



Josephite Associates, Victoria-Tasmania WINTER 2020



Winter Newsletter June July August

Dear Josephite Associates,
Well who could have forecast the roller coaster ride of changes since our last Newsletter? Hopefully things are looking a little better in your neck of the woods, but of course we need to be as vigilant as ever to continue our relatively good record in Victoria. The Medical people are quite adamant that we will have a second wave of the Virus. All that we can do is make sure that we follow the advice we are given.

Lucky for us it is pretty simple, wash your hands, keep your distance and stay at home as much as possible.

Easter was celebrated so differently everywhere. In our Parish we began with the Easter ceremonies being held in our small Mary MacKillop Chapel with our celebrant and three ministers. We then moved to the Day Chapel where we could have ten people each day. Now we are in the Mary MacKillop Centre where we can have Mass with twenty parishioners Next month the Church? These Masses have been put online which has been well received by our parishioners.

Just as we seemed organised Fr Paddy Mugavin, our PP, had to have some tricky surgery, because, as he says he "spent too much time on the farm when he was young with no hat or sunscreen". Hopefully he will be back in another month or two. Meanwhile, like all parish's we are trying to keep up with the many changes from the Government. Keeping up with days and dates has been tricky for me. The calendar is my friend, some days just seem like 'Groundhog Day'.

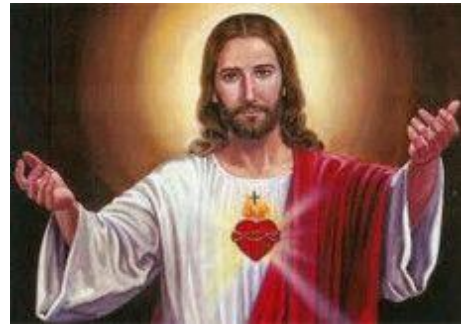
Louise from Lakes Entrance has sent in some helpful names for the Corona Lockdown Days of the Week.

"Until further notice the days of the week are now called, **THISDAY, THATDAY, OTHERDAY, SOMEDAY, YESTERDAY, TODAY AND NEXTDAY!**

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Recently I asked all the JA Group Leaders to let us know what was happening in their area and I have included their stories on page 4 and 5. Congratulations on continuing your great **Friendship Prayer and Service.**



June is the Month of the Sacred Heart and I am always reminded of the devotion to the Sacred Heart in many Catholic families when I was young, Like most Catholic homes we had an image, similar to the one above, of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in our kitchen. My dad, a convert, taught us the promises of the Sacred Heart and he regularly did the 'Nine First Fridays'. World wide the heart of Jesus is seen as a reminder of the symbol of God's unconditional and compassionate love for all people.

Mary MacKillop had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart and of course with Fr Julian Woods, named her Josephite Sisters, The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

8th August FEAST OF ST MARY MACKILLOP.

We are so fortunate in having so much to read about her extraordinary life. Maybe during this extra Isolation time we could all try and read a book/short story that we have been trying to get around to. On Page 8 there are some suggestions for a Prayer for Mary's Feast Day. You can pray this prayer with other Associates or even alone.
God Bless.

Noreen McLeish



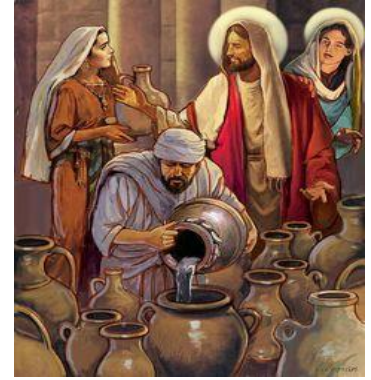
vic.associates@sosj.org.au
Josephite Associates Vic
Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St
East Melbourne Vic 3002

Friendship Prayer Service

WINTER — PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Gracious God,
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.
We pray for those in need of healing.
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain
all those who are serving in response.
We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment
amidst the many choices and decisions
facing our national, community and medical leaders.
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do
to help those who are vulnerable.
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations,
with all that is on our hearts,
we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ecumenical Prayer from the National Council of Churches



“You, our mother, know what we need.”

Tomfoolary

www.youtube.com



The Great Realisation

It was a world of waste and wonder, poverty in plenty,
Back before we understood why hind sights' 20/20.

You see the people came up with companies to trade across all lands.
But they swelled and got much bigger than we ever could have planned.

We'd always had our wants, but now it got so quick,
You could have anything you dreamed of in just a day and with one click.

We noticed families stopped talking, that's not to say they never spoke
But the meaning must have melted, and the work life balance broke.

The children's eyes grew squarer and every toddler had a phone
They filtered out the imperfections, but amidst the noise they felt alone.

And every day the skies grew thicker till you couldn't see the stars
So we flew in planes to find them. While down below we filled our cars.

We'd drive around in circles. We'd forgotten how to run
We swapped the grass for tarmac, shrunk the Parks till there were none.

We filled the sea with plastic because our waste was never capped
Until each time when you went fishing you'd pull them out already wrapped.

And while we drank and smoked and gambled, our leaders taught us why
It's best to not upset the lobbies. More convenient to die.

But then in 2020 a new Virus came our way,
the Governments reacted and told us all to hide away.

But while we all were hidden amidst the fear and all the while
The people dusted off their instincts. They remembered how to smile.

They started clapping to say thank you, and calling up their mums
And while the car keys gathered dust they would look forward to their runs.

And with the sky less full of voyagers the earth began to breathe
And the beaches bore new wild life that scuttled off into the sea.

Some people dancing, some were singing, some were baking
We'd grown so used to bad news, but some good news was in the making.

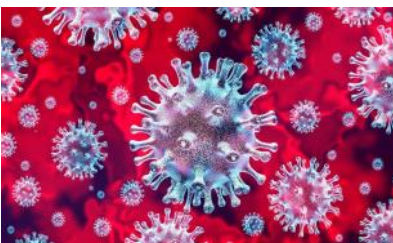
And so when we found the cure and were allowed to go outside,
We all preferred the world we found to the one we'd left behind.

Old habits became extinct and they made way for the new
And every simple act of kindness was now given it's due.

And the little boy asked,

“But why did it take a Virus to bring the people back together?”

“Well sometimes you got to get sick my boy before you start feeling better.”



Due to the Covid 19 Virus Restrictions all planned Josephite Regional Days have been Cancelled for 2020.

We would love to plan a date when we can meet but it will be up to the restrictions
It is very important that you keep up your wonderful practises of Prayer Service and Friendship.

Josephite Associates ANNUAL Mass Sat 14th November 2020

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St, EAST MELBOURNE



Mass: 1 pm Celebrant Fr Michael Kalka
BYO Plate to share for Afternoon Tea

I will let you know in our next Newsletter if the Heritage Shop will be open during lunch

Please let us know if you are intending to come noreen.mcleish@gmail.com OR call
0438 531 651. Thank you Noreen

This is Buddy , I bought him as a surprise present for my husband but it turns out he's allergic to dogs . So unfortunately I'm going to have to find a new home for him , and I'm just wondering if anyone out there can help ? . His name is Alan, he's 61, great at DIY, drives a nice car and plans wonderful holidays.



Does anyone know if
The hairdresser or
Dentist is open
For godsake please
tell me 🙏



Subscriptions A Gentle Reminder. Subscriptions are now due. The bulk of our costs go to producing and sending out the Newsletter and a small amount for gifts for Guest Speakers etc. Postage and Printing costs are heavy. But many of our Associates have no other way to access the Newsletter and it is our most effective way of keeping everyone in contact. Less than one sixth of Associates are presently supporting these costs. Thank you to the many very generous Associates who pay a little extra for those who are unable to pay at all, a very Josephite spirit.

EVENTS AROUND MELBOURNE

**CONVERSATIONS WITH
MARY MACKILLOP—
11 am—12 noon followed by light lunch**

**TOPIC FOR 2020:
THE VIRTUES OF ST MARY
MACKILLOP**

Sr Mary will let us know if and when the Conversations with Mary will continue year. As you can appreciate, Dates are most impossible to Covid 19.

Leader: Sr Mary Fermio rsj
VENUE: Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre,

**Please Check
the SOSJ Web-
site for updates.**

year of

**Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St
EAST MELBOURNE
PHONE: 03 9926 9300**

**2020 OPEN
DAYS**

10 a.m.—4 p.m.

SATURDAYS:

***Dates to Be
Confirmed
when avail-
able again.***

- * **Pray in the Chapel**
- * **Tour the Museum**
- * **Visit the Gift Shop**
- * **Enjoy light refreshments**
- * **Mary MacKillop Walking Tour**

WHAT SOME ASSOCIATES HAVE BEEN UP TO DURING THE ISOLATION

From Julie Sparkes, Eaglehawk

Great to have the lockdown easing, my husband and I have been well and enjoyed watching Fr Kevin Dillon each day on YouTube for Mass. We have had more prayer life as neither of us having to go out to whatever.

We live in a retirement village which has all amenities in lock down so residents are walking around for exercise which has resulted in wider friendships as it has been sunny so after a walk out goes the chairs with a cuppa and chat to all passing.

I have been delivering our parish bulletin to parishioners in the village sharing parish news and a chat at a distance of course! I have enjoyed this as some really appreciate the call, many are widows so like you many have a dog. Our group had decided not to meet until November, small as we are.

Margaret Tobin our long time member has been gathering stamps and sending them on to the sisters, into the thousands.

From Dorothy Rowlands -

We have not met as a group since the beginning of this shut down. Bev and I have done a ring around and as some of our members have had surgery or have been ill and also due to the age group we have been very hesitant in getting our members together, most of the group are not interested in gathering until the winter is over as they have been overwhelmed by what has happened overseas and do not want to take any chances with their own health.

Parish wise Father Janeesh and his workers have looked after us very well we have had live streaming of mass on a Sunday and again on Wednesday and Rosary each week day in the evening and commencing this week we are able to apply to be one of the 10 to attend parish mass. Dorothy and Bev

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN HAMILTON!

There has been lots of cleaning of cupboards and some gardening even assisting with the building of a garden shed! Some of our JA's have children overseas and interstate, so Facebook contact has been important. Most of our dogs are enjoying the extra walking while the cats have had enough. Molly (pictured) and I usually visit our Aged Care Facility each



Friday. The NO VISITORS rule applies only to humans. So Molly has been doing Pet Therapy with a staff member while I stand out in the cold, sharing 'Window Prayers' with residents. Where there's a will there's a way! Noreen

NEWS FROM THE 'ISOLATED'



Life has changed for all of us during the last few months. Thank God I am a bit of a home body, content to be by myself, able to occupy my time. So what have I been doing?

I have developed quite a routine. Get up later (why not!) breakfast, house duties, watch Mass on I pad, pray office of Morning Prayer. Then it is time for my coffee and a sit in the sun if there is any.

After that I poke around the garden, do some shopping or send emails. Over the last few months I have finished three scarves knitted on a circular needle like the stripy ones from Peru. I am now on a jumper in a lovely blue called Aztec from Bendigo Mills. That will probably take up until next year.

The afternoon is spent playing solitaire, watching The Chase or reading. As well I have made marmalade, soup, cakes etc from my mother's recipes. My orange tree died last year but someone gave me (as a hint I reckon!) some oranges, so off I went again. The

problem is my marmalade is a great favourite around Bacchus Marsh.

On Tuesday mornings Diane Corro and I pray together, reflecting on the following Sunday's gospel using art works we find on Google or Clip Art. Both of us have found this very enriching so we plan to continue, though the Gospels to come will cause us to be a bit creative re art work.

Since we have been "freed" I have visited some other oldies with the fruits of my labour, had a chat and a cuppa. Booking in for Mass has been a new experience, but it helps one to appreciate the "old normal".

In January I celebrate my Diamond Jubilee of Profession. It is hard to believe 60 years have passed since that day on 6th January 1961. We have been planning and hoping borders would be open by January. But I can truly say I have had a "wow" of a life. Travelling around Victoria I have made so many friends that it is impossible to keep up with them all. But I have enjoyed much happiness in my Josephite life.

I am sure many of you have also been creative, finding ways to keep busy, sharing friendship, prayer and doing some service for others, especially prayer.

Mary Fermio rsj Bacchus Marsh



Like most women (😊) I've adapted to isolation pretty well - apart from that important "Hug" contact. Looking back as far as Palm Sunday, I've managed all Masses on YouTube - all the Easter ceremonies from St. Mary's in Sydney and Sunday Masses from St Mary's Cathedral in Sale. Some of my family have had to cope with disappointments. Two weddings and the cancellation of a couple of overseas trips. One of my sons is stuck in Moscow. He flies in and out of Moscow 4 weeks on and 4 weeks off. He lived in Moscow for three years and knows his way around, so it's not foreign to him. Another son works in Pt. Moresby and was sent home. He is working from home and the upside is that I am seeing more of him with social distancing. Luke is working from home in Sydney. He's finding that it's going well - easier to hook up on line for meetings. He works for the Aust Chamber Orchestra and of course performances have been cancelled and rehearsals etc.

I have four grandchildren working from home. Ones' claim to fame is that he's mastered scone making (after doing no more than boil water the 5 years he lived in Melb. whilst at Uni. He lived in Box Hill and survived on Chinese dumplings and whatever else was cheap).

I've managed one online shop with a Coles and Chemist Warehouse, and was impressed with the professional service. Not one to ignore a bargain, I have done online Birthday and Christmas shopping! I worked out how much I've saved in petrol, hair cuts, physio and Bowen treatments and shouted myself something special. Have completed a quilt for whenever our CWL raffle for Cancer Centre happens, also 6 small bassinette quilts for the nursery at LRH. I have other knitting and crochet happening (for in front of Netflix!). The garden has fewer weeds and the car needs a wash, but I'm not using it (🙄).

I've read one good book - The Convent - about the Abbotsford convent and the Good Shepherd nuns. A good read. Thank goodness for mobile 'phones and text messaging. Our Parish bulletin is emailed to us, but a lot of people without a computer, miss out.

Hard copies are available outside the church and some good people are distributing copies to friends. .

I've resumed weekly Monday morning coffee at a friend's house the last two weeks. Prior to that we thought we'd have to plant her husband in his veggie patch while we had our weekly catch up, so I kept away. So, just little steps towards normality, and hopefully everyone will be sensible. I don't think the new normal will be the same as the old, and that may not be a bad thing. God

bles. Pam Shaw, Morwell

'FRIENDSHIP PRAYER SERVICE'
Mary MacKillop would be very proud of you all.



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:

**STAMPS
Locked Bag 3031
BURWOOD NSW 1805**

**BOXES OF STAMPS TO:
5 Alexander Avenue,
Croydon NSW 2132**

Thank you

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



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

Pietro Bombig - husband of Bruna from Woodend
Joan Armitage - JA Rushworth. Died recently in the
Nursing home in Murchison. Husband George.

BOOK REVIEWS

Books that are also MOVIES,

I injured my shoulder at the beginning of LOCKDOWN: There is not enough room to write a review on all the books and films I enjoyed, but these were two of my favourites:

WHISKY GALORE By Compton MacKenzie

Actually I read the book first and of course "the book is always better than the film". But I loved both. It is set in the fictitious Scottish Hebridean islands of Great and Little Todday, in 1943, during WW 2. When food is in short supply, it is bad enough, but when the whisky runs out, it looks like the end of the world. The morale of the Islanders is at rock bottom and they are all having a thin time. There's no conversation, no jollity, no fun, that is, until a shipwreck off the coast brings a piece of extraordinary good fortune This is a fun piece of fiction loosely based on the shipwreck of the Politition, off the Hebridean islands' coast in the early 40's. Particularly interesting for those of us with any Scottish connection.



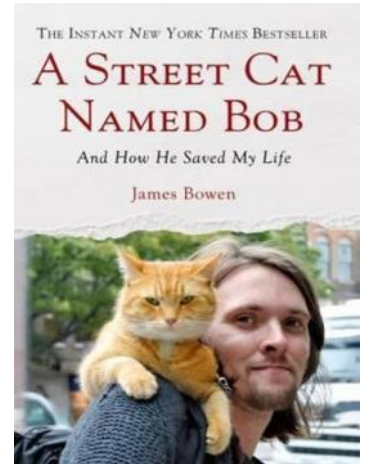
I purchased my kindle copy from Amazon to read and the Film is available on SBS on Demand.

A STREET CAT NAMED BOB

Is based on the true story of James Bowen and Bob, his cat and his battle with Heroin addiction.

James Bowen met Bob in 2007 when he was homeless and on the Methadone Program. He found the cat abandoned and injured and decided to look after him.

A decision that he attributes to saving his life. It's hard to believe when you are watching the film that Bob is not an animation. In the film Bob is played by the real Bob (mostly) . James is played by actor Luke Treadaway. It is a very emotional true story of addiction and the power of love. Both the Book and the Movie are available online and most Libraries and Video Stores. Noreen McLeish



Footnote: Bob died on Wednesday 16th June.2020

THE DUTCH HOUSE by Ann Patchet

Published by Bloomsbury April 2020

Peter Stanford interviewed Ann Patchet for The Tablet, 23rd May 2020. You can find this interview called 'Keeping My Religion' by going to www.thetablet.co.uk

This interview will give you some insight into her writing. Ann Patchet has written quite a few books and I recommend her to you. You will find them in most Libraries. From Diane Corro

Pam Shaw recommends a book she enjoyed while in Lockdown, "THE CONVENT" It's the story of the Abbotsford Convent and the Good Shepherd nuns.

Thanks Pam

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MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE
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362 Albert St East Melbourne Vic 3002**

Or
Email: vic.associates@sosj.org.au

Items for Newsletter:

Noreen McLeish
3 Lonsdale St
HAMILTON VIC 3300
noreen.mcleish@gmail.com.

**Introductory Program sheets to
Noreen McLeish also.**

Isolation Brings More Time for Iconography in Bacchus Marsh

The self-isolation due to Covid 19 saw me finding a little more time for my iconography. What a joy it is to have learned this art! I have to say from the outset that I am no artist.

Until I took up this hobby three years ago I had not picked up a paintbrush or mixed colours since primary school and my own level of artistic ability was still at stick figures. But I felt myself drawn to the world of iconography. I find the images so nuanced and a wonderful way to move into prayer.

I began some classes with the Franciscans in Box Hill and now go once a month to the Uniting Church Icon School in Auburn (<https://unitingchurchiconschools.wordpress.com/>).

The wonderful thing about iconography is that you can copy traditional icons. This is such a good way to learn. And really it doesn't matter if mine look a little amateurish; after all my icons are only displayed around my prayer space or given to friends who admire them. I have discovered with iconography that it really is the journey that counts, and not the destination.

What I hadn't expected was the extent to which iconography is a form of meditative prayer. My experience has been that time disappears and there is a peace and stillness as I work on the image I have chosen.

At some point in the process the personality of the saint (or Jesus) emerges and I find my relationship with the person deepening. I chat with them as I struggle to get the details right and find myself gazing into their eyes.

The icons are painted (technically written) using egg tempera on a wooden board that has been covered in gesso. I make the egg tempera using equal amounts of white wine and egg yolk which is then mixed with dry pigments. Tempera is an amazingly forgiving medium as I find that I have to do many layers to get the detail right. Egg tempera makes it easy to go over the mistakes!

The haloes are done in gold leaf and reflect the light so beautifully.

I have recently been working on this icon of St Mary MacKillop.

She is not quite finished yet (I find I like to sit with them for a while so that I can see details that may need further work) but I thought I would share it with you by way of example. My prayer space now has quite a number of icons and each one has spoken to me personally as I have crafted it. I really do feel myself immersed in the community of saints as I gaze upon them. [Diane Corro](#)



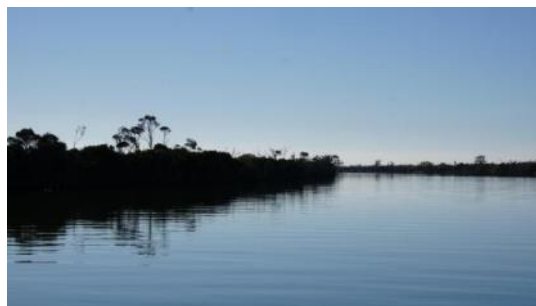
Counting their Blessings in Lakes Entrance

COVID19 certainly has thrown us all a curve ball making meetings very difficult, except on zoom or other IT product, and separation from community is certainly challenging, especially not being able to have family visits, however, for me personally, after accepting the LOCK DOWN decision, have enjoyed the quiet free-er time, a chance to reflect and enjoy where we are planted and to ask myself a few pertinent questions, like, do I still wish to be so committed in all the organisations I'm involved with considering that my husband and I are much nearer 80yrs of age than 70?

We are truly blessed, living here in Lakes Entrance as our house is across the road from the Cunningham Arm water way. This wonderful stretch of water in the East, includes Lake Wellington, Lake Victoria and Lake King to the West for a stretch of approximately 64 kilometres. We open our curtains of a morning to this amazing view over the water and become mesmerised by the antics of the cormorants, black swans, pelicans plus seagulls and the occasional ducks who I believe are taking refuge on our lake away from the duck shooters presently. Most days, my husband and I walk the foreshore pathway to the other end of town for exercise, which also becomes our "SOCIAL" outing as we mostly meet friends and acquaintances doing the same thing, but chat keeping the required distance.

I have emailed our Associates occasionally and the time may soon be right to meet again. Parish facilities are still closed, so we would need a large lounge room to accommodate us all since social distancing is still the order of the day. East Gippsland Shire was acknowledged in the Herald Sun newspaper as being the most affected shire in Australia following draught, fires, floods and now COVID19 however, we are a resilient community and together we will pick up the pieces and become an amazing area again.

[Louise Anketell](#)



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 main focus.

Because of the COVID restrictions, though, 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'd 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 time-span can go up to the present.

My email is mary.cresp@sosj.org.au, my postal address 1 Neill Rd, Cowandilla SA 5033 (Australia), and my phone 0419 613 279.

8th August Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Mother Mary of the Cross MacKillop died on Sunday the 8th August 1909, surrounded by her Sisters at Mount St, North Sydney. Mary MacKillop's life and death has brought many blessings to the Australian church and to people across our world. She was a woman whose values and spirit inspired people to live a Gospel way of life. She is an inspiration to us all to make a difference in our world, always beginning with those who are 'the poorest of the poor.'

Pray together the Opening Prayer

Holy God, you show us by the life of St Mary MacKillop how your Gospel values are lived. As we celebrate her Feast day, help us to remember the things that matter most in life, and to live more faithfully the values you lived by.
We pray this in the name of Jesus, your Son.

All: Amen.

Sit quietly and reflect on what it is that draws you to the Spirituality of St Mary MacKillop, to be part of the Josephite family. Use an image of Mary to focus your thoughts.

"There where you are you will find God"

Mary MacKillop 1871

First Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: Matthew 6: 25-34

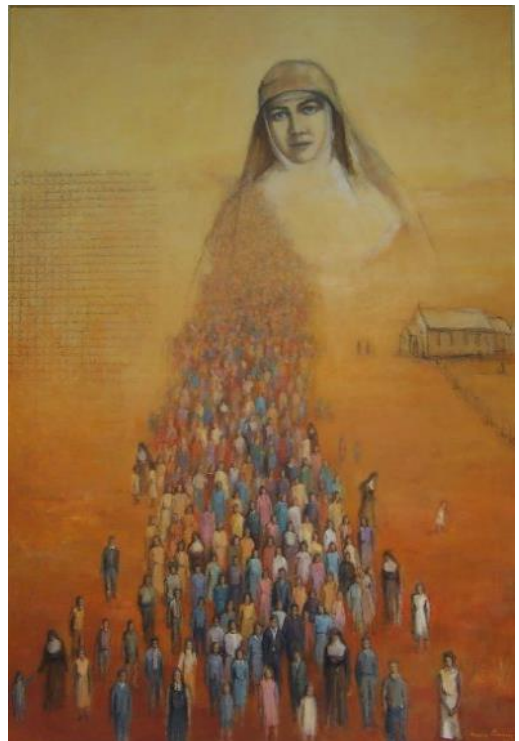
1Using the Readings or choose one, from the Feast Day

2Listen to the Reading as it is read out loud.

3Read it yourself in silence,

4When the group is ready share a Word or Phrase that speaks to you.

5What is this Reading/Gospel saying to you? Share



Pray Together:

We pray eg with grateful hearts. for those who are suffering to be more..... etc

Finish with: A Prayer OR Listen to a Song And/Or Enjoy a Cuppa Together, AMEN