



Julian's Jottings

October 2016 Newsletter

The Year of Mercy

By Bridgette Barrett and Lucia Ciocca

The Year of Mercy, in which we find ourselves, was proclaimed by Pope Francis with the document *Misericordiae Vultus* and the opening of the door of the Basilica to welcome the Jubilee Year. In his words the door will become "a door of mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instils hope."

So in this Year of Mercy, we have been called to show mercy and to receive mercy. Yet what does the word mercy actually mean? A dictionary meaning of mercy is 'kindness or help given to people who are in a very bad or desperate situation and/or kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly'. If we were to take this one step further, we could ask ourselves, "What is the biblical understanding of mercy?" and we may find that there is no one singular definition, but rather mercy may be experienced as steadfast and enduring love, as liberation and compassion, as being moved with pity and grace, given freely with no strings attached.

What does this mean for us? The aim of the Year of Mercy is that we show mercy and compassion, in thought and in action, and focus on forgiveness, reconciliation and doing good in concrete ways for the needy and for those on the margins of society. Mary MacKillop recognised in a very special way that mercy is freely given to us by a loving God. When mercy is shown us by our God, we are drawn into a closer relationship with God.



'Serving others is the most grateful sacrifice we can make.' JTW

As Matthew 7: 7-8 says "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened unto you". Mary MacKillop also understood that it was important that we show mercy to those with whom we are in relationship, and in particular to the needy and those on the margins of society. Her ministry reflected this understanding and she has left us a wonderful legacy.

This past year we, as Associates, have been supporting Sr Pat Sealey rsj in her ministry with refugees. At a time when so many are forced to flee their homes, where do they go to feel safe? Who welcomes them and offers them hospitality? Who shows them mercy and compassion? Who will be their voice? These questions are important to ask ourselves in this Year of Mercy. How interesting that the book which won the Children's Book Week Award for Best Picture Book 2016 is titled FLIGHT. Written by Nadia Wheatley and illustrated by Armin Greder, the story has its origins in the biblical account in Matthew's Gospel of the flight into Egypt. The Holy Family is forced to become refugees upon learning that King Herod intended to kill the infants of that area. As the story unfolds, we come to see the story as a fable for our own times. Intertwined with the plight of the Holy Family is the plight of the refugees today and we cannot help but cast our mind to the situation in Syria and other parts of the world in which people are fleeing wars, oppression and persecution in order to

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experience freedom and hope for the future.

Mary MacKillop's legacy invites us to go to the margins and show mercy to those who are displaced. How can I help?... How do I offer hope?... How do I extend welcome and hospitality?... How does God's mercy towards me invite me to show mercy to those who most need it? An excerpt written from the document *Misericordiae Vultus* says "How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God. May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away,

as a sign that the kingdom of God is already in our midst".

How apt that in this year that we are reading the gospel of Luke, who gave such prominence to women and hospitality, that we have the beautiful knowledge of Mary MacKillop's life who "never saw a need without doing something about it". She travelled to the margins of society and opened the door to the Basilica to show mercy to all those whom she met on the journey. Let us all join in her journey to receive the fullness and goodness of the grace God is offering. And in the words that Mary MacKillop last breathed... "Go On".

Volunteering

Flora McDonald Lodge at 206 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Cowandilla is looking for volunteers to help take residents from their rooms to the Chapel for 11am Mass. Even volunteering once a month will be appreciated. If you are interested please contact Sr Luisa Ege on 0438 049 253.

2017 Josephite Calendar

This year the calendar will be available for purchase from the Regional Administration Centre, 4 High St, Kensington. Due in October with a cost of \$7 plus postage and packaging. For more information contact Rebecca on 8130 5900 or at infos@sosj.org.au

Cantabile Singers

presents - Adelaide Premiere

Mary MacKillop Mass

for Choir & Orchestra
by Nicholas Buc

Alexandra Bollard, soprano
Lachlan Scott, baritone
Denise Rothall, conductor



Friday 28th October

St Ignatius Church

William St, Norwood

8pm

Tickets: Adult: \$30

Concession: \$25

Student: \$15

Bookings advised:

t: 0402 833 891

e: www.cantablesingers.org.au

STOP PRESS – RIP Josephite

We are saddened to hear of the death of Sr Mary Mercer (Sr William) who entered eternal life on Sunday 25th September, 2016. May she rest in peace.

Celebrating

Fr Julian Tenison Woods

Saturday 8th October, 2016

Bethany Centre
4 High St, Kensington

Following the 10.30am Mass in St Joseph's Chapel Associates and friends are invited to morning tea in the Bethany Centre where Sr Mary Cresp will share her reflections on Fr Woods as part of the *Julian Art Fest*.

In this sesquicentenary year come and celebrate together a man who inspired a young woman to do ordinary things in an extraordinary way. There will also be a donation box available with monies going to help the Josephite mission in Peru.

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The Peruvian Associates

How does Mary MacKillop's legacy live on?

Saturday 5th November, 2016

Bethany Centre
4 High St, Kensington
2 pm



In October Mary Hemmings will have gathered with Associates in Peru during their national conference. She will be able to share reflections and insights gained and will make connections with our own story as Josephite Associates. Please join us for an afternoon of information and conversation.

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Thank you

In our last newsletter Associates were asked for their help to donate acrylic yarn which would then be sent on to Peru for women to knit into warm clothing for their children. We were overwhelmed by the response received and Mary Hemmings was able to take a considerable amount of yarn with her in her travels to Peru. Many thanks to all for your generosity and kindness.

Recycle your Newsletter

When you have finished with the newsletter, a good idea is to recycle it by passing it around for others to read.

Sr Pat's Refugee Support Programme

(our 2015/2016 fundraising focus)

In conversation with Julie Langman



From the early 1990's Sr Pat Sealey rsj spent 11 years working with indigenous communities in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. When Sr Pat returned to Adelaide she was soon asked to assist the people in the Baxter Detention Centre near Port Augusta. Sr Pat became a regular visitor at Baxter and seeing the need of these people inspired a desire in her to do as much as she could to help.

Her journey to help the people at Baxter involved online study through the Australian National University while living in a beach shack near Port Augusta. Through her studies and hard work, Sr Pat qualified as a Migration Agent.

Sr Pat is now based in Adelaide and has been here for the past 10 years. She works with refugees and those persecuted who come from many parts of the world including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, China and also from countries in Africa. Some of the people she helps are Hazaras. Look up *Hazara* on the internet. You will be shocked to read about how persecuted these people are in their own country of Afghanistan and how unwanted they are in neighbouring countries.

In her role Sr Pat assists numerous people with their applications for various visas and

deals with correspondence and completing Statutory Declarations which are required by the Migration and Refugee Division of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. This tribunal reviews individual decisions made by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. Imagine yourself having to deal with the Tribunal or the Department of Immigration when you have no prior experience in this area and have very little English. It would be a daunting task for any of us, let alone a refugee unfamiliar with their new homeland.

One of the visas for refugees Sr Pat deals with, on behalf of men, is the Partner Visa. This visa helps to reunite families by bringing to Australia wives and children. The costs involved are sometimes beyond the ability of the applicant to pay. There is a fee for a wife and a fee for each child. Sr Pat is always in need of funds to assist in this area while charging **no fee** for her services and presently has about two hundred clients on her books. Sr Pat has dedicated her life for the last 10 years to this compassionate ministry.

Raising much needed funds for this ministry has been the fundraising focus of the Josephite Associates in the 2015/2016 financial year. On behalf of all Associates, we will present a cheque for \$1,000 to Sr Pat following the 8th of the month Mass in October.

RIP Associate

We remember Anna De Guglielmo with gratitude and affection.



Anna died in August this year, age 58. Anna was richly blessed by a loving family who encouraged her to attend university and pursue a career in education.

Anna was a teacher, Deputy Principal and Principal in schools throughout SA. Anna's first appointment was at St Joseph's School in Pt Lincoln and her last being Mt Carmel College in Rosewater – both Josephite schools.

Anna was a long-time Associate and a dear friend of many of the Sisters. Anna will always be fondly remembered by her family, friends and colleagues.

Good bye dear friend. Rest in peace Anna.

Gather for a Cuppa...

- in *Blackwood* by Julie Langman

A sesquicentenary celebratory morning tea was held, following the 10am Mass, in the Blackwood Catholic Parish on Sunday 7th August 2016 – the day before the feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and 150 years since the first Josephite school was opened in Penola by two spirit-filled and passionate people.

Sr Marie Egan and Sr Pat Sealey were invited to celebrate this occasion with us. During Mass Fr Harding introduced Sr Marie and Sr Pat and gave thanks to all who today try to follow in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop.

The church 'cottage' was suitably decorated with many borrowed pictures of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods,

including displays of Josephite memorabilia. Sr Marie and Sr Pat were again introduced to all who gathered for a 'cuppa'. The story of Sr Pat and the inception of her Refugee Support Programme were further explained, as this ministry was the focus of our fundraising on the day.

We know that this year is 150 years since Mary MacKillop became Sr Mary, and exactly 100 years later, at St Joseph's Chapel in Kensington, Marie Egan entered as a postulant. So our guest on the day was a real 'centenary' Sister.

We all had an enjoyable morning and I sincerely thank everyone for celebrating our Josephite story so well.



- in *Kingswood* by Carla Mastrangelo

On Sunday 28th August the CWL and the Associates together with the school community combined to host a morning tea in the parish hall following Mass to acknowledge the Sisters of St Joseph in this sesquicentenary year.

A few Sisters connected with the Kingswood parish came along and Sr Mary Cresp was invited to cut the cake.

Parishioners donated generously, with the money raised going to the Aboriginal mission in the Kimberleys which is the Josephite focus of the Kingswood community.

Have you had your 'cuppa' in your local area? You are invited to write to us and tell us what you're doing to celebrate the sesquicentenary of the Sisters of St Joseph.



A Prayer for Justice for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

God of mercy, help me to remember:
My ancestors came across the seas!
Help me keep in my mind
Those who came long ago
And those who now come to our shores.

As I face you in prayer, God of Compassion,
I remember my country's words:
Send them back or Stop the boats.
Then I fear, not your anger
But the steady gaze of boundless love
and unlimited compassion
That impel me to hear Jesus' command:
Love one another, as I have loved you
Or Pope Francis' call to open our hearts
To a universal communion
Which excludes nothing and no one.

Daring to step into such relationship, I pray
For those forced to leave family,
home and all they hold dear;
May they find safe passage and helping hands.

I pray for an end to the wars and oppression
that forced them to leave;
I pray that those who welcome them
are blessed in abundance.

And with deep humility
and a heart hungry for justice,
I pray that we Australians, citizens and leaders,
Open our eyes, our minds and our hearts
That we may see, understand and welcome
our brothers and sisters.

May our change of heart penetrate to our beginnings
As strangers in this land.
May we allow those we displaced
– the First People of this land – to welcome us.
Then knowing, in humility, what it is to be welcomed,
We will know how to welcome
the strangers who come to our shores.

This we ask in the name of Jesus your Son,
In whom we are no longer strangers. Amen.



***“God will
carry you
safely
through
every
struggle.”
MMK 1870***