



MARY MACKILLOP PLACE NEWSLETTER • CHRISTMAS 2019

Journeying to 2020

As you receive this edition of Musings we are coming towards the end of Advent. No doubt you are deep into preparations for celebrations on Christmas Day. We name Advent as a season of hope and expectation, both of which suggest "waiting", looking towards what will unfold, something new, something still to come. We think of a baby in the womb, the rising sun, the heat of Summer, the grey clouds promising rain. Waiting asks us to be patient, to gaze with intention, to be present to what is coming to birth.

We might ask for what it is that I or we wait? The answers may be many. As Christians we might answer the birth of Jesus and rightly so. But how do we understand this birth?

Each year as we "re-member" the birth of a child, vulnerable and dependent, we know that this child grew into manhood and came to know himself to be Son of God. We "re-member" and celebrate our abundant, generous God who in love became human as

we are human. The long-expected One has come, walks with us, calls and shows us how to be the presence of God in our world today.

We are called to:

work with the strength of the sun for Justice for all.

thirst for all that is True as the dry parched earth longs for rain.

shine out Peace that is as bright as our summer sky.

blaze like a fire with words that encourage and empower.

be inclusive of all, the poor, the rich, the refugee, the lost, the young, the old.

May this remembering call us to wonder and rejoice in our good and loving God.

May our lives be a blessing for each other and a world in need.

And as the star shone over Bethlehem, may the light of this star fill our homes and world with light and peace.

*Annie Bond rsj
Assistant Director - Ministries*



INSIDE:



LEGACY OF
MARY MACKILLOP

A message from
**SISTER
COLLEEN**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



A message from SISTER COLLEEN

Next year in October 2020 we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop. Over the years since the Beatification and more recently the Canonisation, there have been many changes at Mary MacKillop Place. We have endeavoured to respond to the increasing numbers of pilgrims and guests, while upholding the vision of Mary MacKillop Place; a sacred place of welcome, encounter and journey as we keep alive the legacy of Mary and the Sisters. It had become apparent that there was a need to upgrade our facilities as we look to the future. Some minor works have already been completed and have greatly enhanced the environment. The Trustees of the Sisters of Saint Joseph made the decision that a major building project would be undertaken.

The current Anderledy Lodge was built in 1930 as an Infirmary for our aged and frail Sisters who needed nursing care. In 1996 those Sisters in the Infirmary were transferred to Saint Joseph's Hostel and Nursing Home at Hunters Hill. With the increased interest in visiting [Blessed] Mary MacKillop's tomb, it was evident that accommodation facilities were a great need. The building was then renovated to become Anderledy Lodge. Now, 90 years from the original construction and 25 years since the initial renovations, it is time for another change.

The plans for a new Lodge were approved by North Sydney Council in May. Since then all the necessary preparations for building have been put in place and the construction is due to begin in **February 2020**. The outcome of this project means that the new Lodge will be a four-story building - reception, dining, kitchen, toilets, staff room on the ground floor and three levels of ensuite rooms [51 in addition to the 29 in the Temuka building]. The car park area will increase spaces to forty-one plus a loading dock. Access to the property will be upgraded and the steep driveway will be replaced by a lift.



Of course, any change has its impact on the operations of an organisation. For safety reasons we were advised that it would be unwise to continue some of our current services. As a result, the Trustees agreed that we would not offer any accommodation or conference facilities during the construction period from February 2020 to December 2021. The current Anderledy Lodge is to be demolished with a new green space replacing it and the new Lodge will be built on Glen Roy Green.

During the construction period [approximately 21 months] it will be **business as usual** in the Chapel, Café & Gift Shop and Museum. There will be no access to the site from William Street, so access

will only be through the green gate on Mount Street, the Chapel, the Café, and Museum Reception. Alternative arrangements will need to be made for the Feast Day celebrations and you will be informed of those when we have them finalised.

As with any building project we hope and pray that all will go according to plan without any major interruptions. I will include an updated progress report in each of the Newsletters.

I am conscious that 2019 has been a difficult year for many people, caused by the drought and the bushfires. May Christmas be a time when we can hold all those affected in our hearts, reach out to them in practical ways to ease their burden and place all their intentions in the crib when we celebrate the birth of Christ, the hope for our world.



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 2019:

24th December -

Carols - 7pm, Christmas Vigil Mass - 7.30pm

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

(26th December Boxing Day -
Chapel, Museum, Cafe closed)

Easter 2020:

Lenten Programme Wednesdays, 11am - 12noon:
26 February; 4, 11, 18, 25 March; 1 April.

Easter Triduum -

Holy Thursday, 9 April

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30pm (no 8am Mass)

Good Friday, 10 April

Morning Prayer, 9.30am

Celebration of the Passion, 3pm

(Museum closed, Cafe & Gift Shop closed)

Holy Saturday, 11 April - Morning Prayer, 9.30am; Easter Vigil, 7.30pm

Easter Sunday, 12 April - Mass, 10am

MMP Museum - Initiatives 2020

For the first time the School Holiday Programme will be trialled in the Summer holidays 2020: 15th & 16th January and 20th & 21st January. For details see:

www.marymackillopplace.org.au/museum

In 2020 we are planning another exciting initiative. A Newsletter is currently underway and will be distributed at the beginning of Term 1, 2020 to Catholic primary schools in NSW for students in Years 4, 5 and 6. It will cover Museum news, 'DID YOU KNOW?' information about Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods, fun activities, games and competitions.

New worksheets and resources will be available on the MMP Website in 2020 linking Curriculum and Syllabus objectives to Museum Tours for Primary School students and teachers.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - DECEMBER 2019 - APRIL 2020



DECEMBER, 2019

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)

JANUARY, 2020

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 10am

FEBRUARY

8 8th of Month Masses - Chapel 8 am, 10 am, 1 pm

11 Sacrament of Anointing - Chapel 11.30 am

26 Ash Wednesday Mass - Chapel 8 am, 1 pm

MARCH

8 8th of Month Masses - Chapel 8 am, 10 am, 1 pm

17 Solemnity of Saint Patrick Mass - Chapel 8am

19 Solemnity of Saint Joseph Mass - Chapel 8am

APRIL

5 Palm Sunday Mass - Chapel 10 am

8 8th of Month Masses - Chapel 8 am, 10 am, 1 pm

9 Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper - Chapel 7.30 pm (no 8am Mass)

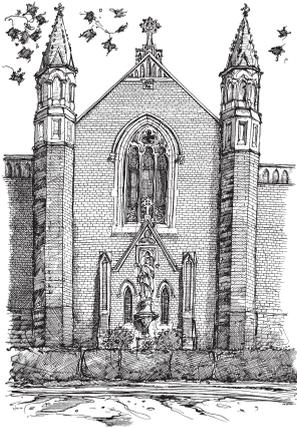
10 Good Friday Morning Prayer Chapel 9.30 am
Celebration of the Passion Chapel 3 pm

11 Holy Saturday Morning Prayer - Chapel 9.30 am
Easter Vigil - Chapel 7.30 pm

12 Easter Sunday Mass - Chapel 10 am

14 Sacrament of Anointing - Chapel 11.30 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 M Helena McCarthy, 1926,
Tokaanu, New Zealand.*

During the writer's Novitiate, Mother took in for charity, a helpless old man Captain Jones, a non-Catholic. The Sisters did everything for him until other provision could be made.

"On Christmas Eve all the Sisters including the Novices visited the Crib, at the same time singing carols sweetly and softly. Mother Mary invited the Captain who with the aid of crutches struggled into the Oratory. Father M O'Sullivan celebrated our first Midnight Mass (at Mount Street Convent), a Missa Cantata, the Sisters singing responses with Concone's Mass. Everything was so devotional that the old man was charmed and began to think there was something in the Catholic Religion after all!

Arrangements were made later to place the patient in the hands of the good Little Sisters of the Poor. When the appointed time came for leaving Mount Street Convent the old man wept bitterly saying that when he heard of the loss of his two ships, he did not feel it as much as leaving the Brown Sisters. The Little Sisters completed the good work which Mother Mary had begun, for when the old man settled in his new home he was instructed and received into the Church, dying soon after. The Brown Sisters were very pleased when the good tidings of the old man's happy end reached them"

Extract from "Memories of Mother Mary by those who knew her. Sisters of St Joseph 1925 -1926" [Page 90]. © 2010 Trustees of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. All rights reserved.

Stories from THE GUEST BOOK

"Mary MacKillop Place is a stone's throw from the bustle that is North Sydney but you'd think you were miles away. We visited the Chapel to view St Mary MacKillop's tomb before having a coffee in the Cafe. Service was friendly and there is a selection of simple meals for a light lunch or snack. The whole place has a beautiful sense of peace and calm."

"Calm, peaceful and so serene, amid the business and bustle of a big city. We had our AoS Conference here and the place was amazing. I love the Chapel."

"The room was perfect, spacious, clean and quiet. Food was beautiful. The people were all friendly and helpful. I'd like to go back and would definitely recommend to my family and friends."

"It was clear to me that you had brought both Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods to life in the Museum for my Primary class girls, and that they felt a sense of connection to and respect for both of them. My reflection is that it was a meaningful and fun three hours of experiential learning that was powerful and enjoyable"



*“ Simple
surroundings, peaceful
and spiritual. ”*

Stories from THE CURATOR'S OFFICE

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM MARY MACKILLOP: UNIFYING THE CONGREGATION WITH WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

This unassuming S Roll-top, solid oak desk of the early 1900s, situated in the Common Room of Alma Cottage, was where Mary MacKillop received and sent correspondence during the last two decades of her life.



Facsimile of
Mary MacKillop's
handwritten
letters

Mary resided in Alma Cottage at North Sydney from 1884 - 1909. Within its walls, and over a 25-year period, Mary, with the assistance of Sister La Merci Mahony, handwrote and later typed numerous letters which were circulated to the Sisters everywhere. The use of a typewriter after 1902 provided a solution to the constraints caused by her decline in health which deprived her of the use of her right hand.

Directing the affairs of the Congregation in the final years of her life, the letters would include words of encouragement and hope; especially at St Joseph's Feast Day, Easter and Christmas. Mary expressed to her Sisters the eternal hope to be found in Christ's love and guidance in sustaining the communities of Sisters that were living and ministering across Australia and New Zealand.

As we approach Christmas it is indeed a time of great anticipation and hope when receiving the Christian message. Mary MacKillop wrote circulars to her Sisters from the cottage at such times that embodied the spirit of Christian love for her Sisters.

One example is a letter she wrote in 1901 to the Sisters in South Australia. The letter was directed to those who were ministering at the Refuge / House of Protection for Homeless and Penitent Women [1872- 1901] and to Sisters living at St Joseph's Providence, West Terrace, Adelaide.

The Providence and Refuge provided residential care for orphans, deserted children, homeless and destitute woman of all ages as pictured in this photograph.



St Joseph's Providence, West Terrace, Adelaide, 1911.
Sisters of St Joseph Congregational Archives, North Sydney.

The letter begins,

"This is only a short note to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a bright New Year. I find it impossible to write to you all, so send this to dear Sister Monica for all and ask her to make it known at the Refuge and the Providence. In one of the two places, the Sisters will let others know that I wish this to all and hope every community will be as happy as I sincerely wish it to be".

Mary concludes with these words,

"Pray for me.
Your fond Mother in J.M.J.
Mary of the Cross"
[Mother Mary to the South Australian Sisters,
22 December 1901]

Let's be inspired by these words of kindness and offer words of edification to those we love this Christmas.

Edwina Huntley,
Curator,
Mary MacKillop Place Museum.

Stories from THE CURATOR'S OFFICE

The Last Supper by Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann AO

Highlighting the Sisters of Saint Joseph Indigenous Christian Collection, I have selected this extraordinary painting by the renowned Nauiyu [Daly River] Northern Territory artist Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann AO. This substantial work from the Kimberley region of Western Australia was donated to the Sisters of Saint Joseph in the 1980s.

This highly symbolic acrylic work on canvas portrays Dr Miriam-Rose's pioneering stylistic depiction of the human figure. The painting interprets the pivotal biblical event of the betrayal of Jesus at the Last Supper with His Apostles. The work interweaves both indigenous meaning and Christian symbolism. The power of the composition is achieved through the centrality of the angular outstretched arms of Jesus offering the fruits of creation to his people.

The artist depicts the cup shapes of a lotus pod surrounding the figure of Jesus, represented by twelve circles [Apostles]. This is reminiscent of the shapes formed by the seeds carried in the pods.

The coolamon [multipurpose vessel] is used to symbolise Jesus' offering to His people of the land and water - yams, fruit, turtles, snakes, porcupine, and lizards are illustrated. The lily, animals, yams and fruit are part of the artist's country - an embodiment of her people's dreaming. Body, blood and spirit are symbolic of Christ's offering at the Last Supper. The work is a powerful expression of Christ's sacrificial love for mankind.



Dr Ungunmerr-Baumann [pictured] is a highly regarded activist, artist and educator. She was the Northern Territory's first fully qualified Aboriginal teacher and worked as the Principal of St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School in her home community for many years.

In 1998 she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for her services to Aboriginal education and art. She also established the Merrepen Arts Centre in the Daly River, Northern Territory, in 1987. The artists at this thriving Centre, most of whom are women, produce screen-prints, batik fabric designs, and hand-printed linocut fabric and acrylic paintings.

We are indeed privileged to have such a work in the collection, as it is a fine example of Miriam's cross cultural artistic language.



While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

Matthew 26:26

MARY MACKILLOP PLACE MUSEUM: NEW EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

A podcast titled "Fierce Girls" which covers the work of Mary MacKillop in an entertaining format, is now available on the ABC Website.

"Fierce Girls" is an audio show aimed at children 7-11 years old (and their parents/guardians) and tells the inspiring stories of some of Australia's most extraordinary women. Each story is narrated by equally fierce and fabulous women! The story of Mary MacKillop is narrated by an Australian actor. Also included are a series of fun posters and images that can be printed and coloured in.



Stories from THE FIELD

The Mary MacKillop Place Volunteers

On Friday 15th November 2019 we were thrilled to be able to come together for Eucharist and lunch to say a huge 'thank you' to our volunteers here at Mary MacKillop Place.

It is fitting to do this, as we all owe them a debt of gratitude for the many hours they spend assisting in the ministry of service to pilgrims who come to visit. The total number of volunteer hours for 2019 is 9,686 hours and since 1995 - 268,252 hours!

As Sr Colleen Keeble said in her vote of thanks "we couldn't do without you". How true are those words!

During the meal we honoured those who reached milestones –

100 hours – Lidia Blanco Gomez, Mary Farrell, Barbara Holman, Kerrie Kelsey, Mary Joy Quisumbing, Theresa Ta & Liping Tian.
250 hours – Chen Ong, Mary Joy Quisumbing, Sara Ryan, Barbara Smith, Harry Stephens



& Sister Anita Vagg.
500 hours – Sr Wilga Howlett.
750 hours – Bertha Mackenzie & Sr Helen Madden.
1,000 hours – Rozsa Kazmer, Songsri Shinn, Sr Flo Snell & Sr Gemma Wheatley.
2,000 hours – Sr Catherine Histon & Beverley Trott.
3,000 hours – Zulma Gonzalez.

Two long standing volunteers were farewelled- Mary Gatt who started in 2002 and Celine Steele who came in 1995. Such long and dedicated service over many years!

2019 has been a busy year and I thank everyone connected with this ministry.

Helen Saunders, rsj
Volunteer Co-Ordinator,
volunteer.coord@mmp.org.au

BUY FROM THE BUSH

THIRTY YEARS AGO, the potentially disruptive impact of heat-trapping emissions from burning fossil fuels and rain forests became front-page news. Today as predicted the earth's weather is changing.

Whatever your view on climate change, Australia's temperatures are at a record high. That is an indisputable fact. A hotter climate means an increase in water evaporation. This results in drier soils and thirstier livestock. Both require more water and we all know that hasn't been forthcoming. So higher temperatures are increasing the drought threat and putting an even greater strain on our depleted water storage. We all need to take a moment and reflect on **what we can do to help**.

It may be by direct action to those in need:

Buy from the Bush, a campaign supporting country business is being promoted on Instagram and Facebook. Links:

<https://www.instagram.com/buyfromthebush/>
<https://www.facebook.com/buyfromthebush/>



Or it may be by changing our ways and helping the planet conserve our water resources. Sydney Water has great **water saving** ideas, see link: <https://lovewater.sydney/reduce-your-impact>

It's a topic not often discussed, but here at Mary MacKillop Place we have replaced two urinals in St Ignatius' men's toilets with waterless urinals. It is estimated this could save up to 120,000 litres of water on our site. **What can you do?**

Our **Christmas Giving Tree Appeal** this year will be donating to families in need suffering from the effects of drought and bush fires.

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.

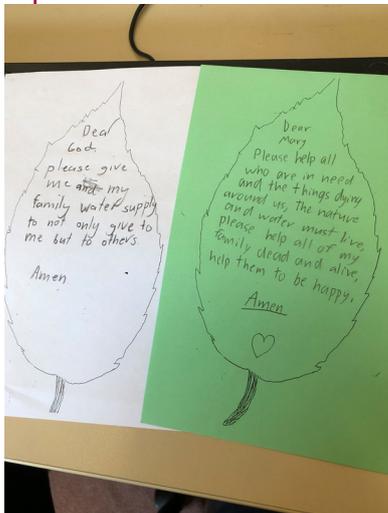
If you are interested in supporting Mary MacKillop Place, please contact trish.downey@mmp.org.au for more information.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE MUSEUM

Mary MacKillop Place Museum has seen much activity over the past six months with school groups visiting the Museum, children attending our Holiday Programmes and an exhibition by environmental artist, Rachel Carroll, 'Journey to Water' which is on display until 1st December 2019.

Catholic Schools throughout Australia were invited to participate in a themed tour of the Museum "Caring for Creation", including the exhibition. Students engaged extremely well in the tours. One primary school teacher from St Mary's, Scone wrote, "It made good connections with rural Australia and with the NSW Syllabus in History and Religious Education for Stage 3".



One of the activities given to the students was to write a personal prayer of thanksgiving regarding the gifts of Creation, on a paper leaf.

There is a lot of fun and creativity happening during the School Holidays at Mary MacKillop Place! The October programme

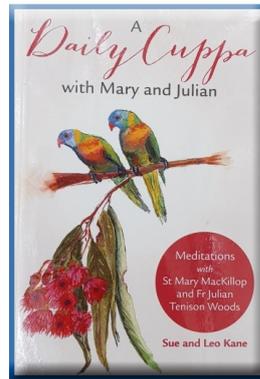
welcomed an increase in the number of children attending. Comments from parents include: "This programme is a great combination of craft workshops, a little history, and some great guidance for their little characters! I loved the balance! Now I even know a little more about Mary MacKillop, I am a fan!"



Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas,
Veronica Rizk, Museum Educator
educator@mmp.org.au

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GIFT SHOP

Book: A Daily Cuppa with Mary and Julian



Inspired by the insights and wisdom of St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods, this beautiful book was designed for those little pauses in the day, perhaps over a cuppa, that allow our souls to catch up with the rest of our lives. Written by Sue and Leo Kane, it is a great Christmas gift idea priced at only \$24.95.

Fr Julian Tenison Woods' Quotes Coasters

A set of 4 solid, cork-backed coasters featuring Australian flora and inspirational quotes from Father Julian Tenison Woods, the co-founder with St Mary MacKillop of the Order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Priced at \$18.95.



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

SPOTLIGHT ON ANDERLEDY LODGE

Come & enjoy New Year's Eve in Sydney!
 Mary MacKillop Place is in the heart of North Sydney. A short stroll from the Harbour foreshore and Blues Point Reserve. Rooms start from \$350 per night. *Conditions apply.



MARY MACKILLOP PLACE

OUT OF THE Ordinary

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