



Josephite Associates, Victoria-Tasmania AUTUMN 2016



Autumn—a time of remembering 150 years

Dear Associates,

Autumn is with us again, that time of fruitfulness in our land, when here at Bacchus Marsh we have the Harvest Festival to celebrate the fruits of the soil.

You will notice that this newsletter is smaller and more condensed. I hope this will not handicap your reading of it. But with the increase of postage we will use a standard envelope and fold the newsletter. Therefore we need to have fewer pages.

If everyone who received the newsletter paid a subscription we would not need to do this, but of the approx. 500 distributed by email and post, approx. 150 pay something and many pay double as a donation. The cost of printing also rises and we would love to print it in colour each time, but colour costs about eight times more than black. The prayer sheet is printed in colour for your benefit.

This year as you know, the Josephite family is celebrating 150 years since Mary MacKillop began the stable school in Penola 19th March 1866. Celebrations are on

throughout the land with special Masses and blessings of new structures at Penola. Sr Audrey Thomson and myself are going and Noreen McLeish and AnneMarie Wilkinson will be staying with us over there. So look for a report in the next newsletter.

We hope that all groups will initiate some celebrating on that day in their parish or within the group. When we look at what has been achieved during these years it is astounding that a young woman, born in Brunswick St, Fitzroy, a cooee from St Patricks' Cathedral, initiated an education system that is used throughout Australia, New Zealand and has even touched Timor Leste through the Sisters following her example. On 4th March 1891 Mary wrote: "Little did either of us then dream of what was to spring from so small a beginning".

Those who came to the leaders' day were given prayer cards for this year for their groups. I hope the other groups have received theirs which have been mailed to you.

As you will see on the last page, a call has come to the **Days for Girls** organisers for hundreds of bags for girls in Cambodia. Some of you have already responded to the email I sent out and thank you. The knickers and face washers I bought have gone to Robyn to be used. Sr Joan Healy still visits Cambodia after her years of working in the camps helping set up Community groups. So any little you can do to help is greatly appreciated.

Let us keep praying and writing to those involved, about the lack of

compassion for those in detention One Associate who keeps in touch with them said the detainees say: *We now have no hope. We are just waiting to die!!*" What if that were me!!! How would I feel towards the people of Australia? So let us for the rest of Lent really make this issue the focus of our penance and prayer.

Great celebrations at Sunbury on 21st Feb. when the Parish celebrated 100 years since the Sisters arrived to live in the then newly built convent. A Garden party was enjoyed in the convent grounds.

We look forward to meeting you again at the Regional Days which for us are so life-giving as we hope they are for you. Because of the very low numbers coming to East Melbourne, we are trying Pakenham. Anyone else is welcome and can be met at the station if you let me know. This venue will include the Koo Wee Rup/Pakenham and Iona groups.

Happy Feast of St Joseph and may Easter be for you the wonder of the promise of eternal life for each of us.

"Mary Fermio rsj

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Friendship Prayer Service

AUTUMN REFLECTION



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“We are called to show mercy, because mercy has first been shown to us. Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves.

At times how hard it seems to forgive! And yet pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart. to let go of anger, wrath, violence and revenge are necessary conditions of living joyfully.

Pope Francis: The Face of Mercy #9

In her book *Sundays under the Southern Cross Year C* Sr Mary Coloe PBVM speaks of the relationships between the two sons and their Father (4th Sunday of Lent)

“The older son has been living a sterile life, not really in relationship with this father. He has been like a ‘slave’ and he distances himself from his father and his brother—‘this son of yours’ Even though he stayed at home, his relationships are dead. It is the younger son who discovers a living and loving father when he knows he doesn’t deserve one.

The father’s love is a gift. Neither son earns it, nor deserves it. God’s love is like this—totally, even irrationally given. This is the love that Jesus reveals as he lives out God’s welcome to all. ...we are all freely invited into the kingdom of God, but we cannot be choosy about our table companions. “

By announcing a Year of Mercy, Pope Francis is reminding us that God’s love is expressed in Loving mercy, a mercy never refused. God holds the hand of mercy out to us; we need to hold our hand out to beseech the Father’s mercy, and to give mercy to others.

Lent is the time that we examine ourselves for the quality of relationships we have

- With God
- Our family
- Our neighbours and our Parish community
- With creation

- * Find a quiet space without interruptions
- * What thoughts surface as you reflect on the Image of the hand?
- * What is God offering you at this time?
- * Ask God to reveal to you the riches of mercy being offered to you at this time of Lent
- * Listen to what God will say to you
 - * *Whose hand could this be reaching out to you: for help; for forgiveness; for comfort; for peace*
 - * *What can you do during this year of mercy for those who reach out to you for mercy?*
 - * *From whom do you need to receive mercy?*
 - * *Talk to God about your needs and ask God to show you what mercy you can offer others.*



Time to relax, find space leave refreshed in mind and spirit

SATURDAYS: 9.30 am for 10 am start—3 p.m.

14th May: Wonthaggi—St Joseph's School Hall

25th June: Murchison—Catholic Church
Hosts: Rushworth

23rd July: Pakenham: St Patrick's Parish Hall
142 Princes Highway, Pakenham.

17th Sept: Maffra: Parish Hall, Duke St

22nd Oct: Sebastopol St James Church
Midland Highway/Vale St.

BYO LUNCH : Morning Tea - Host Group
Donation: \$5 Feel free to bring a friend.

Travelling shop will be available.

The Sessions will include a reflection on the logo for the sesquicentenary—(see cover) and Mary MacKillop and Fr Woods.

The last session will be discussion and responses to questions given to Leaders on their day on the vision for Josephite Associates by 2020.

**Melbourne Associates
are welcome everywhere
A good way to meet
"country cousins"!**

Train travellers can be met at
Pakenham Station if you advise
Sr Mary

Important

These days are a wonderful opportunity to introduce others to the Josephite Associates.

Invite others, bring them along and let them experience the friendship and prayer that is shared on those days.

A RECIPE A DAY BLOG

Annemarie of Hawthorn East who helps with the newsletters, has five children under 18 and has a blog you may be interested in. On it she puts a new recipe every day. A country girl she is very interested in cooking so you might like to have a look. Look up www.arecipeaday.weebly.com Lovely recipes, some heart-warming commentary and delicious looking photos

ENROLMENTS:

Before we enjoyed a delicious lunch at Iona in December 2015, two Associates from Pakenham were enrolled. Husband and wife, Anthony and Bernadette Barker bring the number of new Associates in that region to four in the twelve months period.



MISSING SETS OF BOOKS

Over the last few years some sets of books have been taken by groups and not returned. I am looking for copies of
Symphony of Life
Wallaby Track Woman
We are travellers here
Building the Kingdom: Mary MacKillop and Social Justice by Geoffrey Hull
I would be glad to have them returned so that other groups can use them if they wish.

THANK YOU

To those who have given me articles for Days for Girls or sent Gift Cards and money to purchase them.

LEADERS DAY

On a lovely Summer's Day on 20th February Josephite Associates from all over Victoria, gathered to reflect as Leaders and group members. They travelled from Beechworth, Wonthaggi, Doreen, Maffra, Woodend, Sebastopol, Dallas, Richmond, West Brunswick, Pakenham, Hamilton, Bittern and Launceston. They were a very happy group looking forward to an enjoyable day. Apologies were received from Lakes Entrance, Broadmeadows, Sunbury, Leongatha, Rushworth and Iona.

Our first session with Sr Therese Quinn rsj was reflecting on the story of the Bent down woman in Luke 10. Therese's painting of the woman before and after healing and her inclusion of a young woman carrying a daily burden, gave much food for thought. We reflected on the times we have been set free by Jesus, who has people take priority over rules and regulations.

Noreen McLeish continued this reflection on Mercy by looking at the life of Pope Francis and Mary MacKillop and engaging us in recalling stories of Mary, who practiced the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Anne-Marie Wilkinson informed the group of the vision the International Josephite Associate Leadership Team (IJALT) have for Associates, which they hope will be fulfilled by 2020. This vision involves formation, governance, use of resources, communication etc. Further discussion on these areas will continue at the regional days.

After a tasty lunch the day continued with a talk by Sr Jeanne Dwyer who began Joseph's Corner sixteen years ago, with no money, no room but lots of hope and trust in Mary MacKillop and God's providence. Her talk on the effects of drugs and alcohol on families and her difficulty in providing funding to pay for counsellors and psychiatrists, touched the hearts of all. Merrijig, the shop in Somerville Road, Yarraville was set up to help raise funds and Sr Jeanne had come from a sausage sizzle to speak to us. There is no Government funding, so the task is endless and she is still receiving requests to open up a fourth centre in the Western suburbs.

Kathy Cuthbertson and Tina Ritchie outlined the history of the Emmanuel Centre in Launceston with some lovely slides of the building where retreats, spiritual direction, prayer weekends and day activities are held. Christine van Order led us the final ritual which drew together the thoughts of the day. All were presented with a copy of Inform magazine, a copy of the Mercy prayer and a badge with the 150



Sr Therese leading us into reflection



The Emmanuel Centre, formerly a Boarding School conducted by the Sisters of St Joseph, Tasmania



Fr Woods garden at Emmanuel Centre, Launceston

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY A MONTHLY GATHERING FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION WITH MARY MACKILLOP

**MARY MACKILLOP
HERITAGE CENTRE
362 ALBERT ST
EAST MELBOURNE 3002**

**11 A.M.—12 NOON
Followed by a light lunch
Donations gratefully
accepted.**

For the months from March to November the words and photos on the Josephite Calendar will be the stepping stone to reflecting on Mary's life and what we can learn from her.

MARCH: *Mary's devotion to Joseph*

APRIL: *Serving others*

MAY: *...Readiness for God's Will*

JUNE: *God's love shown in times of aridity*

JULY: *...a heart full of trust*

AUGUST: *Creation leads us to God*

SEPT: *Taking things quietly*

OCT: *Rejoicing in God's Goodness*

NOV: *Strength in unity.*

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE 2016

9th November—19th November 2016

In the Footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

A pilgrimage to New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia beginning in Melbourne.

For further information and a copy of the

Brochure and booking form

Contact: MMHC 9926 9300

OPEN DAYS 2016

Special days open from 10 am—4 p.m.

20th February: 7th May;

6th August: 19th November:

Tours for groups can be arranged at other times

Contact: Sr Helen Smith 9926 9311

These can include morning tea/lunch and afternoon tea.

The Museum can be visited from Monday to Friday From 10am—4 p.m. Gifts can also be bought during these hours.

GOOD GRIEF

Experiencing grief at the death of a loved one.
Experiencing loss or breakdown in marriage.
Experiencing loss of home, a limb, mobility.

Good grief is a ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph that provides support for people in times of change, loss and grief through its programs and resources.

The main program, Seasons for Growth, is a small group withdrawal program which supports people experiencing emotional difficulty following family break-up, death or other losses. Over time it has proved to be very effective as people discover that 'they are not the only one' having problems.

Seasons for Growth uses the imagery of the seasons and Worden's tasks of grief to enable participants to address their own grief issues. For more information Contact Sr Patricia Williams 03 9926 9316 Email: viccord@goodgrief.org.au

RETREATS

Retreats offered at the Heritage Centre are small retreats and retreatants are accommodation in our modern, comfortable apartments supplied with a continental breakfast.

DIRECTED RETREATS: an opportunity for days of silence, evening liturgy and spiritual direction.

Monday 15th August—Sunday 21st August

Directors: Sr Yvonne Harte rsj; Sr Moya Unthank rsj

GUIDED RETREAT:

Lost in wonder and hope for the future

Walking with modern day prophets, poets and artists like Pope Francis, Esther de Waal and others.

Monday 19th Sept—Sunday 25th Sept

Director: Sr Yvonne Harte rsj

PRIVATE RETREATS: individuals wishing to avail themselves of the accommodation etc

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: available from a choice of directors.

For bookings and further information

Contact: MMHC on 9926 9300



Catholic University
North Sydney

PROFILE OF HAWTHORN EAST GROUP

This group of ten Associates meet every second month on the second Tuesday at 6.30 p.m. as some of them come directly from work. We enjoy a light meal together and catch up on the latest happenings.

As they come from all over Melbourne I thought you might like to see what a diverse group this is, yet they are all living fully the Josephite charism. So I shall give a brief word picture of each.

Maurine, single, lives at Richmond and works as an Assistant at the Department of Education Training in the city. Maurine is a member of the Legion of Mary and has made the National pilgrimage several times. Last year she joined an overseas group and visited shrines of well-known saints.

Mim, has two children and lives at Keilor Downs. She also works at the Department of Education as a Team Leader. Mim is a member of the Vincent de Paul. To go home after the meeting she uses two trams and then drives for 20 minutes to her home. That is real dedication!

Margaret, single Mum with 3 teenage children lives at Belgrave. Between working as a bookkeeper and teaching catechetics in the Parish, Margaret visits the detention Centre at Broadmeadows and by email and phone keeps in touch with detainees at Manus Island and Nauru. She has been very successful in achieving some good outcomes. Her first video has been on the sosj website and the Enews. Margaret also finds time to help enveloping the newsletter.

Julia, has 2 children and lives at Forest Hill. Julia works as a volunteer with Youth Education Support Inc to raise funds for the education of disadvantaged children. Money is raised through two OP shops for which the volunteers have grown from three to over seventy. Mary MacKillop Family Services have profited from this work.

Helene, has one child and lives in Knoxfield. She is retired from work in Aged Care. She is a volunteer hospitality person in the Parish eg catering for funerals etc. Helene also helps envelope the newsletters.

Mary C., has three children and five grandchildren and lives in Brighton East. Assists in caring for the Parish Church, leads a prayer group, Minister of Communion, volunteers with COASIT the Italian visiting group and says she is on emergency duty 7/24 for children and grandchildren!!

Catherine, has three children and six grandchildren and lives in Ashwood. A member of the prayer group and Third Order of St Francis, past volunteer with COASIT, a special minister and helps with the Church Floral arrangements.

Mary G. lives in East Brighton, has 7 children and the proud grandmother of 16. Mary is a retired primary school teacher, has a strong charismatic prayer interest, is a COASIT Assistance Worker, a Franciscan secular and a happy pilgrimage traveller.



Back: Mim, Helene, Patricia (her farewell) Julia and Sr Mary. Front: Maurine, Catherine, Margaret, Mary C and Mary G2



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR JUBILARIANS



During 2016 we have celebrated some wonderful milestones for many of our Sisters, and because you know many of them I am including their names in this issue.

Sr Helena Maguire for 80 years ministry as a Sister of St Joseph, being professed on 6th January 1936.

Sr Annetta Pidutti for 70 years religious ministry as a Little Sister of the Poor and then as a Sister of St Joseph. Professed 28th June 1946

our Diamond Jubilarians professed 4th and 6th January 1956

Sr Maureen Cahir; Sr Kathleen McSweeney; Sr Leonie Rutherford; Sr Margaret Cousins of Tasmania
Sr Rosaline Furey; Sr Mary Rowan; Sr Clare West; Sr Virgil Virtue both

Our Golden Jubilarians professed 6th and 7th January 1966

Sr Patricia Guiney; Sr Margaret Brown; Sr Joan Healy; Sr Susan Baragry; Sr Ann Duynym; Sr Maureen O'Kelly

The Diamond and Golden Jubilarians spent some days in North Sydney catching up with the rest of those professed with them, from all over Australia, New Zealand and Ireland.

Photos of them appear on the sosj.org.au website.

To Sr Margaret Malady who was professed on 6th January 1976 celebrates a

Ruby Jubilee—40 years this year. Margaret is returning to Peru in May to take up ministry there again.

We thank all these Sisters for the generous response they have made serving God's people in Australia, Cambodia and Peru. Following in the footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, they have given of themselves to hear the voice of Christ saying: I have chosen you to go out and bring Good News

MISSING WOULD-BE ASSOCIATES

Over the last 12 months a number of men and women have received the first session after sending in their application to start the Associate Introductory program.



But as yet I have not heard from many of them or received back any response. So I am a little puzzled as to why. During this time seven people have finished the program and have been enrolled, or are completing the last sessions. **I hope you will read this and contact me if you do not wish to proceed or if you have any difficulties. I could meet with you if that was a help.**

**Hoping that you will contact me or return Session 1. If lost I can easily forward you another copy.
Phone Sr Mary Fermio 5367 2078 Email: mary.fermio@sosj.org.au**



Sisters who attended the Sunbury celebrations on 21st February assembled outside the convent with Centenary Cake



BOOK REVIEWS

BULLETIN BOARD

THE MAGIC STRINGS OF FRANKIE PRESTO By Mitch Albom.

The writer of **TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE** gives us another intriguing story of a nine years old Frankie sent to America in the bottom of a boat with an old guitar and six precious strings as his only possessions. **Music**, the narrator of the story, reflects on humans and tells the story of Frankie's life. Mitch's most moving, surprising and inspirational story—a classic and a must read.

Other books by Mitch Albom:

Five People You meet in Heaven

First Phone Call from Heaven

Available at good book stores

FROM THE OFFICE:

Many Associates are now receiving their Newsletter in colour by email. If you are still receiving it by post and would like it by email, just send an email to the address below. You can view it in colour on the sosj.org.au website, under news and events/newsletters.

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PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh, 3340.

OR Email: mary.fermio@sosj.org.au.

OR Fax: 03 5367 2078

For all enquiries related to Associates

*We are but
Travellers here.*



Let us pray for the following deceased and their families who grieve their loss
Helen, daughter of Maureen Schroeter,
Heyfield
Alice Larkins, Chelsea
John Morrison, husband of Margaret, Sale
Eric Hanegraaf, husband of Rita, Pakenham
May they rest in peace.

DAYS FOR GIRLS- AUSTRALIA

I thought I might put in a request for DFG. We have an abundance of the larger size knickers but are desperately in need of smaller sizes.

K Mart Neon Brand Girls Briefs Pack of 6 Size 10-12, or Target Older Girls 5 Pack Briefs Size 10-12 or Best and Less Mango 5 Pack Briefs size 10-12.

The Associates have been wonderful supporters and encouragers and if they would like to continue to do so then this is one way they could be of assistance. Also the supply of face washers is getting low. We are getting requests from Cambodia for hundreds of kits. I have a lot of the other components available but are in need of knickers because the girls in the schools are only tiny. Email from Robyn in January

Gift Cards/Cheques/Cash can be sent to Robyn or me if that is easier for you than posting goods.

*Or contact: Robyn Suttie (Victoria) 03 5335 6761
Email: robynsuttie@gmail.com*

Items needed are:

Knickers sizes 10-12; 12-14; Face washers
Zip lock Bags—Large 27cmx32cm about
If you collect items, I could collect them and deliver them to Robyn to save postage.
These and donations could be sent to
Robyn Suttie, 7 Banyule Drive
Delacombe Vic 3356

*“whatever you do to one of these, you do to me”
Words of Jesus*

THANK YOU

December 2015

On behalf of Mary MacKillop International, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps.

During 2015 we raised approximately \$34,500. This has surpassed our 2014 effort. Thank you one and all. From 2001 till now our total is almost \$125,000

It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today.

Sr Helen Saunders, for Sisters of St Joseph.
In rural Peru, one woman in every four has never had a chance to go to school, and women are three times more likely to be illiterate than men. Thanks to your support MMI is able to provide training to hundreds of women in knitting, crocheting, small business management and other key areas helping them to earn money to support their families.