



MARY MACKILLOP PLACE NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2018

Crossing a Threshold to 2019

Can you recall when you saw the first hints of Christmas appearing in our shops? It was most likely sometime during September. Come 26th December there will be little or no sign that Christmas ever was. People will be hastening to the post-Christmas Sales to restock for Christmas 2019 and to restock their cupboards ahead of New Year feasting and celebrating.

Rather than joining in this frenzied time between Christmas and New Year perhaps we could choose to be present to this time as a transition time - another time of waiting. Just as we awaited

the birth of God in our world as one of us, so now we are called to await the dawning of a new year.

This in-between-time invites us to reflect on all that has been so that we are able to let go and then intentionally cross the threshold between the old and the new. We are then more able to be open to and embrace all that the year ahead will hold for us, its blessings and challenges.

You are invited to take some time to be still, to be present, and to ponder in your heart your journey through 2018.

What have been the highlights of the year?
What have been the challenges?
What have been the blessings?

Where did I see or meet God?
Where did I ignore God?
I am most grateful for.....
I am least grateful for.....
What can I smile about?

As you continue to be open to God and cross the threshold into 2019, what are the deepest desires of your heart for your family, yourself, our country, our world, creation,

What might you be able to do to bring these desires to fruition?

All at Mary MacKillop Place wish you all the joys of Christmas and in the words of Mary MacKillop, *With fondest love I pray God to bless you all and grant you a truly happy New Year.* Mary MacKillop, 1882.

Annie Bond rsj, Assistant Director - Ministries



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LEGACY OF
MARY MACKILLOP

A message from
**SISTER
COLLEEN**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



A message from SISTER COLLEEN

This year the Jacaranda trees have been providing a beautiful spectacle of colour across Sydney. They seem to breathe new life into the city after the somewhat dull days of winter. Purple/blue patches of beauty dotted across the skyline remind us of the evolutionary nature of creation and its seasons. In this excerpt from his poem *The Jacaranda*, I think Douglas Stewart highlights that for us.

*While the blue shade falls like a blessing on grass and stone,
I feel the Presence who waited all winter with me
And worked unseen while I watched, with rain and sun
And earth in her hands to make a simple tree
The loveliest mask that beauty wears on earth.
Is it her banner and symbols that branches bear
Or the living spirit herself come down to birth
Glowing in a flesh of blossoms upon the air?*



When the Jacarandas are flowering we know Advent is almost here.

Advent – the time for us to prepare our hearts to receive the Word made Flesh, the living spirit come down to birth.

Advent – the time which brings us closer to the year's end, when we can touch into our experiences of life over the past 12 months, to reflect on the evolutionary and changing nature of our lives.

During this year the Mary MacKillop Board embarked on developing its Strategic Plan. It is now eight years since the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop and the Board believed it was time to think again – *where are we going now, how do we continue to keep the message of Mary MacKillop alive into the future, how do we strengthen and deepen our commitment to the thousands of pilgrims that visit each year?* Over 790 people provided input into questions regarding the services we provide across the site – the Chapel, Museum, Café & Gift Shop, Accommodation and Conference Facilities. Those consulted included: the Board, Management, Staff and Volunteers of Mary MacKillop Place; Aboriginal Elders; Conference Participants, Visitors & Pilgrims; Church & Education Groups; Government Representatives; Independent Consultants; the Congregational Leadership Team and other Sisters of St Joseph. The data gathered provided the Board with a wealth of creative thinking to reflect upon while considering the direction for the next five years. The Strategic Plan is in its final stage of design and is due to be launched in January 2019. Then will begin the implementation of the strategic actions for the Board and Management.

In the Feast Day edition of Musings, I referred to the proposed accommodation building project for Anderledy Lodge. The Development Application submitted in June was not accepted and some changes were recommended. A revised application has now been lodged and we are again hoping for approval. This has caused some considerable delay and we are hoping 2019 will provide some certainty as to when the project will begin.



I take this opportunity to thank all our supporters, donors, volunteers and all who contribute to the ongoing mission of Mary MacKillop Place. May you be showered with many blessings this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Colleen Keeble rsj,
Director.

Christmas in the Chapel 2018

Carols - 7 pm
Christmas Vigil Mass - 7.30 pm
24th December

Christmas Mass
10 am,
25th December
(Chapel closed after
Mass, Museum, Cafe
closed)



Boxing Day (Chapel, Museum, Cafe
closed)

Enquiries, please see the Website:
www.marymackillopplace.org.au

Spirituality 2019

Lenten Programme - Wednesdays during Lent:
 6, 13, 20, 27 March & 3, 10 April, 11 am - 12 noon

Holy Week Retreat - 14 - 21 April
 Truly, Madly, Deeply:
 Three perspectives for praying in Holy Week.

Easter Triduum -
 Holy Thursday, 18 April
 Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30 pm

Good Friday, 19 April
 Morning Prayer, 9.30am
 Celebration of the Passion, 3pm
(Museum closed, Cafe & Gift Shop closed)

Holy Saturday, 20 April
 Morning Prayer, 9.30 am
 Easter Vigil, 7.30 pm

Easter Sunday, 21 April - Mass, 10 am

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - DECEMBER 2018 - APRIL 2019



DECEMBER, 2018

- 24 Carols 7 pm; Christmas Vigil Mass 7.30 pm - Chapel
- 25 Christmas Mass 10 am (Chapel closed after Mass; Museum, Café closed)
- 26 Boxing Day (Chapel, Museum, Café closed)
- 30 Feast of the Holy Family Mass - Chapel 10 am

JANUARY, 2019

- 1 Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, Mass - 9 am, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace (Chapel closed after 9 am Mass, Museum and Café closed)
- 8 8th of Month Masses - Chapel 8 am, 10 am, 1 pm
- 26 Australia Day Mass - Chapel 9 am

FEBRUARY

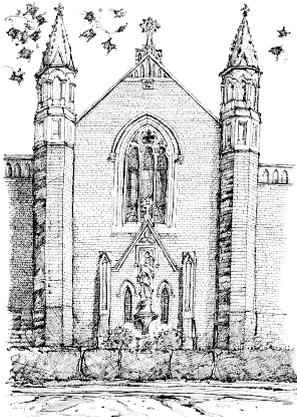
- 8 8th of Month Masses - Chapel 8 am, 10 am, 1 pm
- 11 World Day of Prayer for the Sick - Mass Chapel 10 am
- 12 Sacrament of Anointing - Chapel 11.30 am

MARCH

- 6 Ash Wednesday Mass - Chapel 8 am, 1 pm
- 8 8th of Month Masses - Chapel 8 am, 10 am, 1 pm
- 18 Solemnity of Saint Patrick - transferred from Sunday 17 March
- 19 Solemnity of Saint Joseph Mass - Chapel 8 am

APRIL

- 8 8th of Month Masses - Chapel 8 am, 10 am, 1 pm
- 9 Sacrament of Anointing - Chapel 11.30 am
- 14 - 21 Holy Week Retreat - Virginia Bourke rsj & Mary MacKillop Place Ministries 14-21 April
- 18 Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm
- 19 Good Friday Morning Prayer Chapel 9.30 am
 Celebration of the Passion Chapel 3 pm
- 20 Holy Saturday Morning Prayer - Chapel 9.30 am
 Easter Vigil - Chapel 7.30 pm
- 21 Easter Sunday Mass - Chapel 10 am
- 25 Anzac Day Mass - Chapel 9 am



Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel.

Drawing by Ian Marr 2013, used with permission.

A LIFE OUT OF THE *Ordinary*

*Recollections of Sr Mary Joseph Demuth 20/6/1926,
Hunters Hill, NSW*

"It was in the end of the year 1885, when I arrived in Sydney from New Zealand where I had just been received as a postulant, that I first had the pleasure of meeting our revered Foundress Mother Mary of the Cross.

In the year 1887 during my Novitiate days I was fortunate in receiving a good deal of my religious training from Mother. Sister La Merci was then Mistress of Novices, but Mother gave us regularly very beautiful instructions on the Rule and the spiritual life and very often helped us to make our daily meditations in the Oratory. Mother was always visibly affected when she spoke on the Passion of Our Lord, and I do not think I ever saw her say the Stations of the Cross without weeping....

When I was a novice, I remember going to Greenwich with Mother on Sunday afternoons to teach the children catechism. There were no Catholic Schools there – very few houses and no conveyances. The Jesuit Fathers at Ridge Street gave us the use of their horse and buggy which Mother Mary drove herself. We taught the children who were assembled in a private house. After the instructions were over the children sang a hymn, then the parents came and joined in saying the Rosary. Mother had a great zeal for souls.

In the year 1898 Mother Mary made the visitation of the Convents in New Zealand where she was warmly welcomed by her loving Sisters. I was in Auckland for all Mother's visits there, so I am writing from experience. We always looked forward with pleasure to seeing Mother. She examined the schools and gave the Sisters and children great encouragement. Mother also visited far-off country places where the Sisters taught the Maori children. Travelling over rough country roads by coach in those days was very difficult and tiresome.

I remember on one occasion going to the Newmarket Railway Station with the late Sister Ambrose to meet Mother when she was returning to Auckland. She was very much exhausted after travelling many miles by coach, then over 170 miles in a very uncomfortable railway carriage (second class) which was furnished with two long wooden seats. I thought it was an example for us all.

In 1901 Mother Mary again visited New Zealand and was at Surrey Hills, Auckland for the Annual Retreat, which was given by the late Rev Father Henry who was an esteemed friend of Mother's. He gave a very beautiful Retreat which will long be remembered by those who were present. I was one of that happy number. His last advice to us was "To be careful not to catch a spiritual cold."

Extract from "Memories of Mother Mary by those who knew her. Sisters of Saint Joseph 1925 - 1926" [Page 94]. © 2010 Trustees of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. All rights reserved.

Stories from THE GUEST BOOK

"We visited the beautiful Chapel in the grounds of Mary MacKillop Place where the tomb of the Saint Mary MacKillop is – calm, peaceful and serene; then went to the Museum dedicated to her: Gallery 1, 2 & 3, and we walked into Alma Cottage, the final home of Saint Mary MacKillop. Well worth a visit."

"I appreciated the history of Mary MacKillop. As for accommodation, I was a solo traveller so booked a single room - perfect! TV and kettle etc. I was right near the lounge room, very comfortable. The people I saw in the hallways were all friendly and seemed very happy with the accommodation. I would love to spend a few nights here soon, to give me more time to see the sights nearby and check out the property."



*“ Simple
surroundings, peaceful
and spiritual. ”*

Stories from THE CURATOR'S OFFICE

MUSEUM CONSERVATION PROJECT: SAFEGUARDING OUR COLLECTION FOR THE FUTURE

Over the last few months the curatorial office, with the assistance of volunteers has been engaged in the re-housing of the liturgical textile collection into custom made storage boxes. The Museum is fortunate to have an outstanding collection of textiles and vestments that have featured in the history of Mary MacKillop Place.



The collection was last on exhibition in 2013 for the Centenary of the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel.

The project is designed to safeguard the collection of precious textiles from any future harm and make access easier for assessing the condition of the items on an annual basis.

The project's focus is on the technical skills of handwork required to produce these textiles and it is anticipated that the project will be completed in the next few months to provide the highest level of storage care for many years to come.

[All images by Edwina Huntley]

TEXTILE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

In September the Curator and a volunteer attended a textile conservation workshop at the Preservation Australia offices in Annandale. The workshop covered all facets of textile care including safeguarding the collection against agents that cause deterioration.

Storage solutions, tissue wrapping for textiles and specialist cleaning technics were demonstrated by the head conservator Kay Soderlund [pictured].

The workshop proved to be highly valuable for this project and assisted us in managing the care issues associated with metals and fabrics.



*Edwina Huntley,
Curator,
Mary MacKillop Place
Museum.*

National Pilgrimage 2019

The Sisters of Saint Joseph offer you the opportunity to journey to significant places in Australia made holy by St Mary MacKillop, including her birth site [pictured].

2019 will mark 25 years of the Sisters offering this pilgrimage *In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop*.

Commencing in Melbourne on 22

October, we will experience the early life of Mary and the MacKillop Family.



The Pilgrimage continues to Hamilton, Portland & Port McDonnell, then to Penola to connect with the stories of Mary MacKillop & Julian Tenison Woods, before continuing to Robe and the church built by Fr Woods.

We travel to Adelaide where Mary professed her vows as a Sister of Saint Joseph. From here we fly to Sydney and stay at Mary MacKillop Place, where Mary lived and died. We visit her tomb in the Memorial Chapel for reflection. The Pilgrimage ends on 2 November.

Further information will be available in early 2019.

Contact details:

national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au

Tel 02 89124818.

Stories from THE CURATOR'S OFFICE

OBJECTS IN FOCUS - ALL THAT SHIMMERS !

Stole,
wheat goldwork
on satin brocade,
mid-20th
Century,
2001- 005.



When we think of Christmas, we think of the joy associated with decorating to mark this special time of year and the use of tinsel and glitter to achieve a festive atmosphere. Likewise, the use of goldwork and gold adornment in liturgical items has been a long-standing element in the design of church textiles. The history of goldwork is as old as the arts of the goldsmith and weaver.

What makes goldwork unique from most other types of embroidery is the technique of couching the gold thread into raised shapes. This work is akin to jewellery or even sculpture because the surface appears faceted as the light catches different angles of the thread which the padding accentuates. Pure gold is beaten into thin sheets and cut into strips. The gold is sufficiently malleable to work and then stitch through open weaves and wind around a silk core to couch onto the fabric.

Later gold thread was made by covering a silver wire with gold coating which was drawn out into any thickness. The thread was then hammered flat and wound round a core of silk or synthetic yarn for couching. It could also be spun and drawn through a series of holes in diminishing sizes until the thread was fine enough to spiral into purls (fine wire spiralled into a hollow spring) and bullions (bulky purls) which can be cut and used as gold beads. Today gold plating has been overtaken by plated alloys and synthetics.

An example of this fine work may be seen in this highly elaborate stole and cope [worn over vestments] in the Museum's collection. The stole is made of cream-figured satin. The gold work depicts the popular Christian motifs of wheat, grapes and vines, associated with the celebration of the Eucharist.



Gold bullion braid and fringe on the stole and cope emphasised the importance of the vestments. Both items were made using a high degree of specialist skills in needlework, lacemaking and embroidery.

The stole shows a finely worked satin stitch forming a Moline Cross [derived from the Old French for a mill, the iron clamp of the upper millstone]. The Cross Moline is associated with St Benedict of Nursia, and was used as an emblem by the monks and nuns of the Order of St Benedict, which he founded.

Detail of the couched goldwork on the Stole.

Cope, 2001.015 [derived from "Cappa" from the hood section of the garment],
is made of white silk with goldwork and embroidery.

The centre of the motif shows raised goldwork which depicts golden rays emanating from the Host & Chalice.



Altar frontlet, gold and silver sequin work on fine silk net, 2017.33.1-2.



The Museum also holds several other fine textiles including altar frontlets. In Christian churches, textiles adorn the top [mensa] of the altar and are also covered with a frontal cloth [superfrontal]; these are finely adorned coverings. The altar frontlet is rectangular in size and hangs in front of the plain frontal cover. It is fixed into place by hooks and eyes or loops.

This finely hand worked, sequined frontlet was produced between 1952 and 1956 and may be seen in photographs of this period taken in the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel, North Sydney. It shimmers in the light due to the intricate working of both silver and gold handmade sequins, finely stitched one by one in an overlapping pattern to form the overall design. Each sequin is convex in shape to optimise the reflective qualities of the sequins.

[All images by Edwina Huntley.]

Edwina Huntley,
Curator, Mary MacKillop Place Museum.

Stories from THE FIELD



Sister Xuan Trang Nguyen

I used to work in various areas with Vietnamese and Australian-born Vietnamese at the Vietnamese Catholic Community in Western Australia; I also worked with Aboriginal Children in Kununurra, the Kimberley, and at Mary MacKillop Memorial School in Penola, South Australia. Then I came back to Sydney to commence my journey with the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart. I am one of the younger professed members of the Congregation.

My studies in both Aged Care and in Early Childhood have enriched me in my Professional Development to work with the young and old.

In November 2016 I started as a Volunteer in the Pastoral Care Team at Mary MacKillop Place. Since 20th August 2018 this has become my fulltime ministry. My role is to co-ordinate the Pastoral Care Office, to ensure that all requests for materials such as prayers and Novenas are sent by mail, email and phone, to respond to other people's requirements, and to give support to whatever or wherever there is a need. Once, a priest teased me, "you are a messenger of God – sending prayers to God".

A few people asked me, "Are you a Sister? You look young!", or "Why did you choose to be a Sister?" I replied, "God's Call".

The highlights of my ministry as part of the Pastoral Care team are:

- Involving the heart of God's mission to bring hope, faith, consolation and healing.
- Being a story-teller about God's love and mercy, and Saint Mary MacKillop's stories.
- Being and working with people from a diversity of multicultural backgrounds.
- Listening to people's stories, praying with them in their struggles and pain, and celebrating their joys and happiness.
- Encountering pilgrims from everywhere, and whatever religion they happen to be. They are all welcomed in the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel.

Every day I encounter a surprising God through nature and people.

While not a professional I am quite skilled with the computer. I am also creative and enjoy making works of art and organ-playing.

A recent art work is to support refugees for Christmas. The art works are located at the Reception of the Museum and Anderledy Lodge. Please help the refugees by sharing your generous support for them.



Please feel free to meet with me if you would like to know more about my Josephite life and ministry. I am also willing to be there to help you if you prefer speaking the Vietnamese language.

Sr Xuan Trang Nguyen rsj

REFUSAL OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Mary MacKillop Place has embraced the REFUSAL of single use plastics. We have removed almost all our single use plastics from our Café, Conference and Accommodation centre. We aim to be totally single use plastics free.

So far, we have stopped using plastic straws, cups, cutlery and have reduced our use of plastic bags. Plastic is forever, it doesn't return to the earth, it only pollutes it. Plastics poison our food chain, plastics affect human health, disposable plastics are the main source of plastic pollution, plastic recycling is not enough, plastic pollution is massive, global and urgent.

We ask that you act TODAY, by reducing or stopping your use of single use plastics. Feel good knowing you are helping.



Choose one or all of the following:

1. Say no to takeaway coffee cups
2. Say no to plastic bags
3. Say no to plastic straws
4. Say no to take away containers
5. Say no to plastic cutlery and plates.



Go even further - try one or all of the ideas below:

1. Bamboo toothbrush
2. Beeswax wraps
3. Shampoo bar
4. Keep cup
5. Metal razor.



It's time to change - we have at Mary MacKillop Place, now it's your turn.

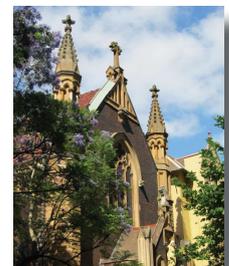
Please help our Planet, we only have one!

The Legacy of Mary MacKillop Place -a place of Pilgrimage

Would you like to continue Mary MacKillop's legacy and ensure that her legacy and that of the Sisters of St Joseph continues into the future?

Your gift is welcome now, or you might consider regular monthly gifts, or a bequest in your will.

If you are interested in supporting Mary MacKillop Place, please contact trish.downey@mmp.org.au for more information.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE MUSEUM

Here we are at the end of another year and there is much to reflect on and be grateful for in all that has been, including the School Holiday Family Fun activities that went off with great success during the second week of the October school holidays.



A one hour guided Museum tour enabled families to engage with Mary MacKillop's story and gave the opportunity for the children to complete the Bobs the Dog Trail. This was followed by

an hour of activities in the temporary exhibition room. Be sure to keep an eye out for the School Holiday Family Fun that will be offered in 2019.

Between 29th October and 2nd November Blue Whale Theatre performed *Mary: A Story of Courage* in the Isobel Menton Theatre. The play depicts the childhood influences in Mary MacKillop's youth, her pivotal experiences and achievements in early adulthood, and finally her later life and the legacy she left behind. Five schools enjoyed this educational opportunity and were able to consolidate this experience by going through the Museum and visiting the Chapel and Mary's tomb.

This year we have welcomed thousands of visitors from all walks of life, including over 120 schools, who have engaged with Mary and Julian's story. Whether from down the road at St Aloysius, Milson's Point, or from St Joseph's, Beagle Bay, WA, there has been incredible opportunities for immersion in the rich legacy of Australia's First Saint.

This would not be possible without our dedicated team of Volunteer Guides who give so generously of their time in bringing the Josephite story to life.

2019 looks to be another exciting year with continued opportunities for engagement at Mary MacKillop Place – a place that is truly *Out of the Ordinary*.

Sr Anne-Marie Gallagher rsj, Museum Educator

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GIFT SHOP



Saint Mary MacKillop Christmas Cards

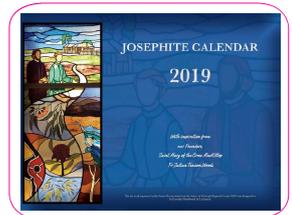
It's time again to fulfil the Christmas tradition of sending greeting cards to everyone you love, wishing them Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We've just produced a beautiful St Mary MacKillop

Christmas Card which is available singly at \$3.50 or in a pack of 5 for \$15. St Mary MacKillop's Christmas wishes are featured inside each card as well as Christmas Blessings in Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese and Arabic, making this card ideal to send to family and friends overseas.

2019 Josephite Calendar

Family and friends will be delighted if presented with this beautiful and inspiring calendar as a Christmas gift. Inside you will find inspirational quotes from the co-founders - Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods. The Calendar also features wonderful photographs taken by the Sisters and Associates, significant dates in Josephite History, contact details of Centres in Australia & New Zealand and much more, for only \$8.50.

For all merchandise visit the MMP Gift Shop, order via email museum.shop@mmp.org.au or call 02 89124894.



SPOTLIGHT ON ANDERLEDY LODGE

THINKING ABOUT NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS?



We are walking distance from Blues Point Reserve and we still have rooms available from \$350 per night! Contact our guest services team for more details:

anderledy.reservations@mmp.org.au, 89124800



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OUT OF THE *Ordinary*

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