

Josephite Companions of South Australia



Friendship Prayer Service

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Winter 2021

June 2021 Newsletter



*"Lean more on God and
less on ourselves."*

MMK 1877

The Sacred Heart of Jesus

Excerpts from the Homily by Pope Francis (8th June 2018)

It is not us who first loved God; it's the other way around. It is He who loved us first!

God is like that; He is always first. He's the first to wait for us, the first to love us, the first to help us.

However, it is not easy to understand God's love. It is a love that cannot be understood. A love that surpasses all knowledge. It surpasses everything. The love of God is so great that a poet once described it as a "bottomless sea without shores..." This is the love that we must try to understand, the love that we receive.

Throughout the history of salvation, God has revealed His love to us. He has been a great teacher. God did not reveal His love through power but by loving His people, teaching them to walk, taking them in His arms, caring for them.

How does God manifest this love? With great works? No. He makes himself smaller and smaller with gestures of tenderness and goodness. He approaches His children, and with His closeness He makes us understand the greatness of love.

God sent us His Son. He sent Him in the flesh



and the Son humbled himself until death. This is the mystery of God's love. The greatest greatness expressed in the smallest smallness. This allows us to understand Christianity.

Jesus teaches us the kind of attitude a Christian should have. It is all about carrying on God's own work in your own small way. That is, feeding the hungry, quenching the thirsty, visiting the sick and the prisoner.

Works of mercy pave the path of love that Jesus teaches us in continuity with God's great love for us. We do not need great discourse on love, but men and women who know how to do these little things for Jesus, for the Father.

Our works of mercy, He said, are the continuity of this love.

A Day in Kapunda by Carla Mastrangelo

Delicious scones, jam and cream greeted visitors in the Hall next to St Rose's Church in Kapunda on Saturday 1st of May. The drive north from Adelaide was quite pleasant but it was evident from the dry landscape that much of the area was in need of rain.

After morning tea Fr John Swann led us on a journey of the history of the area and the connection with Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph. Here is a sampling of what he said:

Kapunda is one of the oldest parishes in the diocese. Here's a brief historical timeline:

1849: first Parish Priest, Fr John Fallon, was appointed

1854: St John's Church opened

1862: the first St Rose of Lima Church was built in Kapunda

1868: 2 years after their beginnings in Penola, the Sisters began teaching in the old St Rose's Church with 100 children which grew to 190

1869: the Sisters taught in Fords

1870: the Sisters taught in Tarlee, Greenock, Marrabel and Koonunga

1876: the Sisters taught in Baker's Flat

1876: the Sisters left St John's but continued in Kapunda

1877: the Sisters taught in Freeling

1894: the Sisters withdrew from Kapunda with the arrival of the Dominican Sisters. Some clergy regarded the Sisters of St Joseph as uneducated and not suitable as teachers. This was one of the reasons the Dominican Sisters were invited from Dublin.

1897: Mary MacKillop and her Sisters returned to St John's to establish a Girls Reformatory

1909: the Reformatory closed with 85 girls spending time there over the 12½ years it operated

1938: foundation stone laid for the present St Rose's Church

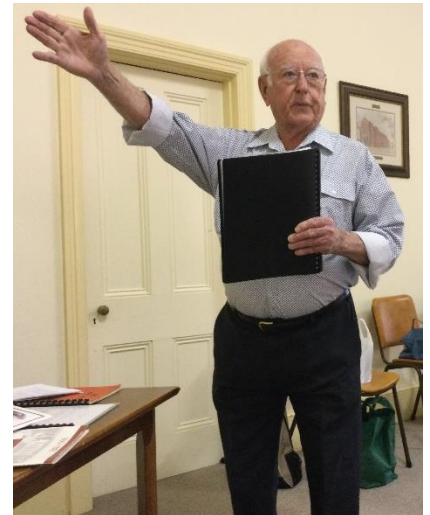
1946: the old St John's Church was demolished as well as the old St Rose's Church at Kapunda

Then following Mass in St Rose's Church and lunch in the Hall our group went on a tour of the town and surrounding areas, with Fr John pointing out various sites of interest connected to Mary MacKillop and her Sisters. We completed our tour at St John's Cemetery.

Many thanks to Fr John Swann for an informative day and thanks also to the volunteers who provided the lovely feast that all of us enjoyed.



Fr John Swann
(right)



Our Kapunda
volunteers
(right)



"Take Fresh Courage"

(MMK 1877)

Saturday 26th June 2021

2pm

Bethany

4 High St Kensington



The words for the title of our June gathering, "Take Fresh Courage," were last year's theme for celebrating the 10th anniversary of Mary MacKillop's canonisation.

How can and does Mary continue to inspire us today to be people of *courage and hope*?

Come ... Listen ... Share

Afternoon tea will be provided and there will also be a raffle.

Please RSVP Mary on 0417 871 904 or SA.Companions@sosj.org.au



Josephite Companions Webinar

Saturday 4th September 2021

11am - 1pm

~zoomed across the world~

In lieu of our planned Josephite Companions' Conference we will be holding this online presentation.

The theme will be '***Be Courageous and Full of Hope***'. Sr Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader of the Sisters, will be the keynote speaker. This will be a wonderful opportunity for many of our Companions to link up together, from far and wide, knowing that we are all a part of the Josephite family!

We hope that Companions who have access to a computer may be able to invite another Companion(s) to view it together. We also have the possibility of watching the webinar at St Ignatius Hall if required. **Please contact Mary on 0417 871 904 or mhem@kern.com.au by 2nd August** if you require this venue or further information.

Details re booking into the webinar and receiving the link for 4th September will be sent to those who are on email, as will all further information re the webinar. If you wish to receive this information via a friend or family member's email, please also contact Mary. Your family/friends are welcome to watch the webinar with you!

Covid has provided many challenges and led us to doing things differently. The gift of communications such as our webinar is a positive outcome of this time of change, and we look forward to sharing in this special time together with many of you in September.

Launch of the Mary MacKillop Walk by Bridgette Barrett

With growing anticipation, people gathered from far and wide on Sunday 18th April, surrounded by dignitaries and Sisters of St Joseph for this official launch. The event was organised by the Planning Committee, Mary MacKillop Precinct Board members Andrea Heading, Jo King, Michele McCormack and Paul Murphy together with Kathy Sampson, a long-time friend and supporter of the Sisters and Sr Mary Ryan.

Greg Crafter (former SA parliamentarian for Norwood) compered the proceedings. Welcome to country, by John Lochowiak, emphasised the importance of walking together while celebrating our differences. John spoke about revisiting the sites of our ancestors within creation, and how this can become a spiritual journey for us.

Sr Brigette Sipa, Regional Leader, spoke of the spiritual journey, the 2012 concept of the establishment of the Museum and Precinct and thanked the initial committee and those following who contributed to what we now know as The Mary MacKillop Precinct. The Kensington site is sacred ground; this was the home of Mary MacKillop from 1872 to 1883. The Precinct calls for a response of engagement, inspiration, creation and gratitude. It is a place of pilgrimage, faith, personal development and hospitality. Mary MacKillop College was built in 1963 but under Mary MacKillop's guidance, education in the area has existed since 1872. Mary's values continue to be instilled in the students of the College today.

A virtual presentation of the various stops on the Walk was shown, which was an ideal time for quiet contemplation.

Vickie Chapman (Deputy Premier) reminded us to be attentive; that the Precinct and Walk are more significant than we can appreciate, providing a living, walking memorable history

of not only Mary MacKillop but of the early Kensington/Norwood area. Despite many hardships, Mary's legacy to education and social justice continues today, as seen in a past student of the College choosing space engineering as a career! Many students have been educated in the Josephite tradition. Ms Chapman also acknowledged the assistance of poet/journalist Max Harris in the journey, his memorial, also part of the historical Walk.

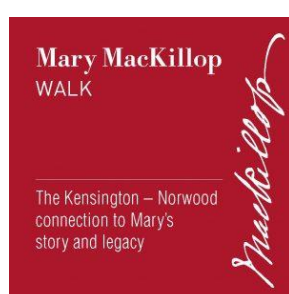
The Museum re-opened in 2019 under the guidance of Sr Mary Ryan. Numerous people and groups were involved – the Task Force, committees, Josephite Sisters and lay people – in the transformation of the area which now includes a Café and gift shop.

Greg Mackie OAM, History Trust CEO officially launched the Mary MacKillop Walk. Elizabeth Ho OAM, Chair of the History Trust whose wonderful support was acknowledged was also in attendance.

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan concluded the proceedings with a reflection and prayer, speaking of the Josephite connections through Perthville NSW, reiterating the Easter gospels and their connection to pilgrimage – a journey of the heart and sense of place. A litany of hope was responded to by all "Lord of life be our companion on our journey". The journey of the heart, guidance, strength, power, safety, place of rest: for all this, we turn to God.

Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Saint, a pioneering educator and social reformer – now a cultural icon. Many have followed and continue to follow in her footsteps.

And these last words were from Sr Mary: "The Mary MacKillop Walk is now well and truly launched! There is a healthy supply of the 'little red books' in the Museum. Please feel free to share them with family, friends, colleagues, your parishes etc – and invite them to go on the Walk!"



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 last function for this year is:

- Spring Luncheon
Wednesday 13th October at the Lockleys Hotel
Details available in the next newsletter

- **Mary MacKillop Old Scholars Association**

The Association continues the friendships and encourages the building of life-long networks amongst past students and staff. 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 Dinner**

Friday 29th October 2021, 6.30pm – 10.00pm

Venue – yet to be determined

An especial welcome to the '1' classes: 2011, 2001, 1991, 1981, 1971 and 1961

Bookings: MaryMacKillopOSA@outlook.com

Our popular Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179768134304>) keeps people in touch with each other. Make contact and share your news.

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

- Museum and Gift Shop – open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm

The Museum has on display some of the South Australian story including the early companions, and the history and legacy of the Josephites.

The Gift Shop has many products available for sale including the monthly *Southern Cross* magazine, gift vouchers, greeting cards (most of which are made on-site) and much more!

The online store will soon be ready. Orders will be through www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au

For phone orders or other information call 8130 5910

- St Joseph's Chapel

Currently closed to the public due to Covid.

- Feast of Mary MacKillop

On Sunday 8th of August there will be a Mass in St Joseph's Chapel starting at 11.15am. Josephite Companions are invited to attend. However, due to Covid restrictions, places are limited, and no walk-ins are permitted. **IT IS ESSENTIAL TO REGISTER.** Please RSVP by 26th July. This will be on a 'first in, first served' basis. Telephone Carla on 8351 1575 (leave a message with your name and number) or email SA.Companions@sosj.org.au



RIP Josephite

We remember with love and gratitude **Sr Margaret Lamb** who entered eternal life on 7th May 2021. Sr Margaret was formerly known as Sr Mary John Vianney of the Holy Spirit. She was in her 86th year of her age and in her 69th year of Religious Life.



Mary MacKillop

and

The Sacred Heart of Jesus



Introduction

For Mary MacKillop, one of the ways that Jesus is experienced is through her devotion to the Sacred Heart. Here, Jesus is the one who has a flame of love burning deep within his heart and Mary finds comfort and peace in this place.

Mary spends time just being alone with God in silence. For her, God is there with her, in times of darkness, pain and sorrow. She is inspired by the generous love of Jesus who seeks out the sick, the outcast and the poor, holding them close to his heart. The compassion of Jesus for others calls forth the compassion within Mary MacKillop. By befriending the outcasts, being open to people of all faiths and backgrounds, and living her life in service to others, Mary tries to express in all that she is, the compassionate love of Jesus.

Scripture: Matthew 11:28 – 30

Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Take some time to reflect on God's Word

Prayers for our Community

Response: Heart of God, enfold us.

- ✳ We pray that the Heart of God brings an answer to the needs of people in poverty, danger or war.
- ✳ We pray for those affected by drought, flood, fire, natural disaster and Covid that the generosity of people may reflect the concerned Heart of God.
- ✳ We pray for the sick and terminally ill that the healing Heart of God be their comfort at this time.
- ✳ We pray for the Church and its leaders that they may be models of love of the Heart of God.
- ✳ We pray for our community that we may always show love and concern for one another.

From the Pen of Mary MacKillop

“Another month has passed and now we are in that of the Sacred Heart ... and may that loving heart bring to one and all of you its own true spirit: its spirit of love, true charity and sweet humility.”1890

Closing Prayer

God, you have revealed your love for us through the compassionate and forgiving heart of Christ. Strengthen in us the desire to live with full hearted commitment as people of peace and love. We ask this prayer through the Sacred Heart and the Spirit of Wisdom.

Amen.

Action

Like Mary MacKillop, spend some time just being alone with God in silence and allow the heart of God to enfold you.

