

Autumn 2019

March 2019 Newsletter

Fanning the Flame of Friendship

by Mary Hemmings

Greetings to all of our South Australian Associates. Together we number over 300, scattered through city and country. Some are 'connected' just through our newsletters; some gather in small groups, perhaps monthly or bi-monthly or occasionally, while others move in and out of our central gatherings which are usually held at Kensington, although we have also gone to Sevenhill, Murray Bridge, Mitcham (Josephite Cemetery) and Largs Bay over the years.

Our 2018 year of **Josephites Jumping into Justice** proved to be valuable in providing us with a focus that produced considerable energy and enabled us to be of **service** through our different projects. Items of food and women's personal care products were provided to support the women of Catherine House. \$350 was raised and donated to the Mercy House of Welcome and a car boot full of clothing, toiletries and cans of food, together with a cheque for \$330, were presented to the Hutt St Centre in the weeks before Christmas. We are very grateful to all who supported in different ways throughout the year: a visible way of giving service to people in our wider community. We are also aware that people in our country areas provide many such signs of outreach through your local community service actions.

From this **service** theme, this year we are now

adopting the focus:

Fanning the Flame of Friendship

This aspect or characteristic of Josephite Associates, namely **friendship**, speaks of a sense of connectedness with others with whom we are pleased to gather. Many have come to be an Associate through being friends with a Sister or another Associate.

Throughout our lives we experience many kinds of friendship. For some, a deep and lasting relationship with someone from our school days is a much-cherished friend. Working and socializing in different circles, living next door or meeting while travelling: all of these opportunities can bring about friendships or connections with people with whom we develop an affinity which deepens over time.

As Associates our **friendship** is because of our connectedness to the story of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph. This common interest means that together we seek out opportunities to deepen our understanding of this story which are based in Mary and the Sisters, and ultimately in our love and connection to the person of Jesus. Jesus himself says to his disciples (of which each of us, too, are one): "No longer do I call you servants ... but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:14) How blessed are

*'With fondest love and
praying to God to bless
you all and grant you a
truly happy New Year.'*
MMK 1882

we to share in God's story as revealed through Jesus.

In the story of Mary and Martha whose home Jesus frequented often, we have a sense that here he was able to rest and find refreshment and connectedness. As Associates we too gather to enjoy the companionship of others. Sometimes our time together includes moments of prayer. Other times may be of listening and reflection while there are also times of action. Perhaps from reflection we are inspired to go forth to continue serving others or find new ways to reach out in the spirit of Mary MacKillop who was inspired to serve the poor and those most in need in her communities.

Pope Francis encourages us to be true friends of our friends, with a friendship like that of Jesus. "Not just remaining among ourselves, but rather heading out onto the 'court,' in order to make new friends. You have to spread Jesus' friendship throughout the world, wherever you may be: at work, when studying, by WhatsApp, Facebook or Twitter, when going to a dance or having a good aperitif or out on the street or playing a game of basketball. That's where Jesus' friends are. Giving them the conviction that we should be happy, since we have a Father in heaven who loves us." (31 July 2017)

In the year ahead, we hope to **Fan the Flame of Friendship** by continuing visits to our country regions, consolidating in some places where we visited last year (Clare and the Riverland) and working anew in some other areas where Associates have continued living in the spirit of Mary MacKillop without formally gathering for some time. Wherever you are living, if a few of you would like support to **re-ignite the flame** we, as a Leadership Team, would be happy to visit and work with you to do this. Please get in touch with us: Online at sa.associates@sosj.org.au or telephone 0417 871 904.

A focus for this year will be to support the work that Sr Michele Madigan rsj is involved in with members of our local Indigenous communities, so our central fundraising will be directed toward this. This is particularly pertinent in this **International Year of Indigenous Languages**.

Our first gathering at Kensington on the 23rd February (see page 3) will focus on people sharing what it is about Mary MacKillop that 'captures' them ... and us. We hope that many may come along to be 're-ignited through stories' to continue Jesus' mission in the year ahead.



IJALT Update by Mary Hemmings – Chairperson

Our International Josephite Associate Leadership Team met in Sydney in January and is working keenly to have resources available to support groups into the future.

In November last year a letter was sent regarding the possible change of name of 'Josephite Associates'. Those who receive our communications by email received this letter; postal deliveries unfortunately did not. Accompanying this newsletter though, is a

letter regarding a proposed change of name, from 'Josephite Associates' to 'Josephite Companions'. Please take the time to read this and have a conversation with others about the contents; we are happy to receive feedback.

An IJALT newsletter is produced three times a year. All who are on email should receive this. We will include this in our postal mail when possible to enable all to keep abreast of what is happening.

“Have courage, trust in God, St Joseph and our Blessed Mother, and you need have no fear.”
MMK 1905

Josephites Jumping into Justice

2019 Launch of:

*'Fanning the
Flame of
Friendship'*

Saturday 23rd February 2019

Bethany Centre

From 2pm

*What is it about
Mary MacKillop
and her story
that captures
each of us?*

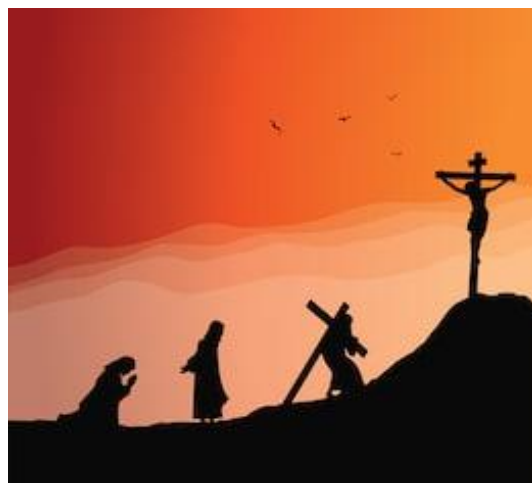
Listen to inspiring stories and
share in afternoon tea.

RSVP & enquiries:
Mary – 0417 871 904

Walking with Friends

Saturday 13th April 2019

Bethany Centre
4 High St Kensington
11am
(cuppa at 10.30am)



In the lead up to Holy Week join us for a morning of prayer and reflection as we move towards the great Easter event. We prepare ourselves for this time as we contemplate Jesus' journey to the Cross.

A light lunch will be provided at the conclusion, so please RSVP to help with catering. There will also be a raffle to help support our Josephite ministry in 2019 or you can make a small donation towards this cause.

*Come along, nourish the soul as well as the stomach,
and 'fan the flame of friendship' by bringing a friend or two!*

For enquiries and to RSVP please telephone Mary on 0417 871 904

*We adore You O Christ, and we bless you.
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world*

Convocation of the 27th Chapter

by Sr Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph



In November 2018, on the feast of All Saints, the 27th General Chapter of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart was announced. The Chapter event will be held from 30th September – 15th October 2019 at Baulkham Hills, NSW.

Leading up to this event, Sisters are invited to enter into a journey of preparation, discernment and join in contemplative dialogue, called by God to live this particular moment of grace in their story.

The theme of this 27th Chapter is:

Raising the Powers of Love

This Chapter is an ecclesial event in which Sisters seek to 'listen with the ears of our heart'

to how, in this time and place, they respond to the needs of this time.

Religious believe that a general chapter is a significant moment in the life of a Congregation as together they discern the way they are asked to respond to God's call at this moment in our history.

It is a time to discern together the next phase in their journey of living the Gospel with a Josephite heart. They draw inspiration by the wisdom of our Patrons – Joseph, John the Baptist, the Sacred Heart and Mary the mother of the Word Incarnate; in the spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, and united with all the Sisters who have gone before into the fullness of the communion of saints, Sisters share in this moment trusting in our Provident and Abundant God.



Our 2019 Jubilarians

60 Years Professed

Sr Teresa Taggert

50 Years Professed

Srs Caroline Duggan, Kateri Duke, Marie Egan, Lianella Girardi, Josie Huppatz, Kerry Keenan and Angela Mahar

Photos from our Gathering on 8th December 2018

(articles appear on page 5)



Presentations (abridged) from our Gathering on 8th December 2018

by Margaret Emery on behalf of the St Joseph's Old Scholars

We are proud to say the SJOS Association has had a long innings of over 100 years and, as they do in cricket, we raise our bat and thank all old scholars, both living and who have died, for being part of this journey with us.

We have valued the input and support of the Associates and the Mary MacKillop Old Scholars. While we may have different committees and sometimes different members, we realize that we really do have the same overall theme of 'living in the spirit of Mary MacKillop.'

Prior to our Annual Mass and Afternoon Tea in April last year, it was suggested that as it was the Year of Youth, we could look at inviting students from some of our Josephite schools and colleges. And so, we did!

Some of you may remember Sky Kim, a student from Mary MacKillop College, who was 'pushed' into singing for us on the day. What a beautiful voice! Josie Van Pelt and I attended the college's End-of-Year Mass and

Awards Night recently where Sky won 3 awards. Sky achieved her dream and will leave soon for Brisbane to complete a Bachelor of Music. What a privilege it was to showcase Sky at our Old Scholars event.

We always appreciate the support of the Sisters. Our two luncheons are always well-attended, and it was at our last luncheon where you could not get the smile off the face of an Old Scholar who had finally caught up with one of the Sisters after a long absence.

We always do a 'roll call' of where everyone went to school. Bit of a competition as to what school had the most students present! On two occasions staff were heard to yell out "I'm an Old Scholar." We usually have a few door prizes and 'living in the spirit of Mary MacKillop' was tested because half of one table were praying to her to win a prize! What comes across is how thankful we are to have that connection with the Sisters of St Joseph and are proud to be a St Joseph's Old Scholar.

by Bridgette Barrett on behalf of the Josephite Associates

We decided that for 2018 our theme would be *Josephites Jumping into Justice* and have held events accordingly. The letter J is a constant for Josephites: Jesus, John the Baptist and Joseph are the people who inspired Mary MacKillop and Julian Tension Woods (another J!).

Another J is that we have joined with the St Joseph Old Scholars and Mary MacKillop Old Scholars in regular meetings to explore how we are all 'living in the spirit of Mary MacKillop'. By reflecting on our shared values, we have been able to support one another, both by attending each other's events and offering assistance.

For ourselves, as Josephite Associates, we have focused on supporting women through Catherine House with a *Justice in Action* day, producing food for meals and donating women's personal items. We have also supported the Mercy House of Welcome by raising funds to support refugees. Just recently

a donation from us went to a woman called Mary who travelled overseas to visit her mother who is ill.

Having access to a mini-bus enhanced the ability of city and country people to gather at a Reflection day at Sevenhill. The Riverland was also visited to spread the message of Mary MacKillop.

So here today, all three Josephite groups have gathered to bring our year to a close by celebrating Mass, sharing a simple meal and continuing to support those on the fringes of society. As always, our aim is to follow in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop and today we do this through focusing our efforts on the Hutt Street Centre. Sr Catherine Clark, on the feast of Mary MacKillop, challenged us through the Mary MacKillop story to keep going with courageous hearts.

Now that we are all working and collaborating, we have more hearts and so much more courage.

DIARY DATES FOR 2019

Fanning the Flame of Friendship

Saturday 23rd February
See page 3 for details.

Walking with Friends

Saturday 13th April
See page 3 for details

A Myriad of Friends

Saturday 8th June
Bethany Centre
Following the 10.30am Mass in the Chapel

Reflection Day

Saturday 10th August
Country SA

Food & Friendship

Friday 1st November
Bethany Centre
From 6pm



Please put these dates in your diary. Details about upcoming events will appear in later newsletters.

Stamps for the Missions

Stamps which are donated are then processed, parcelled up and sold at auction. The money raised goes to **Mary MacKillop Today** (formerly Mary MacKillop International) for the missions in Brazil, Peru and Timor-Leste. 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



Associate Subscriptions for 2018 – 2019

Title: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Would you prefer the newsletter sent via email? Yes No

Telephone: Home: _____ Mobile: _____

The Leadership Team sincerely thanks you for paying your subscription, which helps us to remain in contact with you. To make it easier for you to pay your subs, our banking details are included to enable a direct payment over the internet or to make a payment at any BankSA branch.

BankSA BSB Number: 105-087
Account Number: 039066240
Account Name: RSJ Associates SA

Your payment covers, primarily, postage and donations to Josephite ministries. Thank you. We are trying to keep our postage expenditure down as more Associates provide email addresses.

Payment Amount: \$20.00 \$15.00 \$30.00 Other Amount: _____

Payment Method: Cash Cheque BankSA deposit/transfer
(payable to RSJ Associates SA)

Please post this form to: Julie Langman, 16 Greenwood Cres, Glenalta, 5052
(Especially if you are paying by bank deposit/transfer as you may not be able to include all your details)

Our Josephite Partners

Living in the Spirit of Mary MacKillop

• St Joseph's Old Scholars Association

An Old Scholar is anyone (female or male) who has ever been connected to a Josephite school or college in Australia, as a student or teacher.

Our Association has been in existence for over 100 years. Our 3 functions this year are:

- Sunday 7th April
2pm Mass in St Joseph's Chapel
Followed by afternoon tea in the Bethany Centre
- Wednesday 5th June
12pm Luncheon at the Hampstead Hotel
- Wednesday 9th October
12pm Luncheon at the Lockley's Hotel

For further information contact Josie: 8295 3667 or josievp.44@gmail.com

• Mary MacKillop Old Scholars Association

The Association continues the friendships and encourages the building of life-long networks amongst past students and staff after high school. It also fosters justice and compassion, hospitality and concern for those in need and has a special relationship with the Sisters of St Joseph.

Everyone is very welcome to the Annual Reunion which will be on Friday 25th October this year.

Newsletters and our popular Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179768134304>) keep people in touch with each other. Make contact and share your news.

• Mary MacKillop Precinct

1. Our 3 Venues

Comprising Bethany Centre, Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide and St Joseph's Chapel. The Chapel is open every day whereas the Museum is still closed until renovations are complete. To make contact please telephone 8130 5900.

2. Monthly Mass (10.30am) & Reflection (5.45pm)

Venue: St Joseph's Chapel

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|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| March | Friday, 8/3/2019 | Mass & Reflection |
| April | Monday, 8/4/2019 | Mass & Reflection |
| May | Wednesday, 8/5/2019 | Mass & Reflection |
| June | Saturday, 8/6/2019 | Mass & Reflection |

3. Museum Fundraising Event: Keith Conlon's Horrible History of Adelaide

Friday, 1st March 2019

Bethany Centre

Wine & nibbles 6.30pm & Performance 7.30pm

Tickets \$30 per person

Book online at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/> or telephone 8130 5916



This debuted at the 2018 Adelaide Fringe. In 2019, we are excited to host Keith and his talented musical partner, pianist Kerin Bailey on stage. They will bring us laughs, audience involvement as well as history in an hour of truths that are funnier than fiction, featuring our very own St Mary MacKillop. *Come and join the party!*

Mary MacKillop

and

Friendship, Prayer and Service



Mary – A Woman of Friendship

'If we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.' John 4:12

Mary forged many wonderful friendships in her life. André Gide writes, "True kindness presupposes the faculty of imagining as one's own the suffering and joys of others." It is this very kindness that characterised Mary's life. Her kindness was extended to people from all walks of life and this was evident in her friendships with Joanna Barr-Smith, Emmanuel Solomon, and many others. This love and kindness knew no boundaries.

Reflection

- ❖ What is my experience of friendship?
- ❖ When have I felt God's love present in my friendships?
- ❖ How do I reach out in friendship to those on the margins?

Mary – A Woman of Prayer

'O God, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.' Psalms 51:15

Prayer was very important to Mary and enabled her to maintain a strong and trusting relationship with her God. Daily prayer and immersion in the Scriptures travelled deep in to the centre of Mary's soul until the distance between Galilee and Mary was no further away than her next action.

Reflection

- ❖ What is my experience of prayer?
- ❖ How does prayer sustain me during those moments of darkness?
- ❖ When is prayer evident in my everyday, ordinary actions?

Mary – A Woman of Service

'God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.' Micah 6:8

Mary's life was one of dedicated service, especially to the poor and most vulnerable of her day. She was a woman with vision who worked hard for the dignity and equality of all people. Over the years, we have become familiar with many stories from Mary's life, and we know that the above Scripture passage aptly captures the spirit of Mary.

Reflection

- ❖ What does Mary's life teach me about service?
- ❖ How am I of service to those most vulnerable in my family/community?
- ❖ When has my service to others made a difference?
- ❖ What did I do?