



Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

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NEWSLETTER • March 2014

Dear Josephite Associates,

Welcome to 2014! Every grace and blessing to you this year. We remember in particular those listed on our sick list and the recently deceased. We have been personally touched at this time with the death of Lillian Stansell, who worked closely with Sister Clare Noonan rsj and the Associates as they journeyed towards self-governance. Two other recent Associate deaths: Marge Buckley from Bangalow (aged 97 years and 11 months), who died on Australia Day, and Marjorie McGee, Prayer Member from Berry (aged 93), who greatly supported the Sisters in days gone by.

The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart have been blessed in 2013 with the fusion of the Federation Sisters in Tasmania, Goulburn, New Zealand, and are awaiting the fusion of the Perthville Federation Sisters in 2014.

There were great celebrations in the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel on 24th January 2014, as several Sisters of St Joseph from New South Wales celebrated their anniversaries of profession as Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart: twenty five years professed (1 Sister); fifty years professed (12 Sisters); sixty years professed (11 Sisters); seventy years professed (5 Sisters); seventy five years professed (1 Sister); eighty years professed (1 Sister).

In March this year we welcome the new Congregational and Regional Leadership Teams of the Sisters of St Joseph. We congratulate the outgoing teams and thank them for their support and guidance over the past six years. We especially thank Sr Mary Quinlan rsj (liaison Sister), who has been a tower of strength in our move to self-governance and has always given of her time generously whatever our needs. Thank you Sr Mary. We look forward to working with our new Leadership Teams as we respond to the call to live the charism of Mary MacKillop in our daily lives in our own unique way.

I recently had the privilege of meeting a Josephite Associate who uses her God-given skills in Pastoral Care at the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel, North Sydney. Zulma came to Australia in her early twenties as a migrant, and through the care of the Sisters of Charity at St Vincent's Hospital Darlinghurst, Sydney, was given the opportunity to train as a nurse. The skills of care and compassion that Zulma learnt as a nurse are now used in her retirement as she gives of her time as a Josephite Associate Volunteer in the Chapel, usually on a Saturday.

This dedicated work carried out daily 9a.m. – 4p.m. by the Sisters of St Joseph and volunteer lay persons assists many sick or troubled people, of any age, race, colour or creed. Visitors to the Chapel feel confident in sharing their life concerns with a Sister of St Joseph or volunteer worker. They seek the intercession of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop as they request prayers for their loved ones, or for themselves. A visiting priest from California commented that 'this labour of love should be available in every Church'.

This example of Josephite service reminds us all that each

of us has been given unique skills. As Josephite Associates we too can once more open our eyes to the urgent needs around us and respond in the spirit of Mary and Julian, as we endeavour to live our life following in the footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Our goal as Josephite Associates is to ensure that we continue to use our God-given gifts in Friendship, Prayer and Service. 'Listen to the whisperings of God in our hearts' (1868).

A Sister of St Joseph shared the following prayer with us at the office in Croydon:

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

We pray to God through you
When I am lonely bless me with love
When I am sad bless me with joy
When I am discouraged bless me with hope
When my spirit is empty bless me with beauty
When I am troubled bless me with peace. Amen

Leonie Bell JA President

Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc Governance Group

President: Leonie Bell

Vice President: Beverley Badcock

Treasurer: Eileen Stevenson

Secretary: Maureen Rayner

North Coast Representative: Jan Lang

South Coast Representative: Carol Badewitz

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



"It is in love that God leads me,
by love that God reproves me,
by love that God lets me see love in all"

1873

Celebrating the centenary of the blessing and opening of the Mary MacKillop chapel

Sunday 19th January 2014

At 10 am on Sunday 18th January 1914 Archbishop Michael Kelly blessed and opened this Chapel.

Just 12 months earlier on 12th January 1913 he had laid and blessed the foundation stone on this empty site. The Freeman's Journal reported that the 'blessing of a foundation stone of a memorial Church to Mother Mary of the Cross' would 'hold a golden page in the Annals of the Catholic Church in Australia'.

On the empty site that day the Archbishop expressed how happy he was that here would stand a splendid memorial to Mother Mary of the Cross whom he called 'that brave woman and great servant of God' and 'the great benefactress of Australia'. His reason – 'She saw the needs of the Australian children' and 'wherever she was called upon by a Bishop or priest she sent out her Sisters boldly'.

At the blessing of the Foundation stone Archbishop Kelly noted that the Sisters had no one special to call on for the funds. The Chapel was likely to cost £6000. The Sisters had £3000 in hand. In his appeal that day the Archbishop said, 'We will be doing a great work in doing honour to a great Australian and in paying tribute to a sound system of education upon which Australia had to depend.' The Archbishop opened a subscription list with £1000, £100 of which was donated by himself, and said that the Chapel was to be opened free of debt.

The vault which would hold the remains of Mary MacKillop in the Chapel was being donated by her old friend Mrs Barr-Smith of Adelaide.

Only 11 months later the Chapel was near to completion thanks, as the Freeman's Journal reported, to 'willing hands from the far west of WA to the storm swept course of the Bluff, NZ' and all those generous benefactors of a hundred years ago.

The Sisters noted in the Garland of St Joseph in March 1914 that though 'not quite ready' the first Mass was celebrated in the Chapel on the 8th December 1913, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and though 'not quite ready' the 1913 Christmas midnight Mass was celebrated in the Chapel. The Sisters delighted in saying that by the 18th January the Chapel 'was quite ready' for the blessing and opening – and it was free of debt!

As I said earlier, that blessing was at 10 am and was followed by High Mass with the Archbishop, Bishop Dunne of Wilcannia, and several priests including four Jesuits – among them Mary's brother Donald.

In his long homily during the Mass the Archbishop asked, 'Who was she in whose memory the Chapel was built?' He answered his own question, saying that she was a 'vessel to carry the name of Christ' among the people, 'a Sister of St Joseph in her poverty, her humility and her charity'.

'God bless the Sisters of St Joseph. May this Church which

will soon contain the mortal remains of their Foundress be a rallying point for all the Sisters of St Joseph for God does not want divisions.'

One hundred years later the Chapel is a place of pilgrimage for all who come to seek God in the company of the woman in whose honour it was built – now our St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. It is a rallying point now not just for the Sisters of St Joseph but for so many people, particularly for women, men and children gifted with our Catholic tradition.

In this Eucharist as we celebrate the centenary of the blessing and opening of the Chapel we give thanks for all those who have continued to support the Sisters of St Joseph and their work for poorer people in our world.

We give thanks too for all of you who, like St Mary MacKillop, live your lives as 'vessels of Christ' among the people.

*Sr Anne Derwin rsj (Congregational Leader 2008-2013)
(used with permission)*

Acolyte program

– Bedois Parish, Timor Leste

Josephite Associates in Bedois, Timor Leste, work to prepare acolytes for ministry in the church. Acolytes old and new attended a gathering in Bedois Parish, staying four nights in tents in the parish grounds. The tents were erected by the trainers before the gathering.

The acolytes were divided into twelve groups and one leader and one co-ordinator was chosen to supervise the members in each tent. The training centred around helping acolytes to understand what they needed to learn from the handbook.

After much discussion we realised the many difficulties encountered for the success of this program; these included sufficient finance to cover food for four days, medical treatment (First Aid), and sanitation. Materials needed for the activities included microphones, whiteboard and markers and a flip chart for recording ideas. These materials were essential so that participants could present their ideas in an interesting way not just by talking.

Some parents assist with financial support while others are unable to help as they have no paid work. The financial support this year from parents was \$280; this money was used for our activities, food, water and other materials for the four days.

To conclude, our gathering Mass was celebrated and all the resources for the Mass were prepared by the Josephite Associates who are responsible for training the acolytes.

Apart from training the acolytes, the Josephite Associates also buy and deliver food parcels to the poor people in the villages of Daralau and Ailok. To do this they walk to the villages, which takes them about two hours.

Thank you for your continued prayer and support.

*Josephite Associates:
Getrudes, Fernanda, Mrs Teresa, Roeda and Cerilio
Serviam Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (used with permission)*

NEWSLETTER IN COLOUR BY EMAIL

Do you receive your Newsletter by mail?

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by email in colour?***

If the answer is YES, please email us your request at
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A heart of compassion

The words spoken by our new Pope tell constantly of God's love. The actions of this Pope as he encounters people of our time are those of a man who has put on the heart and mind of Christ Jesus.

In the hundreds of letters of St Mary MacKillop we read words telling also of a God of immense love. We know that in her lifetime she lived for others as a woman who had put on the heart and mind of Christ Jesus.

In the words each of us in our day speaks we too can tell of a God who is love. As we go about our daily lives our actions too can be of those of one who has put on the heart and mind of Christ Jesus.

Mary MacKillop found love in the heart of Christ, that heart described in our Catholic tradition as the Sacred Heart. She lived her life with the heart of Jesus – a heart of compassion and a heart full of trust. She lived with a heart of forgiveness and a heart that knew the hospitality of God. She lived with a heart for the mission of God and a heart that was open. She lived with a courageous heart.

Each of us endeavours in our own time to live, like St Mary, with this heart of Christ. We live in a world crying out for what such hearts can offer. In whatever country we live in we see suffering people, people crying out for the heart of a Pope Francis, the heart of a Mary MacKillop, the heart of each of us.

In Australia, the land of her birth, a compassionate heart is needed more than ever at the moment. Our government policy is now turning away some of the most desperate little families in the world. Instead, our neighbouring countries, already so far below Australia on the scale of economic development and affluence, are being asked to welcome and care for them. Not quite what the Gospel demands of us.

As Pope Francis pleaded when recently visiting the Italian island of Lampedusa where hundreds had drowned while trying to seek refuge in Italy:

Has anyone of us wept because of this situation and others like it? Has anyone one of us grieved for the death of these brothers and sisters? Has anyone one of us wept for these persons who were on the boat? For the young mothers carrying their babies? For these men who were looking for a means of supporting their families? We are a society which has forgotten how to weep, how to experience compassion – 'suffering with' others: the globalisation of indifference has taken from us the ability to weep! Has anyone wept? Today has anyone wept in our world?

Mary MacKillop would have wept. She did weep for the desperate little families of the nineteenth century colonies. Let us, ask her to pray with us for this nation Australia as we pray for a change of heart so that desperate little families of the world will find welcome and refuge in the land of abundance.

*Sister Anne Derwin rsj (Congregational Leader 2008-2013)
Extract from sosj enews used with permission*

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in March, April, May and June 2014

JJAMM Experience 2013

The JJAMM Experience (Joseph, Julian Tenison Woods and Mary MacKillop) was established in 2004 for student leaders in schools sharing the spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, the co-founders of the Sisters of St Joseph.

JJAMM has become synonymous with community, celebration of identity and the charism of Mary MacKillop.

Schools who are involved in JJAMM include schools who embraced the Josephite charism in the past, share in it in the present, or are committed to it for their future. These schools have the mission and vision of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph in the vision and mission of their school.

The JJAMM experience helps the student leaders and the community to:

- identify with the broader Josephite community and the core values of the Josephite tradition and help build this within their school
- explore the nature of leadership in a Josephite context within their school
- assist young people in coming to recognise Mary MacKillop as a role model for living the Gospel for themselves and others
- develop their responsibility for representing the legacy of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph.

In embracing leadership in the spirit of Joseph, Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, the JJAMM participants share a common bond.

Extract from sosj enews (used with permission)

Would you like to help?

A request for financial assistance has been received from the Fairfield Josephite Associates who make rosary beads for distribution in East Timor.

This dedicated group of Associates are unable to gather for meetings due to ill health or family commitments, and they complete the task of making rosary beads in their own homes.

Support for this project requires about \$2000 each year to buy the necessary supplies. Since the move to self-governance a suggestion has been made that the Josephite Associates could finance this valuable work.

Associate Groups may like to assist with this project by having a collection at the meeting (this is already happening in some groups who support the Ministries of the Sisters of St Joseph). Any funds raised would be forwarded to the Josephite Associates office at Croydon. These funds would be used to purchase the beads and other equipment necessary for the project. The rosary makers at Fairfield would then be able to continue with their wonderful work, which they feel is their contribution as dedicated Josephite Associates.

Newsletter Editorial

Editor: Christine Sivewright
Members: Beverley Badcock, Leonie Bell,
Design and Print: Paul McMahon

Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods

Mary MacKillop first met Father Woods when she was a governess at her uncle Alexander Cameron's Penola Station in 1860-1861. Mary was 18 at the time. Father Julian had not long been ordained and had been sent to Penola Parish in 1857; he was 28. His parish extended to 22,000 square miles. Father Woods remained Spiritual Director, friend and confidant to Mary for many years.

In 1862 Mary renewed her acquaintance in Portland where she was again governessing another cousin's children. In the booklet, *Mary and Julian – Their Letters*, there is a collection of twenty six of their letters, mainly those of Father Woods from the period 24th April, 1862 – 5th October, 1868.

These letters reveal Father Woods as a caring, concerned and witty friend, who was familiar with Mary's family, their worries and joys. During these early years he became her confidant and spiritual director as she discerned where God might be calling her. Father Woods travelled much because of the extent of his parish. He was also very interested in his botany and geology and wrote several books on these subjects.

The story of Father Woods' gradual estrangement from Mary came to a head when she returned from Rome with the Rule. Rome had deemed it more prudent for the Sisters to own some property in case they were ever in the situation of being expelled from their Convents in the future. This change in the strict poverty of the Original Rule caused a permanent alienation. Over the years Mary tried very hard to reconcile them, even travelling for several days to visit him in Penola, but he would not see her.



When he became bedridden during his last months, he was nursed by a group of pious ladies led by Gertrude Abbott – the former Sister Ignatius O'Brien. Mary was permitted to visit him occasionally. She would bring him strawberries. Mary was too late to be beside him when he died, but she gathered a small posy of violets, which she placed on his pillow and which have been preserved. (These were displayed at the Exhibition of the Naturalist in the Temporary Exhibition Space at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney). Mary also sent the flowers from his coffin to the early companions living in Adelaide.

Mary wrote a biography of Father Woods which showed her forgiving heart and respect for him as Father Founder. Mary never forgot his birthday nor, after his death, his anniversary. Mary always taught the Sisters that he was Father Founder and continued writing to him throughout her life, but she never received a reply for the next fifteen years of his life. When he died she wrote to the Sisters, His name will be held in affectionate remembrance. A Soul in stature, but a child in heart. God was his science, God's love all his art. (*Life of a Founder*, p. 40).

Mary's final paragraph in the biography reads, There on the hillside, overlooking the Pacific, which washes far below the rocky cemetery, and murmurs a perpetual requiem in its own soul-stirring music, the mortal remains of Father J E Tenison Woods await the Resurrection. May he rest in peace.

Thoughts from the Kincumber Retreat October 2013
– Sister Monica Cavanagh rsj (Congregational Leader 2014)

My best homily! (If I do say so myself.....)

I suspect that one of my best sermons was given many years ago, not in a Church, but in a kitchen of a Victorian farmhouse in the context of an ordinary conversation. Let me share it with you.

One day when I was on parish visitation, I called in on a family to find the mother busy bathing and attending to her new-born daughter on a kitchen table. Clearly flustered, she invited me into a situation where my presence could only be a hindrance.

Sensing her embarrassment and yet noting that she did not want me to leave without some chance for a word or two together, I suggested that I might adjourn to another room and quietly say my breviary, my prescribed priestly prayers, while she completed her motherly work.

So it was that I went off to pray! Eventually the lady knocked on the door and invited me to come through. As I did I noticed her husband had returned and where the baby had been now there was a nice table cloth topped with an array of tempting goodies all set up for afternoon tea.

As we began to talk, her first comment concerned my taking time out to be with the Lord and pray and with a note of envy and regret she spoke of how she longed for the chance to spend similar time with the Lord. Sadly her life as wife and mother of six young children just seemed to be too busy for this to happen.

I clearly recall feeling an impulse from the Spirit and while I

sympathised with her desire to find time and space to be quiet and recuperate, I felt that I had to gently object to her implication that this was the only way she could be prayerfully with the Lord.

Quietly I set out to correct what was at least the beginning of a dangerous heresy.

I tried to explain briefly that while I had been trying to relate to the Lord by fulfilling my duty of reading a series of prayers from the Breviary, she had been in a parallel situation.

As she responded to the duties of her vocation as mother, she too could relate to the Lord through her contact with her daughter.

I ended up saying that we each had our own breviary or way of praying and that while they took us along different paths, we could not say that one way was better than the other, they were just different. The words of my prayer book, and the physical presence of her baby, could each equally be an opportunity and an obstacle for communing with the Lord.

Somehow my hesitant words struck home and helped this woman come to a new and life-giving realisation. Subsequently whenever our paths crossed I could ask her how she was getting on with 'her breviary' and without a flinch she would respond with a knowing smile and usually an affirming nod.

What happened that afternoon, now long ago, was one of the most satisfying moments in my life as a priest and it made me

Reflections on the life of John Knight

Volunteer at Mary MacKillop Place

I first met John when he came for an interview to be part of our Volunteer program at Mary MacKillop Place. I noted his gentlemanly manner, his varied and interesting past, and his knowledge and love of Mary MacKillop...a perfect fit for the Place.

John excelled in communicating and engaging with the many guests and pilgrims who came to pray at the Tomb of St. Mary MacKillop. John acted on his great gift of picking up on family or individual suffering and would sit in the coffee shop listening compassionately to their stories. Most of them left having found a new friend and a feeling of their burden lightened.

While John was in good health he guided groups through the Museum. Tourists enjoyed his beautiful "radio announcer's voice" as he shared the many stories of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Being a Jack of all Trades, John managed Front of House where he would meet and greet arriving guests. He managed the computerised till with professionalism and even at extra busy times served in the shop selling coffees and souvenirs. He also relieved the Pastoral Sisters at the back of the Chapel for their lunch time break.

John was a great story teller. During quieter moments he would share tales from his past. As a young lad he drove his uncles' truck full of cabbages from Bathurst to Paddy's Markets in the early hours each Monday morning. When the local Bathurst Constable picked him up one evening to undergo his Driver's Test, he took John up and down the main street and then requested he park the vehicle outside the station. The Constable gave him his Licence, and advised 'that whenever he drove at night in the future, it would be a good idea to switch on the car lights!' He also shared the story of how he challenged the local Bathurst Council about their Employment Advertisements which stated that 'Catholics need not

apply'.

John loved his nephews, Paul and Michael. He was so proud of their achievements and spoke of them often as though they were his own boys. He always looked forward to enjoying Sunday baked dinner with their families and sharing in their robust conversations.

One of John's other loves, apart from cricket and classical music, was the Catholic Club in Sydney. He introduced the place to us when we were searching for a venue to celebrate a Volunteer's significant Birthday. He proudly conducted a Grand Tour of the Club greeting all the staff by their name. It was quite evident by the return greetings that John was well known and respected. We used the Club for all our celebrations after that. Each time, as we lined up to order our food John would quietly slip money into my hand to pay for the Birthday person.

We would often tease John about his single state in life and would attempt to match him with lady friends/companions; however, he appeared very contented in his chosen world and after listening to our sharing the ups and downs of family life he would regularly proclaim he was pleased he had not married.

But, John did have two females in his life.... both by the name of Mary. He would often be found in the Chapel with his beads entwined through his fingers reciting the Rosary or sitting by Mary's Tomb having a silent chat with her.

We continued to keep in contact with John during his final time in the Nursing Home. He remained always interested in the activities and people attached to Mary MacKillop Place, particularly our families.

John, the gentleman, the compassionate man, a man of deep faith, a just and honest man and a dear friend. May he rest in peace.

*Robin Vaughan JA
Prayer Member*

My best homily! - continued

forever sensitive to the danger of separating our spiritual life from the nitty gritty day-to-day existence.

In that instance, for that busy mother, on that day, the special conduit through which she could relate to the Lord was her baby.

For others of us and at other times, it can be any of a host of possibilities. For the carpenter, it can be a piece of wood he is working on; for the carer, the patient she is looking after; for a teacher, the pupils stretched out before her.

Above all else know this: whoever you are, wherever you are, there is nothing in which God cannot be found.

Fr John Ryan – Sandhurst Diocese – used with permission

Requiescant in Pace

Marge Buckley (Mullumbimby Group);
Marie Crowe (Peakhurst Group);
Mary Durkin (Warialda Group);
Adene McInnes (Auburn Group);
Chris O'Brien (Monterey – Prayer Member);
Alice Poole (Roselands – Prayer Member);
Edward Smith (Horsley Park – Prayer Member);
Lillian Stansell (Belmore, North Sydney and Strathfield Groups);
Monica Stenner (South Lismore Group);
Maureen Timbs (Oak Flats – Prayer Member);
Patricia Weinert (Campsie Group);
Joan Whitty (Thirroul Group)
Marjorie McGee (Berry – Prayer Member)

Prayers for the Sick

Maureen Blood (Canberra);
Bob Cassidy (Penrith);
Sr Jan Cetta rsj;
Margaret Clapham (Warilla);
Clare Day (Oatley);
Jenny Falvey (Georges Hall);
Beverley Fitzgerald (Cooma);
Kieran Fitzpatrick (Menai);
Lou Fry (Blacktown);
Alma Halse (Canberra);
Helen Harnett (Peakhurst);
Daisy Keogh (Lidcombe);
Maria Kopjar (Menai);
Edna Lay (Prayer Member);
Pat McDonald (Peakhurst);
Noelene McNeil (Barraba);
Margaret Millar (Blacktown);
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);
Audrey Steinmetz (Belmont);
Rex Tulloch (Laurieton);
Anna Vincent (Bombala);
Gwen Witton (Penrith)

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



www.marymackillop.org.au

In the Footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop Australian Pilgrimage

22nd October – 1st November 2014

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

Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the
Josephite Mission in Peru

Please send to:

Boxes of Stamps
5 Alexandra Avenue
Croydon NSW 2132
Envelopes and packets to
Stamps, Locked Bag 3031
Burwood NSW 1805
Phone 02 8741 2334

Thank you for all stamps received.

Sister Helen Saunders reported the total raised through proceeds from the sale of stamps totalled \$18,000 in 2013. Well done to Helen Bache, cutters, sorters and Sister Helen Saunders for this magnificent result. 2013 results best ever.

The Aussie Camino Walk

People travel for many different reasons: for health, broadening the mind, relaxation, work and sport.

A pilgrimage has a different objective. It is journey with a religious purpose; to visit sacred places, often associated with a saint, where people can feel near to the saint either through relics or miraculous stories.

Australia is not a country that people associate with pilgrimage. For pilgrimage to become part of the Church's witness in a particular country one needs saints and a kindling of the desire to visit places associated with their lives.

In April, a group of teachers who work together at St Francis Xavier College, Beaconsfield, set out on a journey from Portland, Victoria, to Penola, South Australia, a pilgrimage we have called 'The Aussie Camino'.

The pilgrimage was inspired by the film *The Way*, starring Martin Sheen and his real life son Emilio Estevez. In the film, the son (Estevez) is killed in a freak storm the day before he was to begin el Camino de Santiago de Compostela (the Way of St James); the father (Sheen) undertakes the Camino in honour of his son.

The movie struck a chord with us. Why are there only Caminos in Europe and the Holy Land? Can we have one here now we have a saint of our own, St Mary MacKillop?

Where would it begin and end? Mary MacKillop was a traveller. Her work took her all over Australia and New Zealand. We decided it should be from Portland to Penola.

St Mary MacKillop travelled widely but her last teaching post as a lay teacher was in Portland. From here, she was called by her mentor and co-founder Priest Father Julian Tenison Woods back to Penola, where they had met a few years before.

Penola is widely accepted as the birth place of St Mary MacKillop's



order, the Sisters of St Joseph. A town with a population of only 1300, it is 383 kilometres from Adelaide and 412 kilometres from Melbourne.

Every day included eight hours of walking – an average of 31 kilometres – and each was long but spectacular, as it was planned to be both a spiritual and religious experience. It was important to have a Camino that recorded the places of Mary MacKillop but also appealed to people who have a sense of awe in creation.

We wanted to stay in the local hotel of each town. At the front bar of every small hotel in the country you can meet characters who are only too happy to share their stories. Whenever anyone asked if we were walkers, we said, 'No we're pilgrims. We are on a Camino.' Needless to say, we would be met with curious looks, but with a bit of humour and good spirit we were able to enter into lively discussions about what our journey was all about.

After 217 kilometres and seven days of walking, we were met in Penola by the director of the Mary MacKillop Museum. We convened for dinner with members of the Penola community at the Royal Oak Hotel which was once owned by Mary MacKillop's uncle.

We teachers do hope to do the Aussie Camino Walk in 2014.

Edited extract from sosj enews (used with permission)

Luke Mills, Kairos Catholic Journal, 22 August 2013

Photo courtesy of Luke Mills

Vale

We have started 2014 with the loss of a very special lady, Lillian Stansell, who has left us with the legacy of our Strathfield Group and many wonderful memories as our Convenor and Leader. Lillian left her mark on each of us individually and as a group. We will grow and benefit in the future remembering Lillian as our friend, our Josephite Associate and our hope in Heaven. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Strathfield Josephite Associates

Sister Angela Grant rsj received the news of the death of Mrs Marjorie McGee, Josephite Associate Prayer Member from Berry. Marjorie had always been one of the people who did everything for the Sisters of St Joseph in days gone by. At age 93 she died peacefully in a Nursing Home in Berry. Marjorie received the Newsletter by mail, therefore, no matter what age we may be 'once an Associate always an Associate'.

STAMPS PREPARATION FOR AUCTION - Regional office, Croydon

It is another day at the Regional Office, Croydon, where Brian, Joy and the writer come together for their twice-weekly meeting to process stamps for auction for Mary MacKillop International – Peruvian mission.

Stamps are received at this location from all around Australia and from various overseas countries by mail or are hand-delivered. There are occasions when people will personally deliver stamps to Croydon in large quantities. Added to this are the stamps that are picked up from dedicated groups who cut and sort stamps, such as Oatley and North Shore (sent to Oatley) after a phone call is made to the writer advising that it is time to make another stamp pick-up/collection. St. Joseph Aged Care, Hunters Hill, and Marian Court, Strathfield, deliver their cut stamps direct to the Regional Office.

There is one stamp supporter who has, to coin a phrase, cornered the market by placing ads in several newspapers requesting stamps for the Peruvian mission. The volume of stamps that John collects is delivered to Oatley, the central pick-up point. Needless to say, when there is a Josephite Associates' gathering, stamps are received from many Associate groups/individuals, not forgetting the Sisters' contribution also.

With all the stamps that are received, what does occur after they reach the Regional office? We are thankful to the Sisters of Saint Joseph for allowing us the use of a meeting room at Croydon where there is a very long table, which is a much-needed requirement to sort through the stamps.

Firstly, stamps are sorted into cut and uncut. The cut ones are then prepared for auction in box lots in categories of: under 60c; 60c; above 60c; world on and off paper; and Australian International. The uncut stamps are put into plastic bags where they can be called upon by Hunters Hill, Oatley, Marian Court, and North Shore groups or Sister Helen at Orange for their group to cut and sort them.

Not only do we receive stamps, but also stamp albums from many sources. These are specially prepared into their own boxes to go to auction.

In addition to receiving individual stamps, we receive stamp collections, first day covers and a wide range of philatelic material. These items are researched to ascertain their value and are individually lotted to gain the maximum price at auction. Then, we have our mystery box? This can be made up of several items: first day covers; unusual stamps; small bags of stamps off or on paper; etc. This box attracts a buyer who bids for it at auction as we endeavour to make the box interesting for the buyer to place a bid.

There are times when we may receive an influx of uncut stamps of reasonable quality which are boxed together, inclusive of all categories mentioned above. It usually attracts a buyer at auction because of the mixture of stamps in the box itself.

We may be required to cut and sort stamps that have been received at the Regional Office, depending on our priorities at the time.

Stamps are prepared for auction in box lots of about 4kg; each box holds approximately 20,000 stamps on paper or 50,000 off paper.

This is an overview of our work at the Regional Office, Croydon.

It is time, however, to say farewell, as we have to drive to Status International in the city to make a delivery of 26 boxes, sometimes more, for auction. We are in high spirits and trust that the buyers are as keen to bid at the auctions in 2014 as they

were in 2013. Although it is labour-intensive work, it is very rewarding to know that the monies raised are for the Peruvian mission, Mary MacKillop International.

Thank you to all who participate in this worthwhile cause.

One small request.

Would you please send stamps as follows:

- Envelopes and packets of stamps to:
Stamps, Locked Bag 3031, Burwood NSW 1805
- Boxes of stamps to:
5 Alexandra Ave., Croydon NSW 2132

Helen Bache, Josephite Associate NSW

The newsletter is now available
on the Web, at
www.sosj.org.au/news-events/list_newsletters.cfm

Words

- The most selfish one-letter word -- 'I' -- avoid it
- The most satisfying two-letter word -- 'WE' -- use it
- The most poisonous three-letter word -- 'EGO' -- overcome it
- The most used four-letter word -- 'LOVE' -- value it
- The most pleasing five-letter word -- 'SMILE' -- keep it
- The fastest spreading six-letter word -- 'RUMOUR' -- ignore it
- The hardest seven-letter word -- 'SUCCESS' -- achieve it
- The most envious eight-letter word -- 'JEALOUSY' -- distance yourself from it
- The most powerful nine-letter word -- 'KNOWLEDGE' -- acquire it
- The most valued ten-letter word -- 'FRIENDSHIP' -- maintain it

JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES (NSW) INC.

KINCUMBER RETREAT

17TH – 19TH OCTOBER 2014

Josephite Associates will experience input, sharing,
quiet time and reflection

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Facilitator: | Sister Mary Baker rsj |
| Eucharist: | To be advised |
| Cost: | \$220 |
| Venue: | St Joseph's Spirituality Centre 8 Humphreys Road, Kincumber South 2251 Phone: 02 4368 2805 |
| Arrival: | Friday afternoon from 4 p.m. |
| Departure: | Sunday afternoon after 2 p.m. |

**JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES WISHING TO ATTEND
MUST APPLY FOR AN APPLICATION FORM
BY PHONE TO THE JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES OFFICE
CROYDON**

PHONE: 02 9747 4199

OR EMAIL: associates@sosjnsw.org.au
OR BY MAIL P O BOX 184 CROYDON NSW 2132

Litany of Mary MacKillop

READER Create in us, O God, a new heart and renew a fresh spirit within us. Through the life and example of St Mary MacKillop stir into flame the gifts you have given to each of us and the faith to use them without reserve.

RESPONSE *In all that we celebrate, God is with us.*

READER As your followers, free us to move into the unknown and untried, as Mary MacKillop showed us, to see the opportunities of the new day, and to serve our present age with compassion, imagination and courage.

RESPONSE *In all that we celebrate, God is with us.*

READER Mary a woman of faith,
Mary, a woman of foresight,
Mary a woman of tolerance,
Mary a woman in love with God.

RESPONSE *In all that we celebrate, God is with us.*

READER Mary, your life made a difference,
Mary, you could recognise when the poor were being used and abused,
Mary, you pushed the boundaries wider than the structures,
Mary, you were prepared to live among those whom you served.

RESPONSE *In all that we celebrate, God is with us.*

READER Mary, a woman of vision,
Mary, a woman of inner strength,
Mary, a woman of prayer,
Mary, a woman who dared to be different.

RESPONSE *In all that we celebrate, God is with us.*

READER Mary, you worked for the dignity and equality of all people,
Mary, you challenged people beyond themselves,
Mary, an inspiration for all Australians,
Mary, you took Jesus to where the people were situated.

RESPONSE *In all that we celebrate, God is with us.*

READER Mary, a woman of her times,
Mary, a woman of hope,
Mary, a woman of determination,
Mary, a woman of integrity.

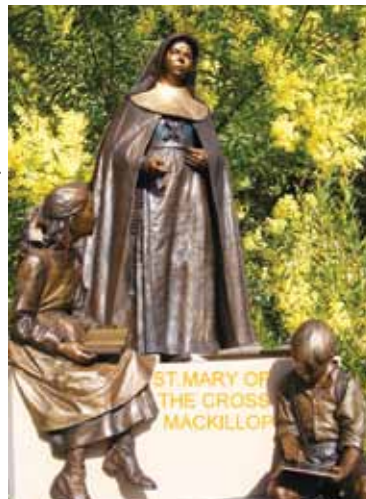
RESPONSE *In all that we celebrate, God is with us.*

READER Mary, you experienced the strains of family life,
Mary, you did not need bricks and mortar to know you belonged to the Church,
Mary, you spoke out in society when the opinion of women mattered little,
Mary, you never saw a need without doing something about it.

RESPONSE *In all that we celebrate, God is with us.*

READER Mary, a woman of dignity,
Mary, a woman with patience,
Mary, a woman of suffering,
Mary, a woman of compassion.

RESPONSE *Amen, Alleluia.*



A Prayer for the Later Years

All Gracious God, You have given me
all I am and have,
and now I give it back to You to stand
under Your will alone.
In a special way I give you these later
years of my life.

I am one of those called by You into
old age, a call not given to all,
not given to Jesus, not given to most
in our world today.
I humbly ask You, grace me deeply in
each aspect of that struggle.

As my physical eyesight weakens,
may the eyes of my faith strengthen,
that I may see You and Your Love in
everything.

As my hearing fails, may the ears of
my heart be more attentive
to the whisper of Your gentle voice.

As my legs weaken and walking
becomes difficult,
may I walk more truly in Your paths,
knowing all the while that I am held
in the embrace of Your Love.

As my mind becomes less alert and
memory fades,
may I remain peaceful in You,
aware that with You there is no need
for thought or word.

You ask simply that I be there, with
You.

And should sickness overtake me and
I be confined to bed,
may I know myself as one with your
Son
as he offers his life for the salvation of
the World.

Finally, as my heart slows a little after
the work of years,
may it expand in Love for You and all
people.

May it rest secure and grateful in Your
Loving Heart
until I am lost in You, completely and
forever. Amen.

*Prayer by Sr Moya Hanlen, fdnsc
(Australia)*