

NOVEMBER NOVENA/CAMINO Station 8 : PILGRIM CENTRE AND FAMILY HALL

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While not plainly obvious at first, upon entry to the property one is confronted 'on the top of the hill' with four main buildings, these being the Shrine, The Joseph Kentenich House, The Pilgrim Centre and the Family Hall. It is the last two that are our focus for this month.



Anyone who has been part of the Movement or visited Mt Schoenstatt for a long time will know that the Pilgrim Centre is set up as a hospitality centre, an educational centre, a shop to sell religious goods, and it has a reconciliation room. It is a busy and vibrant hub where families and groups who are out for the day visit to shop or have their lunch in comfort. It is run by a Sister and volunteers. For our 'Mary and Martha Schoenstatt Mother's Group' it is a place where we have lunch together and our monthly educational meeting about 'Mary, Fr Kentenich and education in the 'Schoenstatt Marian Way of life'.

The Family Hall which now for many is seen as their local Church, was built not only for Mass but also for mass gatherings when the people involved in the Movement need to get together for celebrations. It is jointly owned by the Sisters and the 'Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality' centre which organises bookings for retreats and educational groups as well as Movement functions.

Today is the last of our Novena stations on the 'Top of the Hill' and neither of these buildings will be a station on the 'Full Camino Walk' around the property on the first weekend in December. This is because the walk will take us around the back of both buildings along the 'Stations of the Cross Walk' which comes out at the back of the Shrine which in Advent is one of the main stations on the Camino Walk.

As we have been at Mass today we do not have to walk far to participate in reading the history or praying a meditation rather it is about being practical in our spirituality like 'Martha' and putting our hearts, minds, will and hands to work to make Advent decorations that will become Christmas like decorations in December for our decoration of 'Sr Bonitas' Corner' at the end of the Camino Walk down to this place.

You will find sheets or packets of Jesse Tree symbols outside the Family Hall and the Pilgrim Centre with an explanation of them and a 'Map' invitation to join in the Camino Walk down to the bottom of the valley. You may also take a program booklet to help you prepare and follow along in December. Your children might like to colour in the pictures which are minatures of the paintings here today (Plan B if it rains).

Parents encourage your children today to colour in at least six if possible of the Jesse Tree symbols and help them glue them on the remaining 8 Jesse Trees to be made into decorations for the Camino Walk like the example hanging here today.

PLAN B for December 4th if raining:

Listening to the weather forecast and having seen this happen to the 'May Pilgrimage' a Plan B has been devised to at least enable us to participate in the 'devotion, education, singing and praying' that would have happened on the Camino Walk, if the rain is too intense on the day – 4th December.

Lunch will still happen after the 11 am Mass bring your own and the 'Advent Celebration' will take place in the Family Hall from 1pm. Paintings and photos will replace the physical stations.

The members of the 'Mary and Martha Schoenstatt Mother's Group' look forward to meeting you and your family outside after Mass to help us complete these decorations and for our Camino Walk.

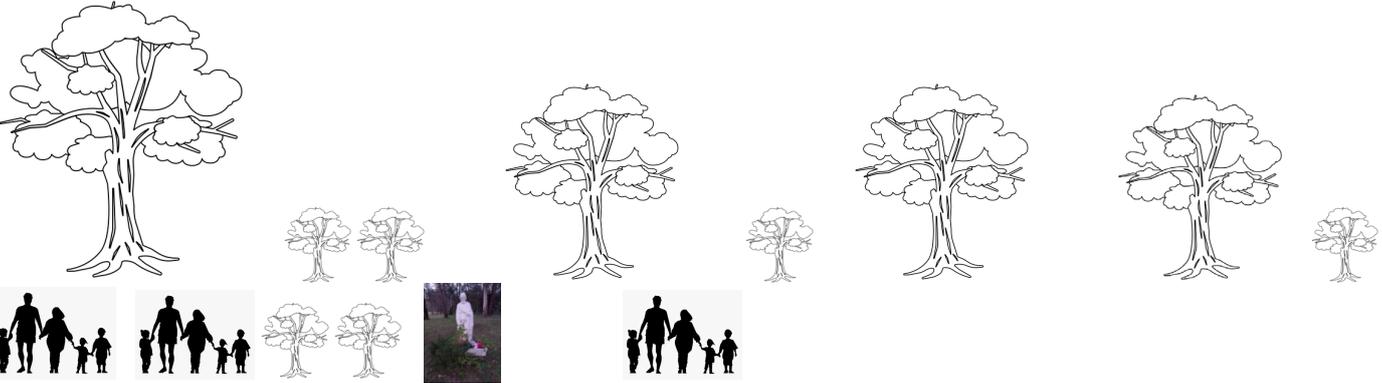
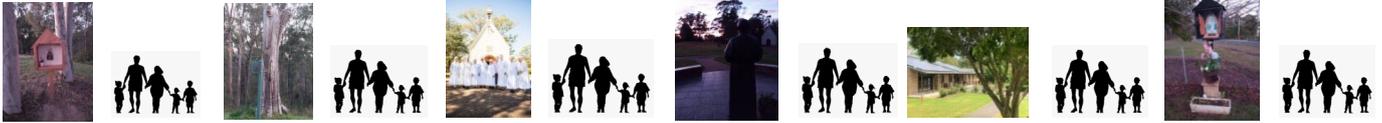
Most importantly please pray for fine weather around this time in December.

We pray that "Mother will take Perfect Care". Amen.

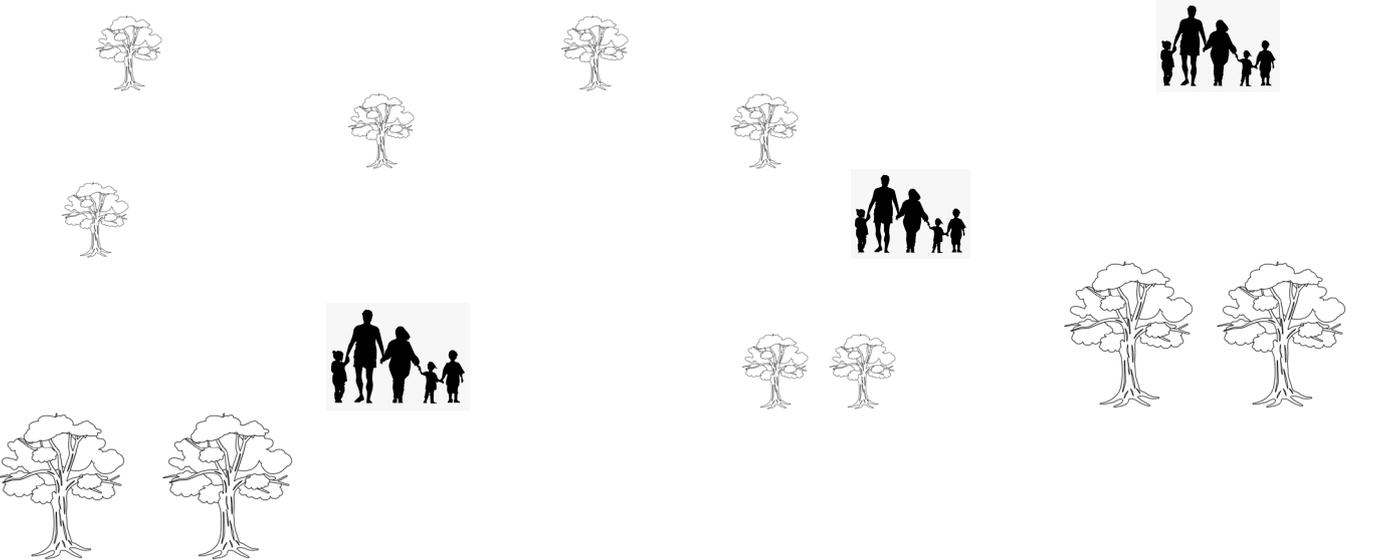
Map of Advent/Camino Walk: 4TH December 2022, at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. Starts 1pm following 11am Mass and Lunch (BYO). Join us if you can: Takes approximately an hour with Readings, Carols, and Prayers at each Station.

START

- 1 Original Shrine
Far side of Cemetery
- 2 Walk down hill to
Station of Cross Walk
- 3 Walk to Shrine
Gather at Shrine
- 4 Fr. Kentenich Statue
Gather around
- 5 Joseph Kentenich
Gather at House
- 6 Gather at Priest's Wayside Shrine
(Exit Gate)

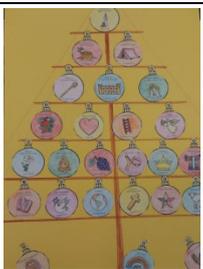


7 Gather at St Joseph Statue



8 Gather at The Home of Light

9 Gather at Sr. Bonitas Corner



From this to this

A Completed Jesse Tree decoration for Sr. Bonitas Corner:

Only 8 more to go with your help today!