



## MARY MACKILLOP PLACE NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2017

### National Pilgrimage - In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop

There is a quote on Mary MacKillop's Tomb which reads "We are but travellers here." Mary was very aware of life as a journey, made up of many smaller journeys, both actual and metaphorical. The one great journey is that of moving toward the fullness of our relationship with God, which we call 'heaven'. The National Pilgrimage: In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop is one of these smaller journeys.

For those of us who lead the National Pilgrimage the experience is ever-new. Pilgrims often share with us their reasons for coming on pilgrimage. We are privileged to share their journey for this short while, knowing that we are all now intertwined in each other's story.

As we journey we must "let go" of the certainties of life, opening ourselves to receive the gifts and challenges of the unknown. This "letting go" was a constant in Mary's life as she opened herself to what God wanted to do in her. She called this 'doing God's Will.'

Spending time in places significant to Mary's journey provided us with the opportunity to increase our knowledge of Mary's story.

Prayer and reflection allowed us the time to go beyond her journey into our own.

In our Pilgrimage Book we read, "May all making this pilgrimage know her as companion and friend as, like her, we journey into our hearts and open them to God."

*Mary Cresp rsj*

This year we were blest to journey with 33 Pilgrims from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

We invite you to consider joining the 2018 Pilgrimage which commences in Melbourne on 24th October and concludes in Sydney on Saturday 3rd November.

Full details will be available by March 2018. In the meantime, if you would like to have a conversation about the National Pilgrimage please ring Therese Leydon rsj on 02 8912 4845 or Annie Bond rsj on 02 8912 4818.

Annie Bond rsj

Assistant Director -

responsible for Faith & Liturgy

### INSIDE ►



LEGACY OF MARY MACKILLOP

A message from  
**SISTER  
COLLEEN**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



A message from

# SISTER COLLEEN

Recently we celebrated the annual Mass of Thanksgiving for our Mary MacKillop Place Volunteers. As I was preparing for the day I pondered the question 'why volunteer?', 'what is it that motivates people to volunteer their time and services for no monetary reward?' There are hundreds of thousands of people throughout Australia who are part of the volunteer brigade. They make an extraordinary contribution to society, they come from all walks of life and share their skills and experiences in many ways. Our life would be so different without volunteers.



Being a volunteer is a great way to keep active and enhance health, to meet new people and maybe broaden social circles, to learn new skills and develop new interests. It can be an expression of gratitude for the good experiences of life received and a willingness to give something back for the good of society. It is an opportunity to make a real difference in the community.

Here at Mary MacKillop Place volunteers are a significant part of our Mission and their contribution makes a very real difference to what we are able to offer. Whether it is in the Museum, Café and Gift Shop, Chapel, supporting administrative/clerical duties, folding Mass leaflets, clearing cob-webs, cutting and laminating signs....., no task is unimportant and is done with the willingness to assist in the overall function of the day-to-day activities. In responding to these needs, each individual volunteer is living out her/his commitment with generosity and enthusiasm. Our volunteers also assist in special events like the National Youth Festival, when approximately 2,000 young people will be making a pilgrimage to the Chapel on December 9th. The motivation of our volunteers is love of Mary MacKillop. On our Website she is described in the following way - *Mary MacKillop was an ordinary person who lived an extraordinary life, an unconventional life that saw her triumph over adversities and obstacles placed in her way.* She truly was a woman who lived her life out of the ordinary. The volunteers, inspired by her life, uphold her values and continue her legacy in ordinary ways that are 'out of the ordinary.' Mary herself said *'we have much for which to be thankful'* [1873] and we continue to give thanks for our volunteers, the women and men, who give so generously of themselves in living out the Mission of Mary MacKillop Place.

Upon reading my ponderings, you may feel an urge to be part of this dynamic group of people yourself. If you do, you can make enquiries with our Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteer.coord@mmp.org.au](mailto:volunteer.coord@mmp.org.au).



As 2017 comes to a close, we once again prepare to celebrate the mystery of God's love for us. The strong emphasis on the commercial and secular aspects of gift-giving can sometimes overshadow the real gifts of Christmas - peace, joy, love, gratitude, goodwill. Christmas can be a time of loneliness, exclusion and isolation for some and it can also be a time of violence, suffering and neglect. Let us take time to reflect on how each of us can be the gift of God's love and peace wherever our journey of life takes us this Christmas.

In gratitude for all the graces received at Mary MacKillop Place through the support of donors, volunteers and staff, in the words of Mary MacKillop

*"With all my heart,  
I wish you a very happy Christmas  
And a bright and happy New Year" 1899*

Colleen Keeble rsj,  
Director.

# Christmas in the Chapel 2017

*Carols and Christmas Vigil Mass - 7 pm, 24th December*

*Christmas Mass  
9 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](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au)*

# Spirituality 2018

Lenten Programme -

Wednesdays during Lent: 14, 21, 28 February,  
7, 14, 21 March, 11 am - 12 noon

Easter Triduum -

Holy Thursday, 29 March

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30 pm

Good Friday, 30 March

Morning Prayer, 9.30am

Celebration of the Passion, 3pm  
*(Museum closed, Cafe & Gift Shop closed)*

Holy Saturday, 31 March

Morning Prayer, 9.30 am

Easter Vigil, 7.30 pm

Easter Sunday, 1 April - Mass, 10 am

The Francis Effect -

A series of 4 Saturdays in 2018:

28 April, 26 May, 22 September, 27 October,  
10 am - 12 noon.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - DECEMBER 2017- MARCH 2018



### DECEMBER

- 3 Scripture Readings & Carols Chapel - 12 noon - 1.15 pm
- 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 8th of Month Masses - Chapel 8 am, 10 am, 1 pm
- 9 National Youth Festival - Pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel
- 12 Sacrament of Anointing - Chapel 11.30 am
- 24 Carols and Christmas Vigil Mass - Chapel 7 pm
- 25 Christmas Mass 9 am (Chapel closed after Mass; Museum, Café closed)
- 26 Boxing Day (Chapel, Museum, Café closed)
- 31 Feast of the Holy Family Mass Chapel 10 am

### JANUARY

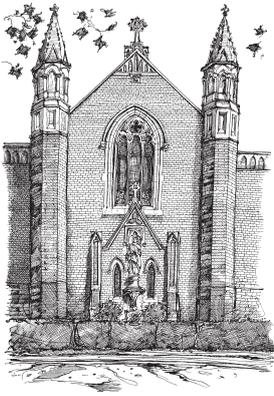
- 1 Mass - 9 am: Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God; New Year's Day, (Chapel closed after 9 am Mass; Museum and Café closed)
- 2 Museum Exhibition: Imaging the Margin: Journeys, Borders and Living on the Edge, daily until 28 February, 10am - 4 pm
- 8 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, 8th of Month Masses - 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
- 14 Ash Wednesday Mass - Chapel 8 am, 1 pm
- 14, 21, 28. Lenten Programme - Wednesdays during Lent 11 am - 12 noon

### MARCH

- 7, 14, 21 Lenten Programme continues 11 am - 12 noon
- 8 8th of Month Masses - Chapel 8 am, 10 am, 1 pm
- 17 Solemnity of St Patrick
- 19 Solemnity of St Joseph Mass - Chapel 8 am
- 25 Palm Sunday Mass - Chapel 10 am
- 25/3-1/4 Holy Week Retreat - Virginia Bourke rsj & Mary MacKillop Place Ministries 25 March - 1 Apr
- 29 Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30 pm
- 30 Good Friday Morning Prayer - Chapel 9.30 am  
Celebration of the Passion - Chapel 3pm  
(Museum closed, Cafe & Gift Shop closed)
- 31 Holy Saturday Morning Prayer - Chapel 9.30 am  
Easter Vigil - Chapel 7.30 pm



# A LIFE OUT OF THE *Ordinary*

The 2017 Volunteers have kept up the great tradition that began before the Mary MacKillop Place Museum opened in 1995. This year, the volunteers have given most of their precious hours in either the Café or the Museum as guides. We do however have a quiet band of administrative volunteers who work 'behind the scenes' entering data in various departments and pricing goods. We often think as an individual we don't make a difference but when we look at our Vteam we can see the old adage "many hands make light work" become a reality. In 2017 our Vteam up to 31 October has given 1,180 hours, and 245,626 since the records began in 1995. The Director and Board recently commissioned a Thanksgiving Mass and Luncheon to thank the Vteam. As always not everyone was able to attend, but we were blessed to have many members of the Vteam present to celebrate the gifts of 2017. At this celebration we were able to acknowledge the effort of volunteers who reached milestones of service:

*100 hours Mrs Chen Ong, Mrs Barbara Smith, Sr Marge Candrick, Mrs Teresa Leung and Mrs Rosemary Chung.*

*250 hours Sr Helen Madden, Mr Carl and Mrs Yvette Jonathan and Sr Sylvia Markulin.*

*500 hours Ms Julie Grey, Sr Flo Snell, Mrs Irene Cheung, Mrs Christine Harrison and Sr Xuan Trang Nguyen.*

*750 hours Mr Tua Federico, Sr Christina O'Connor and Sr Margaret Keane.*

*1000 hours Mrs Violi Calvert, Ms Lynette Hyman, Mrs Noha Nicolas, Sr Catherine Histon, Mrs Beena Jose and Mrs Bella Vila.*

*2000 hours Mrs Zulma Gonzales.*

*3000 hours Mrs Margaret McCafferty and Sr Tess Egan.*

*4000 hours Ms Janet McCauley.*

*5000 hours Sr Connie Cummings (seen here receiving her Certificate of Service from Sr Colleen Keeble)*



We now have two members in our 5,000 club: Mrs Céline Steele and Sr Connie Cummings.

Any organisation would be proud of such a magnificent effort. We thank all our Vteam members for their dedication, service and continued support in ensuring the Legacy of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop lives on.

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*Niesha Allport rsj,  
Co-Ordinator of Volunteers*

## *Stories from* THE GUEST BOOK

*"Visited this afternoon to see my local museum; I have lived in the area for 27 years and this was my first visit..... a nice quaint museum with some small galleries, gardens, and the Chapel. I spent an hour just reading the notes on the exhibits and walking around the property. I felt amazingly uplifted, sitting alone in front of St Mary's resting place in the Chapel and I felt at peace there. I was really interested in learning about the struggles and determination of St Mary and the Sisters of St Joseph and their utter conviction in doing the Lord's work in difficult circumstances."*

*"Mary MacKillop Place Museum is a must do!! What an amazing woman she was. Accommodation also available here. Large rooms with everything you need. Walking distance from North Sydney Train station (up hill though). Take time to visit the Chapel and Mary MacKillop's resting place."*

*"The staff are super friendly and helpful."*

*"I will definitely come back again."*



*“ Simple surroundings, peaceful and spiritual. ”*

# Stories from

## THE CURATOR'S OFFICE

### DECODING OUR PAST: A MEMORIAL

Visitors and guests staying at Anderledy Lodge will notice the display case in the foyer containing items from the Sisters of St Joseph collection. It is designed to highlight little known stories behind objects in the collection.

The current display of objects is the generous loan of the Isbister family. It is a privilege to share this family's history. This was made possible when a family member approached the Museum keen to see these items and the related stories concerning the connections between the Sisters and Dr Isbister, shared with the public.

In 2011 the Isbister family came to Mount Street for the opening of an exhibition entitled 'Dr James Linklater Thomas Isbister: A Life of Service to the Community - Stories from the Desk of Mary MacKillop's Physician'. Three generations of the family were present and John and James Isbister shared their father's story.

On a separate occasion a lunch-time talk was held in the rooms of Alma Cottage with John and James recalling stories of their father's connections to this site. Mary MacKillop resided in Alma Cottage until her death in 1909.

Dr Isbister was a resident of North Sydney and a frequent visitor to the Mount Street Convent. He was Mary MacKillop's general physician in the early 1900s and attended the Sisters at Mount Street and the Loretto Sisters in Kirribilli.

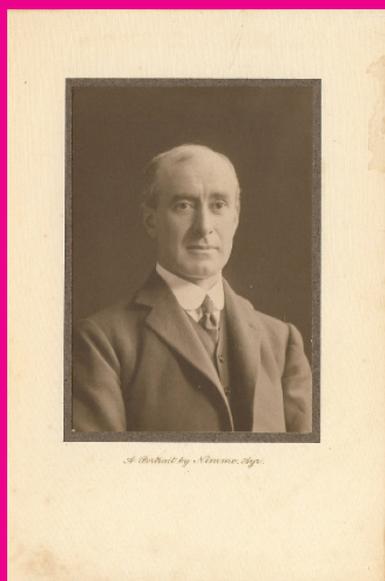
During this time Mary MacKillop had appointed Sr La Merci Mahony as her Assistant and Secretary. Dr Isbister met with Sr La Merci at Mount Street and communicated frequently by letter on the current health and wellbeing of Mother Mary MacKillop.

Dr Isbister wrote to Mother Mary on more than one occasion from Scotland after he visited the Orkney Islands in 1908.

Within the Sisters' collection a small and detailed memorial women's fob watch pendant was recently discovered. This small pendant has an engraved inscription honouring the life of Mother Mary and Sr La Merci Mahony which, in the context of this article, interlinks with the desk items belonging to Dr Isbister.

As Neil MacGregor, former Director of the British Museum says in his book 'A History of the World in 100 Objects', "things open up our world and our history to us. We decode our past through objects."

Edwina Huntley  
Curator  
Mary MacKillop Place Museum



Dr James Linklater Thomas Isbister (1869 - 1936), and a Bakelite/Crystal Inkwell which he used at his desk.

# Stories from THE CURATOR'S OFFICE

## OBJECT SPOTLIGHT

Fob Pendant inscribed [obverse] "To the Memory of" and on the reverse "Mother Foundress, Sister La Merci & The Giver, 1910."

It was designed to be worn attached to a fob watch chain either around the neck or attached to the waist. The watch has long since gone with the story of its wearer, but the pendant holds a connection to the dedication of the Sisters' lives of service to the Church.

Since Mother Mary of the Cross MacKillop's death in 1909, Sr La Merci Mahony (1859 - 1910) was the acting Mother General of the Congregation. A month before the General Chapter, Sr La Merci passed away.



*Sr La Merci Mahony*



*Fob Pendant - 9ct yellow gold shield with engraved lettering on both sides*

## SHOWCASING THE COLLECTION: GALLERY UPGRADE

In July the MMP Museum took delivery of a long-awaited showcase. Tashco Systems were commissioned to build the showcase which is now situated in the first gallery.

As part of the Museum's ongoing commitment to the preservation and conservation of the collection, this case is vital for ensuring that objects on display are housed to the environmental standards required for museum-grade conservation care.

The case will provide the flexibility to display a range of valuable and fragile objects that have not been previously displayed in the Museum.

This project is part of the staged upgrading of the gallery's casing and improvement of access to the collection.



*Specialist fitters on installation day.*



# Stories from THE FIELD

## *Sr Alma Pollard speaking about Volunteering at Mary MacKillop Place:*

Mary MacKillop Place welcomes numerous volunteers who generously give of their time and energy in the service of keeping the legacy of St Mary of the Cross alive. I have been privileged to belong to this team for the past eight years, spending one day each week away from my usual ministry with the Sisters and Residents in Aged Care, at Hunters Hill. It's a day I look forward to with enthusiasm, although it means rising extra early to be at North Sydney by 7:30am.

Once there, the many blessings of the day begin to flow. The peace and quietness at this hour is so special to spend in prayer and bring before God the needs of the many people who are to visit the Chapel during the day. I am often inspired by the faith of those who trickle in for the 8am Mass, or for a quick prayer on their way to work or to the nearby Australian Catholic University Campus.

For a number of years, I spent the time immediately after Mass in the Chapel being available for anyone who should seek assistance; this special time was so beautifully described by another Pastoral Care Volunteer in our August Newsletter. The remainder of my day is spent 'behind the scenes' assisting with the preparation of the Mass sheets that are used in the Chapel Liturgies.



This requires a certain degree of planning ahead, editing, counting and folding the various sheets when they are printed. The arranging of these in bundles in readiness for weekday, Sunday or Feast Day Liturgies is quite time consuming. It is a privilege and well worth the effort when I think of the hundreds who, each week, use these sheets for their prayer and in praise of our God.

At some time during the day I always find time to slip down to the Chapel to write a prayer of petition or prayer of thanksgiving for those at home who have asked me to remember them at the tomb of St Mary of the Cross. That little break is as refreshing as a cup of tea!

One of my personal prayers each week is to thank God for the privilege of being able to share in the life of Mary MacKillop Place.

*These behind the scenes activities of Sr Alma, like so many of our volunteers, enable staff members to complete other vital activities for the ongoing functioning of Mary MacKillop Place.*

*To all our 2017 Volunteers we say thank you!*

*Niesha Allport rsj,  
Co-Ordinator of Volunteers*

## **MMP ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS**

As the year draws to an end we reflect on what we have achieved and how we can do better.

We only have one planet, and here at Mary MacKillop Place, we are trying to lessen our impact on our environment.

We have implemented many new initiatives to help us achieve our goals, the largest of these are centred around the lessening of waste in the disposable world in which we live.

We ask that you join us in trying to reduce your impact as well. Is there something on the list below you could do?

1. Buy a Keep Cup, stop using disposable coffee cups.



*Keep Cups*

2. Use reusable shopping bags. Almost all States will ban the plastic bag next year, only NSW to go.

3. Buy products with little or no plastic packaging.

If we all try to change our daily habits, then our world will be a better place.

Change is happening, it just takes one person at a time to spare a thought for our environment.

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



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE MUSEUM

Exhibition: Imaging the Margin:  
Journeys, Borders and Living on the Edge  
*continues until 28 February 2018*



Our summer exhibition by Nathalie Hartog-Gautier and Penelope Lee is open!

Take time to contemplate in this space.

Join us over the festive session and beyond at the Museum.

Enjoy the gardens and the Café and Gift Shop  
*[just next door]* - your perfect holiday retreat.



*Mary MacKillop Place Museum,  
7 Mount Street, North Sydney.  
[museum@mmp.org.au](mailto:museum@mmp.org.au)*

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE GIFT SHOP



### 2018 Josephite Calendar

Family and friends will be delighted to receive this beautiful and inspiring calendar as a Christmas gift. Inside you will find inspirational writings and quotes from the Founders - St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods. The Calendar also features wonderful photographs, significant dates in Josephite History, contact details of Centres in Australia and New Zealand and much more, for only \$7.95.

### St Mary MacKillop Toile Bag

Celebrate Mary MacKillop's life when you purchase one of many wonderful Toile products available from our Gift Shop. Every high-quality Toile product is handmade by Josephite Sisters. This stunning gift, suitable as a handbag or shopping bag, measures approximately 40cm x 35cm and it's only \$24.95.



For all merchandise, please visit the MMP Gift Shop.  
Order by email [museum.shop@mmp.org.au](mailto:museum.shop@mmp.org.au) or telephone 02 8912 4894.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ANDERLEDY LODGE

### NEW YEAR'S EVE PROMOTION

Mary MacKillop Place New Year's Eve promotion:  
Within walking distance for NYE fireworks -  
Rates start from \$350 per night including breakfast  
\* Minimum 3 nights;  
\* Non-refundable 30% deposit upon confirmation.  
Contact us at Mary MacKillop Place, Anderledy Lodge Reception, [anderledy.reservations@mmp.org.au](mailto:anderledy.reservations@mmp.org.au).



MARY MACKILLOP PLACE

OUT OF THE *Ordinary*

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