



Josephite Associates, Victoria-Tasmania SPRING 2020



Spring Newsletter September October November

Dear Josephite Associates,
Well the second wave of the Covid 19 Virus did come as predicted. Hopefully we will reach "Covid Normal" before too long. At least numbers are looking better and we can only pray that the answer will come soon.

The weather is certainly more cheery and the gardens are looking great. Our local Vet is extremely busy it seems that either our pets are getting sick of us being at home or our dogs are being overwalked!

Feast Day Celebrations

I trust that we all celebrated Mary's Feast Day last month in some way. After watching the very prayerful Mass celebrated at St Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney Sr Mary F had a special lunch at home and a celebratory drink. Even if she was on her own she enjoyed her day.



In Hamilton we agreed to watch the North Sydney Mass and follow that with a Josephite 'cuppa'. Some of us also watched the Mass at Kensington where there were a few more sisters in the congregation. Both very prayerful. Our original Hamilton Josephite Associate and Alexander MacKillop expert, Ted Oliver, placed these beautiful flowers on



Alexander's grave on the 8th. The reflective prayer time at Mary's grave was particularly beautiful.

Mary MacKillop in our schools.

It is great to see that the children in our schools are learning about Mary.

This afternoon I have just finished an online interview with two Year 8 students from Monivae who wanted to know about Mary and the Josephites. The picture on the right was done by my grand niece, Olivia, for her RE. She is in Gr2 in a Melbourne school. Her sentence summed up her learning. "Mary was kind and she loved everyone especially children."



News from the International Josephite Associates Leadership Team, Newsletter attached.

Distribution of the Spring Newsletter

Due to the fact that we don't have access to the Heritage Centre office, we are unable to send out the newsletter via post. If you know of Associates who usually receive their newsletter by post, please share your copy/news with them. We will post out copies as soon as we are able to.

Inside this issue:

- 1 Editorial
- 2 Reflection - Ireland the History of Newmarket
- 3 2020 Dates (Cancellations)
Newspaper Article 1905
- 4 Bulletin Board
Stamps RIP
Book Reviews

This is a short Newsletter as there have been no gatherings to report on and there is a 4 page document from the IJALT attached,

Noreen McLeish

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"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think, and loved more than you'll ever know." — A.A. Milne

Friendship Prayer Service

Spring 2020 — REFLECTION

Ireland: The History of Newmarket

August 8, 2020

Teachings from a 295-Year-Old House on how to Survive a Pandemic.

As the coronavirus pandemic was invading our world, in came a request to write about the grand old Irish house, Newmarket Court in County Cork. Initially this felt rather strange but in researching the life of the 295-year-old house with a chequered history, some strategies for surviving in the new-normal, which is so abnormal, were revealed!



Between 1615 and 1622 land was confiscated by the English Crown from the Cork McAuliffe clan. It was given to English settlers with the hopes of establishing a Protestant ruling class, colonising Ireland and disempowering the dispossessed Catholics, a plan which never came to fruition. In c.1725 a grand house was built on the confiscated land, for the English Aldworth family. The next 197 years saw generations of Aldworths living in Newmarket

Court and vacating it permanently in 1921 during the War of Independence.[1] During the Civil War of 1922-1923, the Free State Army occupied the empty Newmarket House.[2]

The Josephites, at the 1925 General Chapter, decided to establish a house in Ireland for girls wishing to become Josephites. Mother Laurence O'Brien and Sr Francis Moore arrived in Ireland in 1926 to purchase a house. Newmarket Court and the surrounding 80 acres were on the property market, consequently the sisters bought the property. With the arrival of four Josephites on 1st November 1927, Newmarket Court became St Joseph's Convent and a once Protestant and Free Mason stronghold metamorphosed into a Catholic Convent and a Juniorate for aspirants to religious life.

The first intake of girls arrived in December 1927 and for the following 46 years, a steady flow of teenagers undertook a routine of study and prayer as they discerned their vocation and prepared for Australia. During the restrictions to sea travel because of World War II, the Juniorate evolved into a novitiate, where a number of young women were professed as Josephites.

Over the life of the Juniorate, three hundred and twenty-one young women travelled to Australia to become Josephites. Two hundred and fifty-six continued as Josephites, ministering through education, nursing, social work, pastoral care and administration, to the poor and needy in Australia, New Zealand, Peru and Ireland. By the 1960s, due to various theological and sociological reasons, the numbers attending the Juniorate decreased, necessitating its closure in 1971 and its sale in February 1972. The buyer planned to convert it into a retirement home but this dream never realised. In 1982, it changed hands again and became The James O'Keefe Memorial Institute offering various courses to meet the needs of the area. [3]

To conclude, it was important to revisit the grand old house, to recall its story and to discover the strategies that kept the old building alive and vibrant for 295 years. It teaches us, that survival and living through the new-normal of the pandemic, call for the same strategies of creative changing, adapting and evolving; constant alertness for the new and life-giving; courageous embracing of the opportunities for vibrant metamorphoses while sincerely acknowledging what was, is over and needs leaving behind! And so proclaims the grand old house in the time of a pandemic!



Clare Ahern rsj

Footnotes:

[1] This was a war between the forces of England and the Irish Republican Army and its volunteers.

[2] The Civil War resulted from the dissatisfaction many Irish felt towards the partition of Ireland into North and South. Six counties in the North of Ireland were claimed by Britain and the remaining twenty-six counties belonged to The Irish Free State.

[3] For more on the Newmarket Story, read pages 198 – 206 and 212 – 221 of The Letter Under the Pillow by Clare Ahern

Josephite Associates ANNUAL Mass

Pending COVID restrictions

Sat 14th November 2020

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St, EAST MELBOURNE

Mass: 1 pm— Fr Michael Kalka

BYO Plate to share for Afternoon Tea

Please let us know if you are intending to
come noreen.mcleish@gmail.com OR call

0438 531 651. Thank you Noreen

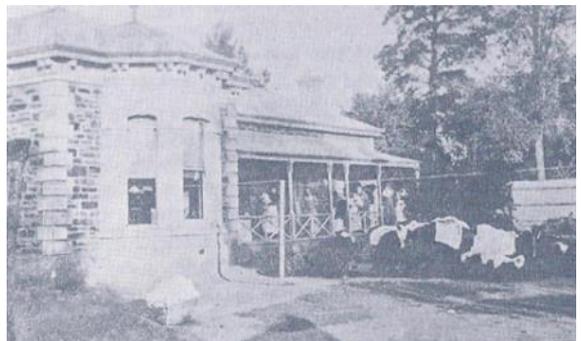


Please check the
SOSJ website for
update.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE - ADELAIDE 20TH OCT 1905

(This journey was taken 2 years after Mary's stroke)

After a stay of about three months, part of which was spent at Kensington Convent and part at the Refuge, Fullarton, the Mother General of the Josephites departed for Sydney by mail train on Monday last. Mother Mary came as an invalid and though immeasurably improved by her sojourn in the State, still went away an invalid. Although almost permanently confined to her room, and almost always suffering, she managed, despite her infirmity, to do much business connected with her Order. One object for many years she had at heart- the securing of adequate accommodation for her Sisters at Kensington. Kensington is the mother-home of the Order of our State as it was once the Mother House for the whole of Australia. That houseroom has been badly wanted for a long, long time at Kensington as everyone acquainted with the crowded conditions at once admit. With a view of bettering the state of affairs, one wing of a proposed new convent was set up last year. The generous donation of 1000 pounds from Mrs Scanlon of Sydney helped to pay the cost of this work. One donation of 2000 pounds from a friend and sympathiser who wishes to have his name unknown, and a second of 100 pounds from Mr Robert Bruce of North Adelaide justified a continuance of the building. The plans and specifications are ready, the tenders are called for, and in a short time the building of the main portion of the proposed new convent will be begun. Of this portion, the foundations are in since last year.



Mother Mary travelled as far as Albury where the break of gauge occurs on the New South Wales border, in the ambulance carriage. She was accompanied by her sister (Miss MacKillop) and Nurse Mullaney and also by four Sisters of her Order who were proceeding to Sydney. With the party there went, moreover, Sr Annette. The many friends of Sr Annette, and the many friends of the Refuge, with the work of which her life has been identified, will regret that the good Sister is in a frail state of health. Her medical attendant, Dr Poulton has prescribed for her a prolonged period of absolute rest. That rest, by the direction of her Superiors, she will take at the Sydney Mother House. Amongst those who came to bid Mother Mary good-bye, at the station, were Mr and Mrs Barr-Smith,

Dr Morton and His Grace the Archbishop.



STAMPS

BULLETIN BOARD

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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Croydon NSW 2132

Thank you
As postage has increased members of the group may like to contribute to the cost.

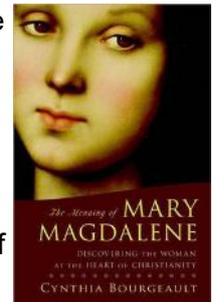
Recent Deaths

Brian Gray, son of Barbara and Bill Gray, Maffra
 Rona Bookham of the Swan Hill Associates
 Win Daniels Eaglehawk Associates
 Michael Hyland Eaglehawk
 Ida Whelan Sister of Maureen and Anne Cahir
 Sr Cathy Deane rsj

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

BOOK/FILM REVIEWS

WONDER is a film based on the bestseller, book by [R. J. Palacio](#). **WONDER** It tells the incredibly inspiring and heart-warming story of a boy born with facial differences that, up until now, have prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Auggie becomes the most unlikely hero when he begins school in fifth grade. The story deals with issues of difference, racial discrimination, bullying etc While not a strictly true story the author has based it on an actual family.



The Meaning of Mary Magdalene By Cynthia Bourgeault

Mary Magdalene is one of the most influential symbols in the history of Christianity—yet, if you look in the Bible, you'll find only a handful of verses that speak of her. How did she become such a compelling saint in the face of such paltry evidence? Our PP has bought several copies to distribute around the parish. He recommends it. Most of us were taught that Mary M was a prostitute? Bourgeault has much to say about the absence of the voice of women in our Church. Noreen

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Introductory Program sheets to
 Noreen McLeish.

DEATH OF ASSOCIATES ...

We would appreciate being advised of the death of an Associate or a close family member or if an Associate has been injured or hospitalised. Please notify Noreen at the Associates' Office or call 0438 531 651. Sr Mary is no longer the contact.