



# Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

Josephite Associates Locked Bag 3031 BURWOOD NSW 1805 (Letters only) • 5 Alexandra Ave Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)

NEWSLETTER • JULY 2011

Dear Associates,  
As I begin these few words to you in these cold days of winter I am aware that many of you have lost either a friend or family member or know of someone who has experienced the same in death. I am especially sensitive to your human grieving. The hidden but real pain nestled within the heart of us who are left behind: no longer free to hold the human one we loved, touch their hand, smile into their eyes, share laughter or simply wipe away a tear. Let us take a moment to be with each other. Let us be comfortable whatever feelings we may evoke. Let us be who we are in our sorrow for only then, in time, will we truly rejoice in faith that they are now in eternity with our God. To stand quietly and reverently beside one who is in human grief is a rare privilege -- silence is your embrace.

When you are ready, let's take our cuppa, and move into another few moments with our God. He knows us: He has called us by Name!

Bathing in memories of what or who has been is important. They are segments which put us into our now. I love the Gospel story of Jesus going to the mountain top to pause and ponder over the beautiful city of Jerusalem and its people -- whom He loved. How fortunate are we who were born to 'make manifest the glory of God that is within' simply by being a child of God. So, how are you travelling? What aspect of God's love are you radiating in your life today? Sometimes we are unaware, most times in fact, for our relationship with our God is who we are. God is, as St Paul reminds us through his writings, the one 'in whom we live and breathe and move and indeed have our being'.

In March of this year, when we gathered at Baulkham Hills to reflectively uncover what charism and spirituality are to us as Josephite Associates in today's world, it was evident that local JA groups impact deeply on others within the community. *'There where you are you will find God'* (MMK)

Our facilitator, Christina Neunzerling, a Josephite Sister, invited and walked with us as we journeyed into a personal, individual recognition of who we are becoming: we were constantly moving into degrees of eventual ownership of our JA charism.

St Mary MacKillop was able to touch so many people's lives and effect changes never seen before. Why? Among other things she listened '...to the whispers of God in her heart!' The understanding of God's whispers is unveiled in our daily lives: usually they form the *why* of our lives! Nietzsche believed: 'He/she who has a why to live for can bear almost any how'. This is life and living. We are always acting and living within some context or situation of life. Doing it with our God enables an inner strength to move us on or into it all.

At this, our time in history as the Josephite Associates in New South Wales, members are yearning for an effusion of the Spirit. *Whenever he intervenes, the Spirit always leaves us in wonder. He gives rise to events, the newness of which radically changes history. (Lumen Gentium, n. 12).* Each day the Gospel is what we seek to live. What are the stories we are creating as we work together to ensure our future?

In our March Newsletter we touched on enlightenment. Let us be brave and move into awareness. What is it? While descriptions vary, I believe it is essentially always awakening to that which we haven't seen yet or heard or noticed. To me it's the silent space between a deliberate head and heart response. It is always a new journey beginning. It is a process of translating what is in the head to what is in the heart so that the centre of our understanding of truth emerges with clarity and, most importantly, truth. Real awareness flows essentially from inner wisdom. Much of the process of awareness is an inner activity which operates in the moment. Some have described it as 'an intelligence system that is not based in the past or in the future but in the moment: now.' Sometimes it is listening to what is and seeing with awareness what is beyond the expression of what is stated and shared.

**Jesus told us many stories which invite us into this level of awareness. It's an invitation to unwrap the obvious so that the image fades and the integrity of what shines through. That, I believe, my JA friends and members, is our current challenge. Life is ceaseless in discovery. Life is movement.**

*May the journey you begin in your new tomorrow,  
ever remind you of those who have touched the  
tissues of your life.*

Clare

## Opening Prayer

*(May be helpful for local meetings)*

Lord, source of all our strength, support each of us in this meeting.

Grant us the courage to be open to each other and to not be fearful of the new and different. Strengthen us with willingness to risk for the sake of Your Kingdom.

It is our wish, Lord and God, that the true business of this meeting be our spiritual transformation and not simply the accomplishment of tasks and projects. We ask this of You as we now begin, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*(Source unknown)*



## Kincumber Retreat Weekend February 2011 — Two Perspectives

When Margaret Stapleton and I set off for the retreat at Kincumber, I had little idea of what to expect, having been introduced only recently to the Josephite Associates. Looking back, I seem to have had a lot of negative ideas and concerns about what turned out to be a wonderful retreat:

- Will I have to share a room? (I hope not!)
- Is there a communal bathroom? (I hope not!)
- Is it a silent retreat? (I hope not!)

As it was, I came away totally refreshed spiritually and physically. There were so many wonderful aspects to the weekend that it is hard to know where to begin.

The place itself – so peaceful and beautiful – was most conducive to reflection and prayer. The accommodation was comfortable, the meals excellent. In a warm, friendly and welcoming environment it didn't take long for new friendships to develop.

Bridie O'Connell rsj led inspiring studies with just the right balance of talks, time for discussion and silent meditation. Through Sr Bridie's beautifully presented meditations on the women who met Jesus:

- Mary and Martha
- The Samaritan woman at the well
- The woman who touched Jesus' garment
- Mary and Elizabeth

we were guided to look in a new and different way at our own meetings with Jesus.

There was plenty of time to spend alone. I had never heard of a labyrinth as a means to prayer. To be truthful I was quite sceptical – until I experienced it for myself. It was the most mystical experience I have ever had. Walking the Way of the Cross by myself early on Sunday morning also provided a time for reflection and prayer. On Saturday evening the Eucharistic celebration was another special time to be with Jesus.

But it wasn't all serious stuff, and there was also plenty of time for fun and laughs, and just enjoying each others' company. Thank you to everyone who made the weekend such a success, and very special thank you to Leonie Bell who provided transport from Woy Woy station and back again.

I'm looking forward to the next retreat, as well as to deepening my involvement with and commitment to the Josephite Associates.

*Margaret Portell North Sydney Group*

The theme for the retreat chosen by Bridie O'Connell rsj was The women who met Jesus. To set the scene, Bridie invited us to enter those places in the Gospel narratives where Jesus ("The Human One") met with and formed friendships with women.

### Associates Office

Locked Bag 3031  
Burwood NSW 1805 (Letters only)  
5 Alexandra Ave Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)  
(02) 8741 2334  
[associates@sosjnsw.org.au](mailto:associates@sosjnsw.org.au)

### The Editorial Team

**Editor:** Christine Sivewright

**Team Members:** Helen Bache, Leonie Bell, Anne Downey,  
Jacquie Oudin

**Design and Print:** Paul McMahan



Like Mary and Martha, so we are invited to spend an evening with Him in Bethany – just longing. Martha, always busy but longing to be like her sister, Mary, gently waiting and listening to Jesus. Jesus, noting Martha's restlessness, says "Martha, Martha" and puts her at ease.

Next we have the woman at the well. Imagine yourself in a Samaritan town called Sychar, in the heat of the noonday sun. You have come to draw water from the well, as what you normally did at this time. You set your water jar down on the side of the well and notice a man sitting there, who asks you for a drink. You are surprised by his request – do you give him water? The man speaks again, promising to give you a life-giving inner spring of water. How do you feel when you run back to the village to tell your news?

A change of scene as we recall the story of the woman who touched Jesus' garment and was cured of a haemorrhage after twelve years. "If I could only touch the hem of His garment, I would be cured!" When Jesus asked who had touched Him, she came forward and confessed. Jesus said, "Go in peace; your faith has saved you."

Spend time now with two women who shared God's plan to bring His Son into the world – Mary and Elizabeth. The old and the young join each other in the mystery – Shekinah of God! "Blest is she who believed the promise of the Lord would be fulfilled. Of all women she is most blessed." Spend time with these two women and ask them to show you how the plan of God is in your life right now.

*Maureen Lillis JA Warilla Group*

### Campsie Group Taxi Ride

It was around 10.30 in the morning and the taxi pulled up at its first stop. The day had arrived when various members of the Campsie Group were taxiing their way to a nursing home at Leichhardt to visit one of their past members. First pick up completed and away the taxi goes, winding through the Campsie streets to make its next stop and then its next until, with taxi full, they arrive at their destination at Leichhardt.

On entering the former Campsie member's room, it brings laughter, joy and tears, but the love and sharing of the visit cannot be fully realised.

It may be only twice a year when this ritual is carried out to Leichhardt and to a Surry Hills nursing home, but the memories and the comfort that their visit brings, make this taxi ride very worthwhile.

God bless you all for your caring.

*Helen Bache JA Lakemba Group*

# JA's Corner

## February:

- JA Cross-State Survey will be completed by May 2011.
- Invitation received for St Joseph's Day Mass at Baulkham Hills. Forwarded by mail and email to Group Leaders for sharing with members.
- Receipts forwarded by mail or with the next issue of the newsletter as appropriate.
- Kincumber Retreat 18-20 February 2011, facilitated by Bridie O'Connell rsj, with 21 attendees, on the topic of 'The Women Who Met Jesus'. Positive evaluations received.
- Charism and Spirituality Gathering scheduled for 14-15 March 2011, at Baulkham Hills, facilitated by Christina Neunzerling rsj.
- AGM scheduled for 17 September 2011 at Marian Court Strathfield.
- Personnel Resource Directory (in progress).
- Leadership Team meetings scheduled for first Wednesday of each month in 2011.
- March newsletter successfully completed and distributed with help of volunteers. Number of positive comments received re new format and general content.
- Daily backup procedure implemented with the support of Business Manager and External IT contractor.
- Leonie Bell joined Leadership Team from 5th January, 2011 on a voluntary basis. Focus area will be on MYOB.

## March:

- Leadership Team met 2 March 2011 to review and plan for Baulkham Hills Leadership Gathering.
- Revised JA Annual Contribution Form is close to finalisation.
- Annual Membership fee is \$20.00 per year. To date, while many members have paid, thank you, there are a significant number who have not made his/her payment.
- Next retreat scheduled for 14-16 October 2011 at Kincumber. Topic is - The Book of Ruth. Facilitator will be Christina Neunzerling rsj.
- St Joseph's Day celebration at Baulkham Hills 19th March 2011 was well attended by the Associates. Sincere thanks to Mary Quinlan rsj for the invitation and for the unexpected lunch.
- Leadership Gathering (Charism and Spirituality theme) held on the 14-15 March 2011, at Baulkham Hills, facilitated by Christina Neunzerling rsj. Total of 45 registrations. The positive response from the Associates and gratitude was overwhelming. Our thanks to Eileen Lenihan rsj (CLT) and Mary Quinlan rsj (PLT) for their attendance. Thank you also to the Sisters of St Joseph for their financial support.
- Sr Christina has received requests from the Auburn and Penshurst Night Group to run a prayer day in October and November respectively. The Auburn prayer day has subsequently been cancelled due to the unavailability of a suitable date. It is anticipated, however, that a date be set in May, 2012 for the Auburn prayer day.
- A decision has been reached not to proceed with the Grave Sites tour. Will revisit this project in 2012.
- AGM scheduled for 17 September 2011 at Marian Court Strathfield with Lyn Raftery rsj as guest presenter. Mary

Quinlan rsj, as our active support Provincial, to be invited to share a few words with us.

- Good progress with JA Procedures Manual. This project was commenced in March 2010 by a volunteer JA member, Helen Bache. Proofreading, editing, and formatting by the Sisters of St Joseph. Release date is expected in April 2011.
- Progress made with JA Office Handbook of daily working tasks etc. This will be a developmental procedure created by all and is a work in progress with release date anticipated in May 2011.
- Josephite Associates Ceremony Dedication form completed and ready for distribution to the various groups.
- Stamps for the Peruvian Mission, 24 boxes, delivered for auction on 28 March 2011.

## April:

- Editorial committee met on 6 April 2011 to finalize July newsletter.
- At Leadership meeting on 6 April 2011, it was agreed to increase the Kincumber Retreat fee to \$200.00 to enable the JAs to remain sustainable.
- JA Procedures Manual released in April 2011.
- Photograph diskette received from both Nida (Lalor Park) and Margaret (The Oaks) covering meetings held at Lidcombe, Kincumber and Baulkham Hills.

## May:

- JA Cross-State Survey completed in May 2011.
- Prayer Day at Oatley scheduled for 14 May 2011.
- JA Office Handbook scheduled release date May 2011.

## June:

- July newsletter successfully completed with assistance of volunteers.

**REMINDER:** We need articles for the Newsletter. Will you send some in for us to include? Send some great pictures!



## AGM Accommodation

We would be delighted to see our country cousins at the AGM this year; so to make your trip a little easier the ladies at Marian Court Strathfield have some accommodation to offer

There are six single bedrooms available; two each share a bathroom and toilet. Sheets and towels will be provided as well as a continental breakfast; all for \$30.00 per night. Friday and Saturday nights are available, with Mass at 5pm on Saturday evening on the premises.

There is also a TV room available for your use

On Sunday 13th March, four Far North Coast JAs set out for Baulkham Hills for the Leadership Gathering: Frances Raisch, Silvana Smith and I (from the Mullumbimby/Byron Bay/Bangalow Group) and Elaine Bullman (from the Lismore Group). Rosemary Davis was to have accompanied us, but was unable to do so at the last minute. My husband Ron dutifully drove us to Ballina, where we caught the 10.45 a.m. plane to Sydney. Upon arrival at Mascot, we proceeded by train to North Sydney to meet up with our beloved Margaret Keane rsj, who until Christmas had been our leader for the past 14 years. We spent a pleasant hour or so with her, praying at the tomb of St Mary of the Cross, catching up over a cuppa and perusing the gift shop attached to the museum, before boarding the train again, this time bound for Seven Hills. Due to track work, the train terminated at Strathfield, so we boarded a bus to Parramatta, where we were once again back on the train and two stops later, arrived at Seven Hills. A taxi then delivered us to St Joseph's House of Spirituality, Baulkham Hills. Our 'trains, planes and automobiles' expedition had delivered us safely to our destination around 5 p.m.

I have been asked to write a report on the Gathering, and what transpired over the next day and a half. Remember the words from that 1960s film *To Sir with Love*, where it says 'How do you thank someone who has taken you from crayons to perfume?' Well, Christina Neunzerling rsj, our facilitator, certainly took us on that journey from 'crayons to perfume'! The title of the Gathering was Spirituality and Charism Mary MacKillop and it was one of those very special events that come along once in a while that you never want to end!

JAs travelled from all over the State to attend. We came from Quirindi, Lalor Park, Lakemba, Seven Hills, North Sydney, Blacktown, Boambee, Warialda, Penrith, North Leichardt, Campsie, Canberra, Penshurst, and many other places – a total of 46 participants. This was the first time any of our country group had made the trek to 'the big smoke' as Associates, apart from the beatification celebrations in 1995.

Eileen Lenihan rsj, from the Congregational Leadership team, and Mary Quinlan rsj, the NSW Provincial, spent the first day of the Gathering with



us and participated in our sessions.

Mary MacKillop was our constant companion during this Gathering, with many quotes from her abundant writings and stories from her life, interspersed through out the sessions. I mused at how lucky we are to have all this abundance of written information about her and her life to draw on. Today with all our modern technologies, we tend not to write, but make a quick phone call, send off an email, or write a text message, etc. So how much will survive of what we say and think, for future generations to remember us, let alone be inspired by?

After a welcome from our Transitional Leader, Clare Noonan rsj, and an acknowledgment of the original owners of the land, Christina opened the Gathering with a hymn and a prayer. She began by reminding us that as Josephites, whether Religious or Associates, we all belong to the one family and so we all try to live the same spirituality of our foundress, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She then asked us to think about just what it is that inspires us in Mary's story and spirituality. Some of the answers came back: her ordinariness, her courage, her kindness, her sense of justice, her compassion, her ability to forgive, her complete trust in God. Christina then explored the meaning of spirituality with us and how the word is derived from the Latin *spirare*, meaning to breathe, and how spirituality is of the very essence of what it is to be human and not simply something extra tacked onto our humanity. We explored with her how where we have come from, our family stories, our culture, the sayings, symbols and rituals of our families, all help shape our spirituality. It goes without saying that, as Christians, our spirituality, like the spirituality of Mary MacKillop, is foremost Gospel based.

We then investigated the word charism. What is it? What does it look like? What does it feel like? What does it sound like? Many of us had never really thought too hard about what a charism is, so found the task a little daunting. By the end of the session we all knew that we each have a charism, which we often don't recognise, but which others do, and that by recognising and encouraging each other to use our Josephite charisms, we keep the vision of Mary MacKillop alive. Christina spoke of a charism as being a God-given gift -- given through the Spirit to us, bringing with it both the gift and the ability to use the gift for the good of the community -- and how we use these gifts to carry out the mission of Jesus, to bring about the reign of God (Love) 'on earth as it is in heaven'.

We also looked at the relationship between theology and our spirituality and how the public, private and interpersonal arenas of our lives integrate our theology through our lived spirituality and how Mary MacKillop lived out her spirituality in all three of these arenas. The public arena, through social action for justice wherever she saw a need; the private arena, through her personal prayer and contemplation; and the interpersonal arena, through the love and kindness she expressed to her family and her community of Sisters. We looked at this in relation to the Congregational Scripture, 'This is what Yahweh asks of you, only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, to walk humbly with your God' (Micah 6:8).

Christina quoted Elizabeth Johnson: 'The goal (of a healthy spirituality for these times) is ultimately a renewed Christian community in service to the world according to the vibrant life-giving spirit of Christ, and a transformed society of mutuality and compassionate respect,

both among human beings and between human beings and the earth.

Christina also explored Mary MacKillop as mystic, defining a mystic as one who is constantly aware of the presence of the Divine within the mystery of everyday life. Mary certainly was that, as is evidenced by her many sayings; e.g., 'There, where you are, you will find God'; 'God gave me such a sense of His wonderful presence'; 'God's love is too deep for words to express'; 'I felt nearer to God than I ever felt before'; 'See the hand of God in all that happens'; 'Let us be entirely for God'; 'See the beauty of God'.

As Josephites, Christina put into context our commitment to God through the following of Christ in the spirit of our founders Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, which urges us to live our Josephite charism authentically and in new ways that respond to the challenges of this time, remembering that central to our identity and charism is our service to those people who are without real choices and completely destroyed or abandoned in some way.

We ended the day with private reflection time entitled "Listen to the Whisperings of God in your Heart" (Mary MacKillop).

St Joseph's House of Spirituality is a beautiful, restful place in the middle of suburban Baulkham Hills. Although it is surrounded by private homes and roads, set back off the road as it is, with vast grounds and beautiful gardens, it's like you are in the countryside surrounded by trees and birds. The rooms are five-star and the facilities and meals excellent. At times it seemed that every time we turned around we were being offered food! The evening meal was followed by a sing-along, led by the multi talented Christina, on her guitar. The night ended with table trivia, with all questions being about different aspects of Mary MacKillop's life. After much merriment and protests, a winner was decided and chocolates won. In true Josephite spirit, they were shared among all the participants. Such was the level of competitiveness, that protests over question 2 (What names were given to Mary when she was baptised on the 28.2.1842?) were still being debated over breakfast the next morning!

Day two saw us looking at the 'nuts and bolts' of JAs, with regard to how to apply what we had discussed the previous day to our local group situations. We were asked to identify our gifts; what we do well and enjoy; what we do not do well and yet enjoy; what we do not enjoy and do well; what we do not do well and don't enjoy either. We then shared our answers

with the group. Our discussion then turned to leadership as a dynamic in the group, as opposed to the old model of leadership from the top down, and how good leadership delegates and shares responsibility amongst the members according to their gifts and talents. We also discussed embracing change and the need to be continually changing in order to grow. Which reminded me of the quote from Cardinal Newman from our recent newsletter, 'To live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often'.



All in all the Gathering was simply fantastic! Christina was an amazing facilitator: she sang beautifully; played the guitar brilliantly; her prayer reflections were both uplifting and inspiring; she has a wonderful sense of humour; she engaged everyone present to participate in all aspects of her presentations; she enthralled us with her stories about New Zealand and life at Baulkham Hills as a novice; she was so full of joy and enthusiasm, that it was impossible not to be drawn in too. Her knowledge and her ability to share her faith were simply amazing. Her ability to pluck quotes of all sorts 'out of the air' was mind blowing. Some that stay with me are: 'Be the change you wish to see in the world'; 'We are not called to be successful, just faithful'; 'Remember the theology of abundance - what you have is enough'; 'Remember...respect for human dignity'; 'Becoming...embracing change leads to life'; 'At all times preach the Gospel and when necessary use words'.

Clare ended the sessions by saying that like the apostles at the Transfiguration, it was good that we were here, and she understood why they didn't want to leave. She remarked about the enthusiasm and joy amongst the group and how the

charism of Mary MacKillop was indeed in good hands. Clare gave a short report on what had been achieved thus far in the transition process and admitted that mistakes had been made in trying to move too quickly, for which she took responsibility and apologised. The Newsletter is now in the capable hands of the editorial team; editor Christine Sivewright and team members Helen Bache, Leonie Bell, Anne Downey and Jacquie Oudin, with design and print by Paul McMahan. MYOB is in the process of being set up to take care of our finances. Clare personally thanked the organising committee (Anne Downey, Leonie Bell, Lillian Stansell, Margaret Millar, Gwen Daly and Helen Bache), who put so much time and effort into making the Gathering such a wonderful event. She thanked everyone for coming and asked God to bless us all and wished us a safe journey home.

For those of you who were not able to be present, I hope this report gives you a taste of what it was like to be there. For those of you who were blessed to have been there, I hope this report evokes some of the joys we shared and sustains your happy memories of this life-changing event. Before we left, it was rumoured that Christina might be leading our Retreat at Kincumber later in the year, so those of you who wanted more...watch this space!!!

**Jan Lang JA**

*Mullumbimby/Byron Bay/Bangalow Group*

## Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the  
**Josephite Mission in Peru**

**Please send to:**

Stamps

5 Alexandra Avenue

Croydon NSW 2132

Phone 02 8741 2334

Fax 02 8741 2399

The Website for

**Mary MacKillop Place, Mount Street, North Sydney is**

[www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au)

for

Coming events, Feast and Memorial dates, Pilgrimage information  
and an invitation to a place of prayer with our Australian Saint.



Thank you

### Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

On the 23rd May 2010 our son Matthew suffered a massive stroke due to a blood clot at the base of his brain. At the age of 38, all he could move were his eyes: up for yes and down for no.

The doctor said he was in a locked-in place and that there was not much hope of improvement. He started to get slight movement in his upper body but nothing in his legs. In November our Josephite Associates began a Novena to Mary MacKillop to pray for Matt and within a couple of days he started to get movement in his legs. The physio was amazed, as she didn't expect him to walk again.

Matt is now in Rehab in Brisbane and ever so slowly improving. It is going to be a long battle for him but with prayer and determination on his part I am sure he will make it.

I would just like to ask everyone, especially the Josephite Associates, to remember him in their daily prayers.

Gerald & Margaret O'Meara  
Bangalow 27 March 2011



### Travelling Sisters' Van Blessed

March 14, 2011

Sr Julianne Murphy (SA) and Sr Sharon Teresa (Vic) are setting off to Victoria this week as part of the first leg of the Travelling Sisters Roadshow. This morning a ritual was held in the Mary MacKillop Memorial chapel blessing their journey. This is a unique initiative that will see grants of up to \$10,000 being given to community projects that are helping those most devastated by the nation's recent disasters. The Sisters will be visiting schools and other organisations, bringing awareness of the Mary MacKillop Foundation and their projects.

## Oatley Group Profile

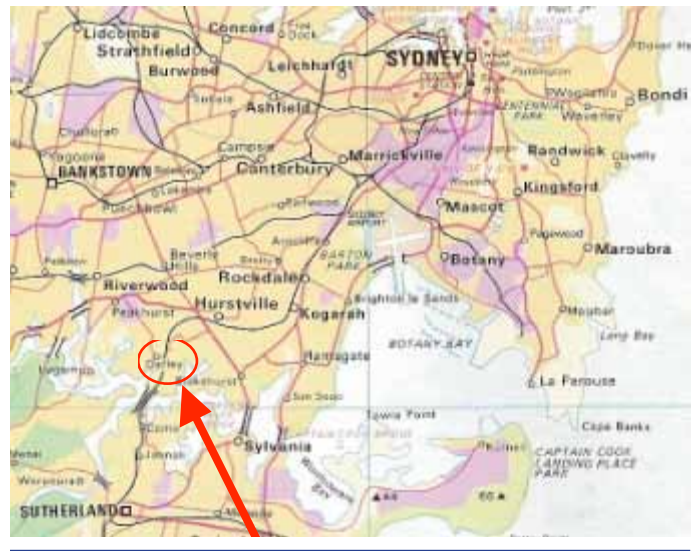


Pictured: Edvina Prest, Vicky Graham, Kathleen Richardson, Annette Rowley, Angelina Trimboli, Susan Wilcox, Kathryn Wokcicki, Barbara Morris (with Helen Saunders rsj)  
Absent: Anne Barnes, Susan Canham, Dorothy Kernahan, Robyn Thomas

We are a group of 12 at St Joseph's Oatley. Some of our group were in an older group which had lapsed and then was reinvented a few years back. We always try to have four meetings a year and now and again join with Penhurst group for special occasions. One of our members went on a pilgrimage last year to Penola and two of the ladies recently heard Kath Evans speak. We had a great occasion on 14th May, when we joined with Penhurst for a prayer day in our parish.

We have our parish mobilised to save stamps for the Peru Missions and some of us are knitting for the Sudanese refugees and Fijian families.

Annette Rowley JA Oatley Group



This morning, Warmun in the Kimberleys WA was especially remembered at Mass following the evacuation of their Aboriginal community last night when affected by flash flooding.

There will be a Fundraising Gala Dinner in the Melbourne Town Hall this Friday to launch of the Travelling Sisters Roadshow – Australian Disaster Recovery.

"On this journey may they take with them a heart that travels in gratitude for the generous work and vision of the Foundation that has a compassion for those in need they rejoices with all that they meet."

Used with permission per Josephite website: [www.sosj.org.au](http://www.sosj.org.au)

## Anne Derwin rsj - Awarded the highest honour of ACU

### Anne Derwin rsj Honoured for her Commitment to Education and Leadership

Sister Anne Derwin, Congregational Leader, was awarded Australian Catholic University's (ACU) highest honour, Doctor of the University, in recognition of her contributions to education and leadership. Anne delivered the Occasional Address at the Graduation Ceremony.

Sister Anne, while very honoured to receive this award herself, spoke of "her joy and delight that the affirmation of the Sisters, which was highlighted at the time of Mary MacKillop's Canonisation, is still so real and being acknowledged six months later".

On behalf of all the Josephite Associates we congratulate you on receiving this well-deserved honour.

Used with permission per Josephite website: [www.sosj.org.au](http://www.sosj.org.au)

April 09, 2011



## A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Prayer said daily by Kath Evans, recipient of the second miracle attributed to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Every day I need Thee, Lord,  
but this day specially.  
I need some extra strength  
to face whatever is to be.....

This day, more than any day,  
I need to feel Thee near  
to fortify my courage  
and to overcome my fear.

By myself I cannot meet  
the challenge of the hour.  
There are times when human  
creatures need a higher Power  
to help them bear  
what must be borne.

And so, dear Lord, I pray –  
Hold on to my trembling hand  
and be with me today.

## Nyngan Group Meeting



The Nyngan Group met on Sunday 27th February at the home of Leone Ward. Although notice of the meeting was only overnight, ten members were able to gather for morning tea. The March Newsletter had arrived and the Litany of Mary MacKillop was used as the opening prayer for the meeting.

We said a special prayer for those in the parish who are not well and for those who have died since our last meeting. As a small community of 2500 people, there is a special relationship with one another. Concern for those who are ill and for the family members of those who have died is personally experienced by members of our community.

The Associates are looking forward to the opening of the new Parish Hall in May and the 50th anniversary of the ordination of our Parish Priest, Fr Kevin Murphy, in July.

Leone Ward JA Nyngan Group

## Requiescant in Pace

Ronald Ball (Menai);  
Lily Bracken (Mascot);  
Ruby Cetta (mother of Jan rsj);  
Alice Cooke rsj;  
Kathleen Hart rsj;  
Lionel Kennedy (Nyngan);  
Betty Lamb (Cooma);  
Carmen Pineda (Lidcombe);  
Imelda Sinclair rsj;  
George Stevenson (husband of Eileen)

## Prayers for the Sick

Mary Bateup (North Sydney);  
Monica Brown (Lalor Park);  
Eileen Carter (Nyngan);  
Betty Graves (Campsie);  
Kathleen Hamilton (Canberra);  
Joan Harrison rsj;  
Noelene McNeill (Barraba);  
Nathan Weaver, grandson of Jan (Lalor Park);  
Patricia Weinert (Campsie)

## Josephite Calendar 2012

### FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

Once again the photographers are requested to send in their digital photos for consideration for the 2012 calendar.

Email: [lyn.raftery@sosjnsw.org.au](mailto:lyn.raftery@sosjnsw.org.au)

OR

Send by CD to:- Locked Bag 3031, Burwood. NSW. 1805

## South Lismore Josephite Associates

### Living the Values of Friendship, Prayer and Service

The year commenced for the Associates on Sunday 6th March when we attended Mass together at the church at South Lismore. Our Parish Priest Fr Peter Karam warmly welcomed us and mentioned the stained glass window of St Mary of the Cross that is in the church. On Tuesday 29th March the Associates met at the house of Margaret Webb. Margaret lives at Wollongbar, which is approximately 15 minutes travelling time from Lismore. As Margaret has had health issues for many years, we agreed to go to her home. Margaret really enjoys the ladies coming to her home. She once commented that not many people visit her home and it brings great joy to her when they do. Eight people were in attendance. Each member present will be sending those unable to attend a card for Easter with a special message from us all. Members have also been visiting those ladies who are unable to leave their homes.

Elaine Bullman presented a wonderful report to us on the Leaders' Gathering held at Baulkham Hills (14th to 15th March 2011). Members listened with great interest and were encouraged by what they heard. As we listened to Elaine we could feel the energy and charism of Sr Christina. The spirituality would have been felt by all present.

Special thanks to those who made the Gathering of JAs at Baulkham Hills possible. May God continue to bless us one and all as together we minister to others.

Rosemary Davis JA South Lismore Group

#### Email Address

Have you had a change since your last advice?  
If so, please contact us with your new details at:

[associates@sosjns.org.au](mailto:associates@sosjns.org.au)

Subject: Email address change

### Coming Events

#### Associates

#### Kincumber Retreat

14th – 16th October, 2011

#### 'The Book of Ruth'

Led by Christina Neunzerling rsj

Cost \$200

For further information phone  
Associates Office on **02 8741 2334**  
or email [associates@sosjns.org.au](mailto:associates@sosjns.org.au)

## A Prayer . . . A Season

God of the Seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising. We need courage to enter into the transformation process.

God of Autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. **Help us to let go when we need to do so.**

God of fallen leaves lying in coloured patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns. **As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.**

God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power-filled presence. **May we gain strength from this.**

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope. **Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.**

God of geese going south for another season, **your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future.**

God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, **may your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons.**

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. **For all this, we are grateful.**

Prayer sent to us by Wyong JA Group. Source unknown.

### Coming Events

#### Mary MacKillop Place

**Wednesdays with Saint Mary MacKillop**  
27th July, 31st August, 28th September,  
26th October and 30th November

(10.30 am to 12.30 pm)

Monica Barlow rsj (02 8912 4818)

**Introduction to Reflective Spiritual Reading**  
5th, 12th and 19th September

(11 am to 1 pm)

Elizabeth Crilley rsj (02 8912 4861)

**Introduction to the Gift of Prayer**  
31st October and 14th November

(11 am to 1 pm)

Elizabeth Crilley rsj (02 8912 4861)

#### Guided Meditation

**15th and 22nd August, 28th November  
and 5th December**

(11 am to 1 pm)

Elizabeth Crilley rsj (02 8912 4861)

For further information

phone **02 8912 4818**

or email [mackillop@sosj.org.au](mailto:mackillop@sosj.org.au)  
[www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au)