



WA Josephite Associates' Newsletter



Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends

Here we are once again, to welcome you to our Summer, Advent, Christmas Newsletter.

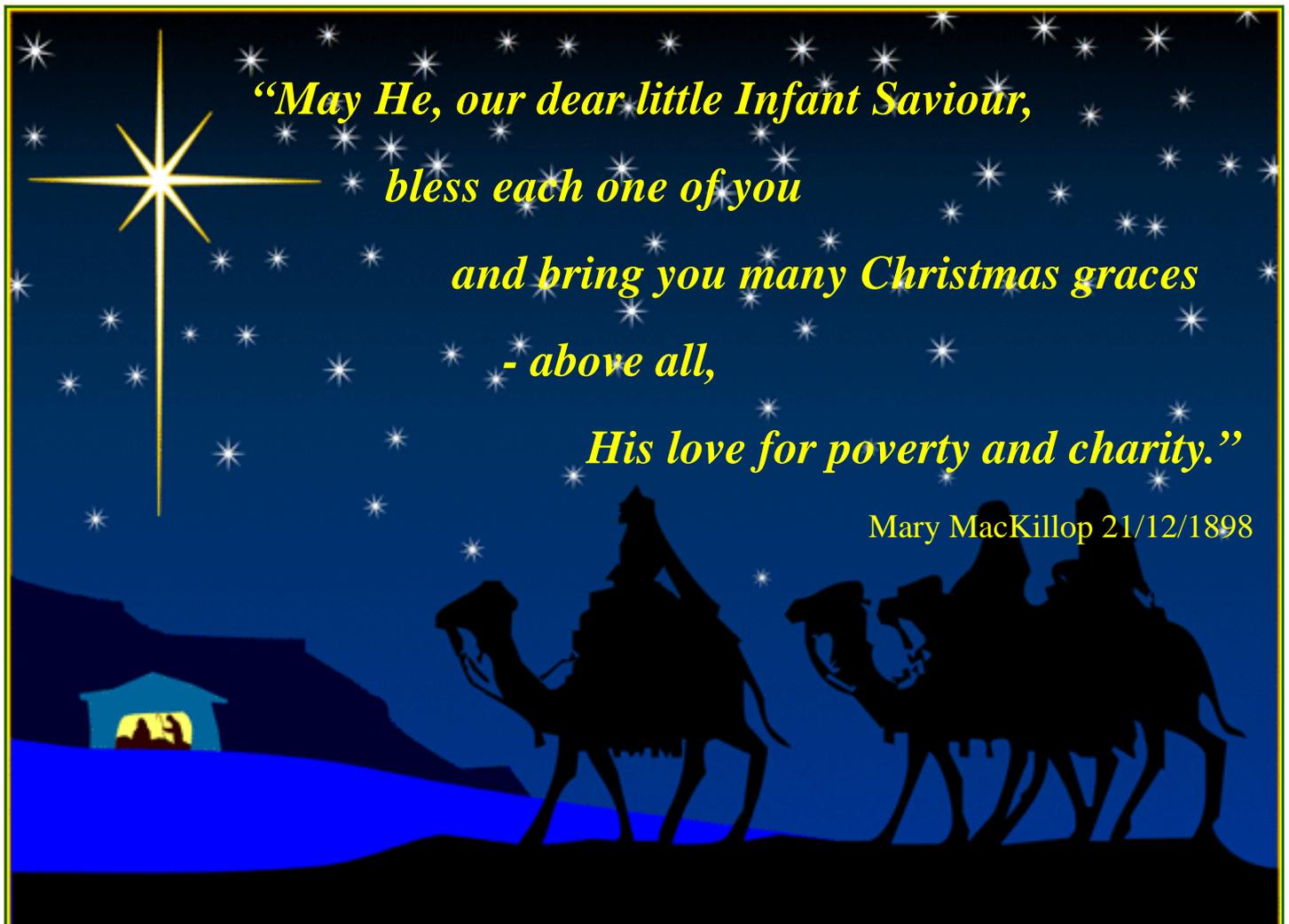
Thanks to all for your help, donations and friendship during 2012 .

We have now reached time for celebrating Christmas.

“The Christmas season allows us to be playful and buoyant. It reminds us that our relationship with God can also be child-like and intimate.

The Christmas seasons of our spirit invite us to return to our original innocence. We have all at some time or other been caught in the wide-eyed, candid gaze of an infant -held for a moment in its wordless security. In spite of the squirming discomfort that might arise in us, this encounter is also an invitation to remove our masks, to clear away the fog and to seek the essential goodness in ourselves.” (Seasons of Grace - Genevieve Ryan rsj)

We look forward to 2013. Wishing each one a Happy, Holy Christmas and Joyful New Year from Sister Denise and the Central Associate Committee – Meg, Dot, Margaret, Fay, Pat, Maureen and Mary and all the Associate Committee members from other areas ...



SNIPPETS FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE



The Spring Gathering at South Perth was well attended, with the 'bring & buy' stall and raffle well supported. We are missing our dedicated treasurer Fay Jones, and hope she will be back with us soon with renewed energy after a recent operation.

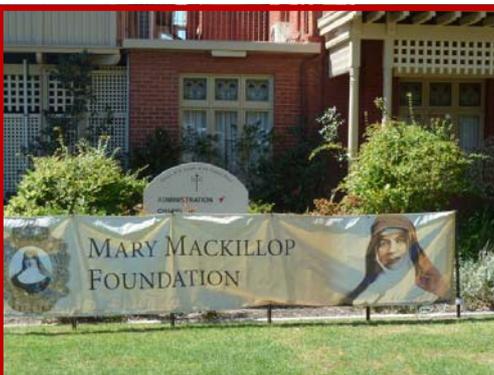


Negotiations are under way with regard to the possibility of a meeting of Associates from different regions of our state to discuss our future. Annette Morellini has invited me to the next Dardanup meeting which will be attended by Sisters Pauline and Denise.



We will discuss possible venues and the date is yet to be decided.

On the 21st of October the Mary MacKillop Foundation arranged a



Garden Party at the convent of the Sisters of St Joseph in South Perth. Professor Celia Hammond, vice-chancellor of Notre Dame University, addressed a large and colorful gathering. She spoke in particular about the energy and passion of young people and their desire to do good in the world. Following her talk two delightful enthusiastic young ladies from Mary MacKillop College in Busselton shared their experience of life in East Timor, working with the Sisters there.



There are many facets to life with the Josephites, some challenging, (what *more can we do* - what *new avenue can we explore?*) following, to the best of our ability, the example of St Mary of the Cross. To quote from the Handbook: *Our Future* (page 15) ... *The Future is not some place we are going, but one we are creating. The paths to it are not found but made. The making of those paths changes both the maker and the destination.* - *Meg Phelan*

Remembering Julian & Mary



In her own account of the history of the Sisters of St Joseph written in 1900, Mary described the beginnings thus: "At the time when the Sisterhood was first started, its founders (Mary and Julian) little knew the magnitude of the work of which they were the weak instruments in the hand of the great God."



We lift our heart in thanksgiving for the life of Julian Tenison Woods. We remember with gratitude his gifts as co-founder and pastor, his passion for mission, his reverence of earth, his respect for the Aboriginal peoples, and his love of God.

When I could not see my way God kept my heart full of trust to make all come right. Mary MacKillop 28.6.1974

Nothing is too wonderful for me to believe about God, the richness of whose creative power was a constant subject of love and admiration. JTW 1880

We are but instruments in the hands of God and must never act as if we were more. A musician takes a flute, which has nothing in it and of itself produces no sound. He breathes into it and the sounds which issue he modifies by the keys he touches. This is an imperfect image of the way in which God uses us and the inspiration he gives us and the impression he produces in our senses. Book of Instructions 1870

We must desire to do good and have great zeal for souls. We must never leave a good work untried and never spare ourselves. It is God's work and not ours. Book of Instructions for the Sisters of St Joseph 1876

Never let anyone, any duty, any place, any thing, take the place that God so justly covets in our poor hearts.

Mary MacKillop 19.3.1874

Julian's grave is surrounded by people with attributes he admired and shared himself. Mary wrote:
"How appropriate is the last resting place of the gentle learned priest and naturalist. Crowned with the cross, beneath the statue of the "Sweet Mother" whom he so tenderly loved ... the mortal remains of Father J.E. Tenison Woods await the resurrection. May he rest in peace. Amen."

100 YEARS AGO

1 November, 2012 is a significant date in the history of the Josephite Congregation as it marks the 100th Anniversary of the Amalgamation of the Western Australian Boulder Josephite Diocesan Sisters (known as the Black Josephites) with the Central Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (known as the Brown Josephites)



Boulder Community Circa 1912

At the time of the Amalgamation there were 27 professed Diocesan Josephite Sisters and 1 postulant in the Boulder community. All the Sisters lived in Boulder and hence had no related communities of their Institute with whom they could associate or gain support.

In 1911 Bishop Clune succeeded Bishop Gibney as Bishop of Perth. He was familiar with Western Australia and became aware and concerned for the welfare of the Boulder Sisters. He

consulted with the Black Josephites and with Mother Baptista, the Congregational Leader of the Brown Josephites who supported the suggested Amalgamation provided that the Boulder Sisters agreed.

So it was on 1 November 1912 in the presence of Bishop Clune, Sr Laurence (brown Josephite General Councillor) that the Sisters renewed their vows according to the Constitutions of the Centralised Congregation and began wearing the brown habit.



Southern Cross Circa 1906



New Norcia Circa 1908

Many changes followed the Amalgamation. The large Boulder community was broken up, some stayed on the Goldfields while some were transferred both within and beyond WA. At the time there were Brown Josephites at Southern Cross and New Norcia. There are still many Sisters throughout the Congregation today who have lived in community with the former Black Josephites and who fondly and reverently remember them.

As we give thanks for these valiant women and our extraordinary history, we note with joy that 100 years later – 27 Tasmanian Josephite Sisters fused with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. What a graced and historic coincidence!

May Jesus and Mary be Praised ...

- prepared by Sister Joan Luff

We pray for these people and ask God to give them eternal rest:

*Gone
to
God*

*Joe Harrington (Husband of Colleen)
Claude Riordon (Husband of Noreen)
John Williams (Brother of Elna)
Lil Pullen (Mother of Sister Mary)
Judy Cole (Josephite Associate Safety Bay)*

May they Rest in Peace



**SOUTH WEST
ASSOCIATES
SUMMER /LENTEN
GATHERING**

at the

**Dardanup House
of Prayer**

on

Wednesday 6th March 2013

9.00am Eucharist
9.30am Morning Tea
10.00am Presentation

Followed by a shared lunch
- please bring
a plate of fingerfood

Everyone Most Welcome!

Enquiries:

Annette: 9797 1156

Nancy: 9728 1037

CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2013 (in the Function Room)

When:

10am Thursday on 21st February (followed by lunch with the Sisters)
10am Thursday on 23rd May (followed by lunch with the Sisters)
10am Thursday on 22nd August (followed by lunch with the Sisters)
10am Thursday on 21st November (followed by Christmas lunch)



SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS FOR 2013

Lenten – Autumn Gathering Sunday 10th March

2:30pm- 5:30pm Prayer in the Chapel,

followed by Raffle, Bring & Buy and a Cuppa shared in the Function room.



Winter Gathering

Sunday 9th June

Spring Gathering

Sunday 8th September

Advent – Christmas Gathering

Sunday 8th December