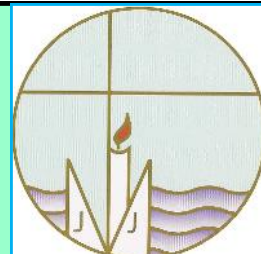




Josephite Associates, Victoria-Tasmania AUTUMN 2019



AUTUMN—we reap the fruits of the land

Dear Associates,

Our New Year is well on the way as we enjoy the cooler weather after the dry, hot days of Summer. May we enjoy the beauty of this season with all its colour and charm, its mists and fruitfulness.

During the summer hundreds of people have visited Bacchus Marsh picking strawberries, stone fruits and apples. At times the avenue is lined with cars and the fields sprinkled with colourful hats.

During this last week we have been reminded that our faith is not dependent on people, but on our relationship with God. The Eucharist is the great Sacrament of healing, and Lent is a time of prayer, penance and good works.

This year is a special year for the Sisters of St Joseph as our **27th Chapter** will be held in September. This occurs every six years and we started in January reflecting on our past and our future, whatever God may present us with. I have prepared the reflection on the theme that the Sisters are using for their own reflection as they prepare. I hope that you will pray

with us and for us during the coming months, that we shall be open to the Spirit and the ways we need to **RAISE THE POWER OF LOVE**. A prayer card is included for your use. Use it when you can and know the Sisters appreciate your prayers.

Also included is a **letter from the IJALT** outlining some changes in the future. Please read carefully and discuss at your next gathering. Let Mary Hemmings know of any ideas or suggestions you have.

The **Subscription form** for 2019 is there as well. Some of you are so very generous and we are very grateful. Without the extra donations we would not be able to cover all our costs and the extras that turn up from time to time. It would be wonderful if **everyone** on our Database contributed instead of the one-third. This is really not justice towards those who every year contribute.

Our Regional Days will be opportunities for you to ask questions about the future as Anne-Marie is on the IJALT and can keep you up-to-date with what is happening.

Our **Leaders' Day** was excellent as usual but unfortunately not so many were able to come. We hope that as many of you as possible will attend a Regional Day, even if you have to travel a little, as we do to be there for the five gatherings. If you have never been to one you are really missing something very special, even if I do say so myself.

So far this year there are several new members to be enrolled. So keep on inviting, giving the example, and bringing the

Josephite Charism to your parish.

Those of you on email would have received one about **Drought Relief** for the Gippsland areas fast becoming dust bowls. If you wish to donate something you can use the Direct Debit Bank A/c or send to me but PLEASE mark clearly to distinguish it from subscriptions. I have heard from Churchill and Maffra Associates whose Vinnies groups are doing great work.

Our prayers are with those who have been threatened by bushfires during this last week. Many of our Associates live in the Bunyip area. Keep praying for rain trusting that "In God's good time" it will rain!

As this will be my last year on the Core-team I look forward to meeting you at the various venues and keeping in touch in other ways. The Ten years I have been working with the Associates have been wonderful years, of working with wonderful people, who have given me life, love and much joy. I know that you will continue to support the Core-team members.

Every blessing and may St Mary MacKillop keep us all in her prayer.

Mary Fermio rsj



Inside this issue:

- 1 Editorial
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 - 4 Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
 - 5 Around the Groups
 - 6 Regional Days 2019
 - Lenten reflection books
 7. Leaders' Day
 8. Bulletin Board
- Enclosures:*
1. Prayer Sheet: Autumn
 2. Letter from Mary Hemmings
 3. Prayer for Sisters Chapter
 4. Subscription Form

Friendship Prayer Service

AUTUMN REFLECTION

THE POWER OF LOVE



1. READ SLOWLY THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN
LUKE:25-37

2. RECALL A TIME WHEN:

- * You have read or seen on TV the POWER OF LOVE at work.
- * A Time in your own life when the POWER OF LOVE was evident as shown to you.
- * A Time when YOU showed the POWER OF LOVE to someone else.

3. ASK YOURSELF:

- Why does LOVE have such POWER?
- Who or what is the source of this LOVE?
- How would you act in a similar situation?

“We can have the desire to express this power of love, but sometimes feel powerless when faced with a situation, and our lack of response can disturb us” A Sister of St Joseph

A MODERN DAY STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

The NZ born journalist, Peter Arnett, tells of an incident when he is in the West Bank: a bomb goes off. Bodies are blown through the air. The Israeli troops seal off the whole area.

A man comes running up to Arnett with a bloodied little girl in his arms. He says, “You are press, you can get us out of here. If I don’t get her into a hospital immediately she’s going to die.”

Peter said, “I put them in the back seat of the car and threw a blanket over them. And I did get through the lines. As I drove towards Tel Aviv, I could hear him in the back seat, rocking this little girl in his arms and whispering: “Go faster, oh God help him to go faster.”

Later he started moaning, “I’m losing her! I’m losing her! Oh God I’m losing her!”

Peter said by the time they got to the hospital he was emotionally drained. They took the little girl into the operating theatre, and the two of them sat down in the waiting room. They sat there a half hour, silent, exhausted from the emotion.

Unfortunately, the doctor came out and said, “I’m sorry. She’s dead.” The man dissolved in tears. Peter put his arm around him and said, “I’m not married. I don’t have any children. I don’t know what it is like to lose a daughter.”

The man turned his head and said, “My daughter? That little girl is not my child. I’m an Israeli settler, she’s a Muslim girl. But maybe the time has come for us to recognize every child as our child.”

Taken from Psalm 132 Psalms for Praying , Nan Merrill

<i>Those who follow the way of love Know that all is working toward And may the healing power of Love Of fear and ignorance May the peace of the Spirit bless you, As you follow the Light, You come to live in the Light</i>	<i>With calm and faith-filled intent, Healing and wholeness. Lift you from the limitation Into the arms of freedom. and Lead you on life’s journey... you become Gentle and kind, and see through Love’s eyes.</i>
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*May God bless us
And strengthen us
So that we can follow his words*

THEN GO AND DO THE SAME

THE JOURNEYS OF MARY MACKILLOP

During the last few weeks I have been reading *One Door Closes, Another Opens*, by Bernadette O'Sullivan rsj, the story of Mary MacKillop in New South Wales from 1880-1909 and describing her many travels as she travelled from place to place, opening new convents, visiting schools, meeting with her sisters, the Parish Priests, the children, distributing lollies and giving half day holidays. (gone are the times!!) . At times I put the book down in astonishment after having read of some of the travels she made, sometimes day after day, one taking eleven/fourteen hours from beginning to end over mountain roads in a horse drawn vehicle. As well she visited South Australia and Victoria, slotting in visits to Bacchus Marsh, or elsewhere on her journey from Melbourne to Adelaide. Fortunately, by this time, trains were the vogue, so she didn't have to endure the bouncing, jolting carriages over poorly made roads in hot or freezing weather.

It was a time of great growth in New South Wales when priests were seeking Sisters to teach children in their parishes, a time when the people had to find funds to build a convent, provide a school. In many instances the Sisters themselves bought the convent, and the rent they would have paid to a landlord, was used to cover the interest on a loan. At times they taught in Churches and halls, until a school was built. In one part I read that Mary requested the priest to build the Convent near the school so that the sisters would not have to walk too far.

After the Chapter in January 1899, held because of Mother Bernard's sudden death, Mary, who had been elected Mother General, decided to visit every Convent in the Congregation. What an undertaking! To do this she travelled the length and breadth of New South Wales by train day and night journeys, by sulky, and by coach. At times she visited relatives who lived in the Cooma area, stayed with Parishioners, convents, including those of other Congregations and relatives. At all places Mary found time to visit the school, and give instruction to the Sisters, their formation would have been limited and the availability of Mass irregular and possibly there would have been a lack of spiritual reading material. She travelled to New Zealand, South Australia and Victoria gathering reports and information about the work of the Sisters. At times the journey affected her health causing Mary to spend time in bed. Many times she arrived at her destination in the middle of the night.



The Sisters appeared to be experts at putting on concerts in which all pupils participated. The intention was to raise funds for themselves and for the school, as no money came from Government sources. According to reports in local papers, these concerts were highly regarded and very well attended. Some of the acts involved dancing, exercises with clubs, and musical performances.



During these years she visited Bungaree, west of Melbourne, where the Sisters who belonged to Perthville, had just heard they were able to unite with the Central Congregation if they wished. The Sisters there decided to do so and accompanied Mary to Sydney where they renewed their vows according to the Constitutions. Kincumber Orphanage, St Martha's Home, Leichardt, and a girls home at Lane Cove were opened. The Providence in the Rocks area was closed due to an outbreak of the plague and Lane Cove replaced this. So besides all the travel Mary was inundated with Administration, duties she sometimes delegated.

It was during these years on her final trip to New Zealand that Mary suffered a stroke. But that did not deter her travels when she became well enough she visited Melbourne and stayed at what is now the Heritage Centre, where she interviewed young women wishing to join her. She visited Yarraville and surely, Surrey Hills Boys' Home where she had laboured herself.

This year at our Regional Days in Victoria, our theme is *On the Wallaby*, looking at our journey, the travels of Mary MacKillop and what these mean for us today. Having a copy of this book in a group, and sharing some of the stories in it, would be a good addition to our theme and an interesting activity for a gathering. So I would encourage you to get a copy, read it and reflect on the commitment Mary MacKillop had in following what she believed was God's will for her: the establishment of a system of Catholic Schools across Australia and New Zealand. Many of us have benefited from this education system and the dedication of young and old Sisters and the vision of Mary MacKillop and Fr Woods, who had a dream and worked to make it come true.

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE DATES

2019 CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY MARY MACKILLOP—

Who still inspires us today!

11 am—12 noon followed by light lunch

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



Therese Quinn rsj

DONATION WELCOME.

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

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

23rd October—2nd November 2019

In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop, this pilgrimage covers Melbourne, Penola, Adelaide and Sydney, accompanied by Sisters of St Joseph and designed to inform and inspire people of all denominations.

By visiting the districts where Mary and her family lived and her early ministry, one appreciates more fully the struggles and endeavours of the Sisters in the early days establishing the Congregation and setting up Catholic Schools.

For further information and a copy of the brochure contact

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
Ph 9926 9300



ST JOSEPH'S BY THE SEA

16 Esplanade, Williamstown

Programs for 2019

What is God asking of us in Australia at this Time?

1-30 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. unless noted

18th April *Contemporary Art of the Last Supper*
Slide Presentation; Therese Quinn rsj

23rd May *Live music is an oasis in a world of cyber communications.. Music in the Chapel* 1.30 p.m only

23rd May *Busy lives and full calendars do not guarantee fulfilled lives.* Michael Mc Girr 7.30 p.m. only

27th June *Expressions of spirituality through the performing arts* Discussion Jacinta Chute

22nd August *Art, Women and Modern day spirituality*
Giovanni Farquer rsj/Anmaree Iaccarino

26th September *What is God asking of choirs or musicians at this time?* Jan Maine and Angela Pezzano

BOOKINGS: 9397 6012 or admin.sjbtsw@sosj.org.au

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre

362 Albert St

EAST MELBOURNE

PHONE: 03 9926 9300

2019 OPEN DAYS

10 a.m.—4 p.m.

SATURDAYS:

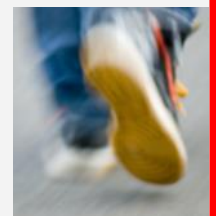
16th March

4th May

3rd August

16th November

- * **Pray in the Chapel**
- * **Tour the Museum**
- * **Visit the Gift Shop**
- * **Enjoy light refreshments**
- * **Mary MacKillop Walking Tour leaves at 11 a.m.**



AROUND THE TRAPS—

SWAN HILL The small group of Josephite Associates had another successful knitting day. It is a good get-together and we have sent another eight boxes of rugs away to be wrapped with love. We feel it is some little gesture that we do for cold people world wide.
Helen Dean

MURCHISON (RUSHWORTH GROUP) Sunday 16th December was cloudy, but fortunately the torrents of rain had stopped. The parishioners gathered in the lovely St Brigid's Church, Murchison for Mass and witnessed the enrolment of Sue O'Mahony and Marion DeKlijn as Josephite Associates. Many of the Rushworth group joined them and renewed their commitment. A varied and delicious luncheon was enjoyed by those who stayed to share companionship and food. The liturgy was a beautiful expression of worship with singing, and the final song Go Tell Everyone seemed very appropriate to the occasion.



Rushworth Associates with Sr Mary Fermio and Sr Nellie Versluys



Josephite Associates in Launceston met up for morning tea.



Sue O'Mahony and Marian de Klijn

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Brian Bourke**, husband of Maureen Bourke of Eaglehawk, who was awarded the **OAM and Citizen of the Year for Eaglehawk** this January.

Brian has worked in Education in Eaglehawk for over forty years, and as well, is involved in many organisations in the town. One such effort was setting up an education program for those who find it difficult to learn.

CONGRATULATIONS

To our Sister Jubilarians of the Vic-Tas Region:

PLATINUM

Sr Josepha Aitken, New Town, Hobart 70 years professed
Sr Veronica Dillon New Town Hobart 70 years professed

DIAMOND

Sr Margaret Mary Blampied 60 years professed
Sr Frances Mannes 60 years professed
Sr Cecilia O'Shea 60 years professed
Sr Patricia Robertson 60 years professed

GOLDEN

Sr Kathleen Crameri 50 years professed
Sr Caroline Duggan 50 years professed
Sr Ellen Mary Lane Ireland 50 years professed

REGIONAL DAYS 2019

REGIONAL DAYS 2019 THEME: ON THE WALLABY

Arrive: 9.30 am Start: 10 a.m. Finish: 3 p.m.

Venues and dates:

WONTHAGGI: Multi Purpose Hall, St Joseph's School, Elizabeth St,
23rd March Morwell, Inverloch, Wonthaggi, Leongatha, Fish Creek, Mirboo North

NAGAMBIE: MacKillop Hall, (Behind St Joseph's School)
4th May Nagambie, Rushworth, Murchison, Stanhope, plus the others.....

PAKENHAM: Parish Centre, St Patrick's Church, (Princes Highway)
29th June Pakenham Iona, Bunyip, Koo Wee Rup. And any other Associates

MAFFRA: St Mary's School Hall, Duke St.
17th August Maffra, Sale, Stratford, Heyfield, Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Orbost

SEBASTOPOL: Foyer in St James's Church, Sebastopol
12th October Sebastopol, Hamilton, Sunbury, Woodend, Bacchus Marsh, Melton

BYO LUNCH - DONATION of your choice. HOSTS PROVIDE MORNING TEA

PLEASE NOTE THESE DAYS IN YOUR DIARY AS A PRIORITY
As part of your on-going formation, we hope you attend at least
one Regional Day every two-three years
We rotate the venues to make this easier for you

BOOKS FOR LENTEN REFLECTION: Available from Pauline Books and Media
7 Denmark Hill Road, Hawthorn East 3123 Tel: 9882 3424 Email. orders.melbourne@paulinebooks.com.au

SACRED SPACE FOR LENT 2019 : Jesuit Communications Ireland. \$4.95 Leads you into an experience of prayer that is accessible, engaging and meaningful to daily life through Lent

NOT BY BREAD ALONE—Mary De Turrís Poust \$4.95 Day-by-day reflections on the Mass Readings

ALL I HAVE IS YOURS—Michael McGirr \$8.95 Selection of readingsm gospel prayers and personal reflections under-pinned by commentary that questions and prompts the reader, offer a Lenten program that will nourish and inspire

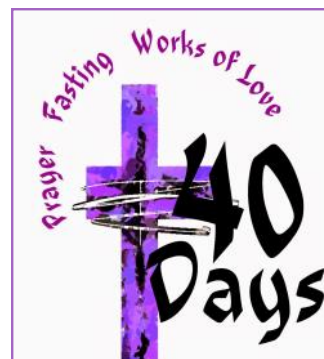
LET GOD WORK WONDERS Joseph Sica \$2.95 Lent is the perfect time to bring our troubles to Jesus letting him heal us day by day.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Denis McBride \$5.50 A reflective guide along the way of the cross where the beauty and solemn simplicity of the more traditional Stations are contrasted with modern images that challenge us to link Jesus' story to the struggle of our everyday life.

PRAYING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR SENIORS John van Bemmél \$4.95
These thoughtful prayers and reflections for prayer alone or with others, help us to see the grace and beauty of this time of life and to face its challenges with hope and joy.

OUR PATH OF LOVE. Daily Reflections, actions and prayers for families Lent 2019 \$2.95

Simple but profound, easy but deeply meaningful, this is the perfect booklet for families to enter into Lent's powerful message of God's unending love.





STAMPS

USED STAMPS

Used postage stamps have raised \$312,000 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.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sr Helen Saunders reported another successful year of stamp collecting and selling with approx. \$68,000 raised. This amount helps the legacy of St Mary MacKillop to continue.

One Story from Peru:

Tatiana is the school Captain at a disadvantaged secondary school in Southern Peru. Through the School Peace Project she and her fellow students have turned her school from a place riddled with violence to a peaceful and safe learning environment. Staff and students are trained in leadership and values, mediation and how to make their schools peaceful places in which to learn. The project has had an enormous impact on the entire school, as one teacher said "it is amazing to see the reduction of violence". Also noted is the change in the students' families and communities and Tatiana noted that there had been a decrease in drug and alcohol use by her fellow students since the project began.

**So a simple activity like cutting off stamps, saving and sorting them has made a difference— which is what the Mission statement is all about.
SO KEEP IT UP! ENCOURAGE OTHERS!**

BULLETIN BOARD

May they rest in peace

We keep in our prayers those who have died
Margaret Harty, Sebastopol
Peter McEleney, br -in -law of Sr Jose Noy
Julian, son of Clare Pree, Broadmeadows
Miss Monica Burke, Morwell

BOOK REVIEW

Two books I read during the holidays:

DON'T REMIND ME Georgette Noellat

Educated at Genazzano, gained a B of Music, became a barrister and solicitor. After a stroke she and her husband Jan, a Vet. Surgeon, took up farming at Toora, and later at Mardan outside Leongatha. Stories of her life will bring laughter and delight as well as compassion.

EAGLEHAWK GIRL A free-range child.

By Liz Low

The story of a woman growing up in Eaglehawk in 1950's. An observer of nature and book lover, she roamed the streets of Eaglehawk on foot and on a bike from an early age. She recalls what made her childhood a time of joy and conflict, questions and disappointments. Both from BP Service Station

THE VIRTUES OF MARY MACKILLOP

Written by Paul Gardner sj and privately published in 1989, it a book that will lead you to prayer and reflection. Many extracts from her letters reveal the spirituality of our Australian Saint.
\$15 at the Heritage Centre

FROM THE OFFICE:

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