



## MARY MACKILLOP PLACE NEWSLETTER • EASTER 2017

### The Three Days – Easter Triduum

For the past six weeks we have been journeying through Lent, a time of conversion, of turning our hearts more consciously towards God and growing in appreciation of the great love God has for each of us and for all creation.

Now we enter upon the Three Days, or Easter Triduum, which is the foundation of our liturgical year. It is at the Easter Triduum that we remember and celebrate the mystery of salvation in which Jesus Christ passed through suffering and death to new life.

During this time we have the opportunity celebrate the gifts of life and love that come to humanity and the world from our God; to choose life, with all its risks and uncertainties; to look upon others as a gift and blessing, as we, like Jesus, bend to gently hold and wash feet; to embrace and venerate the wood of the cross, which became, not death, but the tree of life; to light the new fire of Easter, remember God's great acts of creation and salvation as told in our sacred stories, and then be nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ.

This one great event is celebrated over three moments, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. Gathering on the evening of Holy Thursday we are not dismissed until the conclusion of the Easter Vigil.

The resurrection that we celebrate on Easter Sunday calls us to announce and live the new life that comes from

the empty grave. It is about lives transformed by Jesus' rising and what happens to us as we live this transformed life. The risen Jesus is alive in us every time we stand with the crucified peoples of our day and we work to break the hold of death-dealing powers.

We invite you to join us at Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel for the celebration of the Three Days – Easter Triduum:

*13th April, Holy Thursday:*

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7.30pm

*14th April, Good Friday:*

Morning Prayer - 9.30am

Celebration of the Passion - 3.00pm

*15th April, Holy Saturday:*

Morning Prayer - 9.30am; Easter Vigil - 7.30pm

*16th April, Easter Sunday:* Mass - 10.00am

*17th April, Easter Monday:* Mass - 9.00am



Annie Bond rsj  
Assistant Director -  
Faith & Liturgy

### INSIDE ►



LEGACY OF MARY MACKILLOP

A message from  
**SISTER  
COLLEEN**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



# A message from SISTER COLLEEN

In these first few months of 2017 the changing weather patterns have been an ongoing topic of conversation. Here in Sydney we have experienced record summer temperatures and record rain levels and similar patterns have been repeated in many other parts of the country. For me it highlights our need to reflect again on the words of Pope Francis in his Encyclical *Laudato Si*:

*The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life. A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, by an increase in extreme weather events, even if a scientifically determinable cause cannot be assigned to each particular phenomenon. Humanity is called to recognise the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. [Par#23]*



Here at Mary MacKillop Place, we participated in Earth Hour which we believe is one practical way by which we can respond to the needs of our time. The Earth Hour story highlights the fact that –



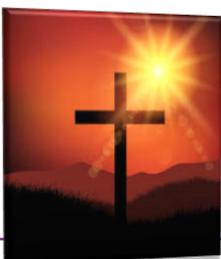
*More than ever, our actions on climate change today will shape the future for our children. Since they were born, our children have been taught to be active recyclers, aware of renewable power alternatives, and informed about the effects of pollution on our planet. They know more about climate change than any other generation. And they have extraordinary views on what they want for their planet. Yet our future is under threat from rising temperatures and more extreme weather. Small changes to our climate as a result of increased carbon pollution are messing up the delicate balance of nature that we enjoy so much.*

We at Mary MacKillop Place, along with everyone else need to continue to find ways to respond to the cry of Earth, to examine our practices and make a concerted effort to bring about change.

Since the Mary MacKillop Place Museum opened in 1995 there have been a number of changes and refurbishments. It is important that what we offer to our school groups and individuals visiting the Museum is in keeping with changing educational practices and variety in telling the story. In February 2017 we began a refurbishment in Gallery 1. The Diorama and Mining Exhibition is being replaced with murals capturing those early foundations of the Congregation. A new showcase will be included to display artefacts related to other aspects of the early story. The refurbishment will hopefully be completed mid-year.

On March 18th Father Paul Gardiner sj passed from this life to his eternal resting place. Many of you will know that Fr Gardiner made a significant contribution to Mary MacKillop's cause for sainthood. He was the initial Postulator who thoroughly researched the events of her life required by Rome, and which was eventually published in a book *An Extraordinary Australian* Mary MacKillop. The Sisters of St Joseph will always be grateful to Fr Gardiner for his wonderful commitment to Mary MacKillop. I have no doubt that Mary welcomed him into the communion of saints and may he rest in peace.

March 19th saw the end of the Sesquicentenary Year of the Sisters of St Joseph. The many celebrations held nationally and internationally to mark this occasion acknowledged the contribution the Sisters have made to education and to the life of the Church wherever they have ministered. Thank you to our Friends for the continued support of us and our ministries into the future.



As you read this newsletter Lent is almost over and we are moving towards the Easter Triduum. My prayer is that we will all be touched by the grace of this Easter Season and reflect the Light of Christ in our world. Happy Easter!

Colleen Keeble rsj, Director

# Happenings in 2017

Retreat Programme at Mary MacKillop Place:

- \* Minding the Mysteries that Matter - Holy Week 9th - 16th April;
- \* Contemplative Prayer Weekends - Offering a contemplative environment and experience of different prayer practices - 16th - 18th June and 24th - 26th November;

Feast Day, 8th August :

Masses 8am, 10 am, 1 pm.  
 Pedestrian entry via 80 William Street, (wheelchair access via Museum Gates, 7 Mount Street).  
 Chapel open for private prayer & visits to Mary MacKillop's Tomb: 9 am - 4.30 pm  
 Museum open (free admission 8th August) 9 am - 4 pm

Enquiries: please see the Website: [www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au)

## Australian National Pilgrimage:

The Sisters of St Joseph offer you the opportunity to journey to significant places in Australia made holy by St Mary MacKillop.

Commencing in Melbourne on 8th November we experience the early life of Mary and the MacKillop Family.

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

We continue to Adelaide where Mary professed her vows as a Sister of St 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.

Further information please contact:  
 Australian Pilgrimage Co-Ordinator  
 Tel: 02 89124818

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS APRIL - JUNE 2017



### APRIL

5	Lenten Programme - last session, 11 am - 12 noon
8	8th of Month Masses - Chapel 8 am, 10 am, 1 pm
9	Palm Sunday Mass - Chapel 10 am
9 - 16	Holy Week Retreat - Mary MacKillop Place, 9 - 16 April
11	Sacrament of Anointing - Chapel 11.30 am
13	Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30 pm
14	Good Friday Morning Prayer - Chapel 9.30 am Celebration of the Passion - Chapel 3 pm (Museum closed, Cafe & Gift Shop closed)

### APRIL (cont'd)

15	Holy Saturday Morning Prayer - Chapel 9.30 am Easter Vigil - Chapel 7.30 pm
16	Easter Sunday Mass Chapel 10 am
17	Easter Monday Mass Chapel 9 am
25	Anzac Day Mass - Chapel 9 am
27	Thursdays Live @ the Museum - series commences: ACU drama students unearth & enact hidden stories behind Museum artefacts- Museum 10am - 2 pm

### MAY

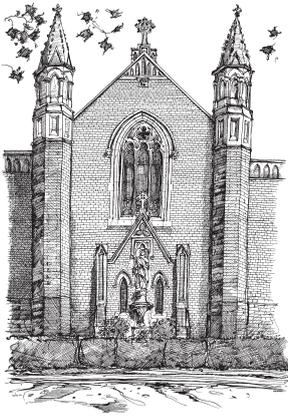
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Lectio Divina Prayer experience 11 am - 12 noon, weekly in May (Wednesdays)
4, 11, 18, 25	Thursdays Live @ the Museum - ACU drama students enact hidden stories behind Museum Artefacts, 10 am - 2 pm

### MAY (cont'd)

27	National Reconciliation Week commences: 27 May - 3 June
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### JUNE

7, 14, 21, 28	Lectio Divina Prayer experience 11 am - 12 noon, weekly in June (Wednesdays)
13	Sacrament of Anointing - Chapel 11.30 am
16 - 18	Contemplative Prayer weekend, Mary MacKillop Place
23	Solemnity of the Sacred Heart Mass - Chapel 8 am
16/12 - 31/7	Museum - Botanical Room open until 31 July for all visitors to create drawings or contribute to the community mural drawing project.



# A LIFE OUT OF THE *Ordinary*

by Sister M Blandina O'Donnell 15/12/1925

Sr M Blandina O'Donnell was a novice at Mount St North Sydney and had the privilege of being instructed by Mother Mary (Mary of the Cross MacKillop). She says,

"I had the happiest and rare privilege of making my noviceship under the direction of Mother Mary of the Cross and during that time and up to her death I ever regarded her as a saint."

Sr M Blandina spoke of receiving instruction on Religious life and remembered Mother Mary speaking of the Religious vocation as "the high dignity to which it pleased our dear Lord to call us poor and weak sinful mortals." Sr M Blandina said that Mother Mary spoke persuasively when she asked the novices, "Now, my dear Sisters what are you going to do for the dear Sacred Heart in return? Are you ready to give to Him your whole heart, not a divided one? Are you ready to bear for His dear sake all the little crosses and contradictions to be daily met with during your Religious Life in atonement for your own sins and those of a wicked world? If you are ready to make this sacrifice then I say to you, my own dear Sisters, thank God for the great grace given to you, and go steadily on, until it pleases our dear, sweet Jesus to make you His own - His very own - the beloved Spouse of His most Sacred Heart."

"Often when speaking thus, our dearest Mother would stop to wipe away the tears shed through her intense gratitude to God for the grace of her vocation to Religious Life."

When asked what virtues she remembered most about Mother Mary, Sister Blandina said humility and charity were the virtues that characterised Mother Mary. She recalled Mother Mary saying, "My own dear Sisters be humble - humble in mind humble in word. Never let boasting come from the lips of a poor humble Sister of St Joseph. Let the humility of the holy home of Nazareth be ever present to you."

Sister Blandina remembered Mother Mary saying, "Love one another, help one another, pray for one another. Let no one pass without performing some little act of charity." She also recalled that Mother Mary was very firm when a principle was at stake. She recounted a story of a novice who had transgressed one of the rules in a serious matter but given several opportunities failed to admit the fault. When the novice concerned finally knelt and acknowledged her fault she "was raised, embraced and quiet unnecessary to say - was heartily forgiven and restored to her former place in our dearest Mother's heart."

*Extract from "Memories of Mother Mary by those who knew her. Sisters of St Joseph 1925 -1926" [Page 76] © 2010 Trustees of the Sisters of St Joseph, John Garrett Publishers.*

## *Stories from* THE GUEST BOOK

"Four of us visited Mary MacKillop Place. We were greeted by a volunteer who explained in detail the Museum, Chapel, Alma Cottage and the old School House, and how life was back in the 1800s."

"Mary MacKillop Place is highly recommended for a visit irrespective of one's faith. The Chapel, the resting place of St Mary MacKillop, is a great place to stop and reflect. You feel a sense of holiness and belonging when you enter this church."

"The Café/Shop was a good place to finish before heading back into the hustle & bustle of the CBD. People serving were very friendly."

"My first time here this afternoon and it just took my breath away. I visited the Museum, the Galleries and Alma Cottage, before spending time in the beautiful Chapel for some quiet reflection. I loved visiting Mary MacKillop Place. Allow 2 hours."

"Quiet, comfortable apartment, close to cafes, restaurants and railway. Set in gardens and ideal for a short or longer stay with continental breakfast included. I am so glad I discovered this place."

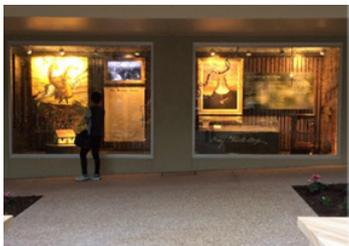


“ Simple surroundings, peaceful and spiritual. ”

# Stories from THE CURATOR'S OFFICE

## New Partnership with Brisbane Archdiocese

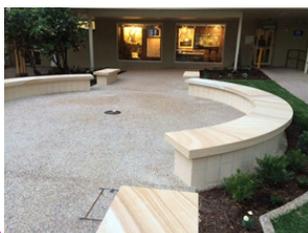
The newly refurbished precinct at St Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane has provided a unique opportunity for visitors to learn about the Queensland foundations of the Sisters of St Joseph.



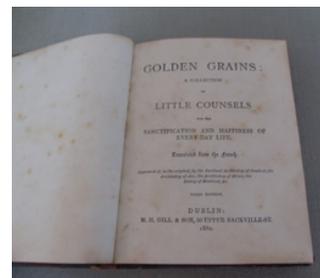
The window displays honour the Sesquicentenary Year of the Sisters of St Joseph, which commenced on 19th March 2016.

The site has been enhanced by the permanent display of original artefacts and a multimedia presentation representing significant sites in the history of the Congregation.

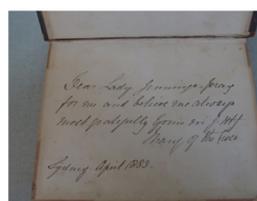
The Diocese of Brisbane commissioned Brandi Projects to undertake the design and fitout of the display windows visible from the grounds. Mary MacKillop Place Museum provided the loan of objects and assistance in the design and customised housing of the objects.



The ongoing collaboration with the Archdiocese of Brisbane will involve the annual renewal of the display with further objects to be loaned by the Museum. The Museum is delighted to have the opportunity to share this unique collection with Queensland.



Objects on loan from the Museum include a rare 1880 printed prayer book, "Golden Grains- A Collection of Little Counsels for the Sanctification and Happiness of Everyday Life", which was a gift from Mary MacKillop to a friend and prominent figure of the late 1800s, Lady Mary Ann Jennings [1847-1883]. The inscription in the inside cover in Mary



MacKillop's handwriting reads: "Dear Lady Jennings pray for me and believe me always most gratefully yours in J.M.J. Mary of the Cross. Sydney, April 1883."

Lady Jennings was the wife of Sir Patrick Jennings [1831- 1897] a pastoralist, politician and the first Catholic Premier of NSW. Lady Jennings was a philanthropist and supporter of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the Poor Clares, and the Sisters of Charity.



Mother Mary attended Lady Jennings' funeral as reported in *The Sydney Morning Herald* on 5th March 1889. Upon Lady Jennings' death at the age of 41, the book was returned to Mother Mary and later became part of the Mother House Collection.

It was transferred to the newly established Mary MacKillop Place Museum in 1994.

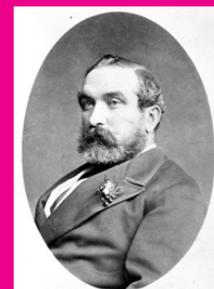
Edwina Huntley  
MMP Museum Curator

## A NETWORK OF FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

In the 1880s a number of charitable organisations including Catholic religious orders operated in The Rocks area of Sydney. The Sisters of St Joseph arrived in June 1880 to work alongside the Marist Brothers and Sisters of Mercy, with the prominent business and political figures of the day.

Among this prominent group were Sir Patrick and Lady Jennings, and Charles Gordon O'Neill founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society and friend of Sir Patrick. These figures were supporters of the Sisters of St Joseph and collaborated in charitable ventures and in advocating for improved living conditions for residents in the city of Sydney.

The Sisters of St Joseph benefited from Charles O'Neill's fundraising for the Providence Home for orphans and the aged in Cumberland Street, The Rocks. Charles wrote from Paris that 40 pounds had been raised for the home as a result of such efforts.



Thus a prosperous community with a healthy band of volunteers provided the backing the Sisters needed in funding charitable works.

# Stories from THE CURATOR'S OFFICE

## OBJECT SPOTLIGHT

Work behind the scenes has generated much activity as the Museum prepares to launch a new permanent exhibition later this year.

The exhibition will feature a section on the scientific observations and discoveries of the Rev Julian Tenison Woods, co-founder of the Sisters of St Joseph, which underpinned his lifelong study of the natural sciences.

A sneak peek at what will be on exhibition includes artefacts that have not previously been available to the public.

One such item is The Clarke Medal awarded to Rev Tenison Woods F.L.S. for the completion of a research paper in 1888. The title of the paper was "The Anatomy and Life History of Molluscs" [peculiar to Australia]. The medal was awarded by the Royal Society of NSW, Sydney, founded in 1821.

This medal was given to the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in 1974 by the family of Father Julian Wood's eldest brother.

The Clarke Medal is awarded each year for distinguished research in the natural sciences conducted in the Australian Commonwealth and its territories. It is the oldest of Australia's scientific medals.



The medal is named in honour of Reverend William Branwhite Clarke, an Anglican clergyman and eminent geologist.

We look forward to welcoming our visitors to this new section of the gallery and sharing the legacy of Father Julian Tenison Woods as a man of faith and science.

For further information, please visit [www.marymackillopplace.org.au/museum](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/museum)

## Mary MacKillop Place Museum: Botanical Room inspired by the works of Fr Julian Tenison Woods, Scientist & Naturalist



# Stories from THE FIELD

## MMP Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator

Marie McAlister rsj

I have been in this Ministry now for one year and have found it both a very spiritual experience and an enlightening one. Spiritual: this being the burial place of our Australian Saint Mary MacKillop, now a place of Pilgrimage, can't help but inspire one seeing the faith of those who approach the Tomb with such reverence. Enlightening: I have been a Sister of St Joseph for 50 years and I am on a continual learning curve with the history and knowledge of those Sisters I meet who visit us here at MMP.

I worked for 7 years as a Pastoral Associate in Holbrook Parish in the Wagga Wagga Diocese before I arrived at MMP. I was one of those who belonged to the Federation Josephites in the Goulburn branch of the Congregation and I experienced the great joy of FUSION. Coming to Sydney gave me an opportunity to delve more into the family of which I had become a part.

Life is always a day to day experience and I try to live in the moment of grace as best I can. I am inspired by those who try to live in the NOW rather than the past or future, but as always for me failing and beginning again is part of reality. Meeting those who

come to the Chapel is forever reminding me of the privilege of being in such a Ministry *where one sees the visible sign of faith.*

Last year I hosted a visit from the Staff of St Patrick's School Holbrook. The Principal, Kelly Humphrey says: "Sister Marie explained her new role and what her work as the Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator entails. We truly can see the spirit working through Marie in her passion and support for people in need. She was generous with her time and guided our team around the Mary MacKillop Chapel for prayer and reflection. St Patrick's staff arrived on a rainy Sydney morning to the warm embrace of the Sisters' hospitality. We were privileged to see the inner workings of Mary MacKillop Place and the work that the Sisters do across our country and the world. We met many inspirational women, each of whom make the love of Christ present in their words, thoughts and actions. As Sister Marie unpacked for us more about the Josephite spirituality and the work embraced by the Sisters at Mary MacKillop Place, we were reminded of the power of prayer. The intercession, inspiration, hope, transformation and the uplifting power that collective prayer can provide is amazing. Each staff member took time in silent reflection and prayer time in this significant place - this was a highlight of day."

The role of Pastoral Care is to be a Listening Ear for anyone who requests it. We aim to make the Chapel a place where people come and find a welcome place of peace. I am blessed to have a wonderful band of people who fill their roles with great generosity and enthusiasm.

## MMP ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

It's not easy but Mary MacKillop Place and others are trying to improve our environment. Single use plastics, especially plastic bags are being targeted as a major environmental problem

Countries such as China, South Africa, Uganda, Somalia, Rwanda Botswana, Kenya & Ethiopia have implemented plastic bag bans.

India's capital city Delhi has introduced a ban on disposable plastic. Cutlery, bags, cups and other forms of single-use plastic were prohibited by the National Green Tribunal (NGT). There is particular concern in the country about the amount of plastic waste it produces.

According to the Times of India, it is responsible for an astonishing 60 per cent of the plastic that is dumped in the world's oceans every year.

In Australia, plastic bag bans exist in South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the ACT. The Queensland Government will ban single-use plastic shopping bags from 2018, and will not wait for other eastern states to do the same.

Here at Mary MacKillop Place we have removed plastic bags from almost all garbage bins. We have removed single use plastics from our conference centre, and we are continuing the removal of single use plastics from other areas.

Let's all get behind the removal of single use plastics from our lives.



## 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@sosj.org.au](mailto:trish.downey@sosj.org.au) for more information.*



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE MUSEUM

The Mary MacKillop Place Museum holds over 10,000 objects with Indigenous items that date back to pre-colonial times in Australia, and European items that date back to the 17th Century.

The collection includes objects, documents, art, books, ephemera, costumes, relics and domestic furnishings and items housed in historic Alma Cottage, built in 1855. The collection has a focus on objects owned by the MacKillop family and Julian Tenison Woods, as well as items that were the property of Sisters of St Joseph, friends, associates and church leaders. Objects that reflect the story of Catholicism in Australia are also well represented.

The collection is displayed across three galleries and Alma Cottage on the Mary MacKillop Place site, whilst other items are housed in the Collection Store.

*We invite you to visit the  
Mary MacKillop Place Museum,  
7 Mount Street, North Sydney.*

*For more information please contact us:  
Tel 02 89124878 or  
Email [mackillop@sosj.org.au](mailto: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 St Mary located at Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel in North Sydney. Only \$32.95 each.

Order yours fast as stock runs out very quickly!

### St Mary MacKillop Rose Bush

The St Mary MacKillop Rose Bush is a seasonal product available only from June to August each year. Delivery service is available within Australia. Numbers are limited each season so call us in May to pre-order yours.



For all merchandise, please visit the MMP Gift Shop in North Sydney. Orders may be placed online:  
[www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au)  
by email [mmp.shop@sosj.org.au](mailto:mmp.shop@sosj.org.au), or  
telephone 02 8912 4894.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ANDERLEDY LODGE

Easter Promotion

14 April - 22 April

10% off single/shared bathroom

20% off all the other room types



MARY MACKILLOP PLACE

OUT OF THE *Ordinary*

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