



Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Newsletter No.4

Welcome to the Autumn 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 reflects that ongoing welcome.

VOLUNTEERS—OLD AND NEW



Recently we held a gathering and meal for **volunteers** with the aim to consider ways of rebuilding and reimagining the work of volunteers at MMHC.



It was so encouraging to have volunteers come together for the first time since Ted commenced as Director, to meet and share reflections on their connections to Mary's and the SOSJ story. Possibilities for volunteer engagement are in hospitality, the gift shop, garden, Mary MacKillop Walk, education and administration.



MMHC is highly dependent on Volunteers, and it was rewarding to have a number of new people attend. It was obvious all had an interest in the life and work of Mary MacKillop and were "fired up" to share something of her vision. Ted expressed appreciation of the generosity of the volunteers and explained some of the requirements of volunteering such as having the "working with children" Card and training in safeguarding and OH & Wellbeing, all an ongoing process.

Moving forward it is with gratitude MMHC has found a volunteer, Janet, who is attending to the Heritage Centre garden.

Find happiness in making others happy.
St. Mary MacKillop

Did you know you could win a prayer card from the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre!

Our social media pages runs a monthly quiz where you could win a special prize.

All you need do is write your answer in the comments below our Facebook and Instagram post. Here's a preview for our readers.

Quiz ?

The first Victorian foundation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph was

- a. St Bernard's, Bacchus Marsh
- b. St Monica's, Footscray
- c. St Joseph School, Numurkah
- d. St Joseph Poor School, Cumberland Place East Melbourne

Closes Friday 27 May 2022 4pm ?

Fr Rob Galea the founder of FRG Ministry celebrates **Holy Thursday Mass in the Mary MacKillop Chapel**, which can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SCfYyL3X_g





OPEN DAY @ MMHC on Saturday 26 March recognised Saint Joseph's feast day and included mass in the chapel with Father Peter Malone. Sr Patricia along with volunteers Aarti and Jane took a dozen people on the Mary MacKillop walking trail.

On the day we also welcomed 10 families from the Indonesian Community for afternoon tea with 20 children of age range 7-13. We gathered together for a welcome and introductory talk on Saint Mary. The children attended a session with our volunteer teacher Anna, while the parents spent time in the Chapel with Sr Rita and St Patricia to explore Mary's life in more detail. Anna presented a sacred play about Mary's life that included homemade artefacts, one being a model of Mary's wheelchair. The children finished with an agape meal and prayer. It was an amazing experience for all concerned and we thank Diana, who took on the liaison role for the Indonesian community. The photos shown are used with permission of the community.

OPEN DAY with Faithline - Indonesian Catholic Family Melbourne

- Anna delivered such a beautiful story telling for the children. Through this story we learnt many things from Mary MacKillop's life, we need to persevere when we are facing difficulty in life as a real action to serve, love others and God ~ **Diana and Angela**
- It was very interesting because I learnt that when Mary MacKillop started building schools for the children, she was very generous and loving. The Heritage Centre had very cool artifacts. ~ **Mabel**
- I like the story telling, it's very interesting. I also like the breaking of the bread where we are encouraged to pray for someone to remember them. I like to see all the relics of Mary MacKillop and the history behind it. ~ **Jocey**
- I like the story because it's funny and I learned that the children in the olden days did not eat lunch and snack, they only eat dinner so they were very hungry but Mary MacKillop helped them and look after them. I like the building because it is very pretty and I enjoyed the tour very much. ~ **Jessa**
- When I arrived I saw a staff member telling the story of Mary MacKillop learning that Mary had started a Catholic school with Father Woods for the poor and also learnt a ritual with the bread in the Mary MacKillop museum and being able to see objects that belonged to Mary. ~ **Oliver**
- I liked the story because I could learn more about Mary MacKillop and how she helped others in the past, I also learned that many people were poor and didn't have enough to eat. Mary MacKillop had to suffer from being in a wheelchair. The thing I liked the most was the story telling by Anna, this was a very interesting story by her ~ **Arielle**
- I liked the story that with the dolls about Mary MacKillop and how she became a Saint. I liked it when they took us to Mary's old room because it was really interesting. ~ **Charleen**
- We as parents also very happy with the tour and learn a lot about the story of Mary Mackillop. Thank you for the warm welcome ~ **Charleen's parents**
- I learnt more about this great Saint. Its a privilege to be able to be in a place where Mary used to spend her time in Melb. Thank you for sharing Mary to us.. to learn about her struggles, perseverance and continuous love that she brought to share Jesus to others. ~ **Francis**





HOLDING CROSS PROJECT WITH THE MENS SHED

The Hume Men's Shed - Craigieburn is a community-based, non-profit organisation that is accessible to men of all ages and social backgrounds within the City of Hume. Involvement in *The Shed* allows members to meet, build friendships and camaraderie and enable positive interaction with others through participation in meaningful projects and activities.

Any income generated from various projects returns to *The Shed* to cover running costs and to make environmental improvements.

The Men's Shed like to take on a challenge, particularly when it has a positive community impact. In 2014 we were approached to make **the holding cross** after the original maker passed away. With a sample cross from the original maker, we created a master copy of the unique shape and made an aluminum template which was used to mark out the cross on the timber. After cutting them out on the band saw a disc sander is used to smooth and remove cutting marks. A router with a curved cutter is then used to remove the sharp corners and end up with the rounded edge.

The final machining is for the recess for the medallion. Each cross is then hand sanded until a smooth and comfortable surface is achieved. Each cross is stained, fine sanded, varnished, fine sanded again and then given a final varnished. Each coat requires 3-4 days to dry, ready for the next coat. Once the final coat is dry, we secure the Mary MacKillop medallion carefully with a very strong glue.

As you can see it takes time and involves various people with different skills, passed on from one another, to produce a quality cross but the reasons behind peoples involvement in making a cross is varied:

- to contribute and be involved in meaningful activity
- to build self-esteem and foster good mental health
- to regain dexterity and physical mobility through activity
- to support the shed in supporting other members and the community.

Since commencement we have made and delivered 2430 crosses.

We at the shed are very proud to be trusted with the task of making this unique cross and proudly promote it and show it off to all of our visitors. **George Topolcsanyi, Hume Men's Shed Craigieburn**



Intro to MMHC

QR CODES FOR OUR MUSEUM

If there's one thing, we learned from 'checking in' everywhere during COVID 19, it's that QR codes are everywhere. You may have noticed some QR codes popping up around the Centre. These are to encourage and direct visitors to learn more about Mary's story.

They act as a virtual tour guide for visitors linking to people telling the story of the item.

Are you planning a trip soon? We strongly advise you to begin scanning right away!

Providence La



Mary MacKillop
HERITAGE CENTRE

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MARY MACKILLOP BIRTH SITE UPDATE

The first stage of the construction of St Vincent’s private hospital redevelopment in Fitzroy has begun. Pre-works have started with the pulling down of existing buildings on the corner of Victoria parade and Brunswick Street. For the period of this redevelopment and building works, the birth site will be relocated and accessible in an allocated space nearby as a temporary measure. It is with gratitude to St Vincent’s who have been very mindful of the cultural significance of Mary MacKillop’s birth site to incorporate plans for a Mary MacKillop garden to be constructed in the original location. You will see in the following picture the proposed rendering of the Mary MacKillop garden and courtyard as it will look with stepping stones on completion.



FOOTSTEPS OF MARY— a Pilgrimage with Harvest Tours

On Sunday, 27 March we welcomed 30 pilgrims from Harvest Tours. They commenced their ‘Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop’ at MMHC on way to Adelaide. Fr Michael Dyer Parish Priest at St Mary’s Star of the Sea Milton presided over mass in the Chapel after the pilgrims had an input session from Sr Audrey rsj on Mary, her family origin and qualities. There was so much positive energy.

Our group of “Footsteps of Mary MacKillop” pilgrims was warmly welcomed to the Heritage Centre, originally a home built in 1901-2 for the Sisters of St Joseph as a facility for homeless and unemployed women. Mary herself was born around the corner in Fitzroy, and the serenity and warmth of the centre seemed to evoke her very presence. We were given a lively and warm-hearted account of Mary by Josephite Sister Audrey, which really brought her to life for us. A beautifully-presented museum added to this experience. A special privilege for our group was to be able to celebrate Mass in the Mary MacKillop Chapel, the first in two years because of the Covid lockdown. And the morning tea that followed was to die for.

Jan Smith 27.03.2022—Pilgrim

DID YOU KNOW?

The Rose Window in the MMHC Chapel was donated by the **“Ladies of St. Joseph’s Hostel”**
Check out the plaque next time you are in the Centre.



Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002
Tel : 03 9926 9300
admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au

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