

FCJnews

in the Province of Asia–Australia

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Sister Margaret Mary Kennedy FCJ

Principal, Genazzano FCJ College 1983 – 1992

Born: 22 October, 1927

Born to Eternal Life: 13 March, 2017

This was a time of change in education and Genazzano was no exception. Some initiatives taken during Margaret Mary's principalship included:

- Wider involvement of parents such as membership of the Social Awareness Committee, the Fathers' Association, Father/Daughter Masses
- Establishment of the College Board, re-introduction of Boarders at an off-campus site, Hopetoun Hall and the General Council and Committee of Management
- Re-modelling of the House system
- Introduction of joint Year 11 RE Camps between Genazzano and Xavier
- The introduction of rowing and the Rowing Club and Saturday Morning Sport
- Expansion of the co-curricular program to involve all the teaching staff
- Transition from the HSC to the VCE
- Academic rigour given a high priority to Religious Education units within the VCE
- Japanese introduced to the curriculum and the Japanese exchange
- Kimberley Student Exchange Program commenced in collaboration with Nulungu College
- Building of Centenary Hall and swimming pool
- First issue of Gen-narrations published in 1984



**Margaret
Mary
Kennedy
fcJ**

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**Mary Elizabeth
Kennedy fcJ**

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In this publication you will read stories of three of our Sisters who have died in recent months – Srs Peter Wilson, Margaret Mary Kennedy and Mary Kennedy. They

lived lives of openness and availability, always being ready to respond to what they believed God was asking of them, and facing challenges as new opportunities.

As human beings we are so blessed, for we are created with the possibility of continuous, never-ending opportunities to choose, with chances for originality, for trying again, for new beginnings. But this is a demanding gift for most of us, because the vagaries of life take over and we drift, or are pushed forward, and we end up not allowing ourselves that moment of thoughtful choice. To aid us, both common sense and good psychology suggest stopping and reflecting, and our aching for peace attempts to quieten us down. Also the presence of beauty around us calls to our spirits – but so often we still chase on, letting our hectic lifestyle rule us.

During our FCJ five-day Province Assembly at the beginning of this year, Margarita Byron fcj inspired us with reflections based on one of our 2013 General Chapter Directions, which states that we are all on a pilgrimage of discovery into God revealed in the cosmos. This is a concept which is stretching us in so many ways because of our growing sense of inter connectedness with all aspects of life in the cosmos.

One of Margarita's presentations was entitled, 'Will the world be saved by beauty?' This reminded me that we have seen in many news reports that certain protagonists in our world today have destroyed ancient monuments of beauty. The fact that they feel it is necessary to do this to further their cause gives a clear indication of the importance and power of what is beautiful in our world. The whole of humanity, the world, the cosmos suffer – including, of course, the one who destroys the beauty.

At the end of our Assembly we wrote: *Beauty is a manifestation of God in the cosmos. As we go deeper in our understanding, we are called to discover, treasure, enjoy, be changed by this beauty and, in turn, to create beauty.*

So at this time of a fresh beginning – as is every day – I hope that we all take time to notice beauty around us and find ways to create beauty for ourselves and others. This is an opportunity to do or to say things differently, and to move forward in our lives with more compassion and love in the world.

Judith Routier fcj
Province Leader



The Presence of the Holy

Recently we have been reflecting on how we incorporate faith in our lives. It has been a helpful exercise because it offers an opportunity to stop and think about where we've come from, people we meet and attitudes that are made along the way.

The beginning is a very good place to start and, in our case, it is true that our home sets the ground for the integration of faith and life. My husband and I were both taught the Morning Offering:

O Jesus, through the most pure heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your divine heart ...

This is a prayer we still say often.

We have come to see it with a new understanding now and perhaps it can be best described as trying to live an intentional life. By this we mean having the intention to have God in the centre, accepting the good gratefully and allowing the hard and hurtful to wash over or 'pass to the keeper' where possible. When the events of everyday life are offered up, somehow it helps to keep the eye open to goodness and beauty when we could be caught up in a busy, materialistic culture.

Preparing to be a Companion in Mission (CIM) really reinforced trust in God, just as Marie Madeleine d'Houët responded in trust to the 'I thirst'. Just at this time of my life, when I try to connect to Christ I am very aware of guidance. I have prayed along the lines of: 'Lord, I can't do anything about this situation, please help me'. I have felt listened to and amazing serendipitous things have occurred in response to my petition. Meeting with our CIM group and praying with a Centering Prayer group are other ways to meet like-minded people for support and awareness of the

God who is always with us. In our home before a meal or before bed we might do a very brief Examen, just saying one thing we are grateful for in the day. Together with Mass, we feel held in relationship to our God who loves us.

Hand in hand with the above is living with the Ignatian attitude: 'Finding God in all Things'. So, in family time, we share the ups and downs, offer encouragement or just a listening ear. There is joy in the simple things like walking along the local Darebin Creek amongst the peaceful gum trees or watching a spot of TV. We've felt renewed in spirit after travel opportunities where even a small exposure to different cultures results in feelings of humility, understanding our place in the world and greater non-judgement.

Our employment is vocational and, as teachers, we have daily opportunities to help others grow holistically. Jan Novotka's reflection on the door of our refrigerator sums this up beautifully: *There's a still, vibrant energy shimmering in all things, shimmering everywhere... Behold it and you will be transformed, for it is the presence of the Holy...*

Margaret and Peter Cosgrave,
Companions in Mission, Melbourne



The Principal, Margaret Mary Kennedy fcJ,
1983 – 1992.

Margaret Mary Kennedy fcJ

On a befittingly beautiful autumn morning on 3 April 2017, Sister Margaret Mary Kennedy fcJ was farewelled at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Deepdene. Gathered together were her family, her FCJ companions and the wider community of all those whose lives she touched. It was a celebration of the gift of Margaret Mary's God-given life and the faith, joy and compassion with which she undertook all she did in her well-lived and loved 89 years.

'As much as many in the FCJ and wider community are saddened by these two recent deaths in the Society, there is a feeling that the two beloved sister Sisters are now together with their God and meeting up with those they loved while sojourning here.'

Margaret Mary was baptised Ellen Margaret, was known as Peg to close family and friends, and was given Margaret Mary as her name in religious life. She was born in 1927, one of three children of Irish parents, Thomas Kennedy and Elizabeth Collins, who had migrated to Australia in 1922. Her siblings were her brother Jim (who died in 1981) and her sister Mary fcJ who only survived Margaret Mary by a month. As much as many in the FCJ and wider community are saddened by these two recent deaths in the Society, there is a feeling that the two beloved sister Sisters are now together with their God and meeting up with those they loved while sojourning here.

The Kennedy family lived in Richmond as the children grew up. Margaret Mary attended the local parish primary school and then Vaucluse College FCJ, Richmond, for her secondary education.

In 1945, Margaret Mary entered the FCJ novitiate at Genazzano and made her first Vows in the former Genazzano chapel on 15 August 1947. In the following month she sailed to England, where she spent some time in Broadstairs before going to Paris from January to August, 1948. From Paris, she returned to Broadstairs, then in October 1948, she moved to Dublin for tertiary studies. She graduated in 1951 with an Honours Arts degree at the National University of Ireland, majoring in French and English. Those sisters who studied together abroad made great friendships and expanded their view of the world and of the Society's apostolic undertakings. By the time she returned to Australia towards the end of 1952, Margaret Mary carried with her a renewed confidence in God, a friendship with many FCJs, a strong sense of the internationality of the Society and a missionary vision.

Once home, Margaret Mary was missioned to Benalla where, from the commencement of 1953 and at the young age of twenty-five, she took up the responsibility of Boarders' Mistress.

Her duties, as well as caring for the boarders, included those of a member of the teaching staff and much that she was called upon to do involved new learning and reflective judgement. Margaret Mary dedicated her time and attention tirelessly to the boarders' welfare and formation, giving extensive hours to supervision, to facilitation of recreational activity, to spiritual guidance and general encouragement. Sister Frances Kennedy FCJ, who delivered the eulogy at the Requiem Mass, boarded at Benalla at this time and remarked on Margaret Mary's profound influence on her, both as a student and as a future candidate for an FCJ vocation. Margaret Mary remained at Benalla for twenty years, in charge of the boarders until 1969, then as Headmistress and Local Community Leader until the end of 1972.

From 1973 to 1980, Margaret Mary was Regional Leader for the FCJ Sisters in Australia, residing initially at Vaucluse in Richmond, and then at Langwarrin, Victoria. She played a key role in establishing a Frontier Group at Langwarrin in 1979 as part of the education provision in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. She was also involved in a number of Catholic education working groups and represented the major superiors of Religious Orders in several spheres. During this time, St Raphael's Nursing Home was built within the school grounds of Genazzano for the care of the older FCJ Sisters.

Having concluded her appointment as Regional Leader, Margaret Mary was missioned in 1980 to the FCJ community in Paris as Local Community Leader. This was a new challenge. In a foreign country, in a group made up of several nationalities and languages, her many talents were called upon for the building of community. Since this was the house in which the Foundress, Marie Madeleine D'Houët, had died, Margaret Mary learned much about Marie Madeleine and enjoyed all the new aspects of her story which were becoming a greater focus of FCJ attention at that time.



The Principal welcomes all at Genazzano fcJ College.



A class of students at Benalla FCJ College in the 1960's.



Margaret Mary Kennedy fcJ with Japanese Exchange Students.



Launching a new boat with spirit!



Rowing four on the river in the early days.



The winners receive their medals from Sr Margaret Mary at the Barwon River.



Holding on tight in Yogyakarta, Margaret Mary Kennedy fcJ and Clare Hand fcJ.



Riding high in Ireland.



Summer camp in Romania 1996.

Margaret Mary returned to Australia in 1982 and from 1983 to 1992 was Principal at Genazzano FCJ College, Kew. She brought to the task her tireless energy, her faith and humour, her strong belief in the transforming power of education and her vision for an FCJ Catholic school. The College Board was established and involvement of the wider school community into numerous facets of College life was made possible through groups such as the Social Awareness Committee, the Parents' Association, the Fathers' Association, the Father–Daughter Masses, the Hopetoun Hall General Council and Committee of Management, the Friends of the Boarders, the Rowing Club, the Saturday morning Sport program. Margaret Mary also worked with energy to re-establish the Boarding School, which had closed in 1980. A particular pleasure for her was to be awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 1994, in acknowledgement of her contribution to education. Margaret Mary had a great appreciation for all the support she was given by parents, staff, students and alumnae in implementing the vision she had for Genazzano. She was also strongly supported by her much-loved family and valued her contact with them.

At the end of her time as Principal at Genazzano, Margaret Mary was asked to go to Europe where two FCJ Sisters had explored the possibility of establishing a mission to one of the Eastern European countries. Margaret Mary took up residence in Romania in 1994, initially alone in Bucharest living at the Archbishop's house while the two other Sisters went to Galați. Margaret Mary worked as a teacher of English at the Institute of Theology in Bucharest and with some increase in community numbers she was appointed as Local Leader of the FCJ community. She was often called on to give a reflection at the Sunday evening English language Mass and as a woman who loved words and chose them thoughtfully one can imagine the combination of gentleness and impact in her oration.

Through her networks of friends, Margaret Mary organised books for the students who were still suffering from the deprivations of the Ceaușescu regime. She knew that often parcels sent from abroad were stolen or part-pilfered by local Post Office workers so, with her gifts of tact and ingenuity, each time she went to pick up a parcel she would open it and give something to the person serving her. Needless to say the stealing eventually stopped. Margaret Mary's gifts of empathy and her insight into the human condition were exemplified in everything she did. She could, with her sure, direct and reasonable touch, instigate large educational directives. On the other hand, her warmth, interest and encouragement coloured so many of her personal friendships in the wider community.

‘Margaret Mary remained at Benalla for twenty years, in charge of the boarders until 1969, then as Headmistress and Local Community Leader until the end of 1972.’

Julie Chamberlin delivered an address at the Vigil on the evening prior to the Requiem Mass and talked with great affection of her two visits to Romania in support of Margaret Mary. Julie spoke about Margaret Mary's work with developing the students and instituting a 'can do' attitude in women who had been culturally repressed by Communism, an attitude that had never been needed when she was Principal at Genazzano.

Margaret Mary had to adapt to primitive conditions and learnt to avoid being mauled by the wild dogs that roamed the streets by walking in the middle of the road. There were no supermarkets, as

we know them, in Bucharest so Margaret Mary went to market and got to know the vendors. She had the good sense to have brought back some egg cartons from England as eggs were dispensed through a little window one by one and put into the purchaser's pockets. No scrambled eggs for Margaret Mary! This marketing was tiring and time-consuming and Julie suggested that catching a taxi might make it a little less onerous.

In her first year, Margaret Mary organised a student camp at the Archbishop's chalet and offered workshops to attendees. Literature scholar Sister Campion McCarren fcJ gave some lectures on Jane Austen and scripture lectures were delivered by Sister Bernadette O'Malley fcJ. Margaret Mary and Julie undertook some personal development work with the students, including the Myers Briggs survey. One can imagine the excitement and enthusiasm the students must have felt in being able to engage with ideas and imagination and to have the power of learning unlock new delights and discoveries. When Margaret Mary returned some years later she was thrilled to see how her students had progressed and loved being given one young woman's business card! How she would have quietly basked in that journey and known that she had rather a lot to do with that young woman's growth and accomplishment. This epitomised Margaret Mary, the educator.

‘Margaret Mary's gifts of empathy and her insight into the human condition were exemplified in everything she did.’

One can imagine Margaret Mary's delight when at one Australia Day celebration in Bucharest she was approached by one of the guests of the young Australian manager of the refurbished Hilton, who had noticed her FCJ badge. He said to her that he had been educated at Sacred Heart School, Kew, by a wonderful teacher, Sister Fidelis, and wondered if Margaret knew her. Knew her? It was only Mary, her beloved sister! What a joyful encounter and how the two sisters must have been delighted with this lovely FCJ story.

On her return to Australia in 2003, and joining the Fairfield community, Margaret Mary was involved in parish activities: giving communion to the sick, assisting the sacristan, attending meetings, visiting the sick and aged. She also supported and delighted in the work being done by Julie and the Friends of Romania and of The Philippines, which raises funds to support the various works of the Society in those countries. Margaret Mary also coordinated a group of Companions in Mission until recently and was a vital member of the editorial committee of *FCJ News* for the Province of Asia–Australia.

Throughout her life, Margaret Mary kept in touch with friends; those who attended school with her were among those who had contact over the years. When she entered in 1945, Sisters Annunciata O'Connor of the Richmond community, Kathleen Mary Ride, who is resident at Mary Mackillop Aged Care, and Joan Duffus (who died in 2000) were her companions. Right up to the end of last year, Margaret Mary and Annunciata set aside a day from time to time to meet up, catch the tram into the city and enjoy one another's company. Margaret Mary had a gift for friendship and encouragement of others and was sociable by nature, so that others were drawn to this vibrant, purposeful and energetic woman who got things moving through dint of enterprise, initiative and inviting others into her helping circles. Her devotion to the FCJ Society and its mission was always her guiding vision.



The beloved Kennedy sisters, always happy together.



The Kennedy sisters with the Governor, Mr Richard Garvey, celebrating Margaret Mary's OAM.

Within her home community, Margaret Mary assisted with household tasks and enjoyed gardening. Her sister, Mary, came to live in the Fairfield community with her in 2007 and they were able to share companionship and assistance together until 2015 when Mary moved to Mary Mackillop Aged Care. Margaret Mary maintained the interest she had always shown in people and events and loved meeting and greeting the many with whom she had been engaged over the years, particularly past pupils. At the time of her sudden death, Margaret was enjoying her holiday with a group of FCJ Sisters at Sorrento.

Father Bernard Buckley celebrated the Mass and spoke of taking Margaret Mary's measure – the summary of a life before one goes to God. Margaret Mary's measure was love – for her family, for the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus, for the Catholic Church, for all those who came within her sphere. She lived out, with generosity and optimism, the 'I thirst' of Marie Madeleine d'Houët's quest for justice and fidelity to mission in the work of the Lord. Bernard recalled that Margaret Mary was a sister to all and that in her *loving, generous, fearless, self-giving, authoritative, dutiful, selfless way* – here he invited the congregation to supply other adjectives which produced laughter in the pews – she served the Lord faithfully. It was a measure of Bernard's friendship with Margaret Mary that he could invite others to add interiorly to the description of the qualities that so embodied her.

Sister Barbara Brown-Graham fcJ, writing of her memories of Margaret Mary, noted that initially they had some fiery encounters, but as she came to know Margaret Mary she was inspired by her as a woman of deep faith who always encouraged formation and growth. Sister Barbara acknowledged that it was Margaret Mary who was able to spot her talents and draw out the best of her and that Margaret Mary was always supportive of her in her role as Provincial. She noted Margaret Mary's vibrancy and enthusiasm and her capacity for hearty and infectious laughter. The following words are Sister Barbara's beautiful summary of Margaret Mary's qualities. *She had the capacity to breathe courage into the faint-hearted, energy into the weary, creativity into the unimaginative, long-term vision into the short-sighted, joy into the downcast.*

It was fitting that Our Lady of Good Counsel church was packed with the many who loved and respected Margaret Mary for who she was and what she accomplished in her life. The FCJ Sisters have been most moved and appreciative of the number of stories and reflections shared with them about Margaret Mary and know that



Farewell to a woman of faith, grace and style.

many more will be told over the years about this remarkable woman. The church at capacity was a sure testament to this valiant woman of faith, perseverance, good humour, joy and justice. Margaret Mary was a Faithful Companion to her God, the FCJ Society, her family, her many dear friends, alumnae and parents, and to so many who had the privilege of working with her in her many and varied endeavours.

We have been blessed to know her.

May she rest in peace in the love of the Lord.

Frances Kennedy fcJ

'Margaret Mary had a gift for friendship and encouragement of others and was sociable by nature, so that others were drawn to this vibrant, purposeful and energetic woman who got things moving through dint of enterprise, initiative and inviting others into her helping circles. Her devotion to the FCJ Society and its mission was always her guiding vision.'

2016 Academic Awards Assembly

Good morning Ms Jebb, Sister Maryrose, Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus, members of the college executive, staff, students, families, and fellow graduates of 2016.



Ms Karen Jebb, Principal congratulates Jacinta Ryan on her VCE success.



Jacinta Ryan as co-Dux 2016 and urging the current VCE students to *'follow every rainbow till you find your dream'*.

Thank you for inviting me here today to speak to you about my experiences at Gen.

I'm sure you are all aware that doing well is not just about skill and talent, but rather requires sheer hard work and determination; that you should follow your interests, not those of others; and that you should never do a subject purely for the mark-up. I know what you're thinking: I studied Latin of all subjects ... a dead language; that must've been for the mark-up. I can assure you that if I were not passionate about it and intrigued by the language, I would not have chosen it.

Everyone's approach to school and Year 12 is different, so rather than focusing on academics or specific methods of success, my advice to you relates to your life and wellbeing in general.

During school, and particularly Year 12, it is incredibly easy to become caught up in the hectic nature of it all. Compromise becomes the norm, as you often find there is simply not enough time, and often energy, to complete, attend, or accomplish everything you would like to. Different aspects of your life gradually make their way down to the bottom of the priority list, where they have the danger of being lost or completely forgotten.

It is always important to prioritise. We all know that when we're busy, there are some things that just have to take precedence over others. However, it is vital that we do not give up the important things in life. I have often heard people say that they are too busy to worry about their faith or going to Mass whilst in Year 12. Yes, it is an extremely hectic time, but this is exactly when you need your faith the most. In times of stress, when we feel as though we are being buried by the workload, SACs (School Assessed

Coursework), and extra-curricular activities, this is precisely the time to stop and reflect.

If we constantly say to ourselves that we are too busy to contemplate our faith, our relationship with God will never grow or deepen. With no room for development or growth, our willingness and enthusiasm for our faith will gradually diminish, leaving us questioning why we are attending a Catholic school in the first place. However, if we do take the time out of our busy schedules to go to Mass or pray about our successes and failures and consider what we can do to improve, our general outlook on the year and life as a whole will improve. I know that not everyone will take this on board, but even if one person in this hall puts a hold on their busy schedule this year to take the time to go to Mass, pray for help, guidance, or success, I believe they will be so much the better for it.

Furthermore, I would like to implore you not to give in to the culture of stress surrounding Year 12. One hears all the time how stressed people are about a certain SAC, exam, performance ... the list goes on. Being overly stressed in school is an ever-increasing phenomenon, which is perpetuated by people making stress contagious, whereby people feel the need to agree when someone says that they're unprepared. So when you do encounter this kind of attitude, strive to be the one who is calm and unperturbed by the inevitable panic.

Now although both of these factors assisted me immensely last year, obviously all the teaching staff at Genazzano have contributed greatly to the success of our year level, and the wonderful results obtained overall. Thank you to all my teachers, you know who you are, and on behalf on Gen '16, I sincerely thank every teacher who mentored and guided us over the years.

Personally, thank you to my parents and siblings. I'm the fifth child out of six now to have passed through Year 12 in my family, so my parents are pretty experienced and calm about the whole procedure. I sincerely thank you for everything: for sending me to this school, for encouraging me when I needed it, for chauffeuring me to every eisteddfod, exam, rehearsal etc., and for the countless other things you have done, and continue to do for me. To my siblings, who in the midst of two of their weddings, changing jobs, moving states or country, performances, university, and school, were there, and still are, to support me, to rant with me, to eat whole blocks of chocolate with me, or to have jam sessions with me, thank you.

So then, at the end of Year 12, your ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) score finally arrives. While we all know it is important to strive for the highest mark we can achieve, this is not the factor that is going to determine the rest of your life, your career, or even the final course that you study. Some will not achieve the ATAR they needed for the course they wanted to study. Don't let this worry you, as there are many pathways that lead to your area of interest and it is relatively easy to transfer between courses or even universities if you are determined and work hard. Alternatively, you may be surprised by your high score and feel pressured by your good results to do a course that you don't really want to. Don't let people's expectations guide your choice. I can tell you that the first question I have received for the past couple of months is, 'So are you going to do medicine, law??' In my case, I want to pursue music and fly half-way around the world to audition for the course I'd like to do. I am under no illusions about how competitive it is and how difficult it is to get in, but if I don't succeed, at least I won't die wondering.

So like those I've mentioned above who have encouraged me, I now urge every student here at Gen to 'climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow, till you find your dream'.

Thank you.

Jacinta Ryan, Year 12 student (Class of 2016), Genazzano FCJ College, Kew



Carol Rosenhain



Horace Millichamp Moore-Jones via Flickr

'The Australian positions, extreme right', Gallipoli 1915

The Man Who Carried the Nation's Grief

The Man Who Carried the Nation's Grief explores the work of an unheralded Australian soldier. At the outbreak of WW1 James Malcolm Lean was given the task of establishing a central office to house the service records of the 421,809 Australian Servicemen who enlisted for the Great War. Without precedent or infrastructure, this young army clerk established a repository colloquially known as Base Records.

Initially the department began with Lean and two clerks, but by the end of 1918, over 400 staff were employed at the Victoria Barracks in St Kilda Road to manage the files of each soldier and correspondence pertaining to them. Major Lean's system was so thorough, that any soldier's file could be found within two minutes.

Initially Base Records' task was to liaise between the army authorities and the public about casualties. In an age bound by pen and ink, the long sea mail from England and brief telegrams, families received only skeletal details about their loved one's fate. A curt telegram stating injury or death begged detail from distraught relatives. Consequently, Base Records found themselves bombarded daily by thousands of letters from families longing for further information. This unsolicited correspondence was never anticipated by the authorities, but it was always sensitively addressed by the department.

Naturally families wanted details of wounding, death and burial, which was invariably difficult to explain, as people had no understanding of the fact that industrial

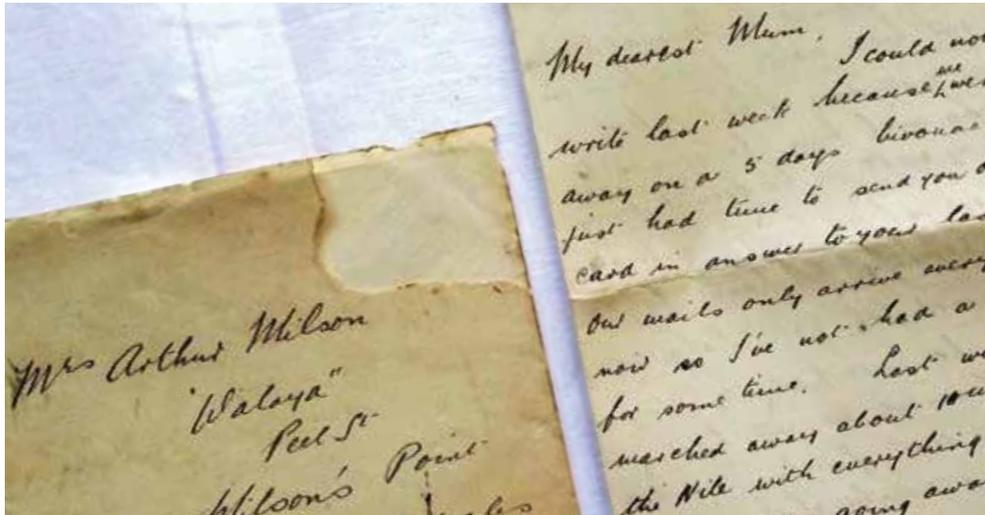
scale warfare often meant total annihilation. Often, family entreaties required years of detective work and an epistolary relationship that lasted long after the Armistice. As a signatory to every one of the millions of items of correspondence despatched by Base Records, Major Lean soon became a part of the household lexicon. He became the 'go-to man', and the father confessor to the nation.

He brokered compromise when families argued over the distribution of the deceased's medals and mementos. He worked assiduously to identify correctly the names of thousands of men who enlisted under pseudonyms to escape domestic responsibilities. In so doing he ensured that their families received their just entitlements upon the soldier's death. He organised the return of effects, the notification of promotions and gallantry awards, the return of under-age recruits who had lied on their attestation forms, and vetted the epitaphs which families composed for their loved ones' graves. Above all he provided solace and comfort to thousands of grieving families by answering every letter with courtesy and compassion.



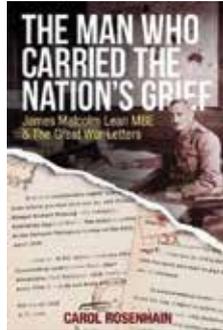
Travis via Flickr

Australian War Memorial



Named Faces from the Past via Flickr

Major Lean's commitment to the Australian people arose not just from duty but from his faith. He was a deeply spiritual man who honoured the sanctity of every human life and a family's right to know the fate of their loved one. Ironically, in spite of his contribution to Australian history his efforts and name were lost in the post-war readjustment and the Great Depression. The nine long years he spent establishing and maintaining Base Records took its personal toll and he died in 1932 aged 52. He has no grave or memorial, but his legacy is evident in the documents he collated that capture the voices and values of Australians a century ago.



'He worked assiduously to identify correctly the names of thousands of men who enlisted under pseudonyms to escape domestic responsibilities.'

Carol Rosenhain

The Man Who Carried the Nation's Grief was written by Carol Rosenhain and published in 2016 by Big Sky Publishing.

Carol was a member of staff at Genazzano from 1985 – 1995 during which time she was Head of English.

'The nine long years he spent establishing and maintaining Base Records took its personal toll and he died in 1932 aged 52.'



Wilson Family, Margaret front row left.



Margaret on her Debut evening.

Margaret Mary (Sr Peter) Wilson fcJ

Margaret Mary was born the second child of six children to Robert Wilson and Mary Hickey on 23 June 1932, the feast of the Sacred Heart – hence the name Margaret Mary. She was born in the Cobram hospital and baptised on 10 July in St John's Church, Numurkah, in the baptismal font that had been given to the church by her maternal grandparents. Her paternal grandparents were her godparents.

Margaret grew up on the family property at Yalca, just south of the Murray River. In her own words she says 'that she had a very happy childhood with plenty of interesting things to do and watch, plenty of make-up games, ponies and bikes to ride, the company of other children coming to stay, wild-flowers to pick and sort. There were many picnics and campfires on the sand bar at Morgan's beach'. Margaret's family had a deep faith and Sunday Mass was the most important appointment of the week. It had precedence over many other activities, due in part to the rationing of petrol. The family Rosary was said each evening around the fire in the dining room. To make sure that Margaret was well prepared for her First Communion she went to stay with an aunt in Cobram for several months so that she could attend the Catholic primary school.

Her primary education was at Bearii State School followed by her early secondary years at Numurkah high school. Later Margaret and her three sisters, Pat, Anne (known as Curlie) and Mary (known as Bobbie), finished their secondary education as boarders at Vacluse College FCJ in Richmond.

Margaret entered the FCJ novitiate as a postulant at Genazzano with Maryrose

Dennehy on 2 February 1951. She did not enter straight from school as her parents wanted her to have some experience of the beautiful world in which we live before she went to the convent. On 8 September the same year, Peter entered the novitiate and was given the name San Pierre. On 4 September 1953 Peter pronounced her First Vows in the Genazzano Chapel.

Peter began teacher training in 1954 with Mother Gerda Prytz. After obtaining her registration as a primary teacher she began teaching at Our Lady of Good Counsel School under the tutelage of Mother Mary John Haskings. In November 1961 Peter sailed to England on the P&O *Strathmore*. In the UK she spent three years at Sedgley Park FCJ Teacher Training College in Salford where she completed her training as a registered junior secondary teacher. She did not return to Australia then but was missioned to Fitchburg USA for two years.

On her return to Australia, Peter was one of the first members of the newly formed community in Frankston and she became the inaugural Principal at St Anne's School in Seaford. Peter says in her own memoirs, 'I liked the people, the open space, the adventure of being the Principal and of opening a new school. It was good and I was delighted to be back in Australia'. After

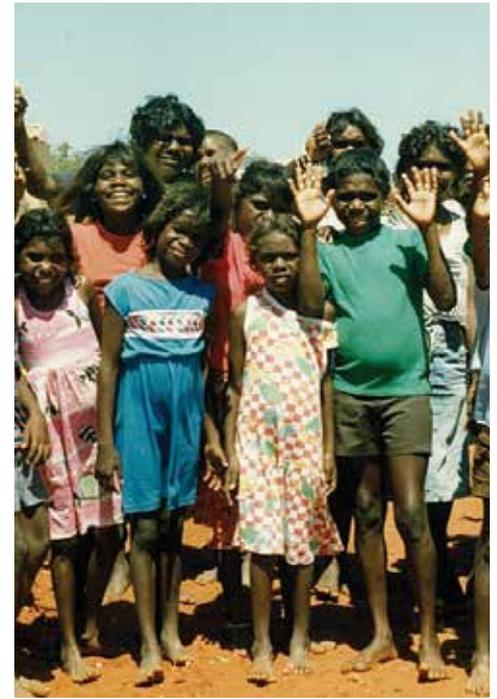
one year at St Anne's, Peter was asked to replace Sr Mary John at Our Lady of Good Counsel School. She was a great Principal and had a wonderful rapport with staff and children and was greatly loved and respected.

It was a sad day for Peter on 14 May 1980 when her beloved father died. Peter says of her father, 'He was one of God's very best men, one strong in his Catholic faith, a caring and loving father, a great provider from his hard-earned farmwork'. Mrs Wilson went on to live to be 102. Some of us experienced her wonderful cooking when visiting her in Numurkah.

In 1981 Peter was back in Frankston living in the Langwarrin community. Her appointment was to replace Sr Myrna Nunan as Principal of St John's School, East Frankston. In her ministry as a teacher and principal she made lasting friendships with parents and members of staff, following their joys and sorrows and supporting them in all kinds of ways. When at Frankston she was well supported at St John's by Mr Bob Davies, the then Principal of the local State primary school. Peter was a good connector, also, with the Parish Priests in the places where she lived and worked, and would speak affectionately of them



Visitors to the Kimberley, Sr Peter Margaret Wilson welcomes Breda O'Farrell fcJ (Superior General) and Sr Paola Terroni fcJ at Broome Airport.



The children of the Kimberley.

all – Monsignor John Kelly, Fr William Walsh, Monsignor Peter Jeffrey, Fr Joe Taylor and others. Leaving St John's at the end of 1988, Peter joined the small FCJ community in Broome, Western Australia, where she undertook the role of Diocesan Religious Education Coordinator. It was here that Peter modified the Religious Education guidelines to suit the Kimberley Aboriginal schools.

After her time in the Kimberley Peter came back to Frankston as a pastoral associate, then went to Adelaide where she began hospital visitation and became very interested in the program for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

Back in Melbourne she volunteered to be a guide for Pentridge Prison and St Patrick's Cathedral. Ever generous, Peter then offered to spend a year in The Philippines as a companion to Sr Teresa Hennessy, who was not well. She was also a mentor for our younger sisters – something she did with wisdom, warmth and affection. Returning to Melbourne in 2005, Peter was off to South Australia again and lived in the Jesuit parish of Norwood, in Adelaide.

In her final years, Peter came to Shepparton from Norwood with Sr Shirley Kimball and joined Rosemary Crowe to form a new community in the

parish of St Brendan's, where we were welcomed by Monsignor Peter Jeffrey and his parishioners. Peter quickly offered her services to the parish, to Tarcoola and Ave Maria Nursing Homes, and to the Goulburn Valley Hospital as a volunteer visitor.

She was an active member of the Faith and Light team and a member of a CLC (Christian Life Community) group. For a short while she was engaged in working with Sudanese families. She made friends easily and was generous with her time and talents.

Peter was a woman of faith and prayer. She loved her spiritual reading and often shared gems she found in books and articles. Her devotion to the Rosary and the gospels was food for the soul and increasingly sustained her as the years passed.

Sr Barbara Brown-Graham, now resident in England, shares the following memories of Peter:

Peter was a 'country lass' to the core – her roots firmly planted in the wheat/sheep/dairy country around Strathmerton, Waaia and Yalca. Her wry sense of humour and way of speaking were forever of the country. It was always a joy for her to visit her brother Peter on the farm, his twin sister Pat in Jerilderi and her ageing mother in Numurkah. Yet Peter also found her home in the city – Kew, Frankston and Norwood in Adelaide.

Barbara's farewell words:

So now, she is as free as a bird from all those weaknesses and restrictions of the body which had been her lot in the latter years. May she be laughing with the Lord whom she loved and served so faithfully. Rest now in peace, dear Peter.'

Rosemary Crowe fcJ

'In her ministry as a teacher and principal she made lasting friendships with parents and members of staff, following their joys and sorrows and supporting them in all kinds of ways.'

Mary Elizabeth Kennedy fcJ



Mary Kennedy fcJ

Mary Elizabeth Kennedy was born on 28 May 1931 to Thomas Kennedy and Elizabeth Collins and was a sister to Michael James (Jim) (dec.) and Ellen Margaret (Margaret Mary fcJ) (dec.). Her parents came by boat from Ireland and settled in Richmond. Mary grew up in a family that was centred around the Church and school and where the Rosary was said every evening.

Mary was taught by the Sisters of St Joseph in the primary classes and then went to Vaucluse College FCJ in Richmond. Here she continued to develop her love of learning, which prepared her for the future opportunities she had in later life at the University of Melbourne and Fordham University in America.

In 1949 Mary answered God's invitation to become a Faithful Companion of Jesus and made her first vows on 8 September 1951, renewed them in 1954 and made her final vows on the same date in 1957.

Mary did her Teacher Training in 1952 and was sent to Sacred Heart Primary School, Kew, the following year. This was the time of mass migration and all Catholic schools were overcrowded. Mary had a Grade 4/5 composite class. The challenge was the fact that there were 75 children in one room!!! When she heard that another Sister in the Western suburbs had 100 in her class, Mary began to think that maybe she was lucky.

During the next few years Mary taught at St Ignatius School, Richmond, was missioned to teach Year 9 at Genazzano FCJ College, Kew, followed by two years with our Sisters in their school in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, USA. On her return to Australia and her studies at the University of Melbourne, Mary was appointed Principal at Stella Maris Convent, Frankston, until the school amalgamated with Marianist Regional College and became John Paul College.

In 1977 Mary had the opportunity to join with some FCJ Sisters from around the world to have a year of Spirituality and Renewal and make a pilgrimage to France where the Foundress of the Society lived and worked. It was in 1980 that Mary had the opportunity to study the History of Spirituality and Adult Education in Faith at Fordham University. On her return to Australia, Mary was appointed to the staff of the Assumption Institute, which had been established for the Australian Sisters who had worked so hard in the remote areas of our vast land. Mary treasured the memories of this time. When the Institute closed Mary joined the staff of the Catholic Education Office. Monsignor Tom Doyle, the then Director of the Catholic Education Office, said this of Mary's contribution:

Sister Mary Kennedy was a warm-hearted, big-vision woman of the Church. She was proud to give witness as a competent and committed Sister, Faithful Companion of Jesus, in a group dedicated to the formation of lay men and women teachers and leaders with the Catholic Education Office of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. She saw and formed people to see their roles in Catholic schools as a ministry of the Church. She recognised the need for, and contributed to the development of a spirituality special to those roles as teachers, leaders and staff members in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council. In this particular aspect of her own ecclesial ministry she was very conscious of the presence of the Holy Spirit, realistic about the challenges, gentle, strong and with a sense of humour. She was also a very good listener and did not impose her views on other people. A seeker after new insights and the faith she wished to share with others. She was a team player; she could disagree without being disagreeable and very respectful of other people's opinions. The Catholic Education Office was a much better agency of an evangelising Church because of her contribution.

Mary was very involved with prayer groups. One of the groups that Mary took for meditation spoke about her leading them as 'Resting in the Lord', and she also showed them not only that it meant a time to think quietly but that it was also part of praying to have forty winks while resting. This ministry continued right up to her moving to Mary MacKillop Aged Care. Mary never complained



The Kennedy sisters, celebrating a special occasion.



Mary full of Christmas cheer.

about her time in care or the people who looked after her, everything was lovely.

In his homily Father Werner Utri, who knew Mary well as a parishioner of St Anthony's Parish, Fairfield, had this to say:

When you spoke with Mary you always felt that you were important. In the words of the first reading from Paul to the Romans, 'the life and death of each of us has its influence on others ...'. Mary would have influenced thousands of people for good and for God.

Mary died on Easter Sunday. What a wonderful day to die – the day of the Lord's resurrection. Mary's timing was perfect. Death for us as Christians, we need to remember, is not an end in itself but rather a new beginning, a new beginning of life with God. Mary would have understood that well.

Some time ago the FCJ Sisters were asked to write down what brought them joy and I share with you Mary's response:

Companionship in my life ... Jesus' faithfulness with me and mine with Him gives me great peace.

Like the other Mary in the garden on Easter Sunday, Mary heard, 'I have called you by your name, Mary. Come and see what I have prepared for you.'

Margaret Olsen fcJ



The beloved Kennedy sisters, always happy together.

'One of the groups that Mary took for meditation spoke about her leading them as 'Resting in the Lord', and she also showed them not only that it meant a time to think quietly but that it was also part of praying to have forty winks while resting.'

Province of Asia–Australia Assembly 28 December 2016 – 2 January 2017

The Province Assembly took place in glorious sunshine in the picturesque setting of Genazzano FCJ College, Kew. The coming together of the Sisters along with Companions in Mission and Education colleagues to some of the sessions created a unity, which in itself illustrated the theme of the Assembly:

We commit ourselves to the pilgrimage of discovery into God revealed in the cosmos and we actively integrate this new consciousness into every aspect of our living (General Chapter Directions 2013).

Under the skilful and experienced facilitation of Katherine Mary O’Flynn and the artistic creativity of Margarita Byron fcJ’s presentations, we were able, through our reflection, one-to-one sharing and activities, to discover how we could integrate into our lives as individuals and communities what we had been experiencing.

Five key concepts emerged:

- 1. Beauty is a manifestation of God in the cosmos. As we go deeper in our understanding, we are called to discover, treasure, enjoy, be changed by this beauty and, in turn, to create beauty.**
- 2. We come to Eucharist together with the whole of creation.**
- 3. Let us be passionate about the way we live our vows as value-carriers, and communicate compassion, creativity and joyful gratitude to God.**
- 4. In our lives, we give and receive, always remembering the sacredness of all things.**
- 5. We seek to be discerning women, developing our understanding and appropriate practice of discernment, given the holarchical (collaborative) model.**

We are grateful to Sr Judith Routier and the province council for all the preparation and to Srs Katherine Mary and Margarita for their expertise. Our final Eucharist, a Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Holy Name, was celebrated by Fr Bernard Buckley.

Denise Mulcahy fcJ



Yustina Tukiye fcJ and Maureen Merlo fcJ at the Welcoming Fire Ceremony.



At the Fire Ceremony.



Gardenias were the fashion statement at the final evening for Novices Karolina Lipat Tolok (Lina), Maria Khaing Nyein Aye, Cecilia Marip Seng Ja and Audrey Wong.



Margaret Feely with Katherine Mary O'Flynn fcJ, Assembly Facilitator.



Lighting the way.



Regina Meily Setiawati Sulaiman (Mei) fcJ with Presenter, Margarita Byron fcJ.



Liz Brown fcJ leading the team assembling the group 'holon'.

*'In our lives, we give and receive,
always remembering the sacredness
of all things.'*



Catherine Flynn fcJ, Agustina Suhartini (Hartini) fcJ, Rosemary Crowe fcJ.

Reflections from the FCJ Sisters in Asia who attended the Assembly



Left to right: Maria Khaing Nyein Aye (novice), Maria Sunarni (Narni) fcJ and Cecilia Marip Seng Ja (novice).



'The input was nourishing to my whole being ... I am now very much aware of the beauty of God even in small things.'

Elvisa Camilion fcJ



'As a new learner about the FCJ Society, the Assembly was a great chance to know about the way the Sisters can stand firm at the foot of the Cross and respond to the thirst of Christ.'

Maria Khaing Nyein Aye (novice)

'... Our Australian sisters are so independent, so active and so full of energy to do many things for the love of God.'

Cecilia Marip Seng Ja (novice)



'... We grow in worship, truth, kindness and goodness with all God's creation. The opportunity to grow as 'a discerning woman' each day.'

Maria Sunarni fcJ



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