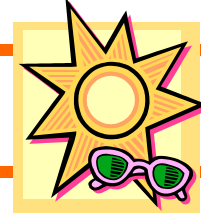




Summer 2014



Issue 4

In our Spring Newsletter we referred to two special presentations that were given during our AGM & Feast Day celebrations. Below is one of them. Read the other on page 4.

St Mary MacKillop in my Life

by Sr Teresa Cooper rsj

My introduction to Mary MacKillop must have been early in my life. I'm not sure when I first heard her name.

I began school at St Joseph's, Port Lincoln when I was about 7 years old as a boarder at the convent as we lived on a farm 20 miles out. I can't remember a picture of Mary MacKillop but I'm sure she was there!

Sr Gemma was my first teacher – she was kind and gentle and I loved her. She prepared me for my First Confession and Communion and, while in Grade 3, I was confirmed by Archbishop Spence. The bishop rarely came to Port Lincoln so children were confirmed at a younger or older age.

In the days of the 1930's we had a community of six Sisters in Port Lincoln. They were truly Mary MacKillop women, doing house-hold chores, teaching and visiting the sick and needy. I have a recollection of Sr Michelle preparing a pot of hot soup which I, as one of the boarders, was commissioned to take up the hill to a sick and

elderly lady who lived alone.

That's what Mary MacKillop taught her Sisters to do:

"Never see a need without doing something about it."

Many families and their children around Port Lincoln would have experienced the compassion and kindness of the Sisters being with them in times of sickness, death and tragedy. They lived and worked among the people as did Mary MacKillop and the early Sisters. We see the same spirit prevailing today among our Josephites living among the people in many different countries of the world. Mary's charism is still very much alive!

During my final years at school, my parents sold our farm and moved to Marrabel, near Kapunda. I remained as a boarder in Port Lincoln to complete my Intermediate. Then I said goodbye to the Josephites. I'd been encouraged to enter the Juniorate at Cowandilla. This was a boarding school for girls wishing to become Sisters. Did I want to enter the convent? No, not

cont next page



*Wishing all Associates, families and friends
a very blessed and joyful Christmas Season*



me! Was that spirit of 'Josephiteness' imbued in me? I'm sure it was, but it probably lay dormant in me over the next few years. Now school was over and I had to grow up and live life. I went to Marrabel and, being the second oldest of seven children, became my mother's helper for a few years.

There were no Josephite schools near Marrabel and my sisters, in turn, went to Cabra to be educated by the Dominican Sisters. Then came the war and, to help the War Effort, I became a nurse at a general private hospital in Adelaide until the war ended. I subsequently needed a change and went back to live with my family at Marrabel. During these years, I lost contact with my Josephite Sisters.

My intention was to get married and have a family but God had different plans! While I was enjoying a good life, God suddenly 'hit' me with a jolt! During a Redemptorists' mission in our parish, the mission priest said to me: "I think you have a vocation to the Religious Life." That rocked me! I didn't want it but realised I'd been running away from it for years, and now I had to say 'Yes' to God!

I went to Kensington and met my Josephite Sisters again who accepted me with open arms. Mary MacKillop called me to her Order. I could have entered the Dominicans because my younger sister was already there but that was not for me, and so in 1949, a Josephite I became!

After my acceptance as a postulant, and dressed in a black dress and a little black cap, I was privileged to be appointed to Penola. Here I was in the very place where Mary MacKillop became the first Sister of St Joseph! I loved my time there, in community with three Sisters who initiated me into Josephite life. At the end of that year I was shipped off, with five other SA postulants, to join a group of 50 or so novices in the Novitiate at Mount Street, North Sydney (now called 'Mary MacKillop Place'). Now we were truly in Mary MacKillop's company because we prayed near her tomb in the chapel several times a day.

After two years of intensive training, learning to be a Religious in the Josephite way, I was professed as a Sister of St Joseph, on the 6th January, 1952. My first appointment was to a small country school in northern NSW –

Dungowan, near Tamworth – the type of school in which Mary MacKillop's early Sisters would have taught. There were just two of us and I found it dreadfully lonely, having come from a big family and then the novitiate. However, I survived with the help of Mary MacKillop and God.

The next year, I went back to Mount Street, North Sydney to the Teachers' Training School. This was a rich and enjoyable year, teaching in Josephite schools around North Sydney and imbibing in the spirit of Mary MacKillop among the Sisters, old and young, living in the Mother House. Some of the elderly Sisters had personally known Mary MacKillop!

After four years away, I arrived back in SA. With another Sister I headed for Nangwarry, opening a new school in the forest area, to cater for the many migrant children from the families of the forestry and timber mill workers. I was again in Mary MacKillop country, near Penola! How Mary would have loved those children of the many different nationalities settled there – as we did! Then, after three years in Nangwarry and Kalangadoo, I moved on.

Like most Josephites I lived in numerous country and city places. Being involved with families in their times of joy, sickness, sorrow and death, just as Mary and her Sisters did, was an enriching privilege.

During the 1960's came the Second Vatican Council. How fortunate to have been part of the huge changes that have taken place in the Church and in Religious Life since Vatican II. The Josephites of the post-Vatican II era accepted, as Mary MacKillop would have done, the new liturgy and ministries evolving in the Church, taking on many other new roles, among which were chaplains to the sick and dying.

At the beginning of 1988, after completing a Clinical Pastoral Education course at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney, I accepted the role of Pastoral Carer in the Hectorville Parish, ministering in the North Eastern Community Hospital and the many nursing homes located in the area plus visiting the sick and elderly in their homes. This was Mary MacKillop's work. To me, this was so rewarding. The people gave so much more to me than I could ever have given them. I loved the work.

How wonderful that we have been part of Mary's Beatification and, more amazing still, caught up and living the joy and beauty of her Canonisation! How blessed we are to be living in this glorious God-given time!

God's choicest gift to me is my Josephite vocation, allowing me to follow in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop. But I would not be here today without the example and influence of family, Sisters and friends, past and present, who have walked with me along the way and helped me to persevere. I thank God for each one!

Age catches up with one. Now I am retired from

active duty. I have more time for prayer, time to relax and time to be part of the Josephite Associates. You Associates are an inspiration to me. You are such a dedicated and vibrant group. Mary MacKillop's spirit is alive in each one of you, spreading her charism among your family, friends and community. There is a book of Mary's letters called: *Mary MacKillop – On Mission to Her Last Breath*. YOU Associates give me the incentive to keep going – hopefully to MY last breath!

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your lives. May God bless you abundantly!



1935
First Communicants and Boarders
at Port Lincoln



1948
Teresa aged 27



1958
Teresa at Burra

New Associates in the South East

Welcome to Judith Georgeson, Jane Jenkins, Claire Larkin and Anne-Marie Matuscka from Penola, Carol Chislett and Pauline Kenny from Mt Gambier and also to Gwenda Browne from Millicent. Read about the Penola connection and their induction in our next newsletter.

Prayer Requests

Do you know of any Associates who have died or are ill and in need of our prayers? We could advise Associates of your/their need for prayers at our gatherings, as well as offering prayers at the Masses on the 8th of each month in St Joseph's Chapel.

If you would appreciate assistance in this way, please feel free to telephone Pat Sandretti on 8264 9658 or send an email to sa.associates@sosj.org.au or let one of the Committee members know.

Please offer prayers for:

- *All parents who are struggling with illness.*
- *Refugees and asylum seekers who are finding it difficult to find a peaceful place to live.*

Stamps for the Missions

Stamps which are donated are processed, parcelled up and sold at auction. The money raised goes to *Mary MacKillop International* for the missions in Brazil, East Timor and Peru. Over the last few years thousands of dollars have been raised in this way. Please send your used stamps, leaving a 1cm border, to:

*Used Stamps
Locked Bag 3031
Burwood, NSW, 1805*

The Junior Josephites

by Alana and Hannah



We are in Year 5 at Whitefriars Primary School in Woodville Park and are members of a group called the *Junior Josephites*. We'd like you to know about who we are and what we do but first a little about our school.

Whitefriars was opened in 1912. In fact, we celebrated our 100 year anniversary in 2012. Over all those years, the school has had Sisters of St Joseph teaching in it – up until this year that is! At the end of last year we farewelled Sr Liz, who was our School Chaplain and the last of the Sisters to teach in our school. While this might seem a bit sad, the influence of the Sisters, and of course Mary MacKillop, is still alive in our school. Our group, which includes students from Years 4 – 7, tries to walk in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop in the work that we do.

As Junior Josephites we recognise 3 of the things that were important to Mary MacKillop: prayer, education and helping others in need. These are the things on which we focus. We meet weekly on a Wednesday at lunchtime. All our meetings begin with a prayer. One that we use most often is this one about being a MacKillop *kid*. Just as Mary MacKillop was committed to prayer, so are we! Sometimes we also volunteer to prepare and coordinate the weekly Community Prayer held at Whitefriars. This year we have led prayer to celebrate the feast days of St Joseph and Mary MacKillop, and to remember the struggles of asylum seekers and refugees during Refugee week.

We know that education was also very important to Mary MacKillop, so we see educating others as well as ourselves as important too, so part of what we do is to raise awareness of social justice issues amongst our school and the wider community. This year we decided to focus our efforts on the plight of asylum seekers. This has meant that we have had to first educate ourselves about asylum seekers before we have been able to educate others. We read Anh Do's story *The Littlest Refugee*, researched the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights and have listened to guest speakers. These things have all helped us learn more about refugees and asylum seekers.

The Junior Josephites know that refugees and asylum seekers are simply people who have left their homes because they are in fear of their lives. We know that they are looking for a safe place to make a new life and we believe it is wrong to deny them the right to a safer, more peaceful life in Australia. We have spoken at school assemblies and made posters to help bring awareness of the unfair way in which asylum seekers and refugees are treated. We have used our school newsletter to raise awareness, not only about this issue but also the issue of buying Fair Trade eggs at Easter instead of eggs made from chocolate that may have been made using child labour because we focussed our efforts on slave labour last year.

The third thing we do is to take action. Like Mary MacKillop, we try to 'never see a need without doing something about it.' Our first project this year came to mind after we had Anne – Ms Hemmings' sister – come to talk to us about her role visiting asylum seekers at the Inverbrackie Detention Centre. She told us about pregnant women who had been sent to Inverbrackie to have their babies. They have little, so we decided to collect baby goods which could be made into care packages for these asylum seeking mum's-to-be.

We spoke at our school assembly and put a note in the school newsletter. Many people donated items for babies as well as some special little treats for the new mums. We were able to make up 12 baby packages. We all helped to make cards which we attached to each package letting the mums know that there was someone thinking of and praying for them and their babies. We presented these packages to Anne to pass on to the mums-to-be at Inverbrackie along with the fabric we collected so that the mums-to-be could do some sewing for the babies.

In term 2 we organised a post card writing campaign across the school. We asked students to write and draw messages of hope on

postcards to be sent to asylum seekers held in off-shore detention centres. Again we want them to know that there are friendly Australians who care about them and welcome them.

In term 3 we worked on making a big banner to hang at school. It said, 'Whitefriars welcomes refugees and asylum seekers' and has been inspired by the banners that many local councils

in Victoria have made and hung from their buildings. We want to be inclusive of all people and this is one way we can show this.

These are some of the things the Junior Josephites are doing at Whitefriars. We are inspired by Mary MacKillop and we believe that we can make a difference in the lives of others.

AND IN 2015

Mary MacKillop Mass

St Joseph's Chapel
4 High St, Kensington

Sunday, 8th February, 2015
2pm

Celebrant: Fr Paul Mullins sj



Fr Paul is a member of the Society of Jesus (a Jesuit) and is currently the Parish Priest of Norwood. He started our Associates programme this year with *The Pope and The Saint* and will again begin our year in 2015.

So, please join us in the chapel for our first event of the new year. Following the Mass, afternoon tea will be provided in the Bethany Centre.

Please RSVP by telephoning Pat Sandretti on 8264 9658 or email us at sa.associates@sosj.org.au by Monday, 2nd February if you are able to join us for this gathering.

Hope to see you there!

Donation to MMI

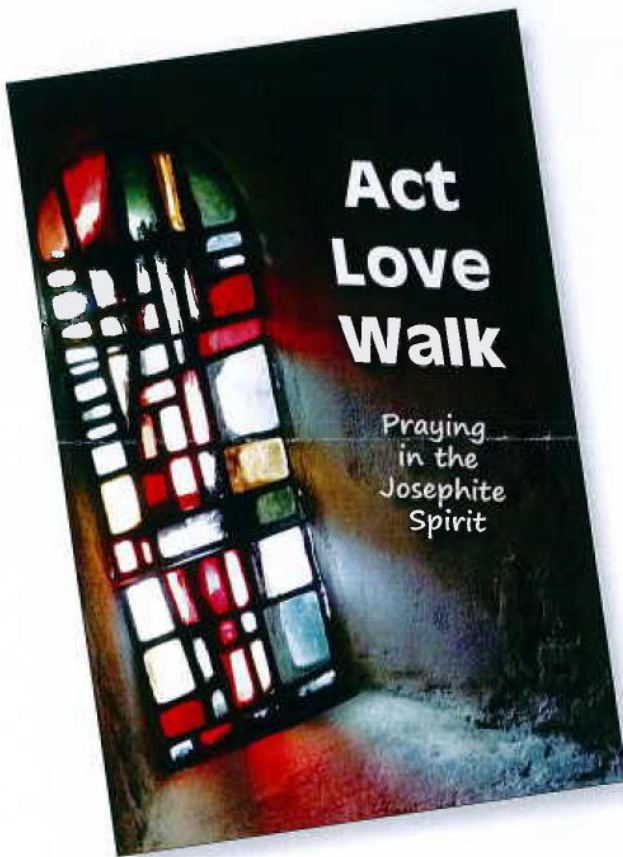
Our fundraising focus in the 2013 – 2014 year was *Mary MacKillop International – East Timor*, and on behalf of all Associates a donation of **\$1,500** was made to the organisation.

This money will go towards education, primarily through their Teacher Training programmes. Teachers travel to Dili to attend a 4-day workshop where they are given information on primary curriculum, lesson planning, classroom management and other key skills. They also receive literacy resources in the local Tetun language.

The average cost of running a 4-day workshop is \$150 per teacher and, through our donation, we are able to sponsor 10 teachers to the workshop.

Many thanks to all Associates for your ongoing generosity to our local, national and international Josephite ministries.

ACT LOVE WALK - Praying in the Josephite Spirit



A book of prayers in the Josephite Spirit designed for use by individuals, schools and business Boards among others.

Divided into four sections - firstly

- Journeying through the year - followed by three sections based on the proclamations of Micah -
- **Act Justly**
- **Love Tenderly**
- **Walk Humbly**

*This is what the Living God asks of you:
only this, to act justly; to love tenderly;
to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

The book is richly illustrated and will make a beautiful gift and be a welcomed addition to any library.

Paperback - 180pp

\$15 Wholesale

\$20 RRP

If you wish to place an order at the wholesale price of \$15 per book, please complete the form below and email to Sandy Leaitua sandy.leaitua@sosj.org.au. An invoice will be sent to you with your order.

PLEASE NOTE
Associates and Sisters can order direct
from Sandy Leaitua at the wholesale price
of \$15 per copy

Order Form

Please forward copies of **ACT, LOVE, WALK - Praying in the Josephite Spirit**

@ \$15 per copy to:

Contact Person

Name of Centre Order #

Address for Delivery.....

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RIP Josephites

We remember with love and gratitude:

- Sr Joan Bunfield who entered eternal life on 20th October, 2014.
Sr Joan was in her 75th year of religious life. She ministered in SA for 43 years as a Primary, Secondary and Music Teacher, Principal and Remedial teacher as well as doing parish pastoral work since 2003.



- Sr Eunice Barry who entered eternal life on 23rd October, 2014.
Sr Eunice worked in the Port Pirie Diocese at Terowie, Port Lincoln, Port Augusta, Peterborough and Jamestown for 37 years in schools as a teacher and chaplain. She was the last Sister of St Joseph in Jamestown.



Even in death Sr Eunice was still giving. This prayer was created by her and shared at her Vigil. It is an adaptation of the Rosary. Here we include the first two decades only:

First Decade

Our Father

1&2 Hail Mary Jesus.

Response: The angel Gabriel visits Mary with God's message.

3&4 Hail Mary Jesus.

Response: Mary responds with a 'Yes' to God. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord."

5&6 Hail Mary Jesus.

Response: Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth.

7&8 Hail Mary Jesus.

Response: Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem.

9&10 Hail Mary Jesus.

Response: Jesus is born in a stable and is visited by the shepherds and wise men.

Glory be to the Father

Second Decade:

Our Father

1&2 Hail Mary Jesus.

Response: Jesus is baptized by John in the River Jordan.

3&4 Hail Mary Jesus.

Response: Jesus calls and instructs his first disciples and works his first miracle at his mother's request.

5&6 Hail Mary Jesus.

Response: Jesus heals the sick, gives sight to the blind and raises the dead to life.

7&8 Hail Mary Jesus.

Response: Jesus forgives sinners and shares a meal with them.

9&10 Hail Mary Jesus.

Response: Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and promises them bread from heaven.

Glory be to the Father



*"I have called you by your name –
you are mine ... for I am God, your
God, your Saviour ... you are
precious in my eyes, and I love you."*

February and March @ the Mary MacKillop Centre

8th of Every Month (St Joseph's Chapel)

- Reflection Time: 5.45 pm
Gain a deeper knowledge of Mary MacKillop's life.
Facilitated by Sr Catherine Clark rsj

SA Josephite Reconciliation Circle (Bethany Centre)

- Dates: Mondays 2nd February & 2nd March
- Time: 6.45 pm – 9.00 pm
- Contact: mary.ryan@sosj.org.au

You are invited to join this group in advocacy and solidarity with Aboriginal/First Nations peoples in SA and nationally.
Presented by Dr Alitya Rigney

Being with Jesus in his Suffering (Bethany Centre)

- Dates: Tuesdays 3rd, 17th, 24th, 31st March
- Time: 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
- Cost: \$80 or \$60 unwaged/concession
- Registration: by Wednesday, 25th February

During Lent renew the story of Jesus' passion and reflect on your own story of suffering.
Presented by Fr Michael Trainor

Open Day (MMK Exhibition Centre)

- Date: Sunday 8th March
- Time: 11.30 am – 3.00 pm
- Cost: Donation appreciated – to the exhibition

On offer will be a 2-hour Walking Tour of the local area, departing at 1.00 pm. Bookings essential.

In the Spirit of Joseph (Bethany Centre)

- Date: Thursday, 19th March
- Time: 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm OR 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm
- Cost: \$10
- Registration: by Friday, 14th March

Reflecting on St Joseph and how he can inspire US in our daily lives.

Presented by Sr Mary Cresp rsj



SA Pilgrimage

Adelaide Plains & Copper Coast

- Date: Sunday, 1st March
- Meet: 8.30 am at the MMK Exhibition Centre
19 Phillips St, Kensington
- Return: 5.30 pm
- Cost: \$85 pp
- BYO: Lunch
- Contact: 08 8364 5311 OR
mackillopkens@adam.com.au

Join a guided pilgrimage to locations which have associations with Mary MacKillop and her early Sisters. Visit Virginia, Balaklava, Port Wakefield, Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta.

**Bookings close
16th February**

FOR REGISTRATIONS OF EVENTS & RETREATS

Phone:
08 8130 5900
Email:
infos@sosj.org.au

Bethany Centre:
4 High Street, Kensington
Street parking only!

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