

IJALT Newsletter

July 2019



*Greetings - Tena
Koutou - Saludos -
Bon Dia*

In this month's newsletter we have

- ◆ A Report from IJALT Chairperson, Mary Hemmings
- ◆ A Reflection on St John the Baptist by Mark Cole-ridge
- ◆ Report from IJALT July Meeting

God Bless

IJALT

On July 21st 1969 Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. Watching the black and white television in my Year 7 class at a Josephite School in Adelaide that day, I was aware that that was a momentous historical occasion. On the recent 50th anniversary of this occasion I am even more aware of how ground breaking that mission into space was and what it illustrated about God's magnificent creation and gift to us.

On August 8th this year we mark another significant occasion in world history, namely the 110th anniversary of the death of a woman whose work and mission has left an amazing mark on our world and led to her becoming Australia's first saint. On October 7th it will also be 130 years since Julian Tenison Woods died. Together Mary and Julian's efforts were ground breaking, especially in the foundation of Catholic education in many places across Australia and New Zealand. Since then the Sisters of St Joseph have taken Mary's legacy to far reaching places in our world and Josephite Associates continue to leave their footprints in many unique ways, with this year marking 40 years since the beginning of the Perthville Associates who were established in 1979. Indeed, a year of many anniversaries!

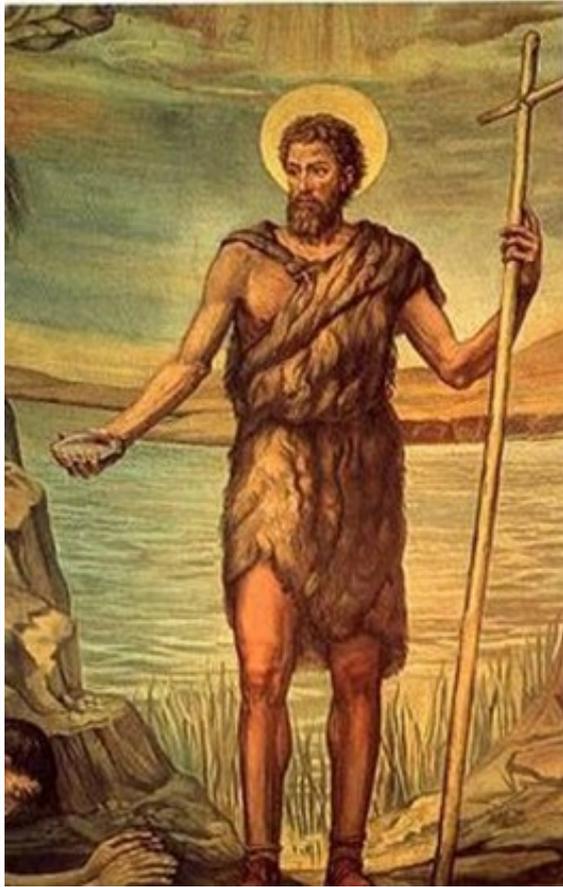
I have recently heard from Elaine, an **Associate in Scotland**. Our Scottish counterparts are very sad that they will lose the presence of the Sisters after 14 years, with Sr Ann Leesue leaving there shortly. We hope that we can support our Scottish friends 'from afar' and keep this valuable link with the home of the MacKillop's!

As the Sisters move into their six yearly **Chapter**, when decisions about new directions and leaders take place, we pray that God's Spirit will enlighten all that unfolds and evolves from their deliberations. In solidarity with the Sisters at this time I invite all Associates to continue praying the Chapter Prayer contained in our last IJALT newsletter.

Wishing you many blessings as we celebrate Mary's feast day.

Mary Hemmings
Chairperson

This month Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane, has given us a picture of St John the Baptist to whom St Mary of the Cross MacKillop had great devotion.



The figure of John the Baptist was so revered in the first century that some thought he was the Messiah; and there is still a small sect called the Mandeans who venerate John as the Messiah. It's not by chance that the Fourth Gospel in particular has the Baptist pointing to Jesus as the Messiah and making it quite clear that it is he and not John himself who is the anointed one of God.

John was not the only Baptist in his time. He was part of a larger renewal movement which gathered around the River Jordan. The movement was searching for a new beginning in what seemed a desperate time. The new beginning would be like the People of God, after forty years in the wilderness, crossing the Jordan to enter the Promised Land. In John's own time, the People of God needed to take possession of the Promised Land in a new way, especially since the Romans were the occupying force. Going down into the waters of the Jordan and emerging from them was symbolic of a new entry, but the substance of it was the personal conversion of which John speaks powerfully in the gospels. The symbol without

the substance was meaningless.

The New Testament suggests that John was related in some way to Jesus, but it's hard to know how exactly. Jesus also seems to have been part of the group that gathered around the Baptist at the Jordan, as were some of his first disciples. The group scattered when John was arrested; and Jesus returned to his home town of Nazareth. When he returns he doesn't go into hiding; he begins his own public ministry which is very different from John's. John preached the need to prepare for the coming of God's Kingdom; Jesus preached its coming. Jesus worked miracles as signs of the inbreaking of God's Kingdom; John worked no miracles.

Yet from the first, Christianity saw in John the figure prophesied by Isaiah, the voice 'crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord' (40:3). Even in the womb, John greets the embryonic Messiah (Luke 1:41). His preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins was part of preparing the way, as was his designation of Jesus as "The Lamb of God" (John 1:29) Finally there was his martyr's death which foreshadowed the death of Jesus. For all of these reasons, the Baptist is the great voice of Advent.

If St Mary MacKillop looked to John the Baptist as a special patron, it was surely because she saw herself called to be "a voice crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord" and we can see clearly how right she was to read the story of God in her life in this strange and wonderful way.

Maybe a question to take us to prayer: "What was it about John the Baptist that caused Mary MacKillop to accept him as a source of inspiration for her life?"

July IJALT Meeting in Sydney

For the second time this year the team gathered in Sydney at Mount Street. As we have done for the last couple of face-to-face meetings we invited two Associate leaders from different areas to join us. This time it was the two Leonies': Leonie Bell from the NSW Governance Group and Leonie Mann from the Perthville Associates. Both ladies provided us with a short presentation on various aspects of the Associates' history and activities in their area. Then it was down to business!

We revisited the 'By 2020' Vision Statement that we had created back in 2016 and made some revisions and updates to this to take us through to 2023. It was pleasing to see how far we had come. This of course then took us to our 'strategic planning' and Sr Moya's favourite phrase: "Action! Action! Action!" We had some guest presenters including Mary Quinlan rsj who explained the whole 'Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable People' process. Leonie Mann commented at the end of the three days how good it is as an Associate to know that IJALT is doing all this administration work for the protection of the Josephite Associate movement as well as focusing on the formation and growth of its members. We even made a start on the planning of our next Associate Conference which is to take place in 2020.

Even though there was plenty of brain work, the team really enjoys these productive days together as well as the opportunity to enjoy being in each other's company. It was also lovely to have Sr Monica (Congregational Leader) join us for our final dinner together. We would like to thank the two Leonie's for their contributions to our mid-year gathering.

Anne-Marie Wilkinson (IJALT)



Left to right:

Front: Leonie Bell, Helen Dougherty, Beverly Badcock, Anne-Marie Wilkinson, Pauline McGuire

Back: Mary Hemmings, Sr Moya Campbell, Leonie Mann

IJALT PLANNING

Our time together in July was very productive as several projects that we have been working on are coming to fruition. These include:

- ◆ Our **Administration Handbook** is nearing completion and the draft of our **Formation Handbook** for new Associates will be trialled in the next few months, ready for launch in 2020.
- ◆ A **Succession Plan** has been established so that there will be a natural flow of personnel brought on to our IJALT as present members gradually move off after serving our time in leadership.
- ◆ Throughout this year each of our **IJALT members are visiting** our **different States and New Zealand** as a means of listening to and talking with Associates in your different contexts.

WA	June	Mary Hemmings (from SA)
NSW	September	Mary Hemmings (from SA)
VICTORIA:	October	Helen Dougherty (from NZ)
QLD	October	Beverley Badcock (from NSW)
SA/TAS	Oct/Nov	Anne-Marie Wilkinson (from Vic)

New Zealand November Pauline McGuire (from Qld)

In June I travelled to WA where I met with Associates in Dardanup, Esperance and Perth. This provided me with the opportunity to learn from them and share information about the directions of IJALT. It was truly delightful to share in the commitment of these women and men who continue living the Josephite story in their unique circumstances.

Our tri-annual **Associates' Conference** will be held in **July 2020**. The theme will be ***"Be Courageous and Full of Hope"*** and the conference will focus especially on supporting leaders at both regional and local levels. The dates will be July 5th to 7th and this will be held in Adelaide as North Sydney is unavailable due to re-building on the Mount Street site. Further information will follow.

Mary Hemmings

Chairperson: International Josephite Associate Leadership Team (IJALT)

Be Courageous and Full of Hope

July 5-7 2020

**Come and join us for the next
Associates' Conference**

**Venue Mary MacKillop Precinct
Kensington South Australia**