



Winter 2019

June 2019 Newsletter



'Trust in God.'
MMK 1874

Themes of Justice and Friendship...

In 2018 our *Josephites Jumping into Justice* theme brought about an awareness of different ways in which we can outreach and support others in our community. This year our justice focus has tilted in another direction, with us taking on developing our awareness of a particular Josephite ministry, namely the support of Aboriginal people.

Over the last 40 years Sr Michele Madigan rsj (and other Sisters) have been accompanying people in many different SA Aboriginal communities. In her article in this newsletter, Sr Michele tells of how she became involved with the Aboriginal people, and especially of one of the areas that she is passionately and actively involved in at present, namely providing advocacy and support in the campaign against the establishment of a radioactive waste depot near Kimba or in the Flinders Ranges (see page 4).

At our February gathering Sr Michele spoke about this, and on the 8th June, following the 8th of the month Mass, *Traditional Owner and Adnyamathanha Elder Vivianne McKenzie will*

attend to provide insight into the challenges being faced by the people of the Flinders Ranges in trying to prevent their lands becoming the site for Australia's nuclear waste dump. This gathering, titled **A Myriad of Friends**, is part of our *Fanning the Flame of Friendship* theme for 2019. Feel free to invite a friend or two to gather for Mass at 10:30am, then to hear from Vivianne and share in a light meal of soup and bread rolls: a great way for friends to learn and grow and enjoy each other's company!

Last year we travelled to the Clare Valley for our Day of Reflection. In August this year our Murray Bridge Associates will be hosting us, and we hope that many of you may be able to gather with us for this – as we *Fan the Flame of Friendship* between our city and country Associates!

Every six years the Sisters have a 'Chapter' at which they plan and prepare for the years ahead. Ongoing preparation is occurring now for this event. We are invited to pray with the Sisters for God's wisdom in this process ...

**God, Power of Love,
accompany the Sisters in their preparation for the General Chapter.
Prompt their generosity and honesty, their trust and openness,
their imagination and vision for mission and communion.
Help them to listen to one another, to the world around them,
to what they have not yet thought of, to the clarifying of truth.
Alert them to prophetic voices as they humbly enter into the journey
the better to glimpse your presence, the better to appreciate one another,
the better to feel the Spirit inviting, prompting, healing, raising the powers of love.
Amen**

Journeying with Jesus by Pat Sandretti

On the 13th April, which was the Saturday leading up to Holy Week, Lucia Ciocca led us in a Lenten journey to the Cross. This was a gentle reflection; sharing and praying around three of the Stations of the Cross.

Firstly however, we reflected and commented on a painting which vividly portrayed a Sister teaching a circle of children under a tree, just as we imagined Jesus taught, and here we were also sitting in a circle listening to Lucia.

As **Veronica wipes the face of Jesus** we reflected on where we see the face of Christ today. We need to re-spect (that is, re-look) at those around us to see Jesus, and in simple acts of love reveal God's compassion to them and to allow others to reveal God's compassion to us in our time of need. An example shared was about a sister daily visiting her brother to feed him because he is no longer able to feed

himself – a little way in which love is shown.

Jesus is nailed to the Cross: Have there been moments in our lives when we feel unable to move, totally at the mercy of others, of being 'nailed' to a cross? Have our words been like bullets, causing pain to others? We reflected on 'gossip' and how quickly it spreads, unable to be taken back. Better to bite our tongues!

Jesus is laid in the Tomb: Here we reflected on what 'chrysalis' evokes in us. This is the time and struggle it takes for the transformation of the caterpillar to a butterfly. We carry with us God's reassurance that with God nothing is impossible.

Finally, we finished the day with a shared meal and a raffle. Many thanks to Lucia for a thoughtful and challenging reflection in preparation for Holy Week.



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

Sr Michele Madigan rsj and Amanda Taverna shared their stories at our February gathering – read these stories on pages 4 and 5 respectively. If you, too, would like to share your story through our newsletter contact us via:

sa.associates@sosj.org.au or PO Box 57 Kent Town 5071

RIP Sr Eileen Taylor (Sr Kevin)

We remember with love and gratitude Sr Eileen who entered eternal life on 22nd April 2019.

Sr Eileen was in her 91st year and in her 71st year of religious life.

For many years Sr Eileen journeyed with our Hectorville Associates, sharing her gentle wisdom and insights.

*"Let the gentle Sacred Heart
be you model."
MMK 1890*





A Myriad of Friends

Saturday 8th June 2019

Bethany Centre
4 High St, Kensington

Following the 10.30 am Mass in the Chapel

Join us in Bethany for soup and bread rolls

During this time there will be a presentation from Vivianne McKenzie, a Traditional Owner and Adnyamathanha Elder, on the challenges being faced by the people of the Flinders Ranges in trying to prevent their lands becoming the site for Australia's nuclear waste dump.

Come along, bring a friend and help 'fan the flame of friendship'



Reflection Day

Saturday 10th August 2019

Catholic Parish Hall
Corner Mannum Rd & Ind St
Murray Bridge

10.30am - 3pm
(morning tea at 10am)



This day is about **facing life's challenges**. We, like Mary MacKillop, face many storms in our lives. Come and explore how our faith supports us with these challenges.

Morning tea and lunch are provided. Travel by bus from Adelaide – we have access to a 12-seater bus, so we can enjoy each other's company on the way! Or come in your own car with parking available on the oval behind the Hall.

Cost per person: \$20 + \$5 for Bus travellers.

All are invited and welcome, especially our country Associates and friends.

To RSVP, or for further information, please telephone Mary Hemmings on 0417 871 904 or email sa.associates@sosj.org.au by Friday 2nd August.



Last Associate Gathering for the Year – 'Food & Friendship'

Friday 1st November, from 6pm
Bethany Centre
Details in the next newsletter

What is it about Mary MacKillop and her story that captured me?

by Sr Michele Madigan rsj

There were many aspects to a life decision of becoming a Josephite. After all, I had only briefly met two Josephite nuns before entering the Sisters of St Joseph.

Had I even heard of Mary MacKillop when I entered her congregation? If so, only from a passing mention in the little booklets Sr Bernard Joseph Boylan surreptitiously handed me when I went to the Kensington Convent simply to arrange a netball match with St Joseph's Higher Primary!

What I do know is that I loved to read and hear about her in the early years of our Josephite training.

As a state school teacher, I had become friends with my first multicultural family – delighting to meet with such difference. In 1972/73 as a Josephite teacher in a country town I was astounded by my first meetings/observation of Aboriginal children and adults – and the racist comments, including in the local media.

Mary MacKillop came in handy for quotes in submissions to the Josephite Chapter of 1977. I am sorry, far sorrier than I can say, that there was little enthusiasm for the Sisters to become involved with Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory's Daly River area at this time.

I was given the go ahead to move out of school to become involved with the Aboriginal community in Adelaide. In 1979 Sr Frances Hanna and I moved to a housing trust area in Taperoo. Again, there was the encouragement of scenes from Mary's life. In the 1870s on the train at Bowden in the 3rd class section: 'The Sisters shouldn't be travelling with the blackguards (sic) of third class.' Mary's reply: 'This is where we belong.'

In the early years, our community, when asked, named our ministry as 'Living among the people/Working for change.'

40 years on I have lived as a neighbour in the Port Adelaide district, in the Far West community of Yalata, northeast to Coober Pedy and in Lower Murray country towns. Among the many other campaigns has been supporting the people in the establishment of Kura Yerlo and in the Maralinga Land Rights.

'Maralinga' is a word/concept that gives a clue to present concerns. Learning from the Yalata people about country and their treasuring of it – and the shame of its desecration by my own culture in the 1950s/60s Maralinga atomic tests – has led me to witness to the huge destruction the tests wrought on the lands and peoples. My own mainstream culture seems to have learned nothing from our history, with ongoing efforts by governments in partnership with the nuclear industry taking further destructive **unscientific** decisions. From 1998 – 2004 I was involved with the Coober Pedy women in their successful national campaign against the federal government's radioactive waste dump.

Government efforts since 2015, despite promises to the contrary, have again returned to SA – the national site will be in either our iconic Flinders Ranges or our international grain farming lands of Kimba.

Terrible divisions and anxieties for country, waters, heritage, work income and the health to present and future generations by this proposal and associated promised monies have resulted: among the Adnyamathanha people, farmers and townspeople in the Flinders and the Barngala people, farmers and townspeople of Kimba. Two regions have irreparably divided amongst themselves. Of course, our whole state, including the ports and hinterland are at risk.

What is required on the contrary, is an independent scientific inquiry and in the meantime the low level and intermediate radioactive waste (toxic for an unimaginable 10,000 years) to remain at Lucas Heights where the nuclear experts and security systems are located. We need parliamentary representatives who will be serious about this seriously dangerous issue.

A fragile world, entrusted by God to human care, challenges us to devise intelligent ways of directing, developing and limiting our power.
Pope Francis: Laudato Si (#78)

An invitation to see for yourself:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEbRwGVFElo&feature=youtu.be>

And this is what captured me ...

by Amanda Taverna

Unlike many, my connection to the Josephite story doesn't go back to my childhood, or to the place where I lived. My story is a little different in that I really didn't know anything about Mary MacKillop or the Sisters of St Joseph until 2008. A lot has happened since then.

Eleven years ago, I finished my study as a teacher and found myself at St Joseph's Primary School in Kingswood, where I spent the next 18 months. This is where I first started to learn something about Mary MacKillop. While at Kingswood I heard many stories about her, and my curiosity was sparked.

In 2010 I moved to Whitefriars School in Woodville Park, where, as luck may have it, Mary Hemmings was Principal. Despite the discomfort of the change, I took comfort in the fact that there was also something familiar in my new environment – the Josephite charism. It was alive and well at Whitefriars and so my formation continued.

Later that year I was privileged to travel to Rome as a member of a small contingent sent by Catholic Education SA to Mary MacKillop's canonisation. While I was only in Rome for a week, I learnt so much. I came to see Mary in a different light and left with the belief that she truly was a tenacious woman. I also left with these words etched on my heart:

So, to what ends of the earth will you take the spirit of Mary of the Cross?

I found a challenge in these words.

I worked for many years with the Junior Josephites at Whitefriars, raising awareness in

the school community about child slave labour, the plight of refugees and the homeless. I found I was drawn more and more to events hosted by the Josephite Educators group and the Josephite Associates. Friends and family didn't really understand that 'invisible pull' that keeps drawing me to Josephite gatherings. My friend Pauline Grear did though, and for some years now, she and I have attended Masses, reflection days, morning teas, fundraisers and cook ups.

My involvement is spurred on by a sense of camaraderie with which these days leave me. I feel a genuine connection to others in the Josephite family that is difficult to articulate. It is like being amongst a small group of people who speak the same language as you when you are in a foreign country. We all have something in common.

For me this connection runs deep, and over the years I have come to consider many of the Josephite people I have met as my friends. Friends with whom I have done things that I imagine Mary Mackillop would have done, simple things like sharing a meal, rolling up our sleeves and cooking a meal for those in need, collecting toiletries and underwear for homeless women, supporting and walking side by side with one another in times of grief and laughing together, always laughing. My Josephite story is young but it has been a rich one to date. It has given me great joy, a sense of connectedness and friendships for which I thank God. I pray that we can all *fan the flame of friendship* in 2019.



Our Speakers:
L-R: Amanda and Sr Michele

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 next 2 functions this year are:

- Winter Luncheon

Wednesday 5th June

11.45am for a 12noon start

Hampstead Hotel, corner North East & Hampstead Roads, Collinswood

Seniors' Menu ranges from \$10 – \$13 (salad/veg bar \$2 extra)

Seating WILL NOT be allocated

Bookings by 31st May with Josie – 8295 3667 or Chris – 8263 1948

All welcome.

- Spring Luncheon

Wednesday 9th October

12pm at the Lockley's Hotel

- **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 – stay tuned for details in our next newsletter.

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

June	Saturday, 8/6/2019	Mass & Reflection
July	Monday, 8/7/2019	Mass & Reflection
August	Thursday, 8/8/2019	Mass & Reflection
September	Sunday, 8/9/2019	Reflection ONLY

3. *Museum Update*

Renovations are well underway! We are hoping that all will be ready for a grand opening later this year.

4. *Museum Fundraising Event: Quiz Night*

See page 8 for details: *gather your friends and help in the raising of valuable funds!*

Mary MacKillop

Gifts of the Spirit



Introduction

Mary MacKillop was, and is, a gift to the people of Australia on a local, national and international level. She was always non-judgemental, patient and kind in her dealings with people she knew and met along the way, especially in times of difficulty and hardship for herself and for the congregation.

Scripture

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Reflection

The Holy Spirit brings us the gifts we need throughout our lives. God, through the Holy Spirit, gifts us with certain virtues or qualities, but we must use and develop these qualities. It's rather like someone who is given a present. If they never open the present, they can never see what is inside or enjoy the gift they have been given. We must open and use the gifts God gives us. Spend some time thinking about your own strengths.

From the Pen of Mary MacKillop

"Let us study the Heart of God and, in doing so, we shall learn many beautiful lessons of patience and love." (1871)



Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And you will renew the face of the Earth.

Amen



Action

Give someone the gift of your time in a meaningful way. Or it could be one of the other gifts/fruits/qualities/virtues – you choose.



Come alone ... or with a friend ...or recruit your team
for the *Mary MacKillop Precinct*

Fundraising **Quiz** Night

**Supporting
Mary MacKillop Museum
Redevelopment Project**

Friday 21 June, 2019

Doors open at 7pm Quiz starts at 7.30pm

\$15 per person or buy a table of 8—only 20 tables available, so book early!

Bethany Centre, 4 High St, Kensington
(street parking only)

Awesome Prizes! Bring some cash
for the raffle and other games

BYO drinks and nibbles
Tea and coffee provided

Tickets via Eventbrite - search
Mary MacKillop Precinct Fundraising
Quiz Night
OR Phone 8130 5916 (office hours)
to purchase tickets

