



*Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends*

*Another year has gone and we are now entering Advent ready for Christmas which is the time for us to be ready for the coming of Jesus. I would like to thank each one for their interest in the work that we do for each other as Josephite Associates.*

*“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 and openness 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-energizing us, empowering our attitudes and outlook.” (Seasons of Grace – Genevieve Ryan rsj.)*

*We look forward to 2012. Wishing each one a Happy and Holy Christmas from Sister Denise and the Associate Committee – Meg, Fay, Dot, Margaret, Pat, Maureen and Mary*

## ASSOCIATES VISIT TO SYDNEY CONFERENCE

What a privilege to attend the Conference for the Josephite Associates in August 2011.

Sister Denise, Helen Johnston from Esperance and I were the representatives from W.A. travelling over together on Saturday morning, in preparation for Sunday evening when the conference began. The conference began in a ritual in Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel.

Associates were represented from all states, also New Zealand, and the ones from Scotland - Sisters Audrey Thomson & Therese McConway, who had much to relate of their way of life and the history of Mary MacKillop.

We all had stories to tell of our own Associates, activities, such as Prayers days – Retreats and gatherings some quite structured and some quite relaxed times. It was also discussed that the Associates take more of the running of the groups to free up the Sisters role in our Associate groups.

In our group in West Australia we have a Central Committee – of Meg Phelan (chairperson), Dot Caughey (sec) Faye Jones as (treasurer), with three other members. Sister Denise is our mainstay and co-ordinator to whom we say thank you very much. Sister Denise is our main contact person for all the W.A. groups ranging from Perth, Geraldton, the South West and to Esperance.

We were privileged to experience our stay in the Convent and attending Mass in the Chapel. Each time I visit or stay at MacKillop Place I leave feeling renewed and grateful to be a small part of the Josephites.

*“If you see a need ... ACT !”*

*- Maureen Lanigan (Perth Area)*

## NEWS FROM MY VISIT TO MACKILLOP PLACE, SYDNEY

As I intimated in the previous newsletter, this visit would indeed be a very humbling experience for me. Sister Denise, Maureen Lanigan from South Perth and myself represented the Associates of WA.



Sister Denise displayed photos of the areas she had visited, Esperance included, all the attendees on Sunday evening. I followed reading Pauline Bertols' perception of being a rural Associate coping with the tyranny of distance; yet still feeling included. Unfortunately, time was on a strict allocation as there were representatives of each state to contribute. We really didn't gain the opportunity to express our hopes, dreams and future goals of the Associates in our area. This we can discuss at a future date as it is really important for each of us to think future on this subject.

*- Helen Johnston (Esperance)*



## SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS FEAST DAY held 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011

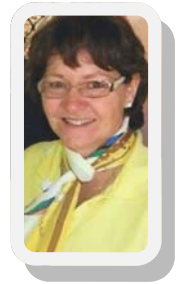
This special Feast Day, the first as Saint Mary was celebrated by our group in the Dardanup Church beginning with Eucharist, celebrant being Father Wayne Bendotti. Approximately 200 students of Our Lady of Lourdes School, Principal and staff, with 28 others including 15 Josephite Associates and Sisters Pauline Dundon, Denise Casey and Carla Curran came together for this special day. Morning tea followed to celebrate together and to say a special 'Thank You' to

Sister Carla for fifteen years of journeying with us since 1996. Throughout that time she has encouraged and gently guided us to grow in ourselves and as Associates beginning with four in 1996 to twenty one in 2011. Sister Carla cut a cake to mark the occasion to a rousing rendition of "For she's a jolly good Sister..." and was presented with a small gift as a token of love and thanks.

- *Annette Morellini (South West Area)*

## 'NO FIXED ADDRESS' BY MONICA MULLIKIN

One of my work colleagues at Centacare emailed an invite to sponsor her effort for National Homeless Week in a 'sleeping out' on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Our local event was sponsored by Chrysalis and funds raised were going to St Vinnie's Winter Appeal. Being the 'dreamer' that I am, upon reading it I announced, "I'd like to do that". What I didn't realise was that Cath was present and on overhearing my enthusiastic statement, immediately signed me up to participate. There was no backing out.



Monica Mullikan

The anticipation started when the next huge shower of rain came down during the night hours, and those that followed over the next few days. But I secured myself a trusty swag which was borrowed and guaranteed to suit.

'Why would I choose to sleep out in the elements of nature when I have a perfectly comfortable bed in a warm home?'

This exercise has certainly made me appreciate that for every other night of the year I don't have to anticipate being moved along by authorities; nor worry if the alley, shelter of bus station is safe. – I simply fall into bed. How lucky I am. "Taken from the article in 'The Sower' with permission from Monica Mullikin - Josephite Associate"



## 'WALKING A SACRED PATH'

**Walking a Sacred Path** was presented by Anna Warlow sgs Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October at St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Centre, Bunbury. This was an invitation to engage with others in conversation, listening and reflection on the Sacred Journey, an invitation which was taken up by twenty three people.

The day began with a ceremony of Acknowledgment and Blessing of Land by Elaine and Valmae, who accompanied Sr Anna to be with us. This was followed by a time of relaxation, listening and becoming aware of the quiet presence of the Spirit, taking time to be still – to be; living in the

present –the grace of the moment, with gratitude. Small group discussion along with quiet meditation on the two beautiful handouts – 'The Song of Jesus' taken from a book by Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, from which we were invited to take a part which spoke to us personally and to share in the larger group, and a song by Margaret Rizza 'Creator God' which says that in every situation – 'Creator God, You are There.'

Sr Anna showed a DVD which emphasised looking for 'good news in our world and surroundings, being thankful and appreciative. This is but little of the gifting of Sr Anna's time with us, this beautiful, inspiring, challenging and spiritual day concluded with Elanie and Valmae being invited by Sr





Anna, to bless each participant individually. Our most grateful thanks to Sr Anna, I also thank our great team of Josephite Associates helpers who together made the day the success it was with practical help and wonderful food!

Thank you all ... Nancy, Fay, Gwen, Dot, Maud, Gloria, Jan and Lena.  
- *Annette Morellini*

## MEMORIES OF THE MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE 10 - 20 OCTOBER 2011

Mary and I were fortunate enough to book two places on this pilgrimage - knowing that it would be about the life and work of St Mary of the Cross. We started at Mount Street, Sydney, flew to Melbourne and then travelled by coach to Adelaide, all the while learning in detail about her life, her hopes and dreams, the commencement of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart at Penola in South Australia, and it's continual growth up until the present day. All the while seeing many examples of her holiness, her great faith, her certainty of knowing God's will and His plan for her and her determination to carry it out, qualities which were very important in the church's decision in proclaiming and canonising her a saint on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

Every day our pilgrimage took us to a particular part of Mary's journey and on the 6<sup>th</sup> day we arrived at Portland Victoria, a very important couple of years in Mary's life. Mary was employed as a governess and then as a teacher and learned a lot about teaching and about the drawing up of the curriculum for the school year. We were taken to Bay View House, a beautiful beachside house where Mary lived happily for a time with all her family. She taught at the local school by day and assisted running a small day and boarding school on these premises with the help of her sisters, Annie and Lexie.

*Ben: 'At Portland I was drawn to Mary through the All Saints Church, a beautiful stone building in the Gothic style and completed in 1862 the year Mary arrived and it is virtually unchanged today except for the spire that was added some years later and a stained glass window depicting Mary teaching her children under the Southern Cross which was donated by the Portland parishioners to mark the occasion of her beatification in 1995. This was a happy time for Mary, she said so herself in letters she wrote expressing her joy at having the family all together, and later her great happiness at being sacristan and in charge of the lamp expressing the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and all the while keeping alive her hopes to teach the poor children of Australia by praying for something to happen to allow her to leave Portland to start the work she wanted so desperately to do. The answer when it came is another story in itself, suffice to say Mary accepted what happened as the will of God, never at anytime blaming or speaking ill of anyone who should have been blamed for what occurred.*

*The high point for me at Portland was entering and exiting the sacristy and church through the same door using the same latch that Mary used 145 years ago.'*

*Mary: 'A very special moment for me was the excitement and emotion I felt as I walked in the original part of her home, there by the fireplace was an old chair where Mary sat marking school papers of an evening and knowing she walked on some of those very floor boards in peaceful contentment until her unfair dismissal from the school. It is very difficult for me to describe but somehow I felt very much connected to Mary at that time.'*

*Saint Mary of the Cross Pray for Us*

*- Mary & Ben Bianchini*



We began our Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage journey on the 10th October 2011 and what an inspiring and prayerful journey at has been so far. WE followed Mary's travels through many warmly welcomed by their wonderful close knit community, who provided us with a salubrious lunch and dinner followed by hilarious entertainment.

After lunch we travelled to the Hamilton Cemetery to visit the gravesides of Alexander MacKillop and the pioneers of the district. We gathered in prayer and reflection to honour this great man who instilled in Mary this great love for God. The graveside of Mary's father has recently been replaced with a new headstone and the surrounds lovingly tended to be Ted Oliver and members of the community. After leaving this sacred place, we felt a yearning to learn so much more about Alexander and his family. We strongly recommend this journey of a life time to all.

*- Anna Cox & Yvonne Lundy*



# WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES' SEASONAL GATHERINGS 2011/12

**Reminder - Advent - Christmas Gathering**  
**Sunday 11th Dec 2011**  
 2:30 – 5:30 Prayer In the Chapel and followed by a Raffle & Bring & Buy and share our Christmas cuppa in the Function Room.

## Central Committee Meetings for 2012

When: 10am Thursday on 23<sup>rd</sup> February (followed by lunch with the Sisters)  
 10am Thursday on 24<sup>th</sup> May (followed by lunch with the Sisters)  
 10am Thursday on 23<sup>rd</sup> August (followed by lunch with the Sisters)  
 10am Thursday on 22<sup>nd</sup> November (followed by Christmas lunch)

Where: Elizabeth Murphy Room

## South Perth Gatherings for 2012

Lenten – Autumn Gathering

2:30- 5:30 Prayer in the Chapel and followed by Raffle & Bring & Buy and to share a Cuppa in the Function room.

When: Sunday – March 11<sup>th</sup>

Winter Gathering

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June

December

Spring Gathering

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Advent – Christmas Gathering

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

## Josephite Associates S.W Area

Autumn – Lenten Gathering – 2012 will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Eucharist – 9am Dardanup Church

Followed by morning tea at Dardanup House of Prayer.

Presenter – Sr Pauline Morgan rsj.

A shared lunch will follow, a plate of finger food, please.

Inquires: Annette – 97971156 Nancy – 97281037

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**



## DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR

9.30am Wednesday 29th February 2012

Summer Prayer Day

at Penola by the Sea, Safety Bay

More information soon



## GONE TO GOD

Lorraine Thomas

Marie Wright

Thea Cowcher

Sister Julie O'Sullivan



**REST IN PEACE**

The Sisters of St Joseph

invite

Associates and Past Pupils

to celebrate

**SR ELIZABETH MURPHY'S  
 PLATINUM JUBILEE**

(70 years professed)



No gifts please. Donations to the Peru mission (so dear to Elizabeth's heart) will be gratefully accepted and can be made on line ([www.marymackillopinternational.org.au](http://www.marymackillopinternational.org.au)) or on the day.

When: 2.30pm - 4pm Sunday 29th January 2012

A simple blessing prayer and short speeches will begin at 3pm.

Where: Margaret Hubery House  
 36 Fifth Avenue, Shelley

RSVP: Wednesday 18 January 2012 (for catering purposes)  
 P: 9334 0999 (Laura)

E: [lmccarthy@sosjwa.org.au](mailto:lmccarthy@sosjwa.org.au)