

Seasonal News...

Spring Edition – September, 2015



Welcome to the Spring Edition of *Seasonal News*.

Thank you for the special contributions to our Associate Newsletter and for the positive feedback we have received in relation to our first edition.

In this edition we have introduced a *Celebration Wall* for Associates and friends to express in a word or short statement, sentiments around “What Mary MacKillop and/or August 8 means to them personally.”

We have also included an excerpt from Pope Francis’ encyclical letter *Laudato Si - On Care For our Common Home* (25 May, 2015), which has been called an “eco-encyclical” by some.

For those of us who are into numbers, Spring commences 23 days after we celebrate the feast day of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop (8 August) and 36 days before we commemorate the death of Fr. Julian Tenison Woods (7 October) . Mary’s baby brother Alick passed away also on 7 October, 42 years earlier.



Used with permission: Alice Mabbutt taking a selfie with Mary MacKillop’s statue, Sydney

For the “young at heart” spring fever sets in with an increase in energy, vitality and a willingness to delight in the lingering sunshine. We are inclined to take time to become re-encharmed with the wonder and blessings of our everyday lives as beauty, new life and freshness burst forth around us. Others seem to take a bit longer to farewell feelings of sluggishness befriended during Winter.

For dreamers and poets, Spring is a time of inspiration and engaging with the richness and sacredness of nature. Gerard Manley Hopkins touches on this sense in his poem “*Spring*” .

For Associates, committed to living a daily option for *Friendship, Prayer and Service*, Spring might also be a time for creating fresh possibilities for the renewal of our soul. As we go about our ordinary spring cleaning tasks, even the smell of our “Spring Fresh” Fabric Softener can prompt our hearts to sing when we factor in time for a Spiritual Spring Clean as well.



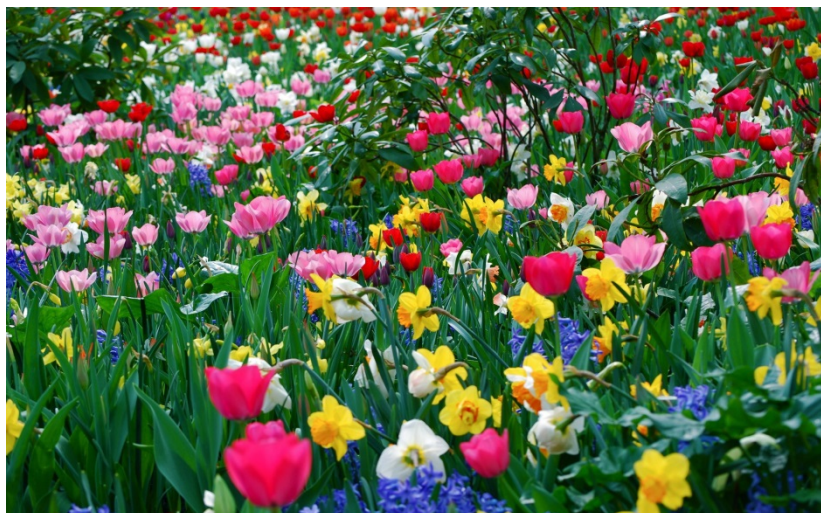
*“Arise my beloved fair one and come away;
for now the winter is past ,the rain is over and gone
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom;
They give forth fragrance.”
(Song of Solomon 2: 10-13 (NRSV)*

When we see the multi- coloured pots and beds of flowers appear in gardens at springtime, we may notice that some have been planted methodically and others have been prepared by gardeners who have not

adhered to the colouring within the lines. Either way, an impressive flush of colour is created, albeit a seasonal and relatively short-lived one.



A more ordered garden



Colouring outside the lines

It might seem that Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods sometimes made choices and decisions that involved colouring outside the lines, as they opened their hearts to respond to God's vision, plan and design for them. While certain "springlike" phases in their lives were quite short-lived in terms of having a "dream run", their charisma and influence has had a lasting, far-reaching impact

across time and place. In his address at the *Commemoration of Julian Tension Woods Park, Penola, 23 May 2010*, Fr. Frank Brennan SJ mentions the impact Fr Julian Tenison Woods had on his great-grandfather and family living in Maryborough in 1881 and also acknowledges "his concern for the plight of indigenous Australians and new migrants in remoter parts of Australia". The complete address may be accessed at:

www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=21500

For all the showiness and sparkle that is typical of springtime, there is something special and sacred about the deeply internal and time sensitive process for the "becoming" of buds and babies and birds singing their praise. *Laudato Si'mi' Signore!* "Praise be to you, my Lord."

As we journey ahead together may we listen to our "inner sensing", truly blossom and "be aware of our leaning toward the Divine and follow what is being called forth in the depths of ourselves." (Joyce Rupp, *Out of the Ordinary*, p 216).

Warm and prayerful wishes,

- The Associate Transition Committee

*P*rayers /Happenings

At this time of the year, our minds and hearts turn to the celebration of the 'World Day of Migrants and Refugees' on the weekend of the 30 August 2015. We are constantly reminded of the plight of refugees in our daily newspapers and Television reports. This Sunday, 30 August, we are asked to reflect on the theme

set by Pope Francis for this year – *Church without frontiers, Mother to all*. There is a link to material on the website which you might find useful for reflection at this time - <http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au>

The prayer for the Spring Newsletter is centred round this theme. Perhaps the following will provide some food for thought

Ezekiel 11:19-21

And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be there God.

Leviticus 19:34

The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

Matthew 5:7

Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy

Colossians 3:12

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience.

From Pope Francis, 8 July 2013

We have lost the sense of fraternal responsibility; we have fallen into the hypocritical attitude of the priest and of the servant of the altar that Jesus speaks about in the parable of the Good Samaritan: We look upon the brother/sister half dead by the roadside, perhaps we think 'Poor guy', and we continue on our way, it's none of our business; and we feel fine with this. We feel at peace with this, we feel fine! The culture of well-being, that makes us think of ourselves, that makes us insensitive to the cries of others, that makes us live in soap bubbles, they are beautiful but are nothing, are illusions of futility, of the transient, that bring indifference to others, that bring even the globalization of indifference. In this world of globalization we have fallen into a globalization of indifference. We are accustomed to the suffering of others, it doesn't concern us, it's none of our business.

Prayer

Loving and merciful Jesus
Come dwell in our hearts
So that we may love as you love,
So that our mercy and compassion might be as abundant as yours.
Soften our hearts
So that we may never be indifferent to the plight of others
Especially those forced to flee persecution and violence.
Make our hearts like yours
So that all may know of God's wondrous and boundless love.
Amen.

PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH (Pope Francis in Laudato Si')

All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing; to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

EDUCATION

We have taken pages 8 and 9 of the Handbook for our reflection during this Spring season
FROM QUESTION TO COMMITMENT

Who can become a Josephite Associate?

Anyone who is drawn to the spirit of Mary MacKillop

What happens if I accept this invitation?

You will have opportunities to learn more about Mary MacKillop and the Josephite Associates. You will receive the Newsletter which is published four times a year and includes a prayer sheet. You will have the Handbook as a personal resource.

Can I formalise my commitment?

Yes. At an appropriate time you can request or be invited to formalise your commitment to live the charism of Mary MacKillop and become a Member of the Josephite Associates

How will this happen?

There will be a ritual which will focus on prayer together and the presentation of the Associate badge and certificate. When Josephite Associates make a formalised response to live the charism of Mary MacKillop, they receive a badge to wear as an external symbol of the commitment they have made.

The Josephite Associates' badge incorporates elements of the Sisters' emblem..... the Cross, the monogram of Mary, the Js for Joseph and John the Baptist, the water symbolic of Christian Baptism and the Candle for the Risen Christ, Light of the World

ACTION IN LOCAL AREAS

NEWS FROM CAIRNS

We had our first Prayer Session on 12 June in the Prayer Room at Mercy Care Retirement Village Coral Sea Gardens. Due to heavy rain in February we had to cancel our first Gathering. We had a good attendance and enjoyed sharing morning tea in the lovely comfortable tea room.

As Associates we are excited at the news of a new college opening here in Cairns. The MacKillop Catholic College Mt Peter will be P-12 commencing with P-3 in the new year 2016. As a group we are now praying for the new Principal and for enrolments. We invite others to pray with us and hope that the spirit of St Mary MacKillop will grow strong in our community. A website has now been set up. Our next gathering is 12th September. Perhaps you might like to look at the website for MacKillop Catholic College Cairns

<http://www.mackillopcatholiccollege.qld.edu.au/>

FROM THE MOOROOKA GATHERING

I had a delightful morning last week with the group of Associates who meet on the southside of Brisbane at Yeerongpilly. This is a group very committed to living the charism of Mary MacKillop and the motto of the Associates – Prayer, Friendship and Service. It was a very joyful gathering beginning with a presentation by Murri Ministry – Ravina Waldren and Kay McPadden rsj – of their work in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Much is happening in this ministry.

I was given the opportunity to speak with the Associates about the changes that are coming as part of ensuring the sustainability of the movement into the future. I have been asked, with a group of Associates, to companion the Associates as they move into a different future. The following are the members of this Transition Committee – Marie Sellin, Bernadette Roche, Janette Dobson, Pauline McGuire, Erin Jones and myself. We have had one face-to-face meeting and a number of teleconferences.

It was a good opportunity as the Brisbane southside group gathered to update contact details so that each can receive further information.

Of course, at a meeting of Associates, there is always a ‘cuppa’ and plenty of goodies to eat and much sharing and laughter. It was a good ‘catch up’ on the news. It is with deep sadness that this group farewells Mary McKew who died last week. Mary has been a staunch supporter of the Associates and participated in many of the Mary MacKillop Pilgrimages over many years.

Moya Campbell rsj

HISTORY OF THIS SOUTHSIDE GROUP

SOUTH OF THE RIVER ASSOCIATE GROUP (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS MOOROOKA GROUP)

What a privilege to be writing this piece on behalf of the ‘SOUTH OF THE RIVER’ Associates Group but formerly known as the Moorooka Associates. When I offered to write this for the ladies and men of Moorooka, I thought it best to do some research first! What a wonderful treasure trove to unfold!

These wonderful ladies and their husbands certainly walk in the ‘footsteps of Mary MacKillop and are totally devoted to her Charism and each of them lives this out in their daily lives.

Many of the writings of Mary MacKillop are alive and well within this group!

Never see a need without doing something about it

Let God guide you in all your ways

Let us really love one another

God will provide for the future

So great is the strength we possess in our unity

God will protect and work with us

These are just a few sayings of Mary which have become important to this group

The first Sister of St Joseph arrived in Moorooka around Easter time in 1929 to provide Catholic Education in Moorooka. They travelled each day from Mary Immaculate Annerley. In the years following, the Parishioners of St Brendan’s Moorooka built a Convent for the Sisters to live in, which was opened in 1932. Subsequently, the Sisters moved into the Convent which became home to many Sisters up until this year, 2015. At one time it was home to 17 Sisters, including Sr Joan Finucane who became the Coordinator of the Associates in Queensland and held this Office for approximately 26 years. Also during this time and for a number of years, a wonderful Associate, Glenda Milne lived at the Convent ministering to the people and Parish as well. Sr

Denise Brosnan the last Sister of St Joseph to live in the Convent moved out in July and was farewelled at a Mass at St Brendan's Catholic Church on Saturday August 1 2015. At this gathering, all the Sisters and people who had lived at Moorooka and Salisbury were remembered and included as well. The Convent closed officially on August 1, 2015.

The Moorooka Associates was originally formed prior to 1980 by Sr Gemma MacGilvery. Sr Gemma wanted to retire to Moorooka and commenced this group so that people would be able to come together in the Spirit of Mary MacKillop and follow her Charism. Sr Gemma also commenced a group at Sunnybank but because the Sunnybank numbers were so few, they combined with the Moorooka Group, meeting in the Convent at Moorooka for Prayer, Friendship, Support. They sought the 'need' within the Community in which they lived and provided Service to the Community and its people whatever their race, colour, financial situation, creed, religion. People from Annerley, Salisbury and Yeronga were also included in these gatherings.

This group of Associates continued to grow and prosper. All who came into this group threw themselves into everything with great gusto and determination. They gave their time freely, baked and distributed food, clothing, furniture – even money where needed. There was never a need that was too big or too small for them to tackle – and tackle they all did – full on and with much camaraderie!!

Many of the Associates have completed the National Pilgrimage "In The Footsteps of Mary". One Associate, Mary McKew (RIP 10/8/2015), has completed this journey 12 times!! That surely must be a record! A little bird also tells me that Sr Genevieve Carroll as the Queensland Coordinator, has completed 17 trips with 2015 being her 18th Pilgrimage. Is that a record for a Religious Sister of St Joseph!!

The Associates, up until this current year, have been meeting in the Meeting Rooms under St Brendan's Church four times per year. Each meeting commences with a time of Prayer, Reflection, Sharing and Song. This is followed by time to share, talk and mingle together. During this time everyone is treated to morning tea and/or lunch which is provided by the incumbent organisers at the time with many of the attendees bringing along wonderful 'home baked' goodies as well. While all of this is happening many of the needs of the community are identified and ideas on how best to meet these needs are decided upon. Cards, such as 'Get Well', 'Sympathy', 'Thinking of You', etc., are on the table for all to sign and these are then posted to the appropriate people. There is always a 'donation bowl' on the table and by the end of the gathering, these wonderful people have donated much. This money is now being donated to various ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The opening meeting to greet the year is generally held on 2 February. The next, in early May around Mother's Day and celebrates all women. The 3rd is in August to celebrate the Feast of Mary MacKillop and the 4th in November closes the year with a wonderful Christmas lunch complete with Santa and gifts. This final gathering also commemorates the Birth of the Christ Jesus, a fitting end to a wonderful year of Prayer, Service and Friendship.

This long time Group of Associates, a number of whom were there at the beginning and are still attending this group, are an amazing group of people whom Mary MacKillop would be proud of as they live our her spirit. The original members still with us today are Jean White, Aileen Baker and Noela McGee.

My sincere thanks to Jean White an original member, Mary MacKew (RIP) and the many ladies and Sisters who have provided me with the information to write this piece, but especially for trusting me to do so. Long live the South of the River Group!

Linda Schostakowski – on behalf the Group

CELEBRATIONS

NUNDAH GATHERING

This was another occasion when the Associates were invited to come together here at Nundah as we celebrated Mary MacKillop Day. As always, there was a great spirit of welcome and hospitality at Nundah as Associates and Sisters shared together.

THE WALL OF MEMORY



EVENTS

Josephite Associates Townsville, Feast Day Celebrations.

The annual Mary MacKillop Family Fair was held on Sunday 9th August. The fair is celebrated every year around the Feast Day of Mary MacKillop (8 August). It is a collaborative effort between the 3 Mary

MacKillop Childcare Centres (Mundingburra/Kirwan/Rasmussen), St Joseph's Catholic School Mundingburra, St Margaret Mary's College and several parishes.

The day is designed to provide affordable entertainment for families, youth and the elderly. This year was a great success with many stalls including cake, preserves, plant, rumble, clothing, craft, books, candles and much more. There were rides for kids of all ages, as well as the Lions Club of Townsville providing a great sausage sizzle. We also included this year, our inaugural Fr Peter Quilty Flower Show. The flower show was a roaring success, attracting many exhibitors and participants from across the diocese including members from other churches - it proved to be quite Ecumenical.

A great day was had by all and we are very grateful for all the support we received to help make it a successful event. Planning for next year's event is underway already.

Josephite Associates Townsville New Venture.

Late July saw us meet with Sr Chris Symonds and Sr Margaret Robertson regarding a new venture. The Townsville Associates are assisting the prison chaplains of Townsville to introduce Mary MacKillop Kit Bags to the Townsville Prison. These bags are given to prisoners on their release. They contain simple items such as toiletries, phone card, pad, pen, toothbrush etc. It is hoped these bags assist the prisoners during the first 72 hours of their release. The Associates and chaplains have joined forces with St Margaret Mary's College and 50 bags are now ready for distribution. It is hoped in the next few weeks that we may obtain assistance from some other interested groups which will allow us to assemble the bags on a larger scale... Watch this space!!.



SYDNEY GATHERING

All this is happening in connection with what other Associates are moving to in other States. The Congregational Leadership Team has provided an opportunity in October this year for representatives of the Associate groups from the States to come together. We are hopeful that all the members of our Queensland Transition Committee will be able to attend this Conference.

OTHER GATHERINGS

It is my intention, and as my ministry permits, to visit as many of the groups around Queensland when they meet over the next few months. Those from the Transition Committee will be in touch with local groups so that a get-together can be organized to further discuss the changes that will happen

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this Seasonal Newsletter. We are inviting any Associate who would like to make a contribution to the Newsletter to do so.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Contributions for our Summer Newsletter are due on the 10 November 2015. This will be our final edition for 2015