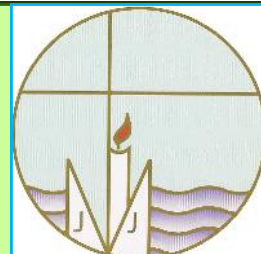




Josephite Associates, Victoria-Tasmania SPRING 2019



SPRING—renews our hope

Dear Associates,

My time for doing the Editorial is coming to an end and I shall miss my quarterly chat about whatever is happening.

Fortunately some of the drought areas have had rain but there are still others, especially in Northern New South Wales where towns are, at the time of writing, running out of water. Let us imagine what that would be like, especially those of us who live in the city and have no worry about washing, showers, watering gardens etc. So let us keep asking our good God to water their earth.

July saw me having a very quiet couple of weeks after I fell in the parish hall where about 30 having morning tea heard the thud of me hitting the floor. Fortunately my nose hit the carpet, but I had a very colourful face for a week or so. So I hibernated to nurse my bruises and possibly, my pride.

THANK YOU again to those who have forwarded their annual **SUBSCRIPTIONS**. It amazes me how many seem to think they are

not obliged to do so.

The **ANNUAL MASS** will be on the 9th November at 1.30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet up with other Associates, to renew your commitment and join new Associates being enrolled. How wonderful if we could fill the chapel at Hawthorn East!!! (see details on last page)

This year we celebrate 130 years since Fr Woods died and 110 years since St Mary MacKillop died. Many of you have celebrated her feast in a special manner. Some photos show how some Associates involved Parish or school in these celebrations.

The Anniversary of the death of Fr Woods is 7th October. If you have a copy of **Act, Love, Walk** you will find a prayer for that day.

Again I have included the prayer in the reflection and it assures me of its purpose when I know you use it at your meetings or for your own personal reflection.

Our **Regional days** have been most enjoyable with one to go, Sebastopol, Ballarat. I shall miss these days very much as it gives an opportunity to keep in touch with so many of you that I know and have shared with over the last ten years. I know the team will continue to offer you worthwhile reflection days, so keep supporting them as it offers you some time of quiet, reflection and formation in your living of the Josephite Charism.

In the next issue you will need to note the **changes of office address** and Introductory Program Mentor.

THE CALENDAR ORDER form is included for personal or parish orders. The Calendar makes a lovely gift at Christmas as it gives a message all the year.

The last **OPEN DAY** in November at the Heritage Centre is another good opportunity to buy some different Christmas Gifts for family and friends. Also available are Christmas cards with a picture of Mary MacKillop and her message.

As the days get warmer as we enter the months of Spring, I hope you can enjoy some time in your garden, walking along the beach, or walking in your town.

The **REFLECTION** encourages you to do this, to look around, to listen and to enjoy this time of the year when the earth seems to awaken and come alive again. I have noticed in Bacchus Marsh the blossom and magnolias. And when travelling to Sunbury recently the wonderful winter wattle brightening up the roads.

Every blessing and joy as you continue to live Friendship, prayer and service as faithful Josephites.

Mary Fermio rsj



Inside this issue:

- 1 Editorial
 - 2 Reflection /Prayer
 - 3 Regional Days
 - 4 Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
 - 5 Around the Groups
 - 6 Regional Days 2019/Bairnsdale Memories
 - 7. Sisters in early Gippsland
 - 8. Bulletin Board
- Enclosures:*
- 1. Calendar Order Form
 - 2. IJALT Newsletter
 - 3. Article : The Good Oil

Friendship Prayer Service

SPRING PRAYER AND REFLECTION

In a July Along the Track, Jim Quillinan talks about how we can rush through life without really appreciating and observing what is around us. As an example he uses a common practice of tourists who hop off a bus, take a photo but never stop to appreciate what they are looking at. With the pressures of life today calling us to buy more, consume more, see more, it can be hard to slow down and enjoy life and the world around us.

Spring is a wonderful season when the whole earth blossoms forth into new life. When the sun calls us into the garden to do things.

Georgette in her book *In the Garden*, writes:

“At the first whiff of Spring I’m off pruning, digging, mulching, planting, moving, tying up chopping down and re-designing. In all honesty, it’s my husband who does all of the above at my direction. My contribution is the planting of pretty annuals...and pointing. I do a lot of pointing” Further on in the same chapter 15, she writes: “ I love to see pools of water alive with tadpoles and trees a-chirp with birds, I rejoice in the ballet of butterflies on warm afternoons and night skies bedecked in the jewels of the cosmos all playing their part in the score written by the greatest master and entitled “The Symphony of Life.”

ACTIVITY: *Take time to sit at a window, on a veranda, in a garden and note down what you see as Spring bursts forth—what beauty, what activity is going on. You may like to write a poem, a prayer or paint a picture.*



Jim continues in his reflection:

“We can skim over our faith too, not seeing its beauty and its depth, its ability to enrich our life. It is a mistake to see it simply as a set of doctrines and rules. They are a means to an end. They are designed to help us to be curious, to look beyond the obvious, beyond the explainable, to question and examine the deeper mysteries of life and its meaning, to go from sights to insights.”

REFLECTION: *How does my faith enrich my life?
What am I curious about?
What do I ask Jesus about?*

READ Mark 8: 22-26 Healing of the Blind Man

Like the blind man, even when we can see, we do not always understand or see the full picture.

At times like this do we ask Jesus to ‘place his hands on us and help us to see clearly’?

Can I recall times when I failed to see clearly or to understand what was happening in my life? Maybe next time we experience loss, grief, sadness or depression we can ask Jesus to help. To be able to see God’s action and purpose in my life. To look with a deeper faith, a deeper insight.

PRAYER

: Lord you have given me the book of nature to read and I have learned my lessons within the capacity of my soul. I have worked out the questions, though not always the answers to the challenges at the end of each chapter, and I have seen that all relate consistently to that one reliable text which You gave me: nature.

There have been times when I have closed this source of knowledge and sought the explanations of life from other masters, but they also showed evidence of having absorbed their knowledge from that which I discarded.

As I prepare for the last season when winter casts its frosty shroud around me, read to me the final chapter from nature’s book so that I will not fear the shadows but allow myself to be pruned for that eternal spring.

I have seen you in the wonder of nature and I have heard you in the turbulence of life. I have always known that You are there in my garden and I am at peace in your presence. In the Garden by Georgette Noellat



REGIONAL DAYS

PAKENHAM

A group of interested Associates gathered at St Patrick's Hall, Pakenham to enjoy a day of reflection and socialising. Coming from Pakenham, Koo Wee Rup and Iona, now amalgamated as one group, they shared their experiences and company. The extent of the travels of Mary MacKillop always amaze the groups as they learn of her very extensive travels arriving at night, leaving in the early mornings and at times becoming ill on her way and unable to continue.

Reflecting on our own journey from birth to old age in our final prayer gives much food for thought. As usual the host group provided a lovely morning tea which all enjoyed immensely.

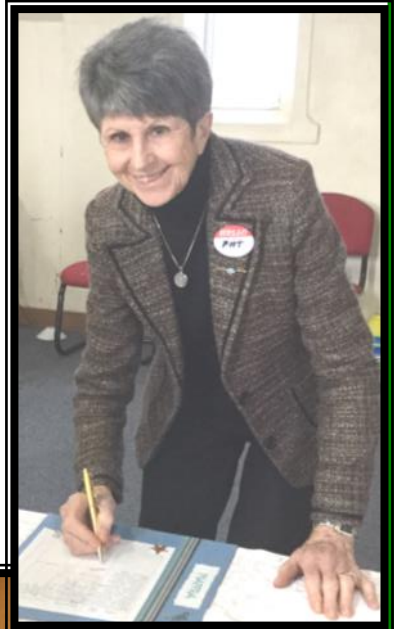


MAFFRA

On Saturday 17th August eighteen Associates gathered at Maffra from Lakes Entrance, Bairnsdale, Stratford, Sale, Maffra, Heyfield and Morwell for the Regional day reflecting on The Wallaby Track and our own journeying.

During the afternoon we enrolled three Associates—Pat Gray from Maffra and Carol Payne from Traralgon and Anne Barratt from Newborough. Anne's mother, Monica Lappin was there to participate in her special day. Both Carol and Anne were known to me when I was Principal at Morwell East in the 1970's and I worked with Pat Gray while working in Maffra. So it was a special joy for me to enrol these friends who had been part of my own journey.

Maffra group provided three kinds of delicious soup and a lovely morning tea and we thank them for their efforts. There was a certain sadness in the day as it was the last time I would travel to Gippsland for their regional day, and I shall miss these gatherings very much as I meet up with so many friends of have made over the years.



Pat Gray signing the Register



Anne and Carol Signing the register



**2019
MARY MACKILLOP—**

**CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY
Who still inspires us today!**

11 am—12 noon followed by light lunch

16th September Monday *Friendship of her Sisters inspired Mary*
 15th October Tuesday *Fire in Mary's heart inspires*
 15th November Friday *An Australian inspires all Aussies*

DONATION WELCOME.

Leader: Sr Mary Fermio rsj

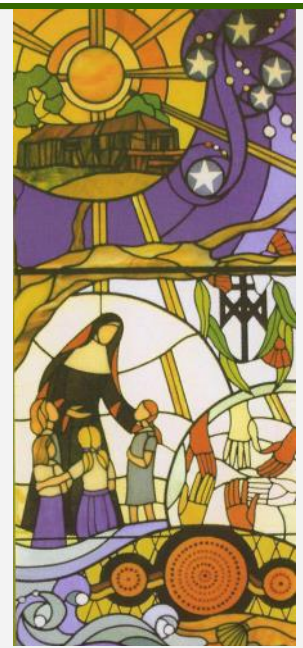
VENUE:

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert St East Melbourne.
 Ph. 03 9926 9300 Email: admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au

*A good occasion for a group to visit the
 Museum and attend the session*

Based on the book: Mary MacKillop, Inspiration for Today, edited by Pauline Wicks
 rsj

**Please contact us for acceptances
 to help us with catering.**



Artist: Therese Quinn rsj

**CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF
 ST MARY MACKILLOP**



ST MARY'S SCHOOL, HAMILTON

Noreen McLeish makes a very impressive Sister of St Joseph with children from the school., who apparently did not recognise her .



MAFFRA Associates joined the students of St Mary's School for Mass beautifully and competently led by the students . A truly fitting celebration for the feast of St Mary Mackillop. After Mass the Associates enjoyed a coffee and some chat together at a local venue. Associates had travelled from Sale and Stratford to be part of this celebration and gathering.

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

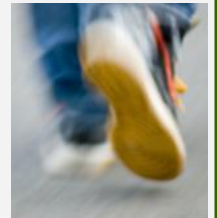
2019 OPEN DAYS

10 a.m.—4 p.m.

SATURDAYS:

16th November

- * **Pray in the Chapel**
- * **Tour the Museum**
- * **Visit the Gift Shop**
- * **Enjoy light refreshments**
- * **Mary MacKillop Walking Tour**



ORBOST and LAKES ENTRANCE Associates were invited to St Joseph's School, Orbost to celebrate the feast of St Mary MacKillop with a prayer service in the Mary MacKillop Hall. The theme of the day was 'LIVE LIKE MARY TODAY'. Students joined the adults for morning tea followed by a light lunch of soup and sandwiches. Mary MacKillop's life tells us about a brave woman whose work is continued today by the Sisters of St Joseph.

Sr Madeleine, Orbost and Sr Lynette, Lakes Entrance, like Mary travel many kilometres in the remote areas of East Gippsland. A bunch of flowers was presented to the Sisters.

AROUND THE TRAPS—

BEECHWORTH

St. Joseph's Primary School in Beechworth is now part of the Josephite Associates Family. 25 students are members of our "Brigid and Mary Social Justice Group". The Patrons of our Group are St. Brigid of Ireland and St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The students volunteer to be part of a community outreach programme for the local community of Beechworth. Each week they visit elderly residents of Beechworth Aged Care Facility, deliver Meals on Wheels and work in the Beechworth Community Opportunity Shop. They love to read to the elderly residents and play Bingo and other games with them. They talk to them about their lives and families and residents share many special memories. At the Op Shop the students serve behind the counter and help to sort clothes and price items. (photo shows the group having morning tea as a thank you for their work in the Op shop.) Delivering Meals on Wheels is a great opportunity to chat to people and be of service. The students also host special morning teas for the elderly Parishioners and some lovely new friendships have been formed.



The students make a promise to care for others and the environment as St. Brigid and Mary MacKillop did. The Sisters of St. Joseph and the Brigidine Sisters have given our group much support and encouragement and we are very thankful for this.

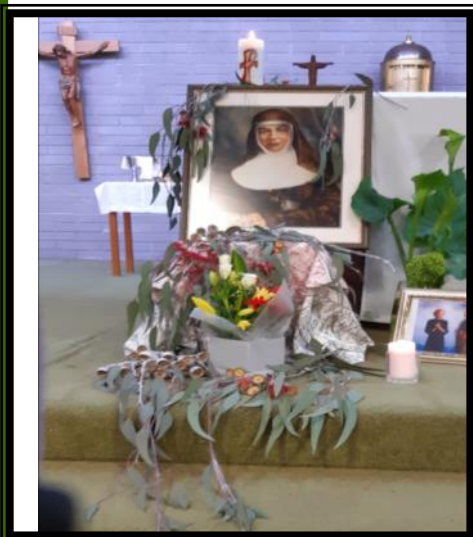
Linda Murcutt and Irene Sharp, Josephite Associates, Beechworth.

MORWELL The Morwell group of Associates meet each month, commencing our meetings with Sr Irene's Morning Offering and the Josephite Associates Prayer. We have been reflecting each meeting on a section from Pope Francis' Inspiring Vision No.2 as we enjoyed the No 1 given to each group. The reflections from the newsletter are prayed, we talk about what is happening locally etc and finish with a Mary MacKillop prayer remembering the sick etc. Afternoon tea completes the time together. A collection tin is contributed to at each meeting and the money sent to help one of the Josephite projects eg Farmers, Asylum Seekers etc

In previous years we took turns providing the life story of prominent Catholic Women such as Flora Mackillop, Caroline Chisholm Elizabeth Fry, Mother Teresa and Dr Mary Glowrey. The group usually go to lunch near Mary MacKillop's Feast, but this year we will join St Vincent's school at Mass. One of the group, Corry Houben is off to Western Australia for the ordination of her grandson to the priesthood. Corry and Jennifer, his mother, made his chasubles.

From Terry and Monica Lappin

PAKENHAM/BUNYIP/KOO WEE RUP This combined group got together at Mass to Celebrate St Mary MacKillop's Feast day and sent me these lovely photos.



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:

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

MEMORIES OF JOSEPHITES IN BAIRNSDALE

BY Patricia Bowers (Fermio)

I attended the old St Mary's School from 1947 to 1954 followed by two years in the new building in Years 7 and 8. These two years prepared girls for office work which, at that time, was the main employment opportunity in country towns. By the time we finished these two years we were usually old enough to leave school and went straight into jobs. Some of the businesses in Bairnsdale went straight to St Mary's for their office workers because the Sisters trained them so well.

Teachers I remember are Srs Stanislaus, Cleopha, Malachi, Charles and Luke and Fidelis. Fr Cremin was the parish priest who, accompanied by his dog Barney, would visit the school on Mondays to check up who had been to Mass. When we had little concerts Fr was always invited and we would sing his favourite song "Friends and Neighbours". A school friend, Ann and I sang "I've got a lovely bunch of coconuts". We had a banana each to toss into the audience when we came to "Have a banana!" I discovered as we were exiting that I still had mine so I heaved it from a distance taking everyone, including Fr Cremin, by surprise. Fortunately I didn't hit him!

School picnics were held at Eagle Point each year. The Mother's Club provided stacks of sandwiches, wonderful raspberry cordial and an ice-cream, either a Dixie or a wafer. Great fun was had in the races—egg and spoon, three-legged, sack races, hopping, running, all great for co-ordination and balance.

My friend, Yvonne (Luckins) remembers the big blackboards in the new school on which each Monday would appear wonderfully drawn flowers or scenes with the date and the freshly drawn A.M.D.G. These were testament to the artistic talent, dedication and pride of the Sisters who would have spent part of their weekend preparing the boards. Yvonne remembers that in the Grade 6 classroom in the old school, paper planes with nibs attached were stuck in the ceiling. As the ceilings were very high there they stayed.

Students cleaned and filled the ink-wells, dusted, swept and kept their classrooms and playgrounds tidy. No cleaners in those days! At the end of each term desks were polished with floor polish. Extra duties at lunch times were helping in the Church—polishing the brass vases of which there were many, cleaning cobwebs and floors. We felt privileged in those days to be able to enter the sanctuary of the Church, which was also the stopping place for tourist buses to view the painted ceiling and upper walls.

Yvonne Saunders (Luckins) and
Patricia Bowers (Fermio) .



THE JOSEPHITES IN GIPPSLAND

article taken from SOUNDINGS Spring Ed 1995 (a former Josephite communication)

Mary MacKillop's work in Gippsland began rather late in her life, in 1902. The Diocese of Sale only came into existence after the Plenary Council of 1885. Bishop James Corbett was appointed first Bishop of Sale in May 1887; his diocese comprised an area of 16,350 sq miles with five priests to assist him in four parishes which served 47 Mass stations.

Similarities are to be found between the life of Mary MacKillop and those early companions that joined her and the ministry of the priests and Josephites who pioneered Gippsland. Both found themselves ministering to families from isolated, rural communities, both responded to the needs of Catholic communities with the gifts they had and both captured the richness of the moment in their letters to each other.

Although 25 of the 29 parishes of the Sale diocese have received the service of the Josephites as teachers, motor missionaries, musicians, cooks, parish workers, chaplains, visitators and pastoral associates, only four foundations had been made during Mary MacKillop's lifetime. These were Traralgon in 1902, Maffra 1905, Morwell 1906 and Omeo in 1909.

Fanning out from the encroaching railway, these communities were to be found "in small or poorer towns or in scattered villages or in remote places in the bush, where priests seldom visit, there being so few of them for the heavy work of the missions" (Letter Mary MacKillop 1873) Bishop Phelan highlighted the impact of Religious in a parish when he was quoted as saying, "In getting the Sisters of St Joseph you will feel the pulse of the parish beating in a way it never beat before in the minds and souls of the children attending the school".

Much of the Diocese could only be traversed on horseback, such was the nature of the terrain. "Notwithstanding the many obstacles including fallen timber, river crossings and steep precipitous mountain tracks that had to be faced, His Lordship seems only the better prepared for the more difficult task of paying a visit to the Catholic families residing in the county of Croajingalong (Orbost) Advocate 1887 In his first visit to Croajingalong in 1917, Bishop Phelan took six hours to go from Bairnsdale to Orbost . (now 1 hour!) He stated afterwards that "...the man who sets out from Bairnsdale to here (Orbost) must be in the prime of life and the vigor of health and must have a splendid pair of horses. And after the visit neither man nor beast is much good for a week...Furthermore when the priest comes to Orbost he should remain for two Sundays. Between these days of obligation he could look up the careless members and instruct the children in their religious duties.

The interior of Croajingalong County was "...a blank on the maps." One report in the Advocate spoke of the wilds of Gippsland...a land with few attractions...a scarcity of Catholics...with mean unavoidably inadequate, difficulties heretofore insurmountable." One writer wrote: "It would not suit anyone who could not make himself happy anywhere in so much as it is very like a large jail, 25 miles from the nearest squatter and surrounded for 8 months of the year with snow...the only road that I can yet find crosses the river eleven times. It is impossible to leave the River as the mountains are almost perpendicular". Another letter: "...30 homesteads including runs for none but blamed fools would think of taking land there."



In many of these early foundations these women lived in towns where there was no permanent priest, where they had to rise sometimes at 4.30 am to travel to a Mass station, where they had to attend the dying and prepare adults for the Sacraments including Marriage,. One Bishop recalled hearing the Christmas confessions of penitents who had come in from as far away as the High country, but all knew the formula and knew how to examine their consciences having been prepared well in their childhood by a Josephite, Sr Imelda Way RIP stationed at Maffra some years after its foundation, recalled that the Sisters began each Sunday by travelling to Newry by horse and buggy. After lunch they went on to Briagalong and then at 4 p.m to Valencia Creek. The Sisters at this time still travelled to Dargo from Maffra for catechetics.





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:

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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.

ANNUAL MASS

9th November, (2nd Saturday)

Venue: Chapel, 13 Havelock Road

HAWTHORN EAST

Time: 1.30 p.m.

Celebrant: Fr Michael Kalka

Enrolment of new Associates and renewal of commitment of all present.

PLEASE BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE FOR AFTERNOON TEA.

TRAVEL: Tram 70 or 75 up Riversdale Road Stop 38 or 39

CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY

Margaret McQuillen, Morwell Associate who lives in Churchill and five parishioners from Churchill, travelled by train and tram to participate in the reflection on the **Unknown Journey** on the Feast of the Assumption.

After a light lunch they celebrated the feast at Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral before returning to visit the Museum at the Heritage Centre. Maurine Phelan from Richmond also there, is a regular participant in these reflections.

For those who cannot get to Regional Days, coming to one of these sessions is a way of continuing their formation as Josephites and offering time to pray in the chapel, where a relic of Mary MacKillop, the same as given to Pope Benedict at her Canonisation, is present. A book for your intentions is also there and these are placed at the tomb in North Sydney each week.

BULLETIN BOARD

**Eternal rest grant to them
O Lord, and let perpetual
light shine upon them**

We keep in our prayers those who have died
Brett Hannah, son of John and Frances,
Bacchus Marsh
Sr Anne Cahir, sister of Sr Maureen and
Ida Whelan, Reservoir
Laura, sister of Sr Rose Wood
Jenny, sister of Dorothy Murphy, Sunshine
and Sr Helen Reed
Leo, husband of Mary Dalton, Koroit
Father of Marian Muller, Melton
Mary Whelan, Nathalia, sister of
Teresa Taggart rsj, SA
Brian, brother of Lucille Wheelahan, B. Marsh
Sr Mary Lanigan (Regina) rsj

BOOK REVIEW

I had a lovely surprise in the mail recently. In the Autumn issue I reviewed a book **DON'T REMIND ME** by Georgette Noellet written when she was living with her husband at Margan, near Leongatha. She now lives at Nerrena, closer to Leongatha.

Georgette had read the review and sent me a copy of another book she has written: **IN THE GARDEN**. A small book with delightful reflections as the reader is lead through the gardens of her life where Nature provides peace for the mind and nourishment for the soul. Each reflection ends with a beautiful prayer. If you would like to buy a copy Georgette is happy for you to ring her on PH 5664 9267

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