



Josephite Associates

* Friendship * Prayer * Service
- February 2008 -

Hello from the Coordinator

Greetings as we begin this new year of 2008. Such an exciting year for us here in Australia as we welcome the youth of the world to Sydney in July. May we all pray for the success of World Youth Day in the months leading up to this important event, not only for us but the world church.

2007 finished well, with an Advent reflection day led by Sr Therese Leydon. It was good to pause and reflect on God coming among us as a baby.

Two new groups have been formed at Fairfield and Waterloo. We welcome those new members and hopefully you will soon get a chance to meet some of them.

The Congregational Chapter was held in October and I thank you all for your prayers during that time. We all offer congratulations to Sr Anne Derwin who will take up office in March as the new Congregational Leader. Anne is a former NSW Provincial and I am sure many of you know her. One of Sr Anne's first official actions was to appoint Sr Mary Quinlan as the NSW Provincial.

The reflection days at Boambee and Mullumbimby in November were appreciated, and I thank Srs Bridie O'Connell and Angela Grant for making the trip north to support our Associates there.

I continued to visit groups at Woy Woy and North Sydney and to enrol members, as well as attending many Christmas gatherings with you all. Thank you so much for your kindness to me over the past year and for your Christmas cards and wishes.

Special blessings for St Joseph's Day!

Until next time!

Sr Helen Sanders.

Coming Events—Associates

Kincumber Retreat
22nd–24th February 2008

'Journey to Life'

Led by Sr Bridie O'Connell rsj
(Fully booked—waiting list only)

Croydon Prayer Day
10th March 2008

Lenten Theme

Led by Sr Maureen McDermott rsj

Tree Planting Day
Kincumber
25th May 2008

See flyer for details

For further information, phone 02 8741 2334.

\$\$\$ Annual Appeal \$\$\$

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The Associates' annual appeal for donations is now being made, and an envelope is enclosed for this purpose.



Donations are completely voluntary and will be gratefully accepted.

Many thanks for your past generosity.

Resource Library

There is now a library of Mary MacKillop resources available at the Province Centre for you to borrow.



For further information, phone 02 8741 2334.

Goulburn Pilgrimage

An excited busload of Associates and friends set out from Strathfield on Saturday morning, 22nd September 2007, on pilgrimage to St Joseph's, North Goulburn, to join in the celebrations of 125 years of service to the people of the Goulburn Diocese by the Sisters of St Joseph. As always when Associates come together, the air was full of friendly buzz—catching up on each other's news. However, we soon settled down with Sr Helen leading us in the pilgrimage prayer and song.

On arrival we were greeted by Sr Karen Muir and Sr Anne Player of the Goulburn community. Following a welcome cup of tea in the Father Julian Tenison Woods Conference Room, we settled down as Sr Laraine Crowe told the story of the Federation Sisters coming to Goulburn. These were five young Sisters of St Joseph from Perthville—Sisters Evangelist Duggan, Ignatius O'Brien, Teresa Fallon, Joseph Cahill and Patrick Murphy, aged in their very early 20s, blessed with trust and faith in their vocation to God and his people. Their first home was a tiny residence, Sheekey's Cottage, in the main street of Goulburn. Four of the Sisters were Irish girls recruited by Bishop Lanigan of Goulburn on a visit to Ireland in 1880. The heat of the Australian summer was challenging, especially in the heavy thick habits!



Eventually a new convent was built for the Sisters in Reynolds Street, much of which has been retained as the building grew over the years. Women of vision, the present Goulburn Josephite Sisters have given over part of the convent, which is now used as a hostel and nursing home for the aged, including aged Sisters. The former boarders' accommodation is now part of the neighbouring Catholic Primary School.

A bus trip around Goulburn, narrated by Sr Anne, filled us in on much of the early Catholic history, with many humorous tales. It was hard to imagine how it must have appeared to those first young Sisters, as it is now a large city.

Returning to the Chapel, a holy place, we gathered together in prayer and thanksgiving for the Sisters both present and past who said 'YES' when called.

This was a day blessed by the Lord with beautiful weather, friendship and true Josephite family.

Margaret Battam, The Oaks

World Youth Day Cross and Icon at Byron Bay

On 6th August 2007, the Cross and Icon were at Byron Bay Lighthouse, just as the sun was rising at the most easterly point of Australia.

It was a moving experience to read the actual words of Pope John Paul II to the Youth of the World and to see the reverence and enthusiasm of the young people as they carried the Cross and Icon down and along the beach.

Photo:

Sister Margaret Keane, Mullumbimby and Patricia Higgins, Associate, Byron Bay.

Sister Margaret Keane

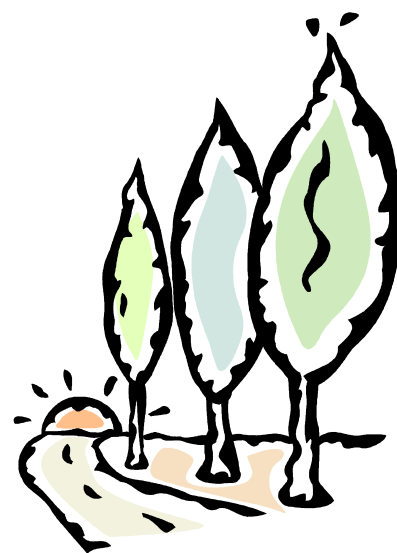


Help Help Help !!!

You and your friends are invited to take part in a Josephite Associates Community Day at Kincumber.

Date: Sunday 25 May 2008
Time: 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Thanks to a recent funding grant from the Hunter–Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority through the National Landcare Program, environmental works are being carried out at St Joseph’s Spirituality and Education Centre, Kincumber.



1500 wetland plants will be planted to enhance the area around the lower dam.
(The site will already be prepared and will only involve plant placement.)

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.
Bring your own gloves, hat and creams.
Pickups from Woy Woy Station will be available on request.

Come along to help green the Centre’s landscape and have a fun day!

For catering purposes please notify:

Sr. Helen Saunders by **18 April 2008**
Locked Bag 3031
Burwood NSW 1805
Phone 02 8741 2334
Email helen.saunders@sosj.org.au



Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of people: _____

Mobile: _____

Pickup required? (Please circle:) NO / YES

Junior Josephite Associates (JJA) St Philomena's, Moree

The first meeting of the Year Three and Year Four JJA group met on Tuesday 4th September 2007 in the lunch hour (from 1.30 p.m. to 2.05 p.m.). It was a packed meeting of 49 students, and we had organisational matters to attend to, e.g. a coordinator for stamp collecting in each room and a coordinator for prayer intentions for each of the two Year Three classes and the two Year Four classes.



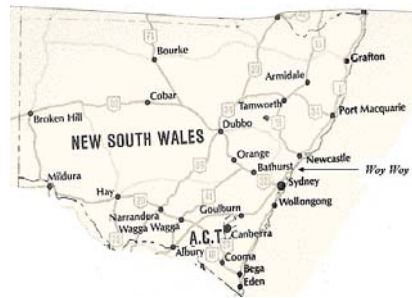
We had a session to meet the family of Mary MacKillop. Some children were chosen as Mary and members of her family while we learned about them. We used the artist's version of Mary MacKillop's family and a sketched version from Sr Joan Goodwin's book.

We said the prayer for the children's many intentions, for those who are sick and for World Youth Day. Each child received a picture of Mary MacKillop with the prayer on the back.

Sr Margaret T. Cusack, Moree

Woy Woy Profile

Woy Woy is situated on the Central Coast. Our group started 12 years ago at Mary MacKillop's cottage, meeting once a month on the second Wednesday. Now our meeting venue is shared between two homes. There are eighteen members, some of whom are acolytes, people who take communion to Nursing Homes and ministers of the Eucharist.



At our monthly meeting donations are collected for the Josephite missions. So far we have sent money to the Aboriginal mission in the Kimberley and to Sisters of St Joseph in rural ministry.

We miss Sr Margaret Wall, who became ill and moved to Sydney, but we still see her from time to time. Woy Woy is close to the Kincumber Retreat Centre, so we are able to join in retreats and prayer days that are held there. This group tries to live by the charism of Blessed Mary MacKillop and is helped in this aim by the visits of Sr Helen Saunders.

What is unique about this group? The sharing of our love and gifts in the parish community – friendship – united – mutual support.

Betty Fraser, Woy Woy

Establishing a Josephite Presence in Scotland

Background

In May 2005, Sisters Patricia Keane and Magdalen McDonald were commissioned by the Congregation to establish a Josephite Foundation in Scotland. Bishop Ian Murray, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, had requested that two Sisters “come and see” with the intention of promoting the life and work of Mary MacKillop among the Scottish people. It soon became evident that life in the Highlands moved at a slower pace, so this meant we needed to learn to move “in step” with the locals.

Having overcome many frustrations and obstacles we finally moved into our permanent residence in February, 2006. Our Convent was situated in the Lochaber region—the heart of the MacKillop/MacDonald territory. Endeavouring to do what Mary MacKillop would have done, we moved freely among the people, meeting them in their ordinary everyday life situations, ready to give assistance in any circumstance. Researching Mary’s Scottish connections and locating the different places she had visited during her three-month stay in Scotland at the end of 1873, was another task undertaken.

Reflection

For me, going to Scotland was an experience of God, at His best, “working in mysterious ways”. With confusion over tickets just before departure and the loss of my luggage (never recovered), I wondered just what God was up to. The morning after arrival, glancing out the window, I noticed a brilliant rainbow, full arc, across the blackest sky. This rainbow would disappear, only to reappear again and again. Here was the answer to my question: “I’m here, all is well.”

As I reflect on these two years, I am convinced the hand of God was in this whole venture. At first, I sensed the people asking: “Sisters from Australia?” This term was at first a little daunting and perhaps with an underlying question: “What are you here for?”

Though naturally reserved, these Scottish people soon opened their hearts and homes to us. Men who had served in the Navy shared stories of their adventures and the happy times they had experienced in Australia. Others told of family members and friends who had settled here and of their visits to this great land. It didn’t take long before the fine bone china cups and saucers were replaced with the coffee mug and sometimes even the biscuit barrel with a comment: “You are one of the family now.”

Mary MacKillop in her unique way was finding her way into people’s hearts and was answering the question of why we were there. For it wasn’t long before little incidents were being related as to how she had touched their lives.

One heavy smoker attributed to Mary’s intercession and help his being able to quit the habit. Being so pleased with this, he then prayed against all odds to get a car. To his surprise and delight, he is now driving a car around! Another lady came to know of Mary through a video she found in a second hand shop in Fort William. How did that video get into that shop? Describing herself as having a “degree in worrying”, a lady came one day asking prayers for her husband who was to undergo serious surgery. She was hesitant to take the relic of Mary MacKillop offered to her, because she had been praying to Our Lady. Many times this lady came back saying “thank you” as she was amazed at the deep peace she and her husband had experienced during the ordeal and beyond.

These happenings and many others like them convince me Mary MacKillop wants her sisters in Scotland, among her people. We proudly call Mary MacKillop a great Australian. I feel the Scottish folk can call her a great Scot for it was Scottish blood that flowed through her veins. It was out of her Scottish ancestry that her character was formed. Mary is an Australian Scot.

As I remember the stirring rendition of “Waltzing Matilda” at the end of our final Mass, I believe an Australian/Scottish/Josephite relationship had been formed. With its difficulties and blessings, my experience of Scotland was one for which I am most grateful. I left with a strong sense that a foundation has been laid, ready now to be taken forward into the future.

Sister Magdalen McDonald

Celebrations for Lismore's New Deacon

Graeme Davis achieved his long-sought-after ambition of becoming a permanent Deacon on 28 August 2007. In a ceremony witnessed by nearly 500 family and friends, including his wife Rosemary (a Josephite Associate), his two sons, and seven Anglican priests, in St Carthage's Cathedral, Graeme Davis was ordained a Permanent Deacon in a service conducted by Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett.

Deacons are among the few people in the Catholic Church who are able to receive all seven sacraments. Unlike Catholic priests, permanent Deacons can be married *and* undertake Holy Orders, said Graeme.

"A life threatening experience in the Vietnam War gave me an appreciation of what life can deal you and my faith has helped guide my decisions. Unbeknownst to me, the Holy Spirit was working, drawing me to my vocation and encouraged by my wife and friends," said Graeme.

Graeme spent 37 years in the Australian Army, where he was deployed to South Vietnam in 1966 as a combat medic. After suffering serious wounds during the Battle of Long Tan, Graeme was evacuated back to Brisbane and spent eleven months repatriating in hospital before being discharged from the permanent Army on medical grounds in 1973. Returning to Lismore, his home town, he rebuilt his life, rising to the rank of Major in the Army Reserves.

In 2000, after twenty six years, Graeme retired from his job as Property Manager with the Lismore City Council, and he put his efforts into study, completing a degree in Theology. He also performs extensive community work around the Lismore area, in particular, Pastoral Care at St Vincent's Hospital, Lismore, helping the Veteran community.

"Becoming a Deacon is a privilege and an opportunity to continue helping others to broaden their faith," said Graeme.

Editor's Note: This is an edited version of a Media Statement from the Catholic Diocese of Lismore, dated 13 September 2007.

New Congregational Leadership Team (CLT)

Sr Anne Derwin (New South Wales Province) has been elected the new Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

The following Sisters have been elected General Councillors:

Sister Sheila McCreanor from the South Australian Province

Sister Ann Gilroy from the New Zealand Province

Sister Eileen Lenihan from the Region of Ireland

Sister Annette Arnold from the Queensland Province

**The new leadership team will take office on
01 March, 2008.**

Farewell from Sr Colleen Keeble

Just to let you know that I am heading to New Zealand in 2008 as Provincial. As I look back over the last six years, getting to know the Associates has been one of the highlights. I will take something of your 'Prayer, Friendship and Service' with me. Thank you for your interest and support and please continue to pray for me.

Colleen Keeble rsj

An Australian Pilgrimage

Having lived in a country that has been Christian for 1,500 years, pilgrimages have been part of my life. As a child I brought flowers to Holy Wells – every parish seemed to have its own saint. As I got older, there were day-long trips to Glendalough and Knock. The most difficult pilgrimage of all was and is Lough Derg, where St Patrick fasted and where the pilgrim survives for three days on bread and water and little sleep. As travel became easier I visited Jerusalem, Rome, Lourdes, Fatima, Compostella, Walsingham and Iona, but it was only in 1995 when visiting London that I heard of Mary MacKillop. Two Josephite sisters – Srs Mary Cronin and Bernadette Malone – were visiting Europe as part of their Golden Jubilee celebrations and told me all about Mary and how she had founded an Australian Congregation.

Finally in 1997 I set off for Australia and visited the Memorial Chapel in North Sydney. The more I read about Mary MacKillop, and how she persevered in spite of such opposition, the more impressed I became. Then I discovered that guests could stay in Anderledy Lodge and a few years later I booked in there. In October 2006, I joined the pilgrimage *In the Footsteps of Blessed Mary MacKillop* and got a wonderful welcome from Srs Claire Dawson and Teresa Brooks when I arrived at North Sydney.

It was a marvellous pilgrimage and I was thrilled to have taken part. Everything had been arranged perfectly – the prayers, the hymns, the breaks and the picnic sites. Srs Teresa Brooks and Audrey Thompson were wonderful guides – their sincere love for everything Josephite was apparent. However, when I returned to Anderledy Lodge a phone call was waiting for me from Marie Owen to say she had tickets for the Perthville pilgrimage on the following day.

Sr Teresa Brooks phoned me at the crack of dawn to say she was going to the railway station and would accompany me there. We got the 6.40 a.m. train from North Sydney – Marie Owen was on it – and at Strathfield we joined the other pilgrims on the coach. We had a marvellous day and when we got back to Strathfield we were offered a lift back to North Sydney. It was the end of a perfect pilgrimage.

Betty O'Brien, Dublin, Ireland

Requiescant in Pace

Amy Browne (formerly North Sydney),
mother of Sr Merylin;
Nellie Cross (Campsie);
Leslie Fitzgerald, husband of Daphne
(Warilla);
Joe Ford, husband of Bette (Belmont);
Joseph Hofierka, husband of Hirma
(Waverley);
Barry Johnson (North Leichhardt);
Mary Kershaw (Quirindi);
Amanda Klabe, daughter-in-law of Doreen
Garniss (Guyra);
Judith Lansley (Eden);
Patrick O'Connor (Empire Vale);
Bill Sharpe-Dunn (Waterloo);
Elizabeth and Michael Sorbara, parents of
Josephine Galluzzo (Auburn);
Sr Mida Tobin;
Mrs K Tyler (Broadwater);
Alice Wilson (Auburn), mother of Lucy Lye
(Picton)

Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the Josephite
mission in Peru

Please send to Sr Helen Saunders
Locked Bag 3031
Burwood NSW 1805
Phone 02 8741 2334
Fax 02 8741 2399

Claim the Date

Lochinvar Pilgrimage
8th November 2008
More details will be advised later.

The newsletter is now available on the Web, at
<http://www.sosj.org.au/connect/NSWAssociates.html>

The Associates AGM

The theme of the NSW Province Chapter 2007 – **Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly** – set the scene for the Annual General Meeting of the Associates at Mary MacKillop Place on 15th September 2007.

The NSW Province Chapter

There were three main stages of deliberations involved in the Chapter:

- Before the Chapter, the Chapter Conversations were held at Lidcombe in July 2007—Associates and friends reflected on Josephite life, the challenges of this time, and the call to our future Josephite living. These reflections were collated to be considered at the Chapter.
- The Chapter, held in August 2007, was a time of reflection on the life of the Province and setting direction for the Province for the next six years.
- The Province Assembly, also held in August 2007, brought the Chapter to a conclusion and elected twelve Sisters to attend the General Chapter in October.

Future Directions from the Chapter

At the Chapter, our future direction became clearer and we now look forward to the next six years.

- ***The urgent need of our time*** is education in its widest sense particularly for children and young people in parishes; migrants and refugees; and illiterate and disadvantaged people of all ages.
- ***We will foster the dignity and worth of persons*** particularly ageing persons; single parents and families; isolated and disconnected people; and those in situations of drug addiction.
- ***We recommit our presence to rural communities*** where there are issues of drought, isolation, and support to refugees.
- ***We are challenged to build communities*** by fostering attitudinal change in accepting difference; actively combating racism; listening to people's stories; being hospitable; and participating in parish and local community activities.
- ***All of us are called to lives of witness*** by being more visible; modelling our foundational charism; promoting religious life; and harnessing the energy and passion of young people for the Mission of God.

Living the Theme of the Chapter

We will live the theme of the chapter in the following ways:

- Together we will ***Act Justly*** by honoring and nurturing the charism alive in many hearts; be passionate about the Mission of God in rural areas and being with the marginalized; and learn from, respect, and support our Aboriginal brothers and sisters. We affirm our ministries to Aboriginal people, rural people, Peru, East Timor, and South East Asia.
- With ***Love and Tenderness*** we will organise ourselves effectively in the NSW Province; support our congregational unity in central government; engage our ageing Sisters; affirm and support Province leadership; provide pastoral care to the Sisters; and encourage ongoing formation.
- We will ***Walk Humbly*** and respond to the call to contemplation in work, prayer, and our relationships with each other and world; and feed and nourish the contemplative heart through prayer and formation.

Sisters and Associates

At the AGM we all reflected on Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 12: 4-13: "There are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit." The experience of sharing with the Josephite Associates reminded me that in the sharing of the Josephite charism we all participate in the building of the Kingdom. I felt so grateful for the opportunity to share the Chapter Experience with our Associates, and to say thank you for the contribution of all the Associates who each bring their gift to this witness to Josephite charism. Together we Act Justly, Love Tenderly, and Walk Humbly with our God.

Sr Therese Carroll rsj

Editor's Note: This is an edited version of the talk that Sr Therese gave at the AGM.

Prayers for the Sick

Carmelita Clohesy (S.A.); Peg Cox (Barraba); Bill Ertner, husband of Nida (Lalor Park); Betty Pease (Eden); Christine Riley (Penshurst); Irene Wells (formerly Warialda)