IN THE WIND

Sisters of Saint Joseph production for Mary MacKillop Rural Network

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A VISIT TO CLONCURRY

Paula Gallagher from Bundaberg

Our trip in August to Cloncurry was a lovely trip down memory lane. We flew to Townsville and had a few days there before hiring a car and driving west. While in Townsville I had a brief visit to St Patrick's College - where I was a boarder for six years - many years ago! Sadly, the St. Joseph's Church on the Strand was locked and I was unable to have a peek inside.

Whilst a boarder at St. Patrick's I attended St. Joseph's School which adjoins St. Patrick's. This was for my last two primary school years. I'm happy to say that Cloncurry was a pleasant surprise after my previous visit about 13 years prior. Mining around Cloncurry and the Shire amalgamation with Mt. Isa has been very positive for the town and there is an excited vibe about the place. I drove around St. Joseph's school and was amazed at the growth and obvious facilities. I didn't venture inside as it was during school hours. I did however, visit the Church. It is the Church we were married in and lots of memories flooded back. There was no one around so I took the liberty of having a good look at all the nooks and crannies. I couldn't believe that the incense burner (that we would



'brasso' on Saturday's, along with all the candle sticks etc) was still very much in use. Funny how things become significant in the memory bank!

Our trip took two weeks. From Cloncurry we drive to Mt. Isa

and I visited the Royal Flying Doctor Base which was where I



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worked in Cloncurry, and then moved with the Base when it relocated to Mt. Isa. From there we drove to Karumba and then across to Cairns stopping overnight along the way. We had a few days in Cairns before flying back to Brisbane. All in all a lovely trip which enabled me to tick a few boxes on the 'bucket list'.

A POEM

By Pat Fennell from Bundaberg

Following is a poem which I wrote about my new life at Liberty Villas in Bundaberg. After 58 years in North West Queensland on cattle properties, we (my husband Mark and I) have retired at last – aged 83. We are fortunate to have a wonderful little church, St James at Bargara, and so many other blessings, e.g. good health, our love for one another, a supportive family, and the comfort of our Saviour's love. This is a happy place – only people over 52 can rent – so most have fairly common interests.

Life at Liberty Villas

There's a man who wears the braces, and a lady who keeps cats, and a woman in room xyz who loves her fancy hats.

Line dancers keep on lining up to country music soothing.

They do a lot of step, tap, tap, and fancy grapevine moving.

And Ray does indoor bowling every Tuesday on the dot.

He doesn't seem to worry if you're clever or you're not.

One dear lady likes the sunshine and sits out on her chair,

widely smiling, cheerfully greeting everyone who passes there.

Another likes her genteel cup and fancy table covers.

She always seems so happy, never talks about her troubles.

A fellow here from Germany, thinks Donald Trump is tops, and when we get to talking he never wants to stop.

So many happy people in the second half of life.

They understand each other and there's rarely any strife.

The man who guides this happy ship is so very understanding.

His patience seems to have no end when people are demanding.

A lovely group of happy folk, advanced in years, it's true.

But mostly they're still young at heart - and Australia's own true blue.



ALLORA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

Robyn Phelan from Allora

Our Josephite Associates met in MacKillop House on 23 November for our final gathering of 2016. Adding to our prayer table, Robyn made a poster consisting of a Tagxedo Word Cloud of the sesquicentenary year theme 'Listening to the Heartbeat of the World'. Joyce led us in our reflections from 'The Little Brown Book', focusing on facing our fears. Much discussion ensued and we were encouraged to follow Mary's example of Living in the Presence which helped her to foster a peaceful spirit. Our prayer included the Associates' Prayer from the lovely card included with the 2017 Josephite Calendar which we had all recently received in the mail. Our friendship continued in an early Christmas mood with a luncheon at a local café.

JOY IN LIVING Di Phillips rsj from Miles

I was browsing through a recent copy of "Better Homes and Gardens". On pages 160 – 161 my eyes rested on a heading 'Simple joys and where to find them'. The sub- heading read, 'When you tap into your secret stash of gladness, it does your heart and soul a power of good'.

On page 160 I found some delightful imagery. Joy can be loud and exuberant. It might sweep you off your feet. It can sneak up on you in quiet moments. However, there are times we might feel that a giant vacuum cleaner has sucked up all our joy! It's moments like these that we need to delve into that stash of joys we have experienced.



Balloons signal fun and a joyful time.

Readers were invited to give simple examples of joy in their lives. I read that things like ice-cream, sitting with an elderly person in a nursing home, baking, first coffee for the day, folding and putting away clean linen and curling up in bed to read a book were simple joys of living. It was stated that peace, pleasure and contentment can ride on the coat-tails of joy.

On page 161 of the magazine there was a list that gave clues to increasing joy. They read like this:

- ♥ Don't focus on what's wrong. Think about what is right.
- ♥ Don't covet what others have. Practise gratitude for all you have.
- ♥ Be childlike, wide-eyed and open to creating joy and finding it everywhere.
- Seek out your people, the ones who you do things with.
- Laugh, cry, feel.

Pope Francis might add a list of his own. In a book called, "Dear Pope Francis: The Pope Answers Letters from Children Around the World", the Pope says:

- I am happy when I see children. I always feel great tenderness and affection for them. But it's more than that. Actually, when I look at a child like you, I feel great hope rising in my heart. (page 7)
- I would like to smile always smile at God first of all to thank him for all the good he does for people. (page 17)
- When asked if he liked dancing when he was young the Pope replied: Really a lot! I enjoyed dancing our traditional dances from Argentina. I really had so much fun! Then, as a young man, I liked to dance the tango. I really like the tango. You know, dancing expresses joy and happiness. (page 21)
- It makes me happy to be with people. That is what makes me happy. If I cannot be with people, I spend time with Jesus and talk to him about people. I can't imagine myself alone. (page25)

Browsing through a magazine can be surprisingly challenging. However, sometimes we can come across words of wisdom not found in everyday reading.

SACRED SPACE The Service of Shadows

Light seven individual candles. The unlit Easter candle can be a symbol that we know Jesus death is not the end of the story. We wait.

In this Service the congregation listens to a description of the shadows which descended on Jesus during his last hours of life on earth. This service dates back to the very early times in the Church and was called Tenebrae. It has been preserved by the Anglican Communion in some places. It does not replace Holy Week ceremonies. It can be celebrated on the Tuesday of Holy Week. (Di Phillips rsj experienced this celebration twice. The first was in the Anglican Church in Augathella and the second time was in the Wellington Anglican Cathedral, New Zealand).

After each reading, a candle is extinguished and the shadows slowly fall. The congregation listens to each reading and then the Kyrie ie 'Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.' is said or sung. This is followed by silent prayer.

- The Shadow of Betrayal Matthew 26:20 -25
 The first candle is extinguished.
 Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.
 Silent prayer.
- The Shadow of Inner Agony Luke 22:40-44
 The second candle is extinguished.
 Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.
 Silent prayer.
- The Shadow of Loneliness Matthew 26:40-45
 The third candle is extinguished.
 Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.
 Silent prayer.
- The Shadow of Desertion Matthew 26:47 50; 55 56 The fourth candle is extinguished. Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Silent prayer.



WEBSITES...

INTERNET SITES



For ways to pray with poetry go to Google and type in the words: Explore Faith. Several poems are offered along with a process. Once the process is understood it can be used with any prose or poetry.

Type the word Dadirri into your web browser and read about an Aboriginal understanding of deep listening. Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Bauman leads us into an understanding of quiet reflection with nature.

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is a website by Jesuit Communications for a weekly email that gives an alternative view on events in Australia and globally. It is free to subscribe.

- The Shadow of Accusation Matthew 26:59 67 The fifth candle is extinguished. Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Silent prayer.
- The Shadow of Mockery Mark 15:12 20 The sixth candle is extinguished. Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Silent prayer.
- The Shadow of Death Luke 23:33 46 The seventh candle is extinguished. Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Silent prayer.

Everyone leaves in silence.

I SEE HIS BLOOD UPON THE ROSE by Joseph Mary Plunkett

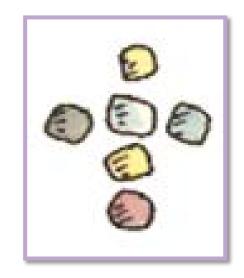
I see his blood upon the rose and in the stars the glory of his eyes, His body gleams amid eternal shows, His tears fall from the skies.

I see his face in every flower; the thunder and the singing of the birds are but his voice – and carved by his power. Rocks are his written words. All pathways by his feet are worn, His strong heart stirs the ever-beating sea, His crown of thorns is twined with every thorn, His cross is every tree.

(From "Heartlines: Prayer Resources for a Contemporary Spirituality". Edited by Maurice Ryan. Published by Thomson Social Science Press, page 11).

Alternative Mysteries of the Rosary Sorrowful Mysteries

The deaths of the innocent The killers of the innocent Environmental destruction Economic injustice The curse of war



MODERN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- 1. Jesus' Last Supper Mark 14:12-13.17.22-25
- 2. Jesus in the Garden Matthew 26: 36-39
- 3. Jesus before the Sanhedrin Mark 14:55-56, 58-64
- 4. Jesus before Pilate John 18:28, 33, 36-40
- 5. Jesus is scourged Matthew 27:24-30
- 6. Jesus carries his Cross Luke 9:20-26
- 7. Jesus is helped by Simon *Mark* 15:2-22
- 8. Jesus speaks to the Women Luke 23:27-31
- 9. Jesus is nailed to the Cross

 Matthew 27:34-42
- 10. Jesus and the Good Thief - Luke 23:39-43
- 11. Jesus speaks to Mary and John John 19:25-27
- 12. Jesus dies on the Cross *Mark* 15:33-39
- 13. Jesus is buried Matthew 27:57-66
- 14. Jesus is risen from the dead

 John 20:1-9

(From "The Way of the Cross" Published by the Liturgical Commission, Brisbane)

Joyful Mysteries

Beauty in the midst of destruction Joy in the midst of sorrow Wisdom in the face of folly Mercy in the face of wrath New life in the midst of death



The Mysteries of War

Destruction of homes, villages, cities, crops and land Separation of families and imprisonment of dissenters Contamination of water Degradation of the environment Torture, wounding and killing of the living

The Mysteries of Peace

Reconciliation of Enemies
Regrowth and reconstruction of homes, villages, gardens, farms and the natural environment
Abundance and harmony
The absence of war in the presence of justice
The Civilisation of Life and Love

The Mysteries of Reconciliation

The birth of solidarity
The redress of injustice
Healing and purification of memory
The miracle of grace
The redemption of hope

The Mysteries of Mercy

Give food and water to the hungry and thirsty Clothe the naked Shelter the homeless Visit the prisoners Heal the sick and bury the dead

(From "Heartlines: Prayer Resources for a Contemporary Spirituality". Edited by Maurice Ryan. Published by Thomson Social Science Press, page 31-32)



Happy Easter Everyone.

EASTER

Easter is a season for fifty days. Here are some ways that may help to give a sense of joy and expectation throughout the Faster season.

- Bless each room in the house with Easter water.
- Bless the car and pray for safe passage.
- Watch the sunrise on Easter day or any other Sunday in the season.
- Go for a walk, remembering as you do so, the disciples on the way to Emmaus.
- Pray the simple acclamation: Christ is risen. Alleluia.

