



MARY MACKILLOP PLACE NEWSLETTER • 2020

Christmas Edition

As this edition of Musings goes to print, we find ourselves standing on the threshold of letting go of the year that has been and embracing the unfolding of another year. Our Christian tradition invites us into the Season of Advent as a time of expectant hope as we prepare to celebrate the coming of our God among us as a vulnerable, dependent baby. This little life will, over the years, unfold and grow into its fullness. "Unfolding" takes time. It calls us to wait, to ponder, to discern and then to act. This year of pandemic has, in some ways, been an "advent time". While posing many challenges and at times heartache, it has called us to slow, wait and ponder.

As you have journeyed through this "advent year": What has surprised and delighted you?

For what are you most grateful?

For what are you least grateful?

What have been your learnings about

yourself this year?

Where have you encountered God?

What is the new life that is emerging in you?

How might you birth this new life as you embrace 2021?

"May the blessing of joy abide within you.

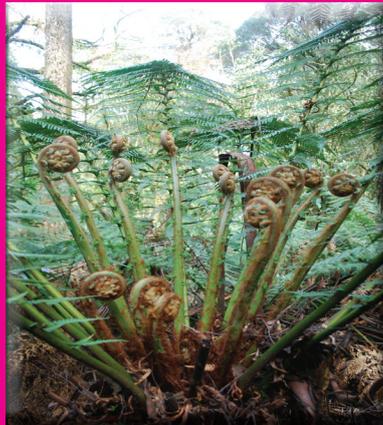
May the blessing of peace rest upon you.

May the blessing of love flow out through you.

May all the blessings of Emmanuel, God-with-us be yours at Christmas and the unfolding year".

[Author unknown]

*Annie Bond rsj,
Assistant Director
– Ministries*



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LEGACY OF
MARY MACKILLOP

A message from
**SISTER
COLLEEN**



MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP UPDATES



A message from SISTER COLLEEN

This Christmas edition of Musings is our first for 2020.

In March, with COVID-19 spreading throughout the community, the country and the world, we were faced with lockdown, isolation and quarantine, limited activities, social distancing, bubbles, facemasks, coronavirus testing etc. These circumstances of life over the past months have impacted on us all as we have done our best to comply with the Government health directives.

Here at Mary MacKillop Place, the Museum was closed in early March, closely followed by the Chapel. The Café qualified for 'Take Away Only' so remained open. Our accommodation and conference facilities ceased to operate at the end of January due to the planned building project. We had some staff working from home, a reduced number onsite and no volunteers. There were no Easter or Feast Day celebrations, and we began to depend on [and still do] the use of technology – zoom, teams, webinars to keep connected and operating. Life has changed in so many ways; the impact on families through loss of jobs, incomes and travel restrictions with businesses closing down, the economy struggling to recover and the constant challenge of greater community responsibility.

At MMP we are slowly returning to the 'new normal' – limited numbers in the Chapel and Café, social distancing, sanitising, recording names, QR code – all compliant with the NSW Government health regulations. The Museum continues to remain closed. Like everyone else, we are ever watchful of the messages sent out each day – the number of 'NEW cases' or 'NO cases' and look forward to the development of a successful vaccine. Hopefully, then we will be back to normal.

The building project began in February and fortunately, the construction industry did not close down at any stage. The project is moving along well with cement slabs for the basement, ground floor and first floor of the new Anderledy Lodge poured. The preparations continue for floors three and four.



October 17th was the 10th anniversary of the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop. The theme the Sisters of Saint Joseph chose was **Take Fresh Courage**. Life presented many challenges and difficulties for Mary MacKillop which she faced with patience and courage.



At this time of pandemic, we ask her to grace us with that same attitude of patience and courage as we **take fresh courage** to live into our unknown future. Mary reminds us 'God was good and has brought light and help when all was very dark'.

Advent is now upon us, a time of waiting upon the promise of God. During these days may you stay alert to 'the whisperings of God in your own heart' and rejoice in God's promise of new life, new beginnings. As we ponder the experience of 2020 during Advent, we might reflect on 'what has this year been like for me?' and 'what hopes do I have for 2021?'

**Wishing you every blessing at Christmas and throughout the New Year.
May your hopes be fulfilled and may you stay safe and keep well.**

Colleen Keeble rsj, Director.



Stories from

THE CURATOR'S OFFICE

OBJECTS IN FOCUS - PAPAL HISTORY AT THE MUSEUM

The Mary MacKillop banner proudly hung from the Basilica balcony in St Peters Square on 17 October 2010. As we mark the 10th Anniversary of the Canonisation of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, it is timely to focus on objects of commemoration or those that have been gifted to the Congregation over the decades.

Papal receptions in Rome during Mary MacKillop's lifetime and in more recent history, Papal visits to Mary MacKillop Place are represented in the Beatification and Canonisation collections.

Over the decades the Museum has acquired items that inform visitors of significant events that have shaped the history of Mary MacKillop Place and the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

The collection includes gifted Vatican-produced gold commemorative medallions, devotional items, the porcelain statuette of the Blessed Virgin & Child presented to the Sisters by Pope

Paul VI during his visit in 1970, Papal ecclesiastical dress, and a print and media archive.



The earliest example in the collection marking Mary MacKillop's audience with Pope Pius IX in Rome, is the delicately carved set of ivory rosary beads blessed and presented to Mary MacKillop by the Pope on 1 June 1875. These beads were then gifted to Mary MacKillop's brother Donald who in turn gave them to Angela Keogh [1886 - 1973], a relation of the MacKillops, when she was professed on 2 July 1921. In later life Sister Angela gave the rosary beads to the Museum.



In more recent times, this limited-edition coin and stamp set [left] was issued to mark the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop in 2010, and carries Mary MacKillop's signature.

Tracing the history of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in commemorative objects, we celebrate the significance of the Canonisation for all Australians in this 10th Anniversary year.

Edwina Huntley, Curator,
Mary MacKillop Place Museum

Environment: 2020 a Year that will be Cemented in History

This generation will also be remembered for all the wrong reasons. Consumerism and the over consumption of plastics is causing huge environmental damage to our planet. Covid 19 has made the situation even worse, as our use of plastics has dramatically increased.

Now more than ever is the right time to make a change. Start this Christmas and commit to purchasing fewer plastic packaged goods.

Here at Mary MacKillop Place, we are planning ways to minimise plastic use for our new accommodation building.



If you are wondering why the plate is in the middle of this article, this is the amount of micro plastics being consumed by us on average every year. You can find the full article at:

[Visualising the amount of microplastic we eat \(reuters.com\)](https://www.reuters.com/article/visualising-the-amount-of-microplastic-we-eat/visualising-the-amount-of-microplastic-we-eat-idUSKCN190001)

Food for thought.....

Ross Handsaker, Environmental & Technical Manager.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE MUSEUM

Whilst the Mary MacKillop Place Museum has been closed during Covid-19, it has been a good opportunity to develop relevant resources for primary and secondary schools. On the Website you will find new resources under 'Feast Day Resources' of which some can be used all year round. If you need further information or assistance with educational resources, feel free to contact the Museum Educator:

educator@mmp.org.au

During Term 1, 2021, a Mary MacKillop Place Museum Newsletter will be available to primary schools. It will be distributed each school term, and will contain fun activities, art and craft ideas, news on events at the Museum and a 'Name the Newsletter' competition.



To keep your children and grandchildren busy throughout the school holiday period you will find some creative art activities that focus on Christmas, summer holidays and the New Year.

(Pre-Covid-19 School Holiday Program activities [above] - image used with permission of parents/guardians per forms completed at MMP School Holiday Program during 2019.)

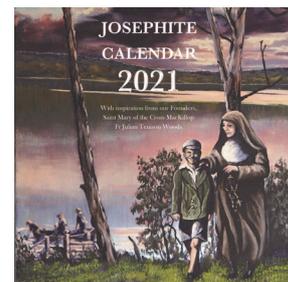
Go to www.marymackillopplace.org.au and click on "WHAT'S ON". You can then download various activities under "School Holiday activities for 5-12 years old".

Wishing everyone a very safe, holy and joyous Christmas and may 2021 be wonderful for all !!
Veronica Rizk,
Museum Educator.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GIFT SHOP

2021 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 writings and quotes from the Founders, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods.



The Calendar also features wonderful photographs taken by the Sisters & Josephite Companions, significant dates in Josephite History, contact details of Centres in Australia and New Zealand, and much more for only \$8.50.

St Mary MacKillop Gold Necklace



This beautiful 14ct gold-dipped pendant is handcrafted in enamel and features an image of St Mary MacKillop. Comes complete with a 16" gold plated chain in a Symbols of Faith gift box. This vintage style pendant necklace sells at \$59.95 and would make a wonderful gift for that special occasion.

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

The Legacy of Mary MacKillop Place - a place of Pilgrimage

Would you like to to continue Mary MacKillop's legacy and ensure that her legacy and that of the Sisters of Saint 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 MMP, please contact trish.downey@mmp.org.au for more information.



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