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## Winter 2020

June 2020 Newsletter



### Be Courageous and Full of Hope

By Mary Hemmings

*'May God grant you  
courage and true wisdom  
in all you do and say.'*  
MMK 1875

This is the theme for our year as Josephite Associates here in SA, as well as the theme for our triennial Conference which was to have taken place in July in Adelaide. How life has changed since we put this forward in our February newsletter! (Conference cancelled until 2021.)

Yet, this theme has come to be lived out in ways we would never have imagined. COVID-19 has impacted our world beyond what most of us could have thought possible. It has made us think about what is important and what we

value. It has put many people in the 'frontline' to overcome the threat of illness and death, especially those in the medical field. They have certainly needed courage to face the challenges of this virus in their daily workplace.

This time has also enabled many to reach out in support of others. Often this has been in small ways but ways which have touched people's lives at a time most needed. These actions of care and generosity in turn have given hope to people when perhaps they were discouraged in a time of little social contact.

We are grateful to those who have written about their experiences for this newsletter. We know that each of you also have a story to tell of this time. If you would like to share something of this in our next newsletter please email us at [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au) or write to PO Box 57 Kent Town 5071.

At this time of preparing our newsletter we are unsure of what may be possible beyond the 8<sup>th</sup> August (see page 3). We wish you and your families many blessings and may we, as people with a Josephite heart, continue to find ways to be courageous and bring hope to those around us, as did Mary MacKillop in her time.



## OAM for SOSJ



Sr Margaret Cleary, who was the Regional Leader of our CentreWest Region of Sisters from 2013 – 2019, received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours 2020 for "Service to the Catholic Church of Australia".

Sr Margaret has been a Sister of St Joseph for over 47 years. She has worked in education, held various leadership roles within the Congregation and served on many Boards.

We were blessed to have Sr Margaret here in SA until March this year and thank her for her gentle presence and strong interest in our Associates.

Congratulations Sr Margaret on being recognised for all that you have done in the spirit of Mary MacKillop!

## RIP Josephites

We remember with love and gratitude **Sr Mary Sebastian** who entered eternal life on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 and **Sr Mary Canny** who entered eternal life on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020.



*"Another separation here, and the happy hope of an eternal meeting."  
MMK 1898*

## Request from Mary Cresp rsj — writer of our Josephite Associates History



Does a fish know what water is? Does immersion hamper its ability to analyse? When I was asked last year by the Sisters' Congregational Leadership Team to write a history of the Josephite Associates, I did ask, 'Would it be better for an Associate to do that?' Reasons were given in answer, among them being the difficulty that being immersed in a time or identity brings. So, I accepted the honour of embarking on this task, but because I was in ministry as a Pastoral Associate, I could not really start until I 'retired' from that ministry in March of this year. Now the history of the Josephite Associates has become my focus.

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, what I imagined as a simple process of visiting the archives in each Centre has been curtailed.

We are lucky to have email, and archivists have been wonderful, but many are working limited hours at irregular intervals. I realise creativity is now called for to obtain a variety of resources wherever I can. So, this is where I am making an appeal to anyone among you who may have materials that could be relevant to this history. Also, what about writing your memories? They may or may not be quoted, but I would appreciate them very much.

I have already completed a draft of the first chapter, dealing with the years 1979 to 1989, but I have very little concerning the time since then. Samples of newsletters, accounts of events and high-resolution photos (names, dates, places) would be most gratefully received. The timespan can go up to the present.

Please make contact. My details are... [mary.cresp@sosj.org.au](mailto:mary.cresp@sosj.org.au) or 0419 613 279 or 1 Neill Rd, Cowandilla SA 5033 (Australia)

# Living in the Spirit of Mary MacKillop

- **Mary MacKillop Precinct – Bethany, Chapel and Museum**

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan will be the celebrant at the 8<sup>th</sup> August Mass. As it is anticipated that some COVID-19 restrictions will still be in place, numbers attending will be restricted. However, Mass will be live-streamed at 10.30am via the Archdiocese's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/adelaidearchdiocese/>

- **St Joseph's Old Scholars Association**

Please contact Josie (8295 3667) or Margaret (8264 0780) for information on the luncheon at the Lockley's Hotel on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

- **Mary MacKillop Old Scholars Association**

Please check the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/179768134304> or contact Trish (8342 0785) for information on the Annual Reunion Dinner on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

- **Josephite Associates**

Please check the next edition of our newsletter regarding events for the remainder of the year.

## Vale Anne Leydon by Anne Hannagan



I am honoured to write this tribute to Anne Leydon (photo at left) who died on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020. Anne was a great friend to all members of the Hectorville Josephite Associates, both past and present.

We have no doubt that Anne has indeed *entered eternal life*. We have been continually inspired by Anne's strong faith and strength of character, her love of God and her care for others. We were amazed by Anne's determination and ability to "just get on with life." More recently, Anne's wheelchair and an Access Cab became her mode of transport.

Anne had a strong sense of social justice. Her family have said that she never forgot, and always tried to live by the YCW motto, "See, Judge and Act."

At meetings of our Associate Group, Anne joined in conversations and discussions and could convey her thoughts in just a few words and a smile. We will miss Anne's quick wit and sense of humour.

In the eulogy at Anne's Funeral Mass on 18<sup>th</sup> May, which was delivered by Anne and Brian's son, John, with input from his sisters, John spoke of his mother's incredible love for, and close connection with, each of the family

members. John called Anne's understanding of her daughter's ongoing needs as "unflinching love."

Anne's devotion to the Mass and Sacraments reminds me that members of our Associate Group were thrilled that Anne was present at the Mass celebrated by our parish priest, Fr Jeevan Gabriel SMM, at the home of Mary O'Donnell in February. We thank Fr Jeevan for offering Mass for us at what was our first meeting for 2020. Little did we know that COVID-19 would strike within days.

We know that the regulations which have been put in place for our safety have been difficult for many. I would ask that we remember that a smile, a wave, a text message or a phone call can make a difference to a person's day. We can connect with one another 'remotely and safely' – keeping our distance but interacting in a way that is meaningful.

We offer our prayerful support to all families who have lost loved ones, and to friends who would like to have been with them at their time of farewell. We think especially of the Leydon family.

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord  
and may perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace.  
Amen.*

# COVID-19... Is it all about doing good for the greater good?

by Helen Smith

How did you cope when the COVID-19 restrictions were first imposed? Was it disbelief? How could something like this happen in today's society? Were you shocked and confused? Were you angry that restrictions were being imposed on you for no fault of your own and that your daily routine would be interrupted?

I am sure we have all reflected on these matters over the past weeks and months. My elderly but rather sprightly 94-year old mother experienced all of this at some stage, if not daily.

It was widely reported that the imposed 'self-isolation will disproportionately affect elderly individuals whose only social contact is out of the home.' A shock like this affects different people in different ways. My mother was not alone, because the isolation was felt by everyone. Work routines were interrupted, social and fitness activities ceased, not to mention volunteering and going to Church. This list goes on. If you did go out to shop for food and essentials you were 'encouraged' to use 'pay wave' – to use a card to pay, in place of cash. My mother does not have a card. A form of isolation.

We were told to 'go online to shop, to make transactions and to stay in contact with family and friends'. My mother does not have a computer or the internet. Another form of isolation. Use your mobile phone to 'face-time' your family and stay in touch, we were told. My mother does not have a mobile phone. Another form of isolation.

Online technologies can provide social support networks and a sense of belonging but there are disparities in accessing digital resources. My mother was isolated because there was an

assumption that all she had to do was to 'jump online'. If it were not for her family managing these things how would she have coped? Consider those who do not have family.

Volunteering was restricted if not ceased altogether. My mother and I have many friends who volunteer and due to the restrictions, they were experiencing social isolation too. (Staying home encouraged them to catch up on chores! How many cupboards were cleaned out and sock draws sorted?)

We live in a society, described as *individualism* which is based on how independent a person feels in a society. The focus is on the individual and where the *self* is a priority. Scholars such as Geert Hofstede describes these societies as having an expectation that individual choices and decisions are made for each member of society<sup>1</sup>.

COVID-19 restrictions changed all of that for my mother. Decisions were being made around group behaviour. We had to conform for the greater good! Did COVID-19 change our societal point of reference from the individual as a priority to **collectivism** where the **group** has prioritisation over the individual? Remember the catch phrase reminding us 'we are all in this together'?

Now as we enter the next phase of COVID-19 what does that mean for my mother? Minimal interaction with family and restricted outings. What has the change meant? Yes, we are all in this together.

But perhaps we should be thinking – Yes, it is **all about doing good for the greater good** but how have we managed as **the individual within the group**?

<sup>1</sup> Three ways Culture might affect COVID-19 response. Chung 2020

## Mary MacKillop Precinct Database

To keep up with Mary MacKillop Precinct events and plans, Associates with an email address are invited to send a brief email to Sr Mary Ryan via [mary.ryan@sosj.org.au](mailto:mary.ryan@sosj.org.au) and ask to be added to the database. She will then keep you in touch with what is happening (and overcome ever-increasing postal costs.)



# Charting a 'NEW BETTER' post COVID-19

By Fr Steve Ardill – Parish Priest of Streaky Bay



So much has changed dramatically in our families, communities, our nation and across the world following the outbreak and spread of COVID-19. Who could have contemplated that Churches across Australia would be closed and Public Masses suspended? Not to be able to share Holy Communion with the faithful, not being able to come together in Holy Week to celebrate the great mysteries of our faith were severe spiritual deprivations for Catholic people everywhere.

For many Christians, the **cross** has loomed large in this time of pandemic. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop wrote extensively about the cross. Amongst her wise words were:

***Don't let your crosses make you unhappy!***

As restrictions ease and our communities begin to open up, people have been speculating about what a *new normal* might look like. In a number of respects, we do not want to revert back to the *previous normal*. Even a *new normal* will have its own deficiencies and shortcomings. I like to think that we might imagine not a *new normal* but a **NEW BETTER**.

With this in mind, I put the following challenge out to parishioners and friends:

*What has changed for the better these past weeks? What have been the blessings? What would you like to hold onto and nurture in a 'post pandemic' time?*

**The following responses** speak powerfully to that maxim of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop: ***Don't let your crosses make you unhappy!***

- ♦ I have really missed the weekly ritual and routine of Mass and understand as never before how important Mass has been throughout my whole life.
- ♦ We have given priority to family prayer and viewing *live-streamed* Masses. On Holy Saturday night we sat around the campfire and proclaimed the readings of the Easter Vigil and shared how they spoke to us. Our teenage son

contributed in an insightful way to the sharing.

- ♦ I have forged a new friendship with one of our parishioners who I did not know, and we regularly get together to share our faith.
- ♦ I have had a couple of great conversations with the priest who married us, a dear and trusted friend.
- ♦ I am receiving help for my anxiety. I am not trying to do this on my own.
- ♦ A daily Rosary and chat on the phone have eased the *tyranny of distance* and the isolation we have felt during these weeks when mum's Aged Care Home has been in lockdown.
- ♦ We have received more gifts of fish from neighbours and townsfolk in the past two months than we had received in the past eleven years. There is a new cascading of generosity.
- ♦ I have enjoyed the quieter life and I am more persistent in prayer.
- ♦ My son returned home when the boarding house at his school closed. Our family was whole again, and we started to revive the practice of having our evening meal together around the dining room table. Our family now feels more united and we are talking more to each other.
- ♦ I have discovered a whole new world of live-streaming, podcasts, websites and YouTube clips to sustain and nourish my faith.
- ♦ We are thinking more of other people ... reaching out to them, visiting, preparing and dropping in a meal, taking time to talk and listen ... there is an *excitement* in all this.
- ♦ My relationship with my wife ... we are each other's best friends ... has developed and grown.
- ♦ I am being forced out of my comfort zone, to grow and discover how I can live life better.
- ♦ I am being reminded constantly that I have many great friends, who are there for me. And I am there for them.
- ♦ I have discovered new prayers and my praying has become more meaningful.

What has changed for the better for you? What are your blessings? How can you hold on to these and allow them to shape your future and create a **NEW BETTER** in the post COVID-19 world?

# COVID-19 – Complications and the Symbolic Connections to *Pentecost*

By Bridgette Barrett



What a journey it has been from *Palm Sunday* to *Pentecost* with the *Pandemic!* No longer could we *participate* in the Eucharist unless we were *privileged* to be assisting a *Priest* at a taped *performance*. The communities that so regularly gather were called on to *participate* in *prayer* via screen coverage and needed to call on their inner strength.

The importance of relationship to the Earth and to other creatures including *people* was highlighted as we listened and responded to the screen which was the best option in the circumstances. Many *Priests* responded in different ways and created interaction by different means. This was discussed in one of the more recent editions of the Southern Cross newspaper.

I watched and *participated* in a variety of *presentations* as Jesus was led from the Hosannas, to the Cross and Resurrection in Jerusalem. Following this, I obtained a box of blessed olive branches and distributed them to some *people* I knew in the *parish* (with social distancing of course). Some gave them to other *people* in the *parish*, and so we connected.

Also, I was more attuned to the various homilies *presented*, sometimes listening to two different *presentations* of the same readings. During the 50 days from Easter to *Pentecost*, I was very aware of the journey narrative as this year we were all *participating* in an unusual journey *particularly* as we could not *physically*

attend Mass at Easter, the most important celebration in the liturgical year.

You may well ask, “What were the gospels after Easter Sunday?” Divine Mercy Sunday where Jesus appeared and breathed on the disciples with the Holy Spirit, the road to Emmaus, Good Shepherd Sunday, I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, the *Promise* of a *Paraclete*, the Ascension and *Pentecost*, the Church’s birthday.

What happens on birthdays? You hope for a *present*. What happens at *Pentecost*? You hope for the *presence* of the Holy Spirit in your heart. My oven became a closer ‘friend’ during the journey, and with the *participation* of two *parishioners* we



baked biscuits (see photo above), symbolic of the journey – men, women, hearts, sheep, clouds and flames – and with assistance of more *parishioners*, *placed* them at *people’s* doors and letterboxes. We even sent some in to Archbishop *Patrick* O’Regan as we were *packing* during his installation.

Being isolated has been difficult, demanding and depressing at times but has also been a time to contemplate, cook, clean, converse, read, garden and connect differently. We can only hope for connection in a group for the Feast of Mary MacKillop on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

Wishing you the *peace* of *Pentecost* and *post-haste participation* as we *prepare* ourselves to celebrate at the altar again.

## *Mary MacKillop Museum*

We are very happy to announce that, after almost three months of COVID-19 closure, the Museum was opened to visitors on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. We look forward again to welcoming many people to this special place of discovery and inspiration.

For further information, please visit our website: [www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au](http://www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au) or find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/marymackillopprecinct/>

Please note that St Joseph’s Chapel and Bethany Centre remain closed until further notice. This means that there will be no 8<sup>th</sup> of the Month Mass for July. (See page 3 re 8<sup>th</sup> August)

# Fun with the Corona Virus - Stay Safe

By Bridgette Barrett

I	D	T	O	I	L	E	T	P	A	P	E	R	T	N	R	T	X
C	J	S	X	K	L	A	N	T	P	L	I	O	N	G	E	C	H
U	N	E	E	C	N	A	T	S	I	D	W	A	L	K	A	C	Z
A	E	S	R	W	O	R	P	O	U	E	B	W	O	O	D	S	E
C	E	R	O	A	A	N	G	E	P	A	W	N	S	E	P	Q	I
O	T	U	G	R	E	S	N	O	R	G	A	V	S	O	N	L	S
U	E	N	S	P	E	N	H	L	A	E	F	J	O	P	O	V	O
G	N	R	I	E	H	T	M	I	E	R	L	M	F	A	C	E	L
H	I	C	L	E	A	N	H	A	N	D	S	U	S	T	H	S	A
G	N	I	G	N	I	S	P	R	N	G	U	B	M	I	U	O	T
O	E	R	I	S	E	D	O	C	O	P	R	S	E	E	R	N	I
D	C	G	N	I	S	I	T	I	N	A	S	T	L	N	C	Y	O
L	O	G	E	N	B	U	T	O	Z	U	T	I	L	T	H	N	N
O	V	M	A	R	Y	M	A	C	K	I	L	L	O	P	D	N	K
V	I	R	U	S	H	C	O	R	O	N	A	Y	L	B	M	U	H
E	D	F	R	U	B	Y	P	R	I	N	C	E	S	S	O	R	V
S	J	A	C	C	O	M	P	L	I	S	H	M	E	N	T	T	O
R	U	O	Y	E	L	L	A	V	A	S	S	O	R	A	B	E	W

Find the following words in the puzzle above, then use the words with \* symbol to construct a saying by Mary MacKillop:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* ACCOMPLISHMENT</li> <li>BAROSSA VALLEY</li> <li>* BE</li> <li>* BUT</li> <li>CLEAN HANDS</li> <li>CORONA</li> <li>COUGH</li> <li>COVID</li> <li>* DESIRE</li> <li>DISTANCE</li> <li>* EAGER</li> <li>FACE</li> <li>GIN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GOD LOVES</li> <li>HOPE</li> <li>* HUMBLY</li> <li>ICU</li> <li>* IN (x 2)</li> <li>ISOLATION</li> <li>* ITS</li> <li>LOSS OF SMELL</li> <li>MARY MACKILLOP</li> <li>NINETEEN</li> <li>NO CHURCH</li> <li>NURSES</li> <li>* PATIENT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>READ</li> <li>RUBY PRINCESS</li> <li>RUNNY NOSE</li> <li>RUSH</li> <li>SANITISING</li> <li>SINGING</li> <li>SORE THROAT</li> <li>THEIR</li> <li>TOILET PAPER</li> <li>VIRUS</li> <li>VOW</li> <li>WALK</li> <li>* YOUR</li> </ul>
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# HOPE

## Scripture

"I know the plans I have in mind for you ... it is God who speaks ... plans for peace, not disaster, reserving a future full of hope for you." Jeremiah 29: 11-13

## For Reflection

- Many people suffer greatly during their life, yet they rise above this. Can you name someone who has been inspirational for you in how they have risen above life's difficulties?
- How does one find hope in great suffering? What can sustain people in times of great suffering? Share your own or that of another to illustrate this.
- What is hope for you? Name a situation in our world/lives which may seem hopeless, yet people rise in hope?
- What words or actions spoke of Mary MacKillop's hope in God?
- Share a hope that you have for yourself, your family, our world. Ask God, who walks the journey of life with us, to give us the courage and wisdom to bring these hopes to fruition.

## Action

Now share this *Litany of Hope*. Enjoy a cuppa ... then go forth and be people of Hope!

God, Our Creator *Open our minds to hear your word*  
 Jesus Christ, Son of God *Open our hearts to live your word*  
 Holy Spirit, Flame of Love *Open our lips to proclaim your word*

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope *Pray for us*  
 Blessed Virgin Mary, Model of Hope *Pray for us*  
 Blessed Virgin Mary, Humble Servant of Hope *Pray for us*  
 Blessed Virgin Mary, Nurturer of Hope *Pray for us*

Saint Joseph, Protector of Hope *Pray for us*  
 Saint Joseph, Believer of Hope *Pray for us*  
 Saint Joseph, Guide of Hope *Pray for us*  
 Saint Joseph, Teacher of Hope *Pray for us*

Hope of the homeless *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of all who despair *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope for the lonely *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of peace *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of forgiveness *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of the lost *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of prisoners *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of the Church *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of the aged *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of life *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope for the dead *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope in crisis *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope in suffering *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of mourners *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of the poor *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of the hungry *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of the naked *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of the abandoned *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of the persecuted *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of the misunderstood *Hear our prayer*  
 Hope of the abused *Hear our prayer*  
 ..... *Hear our prayer*

Loving God, may we be bearers of hope to all whom we meet.  
 Amen.

