



Autumn 2015



Issue 1

Introducing our Year ... and Beyond

by Mary Hemmings

As we head forward into this year we are very aware that 2016 will be a significant event for all who are associated with the Sisters of St Joseph. It will be 150 years since Mary MacKillop, in a renovated stable, began the first Josephite school. Mary and Fr Julian Tenison Woods recognised the need for children to have an education as it would provide opportunities that would otherwise be denied them. From that humble beginning Mary and the women who followed in her footsteps have continued Jesus' mission across the length and breadth of Australia and New Zealand and into Peru, East Timor, Scotland and Ireland.

Today we Josephite Associates, who have been touched by this spirit, continue what was begun by Mary and Julian. Just as the Sisters have diversified in their ministries by serving people in so many different fields of life, we too, in our own spheres of influence, have the capacity to share the Gospel with many. Whether we teach in a classroom, provide support to those who are sick or aged, are parents to young children, take care of aging parents, work for the Country Woman's Association or Catholic Women's League or pray daily for the needs of others, we all contribute to Jesus' mission of making

our world a better place. For us, Mary is an inspiration whose example gives us courage and hope and a desire to continue making a difference. Through a kind word or a letter to a Sister struggling in a distant country town and a generosity of spirit towards all, even to those who caused her much pain, Mary shows us that it is in the ordinariness of life that we too can bring love and hope to one another.

This year we would love to hear from you about how we might be able to celebrate 150 years of Josephite spirit and presence in our lives and in our communities. If you would like to celebrate in some way such as bringing together a few people for afternoon tea in your town or having a prayer service to recall and celebrate the work of the Sisters in your area please let us know so that we can support you or at least make known your celebration. If you wish to contact the Leadership Team please do so by email at sa.associates@sosj.org.au or telephone 8355 5365 or write to us at PO Box 57, Kent Town, SA, 5071.

May we who have been inspired by 'one of our own', an ordinary Australian, know that we continue this legacy of 'ordinary Australians' carrying on Jesus' mission.

To our 2015 Jubilarians of the CentreWest Region



60 Years Professed

Srs Mary Keating, Mary Reardon,
Catherine Ross (WA) and Geraldine Stringer

50 Years Professed

Srs Catherine Clark, Margaret Cresp,
Marie Faulkner, Moreen Featherstone,
Meg Goodfellow, Angela Hynes (WA)
and Mary McNamara

25 Years Professed

Sr Julianne Murphy

Fundraising for the SA Catholic Deaf Association – Update

The Quiz Night held last year in November was a great success. On the night **\$2053** was raised with all monies going to the SA Catholic Deaf Association. To all who attended, we are very grateful for your support. Many thanks to our sponsors listed below whose contributions were invaluable. See the photos and read more about the Quiz Night on page 5.

Allegria Restaurant

Eclipse Hairdressers

Mt Carmel College

Cafè Bravo

Frutta Bella

Norwood Hotel

Caffè Buongiorno

Kensington Hotel

Romeo's Retail Group

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*

Other News

- Life Commitment of Luisa Ege will take place during March.
- Srs Catherine Clark and Margaret Lamb rsj now have the Library and Gymnasium at Mary MacKillop College named after them.

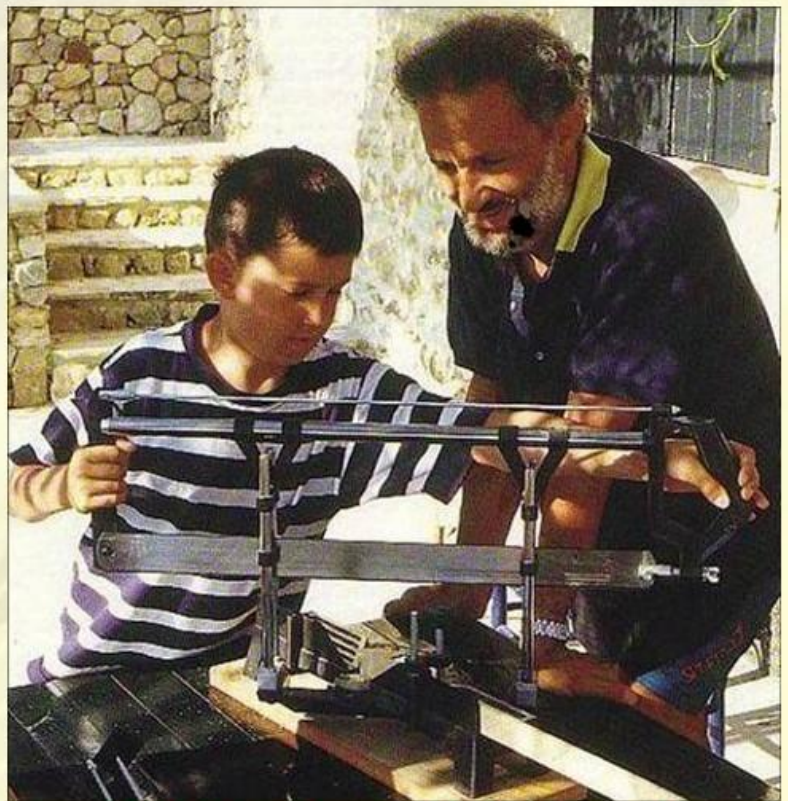
“Please put me on the List”

Would you like to receive the Associate Newsletter by email? It can be done very easily. You would be able to see the photographs in colour and it would also be environmentally friendly. Should you choose to be included on this **secure list** please telephone Carla Mastrangelo on 8351 1575 or email us at sa.associates@sosj.org.au

To all Sisters, Covenant Josephites,
Associates, Companions of St Joseph
and Partners in Mission

*Sister Margaret Cleary
and Leadership Team
invite you to celebrate
the feast of our Patron, St Joseph,*

*with prayer
and light
refreshments
at Bethany
4 High Street
Kensington
2 – 4 pm
Sat. 21 March*



RSVP: Mon. 16 March
Ph. 8130 5900
Email: infos@sosj.org.au

The Penola Connection

by Mary Hemmings



Back L-R: Pauline Kenny and Gwenda Browne
Front L-R: Carol Chislett and Judith Georgeson

Penola is a significant place in our Josephite story. It was here that a seed was planted which has borne much fruit in the spreading of the Gospel over the past 149 years. To quote Mary MacKillop: "Little did we know that so much would grow from such a beginning." Who would have believed that so many people's lives, not just in Australia but across our world, would have been affected by the actions and words of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods who initiated an undertaking in a far flung place in early South Australia.

It was, therefore, a great pleasure for our Leadership Team to be invited by a group of women in the south east to come and be part of a ritual to acknowledge their sense of connectedness to this story. Some time ago Lucia Ciocca and I gathered with several of them to initiate an Associates' group. Last July was a further opportunity to celebrate with these women the spirit of Mary MacKillop that is so very deeply embedded in who they

are. Srs Loreto O'Connor and Sue McGuinness hosted the gathering in their home which is adjacent to Mary MacKillop Park, the site of the stable school where this venture began – such a significant site!

Together we shared a little of each woman's story in relation to the Josephite story. Several of them are involved in the Interpretative Centre in Penola so they are continually sharing their vast knowledge and insights into Mary and Julian's story with the many travellers and pilgrims who pass through the area. Each of them is involved in parish and community life, giving of themselves generously in serving others. Our ritual of enrolment was an opportunity for this group of women to be "formally" connected into our wider Associates group – they who have been "associated" so deeply for so long. Mary and Julian would have delighted in this acknowledgement and I was honoured to gather with the Sisters and Associates on this occasion.

Sr Sue wrote to me of a gathering they had on the 9th of November last year:

The South East Associates gathered at Penola on a Sunday afternoon where we celebrated in prayer the 125th anniversary of the death of Fr Julian Tenison Woods. During this prayer we anointed each other's hands as a sign of our mission as baptised and also as members of the Josephite family whose hearts and hands are in tune with the mission of St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian. We prayed "... that, in the spirit of Mary and Julian, we might be compassionate to human need, tender and strong in our care for one another, and for all God's creation, and faithful to the commitments we have made."

And so we extend a warm 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.

*"Pray that God may direct and that
St Joseph's humble spirit may
guide." MMK, 1898*

Quiz Night

by Laura Kempt

Who knew that the Unicorn was the national animal symbol of Scotland? It turns out no-one assembled for the Quiz Night in support of the SA Catholic Deaf Association on Saturday 15th November 2014 had any idea, despite more than a few confessing to Scottish origins.

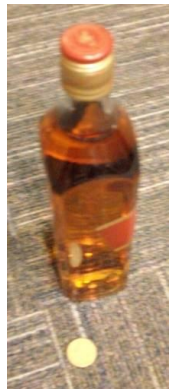
Nonetheless, it was a very robust competition, with no clear winner obvious till near the very end of the night. The undoing of some teams came when the winners of the inter-round questionnaire were released which asked participants to name the logos of South Australian city councils. I wonder if, like me, participants have subsequently found themselves paying much more attention to those innocuous street signs?

With tables groaning under the weight of the varied nibbles participants had brought to share, there was the usual furious whispering, hand-waving and passing of notes as players settled into the first couple of rounds. But as we neared the final rounds, and more corks had been popped, the raucous discussion of answers increased and included some vigorous debating with the presenters. With great mirth, our amiable hostesses for the evening, Sr Majella O'Sullivan rsj and Carla Mastrangelo, held firm to their principles and ably researched questions, not even giving in on a technical medical term, when challenged

by a professional in the room!

To those of you who marvelled at my ability to answer the "WHO AM I?" question after only the first clue, I confess to owning the rather dubious 2006 Kirsten Dunst movie "Marie Antoinette". My investment paid off, with the very welcome opportunity to choose a prize from the well-appointed prize table.

Of course, it couldn't have been a proper Catholic evening without the *Johnny Walker* coin toss, which the better co-ordinated battled out, while the rest of us were having our cuppas, polishing off the remains of our snacks, getting to know people at other tables and scrutinising the score board. We finished the evening reminiscing about debated answers and where we might have made up points, if only we'd had the confidence to stick to our gut instincts and not allowed ourselves to be swayed by a more convincing table member. As we exited the warm ambiance of the Bethany Centre at Kensington to the continued damp weather, we marvelled at the unusual and certainly unexpected variety of questions and the convivial atmosphere leading to considerably richer grey matter and a welcome surge of happy endorphins.



"May God grant you courage and
true wisdom in all you do and say."
MMK, 1875

Mary MacKillop Mass

by Carla Mastrangelo



Our first event on the Associate calendar this year was to honour and celebrate the life of Mary MacKillop. On the 8th of February, we were blessed to have Fr Paul Mullins sj lead our celebration with Mass in St Joseph's Chapel, Kensington. The readings were those of the day and the Gospel was about the *Healing Jesus* and His wish to spread the *good news* to as many people in as many places as possible. Jesus also wished to have time for daily prayer in the busyness of His vocation. We too can take this example of Jesus and, in the busyness of our lives, endeavour to make time for prayer each day.



'Suffering' was the theme of Fr Paul's homily. It was based on a reading of Job and his suffering. Job, as we often do, asked God "Why me?" I don't think Job got the answer he was looking for but, as so often happens, God gives us the answer we need which is not necessarily the answer we want at the time.

The prayers of intercession were based on the *International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking*. Pope Francis, who personally supports this day, once wrote:

Trafficking in persons is a crime against humanity. We must join forces to free the victims and stop this crime which is increasingly aggressive, that threatens, in addition to individuals, the founding values of society and also security and international justice, as well as the economy, the family structure and social life.

At the end of Mass we headed for the Bethany Centre where we enjoyed afternoon tea. It was a great occasion to catch up with others.

† † † TOGETHER LET'S PRAY EACH DAY † † †

Many of our Associates are wonderful pray-ers. Together we can be a powerhouse of prayer. We encourage all Associates to join together each day for these intentions. To help you remember, you will notice each intention matches the first letter of each day of the week. For example, *F* is for *F*riday and *F*amilies.

Day	Intention
Sunday	Seekers of Asylum
<i>M</i> onday	<i>M</i> inistry of Sisters & Associates
<i>T</i> uesday	<i>T</i> he Homeless
<i>W</i> ednesday	<i>W</i> orld Peace
<i>T</i> hursday	<i>T</i> hose Living with Domestic Violence
<i>F</i> riday	<i>F</i> amilies
<i>S</i> aturday	<i>S</i> ick & Aged

ST JOSEPH AND MARY MACKILLOP

Responding to the Will of God in the circumstances of daily life

Reflection

St Joseph and Mary MacKillop both had their lives changed by circumstances outside their own control and choice. We often explain their reaction to their plans being altered as their acceptance of the Will of God.

This has led to an interpretation of 'seeking the Will of God' as trying to identify 'how God is acting' rather than seeing the Will of God in terms of 'how I am acting'.

As once we accept that *God is Love* then whatever circumstances we meet in life, our response is to act as God would act, and that is with love.

Hence, doing the Will of God is acting as God would act in response to any circumstances that come our way in life.

Doing the 'Will of God' is then not so much about how God is acting as about how I am acting.

**Doing the Will of God is to act as God would act in our person.
It is being in tune with the God of Love in all our responses to
the circumstances in which we live.**

- *How have I made God's Will come to life in the world today?*
- *How do I play an active part in the coming of the Messiah today?*
- *Where do I see God's action come to life because of human actions today?*
- *To what special action/charism am I called as a follower of St Joseph and Mary MacKillop?*

Prayer

God says "I am the Bread of Life."

Nourishing God, feed us that we may play a part in feeding the hungry.

God says "I am the Light of the World."

Illuminating God, shine through us to bring some light into the dark places of the world.

God says "I am the Good Shepherd."

Helpful God, keep us mindful of the ones we should be shepherding in our neck of the woods.

God says "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

Nurturing God, raise us up to live for others and for you.

God says "I am the Way, the Truth and the Light."

Honourable God, help us to step out on your way, to take the risk of relying on your truth and to live the Jesus-life.

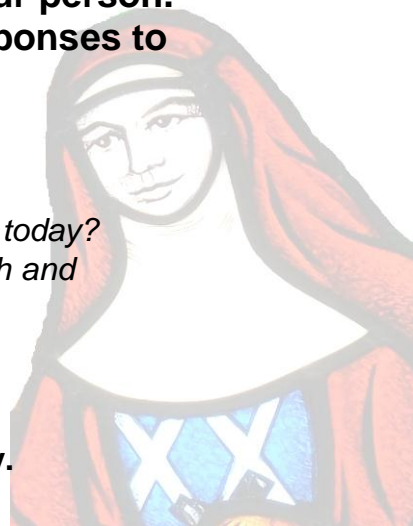
God says "I am the True Vine, you are the branches."

Faithful God, together we will bear fruit.

May we act:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

Adapted from the March Reflection by Sr Catherine Clark rsj. Used with permission.



***Wishing all Associates, together with your families and friends,
a very HAPPY and BLESSED EASTER***

April, May, June @ the Mary MacKillop Centre

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

- Mass: 10.30 am
(except June – public holiday)
Followed by morning tea in the Bethany Centre.
- Reflection: 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 6th April, 4th May & 1st June
- 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

Open Days (MMK Exhibition Centre)

- Dates: Wed 8th April & Fri 8th May
- Time: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
- Cost: Donation appreciated – to the exhibition

Also, there will be one or more 2-hour Walking Tours of the local area during SA History Month in May. Dates TBA.

The Holy Spirit: Giver of Life! (Bethany Centre)

- Date: Saturday 16th May
- Time: 9.30 am – 1.00 pm
- Cost: Donation appreciated
- Registration: by Friday 8th May

Come and explore the theology of the Holy Spirit and the meaning of the Spirit for us – as the breath of life, the life-giver.

Understanding the Enneagram (Bethany Centre)

- Date: Saturday 30th May
- Time: 9.30 am – 3.00 pm
- Cost: \$50 or \$35 unwaged/concession
- Registration: by Friday 22nd May

A chance to deepen your understanding of this tool.

Presented by Sr Lyndall Brown rsj



6 Day Directed Retreat #2

By the Sea, Sands and Sunsets of Largs Bay

- Date: 21st – 28th June
- Time: commencing 6.00 pm on the first day with evening meal
- Place: St Joseph's Retreat Centre, Largs Bay
- Cost: \$450

An invitation to rest and be attentive to the Presence of God in your life...

A companion and guide will be with you each day... a vacation with God!

Facilitated by Srs Eileen Taylor and Gen Ryan rsj

**Applications close
29th May**

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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