

# Joseph's Journal

March 2016

## One Hundred and Fifty Years of Josephite Life and Ministry

by Mary Hemmings

In Penola on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1866 a young 24 year old woman donned a black dress and called herself "Sr Mary". This was the beginning of a remarkable story in which so many of us have been entwined.

Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods together dreamed of making a difference to the lives of children in this remote part of Australia. They believed that education would 'open doors' for those who had few opportunities. This dream became a reality, not just for the children of Penola but for thousands in Australia, New Zealand and beyond. Today, schools continuing in the Josephite tradition of enabling children to learn and grow and make a difference, keep alive the vision of Mary and Julian.

Not only has it been children whose lives have benefitted from this dream. Bringing the Good News of God's love and compassion and acceptance of all was the gift which Mary and her Sisters took to the prisons, the streets, the schools and beyond.

One hundred and fifty years later, what significance does this hold for us? What is it we are celebrating? How do we continue the legacy that has been passed on to us?

Mary becomes an inspiration for us because

she was so faithful to her God. Throughout her life Mary's words and actions continually reflected the values which Jesus taught us. Her life epitomised the commandments as given to us by him: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" and "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Mary's love and compassion were evident in all of her interactions with people. Even to those who challenged her greatly, she still extended respect and care. She gave from all that she had in order that others might have. Her integrity in her dealings with others, be they bishops who challenged her, or the prisoner about to face death by hanging, or the orphan at Kincumber who asked for her, provides us with the encouragement to strive to follow in her footsteps because she followed in the footsteps of Jesus. Indeed, in this Year of Mercy which Pope Francis has proclaimed, Mary's life provides us with inspiration to be merciful, that is, forgiving and compassionate and understanding, just as Jesus asks of us.

May we who have been touched by the story of Mary, and by the lives of the Sisters and others who have shared the Josephite spirit, continue to be inspired to make a difference in



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our communities through our presence and in our words and actions.

We are delighted that groups and individuals are planning to have Morning or Afternoon Tea in honour of Mary and Julian's story. We also know that Srs Helen and Kateri Duke are presenting prayer days for women in several of our rural areas where the Josephites have ministered in the past. These will be wonderful opportunities to gather and remember and be renewed in your lives and ministries. Please feel very welcome to participate in these. Further details are on page 5.

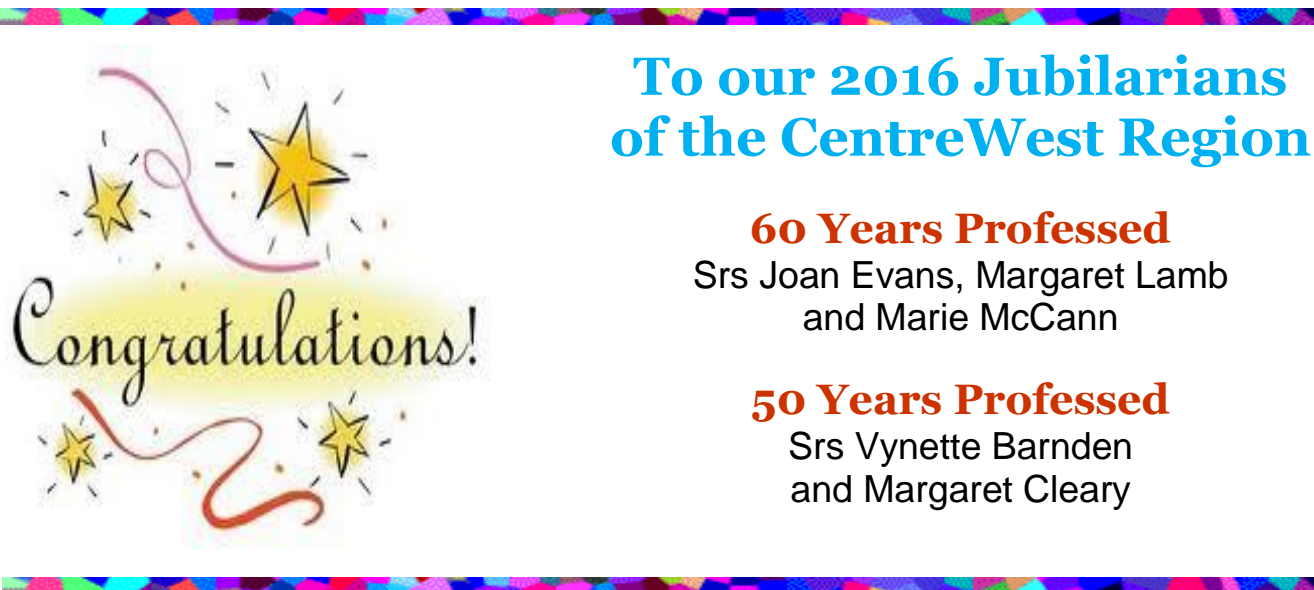
Mass will be celebrated at St Ignatius Church,

Norwood on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 11am for anyone who is able to gather with the Sisters and friends of the Josephites. Morning Tea will follow.

We look forward to hearing from any of our Associates about how you may be marking this significant year in our Australian history. Please email [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au) or write to SA Associates at PO Box 57, Kent Town 5071 or call myself on 8355 5365 or Carla Mastrangelo on 8351 1575 to share any of your events.

**Happy Sesquicentenary Year!**

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## To our 2016 Jubilarians of the CentreWest Region

### 60 Years Professed

Srs Joan Evans, Margaret Lamb and Marie McCann

### 50 Years Professed

Srs Vynette Barnden and Margaret Cleary

## Life Commitment as a Sister of St Joseph

Congratulations to Gail Leslie who celebrated her Life Commitment in St Joseph's Chapel on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

## First Profession as a Sister of St Joseph

Congratulations also to Denise MacKay who celebrated her First Profession in North Sydney on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

## RIP Josephite

*We remember with love and gratitude:*

Sr Maria Goretti Greenslade who entered eternal life on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015.



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

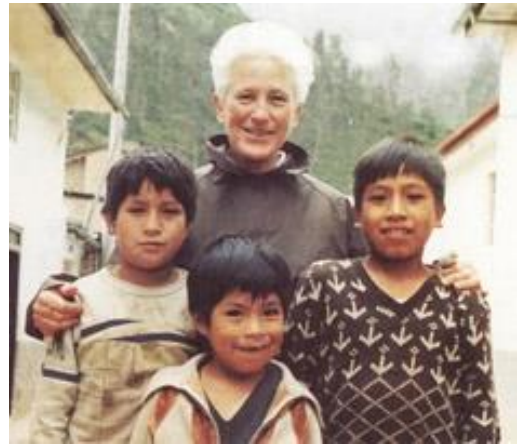
# Remembering *Sr Irene McCormack rsj*

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Bethany

4 High St, Kensington

7pm



Associates and friends are invited to support this event which is being organised by the SA Sesquicentenary Committee and appears in the schedule on **page 5**. It will consist of a liturgy followed by a cuppa.

Irene McCormack was a Sister of St Joseph. In 1987, after many years of teaching, she went to Peru as a missionary to 'serve the poor'. On 21<sup>st</sup> May 1991 she was executed in Huasahuasi by Sendero Luminoso, a terrorist group.

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death and you are invited to come and join the Sisters and friends in celebrating her life.



*Josephite  
Associates*

Making a Difference Across the World:  
Australia – New Zealand – Peru – East Timor

Women and men following in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop.  
Do you know someone who is asking *What is an Associate?*  
Come – bring a friend (or two).  
*Re-ignite the flame!*

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Bethany

4 High St

Kensington

2pm



For more information and to RSVP (by Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June) please telephone Mary Hemmings on 8355 5365 or email [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au).

# Mass & Morning Tea

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016

The Most Holy Redeemer Church

Murray Bridge

9am



The Murray Bridge Josephite Associates would like to invite you to the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of St Joseph by Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods in Penola on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1866.

To celebrate this momentous occasion we are hosting a Parish Mass followed by morning tea.

We wish to invite all Sisters of St Joseph, especially those who have ministered in the Murray Bridge Parish and surrounding communities, as well as fellow Associates and past and present parishioners. All are most welcome to join this celebration.

RSVP (if convenient) to Jan Howard 8532 4277 or to Yvonne Slattery 8531 0344.



## Postponement of the Mary MacKillop Museum Launch

Due to circumstances beyond the control of organizers and acting on advice, the re-opening of the Museum and the launch of the new exhibition have been deferred until further notice. This means the launch on 3<sup>rd</sup> June will not go ahead. See below for other changes.

## Mary MacKillop Centre Adelaide 2016 Brochure

Included with this newsletter (by post or email) is the brochure which has a new look and a diverse range of activities on offer. However, there are a few changes to note:

★ Since the launch of the Mary MacKillop Museum has been delayed the following 3 events have been **cancelled**:

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> June – Invitation to the general public to view the new exhibition

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> July – Professional development day for teachers

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> August – Professional development day for teachers

★ Also, because of a clash with Sr Nancy Schreck's day for Religious at the Morphetville Hotel on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March, Fr Michael Trainor's morning on the *God of Mercy in Luke's Gospel* has been **changed** to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May.



## “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 and pictures 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](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au)

## 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*



# Sesquicentenary Schedule (SA)

Celebrations hosted in SA

## RURAL WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER

Presented by the Sisters of St Joseph in gratitude to the women of your community and surrounding areas, for the support, continuing loyalty and friendship over so many years.

The day is open to **ALL** women of the district and surrounding areas. Registration is necessary.

TOWN	DATE	CONTACT (registration/venue/lunch)
Orroroo	5 <sup>th</sup> April	C Reddaway (0488 179 352)
Quorn	6 <sup>th</sup> April	G Davis (0418 447 020)
Peterborough	7 <sup>th</sup> April	J Malycha (8651 2356)
Wallaroo	10 <sup>th</sup> May	Sr Shirley (0402 351 575)
Warooka	11 <sup>th</sup> May	S Williams (7324 2485)
Kapunda	12 <sup>th</sup> May	Rev B Messner (0407 397 711)
Barmera	16 <sup>th</sup> May	L Stavrou (8588 1929)
Pinnaroo	17 <sup>th</sup> May	R O'Driscoll (0417 437 148)
Kangaroo Island	28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> May	K Hammet (0437 828 750)

There is no cost involved. For outdoor venues bring a chair. Morning tea is provided. Feel free to bring your journal, iPad and camera for the day. RSVP is required one week before.

For more information contact Sr Helen Duke rsj on 0438 800 788.

## OTHER EVENTS

DAY & DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am 12.00pm 2.00pm	Mass Luncheon Opening: Cameron Homestead	Penola
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am 12.00pm	Mass Luncheon	Penola
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00pm	Remembering Sr Irene McCormack rsj	4 High St, Kensington
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> June	11.00am After Mass After Mass	Public Mass Walk through Chapel Luncheon	St Ignatius Church, Norwood Kensington Mary MacKillop College
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> August	12.00pm	Mass for Diocese	Pt Augusta
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> August	9.00am TBA TBA	Prayer & Meeting Students Sisters visit Sr Laurentia's grave Mass	Caritas College, Pt Augusta Stirling Cemetery Wilmington
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept to Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Artfest Display: artworks by the Sisters of St Joseph in honour of Fr Julian Tenison Woods	Different Centres

## SA ASSOCIATES

Josephite Associates will run a series of Morning/Afternoon cuppas in local areas to which they may invite Sisters who have served in the parish. Monies raised will go towards a local Josephite ministry or our focus ministry which this year is Sr Pat Sealey's Refugee Support ministry.

# *An Afternoon in the Franklin Street Chapel* by Margaret Emery



To witness being in the Franklin Street Chapel on 6<sup>th</sup> February this year (for some it was the first time), and revisiting where Mary MacKillop was excommunicated – in this very same place where we were – was a powerful and spiritual experience!

Sr Pat Keane rsj 'covered a lot of territory' in her informative and interesting presentation. Mary MacKillop and her Sisters "having to move house" so many times – Grote Street, then the corner of West Terrace and Franklin Street, Gouger Street, northern side of Franklin Street, corner of Grey and Franklin Street, Flinders Street; all of these places in the vicinity of where we were gathered. They encountered so many hardships and trials during this time, but they soldiered on with patience and trust.

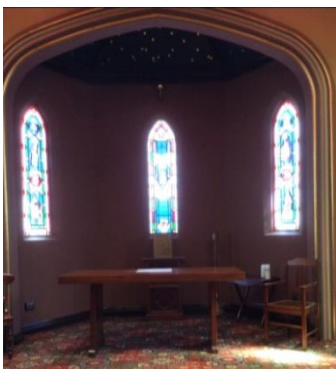
We were able to visualize 'being there' on the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1871: we watch as Bishop Sheil and the Priests enter the Chapel. The Bishop had been given misleading and false information about the Josephites, so what was he going to do and say? Here comes Sr Mary. What must she be feeling? Her Sisters follow. We sit in disbelief as Bishop Sheil pronounces the sentence of excommunication saying, "You are now Mary MacKillop, free to return to the world, a large portion of the wickedness of which you have, I fear, brought with you into this Institute." Hear the shrieking sound of one of the Sisters on hearing these words. Thankfully, Sr Pat gave us some quiet time to help us reflect and pray. Mary wrote to

Fr Woods telling him she was "... intensely happy ... felt the calm, beautiful presence of God ... felt nearer to God than I had ever felt before ... don't you see the protecting and beautiful hand of God in all that is happening?" What faith – her sacrifice and dedication to Christ: her trust, courage, patience, integrity and loyalty. The sentence of excommunication was removed just over five months later on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1872. Let us pray for these same gifts in our lives, especially when we are faced with difficulties.

The Josephite Story could have ended on that day of Mary's excommunication but thankfully it didn't. Her legacy to us, 150 years later, does live on as shown by the work of Sr Pat Sealey rsj who gave a brief outline of her work with Refugees and before that the Aboriginal community. We were privileged to have Mohammad and Kanga share their personal stories of hardships and trials they and their families encountered in Pakistan and Africa respectively, before and on their way coming to Australia and both thanked Sr Pat for the influence, love and support she had given them in adapting to their new country. We continue to keep them in our prayers.

The afternoon finished with a 'cuppa' where the conversation continued on how blessed we were to be in the same Chapel and also the way this remarkable Saint continues to touch and influence all of us in so many ways.

A huge thank you to all the organizers and presenters.



Inside the Chapel facing the front



Sr Pat Keane, Mary and Anna at the entrance



Mohammad, Sr Pat Sealey and Kanga



Enjoying a cuppa

# *A Christmas 'Adventure'* by Julie Langman



With another year passing so quickly it was once again December and all Associates were invited to attend a gathering with friends to celebrate Christmas with a variety of activities. Over 40 Associates from Adelaide to Murray Bridge and Wallaroo meandered through a varied programme designed and delivered by Majella O'Sullivan rsj.

Our knowledge was tested with Christmas Bible facts, such as, how many wise men are mentioned in the Bible? Answer: no mention is made of any number. We were presented with a sheet containing the phrase 'Merry Christmas' written in about 20 different languages. To help us the country's flag was adjacent each phrase. Many of us did very well recognising the written word or the flag. However, one young man was brilliant, getting nearly all correct. We played Christmas bingo and had a Christmas word search. Some

talented people participated in singing carols in different languages. These *Christmassy* activities were very well received and, as always, we enjoyed heartily singing Christmas Carols accompanied by Kathryn on the flute and Mary on the piano.

In the spirit of giving, we were all asked to bring along Christmas bonbons. These crackers, which were stacked into a substantially sized pyramid, were later donated to different Vinnies Christmas Hampers – some directly through Vinnies and some through Associates' Parish Christmas Hampers.

It was a delightfully peaceful afternoon of friendship and prayer. We nourished our soul as well as our body when we capped off the afternoon with a delightful 'cuppa'.

Thank you Majella for your organization, energy and cheery leadership.



## **Josephite Associates of the South East** by Sr Sue McGuinness rsj

Our group met at Penola last November and included members from Mt Gambier, Millicent and Penola. Our prayer reflection focussed on the spirituality of Fr Julian Tenison Woods who described his time out in the Bush as a "... *most delightful employment*" which invited him to study "*God's unpublished works of nature.*" We noted that Fr Julian's spirituality is very relevant to today's world and its message is not unlike that of Pope Francis in *Laudate Si*.

Many of the images used during the reflection were taken from the natural environment around Penola which Fr Julian described in his writings in intimate detail. The Scripture was from the first letter to St Peter (3:8–15), chosen by Fr Julian in Adelaide and restated at Perthville as the Epistle for the Institute of the Sisters of St Joseph.

During the discussion which followed our prayer, we referred to the recent national gathering of Associates held in Sydney. The conference coincided with the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mary MacKillop's Canonisation. Reference was made to a presentation given at the Conference by Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj, Congregational Leader, about how the Sisters and the Associates might work together in communion in the future. We briefly discussed the issue of incorporation and discussed the question: What is our deepest desire as Associates?

The group agreed that the Associate aims of *Prayer, Friendship and Service* summed up our desires and that our future gatherings should continue to be based on these fundamental aims.

# *The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart give thanks for 150 years*

We give thanks for God's generosity  
in calling the Sisters of St Joseph into being.

For Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods  
the first Sisters, the children in schools  
the families around them  
the friends supporting them.  
For the vision, energy and legacy they left.

We give thanks for the Josephite spirit in God's  
mission  
for the women who heeded the call  
the people who supported the mission  
the families who welcomed the Sisters.  
For the love and healing in our parishes.

Join with us all who have gone before  
walking the Josephite way  
supporting the Josephite vision  
drawn into Josephite communion  
Join us in praising God's abounding kindness



***“Little did either of us  
then dream of what was  
to spring from so small  
a beginning.”  
MMK 1891***

