



Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

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Phone 02 9747 4199

NEWSLETTER • MARCH 2013

Dear Josephite Associates,
Welcome to 2013, greetings and blessings for the year ahead.

The joys of the Christmas season are now a pleasant memory. January 2013 has proved a most difficult time for our country with bush fires, floods and loss of life we pray for all who have been affected by these tragedies.

January each year is the month in which the Sisters of St Joseph return to North Sydney where they were professed fifty, sixty or seventy years ago. The Sisters meet together, pray and share their individual journey of joys and sorrows.

In 1963 thirty eight Sisters of St Joseph made their final profession in the Chapel at North Sydney. January 2013 the Golden Jubilee for this large group was a most joyful occasion as they gathered for their Jubilee Mass. Congratulations to Sister Clare Noonan rsj who celebrated her Golden Jubilee.

I was privileged to attend the Jubilee Mass and hear the Sisters renew their vows, listen to Sister Lynette Young rsj Victoria, present her prayerful reflection on the Gospel 'You are the light of the world'. Our Jubilee is a day of rejoicing in the light, of beaming with joy at what our good God has done and is doing in all of us, and challenges us to live in the light.

The day was one of great JOY the acronym can be used to express how these Sisters have lived their lives.

J for Jesus, first and foremost in their lives

O for others

Y for yourself

May these Sisters and all Sisters continue to be blessed as their journey continues, following in the footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

How are the Josephite Associates travelling in 2013? The current membership of Josephite Associates in New South Wales is 1403 and without the support of the Sisters of St Joseph from 1983, the move to self governance in 2012 would not have occurred. The time came for the Josephite Associates to manage their own business affairs. This commenced with the gift from the Sisters of St Joseph of an office and equipment. The only change made is to the structure of the Josephite Associates in their office management, whereby we now report quarterly to the Australian Government by forwarding a Business Activity Statement, maintain accurate financial records and comply with the Constitution.

There are 53 Josephite Associate Groups in New South Wales who continue to meet, gather for prayer days, attend retreats etc. without any change, except to continue to flourish. Prayer Members who make up the balance in the membership of 1403 also experience no change. Prayer Members are individuals, who due to personal circumstances are unable to attend group meetings and are equally valued members who live out the Charism of St Mary of the Cross in their daily lives.

Four Josephite Associate Groups (Menai, Oatley, Padstow and Penshurst) combined to share a Prayer Day together. The Penshurst Group Leader Mary Gallagher expertly prepared all reflections/music for the day and hosted the groups at Penshurst. I attended this prayer day and was asked by an Associate, 'Why

have the Sisters abandoned us?' I was quite surprised at this remark. I explained that the Sisters have not abandoned us and our journey continues as we walk together, professed Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart and lay Josephite Associates, both groups living out the Charism of St Mary of the Cross with their own unique identity.

The Josephite Associates will continue to invite Sisters of St Joseph to their meetings, Prayer Days and Retreats as long as this is physically possible for the Sisters to commit themselves.

I encourage all Josephite Associates to wear their badge as an external symbol of the commitment you have made. The badge is a means of communicating, For example: at several funerals people have asked 'What order are you Sister?' I was able to explain, that I was not a Sister of St Joseph, I was a Josephite Associate, a lay person. Our values are living in the spirit of St Mary of the Cross by our lives of Friendship, Prayer and Service, These people had never heard of Josephite Associates.

I ask each Josephite Associate to seek out one additional person to join us in following in the footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. We must continue to grow and in this year 2013 our emphasis will be advertising who we are! The volunteers in the office will prepare a brochure for distribution as soon as possible.

This newsletter will arrive during the Season of Lent may you receive many graces and blessings.

May God continue to bless you, your families and friends as we pray.

St Mary of the Cross, pray with us.

Whatever our need, God's Grace is sufficient....His power inexhaustible....His love never ending.....

With God all things are possible. (Matthew 19:26)

Leonie Bell – President Josephite Associates NSW Inc

*From the pen of
St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop:*



*"All depends on prayer.
Begin with it and end with it."*

14.12.1890

St Mary of the Cross our second patron – Vatican Decree

A formal decree approving St Mary of the Cross MacKillop as second patron of Australia has been received from the Vatican.

The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the order founded by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, and all those associated expressed their delight and gratitude for the decree.

Sister Anne Derwin rsj, congregational leader of the Sisters of St Joseph, said that this was another important honour for Australia's first saint.

'We realise that since her canonisation many Australians have come to admire and appreciate her strong dedication to people in society, especially the most vulnerable, that they have a fair deal, that children receive education and love and that every person is recognised and valued,' Sister Anne said.

'We are delighted and hope that Mary's values of generosity, inclusion, kindness, commitment and reliance on God's providence and goodness become hallmarks of our country.'

Extract from sosj news 23/1/2013



Tasmania's 'Junior Joeys': Children inspired by the charism

In recent years, some of the Tasmanian schools with Josephite connections have established 'Junior Joeys' groups, which, it is hoped, will help keep alive the founding story and spirit of each school, their Vision and Mission, and provide links to the Sisters of St Joseph and the wider community.

'Junior Joeys' are groups of students from Years 4 to 6 who show enthusiasm about the Josephite Charism and are committed to sharing Josephite values through their daily life, faith and outreach. The Junior Joeys program has three main components, Learn, Pray and Practise, and encompasses a range of formal and informal sessions, both education and outreach based. A resource kit is provided for teachers.

Learn: The program aims to allow the children to learn about and further to emulate the virtues of Mary MacKillop, Julian Tenison Woods and the early Sisters of St Joseph.

Pray: The children are given opportunities to pray for Josephites throughout the world, for their own intentions, those of their schools and of the wider community.

Practise: In the spirit of the works of the first Sisters of St Joseph and inspired by the writings of their founders, the children are encouraged to 'find happiness in making others happy' and 'never see a need without doing something about it.'

The Assistant Principal (R.E.) of Sacred Heart School, Ulverstone was delighted to be asked to write a little about the Junior Joeys at his school and also to allow his Junior Joeys to speak for themselves.

The staff at Sacred Heart Ulverstone became aware of the possibility of establishing a Junior Joeys group when they attended a Josephite Colloquium. The group was commissioned at a special prayer liturgy in 2010 under the guidance and support of Sister Carmel Jones rsj.

The Assistant Principal says that his Junior Joeys are involved in all aspects of the life of the school, with a focus on 'Never see a need without doing something about it.' The Ulverstone Junior Joeys have been instrumental in a number of initiatives: setting up the school recycling project, planting a vegetable garden and assisting with planting the Heartland Garden and mosaic in the school grounds. This signifies the journey of the Josephite Charism, tracing its very beginnings from St Joseph to the present day.

Ulverstone's Junior Joeys have also been involved in initiating fundraising for the underprivileged – locally, nationally and globally.

The Josephite tradition and charism continues through the lives of these children who share so much of their spirituality in the light of St Mary of the Cross, as expressed in their own words. For example:

'It's an excellent way to be like Mary MacKillop and help the less fortunate in the same way that she did.' - Billie

'We learn about Mary MacKillop and raise some funds to support the Mary MacKillop Foundation.' - Savarnah

'I feel I am responding to Mary's way of life in helping others.' - Kayla

Extract from sosj news

The Difference

I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,
and heavier came each task.
'Why doesn't God help me?' I wondered.
He answered, 'You didn't ask.'

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
but the day toiled on, grey and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me.
He said, 'But you didn't seek.'

I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
'My child, you didn't knock.'

I woke up early this morning
and paused before entering the day.
I had so much to accomplish
that I had to take time to pray.

Author unknown

The newsletter is now available on the Web, at
<http://www.sosj.org.au/connect/NSWAssociates.html>

Stormbirds – Growing through natural disaster

Good Grief – Growing through change

The Stormbirds program provides a safe space for children and young people to explore how natural disasters, such as bushfires, floods, cyclones and earthquakes have impacted on their lives. The program supports participating children and young people to develop new skills and knowledge to cope with changes and manage their feelings, while reducing feelings of isolation through listening to other children's stories and ways of coping.

Teachers, counsellors and other appropriate caregivers are trained to facilitate the small group, peer based program with groups of up to seven children aged from 5 to 10 years (Level One) or 11 to 16 years (Level Two).

During 2012 Stormbirds has been delivered to children affected by the series of earthquakes experienced in Christchurch, New Zealand; and in September 2012, program training was offered to Companions in four schools in the Wagga/Riverina area following flooding earlier in the year.

Good Grief has been able to offer the training and program at no cost to school communities after a disaster through generous donations given by subscribers to the Mary MacKillop Legacy Newsletter and other benefactors. These funds will assist Good Grief to continue to deliver the Stormbirds program and training to communities impacted by natural disasters in future.

In late 2011, one group of young children who participated in a Stormbirds group in far North Queensland shared their thoughts:

'I liked telling my story.'

'It helped me to sleep rather than worry when it rains.'

'It helped me to learn about other people's feelings.'

'I liked talking about the changes after the cyclone.'

'Stormbirds helped me not to worry when I hear thunder.'

*Mary Ellen O'Donoghue rsj Executive Officer, Good Grief
(extract from SOSJ E-News September 2012 used with permission)*

The Josephite Associates Groups from Campsie and North Sydney have provided financial support in 2012 for the above programs. Sister Mary Ellen O'Donoghue expressed sincere thanks for the support from these groups.

Email Address

Have you had a change since your last advice?
If so, please contact us with your new details at:

associates@sosjnsw.org.au

Subject: Email address change

New Release

Flora MacKillop A Truly Blessed Mother

Author

Sister Bernadette O'Sullivan rsj

Available now in all book stores

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded
in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in
March, April, May and June 2013



*Rosina Rotunno (Lakemba Group) praying at Kincumber
(used with permission)*

Kincumber Retreat 19th – 21st October 2012

A special time in a special place

For seven of us the retreat started at Strathfield railway station as we set off together by train for Woy Woy. It was like going off for a girls' weekend away! Travelling by train gave us a chance to catch up with each other in a relaxed way that was to set the tone for the whole weekend. No matter that the train had to stop along the way because a goods train ahead of us had broken down. We contemplated various methods of continuing the trip by land or sea but decided to stay put and enjoy the scenery and the company. We completed the journey from Woy Woy to Kincumber by taxi. So much better than battling Friday afternoon traffic.

Our Retreat Facilitator Sr Colleen O'Sullivan rsj promised us plenty of time for quiet and personal reflection. She also promised to challenge us. She was true to her word on both counts.

Sr Colleen took as the theme of the weekend 'Grace and Gratitude.' Some of us were truly challenged when Sr Colleen asked us to take a word or phrase from our Lectio Divina meditation on our God of Mercy, and draw a picture! The next step was to explain our drawing to someone else. Some hidden talents were revealed, while others remained hidden! Everyone agreed in the end that it was a wonderful exercise. Our next challenge was even greater than the first..... to write a poem expressing the beauty and love of God. We were encouraged to read our poem to someone else, or if we wished, to read it to the group. Again some found that task daunting but everyone produced profound thoughts in the form of a poem.

A special calm descends on arriving at the Retreat Centre. It is a holy place, a place of spirituality, a place to take time to find yourself and deepen your relationship with God and within our Associates' family. Each of us left the retreat enriched and refreshed - spiritually and physically.

As we had travelled by train we were not able to bring provisions for our customary social evening on Saturday. In keeping with the Josephite spirit of friendship and hospitality, members of the Auburn group drove to Kincumber South and returned with goodies to contribute to a truly enjoyable evening. Thanks also to Maureen Lillis' brother, who provided other refreshments.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Sisters and staff who keep the St Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre, Kincumber South operating. A huge thank you to Leonie and Beverley for their tireless efforts in preparation for the retreat and for the behind the scenes work that went into ensuring our weekend retreat ran smoothly.

Margaret Portell JA North Sydney Group

Following in the Footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

One can read many books today about the life and work of St Mary MacKillop and be inspired by her courage and dedication to work for the poor. Recently a group of thirty four pilgrims from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia gathered with great anticipation in Melbourne to experience what St Mary of the Cross MacKillop suffered, endured and achieved during her life time.

At the Heritage Centre in Melbourne we reflected on Mary's family and how her story began. The Museum gave an interesting vision of the struggle Mary endured beginning work in the suburbs of Melbourne. Many houses of Providence were opened and the needs of the poor were never far from Mary's heart. Mary helped people from all walks of life, a home for women and children, country girls and heaps of sandwiches and billies with tea for the homeless men.

When we visited Point Ormond where Mary's mother Flora and her family arrived on the emigrant ship, Glen Huntly in April 1840, we could sense the loneliness and isolation they experienced as they were quarantined because of sickness.

Travelling to Portland we stopped at Hamilton where Mary's father Alexander MacKillop is buried and although the weather was against us we prayed at Alexander's grave.

In Portland we visited Bayview House which was once the home for Mary and her family. At Bayview House, Mary established a school for young ladies as a way of supporting the family. Mary made vital decisions about her future whilst in Portland.

Our journey continued to Penola and on the way we stopped at Port McDonnell. Out on the pier we reflected on the journey Mary and Rose Cunningham made in response to Father Woods' directions when Mary left Penola to embrace the work in Adelaide.

In Penola we enjoyed the celebrations for the blessing and renaming of the Stable School Park where Mary opened the first school in 1866. All the pilgrims were able to assist with the blessing by sprinkling the Pilgrim Stone with Holy Water. How wonderful for the Sisters today to have a new convent to continue working where Mary began so long ago. We visited the park where Fr Tenison Woods often stopped as he ministered in his vast parish. We admired the sculptures that depict the struggles of the early settlers and how Mary MacKillop provided religious instruction for the poor, scattered children in this remote part of the colony.

On our trip to Adelaide we had the privilege of attending Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Robe. This very tiny Church was built by Fr Julian Tenison Woods and the very small sacristy at the back of the Church is where the Sisters often slept.

Historic Adelaide was where the work continued to grow. Mary experienced the joys and hardships of a new beginning. We could actually feel the pain that Mary endured as she walked through the door of the Franklin Street Chapel at the time of her excommunication. This was a very moving experience as we tried to visualise the stunned pain of the Sisters as they watched Mary leave the Chapel.

At St Mary's Church, Morphett Vale, where Mary was reinstated after the excommunication, we were able to attend Mass and we reflected on the challenge Mary faced to remain faithful to her calling in difficult times. We visited the Mary MacKillop Centre at Kensington and gained an insight into the many charitable works Mary began, especially her involvement with neglected women and children, in gaols and destitute asylums bringing comfort to the unfortunate inmates of these institutions.

At North Sydney we reflected on another new beginning for Mary. The Rocks area in Sydney was once again where Mary catered for the needs of the poor. At Waverley Cemetery we remembered Fr Julian Tenison Woods and his involvement with the early beginnings of the Sisters of St Joseph.

We remembered the pioneer Sisters on our visit to the Gore

Hill Cemetery where Mary's body was interred in 1909 and where many of the early Sisters are buried. In 1914 Mary's body was moved from the Gore Hill Cemetery to the Chapel at Mount Street, North Sydney, which today is a place of prayer for the many pilgrims who visit the Chapel to pray through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop for many needs.

In the Chapel we gathered around the tomb of St Mary MacKillop and reflected on Mary's courage and commitment to her life's work. After our final Mass in the Chapel we held a prayer service around the tomb of St Mary and each of the pilgrims was given a lighted candle to go out on their mission to continue in the footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

This was a very memorable Pilgrimage, where we learnt what Mary endured during her life time and how Mary persevered in what she was striving to accomplish. We encourage all, if the opportunity arises, to make the Pilgrimage to these wonderful places and be inspired by the courage and faith Mary showed on her journey towards sainthood.

*Beverley Badcock & Eileen Stevenson
JA Governance Team*

Catholic Life in Country Bombala

We are so blessed to have such a close knit community from all areas in our little town of Bombala. Nestled in a little valley, where the river flows through the centre, where the trees on the river park have just lost their blossoms in the spring's gusty winds, where the grass has just been freshly mown along the river banks, all in preparation for the coming of summer. Of course there'll be much more mowing as the weeks go by, hopefully more rain for the plants to grow. Nature is amazing in all its colour but help from man is also needed and when the two work together amazing things happen. And it is with God. We are his hands and feet. He graces us with abundance to care to share and to love.

We do not have a resident priest. The Parish Priest lives in Cooma, an hour's drive away – he is a very busy man and shares his time around as best he can between his commitments in the Cooma area, then Nimmitabel, Delegate and Bombala. We have Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion each Sunday. With this big change and challenge for us, numbers have never dropped off and, in this, we affirm our faith and trust in God and support to one another. Recently we joined with Cooma and Nimmitabel for a spiritual talk on the 'Forgiveness of God' presented by Shane Dwyer from Canberra – an outstanding presenter. We have attended three presentations by Shane.

I'd like to quote something from 'The Magic of the Moment' by Maggie Hamilton 'Sacred places inspire and uplift us. They are often the places we love most but rarely visit. Once we experience how much sacred places can bring to our life, we are then motivated to spend time there regularly. It is here, in this space of heightened energy, that all the stress and fatigue of the week can slip away as we come back into balance. This wonderful space leaves us free then to discover fresh solutions to old problems, to dream new dreams, to remember who we are, and to consider how best we might express everything that is meaningful to us. Sacred space is anywhere you can experience yourself more profoundly. It may be a quiet space at home, in a café, by the beach, sitting by the river, or with those you love. Whatever space is sacred to you, be sure to spend time there.'

Carol Badewitz JA Bombala - JA Governance Group

The Stable

Let us cast our minds back to 1866, to the stable that stood right here. Father Woods has leased it from Mr William MacDonald for use as a school room. Young John MacKillop has done it up well. He's removed most of the stalls, straightened the slabs, filled in any gaps that might let in wind or rain, tamped the clay floor down hard and lined the path from the street with chaff bags to help counter the effects of the almost constant rain. He's put a scraper by the door so the outside mud is not carried into the room. A lingering smell of horses is the only reminder of the building's former use.

Inside, children sit at wooden desks, concentrating so hard on making their letters and marvelling at how they turn into words and the words become sentences. A petite redhead in a black dress is in charge. That is Miss Mary. She is everywhere, helping and encouraging the children, calling them to attention when their concentration lapses. Her two teenage sisters, cheeky Miss Annie and the mischievous but more serious Miss Lexie are busy as bees helping the children, hearing their reading, checking their work and preparing the next day's lessons.

It is a happy place. Miss Mary's eyes sparkle as she looks around. Not so long ago, she's decided to begin her training as a nun. Not any sort of nun, but a special kind, a Sister of St Joseph. She's always wanted to give her life to God by working with the poor and underprivileged. Therefore, when Father Woods asked her if she would become the very first Sister of Saint Joseph, the Order he wanted to found, so he could get and keep teachers in this out of the way place, she could hardly contain her joy.

This stable served its purpose but it was a far from satisfactory place for a school. Therefore, before the year was out, Father Woods began building a new schoolroom near the church. Then the Bishop gave him a job in Adelaide and he had to leave the South East. When the bishop came to visit after Christmas 1866, he called Miss Mary by a new name, Sister Mary. It was a high day for her but a sad one for the parish as they waved Father Woods off.

The new school wasn't finished so the new priest, Father Michael O'Connor, picked up where Father Woods had left off. It was ready by June and Sister Mary and her sisters left the stable for good. That move was not a day too soon for, within two weeks, Sister Mary was off to Adelaide to help Father Woods there, leaving her lovely new school behind. As time passed, she stayed in the Sisters' accommodation at the back of the school from time to time, but she had no reason to visit the stable site again.

With Mary, Annie, Lexie and the children gone, the MacDonalds resumed their property and subdivided it into three blocks. Then, after some time, they dismantled the stable and took most of the timber to their



Bev, Eileen and Sr Marie Foale

property at Kalangadoo. They had cleared the block altogether by 1925, the year the Sisters of Saint Joseph began to collect evidence on Mary's holiness with a view to having her canonised. On 23 December that year William MacDonald's great-granddaughter, Euphemia Ruth Willshire, signed off on the sale of the block to the Sisters. Then, in 1947, George MacDonald, another of William's descendants, gave the old stable door to the Sisters. It is now at the Mary MacKillop Centre in Adelaide.

At the time of its purchase, the stable block was fenced and locals grazed their animals on it. This arrangement persisted until 1970, at the beginning of the decade when the push towards Mary's canonisation received fresh impetus. It was then that Councillor George Lynn became involved. Thanks to him, the Josephites and the Council worked together to clean up the property, plant trees shrubs and flowering plants and make it a pleasant place. Today the Wattle Range Council takes full responsibility for the maintenance of the park on behalf of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

It is likely that young Richard Denny, a student for the priesthood from Adelaide, was the person who took the only existing photo of the stable in about 1891, the year when Mary remembered the silver jubilee of the foundation of the Congregation here in Penola. It was then that she wrote:

'Twenty-five years ago, we first kept up St Joseph's Day as the special Feast of our proposed Institute and little did either of us then dream of what was to spring from so small a beginning.'

Today our Mary is a saint and I'm sure that that lively MacKillop trio, redheaded Mary with stars in her eyes, cheeky Annie, pensive Lexie, as well as steady, reliable John, the carpenter, and of course Father Woods and the class of 66 and 67 are all rejoicing with us as we celebrate the memory of that generous MacDonald family at a spot where a real education revolution began.

Address at the blessing and opening of the Stable School Park in Penola on Sunday 28 October 2012

Sister Marie Foale rsj (used with permission)

Requiescant in Pace

Shirley Ausburn (Belmont);
Mary Flannigan (Burringbar);
Maureen Freestone (Lidcombe);
Gloria Gay (South Lismore);
Norah McGrath (Corlette);
Stella Nelmes (Quirindi);
Santan Sequeira (Auburn)

Prayers for the Sick

Maureen Carey (Canberra);
Eileen Carter (Nyngan);
Sr Jan Cetta rsj;
Marie Crowe (Peakhurst);
Gwen Daly (North Sydney);
Mary Durkin (Warialda);
Kieran Fitzpatrick (Menai);
Joan Giffney (North Sydney);
Alma Halse (Canberra);
Helen Harnett (Peakhurst);
Maria Kopjar (Menai);
Joan MacDonald (Blacktown);
Pat McDonald (Peakhurst);
Noelene McNeil (Barraba);
Ron Moore (Warialda);
Pat O'Brien (Warialda);
Ann O'Hara (Lidcombe);
Helen Perrett (Warialda);
Paula Potter (Nyngan);
Esme Quinn (Warilla);
Glad Rope (Nyngan);
Kathleen Ryan (Blacktown);
Lillian Stansell (Strathfield);
Audrey Steinmetz (Belmont);
Rex Tulloch (Laurieton);
Gwen Witton (Penrith).

We remain united in prayer for all our sick Josephite Associates and Sisters of St Joseph.

Coming Events

Mary MacKillop Place
7 Mount Street North Sydney

Sacrament of the Anointing

11.30am Tuesday
March 19th / May 21st / July 16th
2013

Sydney Pilgrimage

Wednesday April 10th 2013
Cost \$25

Mary MacKillop Place Pilgrimage

Wednesday June 26th 2013
Cost \$25

Lenten Prayer and Reflection

Wednesday March 6th, 13th, 20th
2013

Cost \$15 (\$10 Concession)

For further information about these events please visit:

www.marymackillopplace.org.au

Josephite Associates Lidcombe – 20th Anniversary



On 20th November 2012, the Josephite Associates from St Joachim's Parish Lidcombe celebrated their 20th Anniversary with a special Mass presided over by a former Parish Priest, Father John Alt (himself a Josephite Associate), at Saint Mary of the Cross Chapel, Mount Street, North Sydney – 22 members attended.

Our journey as Associates began when Sister Marcia Brady, working in St Joachim's Primary School at the time, invited Sister Geraldine Kiss to talk to us at a meeting in the then convent in Mary Street Lidcombe. Sister Marcia also had the foresight to start a photo album to record the group's gatherings and events (including a number of retreats at Kincumber) over the last twenty years. We were fortunate in having a number of other Sisters and Associates visit our monthly meetings during this time.

Sadly Sisters Marcia, Francis and Geraldine were unable to attend the

Anniversary celebrations; however, we felt their presence. Sister Marcia later told us how she felt she travelled with us and was thinking of us as we attended Mass and walked Mary's footsteps at Mount Street. We were also very pleased to have Daisy Keogh (our oldest member), accompanied by her daughter Anne, on the day.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to former Parish Priests, the late Monsignor John Meaney and Father John Alt (who attended all our meetings) for their generosity, kindness and full support. Over the years our group has contributed to worthy causes namely East Timor, Peru and the orphan children of Ethiopia. Many ladies have knitted for the "fish and chips" babies – so named as the hospital only had newspapers to wrap them in when they went home with their mothers. We particularly wish to thank the ladies from the Blue Mountains, who still continue to supply beautiful small garments for these deserving babies. Also we include thanks to Sister Helen Saunders for visiting our group, and many continue to save used postage stamps for her.

A special 'thank you' to Sister Marie Carson for organising the luncheon following Mass on our 'Day of Celebration'. We were fortunate to be in a room which was a classroom in the past. The catering staff excelled with a fine display of Christmas fare, with choices of delicious food and wonderful service. Sister Joan Harrison (our previous spiritual leader) also expressed her thanks for being able to join us in celebrating our special day. It was a great finish for a day we will fondly treasure.

We acknowledge the gesture extended to our group from Dooley's Lidcombe Catholic Club who provided two mini buses with drivers to transport our members to Saint Mary MacKillop Chapel and return us safely home to St Joachim's Church grounds – a very wonderful experience to be added into the memorabilia album.

Geoff Barrett JA Lidcombe

Thirroul Josephite Associates

The Thirroul Josephite Associates have had a very successful year and have been involved with many fundraising activities. Money has been raised for East Timor, Peru, the Aboriginal Mission and the Travelling Sisters.

The areas mentioned above are all supported through the Mary MacKillop Foundation which offers grants for 'small life changing projects.' Support for activities in these areas makes a huge difference to the lives of many people living in isolation.

Paul Tuckerman JA Thirroul

Perthville Josephite Sisters

Some members of the Josephite Federation (Black Josephites) have decided to merge (what Rome calls 'fusion') with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (Brown Josephites). On the 24th May 2012 the Tasmanian Josephites combined a celebration of the 125th anniversary of their founding from Perthville with a celebration of their fusion with the centrally governed Josephites.

The Goulburn Sisters have since sought – and been granted by Rome – the decree enabling them to merge with the Central Josephites. This will be formalised on the 19th March 2013.

The Whanganui NZ Josephites during their recent Chapter, decided to petition Rome to enable them also to become members of the Central Josephites.

The Lochinvar Sisters have a Chapter in 2013 and this topic will possibly be on their Chapter again.

We Perthville Josephites are in a process of discernment trying to find God's will for us at this time in our history. We earnestly seek your prayers during this difficult, challenging and yet hope filled phase of our history.

*Sister Therese McGarry –
Congregational Leader – Perthville
(Extract from Christmas 2012 Newsletter
used with permission)*

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Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the
Josephite Mission in Peru

Please send to:
Stamps

5 Alexandra Avenue
Croydon NSW 2132
Phone 02 8741 2334
Fax 02 8741 2399

Thank you for all stamps received.

Sister Helen Saunders reported the total raised through proceeds from the sale of stamps totalled \$6296.83 in 2011. Well done to Helen Bache, cutters, sorters and Sister Helen Saunders for this magnificent result.

2012 results best ever \$9,200.

An Epic Journey Across Australia

In 2011, the Mary MacKillop Foundation launched the Travelling Sisters Roadshow. It was the beginning of a two-year journey across Australia to spread the story of St Mary MacKillop and encourage school children to emulate the work of Australia's first saint.

Led by Sr Julianne Murphy, the Travelling Sisters drove a branded van 70,254 kilometres across six States, visiting 241 schools and raising the awareness of 58,606 children to the work of the Mary MacKillop Foundation. Using an interactive, multi-media presentation and a Mary MacKillop puppet, the school children enjoyed magic tricks and other highlights including the Foundation's popular rap tune.

The Show went as far as Geraldton then to Albany in Western Australia, across the Nullabor into South Australia followed by Victoria and a ride on the Spirit of Tasmania. The Show then ventured into the Eastern states including remote places such as Deniliquin, Eden, Mungindi, Mount Isa and Cairns.

The Roadshow stressed that the grants given by the Foundation were for 'small life changing projects'. Examples given were projects that made a huge difference to the lives of refugees, homeless people, the disabled and people in isolation, to name a few. Children however, have a way of bringing things down to earth and transformational stories sometimes fail to

impress. According to Sister Julianne, one particular 5 year old pointed out: 'That's nothing, Jesus changed water into wine!'

Since Mary's canonisation, Sister Julianne has seen wonderful evidence of Mary MacKillop's legacy being lived in nearly every corner of Australia. In our schools children of every culture, social status, faith and academic achievement are welcomed, just as they were in Mary MacKillop's time. 'Our schools respond to current social issues, support many charities in fundraising as well as educating children to be mindful of those in need.'

The fundraising by schools, and individually by young people, has been greatly appreciated by the Travelling Sisters. Twelve year olds have raised funds at lemonade stalls; a 5 year old collected donations for the Foundation in lieu of her birthday presents; young adults adopted the Foundation as their charity for fun runs and student leaders hosted pet parades and thong throwing.

At the end of a remarkable journey, The Mary MacKillop Foundation extends sincere thanks to the Travelling Sisters, the hospitality given to the Sisters in each province by the Josephite communities and to all who participated in the Roadshow. As for Sister Julianne, after 755 presentations she believes she could almost do the talk in her sleep!

Extract from SOSJ E-News 10/12/2012 used with permission.

Thoughts for the Year of Faith

The Year of Faith, called by Pope Benedict XVI, began on 11th October 2012 and will conclude on 24th November 2013, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Universal King.

The Year of Faith calls us into a deep renewal of our faith through retracing the history of our faith, studying the Catechism, praying the Creed and seeking to be an active witness of what we believe, a call to be missionary.

The Year of Faith aims to support the faith of believers who, in their daily trials, never cease to entrust their lives to the Lord Jesus, with courage and conviction. The Year of Faith then is an opportunity which the Christian community offers to many people who desire to rediscover God.

Every Sunday at Mass we proclaim the Creed, which is our Profession of Faith, namely the acceptance of the truths that God has revealed. It is also the acceptance of all the truths which the Catholic Church believes and teaches. We accept with our mind and submit with our will.

In his apostolic letter *Porta fidei* Pope Benedict XVI says: 'The year of Faith will be a good opportunity to intensify the witness of caring for those who are vulnerable, hungry and in need of justice. Faith without charity bears no fruit. Through faith, we can recognise the face of the risen Lord in those who ask for love. 'As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' (Mt 25:40)

Homily 8th February 2013

Mary MacKillop Chapel North Sydney

Dear Friends, Mary MacKillop's life was filled with tribulations of all kinds – personal illness and the tragic loss of family members, difficulties and even excommunication from those who held authority in the Church she loved. At times she had to face difficult decisions which held the capacity to weigh her down. Her prayer and trust in God sustained her in all these circumstances. Mary encouraged the Sisters with these words written in 1885: 'Do not let your troubles disturb your trust in God.'

Everyone's life has moments when the worries of this life weigh us down. Mary MacKillop experienced this at the time of her mother's tragic death, when news reached her of Flora's drowning at sea. Mary wrote to Annie her sister: 'My dearest Annie, God help us all. The hand of God is heavy upon us, but God's Holy Will must be done. Oh Annie, I had so yearned to see her again.'

Mary MacKillop's attentiveness to God's call in her life led her, like John the Baptist, to become a 'voice crying in the wilderness' and, like John, she was aware of the society in which she lived. Mary set about 'straightening the winding roads and smoothing the rough ways'. Mary responded to the needs she perceived in the society of her time, offering hope to those most disadvantaged. One of Mary's greatest insights, which arose out of her own personal and family experience, was her complete trust in God's providential care. Perhaps Mary too was mindful of the words from the Letter to the Hebrews (Chapter 13: 5-8): 'Keep yourselves free from the love of money and be content with whatever you have, for God has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you....Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.'

Mary lived with faith and a trust in the capacity of God who not only hears us, but also grants the petitions we bring. As we learn to daily trust in God's providential love, may our heart and mind be refreshed by Mary MacKillop's pervading spirit, taking to heart her instruction:

'Never see a need without doing something about it.'

Fr Graeme Malone SSS

Edited extract from the homily 8/2/2013
(printed with permission)

The Website for
Mary MacKillop Place, Mount Street, North Sydney is
www.marymackillopplace.org.au

for Coming events, Feast and Memorial dates, Pilgrimage information and an invitation to a place of prayer with our Australian Saint.

A Lenten Reflection



Fifth Station – Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus Carry His Cross

Sixth Station – Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Lord, You opened the eyes of these two people to see Your need, and in spite of public ridicule they stepped forward.

‘Whatsoever you do to these the least of My brethren, you do unto me.’

St Mary of the Cross had the capability of seeing Jesus in every man, woman and child. Her spirit of giving knew no bounds.

Prayer: Lord, my heart is restless until it rests in You. Where am I to find You if I cannot see You in my fellow humans. Let me see You in everyone regardless of ‘Race, Colour or Creed’. I pray this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Extract from Stations of the Cross – Regina (Reggie) Preston JA Wyong

In the Footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop

Australian Pilgrimage

23rd October – 2nd November 2013

The notion of going on a pilgrimage and being a pilgrim is a very ancient one that belongs to the spiritual traditions of all great faiths.

Places of pilgrimage beckon people to touch and get caught up in the atmosphere and spiritual realities that belong to their origins. However, it is not only the site that takes people deep into the heart of their faith, but the journey itself.

A pilgrimage is a very personal experience but it is usually a journey with others: seeking, listening, reflecting and seeing the hand of God at work in our own lives.

This Australian Pilgrimage to many of the places associated with Mary MacKillop’s life and ministry is a unique opportunity for us to absorb some of the aspects of her life and appreciate anew her role as our Australian saint.

For further information phone

Sister Therese Leydon 02 8912 4845

or email Therese.Leydon@sosj.org.au

Prayer Thoughts as We Journey Each Day



Heavenly Father, walk with me today
And grant that I may hear your footsteps,
and gladly follow where they lead.

There is no thought which God does not enter.
The presence of God does not consist of thinking of God but, in a sense,
of the presence of God in every occupation.
(JTW 1877)

God, You are the space embracing all my being,
nearer to me than I myself am,
and more within me than my innermost self,
You are beyond my reach – yet you fill me
and brighten all the darkness of my heart.

Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass.
It’s about learning to dance in the rain.

In Christ Who is the source of my strength,
I have strength for everything.



I offer up my sufferings, sickness and hurts
and seek God’s will, not my own.

I will show appreciation for the kindness
and blessings that I receive
and I thank God for all things.

I try to do everything in my life for love of God
and I will love others as God loves me.

I wish to make reparation for all the sins of the world including
my own.

I offer these things for the love of Jesus and Mary.
I will bear the mistakes of others with love and a forgiving
heart.

Please keep me faithful until death and bring me one day
to the happy home in Heaven.

Josephite Associates Strathfield