AUSTRALIA**

This is an international charity helping women in developing countries regain dignity through meeting the need for appropriate, reusable feminine hygiene .

During their days in the month these girls don't go to school as they have nothing to use, and sometimes don't return to school. Over a period of three years they can miss eight months of schooling. So the purpose is to give them re-usable items so that they do not miss school.

The items are placed in a drawstring bag and include flannel liners, panties, safety pins, washcloth and zip lock bags. The items are sewn by those involved and collected to be sent away. Each kit is meant to last for three years.

*If you would like to help with the sewing or with a donation the website [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org) will give you some details with patterns and collection points.*

*Or contact: Robyn Suttie (Victoria)  
03 5335 6761*

*Email: [robynsuttie@gmail.com](mailto:robynsuttie@gmail.com)*

Items needed are:

Knickers sizes 10-12; 12-14

Face washers

Zip lock Bags—Large 27cmx32cm about  
"Motel" size soap samples

These and donations could be sent to  
Robyn Suttie, 7 Banyule Drive  
Delacombe Vic 3356

Or brought to the Regional Days and I will deliver them to Ballarat.

*"Because no woman should go without"*

(I could forward to anyone copies of the patterns if you were interested in sewing bags or liners. If you are a sewer, you may have material unused which could make the drawstring bags.)

## 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](http://sosj.org.au) website, under news and events/newsletters.

### Office Address

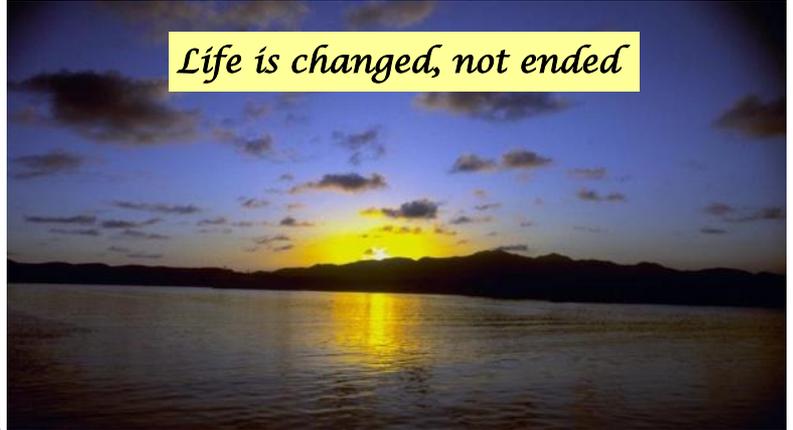
Mary Fermio RSJ,  
Editor—Associates' Newsletter,  
Josephite Associates' Office,  
PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh, 3340.  
OR Email: [mary.fermio@sosj.org.au](mailto:mary.fermio@sosj.org.au).  
OR Fax: 03 5367 2078  
For all enquiries related to Associates

## 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*

Let us pray for the following deceased and their families who grieve their loss  
*Barbara Oakes, Yarraville*  
*Sr Kathleen Nolan, past teacher of MSJ, Altona West*  
*Therese Sayers, Bunyip*  
*Fr Rom Murphy, Melbourne*  
*Peter Davies, son-in-law of Marie Mitchell, Numurkah*  
*Killed in motor-cross accident*

## 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](http://www.sosj.org.au)

And for anything about Mary MacKillop on  
[www.marymackillop.org.au](http://www.marymackillop.org.au)

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

**AND it's FREE!**

If you are looking for a Reflection for the Day try the [marymackillop.org.au](http://marymackillop.org.au) site and follow the link to prayer.

The site [www.sacredspace](http://www.sacredspace) provides a reflection for each day based on the readings from Mass— prepared by the Jesuits.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many thanks to all those who have forwarded their subscriptions, many also including donations. Your contributions are vital to the continuing publication of your newsletter and the operation of the Associates office.

Please let me know if you do not wish to continue receiving your newsletter.

or if you wish to get it email.

I am always grateful to the Associates who help to envelope the newsletter each quarter. A trio from Bacchus Marsh and another from the city alternate to prepare the approx. 400 newsletters for postage.