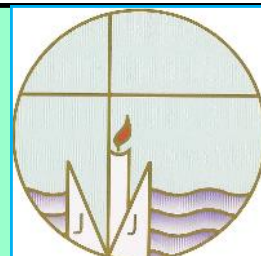




Josephite Associates, Victoria~Tasmania SUMMER 2018



SUMMER—hurray for holidays!

Dear Associates,

Once again another year has nearly ended and we wonder where the days have gone. Some of us have lost loved ones, others have coped with illness and change of accommodation.

This year I have ended my journeys to Eaglehawk to lead their meetings and John and Julie Spark with now be the leaders of that group.

During the year twenty men and women have become Associates, so we know that the Charism is well and truly alive.

Those of you at the Annual Mass would have witnessed the commitment of eight new Associates from across Melbourne and Gippsland. Another 19 are in progress doing the Introductory program.

Sr Audrey and I travelled to Bateman's Bay for retreat this October, a new place for both of us. The Josephites have been there for a long time and have a lovely convent. BUT it is a very

hilly place, and of course going down is easy. And what goes down must come up! So I didn't do much walking. One of the blessings of ambling down the highways is having time to meet friendly people at cafes who attract us back on the return journey.

Before Christmas I will meet up with some groups for lunch and to catch up eg Wonthaggi, Broadmeadows, Hawthorn East. There are many of you who do not belong to a group and I feel sorry that you miss out on the sharing that is part of them. Maybe you could think about that next year and see if there is one close enough for you to meet with now and again, or at least to belong to. I am willing to help you discover them. The Regional Days are ideal for formation and meeting up with Associates.

Our weekend at Williamstown was very worthwhile and we have planned both the Leaders' day and the five regional Days for 2019 on the theme of Journey—or as Aussies say 'On the Wallaby'.

Advent is a great time for reflecting on our past year and to look forward with joy to the coming year and all it brings. I hope you enjoy the article of Jim Quillinan on the back of the Prayer sheet. Jim submits a sheet every two weeks which you can easily receive by googling **Along the Track**. It would be very useful to pass around the group for reading and reflection. **Enclosed with this newsletter is a letter from Mary Hemmings. One section is regarding a title for the Josephite Associates, whether you wish it to be changed or not. Please talk over this matter**

when you meet each other at Mass or socially between now and January when the IJALT next meet. One then could send in a response. Any comments must be sent to Mary by January as stated in her letter as the second meeting is October and much has to be decided by then to have all in place for 2020.

I am sure many of you are engaging in conversations and submitting your thoughts to the Plenary Council. Page 3 has an address you can use. Enclosed is a copy of the prayer some Parishes are using during Mass.

As Christmas approaches may we find time to reflect on the wonder of the birth of this Child we celebrate at Christmas. To look around with gratitude and to seek out those who may be alone at this time. Let us open our hearts and homes to them. Some stories in the October Far East help one to realise just how lucky we are to live in Australia.

May peace, joy and gratitude fill our hearts and homes as we share this time with our families.

Mary Fermio rsj



Inside this issue:

- 1 Editorial
- 2 Reflection
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- 5 Around the Groups
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8. Bulletin Board
- Enclosures:*
1. Prayer Sheet: Summer
2. Letter from Mary Hemmings
Chairperson of IJALT
3. Prayer for Plenary Council

Friendship Prayer Service

SUMMER REFLECTION

A TIME TO WONDER



Do you wonder about many things?

Is there an end to space?

How a tiny piece of metal in a camera can hold 400 photos?

How your smart phone can hold photos, send emails, etc etc?

How a tiny carrot seed can grow into a large carrot?

How your computer or I-pad works, holds so much, yet so small?

Write down something you wonder about:

.....

But the greatest wonder of all is the Birth of a child, a child called Jesus.

From The Broken Body by Jean Vanier pg. 30, 35

Yet God had a marvellous plan to reveal the love that burns within the Trinity
and to bring men and women to an even fuller unity and glory.

At the centre of that plan is God's desire to become flesh,

To take on our human condition

To put on human nature,

So that our Creator

Would be touched and heard and loved,

So that our brokenness

Could be healed into a new wholeness

So that we could become again one perfect body...

The Word became flesh and his name is ***Jesus***.

He came as a tiny child, in the womb of a woman.

He was clothed in the vulnerability of a child in need of its mother,

Crying out for protection and help.

The love of a mother is the only real security an infant has;

Without it, the life of the child is in danger of being overwhelmed

By a terrible fear - a fear of death, ...

The Almighty became a helpless child

Utterly dependent on a relationship with a woman, a relationship of love.



***SPEND SOME TIME READING THE ABOVE
STAY WITH ANY WORD OR PHRASE WHICH TOUCHES YOU.***

PRAYER:

O God, creator of all, your name is powerful over all the earth.

We sing of your glory with the angels and saints who are in your presence.

You confound those who are proud and powerful with the innocence of a child,
your Son Jesus, whom you sent to reveal a knowledge and love of you.

You created this wonderful world of ours,

gave us the ability to discover the secrets you planted at the beginning.

Made us in your image and appointed us stewards of your creation,

So that we care for the air, the land and the waters which bring life to our earth.

How wonderful your name in all the earth.

May we allow this wonder to fill our hearts during this Advent time.

May your peace and joy embrace our families, as we share Christmas with each other.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

My son Chris and I left Bendigo on 3rd September on a two week Pilgrimage to the Holy land and Jordan. Twenty-nine of us and our Priest chaplain for the trip, Fr Michael Kalka, Associate, who says our annual Associates Mass, met at 6pm at Melbourne airport.

After a long flight we then travelled from Amman Jordan and transferred to the Allenby Bridge to cross into Israel then travel to Nazareth for 4 nights /days . Each day Fr Michael said Mass at all the different Churches and his Homily tied in with the readings and each site. There were lots of Highlights and so much to take in with the places we went to. Our hotel was opposite the Basilica of the Annunciation, a special place where the holy family all started, and to have Mass in the Church of the Annunciation !!!

Lots and lots of other highlights:

Visit to Cana where Jesus performed his first miracle .

Sailing on the Sea of Galilee in a boat similar to those used in our Lord's time .

Renewing our Baptism in the Jordan River ,

Floating in the Dead Sea was amazing, so hard to explain how good it was !!!

Journey up to the top of Mount Tabor and Mass at the Basilica of the Transfiguration

In Jerusalem we stayed for six nights at the Rosary Sisters { quite close to the old part of the city} and who looked after us so well.

We were up at 4 am to walk the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross, and Mass at the Holy Sepulchre where Jesus was buried. At the Garden of Gethsemane, at the church of All Nations, we spent time in meditation at the public Holy hour in the church kneeling, praying, touching the rock where Jesus prayed the night before his Crucifixion.

We enjoyed many other things, but it was so sad to see the huge wall to keep the Palestinians out of the West bank. During the last two days in Jordan twenty of us went to Petra to see the city carved out of Rock, The Treasury. The trip was such a great experience, to be there to learn and soak in all the Holy Land .

Bill O'Brien, Associate from Eaglehawk

Annunciation Basilica, Nazareth



Bill and Chris near Mt of Olives



On the Sea of Galilee



PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Enclosed you will find a copy of the prayer for the Plenary Council. Note: St Mary MacKillop is one of the patrons for this historic council, the last of which was in 1937. We are all asked the question:

WHAT DO YOU THINK GOD IS ASKING OF US IN AUSTRALIA AT THIS TIME?

It is our **privilege and responsibility** to contribute to this council, either by prayer or by a submission. Some parishes are having groups to talk about the Church today, or parishioners are submitting topics individually. This can be done on-line at the Plenary Council website (Google Plenary Council) and a form is there or you can write it out and post to **PO Box 747 North Sydney NSW 2059**.

What concerns do you have about the Church in Australia today? Many parishes have been united or partnered due to a shortage of priests. Can you suggest a way this could be assisted? We have again become a Missionary country, a title Australia had 200 years ago. Why? Have you any suggestions. The Bishops are listening and waiting to hear from you. We have until Ash Wednesday 2019 to submit our suggestions and our concerns. Don't leave it until it is too late!

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

LEADERS' DAY

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

SATURDAY 16th FEBRUARY

Arrive 9.30 AM. 10 AM START

PROGRAM

**SESSION 1. Sr Therese Quinn—
the Emmaus Journey**

**SESSION 2 Sr Rita Malavisi—
Journeying**

**SESSION 3. Bernadette Carr ,
Affiliated Josephite**

MISSIONING RITUAL.

**DONATION FOR LUNCH AND M/TEA
AND ASSOCIATED EXPENSES \$25.00**

**IF YOU NEED A CAR PARK PLEASE BOOK
YOUR CAR IN WITH KATE 9926 9300**

**Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St
EAST MELBOURNE
PHONE: 03 9926 9300**

DID YOU KNOW?

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre has modern, comfortable short-term accommodation—this consists of one bedroom or two bedroom apartments. Heated and air-conditioned, with cooking facilities, tea, coffee, biscuits and light breakfast supplied. Access to Wi-Fi available, and off street parking.

One bed-room—1 double bed. Max 2 persons

Two-bedroom- 1 Queen size bed, 2 single beds

Closeness to Transport, Hospitals, football grounds, theatres make it an ideal place to stay and for groups to meet. Small and large Conference rooms are also available. Morning teas and lunches can be provided for groups. For further information and rates please call: MMHC on 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—Regional Day

ORBOST

Eighteen Associates, from Maffra, Lakes Entrance, Bairnsdale and Orbost were joined by Srs Madeleine and Lyn on a lovely Spring day at Orbost where they reflected on their call to be missionary disciples as encouraged by Pope Francis in the Joy of the Gospel. The life of Irene McCormack rsj and photos of Associates in Peru, illustrated living this discipleship where they also participate in the same ministries as our Associates in Australia, New Zealand, Scotland and East Timor. During the final ritual, five new Associates were enrolled: from Lakes Entrance: L-R: Dianne Clarke, Mary Haber, Patricia Keon, Judith Butler (Orbost) Lyn Berlingeri, All were then missioned to their own parishes to be missionary disciples. We all enjoyed the lovely morning tea provided by our hostesses from Orbost.



RUSHWORTH



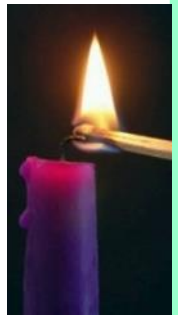
On 16th December Sr Mary Fermio will travel to Murchison to enrol two new Associates for the Rushworth group. A report and photo will be in the next newsletter.

Rushworth group met on September 7 and enjoyed lunch together at the Motofinish Café. This was also to celebrate Mary MacKillop's feastday, as well as the Birthday of Mary, mother of Jesus.

L-R: Vin and Pat Frewin, Jenny Leahy, Sue O'Mahony, Maree Stewart, Patricia Toohey, Judith Ryan, Noelle and Ron Grinter, Sr Nellie, Judy Phelan and Nan Jessup. Anne Ryan is missing as she had to leave earlier.

YARRAVILLE

The group from Yarraville invited Sr Mary to join them for their meeting in November. Advent prayer was shared and all shared some aspect of their life, when like Mary, they faced an unknown future, but realised God was there in it with them eg coming from another country and having to find a home and work, changing schools and towns. The letter from Mary Hemmings, IJALT Chairperson, was introduced and matters explained. Several apologies were received. A lovely cuppa with ginger and apple pies was enjoyed.



EAGLEHAWK



For the last nine years Sr Mary has been travelling to Eaglehawk to lead the group's prayer and share lunch with them. The group gathered for Advent prayer and lunch in November and said farewell to Sr Mary who will hand over the leadership to John and Julie Spark who will lead the group from October to May, when they travel north for the winter months. Each received a personal bookmark thanking them for the life-giving experiences enjoyed during Sr Mary's travels. She always took the opportunity to call in at a Gisborne lolly shop to stock up on sugar free chocolate bars, which often sustained her on her drives to and from Bacchus Marsh. Fortunately Gisborne is not far from Bacchus Marsh!!

A beautiful bunch of roses from Margaret Tobias' garden was presented to her.. The photo of the succulent is from Ken's garden which he opens for viewing each year.

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



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

To all Josephite Associates, we send every best thought for a Christmas of peace and joy for you and your families, and a New Year filled with love and good health.

We thank you for your faithful friendship and your continued commitment to support us in every way you can.

Noreen, Sr Mary, Chris, Anne-Marie
Victorian Core-Team and
Kathy, Tassie Co-ordinator

HOLIDAY READING

Many of us catch up on some relaxing reading during the holidays. Look for books by the following authors and set in Australia:

Jane Harper: The Dry; Force of Nature; the Lost Man; (who dunnit style)

Monica McInerney—12 books all of a family saga type.

Liz Byrski: A Month of Sundays; Any of Di Morrissey;

Liane Moriarty: What Alice Forgot;

HAPPY READING !!

ANNUAL MASS FOR ASSOCIATES

A wonderful crowd of about sixty, gathered in the Convent Chapel on Saturday 10th November to celebrate Mass together and to renew their commitment as Josephite Associates. They also welcomed eight new Associates, three men and five women, from Woodend, Churchill, Carlton, Rye, Blairgowrie, and Melton South. Associates had travelled distances to be with us coming from Rushworth, Eaglehawk, Churchill, Pakenham, Koo Wee Rup, Altona, Broadmeadows, Melton South and Melton, Sunbury, Woodend, Brighton, Hamilton, Bittern, East Keilor, Camberwell, Richmond and Knoxfield. Many Sisters joined us from Sunbury, Clayton and Hawthorn East.

Every one was in good voice and we joined in the singing led by Anne-Marie Wilkinson with her guitar. Fr Michal Kalka, Josephite Associate, was our celebrant and in his homily spoke of how for the first time in his priestly career, he was living in a Josephite Parish. Having experienced his growing up years in the Newport area, he felt very much at home. The theme of Missionary Discipleship was continued from our Regional Days with the first reading being the exhortation of Pope Francis in The Joy of the Gospel, P. 120 and Fr Michael used this theme in his homily. He spoke of the people one of his lecturers called "the frozen chosen" people, who, after baptism, seldom came to the Church except for special occasions. As missionary disciples, which all Christians are through their baptism, we need to follow our call to exhibit our own joy and thus bring others to a deeper relationship with God.

After the homily the eight new Associates made their commitment together with all Associates present, and were presented with their badges, handbooks and certificates.

A varied afternoon tea, brought by the Associates, was enjoyed after the Mass. Mary Hemming, Covenant Josephite from Adelaide, and Chairperson of the IJALT, spoke on the meaning of being a Josephite Associate, what it means, what it calls one to and then showed some slides of her visits to Peru and East Timor Associates. Sr Moya Campbell rsj who had travelled from Brisbane, explained her role as Co-ordinator of the IJALT helping prepare Associates for 2020 when a new vision of governance, formation etc will be placed entirely in the hands of the Associates across the world.

All, I am sure enjoyed the afternoon immensely and felt enriched by all they had heard and by the companionship of other Associates. Fr Kalka already has in his diary next year's Mass—2nd Saturday in November!



New Associates: LtoR: Eileen White, Hazel Heine, Terry Maher, James White, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael and Margaret McQuillen below Margaret Healy



Part of the large crowd waiting for Mass to begin and catching up with friends.



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.

SHARING THE DIGNITY

Congratulations to the Pakenham/Iona/Koo Wee Rup group who after an appeal for toiletries and handbags in the Parish filled up the back seat and most of the boot of my car, and the back of Noreen's station wagon. Your contributions will make a difference to the lives of many women just before Christmas. Helen prepared about 75 bags from all your donations.

DAYS FOR GIRLS BAGS

During November the Broadmeadows' group prepared forty completed bags to pass on to Robyn for distribution to a country overseas, to help the young women cope with growing up, where other means are unavailable to them. Donations given to Robyn enable her to provide material to make items for the bags.

Statistics for Robyn's group: Between Nov 2008 and Nov 2018 the group reached 1,832 girls and women in three countries: East Timor, Liberia and Botswana.

1072 Kits to East Timor

560 Kits to Liberia

200 Kits to Botswana

Many of you provided items for these bags or helped to sew them. There are other groups doing similar things, but as the DFG logo is attached to this group's bags, they have to keep to exact measurements etc. to maintain quality.

BULLETIN BOARD

May they rest in peace

We keep in our prayers those who have died
 Sr Maureen Cahir rsj
 Mrs Helen Lonergan, Heathcote
 Peter, brother of Mary Hansen, Bunyip
 Susan Vallis, Crib Point
 Carmel Robinson, Charlton, sister of
 Maureen Maartensz, Wonthaggi
 Joy Murphy, Koo Wee Rup and her Son-in-law
 Sr Angela Dance LCM, sister of Sr Jill Dance
 Sr Elizabeth Maher, rsj
 Sr Connie Walsh, rsm, Ballarat

BOOK REVIEW

THE JOY OF ADVENT—Daily reflections from Pope Francis by Diane M. Houser
 Scripture citations for each day of Advent, a selection from the Pope's writings and ways to bring the pope's message into your life.
 Available from Pauline Media

ONE DOOR CLOSSES, ANOTHER OPENS

Mary MacKillop in New South Wales 1880-1909 by Bernadette O'Sullivan rsj
 Several themes run through the book: Mary's acceptance of the Will of God in these years; her love and compassion for the Sisters; her ceaseless travels; her prolific letter-writing. This book attempts to give a faint glimpse of the vision and work of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
 Available from Heritage Centre \$30. a good book for the group to share with each other.

FROM THE OFFICE:

Office Address

Mary Fermio RSJ,
 Editor—Associates' Newsletter,
 Josephite Associates' Office,
 PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh, 3340.

OR Email: mary.fermio@sosj.org.au
Or vic.associates@sosj.org.au

OR Phone 03 5367 2078

For all enquiries related to Associates