



# Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

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NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2013

Dear Josephite Associates,

The Annual General Meeting for 2013 was held at Marian Court, Margaret Street, Strathfield. This day was one of celebration with a Mass of Thanksgiving for 30 years since our beginning. Sister Mary Quinlan (NSW Regional Leader) spoke to the group of fifty one Associates; this is Sister's final year as liaison Sister due to elections being held in November 2013. A presentation was made to Sister Mary acknowledging her generosity and support.

A special thanks to the Strathfield Group for hosting the AGM and to all who assisted in preparing the room and chapel.

The following is an extract from the AGM 2013 report.

Thank you to all Josephite Associates who responded and nominated Associates in the Governance Group Elections.

The voting process did not proceed, as Associates declined their nomination for the allocated positions when telephoned by the returning officer.

I thank Beverley Badcock – Vice President, Eileen Stevenson – Treasurer and Maureen Rayner – Secretary for accepting their nomination to serve as team members as part of the Governance Group for the next two years.

The following are details of what the Josephite Associates and the Governance group have been doing in our first year of self governance:

- A new group has been established at Albion Park. Fr David Catterall is the founding group leader.
- Carol Badewitz group leader from Bombala accepted the role of Country Representative for southern NSW as part of the Governance Group. Carol has prepared prayerful reflections which are now shared by email to all Associates who receive their Newsletter by email. We intend to extend the distribution to other Associates who provide us with their email address.
- Reggie Preston, Group Leader from Wyong, has also forwarded prayerful reflections to the office which have been emailed as widely as possible to those on our email list. Reggie on her own initiative converted prayer reflections from Publisher into Word documents. Associates now receive two attachments which enables them to open the document of their choice when receiving an email from the office.
- 21 members attended the Kincumber Retreat facilitated by Sister Colleen O'Sullivan using the theme 'Grace and Gratitude'.
- The Lidcombe Group celebrated 20 years since their foundation. Twenty two Associates gathered in the Chapel at North Sydney for the celebration of the Eucharist on 20th November 2012, followed by lunch in the school house.
- Mary Gallagher, Penhurst Group Leader, prepared and led an excellent Advent Prayer Day.
- Thanks to the generosity of the Sisters of St Joseph, Associates gathered at Baulkham Hills to celebrate the Feast Day of St Joseph and on the Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross joined in a celebration at Our Lady of the Rosary, Fairfield.
- An unseen work of used stamp collecting by Helen Bache and her helpers achieved the magnificent result of \$9200 to assist the poor in East Timor and Peru.
- Beverley and Leonie visited the Federation Sisters in Bathurst in March. This is an annual visit hosted by Sister Jean

Cain for sharing ideas and meeting other Religious Sisters and Associates.

- Prepared Power Point presentation and documentation for the IJALT Conference in July 2013.

- A goal achieved in the last twelve months is a strong communication link via email with Associates in rural areas, especially forwarding prayer reflections which can be used at group meetings and for which Associates are most grateful.

- Gwen Daly, North Sydney Group member, made a beautiful candle for the IJALT Conference.

- A new enrolment brochure has been printed. This brochure will be distributed to groups and parishes. Thank you to Sr Lyn Raftery for enhancing the picture of Mary MacKillop and preparing the brochure for printing.

**What is our greatest need now in 2013 and beyond by living out our core values of Friendship, Prayer and Service:**

We have the Friendship and Prayer evident here in great numbers today. The need to be addressed is in Service as a volunteer.

Thanks to the Sisters of St Joseph and Sr Mary Quinlan in particular we have an office at 34 Liverpool Road Croydon. We have volunteers who assist with the distribution of the Newsletter. Thank you to all who continue to assist with this work and on other mail-out occasions.

An explanation is required regarding the Governance Group – President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Two Governance Group members are employed in full time work and the other two members have retired from paid work.

The management of the office is currently carried out by the two retired members working as volunteers on Monday and Tuesday each week. In order to sustain this work into the future we need to train others to assist with the computer processing using Access Data Base for membership details, word processing for documents and MYOB for the financial recording. The following questions were raised!

- Are any here today coming up to retirement and looking for a challenge?
- Are there any Associates in your group who would be able to take on this work?

I ask you to invite members in your group to visit the office and explore the possibility to assist!

One of the best aspects of Josephite Associates is that we chose to be a volunteer organisation living in the spirit of St Mary of the Cross without the constraints of board accountability. This enables us to have a minimal membership contribution to sustain financial accountability without payment of salaries. However, the area of service as a volunteer requires commitment, dedication and patience.

My hope is that as we progress into the following year others will come and assist in the management processes. Assistance by other Associates is a high priority in order to provide good management.

An extract from a homily given on the Feast of St Mary MacKillop is as follows: 'saints are raised up not for their own time, but for the times in which they are canonised.' St Mary

*continued page 2*

of the Cross has been canonised as a saint in our time. This is our time as Associates to recognise we have a responsibility to respond to the challenge of making St Mary of the Cross known:

- In our parish, in our work place, in our homes, in our schools and as people of prayer.
- Support the Sisters of St Joseph at North Sydney by volunteering in a variety of ways.
- To support the poor and marginalised in our society, the Sisters are speaking out! Are we prepared to be activists for the poor and marginalised?
- Continue collecting used stamps. Funds raised support the poor in East Timor and Peru.
- Support the works of the Sisters of St Joseph, for example Mary MacKillop International, Mary MacKillop Foundation, Good Grief etc.

The list could go on, where we can be active Associates following in the footsteps of St Mary of the Cross. We are companions on the journey with St Mary of the Cross.

St Mary of the Cross, pray with us. St Joseph, pray with us.

Love is the ultimate truth that lies at the heart of creation. May this love bless you at this Christmas time and always.

- Leonie Bell JA President

## Tamworth Report from the IJALT Conference 12-14th July 2013

Although I have been an Associate for 18 years I have only been a Group Leader for a bit more than two years. The IJALT Conference, Mount Street, North Sydney was a wonderful experience and I was privileged to attend. I feel much more informed and enthusiastic about the Josephite Associates, and also reassured that what we are doing as Tamworth Associates is in line with other similar groups.

During the weekend friendship, support and hospitality was evident. I gained much information from the presentations and the guest speakers were inspirational. There was so much energy and enthusiasm generating all weekend. It was a very rewarding and uplifting experience.

Why do I continue to be an Associate? My continued devotion to St Mary MacKillop and a strong commitment to retell Mary's story.

What is it that makes me Josephite? It is by choice that I have become a Josephite Associate. Many other organisations have their hearts and energies in the right place serving the poor.

What is the future for us as Josephite Associates? We have to find new ways of spreading the word, especially to the younger generation, starting in our schools by educating and supporting the movement – they are our future. We have to stay focused, communicate as one and be supportive and open to new ideas that come from the wider Josephite Community.

- Cheryl Lavell JA, Group Leader Tamworth

### Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in November, December 2013 and January, February 2014

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

## Josephite Associates (NSW) Conference Report July 2013

Since our last conference in 2011, New South Wales Josephite Associates have completed their time of transition to self-governance.

During this period of transition, Associate leaders gathered at the Spirituality Centre Baulkham Hills, for spiritual guidance and to develop governance structures so that Josephite Associates could sustain themselves through responsible governance, ownership and flexible expression of their own Charism (Mary Quinlan rsj 4/11/2010).

The desired outcomes were discussed, challenges to the program were raised and many questions arose that needed further clarification. Participants were empowered with visionary challenges, and their spiritual sense and openness to change enabled the shift to self-governance to be realised.

The move to self-governance has not changed the way Josephite Associates (in NSW) continue to gather to pray, show friendship and be of service in their own unique way. Essentially the restructuring for Josephite Associates is in leadership, structure and finance. In reality the major change is in management and this is carried out by dedicated volunteers.

The Constitution of the Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc. was drawn up and sets out how the Governance Group operates, how decisions are made and the procedures to be followed, thus ensuring management efficiency, transparency and accountability to the people it serves. Some of these procedures are required by law, while others are a matter for the Governance Group.

Goals achieved since the establishment of the Governance Group:

- Relocation and setting up of the JA Office, thanks to Sr Mary Quinlan rsj.
  - Identified all Josephite Associates in NSW using maps marking rural areas, metropolitan area of Sydney, Central Coast and surrounds.
  - Visited the Federation Sisters and Associates in Bathurst and shared our story towards self-governance. We were pleased to have Brian Turner, a Perthville Associate, with us today.
  - A communication strategy was set up to link city and rural Associates, using email as the most up-to-date method of contact.
  - Installed a new MYOB Accounting System which organises receipting, banking and financial reports.
  - Formulating of prayer reflections, using the gifts and talents of Josephite Associates, and forwarding these to leaders and to all on our email list.
  - Governance Group has bi-monthly meetings.
  - Two volunteers manage the office affairs two days each week. A monthly report of day-to-day office activities, including a financial statement, is prepared for the JA liaison officer and forwarded to Congregational and NSW archives.
  - Continued an Annual Retreat at Kinumber for Josephite Associates.
- Vision for the future:
- To promote Junior Josephite Associates in schools.
  - To respond to God's call through the intercession of Mary MacKillop to be involved with the poor and suffering of our time.



## News from Boambee 12th -14th July 2013

• To respond to the call to live the Charism of Mary MacKillop in our daily lives in our own unique way.

• Provide continued support for one another by Friendship, Prayer and Service to make a difference in our local area and so further the reign of God.

• To encourage daily prayer to St Mary of the Cross for help, guidance and support.

• To market Josephite Associates, promoting new membership by producing an information leaflet.

• To strengthen communication among all Josephite Associate Groups.

• To continue to celebrate the major Feasts of St Joseph and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

• To provide opportunities for in-depth formation.

• To arrange visitation to rural areas of NSW.

• To gain more support from volunteers to successfully maintain efficient office management.

• To take from this International Conference some direction as to how we as Josephite Associates (NSW) can put into practice ideals for future growth.

At the 29th AGM in 2012 the Governance Group was commissioned into ownership through a prayer ritual where responsibility was transferred from the Sisters of St Joseph to the Josephite Associates.

Our core values of Friendship, Prayer and Service have strengthened our Partnership in Mission. 'He whose work it is will continue to take care of us' and, in Mary MacKillop's words, we 'will continue to do our best and leave the rest to God!'

The following is a blessing for us as Josephite Associates:

May the Spirit of St Mary MacKillop ever remain a part of your life.

May you continue to experience meaning through providential love within each day!

May the fruits of this conference enable the truth of the Associates to flourish.

May your Charism be recognised as Josephite, witnessed daily in Friendship, Prayer and Service.

And may you ever, in communion with each other, listen to the murmurs of God within you.

- Beverley Badcock JA  
IJALT Representative NSW

## Celebrating the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel Centenary

8th December 2013 – 19th March 2014

The Chapel was built in 1913, at the instigation of Mother Baptista Molloy in memory of Mary MacKillop, on land donated in memory of the Daly family. The Chapel was dedicated by the Very Reverend Michael Kelly, Archbishop of Sydney, on the 18th January 1914. Soon after, on the 28th January, Mary MacKillop's body was moved from Gore Hill Cemetery, her original resting place, and was reinterred in front of Our Lady's altar in the vault donated by Mary's long-time friend, Joanna Barr-Smith.

The Chapel was for many years used only by the Sisters of St Joseph, but since Mary's beatification in 1995, it has become a place of pilgrimage for thousands of people who come to pray and reflect at her tomb now in its own special place in the chapel.

A Special Centenary Celebration event, open to the public, will be held at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on Sunday 8th December 2013. The Eucharist will be celebrated on Glenroy Green at 10am and the Chapel will be open 9am-4pm for private prayer. Entry to the Museum is free. There will also be a special exhibition marking the Chapel Centenary. The Café and Gift Shop will be open and refreshments will be available throughout the day.

*Extract from Mary MacKillop Foundation Newsletter  
(used with permission)*

I recently attended the IJALT Conference as Leader of our Josephite Associates Group in Boambee, NSW. The Boambee group consists of 40 members from three parishes, Sawtell, Coffs Harbour and Grafton. We have been in self-governance for eighteen months, although the Group has been active for about twelve years under the leadership of Sr Fidelis rsj who remains as our mentor and a very active member of the Group.

At the Conference I learnt so much about the wider Group of Associates, including Peru, East Timor, New Zealand and of course Australia. Sometimes, it is very easy to become quite parochial and only see your own Group and forget that we belong to a much wider and larger group. The idea of sharing resources, such as material for Junior Joeys, guest speakers etc., was very encouraging and since returning home I have contacted Jan Lang from the Mullumbimby Group in Northern NSW and we have agreed that our two groups should encourage this 'twinning'. The idea of having Regional Conferences would be very welcome to those of us who live outside of Sydney, especially if they could include smaller Conference meetings which could include many 'country group' members. I personally hope to visit the Mullumbimby group early next year to learn more about what they are doing and would like to ask: Would it be possible for a member of the Leadership Group to visit these smaller country groups at some time?

Throughout the Conference the friendliness and encouragement for each other was a great tribute to the Charism of Mary MacKillop which we all strive to emulate, but also a tribute to those who arranged and organised the Conference, where we could speak without fear of criticism or judgement. I felt very comfortable, at all times, with all members of the Associate Groups. The presenters were well prepared and very interesting and many of them enabled us to take back information and knowledge, not previously known to our own groups (e.g. the work of the Foundation; Sr Margaret Ng working in the Villawood Detention Centre; the problems encountered by Peru and East Timor).

I look forward to future Conferences and learning more about Associate Groups in other areas.

Thank you all once again for this opportunity and special thanks to Leonie and Beverley and the IJALT Leaders Group for the huge amount of work that went into the organisation of this Conference.

- Mary McNamara JA  
Group Leader Boambee

## News from Oatley

The August gathering of the Oatley Josephite Associates was held at the local Church hall. Sister Helen Cook rsj gave us a lovely reflection on Mary MacKillop and shared great paintings explaining 'Our Journey through Life', Sister Helen's own unique artwork. We are most grateful to Sister Helen for sharing her talents.

After our meeting all adjourned to 'Elim' a lovely coffee shop opposite our Church hall where we shared chatter and laughter to conclude a memorable day. We remembered those members unable to attend due to illness and prayed for their speedy recovery.

Annette Rowley JA, Group Leader Oatley

### 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](mailto:associates@sosjnsw.org.au)  
Subject: Email address change



## Being Josephite Associates in an Ever-Changing World

Forty Josephite Associate Leaders gathered for our Conference at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney from the 12th to the 14th July 2013. Associate Leaders came from every state in Australia as well as from East Timor, New Zealand and Peru. What a wonderful opportunity it was to meet and share with other Associates in a spirit of Friendship and Prayer!

The Conference began with Sr Angela Grant describing the beginning of the Associates' Movement as far back as 1983. At that time Sr Angela and other Sisters of St Joseph realised that many people, who were not vowed Sisters, shared in the Josephite charism. They explored ways of enabling others to share their spiritual homeland and so our Josephite Associate movement was born!

Against the backdrop of the Josephite Associates' birthing story, groups from different states or countries presented creative accounts of what is happening in their local area today. These accounts helped us all to appreciate the variety of activities and the spiritual riches that as Associates we bring to our local communities. The enthusiasm and energy in the groups as we shared our stories was 'contagious and encouraging!'

As Associate Leaders we came to the Conference with many questions. Many of these centred around formation programs, forms of governance, relationship with the Sisters into the future, Covenant Josephites, new membership, connections with ex-students, networking, resources, Congregational ministries carrying on Mary MacKillop's legacy today and how we can support some of these ministries.

With Srs Christina Neunzerling, Katrina Brill and Michelle Connolly we explored insights on the charism and different pathways in sharing that charism. We reflected on Scripture passages and our place as Associates and laywomen and men in the Catholic Church today. We felt spiritually nourished and inspired and uplifted. Queensland gave us food for thought! We reflected with Jenny Walker on the Review of the Associates in that State and we heard about the Josephite Associate Network (JAN).

As well as receiving much new information we also faced challenging questions. Many of these questions were about the age profile of our membership, sustainability and change. We recognised that change is already upon us. We acknowledged the need for openness to change, the time it needs, the difficulty involved and the education and support required for transition to be successful.

Now we look to the future! We believe we need to develop the International Josephite Associate Leadership Team (IJALT) further as a central contact for all Associate groups here and overseas. We have many dreams of what we hope for in years to come. Among our aspirations are the following: to strengthen our appreciation of the Josephite charism; to keep close to the Sisters; to open doors for younger members; to promote unity in the Associate movement; to find 'where we hang our hat' with the Congregation's ministries; to spread the Josephite charism through Friendship, Prayer and Service; and to hold another conference three years from now!

As we move forward let us join with the Sisters in praying for their 26th General Chapter which takes place in November this year.

*Extract from sosj enews 2/8/2013 (used with permission)*

## Mary MacKillop Feast Day Mass Our Lady of the Rosary Church Fairfield

3rd August 2013

The challenge for the preacher on a day like today before an audience like your own is that he is the amateur and you are the professionals when it comes to the subject of our thoughts and prayers St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

In the 1980s there was a seminar held at Manly on St Thomas More. One of the questioners asked, why had it taken four hundred years for his canonisation to take place when he was recognised many years before as a great thinker and theologian and had experienced a martyr's death? The answer given was that Saints are raised up not for their own time, for the times in which they are canonised. Thus Thomas as a lawyer and politician has much to say for the current era of legal and political affairs. And so a comment written for another holy person can be applied to Mary MacKillop:

'It challenges the whole congregation to develop the awareness of having been given a divine mission and of being God's instruments. If the charism of our Founder is to become fruitful today and in the future, our Marian (and Sacred Heart and Josephite) commitment to the apostolate has to be anchored in an awareness of having a God-given mission and of being its instruments, so that we can survive and work in the challenges of our times.'

St Mary of the Cross and her companions in the beginning had a profound awareness of having been given a mission and their being instruments in God's hands, protected and surrounded by the providence of God. It was possible also for Mary to say that the difficulties experienced in the beginning were reasons to thank Divine Providence. Without that trust in the midst of difficulty, you would not stand here today so confirmed in your joyful and victorious faith, hope and love.

It is now up to the followers of Mary MacKillop to deepen this faith in a God-given mission through prayer and studying our family history and the history of our times.

The more and more effectively we do this, the greater and richer will be the fruits we will be allowed to harvest. The inner awareness of our dependence on the living God will grow – our mistrust of our own strength and purely human means will grow – our sense of peace and security in God will give us a greater confidence and consolidation. We will be able to say with conviction: If God is for us, who can be against us?

In our celebration today we are not just looking back to a glorious founder, a glorious past, and great achievements. We are facing the reality of our times, the needs of today's people, and the relevance of St Mary's vision for God's mission now. Each year we are renewed in our awareness, renewed in our commitment to play our part in the transformation of our lives and of our world. Your baptismal consecration, in striking visibility, gives hope to people.

We have to learn how to switch on the masses in the same way that Pope Francis is now doing. It is good to have people writing and saying good things about God, the Church, and people in simple and striking gestures that are sincere, humble and genuine.

We give thanks for the past and accept the challenges of today. May St Mary of the Cross encourage and inspire us to discover ever more fully how to live out and make fruitful the charism of her foundation.

*Homily by Father Terence Bell  
Parish Priest Fairfield*

## Call, Commitment and Community' Weekend on Josephite Life

'Sixteen of the 23 women presently discerning their call to Josephite life, gathered with their Sisters of St Joseph Discernment Guides and Mentors, at Baulkham Hills on the weekend of 19th to 23rd July 2013.

The women differed widely in background, in age and in stage of their discernment journey; they connected in enthusiastic conversation that never waned. The weekend was organised by the Congregational Immersion and Discernment of Call Team (CIDC). The CIDC Team offers hospitality and mentoring to those who feel called by God to the Josephite charism and who want to discern where the call is taking them.

The weekend explored 'Call, Commitment and Communion' in a Josephite context. Those gathered talked of finding God especially among those most in need. They shared commitments they had made and commitments they felt drawn to make. Some of the women are already moving forward in one of the three options for commitment in the spirit of the charism.

- membership of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph
- affiliation with the Congregation and Private Vows
- affiliation with the Congregation as a Covenant Josephite.

Many of the women are at an early stage of discerning the direction their response will take. Two are on the Emmaus journey (novitiate) discerning membership, two other women are moving towards this. One woman has been a Covenant Josephite for some years and shared her experience with the group. Another

Covenant Josephite sent a DVD to share at the gathering as she couldn't attend in person. Some women were exploring the pathway of affiliation with Private Vows. The longing in the hearts of all was echoed in prayer and liturgy.

The following comments from participants captured the spirit of the weekend:

'My heart is filled with gratitude, wonder and excitement by the Josephite 'tune' of this Gathering.' 'What will I do with my freedom?'

'We join in the melody with our many different notes.'

'The call cannot be escaped.'

'There is wonderful fresh life that I did not expect.'

'It's my first time here. So much! I want to know more.'

'Encouraged by the likeminded people of justice and mission I encountered around me, the experience of this weekend provided the rich ground I was seeking to explore ideas, question old assumptions, to carve a future path for myself within a braided river of tradition I have always loved and felt part of!'

The Josephite Sisters who attended the gathering as Discernment Guides, Mentors, or CIDC Team, left feeling that God is surely doing something new in our midst. Like Latin American theologian Illia Dello they noted that: 'It is important to attend to what is happening in our midst – and what are the patterns of relationships that are drawing us to something new?'

*Joan Healy rsj*

*Extract from sosj enews 24/7/2013 (used with permission)*

## Requiescant in Pace

Eileen Carter (Nyngan);  
Thomas Patrick Galvin, son of Una Galvin (Penrith);  
Hose Gomez, son of Rosa Gomez (Warilla);  
Catherine Grew (Lidcombe);  
Hilary Howarth (Prayer Member Cronulla);  
John Knight (Prayer Member Killara);  
Georgette Laba (Lidcombe);  
Carmel McLean (Mullumbimby);  
Ron Moore (Warialda);  
Fred Pisciueneri (Auburn);  
Paula Potter (Nyngan);  
Marie Therese Searson (Woy Woy);  
Zorica Zabljak (Auburn)  
Nell McMahon, mother of Paul & brothers (Glen Innes)

## Prayers for the Sick

Maureen Carey (Canberra);  
Bob Cassidy (Penrith);  
Sr Jan Cetta rsj;  
Margaret Clapham (Warilla);  
Marie Crowe (Peakhurst);  
Clare Day (Oatley);  
Mary Durkin (Warialda);  
Beverley Fitzgerald (Cooma);  
Kieran Fitzpatrick (Menai);  
Evelyn Gardiner (Prayer Member);  
Alma Halse (Canberra);  
Helen Harnett (Peakhurst);  
Daisy Keogh (Lidcombe);  
Maria Kopjar (Menai);  
Joan MacDonald (Blacktown)  
Pat McDonald (Peakhurst);  
Noelene McNeil (Barraba);  
Ron Moore (Warialda);  
Pat O'Brien (Warialda);  
Ann O'Hara (Lidcombe);  
Melva Perkins (Quirindi);  
Helen Perrett (Warialda);  
Esme Quinn (Warilla);  
Pauline Rendell (Peakhurst);  
Glad Rope (Nyngan);  
Kathleen Ryan (Blacktown);  
Dominic Scaturchio (Auburn);  
Lillian Stansell (Strathfield);  
Audrey Steinmetz (Belmont);  
Helene Townsend (Blacktown);  
Rex Tulloch (Laurieton);  
Gwen Witton (Penrith)

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

## Kath Evans Shares Her Story

On Saturday 7th September 2013 Kath and Barry travelled from Kincumber to Croydon to share Kath's story with a group of Sisters of St Joseph and the Josephite Associates. What a great privilege it was! Kath was able to express her feelings to the family of Josephites, the honour it has been for both of us to be connected to the Sisters in a small way through our Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, whose prayers of intercession twenty years ago cured me of my cancer.

As a country we are very blessed to have our own DINKY DI, TRUE BLUE AUSTRALIAN as our Saint. Our Mary was born and raised here, she loved Australia and she fought for the dignity of all people, the poor, the downtrodden, the weak, the sick etc. What a great role model we have in our Mary!

Thank you to the Sisters of St Joseph for inviting us to Croydon, and also for the great welcome we received there from all.

*Love and God bless – Kath Evans*



[www.marymackillop.org.au](http://www.marymackillop.org.au)

# A Special Visit to the Sisters of St Joseph Western Australia

As part of the 80th birthday celebrations of Sister Pat Snudden rsj a visit to Western Australia and in particular the Kimberley area was planned and I was invited to accompany her.

We set out on 15th May 2013 and flew to Perth. During the whole of this trip we were to stay at various Josephite Houses. In Perth we stayed at the Convent in Edward Street, South Perth. I knew that Pat would be very warmly welcomed by her friends but I was surprised at the Sisters' ready acceptance of me. It was my first visit to Perth and there was much to do and see.

Pat is a member of the Friends of L'Arche, an organisation that supports the disabled and their families. L'Arche was holding a weekend conference in the same complex. On Sunday we spent the day joining in their various activities and culminating in the late afternoon with an inter-faith service of prayers. This service, which reflected much of the Indian culture, was very beautiful and moving. Then of course there was a party with lovely food, much love and caring.

Our last activity that evening was a Taizé ceremony in the beautiful chapel to remember Irene McCormack. I was amazed at the wonderful use of light, which reached its peak when every person lit a candle and placed it in front of the altar.

Our week in Perth continued with visits to a centre at Safety Bay, a drive to Fremantle and a return trip by boat. We had ample opportunity to attend Mass, to have reflection time in the beautiful chapel and to enjoy life with these very caring Sisters.

On Monday 20th May, we flew to Kununurra via Broome. Our only sight of Broome was during a heavy downpour. As our plane was very late we were hurried under black umbrellas to the next plane for our trip to Kununurra.

Kununurra is a beautiful modern town. The convent with its wide verandahs was such a comforting place to stay. Lovely palms, shrubs and flowers grew close to the verandah, providing relief from the heat. We started our mornings here quite early with reflections and finished the days relaxing after dinner in the cool of the evening. It was here that we first saw the interaction between the Sisters and the local children. There was a touching courtesy where each group treated the other with great respect.

As part of our sightseeing, we took a day trip on the mighty Ord River from Lake Argyle back down to Kununurra and flew over the Bungle Bungles. Sister Anne drove us to Wyndham, where we were surprised to see how small the town was, as it has always featured as such an important port and link with the islands to the north. The beautiful country and tourist attractions that we enjoyed, dimmed beside the engaging work of the Sisters of St Joseph in this area. While it was very beautiful at that time of the year, we knew it would be dry and dusty as the season progressed and difficult to live and work in the wet season.

From Kununurra we moved to Warnum where we met three more Josephite Sisters. Sister Theresa was most inspiring and has given over thirty years of care to the people of the Kimberleys and is very much respected by the local community. Warnum is a closed community, different again from the other places we visited. We had the opportunity to see a Sorry Tree. Standing there, reflecting, I wondered how these people can ever forgive us for the injustices that have been done to them. The plaque on the tree clearly says that they must learn to forgive if they themselves are to find peace.

Whilst in Warnum we stayed at a lovely Spirituality Centre called Mirrilngki. This centre was started by the Josephites and is now run by an independent group. Surrounded by gardens and shrubs, a place where birds come to shelter and people come to rest and be reinvigorated. We had dinner each night with the three Warnum Sisters and heard stories of their lives. We visited an art gallery and noted the paintings from each centre are different –

different colours and different textures.

At Halls Creek, which according to road signs is 700 km from Broome, this is definitely a desert town. We were warmly welcomed by the two Sisters, Kathleen and Alma. Kathleen showed us around the local areas as she was trying to locate artists who would show Pat how they did their dot painting. The woman was sitting at home with her children doing a beautiful painting and we saw the different clays used and the usable sized pieces of plants to create the different sized dots.

An interesting part of the landscape at Halls Creek was the China Wall. On top of the red rock was a layer of white rock which made the long cliff resemble the Great Wall of China.

After Mass on Sunday, Alma, Kathleen and a school Principal and his young family travelled off-road in four wheel drive cars to a beautiful man-made lake for a picnic, complete with billy tea and Johnny cakes. It was a most exciting trip as the cars sometimes tilted as we crossed steep creeks and hills. We saw a part of the country that not all visitors are privileged to see on this precarious but wonderful adventure.

Pat spent a whole day sewing skirts for the local opportunity shop which the Sisters run three mornings a week.

At the end of our time in the Kimberleys we returned to Kununurra for our flight to Darwin. Darwin is a very modern city, different from our southern capital cities. We had time to visit the War Museum and learnt in detail about the Japanese bombing of Northern Australia. We spent another lovely day visiting Kakadu National Park and seeing the great variety of bird life in the wetlands. We enjoyed a late afternoon beach picnic, eating fish and chips and watching the glorious sunset.

I will always be grateful for this opportunity to meet the wonderful Josephite Sisters and to see the work they are doing among the people in the northern part of Western Australia. I feel very strongly that the Sisters are living and working today exactly as St Mary of the Cross would have hoped when Mary together with Julian Tenison Woods founded the Australian Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

*Margaret Stapleton JA  
North Sydney Group*

## 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.*



## AGM Report North Coast New South Wales

As leader of the Mullumbimby, Bangalow, Byron Bay Josephite Associate Groups I would like to share with you events in Country New South Wales.

Three of our members have had significant birthdays this year, Ruth Slattery 91, Peggy Finch 96 and Marge Buckley 97. All three are still living independently in their own homes and are active associates. Peggy still holds her driver's licence and both she and Ruth are regular attendees at our meetings.

Our group is a compilation of three original groups. The Bangalow and Byron Bay Groups had their beginnings 30 years ago when Sr Therese Keane was in Byron Bay; the group became inactive some years after Sister left the parish. The Mullumbimby Group began about 15 years ago when Sr Margaret Keane arrived in the parish. Margaret invited all three groups together and we have been active ever since. We alternate our meetings between the three centres and meet four times a year and enjoy a Christmas lunch together in early December.

Our meetings always begin with prayer and reflection. Currently we are using the beautiful reflections by Sister Helen Cooke, 'Life is a Journey'. If we are to share the spirit of Mary MacKillop with those we meet in our daily lives we need to better understand who she was. At our meetings we have a special book in which we write our prayer intentions and we pray for them at our meeting and during the time between meetings asking Mary MacKillop to intercede for us.

Being so far away from Sydney, distance, cost, age and other circumstances often prevent us from participating in things that we read about in the Newsletter that groups in the metropolitan area have access to. In 2012 we celebrated a special day on Mary MacKillop with Sr Christine Neunzerling. We advertised through the local and surrounding school newsletters and church bulletins and 52 people attended on the day. Currently we are trying to organise a retreat weekend at Star of the Sea Yamba for early next year, inviting the Associate groups from Sawtell and South Lismore to join us.

Some of our activities include a street stall in Bangalow for East Timor. Last year we sent a cheque for \$1820.00 and this year a cheque for \$1694.00. Members also collect stamps for Peru which we send to Sydney to be prepared for auction.

As we are unable to attend feast day celebrations in Sydney, we celebrate in our own area. Mass is not available every day in the country; however, as it turned out on each of the feast days this year we were able to celebrate Mass in one of our areas. Associates take pride in setting up an appropriate display and taking part in the various ministries.

The biggest challenges our groups face are leadership and continuing into the future. Finding new members is also a challenge. There are always people interested, but everyone is so busy these days that when you actually invite them to attend a meeting, it often doesn't eventuate for whatever reason.

Both schools in our area have mini Vinnies so the possibility of Junior Associates is probably remote, although the Religious Education Coordinator is considering the mini Vinnies doing a fund raiser for Green and Gold Day.

I am part of the Governance Team and that role has also shown me the challenge of..... how do we keep the connection between city and country?

*Jan Lang JA, Group Leader Mullumbimby  
Governance Group Member 14/9/2013*

### Getting to Know Your Saint

March 27th – 30th 2014

*Presented by*

***Kath Evans with Sr Pat Egan rsj***

Come and hear Kath's Journey with  
St Mary MacKillop

Time to reflect on both St Mary and  
Fr Julian Tenison Woods

*Come aside and experience the beauty of the  
surroundings of Kincumber South.*

Arrive 4pm Thursday 27th March 2014

Conclude 9am Sunday 30th March 2014

**FULL COST 3 NIGHTS \$350**

**DAY VISITORS \$75 PER DAY**

*Application direct with your \$50 Deposit to:*  
St Joseph's Spirituality & Education Centre  
8 Humphreys Road, Kincumber South 2251

Telephone 02 4368 2805

Email: [bookings@stjosephskincumber.org.au](mailto:bookings@stjosephskincumber.org.au)

### Advent Prayer Day

**Saturday 30th November 2013**

**St Declan's Parish Meeting Room**

Cnr Forest Road & Penshurst Street  
Penshurst NSW 2222

9am – 12.30pm

Theme: 'Going Home'

RSVP by 23rd November 2013

Mary 9579 6893 or Angela 9584 9769 or

Email: [marygallagher31@hotmail.com](mailto:marygallagher31@hotmail.com)

Donation at Prayer Day for East Timor

### Email Address

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

**[associates@sosjns.org.au](mailto:associates@sosjns.org.au)**

Subject: Email address change

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by email in colour?***

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and we will update our database and forward your  
newsletter in future by email.

## Jesus

By Carol Badewitz 2012

Will you walk with me to the mountain top  
Will you be my companion each day  
Will you shelter me during the thunder storms  
Will you sit by me as I pray?

You are there I know in the sunrise  
And there when the sun sets low  
You're in the clouds as they dress the heavens,  
In the rain drops and in the snow.

Will you take my hand when I reach out  
And soothe my pain when I cry  
Will you hold me in your loving embrace  
And carry me home when I die?

*(Written in peacefulness and love)*

## Sitting With My Lord

Carol Badewitz

December 2011

Here I sit before you Lord,  
In a state of disrepair.  
My body aches,  
my soul is dry,  
my spirits at a low,  
I know your light is out there Lord,  
I just can't see the glow.  
Heal my body and my soul,  
Lift my spirits high,  
Walk with me along the road,  
Please listen to my cry,  
Your peace I feel at times my Lord  
a glimpse of heaven above.  
Come take my hand  
And walk with me  
Through life's ups and downs.  
What's pulling at my heart strings  
And playing these dull chords?  
Please retune my lovely music box  
So I can sing once more.

## Associates Office

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Margaret Portell, Maureen Rayner,  
Eileen Stevenson

**Design and Print:** Paul McMahon

The website for  
**Mary MacKillop Place,  
Mount Street, North Sydney** is  
[www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://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 Journey Of Hope

As we sit and gather on this beautiful  
Sunny day, amongst the gum trees.  
Our thoughts turn to you,  
Mary MacKillop  
And your great love of nature and the time  
You spent in the Australian bush  
Ministering to the least fortunate of God's  
Children.

We bring to mind the hardships  
you experienced on your journeys.  
You were an inspiration to many  
around you,  
A source of strength, compassion and  
generosity.

We pray for your guidance on our journey  
And that you help us to imitate  
your unconditional love in reaching out to  
those in need.

*Prayer arranged by Blacktown Josephite  
Associates Group*

## THE ANNUAL CONCERT IN AID OF EAST TIMOR

will take place this year in the chapel of the Regional Centre at  
Croydon on Saturday afternoon, November 16.

The concert is free but there will be a collection taken up at  
Interval for our International Missions.

It is a variety concert featuring solo pianists, violinists,  
Irish Dancers (thank you Rosemary), hopefully a school choir (being  
negotiated!!!), plus the instrumental ensemble. Am searching for a  
good poetry presentation—any takers ???

The instrumental ensemble has a base of maybe seven violins,  
piano, percussion etc. .... This year it will be presenting a selection  
from the musicals Harry Potter and the Wizard of Oz.

If anyone, including Josephite lay staff,  
would like to be part of that ensemble, then you are welcome  
provided you let me know in time,  
so that a score can be sent to you.

*Marie Therese Levey rsj*

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



God, source of creation and love,  
you invite each of us to serve you through  
the gift of our life.

Through the intercession and example of  
St Mary of the Cross  
may your grace encourage young women  
to serve the Church  
as Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*St Joseph, pray with us  
St Mary of the Cross, pray with us*