



WA Josephite Associates' Newsletter



Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends ...

Once again I pray for each one at this time as we near Mary MacKillop's day the 8th August. Let us remember all those who are sick and those who have gone to God.



At our recent winter Associates' gathering in South Perth, Meg and Dot shared the WA report they presented to the Associates in Sydney ... it was greatly appreciated!

In August, a few of the sisters and myself are heading to Wyndham - it is 50 years since the sisters arrived in Wyndham and we celebrate that anniversary and the ministry that still continues throughout the Kimberley - working with the Aboriginal People.

Many thanks for the donations received, which are a great help to the Associates Administration. Much gratitude also goes to the Committee members - Annette, Helen and Rosina who keep the Associate spirit alive in the regional areas.

Best wishes for all the blessings of Spring ... from Sister Denise, and the Central Committee - Dot, Meg, Fay, Margaret, Maureen and Mary and all the Associate Committee members - Annette from Dardanup and Helen from Esperance.

St Mary of the Cross Feastday



The Feastday of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was again celebrated in Dardanup, with PP, Fr Joseph Sousa presiding at the Eucharist which was attended by students, teachers and staff of Our Lady of Lourdes school and approximately twenty five adults, including twelve Associates present.

The school children led the singing of Mary MacKillop songs once again and as Sr Pauline Dundon was unavoidably detained, Gwen Wells JA, gave a short presentation that Sr Pauline had arranged, on the life, work and good deeds of St Mary and the sisters who came to assist her. Our thanks to Gwen.

Morning Tea Followed at the House of Prayer where all were thanked for helping to make the morning an enjoyable one. On behalf of our Associate group, I expressed appreciation to Fr Joseph, Principal, Mr Des Wilkie, the head Girl and Boy and two students representing the school, for once again supporting us on this day in honour of our ' Saint for Australia ' - Mary MacKillop.

Sr Denise Casey was unable to be with us this year as she attended the 50th Anniversary of the school in Wyndham where she had served as Principal.

- Annette Morellini JA





Prayer Days at Safety Bay

For many years we have been graced by days for prayer and reflection at Safety Bay. In the beginning they were for the Sisters and were held on Saturday and Sunday with an over night stay. In more recent years they have been available for Associates and anyone from the Parishes who would like to attend. Some men and women have been coming for many years and travel by bus or train as well as driving down. While the building works are in progress Prayer Days will be held at the Mary MacKillop Centre in South Perth. (see over for details)



On June 7th we gathered in the Conference Room at Penola by the Sea for the last Prayer Day. The sessions were conducted by Sr Dora Maguire who led us through passages from a book written by Pope Francis: *Evangelii Gaudium*, published in 2013. Pope Francis

wrote: "With Christ joy is constantly born anew. The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus."

We also reflected on the story of Zaccheus and the joy which filled his heart when Jesus called him down from the sycamore tree.

Refreshed and renewed we prayed a prayer of Thanksgiving for all the Prayer Days and the blessings received.

Thank you too, to all who have contributed to these days.

- Sr Mary Jo Wells rsj



Taize Prayer Service - In Memory of Sr Irene McCormack

St Joseph's Convent Chapel - remembering Sr Irene McCormack on the 23rd Anniversary of her death



Sr Irene McCormack, a WA Sister of St Joseph, arrived in Peru in 1987 and was appointed to the mountain village of Huasahuasi in 1989. She took up the challenge of ministering to the impoverished, *"I have come to understand that effective action is a way of loving."*

Her short years in Peru were a time of growth and satisfaction for Irene as she served the needy and came to understand their faith and culture, both in Lima and Huasahuasi. In these people she so joyfully served, Irene found the Christ to whom her life was dedicated.

For political reasons Communist rebels, the Shining Path, did not welcome missionaries and, despite recognising the danger, Irene and

her fellow sisters continued to work with and for the village people, "I really believe and have experienced that the more committed you are the freer you are."

On May 21st 1991, 53 year-old Irene's fears were realised when she and four men were dragged to the village square, told to lie face down and executed by a shot to the back of the head. Irene's 'crime' in the eyes of her murderers was caring for, working with and handing out Caritas food parcels to the impoverished villagers.

Fr Brian Fletcher, a visitor who participated in the Taize Prayer evening which honoured Irene has shared his reflections on the evening:

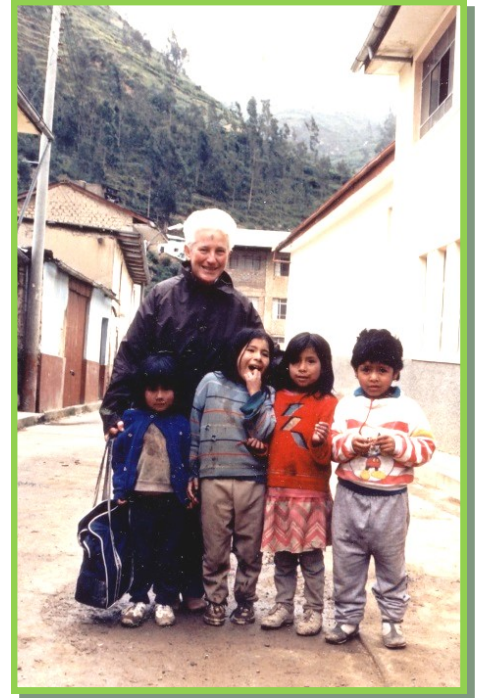
"What attracted me to the Prayer Session, held on the evening of Sunday, May 15, was the Taize-style Mantra and chanting that very much appealed to me. That the prayer time reflected the life and death of Sister Irene in Peru was an added bonus.

The music and singing were most moving as we reflected on a life of sacrifice, commitment to the poor, of mission to a foreign country so different from her own upbringing and background here in Australia

Indeed Irene's was a life of great love for God and for the people she chose to serve. *'Greater love than this no one has ...'*

The atmosphere created in the chapel was amazing. I've never seen so many candles alight on and around the altar – and more were added as each of the dozens of people present lit a small candle as their way of honouring the memory of a wonderful woman of faith and courage - as she said herself 'to normalise life a little and give them some joy.'

Is this not what the Risen Lord is asking of each of us?"



Upcoming Events!



Taize Meditative Prayer

Where: St Joseph's Chapel, 16 York St South Perth
When: 7pm to 8pm Sunday (chapel doors open at 6.30pm) on the 3rd Sunday of the following months: August, September, October & November
Enquiries: Sr Maree – 0414 683 926

All Welcome . bring a Torch & a Friend!



"Penola" Prayer Days - are on the move!

While the Safety Bay site undergoes renovation, the Prayer Days will be held at the **MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE, South Perth ...**



SEPTEMBER: Wednesday 3rd (10.00 am – 3.30 pm)
Focus: *"How pleasant and fitting to sing God's Praise."* Ps 147 V1
Presenter: Sr Dora Maguire rsj

OCTOBER: Wednesday 15th (10.00 am – 3.30 pm)
Focus: *"There was a passionate generosity in Jesus, an ache to be joined at His table by the lost and the desperate ..."* D O'Leary Man's Hungry Heart
Presenter: Sr Dora Maguire rsj

DECEMBER: Thursday 4th (10.00 am – 3.30 pm)
Focus: *"My Lord and my God!"* John 20:28
Presenter: Sr Wendy Lailey rsj

Where: MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE at 16 York Street, South Perth
Cost: Donation [Morning tea, served at 9.30am, and a light lunch provided]
Registration: Laura: 9334 0999, lmccarthy@sosjwa.org.au

Gone to God

We pray for these people and ask God to give them eternal rest:

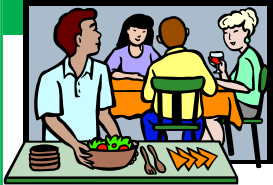


John Colum (husband of Pam JA)
Josie Riddler JA (Mother of Sr Maree)
Juanita Deusian (Mother of Sue D'ath JA)
Ken Watt (Husband of Anne JA)
Eileen Rodgers (Bunbury Associate)



May they rest in peace

SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS FOR 2014



Spring Gathering

Sunday 14th September

Advent – Christmas Gathering

Sunday 14th December

All very welcome!

WA ASSOCIATES SOUTH WEST GATHERINGS 2014

Annual Retreat Day-Reminder

When: 9.30am - 2.30pm Thursday 18th September 2014
Where: Dardanup Prayer House
Presenter: Sr Wendy Lailey rsj
Bring: A plate of finger food for a shared lunch please
Cost: Donation
Enquiries: Annette ph. 9797 1156 Nancy ph. 9728 1037



All very welcome!



Advent / Summer Gathering 2014

When: 9.30am (Morning Tea) Wednesday 12th November 2014
Where: Meeting Room, St Patrick's Cathedral
Presenter: Fr Tony Chiera
Bring: A plate of finger food for a shared lunch please
Enquiries: Annette ph. 9797 1156 Nancy ph. 9728 1037

2014 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

(in the Function Room)

When:

10am Thursday on 20th November (followed by Christmas lunch)



Reflection



Lord, I thank you for all I have learnt from Mary MacKillop's spirit. May I too be a gift of love and compassion to others as I go about my everyday life. Mary remarked in 1884 that, 'the little crosses of every day are harder to bear than the thumping big ones'. Amen.

What inspiration can I derive from Mary MacKillop's life?

- Sr Helen Cooke rsj



WA Josephite Associates

ENLARGING THE WINDOW

TO BRIGHTEN THE ROOM

Many gain their inspiration by sitting near a window and gazing out upon the world, pondering the larger questions of life and the intricate beauty of nature and the struggles and hopes of those who pass by. Mary MacKillop is an inspirational window for many people. Her practical, down-to-earth approach to living the Gospel has inspired thousands of women to join the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph. Her motto 'never see a need without doing something about it' continues to inspire all who share in the Josephite way of living the Gospel. Her life continues to be a source of hope in a world that is yearning for peace. In Australia she is a spiritual hero who inspires Australians to search for a deeper meaning of life, to pause and look again at the reality of mystery and the divine essence within.

Mary MacKillop – A Window of Hope (Monica Cavanagh rsj)





God of all blessings, you revealed in
Mary MacKillop a sensitivity to all rights
and dignity of every person, regardless
of race or creed.

May we learn from her
to overcome fear and prejudice.

Help us to value the goodness of each person
and all the blessings of unity in diversity.

We ask this through the depth and unity
of you, our bountiful God, who hold all
things in being. Amen.

Mary MacKillop – A Window of Hope
Monica Cavanagh rsj

*A bloom has fallen in the forest
a butterfly's wings folded in our lives
kookaburras are laughing in the world outside
but we are some place else.*

*For silence hangs where once we heard your music
and memories bring their love and pain
with fresh reminders of your beauty
and your ways with us.*

*Your gifts a thousand times more precious now
ask us how we are and gift us yet again
as they tell their stories
of how you touched our lives.*

*Dear ones you live on some way other
right here among us
our faith a light in our unseeing
as a rainbow reassures us you've arrived home.*

*Your sleeping frangipanis will bloom in Spring
their soft colours sweet perfume
one with you.*

From the Wilds of the Heart" (Noel Davis)

St Mary MacKillop Prayer



Ever generous God,
You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop
to live your mission of bringing
hope and encouragement to those
marginalised, disheartened, lonely,
sick and needy.

With confidence

in your generous providence
and praying with Saint Mary MacKillop
we place our needs before you:

.....
We trust in your loving care for us.

We ask that our faith and hope be fired anew by the
Holy Spirit so that like Mary MacKillop,

we may act more justly,

love more tenderly and walk humbly with You.

We ask this through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

