



MARY MACKILLOP PLACE NEWSLETTER • FEAST DAY 2015

St Mary MacKillop Feast Day 8th August 2015

As we again approach our celebration of the Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop it is good for us to take a moment to reflect upon what it is that we are celebrating.

Mary is well known for her concern for and work on behalf of the poor, neglected, marginalised and isolated people of her time. This concern which moved her to action is firmly anchored in her relationship with God; that communion of love which existed between Mary and "our good God", which flowed out to a communion of love for all people. This love relationship was central to Mary's life (see *Mary MacKillop – Made in Australia* by Daniel Lyne). It is for this the Universal Church has named her "Saint".

We look to Mary, a person like ourselves, to see how she responded to the day to day circumstances of her life, the joys, crises, difficulties, achievements..... In some ways Mary's response to life's circumstance touches our own deepest yearnings to respond in the way that Mary did, seeing the will of God in all things.

We are able to identify with Mary because she is an ordinary Australian person like us. On this Feast Day let us again invite Mary to journey with us, to pray with us, as we continue to discover that spark of God's love within us which overflows and reaches out to those in need.

May the blessings of Mary MacKillop fire us,
stretching our imaginations to see new possibilities.
May the blessings of our God surround us always.
Amen.

Act, Love, Walk – Praying in the Josephite Spirit, pg 33

Masses will be celebrated at Mary MacKillop Place
on 8th August at 8 am, 10 am & 1 pm.

The Chapel will be open for private prayer & visits to
Mary MacKillop's Tomb from 9 am - 4 pm

The MMP Museum will be open (free admission) from
8.30 am – 4 pm

INSIDE ►



MMP MUSEUM
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

A message from
**SISTER
COLLEEN**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



A message from SISTER COLLEEN

Ecological Conversion -

The Challenge to Protect Our Common Home

During the last month Mary MacKillop Place has implemented new policies to address how we care for the environment and make choices to reduce waste. New bins have been located in the grounds and all offices now have eco bins to assist in changing waste habits. These changes occurred around the same time that Pope Francis released his Encyclical Letter 'Laudato Si'.

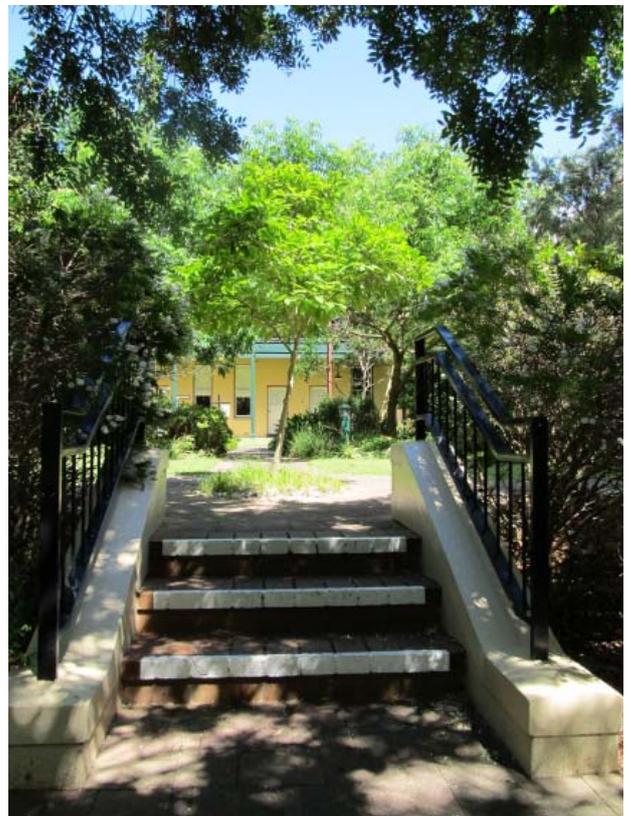
In his letter Pope Francis acknowledges *'the urgent challenge to protect our common home'* [13], he appeals for *'a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet'* [14] and the need to *'provide an approach to ecology that respects our unique place as human beings in this world and our relationship with our surroundings'* [15]. The Pope's Encyclical is a reminder to us all to be aware of the impact of such things as pollution, waste, our throwaway culture, the depletion of natural resources such as water. We are all called to ecological conversion as individuals, as communities, as societies and as nations of the world. Here at Mary MacKillop Place we are on this journey of ecological conversion together and we will continue to discover ways to make a difference in protecting our common home.

Winter is the time when creation renews its energy, animals hibernate, seeds bow their heads in the soil, branches stand tall in silence, darkness increases and the harshness of weather is felt. So for us it can be a time to slow down and refocus our direction and purpose. In the warmth and protection of our homes, we might ask ourselves 'in what ways do I contribute to the protection of our common home' 'what choices can I make to effect change within the environment'?

Pope Francis reminds us *'the universe as a whole, in all its manifold relationships, shows forth the inexhaustible riches of God'* [86]. In 1862 Julian Tenison Woods wrote *'we learn that the dust we tread on was once alive, that the rock on which we stand has lived and*

died – has been a thing of life, and is now a stone: and this is a time which reaches so far back as only to be understood by the One who was from eternity ...' and again in 1880 *'all created things give us ideas and glimpses of the beauty of the infinitely beautiful Creator'*. May we find inspiration from these words as we continue to reflect on the interrelationship of all life and respond to its challenges with compassion, justice and love.

I encourage you all to obtain a copy of the Pope's Encyclical and take up his invitation to ecological conversion.



Colleen Keeble rsj
Director



Pilgrimage at MMP

Mary MacKillop Place Museum Pilgrimage:

You have probably visited the Museum where you have received information about the life of St Mary MacKillop

We are now inviting you to journey through our Museum in a new way: that of a pilgrim.

A pilgrimage is a journey of significance, usually connected to one's faith or beliefs to a sacred place.

You can reflect on Mary, A Woman of God, A Woman of Justice, and how you are challenged and supported to be a person of justice.

You can also reflect on Mary, A Woman of God, A Woman of Compassion, and how you experience the call to be a person of God, a person of compassion.

Each of these pilgrimages is suitable for adults in groups of 15 to 20. Pilgrimages are available Monday - Friday.

For more information or to make a booking for a pilgrimage please email MMPEvent.Bookings@sosj.org.au or call Deborah on 02 89124814.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AUGUST - DECEMBER 2015

AUGUST

- 8** St Mary of the Cross MacKillop - Feast Day: Masses 8 am, 10 am & 1 pm.
- 9** International Day of the World's Indigenous People
- 11** Sacrament of Anointing - Chapel 11.30 am

SEPTEMBER

- 2** MMP Museum Curatorial Floor Walk "Behind the Scenes" for MMP Friends to meet staff, view Museum exhibition, 1.45 - 3.30 pm (including afternoon tea).
- 6 - 13** Retreat - Virginia Bourke rsj, 6th - 13th September, MMP - "The Song the Spirit sings in Jesus, us and all creation."
- 19** "Muffins, Mystics & More" Colleen O'Sullivan rsj - Schoolhouse, MMP 10 am - 12 noon
- 28/9 - 2/10** MMP Museum School Holiday Programme - 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

OCTOBER

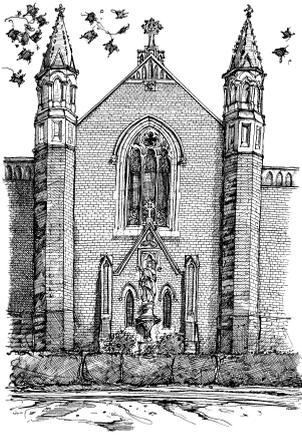
- 7** Anniversary of the death of Father Julian Tenison Woods, Co-Founder, with Mary MacKillop, of the Sisters of St Joseph
- 13** Sacrament of Anointing - Chapel 11.30 am
- 17** "Muffins, Mystics & More" Margaret McKenna rsj - Schoolhouse 10 am - 12 noon
- 21 - 31** National Australian Pilgrimage commences Melbourne 21st October, ends Sydney 31st October.

NOVEMBER

- 1** All Saints Day Mass - Chapel 10 am
- 18** MMP Volunteers' Thanksgiving Mass 11 am
- 29** 1st Sunday in Advent Mass - Chapel 10 am

DECEMBER

- 4** Advent Prayer Chapel - 9.30 am
- 11** Advent Prayer Chapel - 9.30 am
- 15** Sacrament of Anointing Chapel 11.30 am
- 16** Lessons & Carols - Chapel
- 18** Advent Prayer Chapel - 9.30 am
- 24** Carols and Christmas Vigil Mass - Chapel 7 pm
- 25** Christmas Mass 10am (Chapel closed after Mass; Museum, Café)
- 26** Boxing Day (Chapel, Museum, Café closed)



A LIFE OUT OF THE *Ordinary*

Extract from Sr Alphonsus Jones' memories of Mother Mary of the Cross Mackillop as recorded 15th July 1926.

"When a sick Sister would be brought in from the country Mother Mary insisted on the Sister taking her bed for some weeks – she herself slept on the floor in the corner of the room partitioned off by a draft screen. I often heard her making her aspiration during the night and it was while occupying this little corner that Mother wrote some of her meditations by candlelight.

During Mother Mary's long stay in New Zealand, she and my dear mother became great friends. I was allowed over to visit my parents. When at Grey Lynn Convent, Mother often took me with her as her companion. I was very much edified by her sweet and affable manner to anyone in trouble - no matter what the trouble was Mother would find a way to help. On our way to visit a poor sick lady, on one occasion Mother Mary, wishing to take her something, felt in her pocket but found only one penny so she bought one penny's worth of lollies for the old lady.

Years after when Mother Mary was taken ill at Rotorua we brought her to Newmarket Convent. I was her night nurse. We tried to keep all worry from her but Mother was very keen. Late one night the doorbell rang – Mother asked is "Who was there?" We told her a woman from the country – a perfect stranger to us. Mother Mary told us to make up a bed in the reception room and keep her for the night."

Extract from "Memories of Mother Mary by those who knew her. Sisters of St Joseph 1925 -1926"

© 2010 Trustees of the Sisters of St Joseph, John Garrett Publishers, pages 99 & 100.

Stories from THE GUEST BOOK

“ Peaceful accommodation:

This is not widely known but Anderledy Lodge is peaceful, serene and very easy to get to via train.

You are also close enough to the sightseeing and ferries at The Rocks and Circular Quay. They offer free wifi, comfortable rooms with private bathrooms or clean shared bathrooms, and there are also apartments with kitchenettes.

Breakfast is simple but sufficient and the Dining Room is pleasant.

If you stay here, make sure to visit the Chapel and Tomb of St Mary Mackillop and find out about this Australian icon and her work.”

“The caretakers for this Chapel are so friendly and welcoming. They truly are devoted to their work. I was so touched by the many people who came to visit St Mary Mackillop's Tomb. There is a serenity that exudes from the place, and once inside, you wouldn't know that the city is outside. It's a wonderful place of meditation, consolation and prayer, at North Sydney. ”



“ A tranquil oasis in the midst of busy North Sydney, it is a place truly out of the ordinary. ”

Stories from THE FIELD

MMP Museum Guides

Margaret McCafferty a veteran of twenty years and Eileen Walker fifteen years reflect on their service to Mary MacKillop Place as Museum guides.

"It is difficult to explain why we come to Mary MacKillop Place, as it is something that comes not from the head but from the heart," say Margaret and Eileen.

Initially both Eileen and Margaret heard the call in their parish bulletin. For Margaret it was the year of the Beatification, the opening of the Mary MacKillop Museum and a time for many schools and communities to engage in the Mary MacKillop story. Five years later Eileen responded to the call for assistance in promoting the Cause of Mary MacKillop through the guiding of young people and parishioners through the Museum.

Margaret and Eileen joined a dedicated group that attend Mary MacKillop Place each Monday. Of their service they say:

"When we came we found it to be a very supportive

environment, where we were provided with training, and developed firm friendships.

The ongoing training and encouragement we received is vital to our developing and expansive knowledge of Mary MacKillop, which we share with the groups we guide. It is so fulfilling taking groups through the Museum, especially when children are engaged in the story, ask questions and are generally interested in following in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop.

The close friendships formed here have been a joy that we have taken from Mary MacKillop Place. We socialise celebrating birthdays and Christmas and are able to include those members who due to age and health reasons are not able to continue their service at Mary MacKillop Place."



If you would like to join the MMP Volunteers, please contact niesha.allport@sosj.org.au.

ACU COMMUNITY DRAMA PROJECT IN COLLABORATION WITH MARY MACKILLOP PLACE MUSEUM:

"Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods in the 1800s: Colonial tales enacted; unearthing hidden stories behind the collection"

Now in its second year of operation, the ACU student community drama project at the Mary MacKillop Place Museum produced a series of short narrations and role plays for Museum visitors in April and May this year. Each dramatised role play was performed in a section of the Museum with visitors asked to actively participate in the telling of the story. The overall objective of the project is to ignite the imagination of visitors and bring home the reality of the past lives of the Sisters and their legacy as a teaching order in colonial Australia.

Dr James Marland, Lecturer in Theatre, Literature & Communication, ACU Faculty of Education & Arts, and Edwina Huntley, Curator Mary MacKillop Place Museum, undertook this collaborative project to immerse pre-service teacher students in the Museum environment. The students succeeded in bringing to life the Museum's collection items through spirited storytelling.

The collection and the site offer a wealth of opportunity for students to interpret the historical significance of the buildings and interiors and invite visitors to engage in a moment in time one hundred years ago. To achieve this, students researched historical material and artefact information to ground each role in historically accurate detail. The students workshopped in small groups in the early part of the semester and then enacted their parts in a weekly Museum programme *Wednesdays Live at the Museum*, for the enjoyment of all visitors.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE MUSEUM

Celebrating 20 Years of the Mary MacKillop Place Museum (1995 – 2015)

2015 is a milestone in the life of Mary MacKillop Place as we know it today. In January 1995, when Mary MacKillop was beatified, the Museum opened its doors to the public after undergoing a significant transformation. The following article is from Issue One of the 'Mary' Newsletter (October 1994):

'New Museum in Mount Street – Mary MacKillop Place

'The old Novitiate Building in Mount Street has certainly seen some changes. Originally the site housed Abbotsleigh Girls' School before becoming part of the convent in 1915. Now it's undergoing massive changes to create at Mary MacKillop Place the new Museum celebrating Mary, her life and the Order.....

'To enable total control of lighting and visitor focus, windows are being blocked, new walls are going up and a massive air conditioning plant is being installed. Two other new buildings have been created in the garden area adjacent to Shore School. Alma Cottage is also getting a facelift and will house re-creations of Mary's era at North Sydney. Facilities will also include a coffee shop and a merchandise/souvenir outlet.'



The image above shows the Cafe being built.

For more information please call the MMP Museum:
02 8912 4878, or email mackillop@sosj.org.au.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GIFT SHOP

St Mary MacKillop Statue

A beautiful 30cm statue of Saint Mary MacKillop inspired by the full size sculpture of Mary located at Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel in North Sydney.

Order yours fast as stock runs out very quickly. Only \$29.95 each.



Mary MacKillop Commemorative Toile Bag



Celebrate Mary's life when you purchase one of many wonderful Toile products available from our Gift Shop. Every Toile product is handmade by Josephite Sisters with high quality workmanship. This stunning bag measures approximately 40cm x 30cm and is only \$24.95.

For all merchandise please visit the MMP Gift Shop now, or order via telephone:
02 89124894 or email mmp.shop@sosj.org.au.

SPOTLIGHT ON ANDERLEDY LODGE



Stay warm at Anderledy this Winter!
Room rates from \$85 per night!
Call 02 89124800 or
email anderledy.reservations@sosj.org.au.



MARY MACKILLOP PLACE

OUT OF THE Ordinary

7-11 Mount Street
North Sydney NSW 2060
PO Box 1081 North Sydney NSW 2059
Tel (02) 8912 4800
Fax (02) 8912 4835

www.marymackillopplace.org.au
www.anderledylodge.org.au

FOLLOW US...



facebook.com/marymackillopplace



twitter.com/marymackillopplace