



To be on earth the Heart of God

# KIT @ Kippax

*Time out for reflection*

## A time for every matter under the sun.....(ECCLESIASTES 3:1)

All my life I have been a busy person. I have always had plenty of activities with which to fill my time. Of course there have been moments, days, a few precious weeks, of quiet but, on the whole, my hands and my mind have been actively engaged.

Even as I have aged I have provided myself with *projects* and have kept myself busy with *doing*. When this pandemic began I was engaged with two projects, one after the other – writing my memories of an English childhood and following that with collecting Eric's writings together as a gift for our children. Now those jobs are finished I am having to re-think the way I use my very available time and it's not easy!

People say to me, in this period of isolation, that it will be good for me to relax more, to enjoy the rest, to learn to be. And to a great extent I am enjoying it. I have time to read more, knit more, do more tantalising jigsaws and crossword puzzles and play Scrabble and all the things that I had always enjoyed but in small doses because I was too busy being busy. Now when I do relax I get edgy after a while and feel guilty because I am not occupied with something worthwhile.



This is a new experience for me and, without the pandemic, I probably would never have allowed myself to reach this stage. But I am learning to accept and enjoy this time (season) of my life, to thank God for it, to let it be and to enjoy it! As Ecclesiastes said, there is a time for everything under the sun.

Mary French

# St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day

8 AUG

Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne on 15 January 1842 and died in Sydney on 8 August 1909. Her religious name was Mother Mary of the Cross. The road to her canonisation took decades and she was beatified by Pope John Paul II on 19 January 1995 at a public ceremony at Randwick Racecourse in Sydney.

Mary MacKillop's life and work are challenging at both a personal and institutional level because it was radical. The message is one of charity, which means addressing needs; and justice, which means confronting evils.

Mary MacKillop established the religious order of the Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart with Fr Julian Woods in Adelaide in 1867. On her death in 1909 she left behind 650 Sisters

*'Never see a need without doing something about it'*

of St Joseph in 109 houses spread across Australia and New Zealand. At that time as well as running refuges, orphanages, and other works of social welfare, the Josephites taught in 117 schools.

I am sure there are many who have been taught by Josephites through primary secondary and tertiary education.

In 2010 at her canonisation Pope Benedict XVI described Mary MacKillop's courage and joy in the face of troubles. He said, 'Despite many challenges, her prayers to St Joseph and her unflagging devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to whom she dedicated her new congregation, gave this holy woman the graces needed to remain faithful to God and to the Church'.

As we face struggles and challenges in our lives, many we remember St Mary MacKillop's unwavering courage and let Charity be our guide.

Mass for the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop will be celebrated at St John's Parish Kippax on Saturday 8 August at 10am.

**Sabina Van Rooy**

LITURGY COMMITTEE

# Matthew 13 The Kingdom Parables

In the recent Sunday readings, Matthew 13, the focus is on the 7 similes regarding the 'kingdom of heaven'. Matthew lists 7 parables and also often uses the numeral 7, [the scriptural symbol for potential & completeness, sometimes expressed as perfection].

Each of the parables uses elements, each of which is part of our present physical experience: seeds [fruitful, damaging], yeast, treasure [may be], fishing nets.....the parable elements connect us to our physical realities of the present, i.e. in 'the here & now'.

The 'kingdom of heaven' is in our physical presence HERE & NOW. The total reality is not current but the 'kingdom' is, as being:

<i>Not</i>	<i>But</i>
<i>a place</i>	<i>a presence</i>
<i>a realm</i>	<i>a reign</i>
<i>a gain</i>	<i>a gift</i>

Partially in the HERE & NOW

The Christ speaks to the people [us] in their current life – not about getting 'through the pearly gates', but as Paul understands "...because the kingdom of God does not mean eating & drinking this or that, it means righteousness, peace & joy brought by the Holy Spirit [14:17]. It is, as if we, all, are in the foyer!

We can stand back and reflect with "‘joy & wonder’ with ‘suffering’, which together can bring TRANSFORMATION” within the self!! [R. Rohr].

This 'hic et nunc' [here & now] is so challenging as we endeavour to expedite the 'kingdom of heaven'.....be grateful that each of us in one way or another does so....this can be a source of that insightful 'awe & wonder' that appreciates 'suffering' in the process.

**Brian Mahony**

## Reflection

Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them cheerfully, remembering whom you are trying to follow.

Do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you in all your life.

## When What Is Precious Is Taken from You

Our kids grow up and leave home, friends move away, loved ones die, we lose our health, and eventually, we die too. Moreover, even what is precious to us in terms of our faith and values suffers in the same way: things change, thoughts and feelings shift, rock foundations that once anchored us unassailably give way, doubt creeps in, the bottom falls out, and we are left wondering what we really believe in and what really can be trusted.

Happily, this is only half the equation: Everything we lose is eventually given back to us, and in a deeper way. Our kids become wonderful adults who begin to parent us, new bonds of friendship form across distance, we reconnect in a deeper and more permanent way to our loved ones who have died, we find something deeper and more permanent than physical health, death opens us up to the infinite, and the bottom falling out of old beliefs sends us free-falling to a place where we land on bedrock, on a foundation so secure that it can never be shaken again.

We see the pattern for this in scripture in the story of the Jewish community and the Babylonian exile. After arriving in Palestine ("the Promised Land") it took a number of generations to establish control over the land, unite all the various tribes into one nation, and build a temple in Jerusalem as centre for worship.

But then the Assyrians came and conquered the land, deported all the people to Babylon, killed the king, and knocked down the temple to its last stone. With that, the loss of land, king, and temple, the bottom fell out of their world, religiously and literally. How to you continue to believe, trust, and live in joy when all that once anchored these has been taken from you?

God's answer was this: You will find me again, when you search for me in a deeper way, with your whole heart, your whole mind, and your whole soul.

God gives us that same answer today whenever we feel betrayed, orphaned, and disoriented in this same way.

**Ronald Rolheiser OMI**

<http://ronrolheiser.com/en/#.XxTXxhJS-Uk>

Submitted by Di Bruce

## Philomena

Philomena—

It is a name we seldom hear  
Yet now

Will carry memories dear  
When I give thought to one  
Who came quite late  
To all our lives.

An Irish girl

With hair like raven's wing  
A kindly girl

A girl whose heart  
Is warm,

But oh, her soul—

And here I must give  
Longer thought.

Her life and face

Personify her soul

And until now,

Gave I but little thought

That souls are seen

And she,

Who owns this soul,

Will govern all her heart

And lend its warmth

To voice of gentle calm

To those who come

Bewailing acts of man,

And as she seeks

To make this world a whole,

Then I can say

That I have seen a soul.

This poem was written and published by Dorothy Jones in the early 70s when she and my mum Philomena were teaching at the Royal Hospital for Women in Sydney.

Shane Murtagh

# HEARTS IN ACTION

## Vinnies Update

Requests for assistance from Vinnies have continued during COVID-19 times, albeit at a lower rate, thanks to generous government support. Conference members telephone the person in need (companion) to discuss their situation and how their needs can be met. Food vouchers, fuel vouchers and groceries are dropped off while maintaining physical distancing.

Between 1 June and 25 July, we assisted 24 companions, half the number for the same period last year. Ninety percent of our companions receive Centrelink payments, with Disability Support Pensioners the biggest group. Over 70% are public housing tenants. Thirty percent are sole parents with children and 26% are single, living alone. Lack of food is the most common reason for seeking assistance, followed by fuel, furniture and white goods and clothing and bedding.

Since 1 June we provided almost \$3000 worth of assistance, with 50% for food and 40% for white goods. We expect demand for our services to increase as the level of government support declines into 2021. During August we will conduct our Annual Winter Appeal to raise funds to support those who are struggling in our community.

Thank you for your continuing support of Vinnies.

Contact Mike on **0419 818 410** for more information



## SJAcare

### Supporting parishioners in our community

- Communion to the housebound
- Home Visitation
- Funeral Ministry
- Spirituality of ageing - retreat

If you, or if you know of anyone who is housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion or a pastoral visit please contact the parish office.

Phone 6254 3236 ● Email [kippax@cg.org.au](mailto:kippax@cg.org.au)

## Youth **MINISTRY**

As a Youth Minister for the Parish, a lot of my job comes down to building relationships with students and supporting them as they engage with and grow in faith. Many members of the St John's Youth Group in particular, which has been running for about three years now, have said the group has been a wonderful experience. It has been a place where they can play fun games, build friendships over a meal and discuss faith. However, coronavirus restrictions meant that we were unable to meet for many weeks, and many of the students have mentioned that they missed the youth group when these restrictions set in.



Our youth group has always been somewhat small, but this has allowed the students to build strong friendships with each other which they really value. That is a quality of our youth group which I take great pride in. Although they've been unable to see each other for some time now, coronavirus has actually afforded me the opportunity to reflect on the youth group and its future direction, and I'm really excited to re-establish the youth group with a renewed zest and spirit as **we return to youth group this weekend on Sunday August 2nd**. I think the students will be very excited to see each other again as well.

If you know any **students in Years 7-12** who might like to be a part of our youth group, we run on the **1st and 3rd Sunday of every month from 7pm-9pm**. If you would like to play a role in supporting our youth group, we always appreciate offerings of food for dinner as well.

If you want to support in any way, you can contact me via [eoin.garton@cg.org.au](mailto:eoin.garton@cg.org.au)

**Eoin Garton**





# July Baptisms

We welcome into the SJA Community of the Body of Christ the following children baptised during the month of July.

*Davina Borscz* Daughter of David and Brigid

*Isobel Bradbury* Daughter of Neil and Kellie

*Gia Pamintuan* Daughter of Ian and Grachelle

*Andrew Seah* Son of Derren and Karen

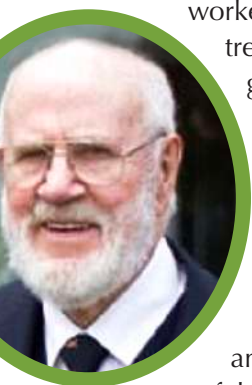
## Obituary

**TOM HALLAHAN**

7 March 1929 – 6 July 2020

Requiem Mass on July 17th marked the passing of Tom Hallahan, a valued member of the St John the Apostle Parish. A man of strong faith and integrity, Tom was devoted to his family. He had a clear understanding of what was right and held fast to that. He, I hear from various sources, was a benefactor to many. When I spent weeks in hospital some years ago Tom came to mow our lawns and set our garden in order. He re-aligned the row of trees at the front of St. John's and watered them for years. He also

worked powerfully to remove a large tree and to establish the rose garden in front of the presbytery wall. His truck was always available for garden removals at the church and to help individuals.



For years Tom joined a discussion group at our home and regularly gave Mary a gift of thanks at Christmas. He was an original and faithful member of St John's Book Club. A practical man, Tom seemed able to provide the right advice or appropriate implement to solve a problem. His care for his late wife, Marie, was inspiring. We have been blessed to have known Tom and he will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace.

**Eric French**

## JULY Funerals



**Garrick "Bud" Kelly**

8 December 1940 – 24 June 2020



**June Gamack**

14 August 1932 – 29 June 2020



**Elsie Bingham**

1 March 1930 – 3 July 2020



**Doris Galea**

20 October 1928 – 5 July 2020

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine  
upon them.

May they rest in peace.

Amen



# Social Justice News

## AUGUST CALENDAR

<b>2 Aug 1965</b>	First Indochinese refugees allowed to settle in Australia
<b>4 Aug</b>	National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day
<b>12 Aug</b>	International Youth Day
<b>18 Aug</b>	Feast of Saint Alberto Hurtado SJ
<b>19 Aug</b>	World Humanitarian Day
<b>29 Aug</b>	International Day against Nuclear Tests

### 4 AUG National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day

Children's Day is an opportunity for us to show our support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and if possible learn about the importance that family, community and culture play in their lives.

Children's Day has been run annually since 1988 and this year's theme is:

*We are the Elders of tomorrow, hear our voice*

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have poorer health, a shorter life expectancy, and lower levels of education and employment. The Closing the Gap strategy has resulted in some improvements, but national statistics indicate there's still a long way to go.



### 18 AUG Feast of Saint Alberto Hurtado SJ

This little-known saint served the poor of Chile until his death in 1952. He founded the *Hogar de Cristo* or 'Home of Christ' for poor and abandoned young people. He was also a staunch advocate of workers' rights. He was canonised in 2005 by Pope Benedict XVI, becoming Chile's second saint.

Pedro Hergato, as he was known, was a Jesuit priest, lawyer, social worker, and writer. After his father's death when Alberto was only young, the family experienced poverty and homelessness. Alberto was able to receive a good education through receiving a scholarship, and wished to become a priest. But needing to support his mother and younger brother, he studied at university by day and worked at night. He was active in the Sodality of Our Lady, where he visited the poor and taught them the catechism.

After completing his law degree he went on to study to become a Jesuit. After ordination he was a professor of religion at university with responsibility for running the Sodality of Our Lady with the students, where he involved them in teaching catechism to the poor.

In 1941, he published a book which sent shock waves through the country: *Is Chile a Catholic Country?* It pointed out the increasing mediocrity of Chilean Catholic life and the materialism of the time, particularly its toxic effects on the young, the lack of religious vocations and, above all, the way materialism aggravated the plight of the poor.

One night in 1944, a homeless man approached him on the street on a cold night. 'A poor man, in shirtsleeves, suffering from tonsillitis, and shivering with cold, approached me saying he had nowhere to find shelter.'

This led to him opening the first of his *Hogar de Cristo* homes, and within a few years, they spread across the country. In 1946, he bought a green pickup truck to bring at-risk children living on the street back to the shelters. He became a familiar sight driving in his green truck.

He died on 18 August, 1952, at the age of 51. In Santiago there is a shrine to Alberto, near the original Hogar, inside is his beat-up green truck.



**18 AUG World Humanitarian Day**

World Humanitarian Day honors aid workers all over the world. Established by the UN in 2009, it commemorates the anniversary of the bombing of the United Nations HQ in Iraq when 22 people lost their lives, including the UN’s High Commissioner for Human Rights.

This year it has a special significance when so many front line workers have labored unceasingly to treat COVID19 patients and prevent the spread of the pandemic. And there have been frontline workers of many kinds undertaking essential tasks and putting themselves at risk – bus drivers and taxi drivers transporting people, check out assistants at

supermarkets to enable people to buy food, police, ambulance and fire service officers working to keep people safe.

Over the years, Australia has provided many humanitarian aid workers: there are doctors travelling overseas to provide children who have type 1 diabetes with checkups and essential medication, or operating on women with fistula or uterine prolapses; or training local doctors to remove eye cataracts.

There are others like engineers, and operations managers who work for lengthy periods or assist in the aftermath of a natural disaster. Sometimes aid workers meet with opposition and suspicion and are imprisoned or expelled.

Finally, there are those who remain at home supporting them, raising and donating money – they too also participate in humanitarian aid work.

**There are many social justice issues currently not being addressed by the parish community because we no longer have a committee.**

**If anyone is interested in meeting every few months, please contact us.**

**29 AUG International Day Against Nuclear Tests**

Seventy-five years have passed since atomic bombs fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending the Second World War. And since 1945, just under 2000 nuclear tests have been performed by many nations.

Nuclear testing has ruined the lives and contaminated the sacred hunting grounds of native peoples, and created radioactive clouds of fallout that drift across the world.

Nuclear tests devastated pristine environments and local populations around the world. Peoples from regions as diverse as the South Pacific, Australia, North America, and North Africa have equally suffered from poisoned groundwater, radioactive fallout, and other side effects to health and living conditions.

This day is a reminder of our need for a legally-binding prohibition on nuclear weapons. At the same time, we also acknowledge that significant progress has been made in banning nuclear tests. The *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty* has been signed by many nations, though not the USA, who in recent months has even talked about resuming nuclear testing.

**For more information on social justice issues, the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council’s website:**

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au> contains a large amount of information in the form of statements, monthly briefings, leaflets, etc.

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