



## Josephite Associates

Friendship ♦ Prayer ♦ Service

**13 May 2011**

Dear Associates, Sisters and Friends,

As I write, we are all filled with sadness at the news which has just come to hand – the very sudden death of a much loved Sister of St. Joseph, Sister Mary Gaines, who was still engaged in active Ministry.

From all accounts, Sister Mary had a massive heart attack yesterday; in the place which she loved most – her garden! We remember with gratitude the many lives Mary touched and we extend to all our deepest sympathy.

Her family: Mary has a brother and two sisters living, along with many nieces and nephews.

Her Religious family: Mary will leave a big gap, especially in the Te Awa Community to which she belonged.

Then there is her wonderfully supportive Parishioners and friends of Ngatea on the Hauraki Plains. Mary served in the Parish of Ngatea for many years and was well known in the wider Community.

Mary will be greatly missed.

May she be at peace in the arms of the God she loved and served so faithfully.

Last weekend our Associate Leadership Team gathered at Mission Bay. Diane Strevens has over many years been the backbone of the Associate Movement, stepping as she did into the shoes of Sister Gertrude R.I.P. Diane recently resigned from the Leadership Team after many years of dedicated service. In Ritual and prayer we thanked Diane for her years of faithful commitment, and wished her every blessing for future directions life may open for her.

With the expert facilitation of Sr. Ann Neven the Team spent a very productive Saturday exploring with great enthusiasm ways of moving forward, finding new directions for us as Josephite Associates.

Here are some ‘brief snippets’ for Associate Groups *out there!*

Trish Keene from Pleasant Point writes:

‘Togetherness’ would be the key word for us because we all enjoy the spirit of our meetings so much. The Canonisation celebration for Saint Mary of the Cross was a high point of 2010 – We’ve always known she was a Saint!

Eileen Campbell, a Thames Associate, speaks of her experience of *being* at the Canonisation itself.

‘...we attended “Celebration of the Life of Mary MacKillop” the day prior to the Canonisation, the Thanksgiving Mass at St Pauls Outside the Walls – we felt very honoured and so blessed to be there. I have many wonderful memories.’

We pray for the repose of the souls of:

Frances Blackwood – Dunedin  
Eileen Kelliher – Pleasant Point  
Joan Ryan – Pleasant Point  
Aileen Rose - Rotorua  
Sister Mary Gaines rsj.

Grateful thanks to Mary Fitzgerald and the Associates of Temuka for providing the material for our Winter prayer sheet

At this time, the beauty of autumn is everywhere, so rich with splendour and colour, now slowly dying, as all life does! What a wonderfully significant time for Sister Mary to return to her God. Nature has a way of reminding us of that cycle of life and death doesn't it? We have recently celebrated the Easter Mysteries – the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. May the Resurrection fill each with hope, with confidence in the one who said ‘I am the Resurrection and the Life; the one who believes in me will never die.

Warm Regards

Rita Cahill rsj.

On behalf of the Josephite Associates Leadership Team

This is an interim newsletter to keep you all up to date, until our Team has sorted one or two ‘housekeeping’ details.

So we ask that any *donations, items for newsletters changes of address* etc be sent to:

Peta Lindstrom  
2/34 Uxbridge Rd, Howick, Auckland 2014  
[plindstrom@starofthesea.school.nz](mailto:plindstrom@starofthesea.school.nz)

Any *donations, finances* to be sent to:

Patty Dudson  
10 Golf Rd, Te Awamutu  
[dudson5@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dudson5@xtra.co.nz)



***A special photo from Temuka  
Associates***

***Mary Fitzgerald, Father Brian Fennessy,  
Sr Lorraine Gaines, Patricia Cameron  
together with their precious  
Mary MacKillop icon***

To commemorate the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, St Joseph's Parish Temuka commissioned an Icon. The Icon itself is the same in style as the Icons used in different parts of New Zealand but the finished work is much different.

The Icon is a triptych in 3 panels - the other 2 panels have an image of St Joseph's Church to emphasis Mary's connection with Temuka which she visited 3 times. The 3rd panel has a quote from one of St Mary's letters - "Do what you can with the means at your disposal and leave all the rest calmly to God." The quote is taken from a letter addressed from Sydney to Sister Raymond Smyth in Temuka dated 7th August 1888.

Three people from Temuka attended the ceremonies in Rome for the canonisation - Father Brian Fennessy, Parish Priest and two associates Patricia Cameron and Mary Fitzgerald.