

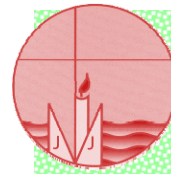
## Julian's Story



Original sketch by Sr Helen Alfrey rpa. Used with permission

*There is an echo in the harmonies  
of nature which penetrates the soul,  
and lures it on like the sound of distant music,  
until it has no eye or ear for aught  
except the works of its Creator.*

Quoted by Julian Tenison Woods  
"Symphony of Life"



## WA Josephite Associates



MAY YOU HAVE

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS  
... WHICH IS PEACE

THE GLADNESS OF CHRISTMAS  
... WHICH IS HOPE

THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS  
... WHICH IS LOVE

**Advent Christmas Summer**  
**2012 ~ 2013**

## *Christmas ... A Season of Birth and Origins*

Christmas is that season of the 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.

For some there may be an awareness of a new journey through a birth process which thrusts them into a passage of life and calls for autonomy, self-expression and discovery. We know that this birthing process is not always easy and gentle but it is exciting and life-giving. A choice to stay in the womb and not risk life is to choose death.

In committing our lives to our Christmas journey we provide the opportunity to come face to face with what is most essential and beautiful on life. Spontaneity, joy and delight can return to our lives, re-energising us, empowering our attitudes and outlook.

In the Gospel readings leading up to Christmas, we meditate upon the genealogy of Jesus. We travel through centuries of new life. We follow the stories of love-making, ancestral pride and promise, startling revelations of betrayal and prostitution, faith-filled families, barrenness becoming fertile, gynaecological wonders and whole generations tracing God's mysterious presence in the depths of their familial roots.

Like so many of our families Jesus had many 'skeletons in his cupboard!' His family line was both blessed and flawed

with the same humanity that any one of us might discover when we search through our family tree.

Our dedication to the Christmas seasons of the spirit will foster within us this trusting and child-like faith. Mary MacKillop was a model of this stance before God. Her communication with God in prayer was simple, direct and profound. Above all, it was loving and trusting.

*For Mary MacKillop and for each one of us there are Epiphany seasons in our lives.*

*These are the times when we experience God-with-us in a new and wondrous way.*

*We have an awakening and we enjoy a sense of God's presence in our ordinary human reality of our lives.*

*In these moments we realize that we are called to live our lives in a normal way and yet to seek ideals which soar above the powers of our mind and sweep even beyond our dreams.*

*These are times when life's journey is full of purpose and we go beyond familiar territory in our search for God.*

*Our lives are enlarged, our horizons shift.*

*New demands are made of us but new resources may also become unexpectedly available to us.*



*Seasons of Grace - Genevieve Ryan rsj*