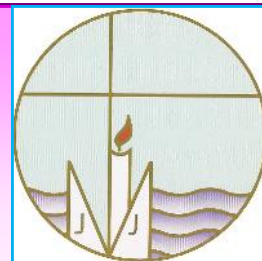




Josephite Associates, Victoria-Tasmania SPRING 2018



SPRING—earth celebrates new life

Dear Associates,

Spring is here, the grass is ris' I wonder where the birdies is—I am sure some of you remember that. So it is time for lawns to grow, blossom to appear, and green buds garland the trees. And all the earth appears to smile. Let us pray for those areas of drought in our country where spring may not be so evident.

One evening, which left me smiling, was when Sr Audrey and I went to hear the author **Monica McInerney** speak. What a delightful woman with a great sense of humour and who writes such enjoyable books about families. Taught by our Sisters in Clare, SA, she married an Irishman and lives mostly in Dublin, where she is now up to the 10th draft of her 13th book! If you love a good read look out for them.

An afternoon with Bishop Mark Edwards at St Joseph's by the Sea, gave a new insight into the **Bishops Statement on Justice and Peace**. By looking at each section and listening to the experiences of those present, we all came to a greater understanding

Inside this issue:

- 1 Editorial
 - 2 Reflection
 - 3 Events/Vale Betty Loftus
 - 4 The Heritage Centre /Pilgrimage
 - 5 Around Lakes Entrance/Morwell
 - 6 Stories of a Sister of St Joseph
 7. Around the Traps
St Joseph's by the Sea
 8. Bulletin Board
- Enclosures:*
1. Prayer Sheet: Spring
 2. Calendar Order Form
 3. Letter from IJALT

of how important this document is, and what we can learn from it.

Have any of you thought about the **Plenary Council 2020** yet? Have you any topics you would like discussed at this? We have until Ash Wednesday 2019 to send in our ideas etc. Responses can be sent on-line or on a form there to Plenary Council 2020, PO Box 747, North Sydney NSW 2059. To get to the website Google: Plenary Council and you will have plenty to read or listen to.

Listening to the ABC news recently I was alarmed that the first three items were about women who had been murdered by close family members. As September has two feasts of Our Lady and October has been the month of the Rosary for decades, I have prepared the prayer sheet on devotion to **Mary, mother of Jesus**. Fr Gerard Collins sj found the Rosary a wonderful walking prayer when walking across Europe. On a country road praying the Rosary while driving can also be helpful. Even one decade said prayerfully is better than five rattled off.

I hope you enjoy reading of the **Reminiscences of a Josephite**. I just thank God I was born in the 1930's! This extract, only part of the whole article, was given to me by a visitor at the Heritage Centre.

Enclosed is the **Calendar order Form**. Please return as soon as possible.

Also enclosed is the **letter from the International Josephite Associates Leadership Team (IJALT)**. Don't be daunted by the length as it contains some very interesting, inspiring and important

material to do with the future of Associates.

Don't forget to send me news from your groups. **Lakes Entrance group** sent me a lovely page you can enjoy and maybe get an idea from.

There have been so many world tragedies since the last newsletter—fires, floods, earthquakes, bridge collapse—let us pray that our good God will bring hope and support into their lives. "What if that were me?"

The Western Group welcomed four new **Associates from Melton** where a new group is being formed. Have you invited someone whom you think shares our Charism? Are you keeping in contact with someone doing the Introductory Program to encourage them? Sometimes they slip by the wayside and some friendship might help.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our **Annual Mass** when we shall enrol new Associates and hear about Associates in East Timor. Please make an effort to come. See notice on page 3

Enjoy Spring.

Mary Fermio rsj



Friendship Prayer Service

SPRING REFLECTION

WANDERING WITH MARY MACKILLOP in THE FITZROY GARDENS Part 2
Written by Anmaree Iaccarino Used with permission

I wander on a site that renews...

The gardens

The Fitzroy Gardens...

Reminding me under whose guidance we emerged from District to State

I pass beyond the picket fence

Amongst the natives and exotics I wander

Under the blue gums, pines, silky oaks and elms I wander

Along the labyrinth of pathways

Past the cascading waters of the River God fountain,

Weaving my way among columns of the Temple of the Winds

I sit with my God and reflect under the shade of the bandstand

And I recall the words of Father Julian Tenison Woods...



Every rock every leaf, every insect has something beautiful, nay wonderful to tell...a perfect fairy land of beauty will open to the gaze at every step. The flowers will unveil the hidden secrets of their beauty; the stones reveal their crystalline structure, and the tiniest insect display wonders of mechanism...all new, all varied, all instructive, and all tending to raise the mind to higher and nobler conceptions of what creation does to declare the glory of its author.

I am renewed

I teach the illiterate

I house the homeless

I clothe the poor

I feed the hungry

I visit the broken

I share our God.



Take a walk in your garden
Your local park,
A national park
Along the street

You may like to write your own
reflection on what you see.



BEGONIA FESTIVAL BALLARAT.

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

**6th October Mary MacKillop Hall
ORBOST**
East Gippsland: Bairnsdale,
Sale, Orbost, Lakes Entrance ,
Maffra, Stratford

**New Associates to be enrolled. Come and
welcome them and renew your own com-
mitment. Invite a friend.**

BYO LUNCH Donation \$5

**ANNUAL MASS-JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES
SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2018
MAIN CHAPEL**

**13 HAVELOCK ROAD, HAWTHORN EAST
1.30 P.M.**

CELEBRANT: Fr Michael Kalika
Includes Renewal of Commitment
Enrolment of Associates

After Mass we have two speakers:

Sr Moya Campbell rsj, Co-ordinator of IJALT

**Mary Hemmings, IJALT member, will show photos of
her trip to visit Associates in Timor Leste**

PLEASE BRING AFTERNOON TEA TO SHARE

FAREWELL TO BETTY LOFTUS 1st July 1932—20th May 2018

I felt a need to share some of the story of this remarkable woman who was leader in so many ways and situations during her life. Betty wrote her own eulogy some of which I shall share:

Born in London , her father was an inspector on the London Buses. When six years old, her sister Gaynor was born and on beginning Gr 1 announced to the teacher she could already read and knit. During the Second World War the family learnt to sleep with sounds of guns and aircraft overhead. School was in small groups in neighbour's houses. Bet was enrolled in St Joseph's school, the only local school open all day. Here she learnt the absolute glory of dressing in white with a veil and strewing rose petals in processions round the local Church. She persuaded her parents she wanted to become a Catholic and she and her sister were baptised.

Matriculated at 16, studied Commercial subjects, went to Spain to teach English for the Sisters at the Convent she had attended, on her return resumed her intense social life centred on the Catholic Youth Club and here she met Paddy Loftus and married on 31st May 1952. They moved to Malaya with their first child, then back to England where they took over a shop selling wool and ladies fashions.

Betty decided to become a teacher so she could have the same holidays as the kids. After six years of teaching the family set sail for Australia and settled in Yallourn. Within two days Bet was offered a job teaching Humanities at Yallourn Tech. They became involved in theatre and started the **Shoestring Theatre**. Teaching full-time she gained her BA and BEd from Monash. She was founder/developer of the reading and language unit at Yallourn Tech and the Access unit at Yallourn TAFE. Offered a position by the Education Dept. responsible for the education of disabled students in Govt. schools across Gippsland, she accepted.

Retirement loomed so she learned to make quilts, opened a patch work shop in Trafalgar which she ran for ten years. Just in case you think she had spare time Betty was on the Parish Council, led the RCIA foundation member and secretary of the Social Committee, sec. of CWL branch, leader of Josephite Associates group, established the parish Craft group, was a reader and commentator at Masses, and involved with the planning and implementation of Sacred Heart and St Vincent Parishes becoming Morwell Catholic Parish. Her greatest joy was her grandchildren. A wise woman she employed a housekeeper to help her!!

Betty was on the Core-team of the Josephite Associates for a number of years. With her walker she would catch the train at Morwell, get off at Caulfield and travel by taxi to Hawthorn East for a meeting. Then do the return journey, She did this for several years and always brought with her a sense of fun and creativity. Even when living at Heritage Manor Betty brought people together for Lenten programs and prayer and continued to lead the Josephite Associates group with her deep spirituality.

Thank you Betty for all you have contributed to the Church and Josephites in Victoria. We were blessed when you landed on these shores. Pray for us now that we continue to live out our own commitment as well as we are able.

I am sure Mary MacKillop gave you a great welcome with your husband Paddy who died in 2006.



MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

2018 CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY

THE DEVOTIONS AND SPIRITUALITY OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS

“God will take care of us all”

11 am—12 noon followed by light lunch

SEPTEMBER Monday 17th The Cross
OCTOBER Monday 15th Influence of Fr Woods
NOVEMBER Thursday 15th The Will of God

Facilitator: Sr Mary Fermio rsj

VENUE:

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St East Melbourne
Please contact us for acceptances to help us with catering.

P. 03 9926 9300
admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au



St Francis Church
Melbourne

OPEN DAYS

2018

The following Saturday 10am-4pm
17th November

- Take a tour of the Museum
- Visit the gift Shop for Christmas gift ideas and cards
- Mary MacKillop walking tour of the sites where Mary Lived and worked from 11 a.m.
- Enjoy light refreshments
- Pray in the chapel
- Buy a different Christmas gift

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE
362 Albert St East Melbourne
Ph 9926 9300

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

Melb, South Aust., New South Wales
Visiting the sites related to
St Mary MacKillop and her family
24th October—3rd November
For further information and details
Contact MMHC 03 9926 9300

Or mmp.national.pilgrimage@sosj.org.au

In an article in Catholic Life, Sale Diocese, Pat Gray of Maffra writes: “The whole trip was superbly put together, best quality accommodation, coach, meals and flights. I can thoroughly recommend it as both spiritually and physically rewarding. The pilgrimage included a booklet or readings, prayers and reflections for each place visited.”

PRAYER REQUESTS

Visitors to the Chapel at MMHC are welcome to write in the folder provided, their prayer requests through the intercession of St Mary of the Cross. Each week the pages containing the prayer requests are forwarded to North Sydney and placed near the tomb of St Mary MacKillop in the Chapel at Mary MacKillop Place.



THE AUSSIE CAMINO

From Portland to Penola beginning
with Mass at East Melbourne
Signing of Register of Pilgrims then travel to Portland
10 days of walking through spectacular country
For further information
Call MMHC 03 9926 9300 or
Email Luke Mills at lukej.mills@bigpond.com
A great way to spend the school holidays!

AROUND THE TRAPS—Lakes Entrance and Morwell

LAKES ENTRANCE

In the warmth of St Joseph's Convent, Golf Links Road, eleven ladies living the charism of Mary MacKillop gathered. Our hostess and leader was Sr. Lynette Young. It won't be long before the grey nomads amongst us start heading North for warmer weather, a marvellous opportunity today to be involved in today's uplifting reflections. What an amazing morning was had! We started by attending the school Mass, then over to the convent where we sipped tea out of the finest china cups whilst catching up with each other, then into our spiritual enrichment program learning more about the life of Australia's first Saint.

Sr. Lynette opened the day with her first reflection on Mary's family life, producing images of each member as she took us through their difficulties.



Buchan Caves Park 2018



A prepared booklet took us through the Sorrowful Mysteries of Mary MacKillop's Life.

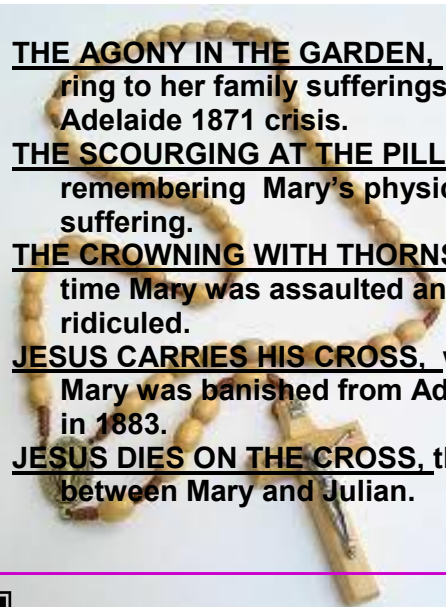
THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN, referring to her family sufferings and Adelaide 1871 crisis.

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR, remembering Mary's physical suffering.

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS, the time Mary was assaulted and ridiculed.

JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS, when Mary was banished from Adelaide in 1883.

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS, the rift between Mary and Julian.



L-R. Margaret Berlinger, Barbara Logan, Louise Anketell, Dianne Clarke, Pat Keon, Sr. Lynette, Colette Sierra, Lynette Berlinger, front, Lena Zagami.

Our Morning concluded singing MARY OF THE CROSS.

GATHERING AT MORWELL



On Sunday 5th August, Morwell Associates were joined by Sr Mary Fermio and Fr Edwin for Lunch at the Morwell Club to celebrate the Feast of St Mary MacKillop.

Each received a bookmark made by Sr Mary with a saying of St Mary of the Cross. We welcomed Margaret McQuillen from Churchill who is soon to be enrolled.

REMINISCENCES OF A JOSEPHITE

An extract from St Joseph's school Woodburn 1914-2014 Reminiscences of an Eventful Year
by a Sister of St Joseph

When I entered on 31 December **1889** though I was at that time my mothers 'right hand man', she was filled with joy at being able to give her eldest daughter to the service of God. I was not acquainted with the Sisters of St Joseph but had recently read an account of the death of Fr Woods and also of Mother Mary's foundation in Sydney and somehow the work appealed to me...

My year of postulanship was spent in Kempsey on the Macleay River, to which we travelled by boat, as there were no trains or fast aeroplanes, or comfortable motor cars running north in those days. We were a community of five...(After profession she was asked to go to Swan Bay on the Richmond River, again travelling by boat.)

Our destination was rather a lonely place, situated on the bank of the river, about thirty miles from Lismore. On one side of the cottage-convent was a large sugarcane field, and on the other a few yards distance, was the small school church. Apart from a small store and hotel...there was no town. The river flowed passed the convent for some distance before make a great bend backwards a mile or so distant, thus making it a doubly precarious place in flood time. Our predecessors had warned us to be particularly careful of snakes, as they were very numerous, and to examine our beds at night in case they should be occupied by one of more of these reptiles.

All three of us were strangers to the place...all manner of creeping creatures were legion. Small greyish frogs were our constant companions, creeping up the bedposts and other articles of furniture, and even hopping about on the altar in the church.

All went well however until some time in March. The heavens were opened and most assuredly it rained the scriptural forty days and forty nights. The river rose rapidly and broke its bank a half mile or so above us. The escaped rivers flowed round and joined the river at the back, thus driving before it into the convent every creeping creature from snakes to ants. Back and front the waters gradually rose higher and higher and for several days all were in trepidation lest the whole concern should be carried bodily away. All the buildings were wooden and raised several feet from the ground as this did sometimes happen. The men were kept busy removing families in distress...in order to stave off the evil hour they nailed boards about three feet wide around the verandah and across the doorsteps thinking we would be quite safe for the night...about ten o'clock it burst through the flooring boards and within half an hour we were wading about in water up to our knees, endeavouring to dodge the reptiles. Earlier in the day I had leaned out of the window, armed with a spade and tried to decapitate two large black snakes which were vainly trying to cling to the wall. ...those same two gentleman were found afterwards in the parlour curled up on some furniture.

Taking a light we ventured onto the submerged verandah to coo-ee for the men. Hundreds of black beetles swarmed on me. In frantic efforts to beat them off the light was dropped and we were left in the dark, afraid to move...the rescuers arrived...and we were taken across to the church which was much higher, by means of planks...we took the Blessed Sacrament with us.

The Church raised on piles, was about seven feet from the ground and so was comparatively safe for a few hours. But by 4 am the kneelers were floating about and we had taken refuge in the sanctuary...the rescue party arrived with a large rowing boat and took us over the flood waters some three miles or so to the Reardon's home. How long we remained there I cannot recall, but I think it was three or four weeks...we prayed, ate, and slept in the same room as we kept Our Lord, as the house was full of refugees.

When the rain had ceased and the floodwaters had receded, some of our good people cleaned out the convent as far as was possible, in preparation for our return, made by boat on the river this time. The mud and slime was still inches thick on the ground so planks were put out from the wharf to the convent for us to walk on. Mr Casey carried the Tabernacle and many people followed, so we had a procession of the Blessed Sacrament without the priest.

(Imagine all this with long habits, few clothes, no electricity, no shops, no supermarkets...

What wonderfully brave women they were—Women of the West! (North))

AROUND THE TRAPS

BACCHUS MARSH / WOODEND

The group gathered at the Convent, Bacchus Marsh for a time of friendship, prayer. The Associates were encouraged to talk about topics for the Plenary Council and to contribute where they could. Afternoon tea included creamed jelly Cakes which were soon demolished.

From Left: Carmel O'Shea, Val Dickson, Lucille Wheelahan, Dianne Corro, Christine van Order, Margaret Healy, Bruna Bombig.



HAMILTON

The Hamilton Josephite Associates group met in our Mary MacKillop chapel last Thursday, where we appreciated the floor heating. We discussed the IJALT newsletter. We also talked about our Service and as we have always provided hospitality for Pilgrims we will continue that and add the annual visit of the Seminarians, to our hospitality. There was also interest in collecting the goods needed for the Days for Girls bags. Maureen Ellis, from Mornington, joined us for the meeting and we all went out for a very nice lunch. Recently our parishes in the Western Region have become one parish containing 13 Parish communities. It is to be known as Mary MacKillop Parish Western Region Communities.

Noreen McLeish

(the name is most appropriate as the Mary MacKillop Trail is situated in that region)

SUNBURY REGIONAL DAY



Twenty-one Associates travelled on a very cold Wintry day from Sebastopol, Hamilton, Woodend, Bacchus Marsh and Melton, hosted by the Sunbury group. We were lucky that the rain held off until our day was over.

During the final ritual we welcomed four members who are the founding group of the Melton Associates. Apologies from two others who were unwell. From Left: Marian Muller, Anna Samy, and Margaret and Brendan Richards. Sr /Therese Dagge and Jose Noy joined us during the day.

A portrayal of the Associates activities in Peru helped all realise that in all cultures, we have the same service and enjoy celebrating with a meal.

A lovely morning tea was provided by the Sunbury

ST JOSEPH'S BY THE SEA, 16 ESPLANADE, WILLIAMSTOWN 2018 PROGRAMS

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY DAYS - We Listen to the heartbeat.....

Each session: 1.30—3 p.m. Repeated 7.30—9p.m. Donation: Subsidised \$10 Cost: \$20

"To listen to the heartbeat of God is to listen both within the vastness of the universe and within the intimacy of our own hearts" John Philip Newell

Sept 20th Listening to the Heartbeat of the Rural People. - Lynette Young rsj

Oct 25th Listening to the Heartbeat of those seeking asylum in this country—Rita Malavisi rsj

Nov 25th A Pilgrimage to the Heart of God through the practice of Centering Prayer Yvonne Harte rsj

CONTACT: ST JOSEPH'S BY THE SEA

03 9397 6012 or admin.sjbtsw@sosj.org.au





STAMPS

USED STAMPS

Used postage stamps have raised \$244,000 for the Peruvian Mission. Please leave a border of about 3cm around the stamps.

Please take note of border to be left

Please forward stamps to:

STAMPS

Locked Bag 3031

BURWOOD NSW 1805



BOXES OF STAMPS TO:

5 Alexander Avenue,

Croydon NSW 2132

Thank you

As postage has increased members of the group may like to contribute to the cost.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Some of you may have watched **BACK ROADS** coming from **Nyngan**, where 600 DFG bags have been sewn by a group of women who meet for sewing bees.

Agnes Moran, 70+ of Westmeadows spends her time making shields and liners, and Clare Pree has a group of women who make the bags. Altogether I would say the Broadmeadow's group have given me over 300 completed bags to take to Ballarat for Robyn to organize. Congratulations to this little group of Associates who put so much effort into helping young women across the world to be able to go to school every day each month.

CONGRATULATIONS to Margot Forster of the Sunbury group who has knitted hundreds of hats for Premmie Babies, collected numerous items for DFG, travels around Melbourne by train and is in her 90's.

Like Mary MacKillop they are living their ministry to their last breath. Wonderful Associates!

FROM THE OFFICE:

THANK YOU to all who sent in their subscriptions and donations. You keep us operating.

Check out the sosj.org.au website for interesting articles

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OR Phone/Fax: 03 5367 2078

For all enquiries related to Associates

BULLETIN BOARD



May they rest in peace

We keep in our prayers those who have died
Sr Barbara Connolly rsj
Peter, son of Florrie Vincent, Yarraville
Barbara Malady, Warragul ,
sister of Margaret Malady rsj
Jeffrey, son of Margot Forster, Sunbury group
Kath Davis, Morwell, mother of Sr Mary Davis rsj
Margaret Berriman, Eaglehawk
Cathy Berlinger, niece of Grace, Margaret and Lyn
of Lakes Entrance
Carmel Lane, sister of Shirley O'Toole rsj
Margaret, sister of Agnes Nunn rsj
Pat McMillan, Morwell
John Hammond, brother of
Margaret Closter, Bacchus Marsh

BOOK REVIEW

WALK IN MY SHOES Alwyn Evans

I think I found this book at K-Mart where they sometimes have good books a bit cheaper. The story is created from research, interviews of refugees and those who resettled them in Fremantle. Told through the eyes of a 12 year old girl the story of their escape from Afghanistan, their months in a detention Centre struggling to have some hope, the nightmares, the mother's depression, their new home in Fremantle, the hatred of some Australians and the friendship of others, tell a gripping story that will touch your heart. Try your library

JESUS, THE FORGOTTEN FEMINIST

By Chris Geraghty

How did Jesus treat women? Chris Geraghty delves into the scriptures and history showing how Jesus practised a radically inclusive approach to women that challenged the inequitable beliefs and practices of his own culture and community. Using familiar Australian language it is very readable. Obtainable from Pauline Books and Media
7 Denmark Hill Road, Hawthorn East. 3123 \$30