



*Josephite Associates*  
*Friendship ♦ Prayer ♦ Service*

Autumn Newsletter

2012

Dear Associates, Sisters and Friends

As we begin our Lenten journeys, we recall the journey of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We use symbols to remind us of the meaning of this journey

- ❖ the purple cloth to remind us that Lent is a penitential time of change and growth and preparation for Easter
- ❖ a lighted candle to remind us that we share in the journey of the cross with Jesus who is the light and hope of the world
- ❖ a Bible to remind us to take the time to reflect on the Word of God during Lent and to listen to what God is saying to us through the Word
- ❖ a cross to remind us that Jesus loved us enough to lay down his life for us
- ❖ our Caritas appeal envelopes to remind us that Lent is a time to share what we have with those in need
- ❖ seasonal changes – the autumn leaves that remind us of the cycle of life; that all things must die so that they can rise to new life

We think about the need to change and how we can work towards this and we ask God to help us recognize what we need to change in our lives so that we may live more closely with Him. And we ask God to give us the strength we need to change so that we can follow Him more closely every day.

**"We can do nothing without God" Mary MacKillop**

**Josephite Associate Groups News!!**

Recently the Associate Leadership Team gathered at Mission Bay to continue their work with developing key tasks from the 2011 action plan. We hope to share this work with you in the June newsletter. We also took the opportunity to farewell Team members Trish Clarke, from Dunedin and Sister Margaret Louisson from Te Awamutu who are both retiring from their leadership roles.

Trish has given 13 years of dedicated service to the Team and faithfully represented the Associate Groups from the Dunedin region. Margaret has also been a committed and steadfast member of the Team. Both have contributed much over the years through their sharing of gifts and talents and accomplishment of tasks and responsibilities. In ritual and prayer, we thanked both Trish and Margaret for their years of faithful commitment, their spirit of generosity and their willingness to serve and we wished them every blessing for their future direction.

**"Gratitude is the memory of the heart"     Mary  
MacKillop**

We also warmly welcomed Gayle Dodunski from New Plymouth. Gayle has worked with the Leadership Team in previous times and we are thrilled to have her working with us once again!

#### **Mission Bay Associate Group**

Barbara Thompson on behalf of the group writes...

After many years our Mission Bay group has resolved to become a "prayer" group. We give thanks to all the woman who faithfully attended the meetings and made significant contributions in a variety of ways. The group has been lovely to be with, are very understanding and are real examples of serving in their own way. Due to health and transport issues it has made it difficult to continue as a group. We will carry on our devotion to St Mary of the Cross and will live the charism in our lives as always.

#### **Waiuku Associate Group**

Recently becoming independent from the Mission Bay group due to distance, age and costs, a small group, five in number, has been meeting in Pukekohe. To start our New Year off, Peta Lindstrom kindly agreed to join us in a shared lunch. We watched a visual and Peta led the meeting. She kindly answered our concerns and we enjoyed a free and informative discussion. We plan to use the DVD "Soul of a Sunburnt Country" as a resource for our meetings. We go forward into the year encouraged by the personal contact with Peta and the friendship we enjoy with each other.

*Leonie Power*



### **Wellington Associate Group**

On Sunday 5 February 2012 the Wellington MacKillop group met at the home of Therese Anstiss. 9 members were able to attend and 5 members sent in apologies. We also we privileged to have Sisters. Therese and Audrey with us who among other things spoke on their mission in Scotland.

Sr. Audrey encouraged us to reflect on the promise that we had made when we became members and the meaning of being a Josephite i.e.

- being practical,
- community minded
- hospitality
- caring for those who crossed their path
- always changed with the times
- relating to the humble and ordinary
- 

Sister Audrey told us how St Mary of the Cross applied all of these traits to her ministry encouraging us to apply this charism to our every days lives, following St Mary's tradition. She also showed us the wealth of information on the [www.sosj.org.au](http://www.sosj.org.au) website.

We arranged meetings for the rest of the year and finished off the meeting with afternoon tea.

*Judy Dixon*



*From the left: Sister Therese McConway, Janice Browne, Judy Dixon, Colleen Stalker, Therese Anstiss, Kath St Clair, Noelene Casey and Joan Larkin.*

## **Gisborne Associate Group**

Sister Marie Hogan (sister-in-law of Ruth) writes on behalf of the Gisborne Associates...

### **A Pioneer Associate!**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011, Ruth Margaret Hogan died peacefully at her daughter's home in Helensville. Ruth was in her 91<sup>st</sup> year and was one of the first associates in New Zealand.

For about 65 years she lived in Gisborne and in 1987 accompanied Sister Gertrude McGowan to Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney, to attend the first gathering of St Joseph's Associates to be held. That was the one and only time she left New Zealand.

Ruth was the first leader of the Associate group in Gisborne and her deep faith and devotion to St Joseph and St Mary MacKillop was an inspiration to all.

When she resigned as leader in 2000, Ruth continued to attend meetings for as long as her health allowed it. When she shifted to Helensville about 2 and a half years ago she was sadly missed by her old friends.

### **Two dear friends**



*Ruth Hogan*



*Sister Gertrude*



*Rest in Peace*

*We pray for the repose of the souls of :*

*Ruth Hogan – Gisborne Associate*

*Molly Dean – Monica Robinson's Mother – Wellington Associate*

*May they rest in peace*

***THANK YOU to all the Associates who have already sent in donations to help towards the costs of the newsletter and administration.***

***Donations/Subscriptions are now due for this year \$10 - \$20.***

***The Leadership Team is most grateful and we do appreciate your generosity and support!***

Any donations, finances to be sent to:

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

***CONTACT LISTS*** we are continuing to update our database and apologise for any confusion with change of addresses – we are almost there! Please do let us know immediately if there are any errors and also if you would like to receive the newsletter and prayer sheet by email

Any 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)

***Invitation to the...***

***Celebrations for Saint Joseph's Feast Day  
Evening Prayer will be celebrated in the Chapel***

***on***

***Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 4pm at Mission Bay***

***A light supper will follow***

***Please bring a plate of finger food to share and  
\$\$\$\$ for a raffle with proceeds going towards House of Bethany and  
Monte Cecilia Housing project***

***ALL WELCOME***

***O Holy Spirit, be with each of us this Lent  
Keep our hearts firm in resolution  
Give us courage and guide us  
Fill us with generosity of effort  
Be with us as we journey towards the light of Easter***

***With warmest regards and Blessings***

***Peta on behalf of the Josephite Associates Leadership Team***

# Whangarei and Dargaville Josephite Associates



The Whangarei and Dargaville Associates meet at least once a year to share prayer and hospitality. For our Christmas lunch last year, we met in the very pleasant new staffroom of St. Francis Xavier School, in Whangarei. We enjoyed a shared Christmas lunch and then reflected on an aspect of St. Mary MacKillop's life.

Associates from both groups are active in their parish communities. The Dargaville Josephites organise monthly entertainment for the elderly in their parish. The Whangarei Josephites are members of other groups in the Whangarei Parish, where they provide service to groups such as RCIC, St. Vincent de Paul, Pax Christi, Liturgical Music and the Catholic Women's League. The Whangarei Josephite group also hosts a monthly morning tea for parishioners after Sunday Mass.

Josephite service and hospitality are alive and well in the far North.

***Jane Gunson***  
***Whangarei Coordinator***