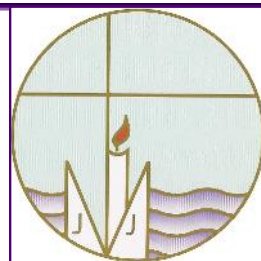




Josephite Associates, Victoria-Tasmania AUTUMN 2017



AUTUMN—

Dear Associates,

Two months of 2017 have already passed into eternity and we are settling into our Lenten activities of prayer, penance and almsgiving.

Already some important occasions have been celebrated, one being the 60th anniversary of St Vincent de Paul School, Morwell East where I spent seven very happy years as Principal in the seventies.

Nineteen Sisters celebrate Jubilees this year with Sr Xaveria Lawrence knocking up 80 years. That is my whole life-time! Elizabeth Maher and Anna Durkin (Tassie) have spent 70 years as Sisters. The rest I have acknowledged in another page. You will know some of them.

My holidays were spent at Yarram and Rye. Anne's Unit was a very comfortable place to stay and we enjoyed the cafés at Port Albert as well as the tennis and cricket on TV. We saw the film Red Dog, True Blue, and it is really worth seeing.

Since my return back to work I have sent Introductory Programs to four prospective Associates. Two

from Lakes Entrance, one from Koo Wee Rup and a teacher at Cranbourne. Keep them in your prayers as they discern their commitment to Josephite life.

How long is it since you invited someone to be an Associate? How about this year making a special effort?

Have you any special anniversaries, birthdays this year? Why not celebrate with High Tea at the Heritage Centre. See page 5 for details. I can assure you it will be worth it.

The Open Days are good times for a group or for bringing a friend to the Heritage Centre, as they are on Saturdays. On these days a special walk around the Melbourne sites is led by one of the Sisters or you can do it sitting in front of the TV.

Our Leader's Day was again a very successful and enjoyable day as you will see from the write up on page 6. The Team really appreciate the efforts all make to get there.

The Regional Days are also great days for getting together and renewing your commitment to Josephite living, so please do your best to get there.

We are disappointed that so many who receive the newsletter either by email or post, contribute nothing to the costs. Since the beginning of the Associates, the Sisters have subsidised the cost of everything. It is now the responsibility of the Associates to cover all costs themselves. But when more than half contribute nothing and have never contributed anything, it makes one wonder who they think

should be covering the expenses of printing, postage etc

So I urge you all not to rely on the generosity of many who pay much more than the \$20 requested. After all it is only the cost of 4-5 coffees!

Our team members are very generous covering their own costs for travel to regional days, Sydney conferences and accommodation. When possible we try to give something towards those costs which can amount to hundreds of dollars for the Sydney conference, which occurs every three years.

So please give serious thought to this matter if you have not sent your subscription before. The form is included with this newsletter. If you don't want to receive the newsletter let me know!

Make sure you see the film LION if you haven't already. A lovely story with a feel-good ending. As it is a true story it gives some insight to problems in some countries even today.

May your Lent be blessed with a deepening of your relationship with God and may Easter Joy fill your hearts and lives and flow over as living water to others.

Mary Fermio rsj



Inside this issue:

- 1 Editorial
 - 2 Reflection
 3. Regional Days, Williamstown programs
 - 4,. Around the Traps—
 - 5 events at The Heritage Centre
 6. Leaders' Day
 - 7 Thanks from Sharing with dignity and for stamps
 - 8 Bulletin Board
- Enclosures:*
1. Prayer Sheet:
 2. Subscription Form

Friendship Prayer Service

Autumn/Lenten reflection

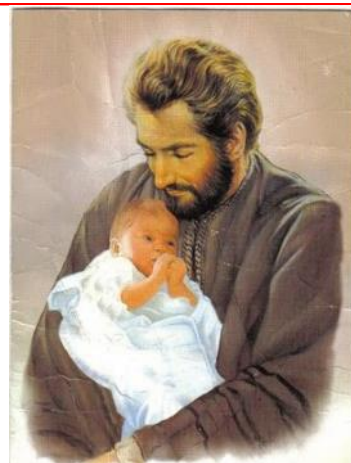
The following was written by a poet, Betty Bremner, who on a visit to Spain, heard of the fate of a statue of St Joseph which had originally held pride of place in the local Church. As Vatican II eventually brought about changes St Joseph appeared to have been 'dethroned' to have lost his position.

He kept company with several gold-leafed saints in this little church on the Spanish border. His life was ordered and his place assured. Our Lady was also there. Those who honoured her had placed her closer to the altar as befitted her station.

But it was Joseph who held the Child on his sturdy arm. And the Child held the Orb like a holy plaything, but not likely to play with it or let it fall. Joseph's cassock was brown, nothing gilded for him. He was just an ordinary fellow, stood woodenly against an unimportant wall. Thirty years he stood there, worthy familiar, tall. Time came when it was decided to clear the church of ordinary statues, to make a change, a sweeping change. Joseph had to go, even though he still held the Child. They took him off his plinth which rather diminished him. Gave him a place in a neighbour's house, stood him in the corner of the kitchen.

Where he began to be happy, felt that this was more like home. Looked quite jaunty wearing an occasional hat—it was a measure of his humility that Joseph accepted his role as a place for hats. And the Child was content there too, still with the world in His hand and smiling.

Where do I feel at home? Can you like Joseph accept a lowly role?



At Mass in Sale one weekend, Fr Peter Bickley included these words in his homily, and they struck me as being a very striking and beautiful image. So I offer them to you for your reflection.

JESUS is the Oasis
In the desert of my heart

JESUS is the Oasis
In the desert of my soul

JESUS is the Oasis
In the desert of my life.

A **DESERT** seems lifeless, dry, hot, uninviting, uninhabited.

Yet when rain falls new life appears in abundance bringing beauty, hope and life

An **OASIS** is a resting place for travellers, a welcome sight after a journey through the desert wilderness. Here one can set up a tent, find water, and take time and find space to replenish one's energies to continue the journey

JESUS came to offer us living water, water gushing up to eternal life.

LENT can be an oasis time when we rest, take space for prayer, reflection, to replenish our energies to continue our journey to God, to open our hearts to the living water offered to us.

May the waters of peace wash over me.

May the waters of mercy flow out from me

May the waters of compassion soften my heart

May the waters of forgiveness reach out to others

May the waters of freedom touch my heart for those who have no freedom

May the waters of generosity help me to see the need of others

May the waters of love bring me close to God's love.

May the waters of hope sustain me on my own journey.



TIME: 9.30 arrive for 10 am start
Finish approx. 3 p.m.

25th MARCH— MacKillop Hall, NAGAMBIE

20th MAY - Sacred Heart School, MORWELL

26th AUGUST - Parish Centre, St Patricks,
PAKENHAM

23rd SEPTEMBER—Parish Centre,
LAKES ENTRANCE

14th OCTOBER - Parish Centre, Lerderberg St
BACCHUS MARSH

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH Donation \$5

Morning Tea provided by Host Group.
Travelling Shop will be available.

BRING A FRIEND OR SOMEONE INTERESTED

**PLEASE MAKE THIS DAY
A PRIORITY IN YOUR DIARY**

PROGRAM:

SHARING STORIES :

The Stories Jesus told.

Stories of Mary MacKillop in Art

Stories about Mary MacKillop

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY ST JOSEPH'S BY THE SEA

16 ESPLANADE WILLIAMSTOWN

Each Session 1.30-3p.m. and 7.30-9p.m.

Donation: Subsidised \$10-\$15

Cost: \$20-\$25

Gift: \$30-\$35

20th April: The Joy of the Gospel Easter Women
Therese Quinn rsj

18th May: Listening to the Heartbeat of those in
Detention and Seeking Asylum. Rita Malavisi rsj

15th June: The Dynamics of Interfaith Dialogue
Giovanni Farquer rsj

24th August: Listening to the Heartbeat of those
desiring Treaty: 50 years after the referendum
Sherry Balcombe, Marianne Zeinstra rsj

21st Sept: Know your Place, Know your story, Story
connects us to family and community

26th October: Earth Centre Stage Marge Abbott

23rd November Expressions of spirituality through
the performing arts Jacinta Chute

To book ring: 9397 6012

**Other programs available on Brochure from
above address or admin.sjbtsw@sosj.org.au**

LIVE OUT RETREAT

Enjoying our senses from John's Gospel

20th June—22nd June Therese Quinn rsj

Lynette Young rsj

This 3 day retreat offers a new way to explore the
Joy of the Gospel of JOHN through a wide variety of
images which appeal to our senses.

Retreat will commence each day at 9.30 am with the
afternoon free for reflection and prayer.

BYO LUNCH Tea and Coffee provided Cost\$150

Retreatants will be welcome to stay at the Centre for
the afternoon or to go home for their reflection and
prayer time.

CRAFT MORNINGS

First Thursday of the month 10a.m. to 12 noon

A mixture of teaching and BYO craft is offered.

From 4th May to 7th December

Donation and bookings: as above

ORGANIC GARDENING FOR LIFE

Second Thursday of each month 1p.m.—3p.m.

9th March, 11th May, 8th June, 10th August,

12th October 9th November

Donation and bookings: as above

GOOD GRIEF TRAINING PROGRAMS EAST MELBOURNE:

Adult Program: 23-and 24th March
13 and 14th June

24th and 25th August

Parent Program: Wednesday 22nd March

Tuesday 1st August

Monday 23rd October

Programs run from 8.45 am to 4 p.m.

REGIONAL VICTORIA PROGRAMS

Are conducted at Warragul, Bendigo, Shepparton.

For information contact

Sr Patricia Williams rsj on

03 9926 9316 or

viccoord@goodgrief.org.au

AROUND THE TRAPS

WONTHAGGI

The traditional burning of the intercessions to Mary MacKillop, which had been placed in boxes at both Parish Churches, follows a Mass at the Inverloch Church. The boxes were placed on the altar at the beginning of the Prayers of the Faithful which were the same as used at the Annual Mass last year. Fr Manny is shown here lighting the prayers, explaining "as incense rises so does the smoke from the prayers rise to heaven". Three balloons on which were written Faith, Hope and Love, were released. Two became entangled in the gum tree, but the third sailed merrily into the blue to be lost to sight.



All then adjourned to the Esplanade Hotel, Inverloch for a lovely meal and to catch up with each other. Sr Mary gave each person present a pack of three Christmas Cards, the image being a painting by Sr Therese Quinn.

MORWELL EAST

On 3rd February, St Vincent de Paul School, Morwell East celebrated 60 years of education with Mass and much sharing of memories, many hugs and kisses and much hesitation on my part trying to remember the names of parents and students who shared the seven years I spent there as Principal from 1973-1980. Memories came flooding back of students, of sad times shared, of fun times with the staff when they made fools of themselves dressing up to raise money for worthy causes, of the fire that destroyed four classrooms, of Fr Dave Cagney rising out of the water of the dunking tank at the Karnival, of Sr Eileen McHugh who visited so many families walking the streets of the Parish. Fr Jude Pirotta, PP of Hopper's Crossing, was the main celebrant and as an ex-student shared many memories of the days when his family lived across the road and he certainly made the most of that. Deacon Mark Kelly, also an ex-student, shared many of his memories in the evening of the times and how their family lived in in those early days, when the school became a Church on Sundays, furniture had to be moved and he did his best to get out of helping.

The people of the parish, now part of Sacred Heart Parish Morwell, had gone to no end of trouble to make the day enjoyable, to provide beautiful food for afternoon tea and evening meal, and to make the Mass a true celebration of God's blessings on the school. A tour of the school and convent showed how much had been accomplished over those years. As Principal, Teresa Greenough, herself a Morwell girl, said it was hard work at the start of the school year, but it was obvious by the display and organisation that her staff and the people were right behind her. Several Josephite Associates were there enjoying past memories. Congratulations to all for the wonderful day Sr Clare McDermott, Sr Betty O'Donnell and I shared that Friday. *Mary Fermio rsj*

WE PRAY FOR

We have a few Associates not well at the moment and
I am sure would be glad of your prayers.

Jess Harbeck at Lakes Entrance,

Win Daniels at Eaglehawk who had a nasty fall.

Judi Bowden, Eaglehawk still struggling with cancer treatment.

Faye Donoghue of Broadmeadows who has had a couple of setbacks

Agnes from Broadmeadows, is still working hard on the Days for Girls bags and I have two big garbage bags full waiting to go to Robyn at Ballarat. Though not really well, Agnes find sewing stops the boredom!!

And there are probably others too as many are ageing, a time when one's body starts protesting.

Sr Lynette Young, whom many of you know, is now living at Lakes Entrance and Sr Maureen is at St Albans.

There are some great articles on the website sosj.org.au with news around the Josephite Traps.



MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre

362 Albert St, EAST MELBOURNE
P: (03) 9926 9300



Mary MacKillop
HERITAGE CENTRE
2007 - 2017

A monthly gathering for prayer and
reflection with Mary MacKillop,
facilitated by a Sister of St Joseph.

2017 Conversations With Mary

11.00am-12.00pm

- Wednesday 15th February
- Wednesday 15th March
- Tuesday 18th April
- Monday 15th May
- Thursday 15th June
- Monday 17th July
- Tuesday 15th August
- Friday 15th September
- Monday 16th October
- Wednesday 15th November

During 2017 we will reflect
on Mary's letters to her
mother Flora



For further information and
acceptances please contact
MMHC on (03) 9926 9300
or admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au

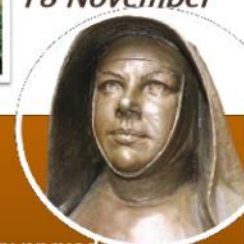
OPEN DAYS 2017



Mary MacKillop
HERITAGE CENTRE
2007 - 2017

10am - 4pm
on the following
Saturdays:

11 February
6 May
5 August
18 November



- Take a tour of the Museum
- Visit the Gift Shop
- Enjoy light refreshment
- Pray in the Chapel where Mary prayed
- Mary MacKillop Walking Tour available @ 11am

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre

362 Albert St, EAST MELBOURNE P: (03) 9926 9300

High Tea @ MMHC



Percolated coffee
Twinning's tea
Earl Grey, English Breakfast, Green, Chamomile,
Lemon & Ginger, Peppermint
Chilled juice
Apple, Orange, Cranberry
Date and plain scones
Served with jam & cream
Ribbon sandwiches
Petit fours and pastries

\$50.00 FOR TWO PEOPLE
SEATING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM - 12NOON @ 1PM - 3PM
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002
P: +61 3 9926 9300
E: admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JUBILARIANS

80 Years Sr Xavier Lawrence
70 Years Sr Elizabeth Maher,
Sr Anna Durkin, Hobart
60 Years Srs Helen Barnes,
Marea Cox
Catherine Donovan,
Bernadine Guinane
Bernadette Neville
Shirley O'Toole, Rose Wood
Maureen Philp,
Patricia Williams
50 Years Srs Jose Noy, Janet Nolan
Briege Buckley (Ireland)
40 Years Sr Jennifer Sanders



Keep young as long
as you can

Mary MacKillop 1874

LEADERS' DAY

Associates from Beechworth, Wonthaggi, Doreen, Broadmeadows, West Brunswick, Richmond, Bacchus Marsh, Hamilton, Woodend, Bittern, Sunbury, Sebastopol, Rushworth, Pakenham, Yarraville gathered on a lovely Summer's day at the Heritage Centre for their annual gathering.

The first session was conducted by Sr Therese Quinn rsj as a reflection on the Woman at the Well who as a missionary disciple brought the people from her village to Jesus. We were encouraged by the words of Pope Francis from the *Joy of the Gospel* 120, to be missionary disciples ourselves, to acknowledge our call as Josephites, to call others and to return to Jesus, the source of living water.

Our second session following morning tea of home-made scones courtesy of Sr Maureen Lomer, was a delight by way, not only of entertainment, but of a provocative re-



minder of

who we are, who is our neighbour, who needs our care. Fr Andrew Hayes of Ararat and his vocalist, Joyce, stretched our minds to embrace refugees and asylum seekers, while listening to Judy Garland singing Glory, Glory Halleluiah, and listening to poems that told of our Australian History: The Man from Snowy River, the Man from Iron Bark, the Bush Christening. After each poem, recited dramatically from memory, we returned to reflect on the words of Starry Starry night sung by Joyce. The session ended with us all joining in a loud rendition of Glory, Glory Hallelujah while Joyce sang the verses. A collection for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre was taken up and \$220 was given to Fr Andrew to pass on to the Centre.

After a delicious lunch Sr Therese gave us the history of the new Spirituality Centre at Williamstown, *St Joseph's by the Sea* handing out brochures which detailed the retreats, day sessions, craft sessions, organic gardening etc that is offered there

where six very comfortable rooms are available to stay in.

Sr Patricia Williams rsj, Victorian and South Australian Co-ordinator of Good Grief program (formerly called Seasons for Growth) outlined the various programs available to help adults and children to work through loss and grief in their lives. These programs are educational, not counselling, and are based on the four seasons and have proved very beneficial to thousands of adults and children throughout Australia and overseas. A special program called Storm Birds has been compiled to help children work through the trauma of disasters such as Bush fires and floods.

Part of our setting were figures used in God Play, viz telling scripture stories to children. Noreen had brought hers to illustrate the story of the Woman at the Well. These figures can be used for any story from the Gospel with different backgrounds. A wonderful resource for Parish Catechetics or classrooms.

Our Final Ritual continued the theme of the Woman at the Well and each leader was presented with a gold bucket containing a scroll of which part of the Triptych of St Therese's painting was printed, with a prayer for the group. The leaders were encouraged to use the bucket as part of their settings at meetings and maybe find a creative use for it as missionary disciples.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS



**90,000 handbags collected
across Australia by
Share the Dignity 2016**

We are so profoundly moved by the incredible feats we have seen each and every one of you perform out of dedication to our cause throughout #ItsInTheBag 2016.

When we first collected handbags last year, we managed to gather about 24000. The charities we delivered them to loved them so much that they were coming back to us asking for more, but we had none left. We never wanted to have to say no again. This year, thanks to your incredible help, we are so much closer to this goal than we could have dreamed.

Getting to work alongside such a devoted and passionate team is truly an honour for us. We hope you have loved working alongside us as much. Soon, we hope all the bags will be completely distributed and you can have the relaxing Christmas break that you deserve for all this incredible hard work.

Please have a very merry Christmas, and we hope that 2017 is a truly special year for you.

Love from the Share the Dignity team leaders (email sent to Helen Crowe, Bacchus Marsh Team)

Next Collection for Bags will be in September 2017 for distribution in December.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS TO OUR WORK IN PERU

On behalf of Mary MacKillop International I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. **DURING 2016**

WE RAISED APPROXIMATELY \$62,000. This has surpassed our 2015 effort, thank you for all your contributions. From 2001 till now our total is almost \$186,000.

It is through your efforts that the legacy of St Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today.

Sr Helen Saunders for

Sisters of St Joseph

Top Photo: Girl in Pitumaca daughter of one of the women who makes products for Ethica.

The boys are brothers, both have autism. Rosalie, their Mum takes the boys to school each day and sits with them as there are no teachers' aides trained in working with children with autism. She then brings them to the centre for speech therapy, physio and life skills workshops. The boys attend Mary MacKillop Huasi, a centre for children with disability.



*Looking for a special gift for someone's birthday or Mother's Day?
Check out the Ethica handcraft articles at the Heritage Centre.
Unique bags, scarves, jewellery, cot blankets, bootees and puppets.*



BOOK REVIEWS

BULLETIN BOARD

WRITING FOR RAKSMEY Joan Healy

A book I could not put down and which evoked in me a wonderful appreciation of the Cambodian people and of the work Joan did in the years she lived there sharing their lives—their homes, their food, riding on their motor bikes, experiencing the weather as they did, the hot and wet. Joan was there when RaksmeY was born and now she tells the story of his people for him, now an adult. A must read.

Available from Heritage Centre and Book stores \$30

MARY MACKILLOP 1873 One year of an extraordinary life. Edited by Sheila McCreanor rsj
This book comprises letters and diaries compiled by Mary while travelling in Rome and letters received from Fr Woods and the Sisters who wrote of their troubles and happenings while she was away. This woman, then only 31 years old, spent months in a country whose language she did not know. .
Available at the Heritage Centre \$30

A PRICELESS TREASURE Marie Crowley
The Story of Sr Teresa McDonald Pioneer Sister at Perthville, one of the first three to arrive in 1872. She died four years later. A truly brave woman.
Available at the Heritage Centre \$25

FROM THE OFFICE:

All Associates are now receiving their Newsletter in colour thanks to donations and subscriptions received.

Check out the sosj.org.au website for interesting articles during this sesquicentenary year.

Office Address

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Editor—Associates' Newsletter,
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PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh, 3340.

OR Email: mary.fermio@sosj.org.au.
OR vic.associates@sosj.org.au
OR Phone/Fax: 03 5367 2078

USED STAMPS

Used stamps have raised over \$180,000 for the Mary MacKillop International Mission for Peru and East Timor. These are prepared for the Sydney Stamp Auctions by Josephite Associates in Sydney. Leaving a border of about 1 cm around the stamp assists them.

Please forward to **STAMPS**

Locked Bag 3031
BURWOOD NSW 1805

BOXES OF STAMPS NEED TO BE DELIVERED TO:
5 Alexander Avenue
CROYDON NSW 2123

Collecting stamps could be a group activity in your parish and schools.



*We are but
Travellers here.*



Let us pray for the following deceased and their families who grieve their loss
Bernardine Kapelle, Yarraville
Alice Stroud, Mid Camberwell
Eileen Dean, Bairnsdale, Mother of Sr Cathy rsj
Steven Leech, son of
Teresa Leech, Broadmeadows
Margaret Morrison, Sale

DAYS FOR GIRLS - AUSTRALIA

Broadmeadows and Maffra groups have continued to provide completed bags and other items to go to various parts of the world. The Sunbury group, has donated many items and the Eaglehawk group have also contributed bags, materials and other items.

Robyn is most appreciative of the assistance given by the Josephite Associates, as she told the group at Hamilton to whom she talked about the program.

Gift Cards/Cheques/Cash can be sent to Robyn or me if that is easier for you than posting goods.

Or contact: Robyn Suttie (Victoria) 03 5335 6761

Email: robynsuttie@gmail.com

Items needed are:

Knickers sizes 10-12; 12-14; Face washers

Zip lock Bags—Large 27cmx32cm about

Flannelette and cotton material in floral or stripes

If you collect items, I could collect them and

deliver them to Robyn to save postage.

These and donations could be sent to

Robyn Suttie, 7 Banyule Drive

Delacombe Vic 3356

"whatever you do to one of these, you do to me"
Words of Jesus

**True happiness depends....
on ourselves not on those
around us**

Mary MacKillop 1907