

# Providence La



Mary MacKillop  
HERITAGE CENTRE

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Newsletter No.8

Welcome to the Winter edition of 'Providence Lane', Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre's quarterly newsletter. Mary MacKillop established us as a house of providence and, as the audio in Mary's Room states, "all people are welcome here as in Mary's time." We hope our newsletter continues to reflect that ongoing welcome.

## MARY GLOWREY CIRCLE LAUNCH

The launch of the Mary Glowrey Circle took place on the anniversary of Mary Glowrey's birthday, 23 June with Archbishop Comensoli. The launch was designed to provide opportunity for people to financially commit as members or sponsors to the Mary Glowrey Museum Collection. Mary Glowrey's canonisation opened in 2010 and is progressing. She is currently a Servant of God, and her position is before the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. Sr Maria Casey RSJ, the postulator of the cause of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, has provided invaluable advice with regard to Mary Glowrey's cause for canonisation. The Mary Glowrey Museum is located in historic Cathedral Hall on the Australian Catholic University's Fitzroy campus.



## OPEN DAY COMING UP !

It is with gratitude that the MMHC [Open House Melbourne](#) (OHM) day in July was an amazing success. Over 150 people attended with sales and donations of \$1300. The day was enjoyed by all that attended as the focus incorporated the history of the buildings. Twelve parishioners from the Parish Leadership Team at St Mary of the Cross Parish, Mordialloc and Aspendale with Fr Ignatius Tan joined together for mass in Mary's Chapel. The Open day in May coincided with the Australian Heritage Festival with a dedicated session led by MMHC educators Anna and Maria incorporating a Sacred Play on Mary MacKillop for 20 young people from Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church Thornbury. Please promote the Open day Saturday 28 Oct linked to the Victorian Seniors Festival.



L-R Louise McGrath (Great-niece of Dr Mary Glowrey JMJ.), Sr Maria Casey rsj, Sr Patricia Williams rsj and Ted

## SOSJ ARCHIVISTS VISIT

On Monday 4 September five SOSJ archivists visited MMHC as part of attending the Australian Society of Archivists Conference at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, East Melbourne. Attendees were Jo Robertson and Jillian Bartlett (Congregational archives); Sr Sally Camilleri and Sr Kathleen O'Connor (NSW archives); and Melinda Hilapo-Slann (QLD archives). The group were given an historical perspective of MMHC before visiting the Chapel and museum gallery's and a tour of the Victorian archives by Lloyd Fisk.



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## THE STORY OF THE MISSING CROSS



Since commencing as Director in April 2021, I had been miffed that the cross on one of the front gate pillars was missing. Lloyd (SOSJ Vic archivist) during a search using Google Map images identified that the Cross went missing sometime between the period of November 2018 and July 2019.

It is with gratitude to Jeff Jones, a former pattern maker who responded to our need by producing a replica that he donated; recently installed by Malcolm (MMHC maintenance).



## BEE PROJECT

With gratitude to volunteer gardener Jan who is in the process of re-greening the centre by adding flowering plants to encourage the bees and improve the sustainability of the garden for the coming years.



## THE MMHC PORTA



Our front doors have been brought to life with a clean and polish from volunteer Peter to make the entrance welcoming for guests to enter. With gratitude to Peter.




L-R Sr Judith Geddes rsj—researcher, Sr Denise Cooney rsj.

## MARYS INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN

From the beginning of the formation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph many inspirational women joined Mary in her work. Where there was a need they provided the help that was so necessary. One of the needs was accommodation for women and children and the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre was founded and opened by Mary in 1902 as a house of Providence.

As a tribute to the pioneering women who joined Mary we have named the Heritage Centre Accommodation units after women who worked in the Centre and/or assisted in some way in providing a home, care or support for those in need, with intent to inspire those who stay in the apartments.

Inside each apartment is a story of their life and contribution as a Sister of Saint Joseph.



**JOSEPHITE CALENDAR**

The **2024 JOSEPHITE CALLENDER** will be available for purchase, \$10 each + postage and handling. For details check online at [www.mmhc.org.au](http://www.mmhc.org.au)



## CONSCIOUS COMPASSION: CALL TO ACTION

## MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE 21-25 AUGUST

Catholic school leaders from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) participated in a faith and religious leadership formation program from 21 to 25 August which focused on the missionary spirit of Australia's first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop taking in key sites in Portland, Penola and Adelaide. The five-day pilgrimage explored Mary's extraordinary contribution to Catholic education in Australia and her inspirational, faith-filled life.



Rachel Holdsworth, Principal of Holy Spirit Parish School, Manifold Heights, said the pilgrimage had been a deep and moving learning experience. 'Mary faced much adversity throughout her life, but had a profound love, faith and trust in God. She spoke and wrote about "leaning into God", "leaving it quietly with God" and recognising God is always with us during times of struggle. Despite significant obstacles, Mary and the Sisters of St Joseph imparted an extraordinary contribution to Catholic education, particularly for their prodigious establishment of schools, and a deep concern for the education of poor and marginalised children in remote areas'.

Kerryn Sells, Principal of Our Lady Star of the Sea School, Ocean Grove, said: 'Mary modelled the Catholic social teaching of solidarity through her actions for justice. She never judged a person, but strove to change their circumstances providing friendship, emotional support, and a place to live for those who were alone and isolated. She enabled people to remain connected to society, and empowered them with self-worth and dignity in order to help themselves. Her example remains incredibly relevant and important to the way we operate our Catholic schools today'.

The feedback from participants indicates the expectations of the pilgrimage group were met and that the experience of the pilgrimage had significant impact at a personal and school level for the attendees. The evaluation highlights how transformative the pilgrimage can be:

- ... I returned as a reflective person, who is reading more about Mary's life. She has touched me during this week away and I have done nothing but talk about her
- ...as a principal this type of learning experience only enhances one's ability to lead the faith formation of their school community and context
- It was the most significant Spiritual and Religious Formation I've ever taken part in. It was amazing being able to literally be where Mary was and walk in her footsteps
- I am changed for the better from this experience. Feel closer to God, more grateful, more determined to make a difference particularly for most marginalised however I have always made this a big part of my service.

MMHC welcomes the opportunity to deliver meaningful accredited faith formation programs that draws on the life and work of Mary, Julian and the SOSJ to inspire leaders in Catholic schools in their ministry of service.



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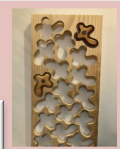




## SYMBOLS OF FAITH

In the Providence Lane Autumn Edition 2022, there was a special feature on the Hume Men's Shed partnership with MMHC in producing the Holding Cross; MMHCs gift shops bestselling item. So you can imagine how the following story brought MMHC great pleasure and joy to see Sarah, the grandchild of George Topolcsanyi, the key driver of the partnership, recycle the cut out Holding Cross template for her RE project. The Emmanuel College year 8 project involved students working in groups and also as an individual to come up with three modern symbols of faith; hence the title "Symbol Three" in Sarah's personal work below. Sarah's explanation of her creation, provides an imaginative expression of how the cross can be visible in our lives to remind us of God's presence no matter how life unfolds. Sarah's accessory hanger contains many elements that could be used to deepen meaningful conversations around life. The hanger symbols connects so many important parts of our life with Christ: the glasses remind us of the gift of sight and vision, the watch that we are on this earth as travelers through time, the scarf for warmth and security, ... Sarah and her sister Laura had a long time awareness of the praying cross as you can see in the picture where Sarah is 6 years old helping to sand them. With gratitude Sarah for sharing this inspirational masterpiece with us and the MMHC community. *(Images used with Sarah's and her parents' permission).*

### Symbol Three



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Sarah

## COLLOQUIUM PARTICIPANT REFLECTION

I felt so privileged to share two days with such a lovely group of people, welcoming hosts and, inspiring presenters. I was extremely moved by their passion, personal testimony and gift of storytelling.

I valued hearing more about the human side of Mary, her family and allies. The walk is a great change of pace and enriched my knowledge of Mary's life in Melbourne. Overall, the experience has definitely stirred the spirit, reinvigorated my love of Mary and given me an undeniable appreciation for the sisters.

I've come away with so many creative ideas and a greater sense of confidence in bringing Mary's story back to my community in various ways. However, as the saying goes...the more you come to know, the more you realise you don't know. This couldn't be further from the truth with Mary!

A special thank you to Sr Rita, Anna, Maria, Sr Moya and of course the other sisters who popped in. My fondest memories during my secondary education was having the sisters present and being at the colloquium brought me straight back there. You felt just that little closer to God being in their presence.

And lastly, Ted I'm still left speechless after hearing your story and realise that is only a snippet. What a life journey...that is something worth telling and sharing with others for so many reasons. God Bless you and the team always.

## VALE Betty rsj 4.8.2023 & Fran rsj 20.4.2023



*My one constant prayer for those that I love is that God in his love may grant them a happy death.*

*(Mary MacKillop 7.1.1868)*

Sr Patricia led the memorial reflection in Mary's Chapel

