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Autumn 2020

March 2020 Newsletter



*'God gives me
strength for what
is necessary.'*
MMK 1877

We Want You to Come!

By Julie Langman and Majella O'Sullivan rsj

As we reflect on the recent devastating bushfires, the 23rd Psalm comes to mind, especially verse 4, where it's written, 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me.'



Talking to a first-time firefighter, Peter, from the Adelaide Hills Fire, he said that he didn't fear because he had the support of his team and knowledge from his training. He experienced hope and courage from within, and in his team.

He also said that he knew that his family and friends were supporting him with their thoughts and prayers. There have been interviews with people and communities who have lost everything – homes, businesses, livestock, native flora and fauna ... however, the response is '**We will re-build.**'

This is HOPE AND COURAGE in action!



Our Christian faith reminds us that from these ashes, hope and courage rises. In the days that followed the fires, and still now, we see on the TV and in the papers goodness and compassion flowing from the generosity of many individuals and communities.

Mary MacKillop was a woman of faith who lived by the power of the Cross. When it came to suffering and hardship Mary had more than her fair share. She endured many tragic deaths in her family, including the fatal drowning of her mother, and a life-long battle with ill-health. Hardships also came from within the Church. Her excommunication was a very painful moment in her life as was the Commission of Enquiry which the Order endured during 1883. She wrote at this time: 'The Institute is going through a severe trial but with humility, charity and truth on the part of its members all will be well'.

In our daily living we are called to be people of Hope and Courage. The words of Pope Francis, '*On Hope*' says, "Life is often a desert; it is difficult to walk in life but if we trust in God it can become beautiful and wide as a highway. Never lose hope, continue to believe always, in spite of everything." As Associates, can we live the life that God calls us to be in the light of Mary MacKillop and Pope Francis?

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From the 5th – 7th of July this year Associates are gathering here in Adelaide for the triennial Conference. At the beginning of this decade of 2020 the theme “**Be Courageous and Full of Hope**” is timely. In 1871, Mary MacKillop said these words to her ‘flock’, so what was relevant then is still relevant today.

In this day as Associates, we are conscious of the need for the ‘bigger’ picture. We will have the opportunity at the Conference to be involved in all that IJALT (International Josephite Associate Leadership Team) is trying to achieve. This Team has been focusing on formation, administration and growth of its members.

You, too, are a *leader* in your own right! As a local CWL member or Vinnies Volunteer or Minister in the numerous roles in the Church,

as well as being who you are in your daily activities, this Conference is for you! Why? Because you will receive support, encouragement and inspiration as local leaders. You will meet other like-minded people who leave their footprints in their own unique ways. After the Conference you will go back to your daily life to continue as you have, understanding more fully the meaning of ‘Be Courageous and Full of Hope’ in your Josephite Heart.

A 5-year old’s perspective on *Hope and Courage*, namely “we all have to do things we don’t like” offers us a challenge! Being present at the Conference will mean stepping out of your routine and trying something new, without fear of failure.

WE WANT YOU TO COME!

Our 2020 Jubilarians

70 Years Professed

Srs Mary Canny, Marie Foale and Judith Murnane

60 Years Professed

Srs Mary Cresp, Judy Gurry, Carita Higgins and Genevieve Secker

50 Years Professed

Srs Christine McArthur and Carmel Pilcher



New Josephite Leadership Teams

- Congregational Leadership Team

Sr Monica Cavanagh has been re-elected Congregational Leader.

Her team includes Srs Clare Conaglen, Josephine Dubiel (from SA), Mary Ellen O’Donaghue and Louise Reeves.

- CentreWest Regional Leadership Team

Sr Brigitte Sipa (from SA) is Regional Leader.

Her team includes Regional Councillors for SA: Srs Christine Schwerdt and Maryellen Thomas and for WA Srs Kathleen Hitchcock and Frances Maguire.

OAM for SOSJ



Congratulations to Sr Monica Cavanagh who has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Australia Day Honours 2020 for Services to the Catholic Church. Sr Monica has been a Sister of St Joseph for nearly 50 years having trained initially in education, and has worked with adults in the fields of faith formation and lay leadership.

A LENTEN REFLECTION

Friday 27th March 2020

Bethany Centre
4 High St Kensington

7pm



Take some time out during this Lenten season. Join us for a gentle evening to listen and reflect. Supper will be provided. Please RSVP by Friday 20th March. Details below.



stormbirds
Growing through natural disaster

FUN (D) RAISER

Friday 1st May 2020

Bethany Centre

6.00pm for 6.30pm start

Hosted by the St Joseph's Old Scholars, Mary MacKillop Old Scholars and Josephite Associates

Stormbirds is a programme initiated by Mary MacKillop Services that supports young people in understanding and managing the changes they experience as a result of a natural disaster.

Our **FUN** evening will be raising funds for *Stormbirds* which supports children who have struggled through the bushfires.

An evening meal will be provided for \$15 per person followed by a night of **FUN** activities. Please RSVP by Friday 24th April. Details below.

Pentecost Reflection

"Be Full of Hope"

Saturday 23rd May 2020

Bethany Centre

2pm



A time to reflect on the gifts of God's Spirit as we look to celebrate Pentecost. Afternoon tea will be provided. Please RSVP by Friday 15th May. Details below.

Everyone is always very welcome to our events. Come along, bring your friends!

For further details or notification of attendance to any/all of the above events please telephone Mary on 0417 871 904 or email sa.associates@sosj.org.au

Saints Alive!

by Telma Martignago

Saints Alive! aka a *food & friendship* night was held on All Saints Day, Friday 1st November 2019 in Bethany.

The night was very well catered for with delicious food, and the room was filled with lots of lively chatter. It was an opportunity for old and new friends to come together to celebrate and have some fun.

Sr Majella O'Sullivan kept the proceedings of the evening moving along, including hosting

the 'Celebrity Heads' game. Coinciding with All Saints Day, it seemed quite appropriate that the 'celebrities' for the night were people (and places) associated with Mary MacKillop. There was lots of laughter as the contestants tried to guess who their celebrity was. With some audience assistance all the contestants did very well in rightfully guessing.

Thank you to all the organisers for a wonderful evening of fun and laughter!



by Rex Ranger

Hello. I attended this evening with my wife Zorka and sister Cathy Young. It is one of the first functions Zorka and I have attended at the Mary MacKillop Precinct and we have been thinking for too long to become involved. We lived in Penola during the 1980s and witnessed many of the events in the lead up to the canonisation of Mary MacKillop including a re-enactment of Fr Julian Tenison Woods attending a Mass at the Father Woods Tree on the Riddoch Highway, north of Penola. And of course, who could forget Fr John Vildzius, our Parish Priest at the time, arriving in period costume on a horse. So, for our family, St Mary MacKillop has been a significant part of our life.

Anyway, on to this night. It was a great evening of exploring the lives and identities of some of the Saints who have touched the lives of

Christians over the years. Chockies greased the wheel and energised the participants to risk giving wrong answers. There was a paucity of roosters at the event (need to fix that for next time) and a lot of hens. However, I know I tried with a little bit of success to square the ledger of answers.

Zorka and I, on behalf of Zok Okunneiff and Kaye and Frank Evans, did protest the exclusion of St Peter and Paul's Parish of Gawler in the *Saints of Adelaide Region Church* quiz. Sr Majella – how could you forget?

But on a serious note, in a fun way a night such as this goes a long way to highlighting the bravery, commitment and sacrifice of Saints, who provide us, amongst other things, with the inspiration on how we should live our lives.

Uluru Statement from the Heart

Klynton Wanganeen, a Narungga man, was Speaker at a gathering last year of the SA Josephite Reconciliation Circle. This group meets monthly at the Bethany Centre to grow in cultural knowledge, advocacy and support of Aboriginal/First Nations peoples in South Australia and nationally.

Klynton detailed his journey through various government committees, including ATSIC (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission) which were set up to address the needs of Aboriginal people in the Australian community. He spoke about how many of these committees failed after having been deprived of funds. Programmes which had been developed, and some of which had been implemented, became unsustainable – a cycle of hope and loss. Klynton went on to say that this is one tactic that has been used by progressive governments over many years to undermine efforts to bring about positive change for all.

Klynton was the Convenor of the SA meeting in preparation for the 2017 Gathering of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders which produced the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Here is that statement...

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately

criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

...and the struggle continues. For more information or to be part of the SA Josephite Reconciliation Circle telephone the Regional Administration Centre on 8130 5900.

DIARY DATES FOR 2020

A LENTEN REFLECTION

Friday 27th March
See page 3 for details.

FUN (D) RAISER

Friday 1st May
See page 3 for details

Pentecost Reflection

Saturday 23rd May
See page 3 for details

Associates Conference

Sunday 5th – Tuesday 7th July
See Flyer included with the mail out/email

Mass and Commitment Ceremony

Saturday 8th August
St Joseph's Chapel, 10.30am

10th Anniversary of Canonisation

Sunday 18th October
Bethany Centre, 2.00pm

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



Associate Subscriptions for 2019 – 2020

The Leadership Team sincerely thanks you for paying your subscription, which enables 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

We are keeping our postage expenditure down as more Associates provide email addresses.

Payment Amount: \$20.00 \$30.00 Other _____

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Title: _____ Name: _____

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Would you prefer the newsletter sent via email? Yes No

Telephone: Home: _____ Mobile: _____

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)

*“May St Joseph shower many special
graces upon each and every one of you.”
MMK 1900*

Our Josephite Partners

Living in the Spirit of Mary MacKillop

• St Joseph's Old Scholars Association

An Old Scholar is any person 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 29th March
2pm Mass and Reunion in St Joseph's Chapel
Followed by afternoon tea (\$5pp) in the Bethany Centre
- Wednesday 3rd June
12pm Luncheon at the Hampstead Hotel
- Wednesday 7th October
12pm Luncheon at the Lockley's Hotel

For bookings and further information contact Josie (8295 3667) or Margaret (8264 0780)

• 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 continues today the living community, in the spirit of Mary MacKillop, that began when secondary education first came together at Norwood and Kensington in 1944.

This year marks 50 years since St Joseph's High School was renamed Mary MacKillop College. In addition to the specific reunion years (10, 20, 30, 40 etc), all students present in 1970 are especially welcome to attend the Reunion and share their memories of their time.

Everyone is very welcome to the Annual Reunion Dinner which will be held on Friday 30th October.

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.

For enquiries telephone Trish – 8342 0785

• Mary MacKillop Precinct

1. Our 3 Venues

Comprising Bethany Centre, Mary MacKillop Museum and St Joseph's Chapel.
Telephone 8130 5900 for all enquiries.

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

Venue: St Joseph's Chapel – open every day

March	Sunday, 8/3/2020	Reflection ONLY
April	Wednesday, 8/4/2020	Mass & Reflection
May	Friday, 8/5/2020	Mass & Reflection
June	Monday, 8/6/2020	Mass & Reflection

3. Mary MacKillop Museum is now **OPEN!**

The Museum is open Tuesday – Sunday, from 10am – 4pm. There are 2 galleries to explore and a gift shop you can visit and make purchases.
Come for a visit! You'll be pleasantly surprised.

Mary MacKillop

Journey to Easter: A Season of Surprises



Introduction

There is nothing so fundamental or profound in the Christian message than the idea that life can emerge from death. Easter is the penultimate celebration of this event.

Mary MacKillop knew well the pain of death and the ache of grieving for loved ones whose lives were cut short by tragedy or illness.

For us the Resurrection moment can be so unexpected that we can miss it, fail to identify it and languish at the site of the tomb. But the Risen Jesus is insistent, and we are given repeated opportunities to rejoice and be glad.

Easter seasons of the spirit are those surprising moments when we break through fear and personal defeat. It is like returning from the dead. We face life with renewed vigour and enthusiasm. We may also experience inner strength and assurance through these experiences.

Mary MacKillop's Seasons of Surprises

Mary did her time of weeping at the tomb. However, she also witnessed how the stone could be rolled away in amazing ways in her life:

- Her excommunication ... then reinstatement
- Her expulsion from the diocese ... letter from Archbishop Moran

Mary understood the idea of entering the process of dying and rising over and over in her life. In her letters to her Sisters she is constantly asking that they keep "the feast" with the fresh dough of love, charity and forgiveness. Mary deeply believed in new life rising and nourishing the lives of the multitude. She stressed that love, patience and courage were to be the ingredients of living a full life.

Scripture – John 20:26-31

Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, "Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God."

Jesus said to him: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." There were many other signs that Jesus worked, and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

From the Pen of Mary MacKillop

"I trust that you keep up your spirits, and your trust and confidence in the goodness of God." (1880)

Prayer

Risen Jesus, stay with us as you did with your disciples.

We pray that attitudes of hope, confidence and enthusiasm may transform our lives.

In your company let us make life-giving choices that create new life for our own spirits and nourish all those with whom we live and work.

