



Josephite Associates

Friendship ♦ Prayer ♦ Service

Spring Newsletter

1 September 2010



Statue of Bl. Mary MacKillop
St Paul's, Dallington, Chch

Warm greetings to Associates, Sisters and Friends

On 17th October Blessed Mary MacKillop will become St Mary MacKillop – an eagerly anticipated event by the thousands of people whose lives have been touched by this inspirational woman.

As Associates we feel privileged to share this day with the many Sisters of St Joseph who have shared her spirit with us, as teachers, co-workers and friends.

The Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand is marking this day in a number of ways. The Bishops have written a pastoral letter which was shared in parishes throughout the country on 8th August – Blessed Mary's feast day. A number of diocesan celebrations have been planned from North Cape to the Bluff.

No doubt parishes will be receiving dates and times for their areas.

The arrangements which have been confirmed so far are:

Wellington	November 1	5.30pm	Auckland	November 13	11.30am
Christchurch	November 20	2.00pm	Temuka	November 21	11am
Rotorua	November 28	2.00pm	Palmerston Nth	December 4	11am
Dunedin (Arrowtown)	November 7	11am			

Local groups will also be arranging celebrations.

In Rotorua a sub-committee, including Sr Carina, MacKillop College old girls and two associates - Jain Glen and myself [Miyoko Hammersley] has been formed to do this task and we have had two meetings so far. We are planning various activities; e.g. street banners near St Michael's; Novena every Wednesday before Mass beginning 18th August and prayer cards; printed Sr Gertrude's History - Rotorua Pilgrimage - with a map; some activities involving our Catholic primary schools and John Paul College.

Balclutha are organizing events and in Auckland St Benedict's have organised a special Mass on December 5th at 9.30am

You will also note that there is no prayer sheet in this newsletter. Instead the Associate Leadership Team had provided the enclosed pamphlet on Blessed Mary MacKillop for your prayer and reflection - either with a group or for private prayer. Wherever you are in the country, we pray that this special year brings you many blessings.

Diane (for the Leadership Team)



*Welcome to new Associate Leadership Team member
Patty Dudson*

Hi - I'm Patty Dudson. My husband Tom and I, have two adult children and three grandchildren. I have lived in Te Awamutu for the past 30 odd years, during which time I have worked at St Patrick's Catholic School as a teacher aide (2 years), school secretary (21 years) and currently School Bursar (3 years) and still counting!

My many interests include reading, walking, sewing and handcraft work, going to the movies and travelling. I also enjoy spending time at the beach with my family and friends. I was asked by Sister Teresa Thompson in 1988 to join the Associate Group in Te Awamutu, and have been involved ever since. I enjoy my friendship with the Sisters, sharing with them the occasional meal, the occasional meeting, some stimulating discussions and reading material, and lots of laughter. I am looking forward to being an active member of the Leadership Team.

Stop Press: Patty has just agreed to coordinate the Te Awamutu Associates, replacing Mary Corboy, who has given the Associates many years of loyal and unstinting service.

MACKILLOP KIDS CAMPS

For several years now MACKILLOP KIDS CAMPS have been held in North Hokianga. Fifteen leaders (led by Sr Michelle Hughey) run a 3-day camp for 30 local children aged 5–12 years. The 2009 camp was at Mitimiti marae in the Hokianga.

Camps give parents a break, and they give children a weekend away while also fostering love of God, love of self, and love for others. Children participate in sessions about Mary MacKillop's values, but they also have fun too: a highlight of last year's camp was a Hokianga Top Town challenge.



The Challenge—Doing Our Bit

Camps are currently funded by the Josephite Sisters. However to continue, it is necessary to fundraise to supplement the money the Sisters so generously provide.

So we are inviting/challenging Associate groups around the country to run cake stalls outside local parish churches after Sunday masses to raise money for the next camp. Any other fundraising efforts would be most welcome too. Since the Beatification will take place in October, this would be the ideal month to raise funds as people's thoughts will turn to Mary MacKillop and the work she inspires. And through MACKILLOP KIDS CAMPS we carry on her mission today.

If we can raise \$50, this will pay for dinner for one night. \$100 pays for the milk and bread for the weekend. \$200 pays for petrol to transport volunteers to the camp and back. \$400 pays for the hire of the van. Any money raised will help lessen the financial burden on the Josephite Congregation.

If you are keen to take up this challenge, or if you would like more information, please feel free to contact the MACKILLOP KIDS CAMP Administrator, Debbie Waayer, by email debbiewaayer@hotmail.com.

So the challenge is out: HOW ARE YOU DOING YOUR BIT?

NEWS FROM SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES

Waimate says “goodbye” to Sisters

From Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Temuka Josephites got themselves to Waimate. Saturday evening we gathered for a meal at a local restaurant. This was to commemorate that while Francis was moving house within the local community Joan was not only leaving Waimate, her home for over quarter of her life but also heading north. Next morning as the sun shone on the autumn splendor of mid-Canterbury we joined the parish for Sunday Eucharist. The presider was Jack O’Connor who grew up on a local farm and supplied some moving local perspectives of having the sisters in the parish. The Scriptures of Pentecost Sunday were the framework for his saying goodbye to the sisters, thanking all sixty who have

lived and ministered in the parish and encouraging the parishioners by explaining that the witness of the sisters was such that they could now ‘take the training wheels off’. At the conclusion of Mass Colleen Keeble spoke on behalf of the sisters thanking the people for all their love and support over 119 years and wishing them well as they continued to minister to each other. She then presented the parish with a picture of Mary MacKillop that has hung for some years in the convent, the book of the New Zealand Josephite story and the letters *Until her last breath*. The sisters present then stood and sang Joseph Holy. There were more than a few damp eyes as the notes faded from both the sisters and the parishioners. **(excerpt from Sr Sian’s report)**

Sharing the charism in Scotland

The news of the Canonisation was wonderfully received here and both print and electronic media gave great coverage to it. Many articles appeared in the Catholic press as well as most daily papers. A journalist from BBC TV did an extensive interview with both of us as well as with Ronnie Campbell, who is the oldest and closest living relative of Mary MacKillop in Lochaber. In the aftermath of the announcement we received many phone calls asking for information

as well as requests for prayers through Mary’s intercession for many and varied needs. So Mary’s profile has been raised significantly throughout the country and we have been responding to requests to go to parishes to speak about her and why she can be a role model for our daily Christian lives. Undoubtedly the highlight of 2010 will be our trip to Rome for Mary’s canonisation. Our pilgrimage will not be without responsibility though, as we have so far 120 people booked to come with us and share this very special occasion.



Srs Therese McConway and Audrey Thomson

A Trip to Penola

My husband planned our holiday and I was happy to go with the flow. We would fly to Melbourne, train to Geelong, hire a car and after travelling the Great Ocean Road, head inland to the Naracoorte Caves in South Australia. Suddenly this question came – “Where did Mary MacKillop begin her

mission?” “Penola” I replied. “We will pass through Penola”. So we then planned to stay a night there and take in her story. We booked at Haywards Hotel – Mary had stayed there and they proudly displayed a large framed photo of her in their dining room. The next day we visited the church, where there is a large stained glass window of Mary,

the school house where she taught, and saw her accommodation which is attached to the school. A highlight was the beautiful “Mary MacKillop Interpretive Centre” – a stunning, unique and practical building. We managed a

few photos and got on our way, happy that God had guided us, and impressed enormously at Mary’s huge legacy.

Leonie Power

A big **THANK YOU**
to all the people who
have sent in donations to
help cover the newsletter
costs.
We could not continue to
publish and mail out the
Associate newsletter
without your help.



Prayers please for
Associates who have died
RIP

Kath Dilworth (Mission Bay)
Vida Hickland and Anne Nally (Christchurch)
Ben Morunga (husband of Christina, Panguru)
James (brother of Trish Clark, Dunedin)

and for Associates who are ill:
Hilda Millar, Rotorua



2011 Calendars

*The 2011 Josephite calendar
will be a special canonization
issue.*

*An order form is included
with this newsletter.*

*Be quick – don’t miss out on
your copy/copies*

Mary MacKillop: Soul of the sunburned country

This inspiring DVD was made to commemorate the canonization. It intersperses events from Mary’s life with amazing accounts of what the Josephites are doing throughout the world today. The Associate Leadership Team has bought two copies for the use of Associates.

Would you like to borrow a copy – watch it yourself or share it with friends - for the cost of postage and packaging (\$6)?

TO BOOK, CONTACT:

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NB: I am overseas from 6 September to 27 October

Marie Murphy, who is living at St Joseph’s, Herne Bay, Auckland, sends greetings from the Little Sisters of the Poor, who join in solidarity with Josephite Sisters, Associates and friends in expressing joy and praise for the great blessing of Mary of the Cross’s coming canonization.