



# Josephite Associates

\* Friendship                      \* Prayer                      \* Service  
- February 2010 -

## Goodbye from the Coordinator

Greetings as we begin this new year of 2010, hopefully the year of Mary MacKillop's Canonisation. What a time for all of us who form the Josephite family!

This will be my last correspondence to you as the Coordinator of the Associates. As you would have read in the last newsletter, I have been called to parish ministry in Orange, beginning in February, 2010. I made a quick trip to Orange just prior to Christmas and the people that I met were friendly, gracious and kind and told me how keen they were to get to know and work with me in 2010.

It is a large parish with two churches and the usual array of ministries. I'm looking forward to the new challenges of returning to parish ministry, but I want to say how much I have enjoyed working with you all during the past six years.

You all made me so welcome! When I visited groups, I immediately felt "at home" with you. That was because of your Josephiteness!

I believe we travelled far together. I was new to the Associate movement and together we grew in Friendship, Prayer and Service. I ask now that you make Clare Noonan rsj as welcome as you made me. Clare has written something about herself and this is enclosed in the mail out.

2009 closed in a busy fashion with an Advent reflection day led by Sr Mary Baker rsj, a new group in the Mid-Mountains, visits to various groups and many well wishes and cards from lots of you.

Every best wish for 2010 – drop in to Orange any time – you are welcome.

*Sr Helen Saunders*

## Coming Events—Associates

**Kincumber Retreat**  
**19<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> February 2010**  
"New Horizons"

Led by Sr Bridie O'Connell rsj  
Cost \$180

**Lenten Prayer Day**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010**  
**St Gerard's**

**Rear 5 Alexandra Avenue, Croydon**  
9:30–2:30 p.m.  
Lenten Theme  
Led by Sr Patricia Snudden rsj  
Cost \$10 BYO lunch

**Feast of St Joseph**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010**  
10:30 Eucharist  
**St Joseph's Spirituality Centre**  
**64 MacKillop Drive, Baulkham Hills**

*For further information phone  
Clare Noonan rsj on 02 8741 2334*

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

\$

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.

## Associates Annual General Meeting

The Associates AGM was held on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2009**. Margaret Battam chaired the meeting and welcomed us, apologies were noted and, first up, the original inhabitants and their care of the land were acknowledged. The Penshurst group presented the prayer, including an informative PowerPoint presentation on the group's activities over the past year.

Sr Antoinette Baldwin rsj, (a member of the Provincial Leadership Team and the contact person for the Associates) mentioned the many celebrations that were held to celebrate the 100 years since Mary MacKillop's death, with the highlight being the Mass for the feast of Blessed Mary MacKillop at North Sydney Oval. She also mentioned that, on the same day as the AGM, two Josephite Sisters, Sr Dora Garcia rsj from El Salvador and Sr Hun Do rsj from Cambodia, were making their Life Vows in the Mary MacKillop Chapel, North Sydney. In conclusion, Sr Antoinette thanked Sr Helen for her dedication as Coordinator and requested that the Associates continue their commitment in the spirit of our Foundress.

Sr Helen presented her report, which covered her visits to many groups throughout NSW, including new groups that had been formed, and the financial report was handed out. Sr Helen completed her report with an *In Memoriam* for the Associates who had died during the past year and it was touching to recall those Associates who were no longer with us.

After morning tea, Sr Judith Sippel rsj, leader of the Towards Canonisation Committee, spoke on the up-to-date expectation of the canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop. At that time, we were waiting on the Cardinals to approve the doctors' and theologians' findings on the second miracle. The Pope has now confirmed this miracle. Sr Judith outlined the events that are likely to take place in Rome for the actual ceremony of canonisation and excitement grew within the meeting with an obvious desire to be there in Rome.

The meeting drew to a close at 1 p.m. after the speakers and chairperson had been thanked. Lunch was served in the Anderledy Lodge dining room, where the friendship and our Associates journey continued before sadly having to return to our respective homes.

*Helen Bache  
Lakemba*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Penrith Celebrates the Centenary Feast Day of Blessed Mary MacKillop

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2009 the parishioners of St Nicholas of Myra church gathered to celebrate a special centenary Eucharist of Blessed Mary MacKillop. Father Chris De Souza, our Parish Priest, celebrated the Mass, which was very well attended. Father spoke movingly of our Australian saint whose hymns are becoming very familiar. Choirmaster Francis Spillane prepared a prayer leaflet and both Francis and the parish choir led us in prayerful song. The flowers on the sanctuary and the gold-coloured vestments all added to the happy occasion.

After the last blessing, Father Chris spoke a few words thanking all for their participation in the Eucharist. He then invited everybody to share this special occasion by coming together for a welcome morning tea and a chat in the parish rooms. It again was most enjoyable and also very pleasing to see many children present at both the Mass and the get together.

Many thanks to Father Chris for his help in the organising department and for his celebration of the Eucharist, and to Francis and the choir for their music and song. To all those who attended, especially those who worked behind the scenes, a big thank you!

*Una Galvin  
Penrith*

# From the New Coordinator

Dear Josephite Associates,  
friends in Christ,

Welcome to 2010! I trust this New Year has begun well for you and those you love. I wish you well and look forward to meeting you personally or connecting through the scribe of the pen – as was so often the style of our Foundress, Mary MacKillop.

Perhaps you would like to grab a cuppa before we continue?

I am writing to you personally, regardless of where you are in time, distance, place or space. Our connections are intended as personal links within our Josephite circle of Associates and friends. So, let's begin with an introduction.

My name is Clare Noonan. Most of my Josephite ministry life has been in education and leadership. Country areas have usually been my 'home' although I am originally from Sydney, born at Guildford. My temporary home is Baulkham Hills and my office is at Croydon.

I am looking forward to being with you – in vision and purpose, to create our future directions and styles of governance over the next three years. I am also conscious of those who have been part of our Associates' story since its first inception more than two decades ago. To one and all Josephite Sisters, who have previously been your first point of contact, and to all coordinators I say, 'Thanks!' Will you please pray and work with us as we, in true Josephite fashion, reshape ourselves in order to evolve into the unknown and exciting 'new' future. "The future is not some place we are going but one we are creating. The paths are not found but made." (Australian Commission for the Future, April 1999: p 15, Josephite Handbook)

Our wisest community unison link is prayer for, as Mary MacKillop said, 'He whose work it is, will take care of it.' We are simply required, in these times of change, to be open to the Spirit moving within!

When next in your garden or glancing at a flower, think of our creator God. If you hold the flower tightly, it is crushed and dies, but holding the same loosely enables a longer life...plant a seed for growth! That is the challenge of our possible changes:

- To enable whatever is meant to be
- To evolve with wisdom, integrity and foresight as Associates in Mission evidenced as Friendship, Prayer and Service.

In particular, I thank and acknowledge Helen Saunders who has been a significant Josephite for you during the past six years. I am aware you will be experiencing a sense of loss as Helen moves away. We wish you well, Helen, and thank you for ever so much.

I enjoyed my cuppa, did you?

Till next time we meet, dear Associates, may you know peace in your heart, love in your life and experience a smile of friendship from a stranger or friend.

**'Bye for now.  
Take care.  
Sent with love and care  
wrapped in a prayer.**

**Clare**



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

\$

The Associates' annual appeal for donations is now being made.

Even though we can't enclose an envelope with your emailed newsletter, we hope you might still send us a donation.



Donations are completely voluntary and will be gratefully accepted.

Many thanks for your past generosity.

## Vale Mary Hannon

Mary was a fine woman, and, I think to most of us in our hearts, she always will be. I think she was a fine woman for many reasons. One was that she never burdened others with her problems or her griefs. She might share things but she never dumped on people, as they say. You couldn't tell from Mary if she was hurting deep in her heart or if she was happy as Larry. She always looked great. Her hair was done, her shoes polished, immaculately dressed. You wouldn't have a clue whether she was as rich as a prince or as poor as a pauper. She carried herself with dignity and respect. And she showed dignity and respect to everyone she met.

One of the other outstanding memories I have of Mary is that she was an independent thinker. No one could tell Mary what to think. She'd listen to arguments here and there, she had a very firm idea of things; but very often she'd come out and say something and I'd think, "Ooh—where did that come from?" And she'd done reading and research, she'd thought about things and she'd prayed about things and she'd come to her *own* mind, to her *own* decision.



She was very proud of her heritage. And I don't think we can divorce Mary's heritage from her politics. She goes back to 1806; a long time to go, when her first ancestor arrived in Australia as a political prisoner from Ireland, and although her Irish roots are way back, she never left them or lost them. And as the Troubles were in Ireland, Mary took sides. I don't think she could have not taken sides in that regard. And I think her love for left wing politics and the Labor Party, her love for the Australian Republican Movement and the cause of a Republic in this land comes from those deep roots.

And as we can't separate her intellect and her politics nor can we separate her faith from those things either. And I suppose having a bit of a tough life growing up, having this background of politics, of thinking about the issues and teasing them out and toying with them and coming to a reasoned decision; that mixed with her faith gained her a very deep passion for *justice*, and to try and make a difference. And Mary was a practical woman. The theory's great, but it means nothing unless it's lived.

Her faith and her beliefs led her into doing tremendous work for the St Vincent de Paul Society, eventually being the President of our local Conference here at Arncliffe until she was unable to fulfil those duties. Mary was always happy to lend a hand, and she did so without judgement and with great respect for the dignity of each person.

Mary was an optimist and always looked for the bright side of things. And even in the last few weeks, Mary still had this hope for one last miracle from Mary MacKillop. The night before she died, when I visited her, she had two pictures; a picture which is here today, a picture of Mick and her daughter Margaret-Mary and a picture of Mary MacKillop. And these two things, she was just staring at, it was as if these people were calling her home. I said: "Mary, your children need to let you go and the ones that you've let go of are waiting for you to come home." And she said: "Yeah, I suppose you're right." It was very quiet and very gentle. And the thing that gave her great solace was the firm belief and trust in the power of God's love and mercy.

So today we pray for Mary. We pray that God is merciful in judging her. We pray that she is rewarded for the love and generosity and friendship that she extended to so many people. We pray that those who have gone before her, indeed am sure they have, already stepped forth to welcome her home.

*Fr Brendan Quirk, Associate  
St Francis Xavier's Church Arncliffe  
27 August 2009*

**Editor's Note:** This is an edited version of Fr Brendan's eulogy for Mary Hannon.

## Pilgrim Memories - October 2009

Dear Associates,

I thank Blessed Mary MacKillop for choosing me to represent you all on this very special pilgrimage during her centenary year. It has been a great privilege and you were all with me. I prayed for your intentions throughout this marvellous spiritual journey.

Starting from North Sydney with a group of 37 pilgrims from Qld, NSW, SA and WA (of whom 11 were sisters and 1 priest), it was evident right from the beginning that there was a deep bond of friendship amongst us. We were fortunate and blessed to have Sr Marie Foale rsj, Sr Therese Leydon rsj and Sr Genevieve Carroll rsj as our leaders, and to have Fr Henry Byrne with us. This made it even more meaningful. We learned so much about Blessed Mary, her family and Fr Julian from Sr Marie; her knowledge is never ending. Sr Therese and Sr Genevieve with special prayers, meditations, hymns and chants made the days even more spiritual. I really felt that Blessed Mary was with us and that we were really walking in her footsteps.

Everywhere we stopped from North Sydney, The Heritage Centre in Melbourne, Bacchus Marsh, Hamilton, Portland, Penola, to St Joseph's Convent, Kensington, the Sisters and volunteers greeted us with love, friendship and amazing hospitality, especially at Hamilton, where Ted, Norma, grandson Jack, family and friends couldn't do enough for us. Ted shared with us his great love and knowledge of Alexander MacKillop with great passion. He takes great care of his grave. (Alexander is Mary's father.)

This is a very brief account of the pilgrimage. The personal depth that has touched me cannot be explained. Every day was filled with memorable events, from sharing our lives, to getting to know each other, the places we saw, to people we met. I shall always treasure these 10 days.

I cannot wait for Blessed Mary MacKillop to become a saint. May her spirit and charism be always with us. God bless you all.

*Gabriella Spinetti, North Sydney*

**Editor's Note:** Gabriella was the winner of the Lucky Draw for Associates at the Mass at North Sydney Oval on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

\*\*\*\*\*

### A Tribute to My Wonderful Friend Tamara

*God's love endures even if we don't  
Like fragile flowers caught by a gust of wind  
our place will be empty. (Psalm 103)*

Listen dear friend  
It is so sad to know your life ended in such tragedy  
We will remember your name.

You were very spiritual and so devoted to Mary MacKillop  
Such a down-to-earth person  
So very loving, no one to hurt

It was an accident and God took your hand  
Took you to his home and safe place

It has been a long and difficult journey, for you my dear friend  
Now we pray and thank God to wipe away all tears, sorrow and pain  
At last you are resting in peace with Blessed Mary MacKillop  
and in the arms of our loving Saviour

Yesterday's memories are more precious than gold  
They are locked in our hearts to have and to hold.

*Angela Krusvar, North Sydney*





## Gertrude Emily Salcole (Gert or Gertie)

Born 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1910 at Nyngan to Robert Edward Salcole (born at Dubbo) and Gertrude Emily Peisley (born at Cudal), Gert was one of five, with Frank, Toby, Jack and Florrie. She was educated at St Joseph's School, Nyngan, and began work at the Nyngan Telephone Exchange in January 1928. She retired 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1975 after 38 years service.

Gert was very community minded; but God came first. She was honorary secretary of the convent ball for 17 years, and did church washing for 43 years. After she retired, she worked at St Joseph's School teaching children to read. Many times when we were out and about, someone who had reached adulthood would remark, "You taught me to read!"

She was a St Vincent de Paul stalwart, working in the centre well into her nineties. She was still a member of the Conference till her death. After retirement she joined the Golf Club (and became a good golfer), the Bowling Club, the R.S.L. Club, the C.W.A., the Hospital Auxiliary, the Red Cross and the Josephite Associates. Never a dull moment!

After her father died in 1955 Gert went to live with Vera Barrow, a friendship that lasted over 50 years till Vera's death in December 2001. In July 2003 Gert broke her left hip; after it was pinned she came to live with me, her goddaughter, where she resided till her death.

Gert was awarded the King George V, British Empire Medal for Public Service with the Australian Telecommunications Commission in May 1977. In October 1995 she received from Pope John Paul II, the emblem of the Holy Cross for the Church and the Pope in recognition of her distinguished works and outstanding zeal. Gert went home to God on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009, aged 98 years.

*Mary Brain, Nyngan*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Mid-Mountains Gathering

On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009, Sr Helen Saunders rsj came to Lawson to do an information session about the Josephite Associates. There were 23 participants and another 6 apologies from people who are very interested. Sr Helen was very informative and down to earth and had good stories to illustrate ideas and to keep everyone interested.

Lawson has had Good Samaritan Sisters for about 80 years. The Josephites did have a big property that was a place for postulants to study, a retreat centre and had various other purposes from 1949 until the house was burnt in the 1977 bushfires. In 1994 Sr Marie Ellen Daniel rsj lived in Lawson, in what had been the original caretaker's house. Sr Anna Maria Trinca rsj and I have lived and ministered in Lawson for the past 9 years.

We hope to begin the Josephite Associate group early next year and it is rather exciting. There is a big band of people who work with the Sisters already, by giving care for the people in need, in the community from Linden to Wentworth Falls, and by participating in spiritual days and social events.

We are very grateful to Sr Helen for her visit and inspirational sessions and we wish her well in her new ministry. *Sr Maureen O'Halloran rsj*



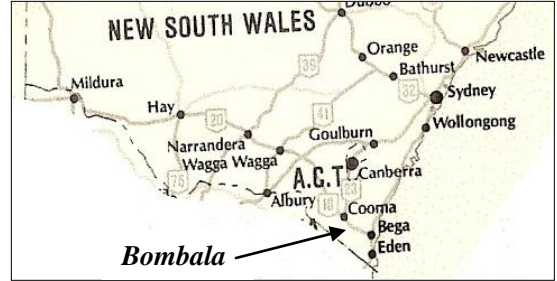
**Congratulations  
to Nina O'Flynn (New Zealand)  
who recently celebrated her  
80<sup>th</sup> birthday**

**Associates Office - Locked Bag 3031  
Burwood NSW 1805 - (02) 8741 2334**

**If you have any changes to your  
details, please let Clare know.**

# Bombala Associates

This Associate Group is situated in the Southern Monaro township of Bombala. It is known as Platypus Country which boasts of the finest trout fishing streams in Australia, scenic mountain drives, and primeval native forests and abounds in a spectacular array of native flora and fauna. This Platypus Country nestles between the Snowy Mountains and the Sapphire Coast. The Victorian border is only 37 kms away. Bombala is 87 kms south of Cooma, an hour and half drive to Mt Kosciusko and only an hour and half drive to Merimbula or Eden.



Jan Farrell, Therese Rumph, Ellen Atkins, Eileen Elliott, Moira Tindale, Valerie Perkins, Carol Badewitz, Nola Bedingfield, Betty Lomas

Towards the end of 2005, Sr Betty Bourke rsj began collecting names of those who were interested in becoming Josephite Associates. Sr Helen Saunders rsj enrolled us as a group in October 2009. Today, we have an enthusiastic group of eighteen members who meet quarterly under the spiritual guidance of Sr Helen Madden rsj.

Bombala is a small community of 1,500 people. It is little wonder – yet beautifully unique – that most of this group were born locally; that they or their children were educated at St Joseph’s School; and that all are lifelong friends. Finally, these Associates have a consistent ethic of living fully, joyfully and compassionately in the Gospel tradition. They desire, of course, to become more deeply immersed into the Josephite Charism and its outreach.

*Betty Lomas  
Bombala*

**Editor’s Note:** See May 2008 article, WYD Cross at Bombala.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Australian Pilgrimage In the Footsteps of Blessed Mary MacKillop

**Bookings now open**

12-22 April  
12-22 October

For more information, contact:  
Sr Therese Leydon rsj  
Phone 0417 683 123  
[thereseleydon@y7mail.com](mailto:thereseleydon@y7mail.com)

Sr Monica Barlow rsj  
Phone (02) 8912 4818  
[mmp.ministries@sosj.org.au](mailto:mmp.ministries@sosj.org.au)

<http://www.sosj.org.au/mary/Pilgrimages>

### Requiescant in Pace

Mary Braham (Thirlmere);  
Tom Carroll, husband of Pat Carroll (Warialda);  
Sr Patricia Clare Finnerty; Sr Eugene Gallen; Geoff Gillett (Lidcombe); Alex Hudson, husband of May (Warilla); Kay Knock (Broadwater);  
Ethel McCosker, wife of Richard (Cabarita);  
Anthony McMahan, brother of Paul (Tamworth);  
Ivy Stibbard, mother of Mena Jordon (Qld, formerly Warialda); Eric Ting, husband of Judith (Warwick, Qld); Isabel Watson, sister of Dawn Fitzpatrick (Lidcombe)

### Prayers for the Sick

Shirley Ausburn (Belmont); Gloria George (Guyra);  
Jude Giannone, daughter of Dawn Fitzpatrick (Lidcombe);  
Lorraine Judge, mother of Helen Bache (Lakemba);  
Mary Toohey (Blacktown);  
Ken Willings (Blacktown)