



WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES' Newsletter



Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends

Here we are once again, to welcome you to our Advent and Christmas Newsletter and prayer booklet. Thanks to all - for your help, donations and friendship during 2017. We have now reached time for celebrating Christmas with each other.



*May He, our dear little Infant Saviour,
bless each one of you and bring you many Christmas Blessings
- above all,*

His love for poverty and charity. MMK 21/12/1898



We look forward to 2018. Wishing each one a happy and holy Christmas and a joyful New Year ...

Warmest wishes and Christmas blessings from

Sister Denise & the WA Associate Groups - Metropolitan | South West | Esperance | Geraldton

UPDATE FROM THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATES

The Metropolitan Coordinating Group are:

Louisa Moore
(08) 9359 4960

Dot Caughey
(08) 9332 0118

Margaret Hardingham
(08) 9527 8165

Maureen Lanigan
(08) 9447 2346

Meg Phelan
(08) 9295 1682

Marg Jones
(08) 9370 3206

As you can see a name change has come about. We had a wonderful meeting with Srs Margaret Cleary (Regional Leader) and Kath Hitchcock (Regional Team) to work together to bring the new changes about. We also look forward to keeping our beloved St Mary of the Cross' legacy alive and well through prayer gatherings and support to all Associates.

We are truly dedicated to this life of prayer through St Mary's 'Never see a need without doing something about it'. Our main goal is that of Prayer, Friendship, Service and we hope to welcome many new members starting with our 10th December Christmas gathering by asking each person to **bring a friend** (or friends!)

And as it is our Christmas gathering all are asked to **bring a gift** to the value of approx \$5.00 for a **Kris Kringle** and a **plate of finger food** as we will be having other guests invited on that day.

The much loved and lots of fun **"Bring and Buy"** table will also return.

We also look forward to welcoming a guest speaker at each gathering.

If any Associate has recommendations of guest speakers or topics please contact a Group member.

The four main 'regions' will now share the honour of presenting the front page, with **Dardanup** in Autumn, **Esperance** in Winter, **Geraldton** in Spring and **Metro** in Summer ... the rest of the newsletter will continue to be compiled and printed from the South Perth Office. We will be in touch with each site to help them through this new exciting venture.

We would like to thank **Meg Phelan** for her many years of being President including the service Meg and her family have given to our wonderful group of people. We are grateful that Meg is continuing on in the Coordinating Group as her vast experience is invaluable!

We would also like to thank **Dot Caughey** for her many years as our Secretary and all the work and time she has given us. Dot will also be staying on as a Coordinating Group member.

Mary Sheen has now resigned and we thank her for her many years of work for the Associates. We warmly welcome **Marg Jones** who has joined the Group.

We will be now working as a team of six to coordinate the Metropolitan Associates. We would also like to rely on fellow Associates to help us on gathering days to help run the Raffle and the Bring and

Buy. We will all be working as one team together in St Mary Of the Cross' name.

Last but not the very least we offer our love and thanks to Sr Denise Casey for her tireless dedication to the WA Associates over the past eight years. We will always remember her gentle guidance and support.

Please keep donations coming in - we rely on these donations to pay for our newsletter expenses, postage, stationary and petty cash. Donations can be sent c/o the address below.

Please keep a copy of this newsletter handy over the months so you can keep up with things as they are happening.

Congratulations to all our new Associates who will be inducted on the 10th.

We welcome the changes and look forward to next year and pray that it will be as successful as this year. We have had some wonderful guest speakers and gathering days, many Associates to pray for and give support to, as only we know how to share St Mary's ways. God's Blessing from us and we wish you all a happy and Holy Christmas.

- *Louisa Moore on behalf of the
Metropolitan Coordinating Group*

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A Ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart



Farewell to Sister Angela!!

On Tuesday the 8th August, Our Lady Star of the Sea School attended the Mass of Saint Mary MacKillop. It was very fitting that special feast happened to coincide with Sr Angela's farewell Mass, as Mary MacKillop is the patron Saint for the Josephites. Everyone enjoyed Sr Angela's candid speech at the end of the service as she has been with us for 14 years. Sr Angela gave an

example of one of her days of helping others and some of the interesting places she's been posted to. The things she loves the most about Esperance are the soft white sand, beautiful beaches, blue water, the birds and, of course, the people. She is looking forward to moving to Perth and seeing what God's plan is next for her.

There was a farewell lunch held at the Chinese restaurant and it was fantastic to see such a great turn out. There were some wonderful stories going around the table, one of which related to Sr Angela's hobbies of taking photos. A parishioner recalled how they loved Sr Angela's photo of a sunset so much that they had it put on a print. They invited Sr Angela around for dinner to show her the canvas. Sr Angela said, "It looks great but you do realise it's upside down!?" Overall it was a great day and we wish Sr Angela all the very best and thank her for her dedication to the service of our parish, school and to the Esperance community. (- from the Star of the Sea bulletin)



South West Advent Summer Gathering

Our Advent / Summer gathering presented by Sr Kathleen Hitchcock rsj, was attended by 22 Associates and others. Sr Kath's presentation was titled "Here I am Lord" based on scripture from new and old testament relating to hearing the call of God in new and challenging ways and our personal response to that call. Sr Kath spoke of changes in the governance of the Josephite movement and IJALT. Our thanks was conveyed to Sr Kath by Jan Hynes who presented her a gift of appreciation.

- Annette Morellini JA

MERREDIN CELEBRATIONS

The 90th year celebration for St Mary's School Merredin (formerly St Joseph's and also founded by the Josephites) was held on the 14th October in Merredin.

The entire day was a wonderful success and was attended by many past students.

There was a fair which included many stalls organized by parents and staff - it was a great success!



Memorial bricks were laid with details of past students and a memorial was blessed by the Parish Priest.

A dinner was held in the evening and was attended by a large crowd, with guest speakers - former head Des Wilkie, Mrs Caridi, Sr Leonie Mayne, and a panel including Sr Margaret Culhane (former Principal), Clinton Hayes and Dot Caughey (past students) speaking of past history and each one's involvement with the school.

Two families have their fourth generation attending St Mary's this year - the Ventris and Caughey families being at the School from day one in 1927 to the present day.

The Caridi family also have history from 1934 to present day.

It was a wonderful weekend which was very well organized by staff and volunteer committees

- and it was very much appreciated by all who attended!

- Dot Caughey (JA)



Dot Caughey JA and
Sr Margaret Culhane rsj



Sr Leonie Mayne rsj

FRIENDSHIP, PRAYER AND SERVICE ALIVE & WELL IN TIMOR LESTE!



In 2008 a group of Timorese men and women were in Sydney attending World Youth Day and during their time there they were able to learn something of the Josephite Associates and seventeen of them became Associates.

Over the years some of these people have died and some have left the area. The remaining five members asked, in October 2016, if the Associate group could be renewed. They said they knew people who would be interested. In January they invited people to come to a session in February to hear what the Josephite Associate Movement was all about. Much to my surprise over 20 people turned up.



It was explained that they would need to attend a monthly formation program, on a Sunday afternoon, over the next six

months to learn the spirit and work of the Associates and to also learn to come together as a group. This program was based around the ideas of FRIENDSHIP, PRAYER and SERVICE. They were also introduced to being a group within their own parish who would work in "mission" with whatever the priest felt was a need. A special stress was placed on the elderly, neglected and disabled.

Three parish groups have been formed who meet monthly for prayer together, planning of a "mission work" and a sharing of food. Four times a year the whole group also meets. This time for friendship, to share the story about the "mission work" they have done, to have some spiritual input to enrich their formation and to share food and chat together. These days are centred around St Joseph's feast, feast of the Sacred Heart, feast of Mary MacKillop and the Immaculate Conception (a major feast in Timor).

There was great excitement and a real feeling of deep joy recently when four of the "old" Associates renewed their commitment as Josephite Associates and twenty six became Josephite Associates for the first time. Margaret Cleary rsj and Mary Hemmings, the Associate Coordinator for the CentreWest Region joined us for this



ceremony. Mary pinned their Associate badge on each new Associate, Sr Margaret gave each their certificate to show they had become an Associate and Kathy handed each one a booklet, in their Tetun language, which was based on their formation program.

It was a wonderful journey and we have a real sense of "good" things ahead. Already there are others asking if the formation program could be repeated in 2018 and it is great to see that both men and women have been attracted to the spirit of Mary MacKillop. For me it is also marvellous to have many of the new Associates coming from the parish community. It is a whole new group being introduced to Mary MacKillop's spirit and her teaching "*Let St Joseph's true children remember their mission to seek first the poorest, most neglected parts of God's vineyard.*" MMK 1900

- Sr Kathy Jennings rsj

24 Nov PRAYING OUR EXPERIENCES – growing awareness of God in my everyday

Praying Our Experiences is about recognizing and inviting God in our everyday. This is a directed contemplative gathering, followed by personal reflection time

Theme: Seeking and Finding the Lord: an Advent reflection on seeking God in our daily awareness of the Spirit's movement in us and in our world

When: Friday 24th November 2017 **Time:** 10.30am -12noon **RSVP Essential** by Tuesday 21st Nov

Contact: Phone (08) 9334 0999 or Email: prayingourexperiences@gmail.com

Venue: Mary MacKillop Centre, 16 York Street, South Perth

Transport: Take Bus 34 from Esplanade Busport to King Edward Street, stopping at the bus stop closest to York Street (Stop number 11868).

**GONE
TO
GOD**

Sr Mary Jo Wells rsj
Remember,
we are all but travellers here' MMK



Dear Associates, if you are aware of any Associate/relative that has passed away, can you please email or ring the office. (wa.associates@sosj.org.au or (08) 9334 0999)

WA ASSOCIATES' GATHERINGS & UPCOMING SOSJ EVENTS



GATHERINGS at SOUTH PERTH 2017 - 2018

ENQUIRIES: wa.associates@sosj.org.au (08) 9334 0999



NEXT GATHERING - ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

When: 2.00pm Sunday 10th December 2017

Where: St Joseph's, 16 York Street, South Perth

Bring:

- A plate of food to share - we will be welcoming visitors!
- A Friend!
- And a \$5.00 Kris Kringle



All very welcome!
Bring a friend!

2018 Gatherings (Date Savers): Sundays - 11th Mar | 10th Jun | 9th Sept | 9th Dec

NEWS & UPCOMING DATES FOR THE SOUTH WEST ASSOCIATES

ENQUIRIES } Dot Savage: (08) 9791 4008 or email Dot at helenbrown.hb@gmail.com
Irene Rodgers: 0423 488 018 or email Irene at irenerodgers1@bigpond.com

After a recent Coordinating Group meeting below are the results of what we believe to be the best way forward for our South West J.A. Group. The decision was unanimous to go with the model of:

J.A. Facilitator - **Dot Savage** Minute Secretary - **Irene Rodgers** Treasurer - **Johanna Hynes**

Remaining Co-ordinating Group - **Jan Hynes, Maud Morrison, Annette Morellini**

Next **J.A. South West (Lenten/Autumn) Gathering** is to be held on **Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 9am**, at the Dardanup Prayer House. **All welcome, please bring a plate of finger food for a shared lunch - bring a friend!**



2018 DATE SAVERS - UPCOMING SOSJ EVENTS

SEASONAL PRAYER DAYS ... Come join us and experience a gentle, prayerful morning

10.00am – 1:00pm (9.30am morning tea, and light lunch provided)

SAFETY BAY (182 Arcadia Drive)

SOUTH PERTH (16 York Street) * more dates to come

Wed 14th March

Thurs 14th June

RSVP: 9527 3240, Safety.Bay@sosj.org.au

RSVP: 9334 0999, wa.associates@sosj.org.au

REMEMBERING MARY MACKILLOP - a time to celebrate Eucharist together to pray with St Mary MacKillop

Mass at 10am followed by morning tea on **8th of February, March and May** (more dates to come)

Venue: **Kilmolee at Safety Bay**, 182 Arcadia Drive, Safety Bay

RSVP: essential by the 1st of each month to Sr Dianne, on Safety.Bay@sosj.org.au or (08) 9527 3240

PRAYING OUR EXPERIENCES - *Praying Our Experiences is about recognizing and inviting God in our everyday. This is a directed contemplative gathering, followed by personal reflection time*

(10.30am Fridays) 23 Feb, 23 March, 27 April, 25 May, 29 June (more dates to come)

Venue: Mary MacKillop Centre, 16 York St, South Perth

RSVPs: prayingourexperiences@gmail.com, (08) 9334 0999

TAIZÉ MEDITATIVE PRAYER - *invite your friends and prayer in a relaxing, meditative way*

(Sundays at 7pm, doors open at 6.30pm) 18 March, 20 May, 17 June (more dates to come)

Venue: St Joseph's Chapel, 16 York St, South Perth

More information: Sr Maree, mriddler@sosjwa.org.au or 0414 683 926



* A brochure will be sent out with the Autumn (March) 2018 newsletter with more dates/events.

*May the joy and peace
of Christmas
be with you today
and throughout the New Year*



WA Josephite Associates



Wherever this may find you...

*"... I, with all my heart,
wish you a very happy
Christmas and a bright,
Happy New Year."*

Mary MacKillop 7th December 1899



Summer 2017|2018 Prayer Booklet



CHRISTMAS

*"We can all meet together
in spirit at the crib
of our loving Infant
and pray for one another.
I wish you every grace
and blessing of this holy time
with fondest love."*

Mary MacKillop, 1881

Christmas is that season of the human spirit when the 'child in us' is coming to birth. God is born in our hearts. Wonder and mystery touch our spirit. At Christmas time we can have a renewed sense of the innocence of children.

In committing our lives to our Christmas journey we provide the opportunity to come face to face with what is most essential and beautiful in life. Spontaneity, joy and delight can return to our lives, re-empowering our attitudes and outlook.

Like so many of our families Jesus had many 'skeletons' in his cupboard! His family line was both blessed and flawed with the same humanity that any one of us might discover when we search through our family tree.

(Seasons of Grace – Praying with Mary MacKillop – Genevieve Ryan rsj)

