



Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

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NEWSLETTER • July 2014

Dear Josephite Associates,

How quickly the year is passing. We have enjoyed beautiful warm weather, a record for the month of May. Now the winter is with us, many will welcome the cooler nights and days. Thank you to all Josephite Associates who have forwarded their annual subscriptions, including many generous donations. Since the introduction of an annual contribution there has been no need to call upon the Sisters of St Joseph for financial support. Thanks also to the Sisters for the continued use of office facilities (underneath where the Sisters live at Croydon) and the friendship we enjoy working there on Monday and Tuesdays each week.

May the reflections on page eight be spiritually uplifting for all Josephite Associates. 'A Prayer for those who suffer' has been prepared by Maryann Paterson, Group Leader – Peakhurst. We thank Carol Badewitz, Group Leader – Bombala for the 'Woman's Creed' and the 'Transforming Ourselves' reflections. The 'Shared Reflection' is anonymous and is fitting for many of the needs of our world today.

Kath Evans (recipient of the second miracle) and Sister Patricia Egan rsj Lochinvar led a weekend retreat, 'Getting to know your Saint', at Kincumber in March 2014. Sr Mary Markham rsj, Beverley Badcock and I attended. To our surprise 95% of the participants were from the Ephpheta Centre for the Deaf at Punchbowl in Sydney. What a joy and a privilege to share this weekend with such a happy, friendly group. This hearing impaired group certainly know how to love and care for each other. I certainly came away from this weekend with deep gratitude to God for my hearing and well being. We are all imperfect in one way or another; when trials come our way, may we learn acceptance. A report on this weekend is included in this newsletter.

The Federation Sisters of St Joseph, Perthville NSW invited the governance group to attend the fusion ceremony with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in Bathurst on 3rd May 2014. The journey to Bathurst was eventful, with light snow falling as we approached – temperature minus one outside the car. Upon our arrival in Bathurst skies were clear and five hundred people – Sisters, family and friends – gathered in the Mary MacKillop Hall for this historic ceremony (for Associates who have a computer, the ceremony can be viewed on the sosj.org website). The address given by Sister Therese McGarry rsj during the fusion ceremony is included in this newsletter.

Before leaving Bathurst for our return to Sydney I asked Sister Jean Cain rsj to pray that we would have a safe trip. Sister certainly prayed – we were on the M4 in the middle lane and heavy traffic; an open top utility was in front of us, when a piece of timber with a metal edge flew off, scraped the bonnet of the car, hit the windscreen and continued on scraping the roof of the car. Our driver Eileen Stevenson, Treasurer, kept control of the car and we made it safely home. We thank God and St Mary of the Cross for our safe return.

Sister Mary Ellen O'Donoghue has been appointed as regional leader of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in New South Wales for a period of six years. We extend our congratulations to

Sister Mary Ellen and welcome Sister Monica Barlow rsj who has been appointed liaison Sister for the Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc.

At our first meeting with Sister Monica Barlow rsj we discussed the merger of the Federation Josephite Associates from Goulburn with Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc. This process is in the initial stages and more information will be forthcoming. I am sure all of you will welcome these Associates; please share any suggestions you have for forthcoming activities together.

As you continue to be of service to one another, may your faith be strengthened through your continued relationship with God:

Not only those in scripture are sent.

You also dispatch each one of us to be an eager messenger of your love.

'Go!' you say, 'Do not be afraid. I have imperative work for you to do.

Keep your mind's eye focused on me.

Bring my teachings of love into your life.'

Slowly we learn that what you desire is not worldly success but faithfulness,

Not ego elation but dedicated service.

Isaiah 6: 1-8 (Extract from *Fragments of your Ancient Name*, by Joyce Rupp)

May St Mary of the Cross pray with us during the winter season and particularly care for all our elderly Associates.

- 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:*



"Be patient and work generously
in the service of our Divine Lord"

3.3.1898

Celebrating 125 Years of Catholic Education in Bombala

In celebrating this occasion, we must pay tribute to the Sisters of St Joseph, who for over 100 years taught in our school.

The Order of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart was founded in 1866 by Mary MacKillop in Penola, a small town in South Australia.

Mary on two occasions visited Bombala – so we walk on Holy Ground.

One of the mottos of Mary MacKillop was: “Never see a need without trying to do something about it.”

Mary was canonised on 17th October 2010 as St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

In 1888, the Sisters arrived in Bombala to fulfill a need in education and give Religious Instruction to the Catholic children of this area. They came by boat to Tathra and were driven to Bombala by the late Mr Ed Brown of Bega, whose daughter was the wife of the postmaster of Delegate at the time. The first Sisters were Sister Stephanie, Sister-in-charge, and Sister Agatha.

The Sisters have contributed much to the education of pupils under their care. Many remember when St Joseph’s was a secondary school and went up to third year (equivalent to Year 10 now). A wonderful grounding of all basic subjects was taught, as well as drama, dancing, needle work, painting, music, elocution, Latin, French, shorthand, typing and book-keeping, all providing students with excellent social and work opportunities.

The Sisters brought with them their faith and love of God and bestowed on all a beautiful provoking awareness of God’s presence in all areas of life.

In more recent times the Sisters have been involved in the Pastoral Care of our Parish, assisting in the preparation of children for the Sacraments, visiting the elderly, the sick, the aged hostel, hospitals, both here and in Delegate, and wherever there is a need of their presence. We are so grateful for their presence then and now.

Our first Lay Principal at St Joseph’s Primary School was appointed in 1994.

Activities involved in our Catholic Education over these past one hundred years include Religious Education and preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. Our school provides Masses for the children, special occasion Liturgies and Graduation Masses. Sister Teresa Keane rsj is involved in the preparation of the children for the sacraments and is the Pastoral Sister in the parish.

All wonderful celebrations for the Parish of St Joseph’s, Bombala.

- Carol Badewitz JA, Group Leader Bombala

NEWSLETTER IN COLOUR BY EMAIL

Do you receive your Newsletter by mail?

Do you have an email address?

**Would you like to receive your Newsletter
by email in colour?**

If the answer is YES, please email us your request at
Associates@sosjnsw.org.au
and we will update our database and forward your
newsletter in future by email.

Dedication of Josephite Associates

We have come to realise that many of our Associates, especially the Prayer Members, have not had an opportunity to participate in a Dedication Ceremony. Group Members have been dedicated at regular intervals, although we are aware some may have missed out due to personal circumstances.

We have noticed at gatherings that many of the Associates do not have a badge and this has inspired us to offer a group dedication ceremony to be held at our Annual General Meeting on the 13th September 2014 at Marian Court, 18 Margaret Street, Strathfield. This venue is easily accessible by public transport, with street parking available without restrictions.

The dedication ceremony is an opportunity to formalise your commitment to live the Charism of Mary MacKillop and become a member of the Josephite Associates. The ritual will focus on prayer together and the presentation of the Associate Badge and Certificate. Josephite Associates receive a badge to wear as an external symbol of the commitment they have made.

The Josephite Associates’ Badge incorporates elements of the Sisters’ emblem...the Cross, the monogram of Mary, the Js for Joseph and John the Baptist, the water symbolic of Christian Baptism and the Candle for the Risen Christ, light of the world.

Undedicated members must submit their name to the office so a dedication package can be prepared, even if you are unable to be present at the AGM. All the Associates eligible for dedication will be included in the ceremony and will receive a dedication package by mail to their home address. This gives our country members the opportunity to be included in our AGM.

Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 13th September 2014

An opportunity to pray, renew friendships and share lunch.

Venue:

Marian Court, 18 Margaret Street, Strathfield
(no parking in the grounds,
unlimited street parking available)

Morning Tea:

10 am – 10.30 am

Dedication Ceremony

(refer to the article in this Newsletter)

Guest Speaker: Sister Margaret Ng rsj

Lunch: 12 Noon

Financial Report: 1.30 pm

Lucky Door Prize: 2pm

Josephite associate members please confirm your
attendance no later than
Friday August 22nd 2014
RSVP to the Josephite Associates office
by phone 02 9747 4199
or email associates@sosjnsw.org.au
or by mail PO box 184 Croydon NSW 2132

Mary MacKillop International – Teacher Training Program



On 21st October 2013, volunteer teachers from the Atabae sub-district attended a week long teacher training workshop run by Mary MacKillop International (MMI) in Dili, East Timor. José Maubuti (40 years of age) is one such teacher, who travelled by motorbike and then by bus along the bumpy road from Atabae to Dili.

José and his colleagues in Atabae are just some of the hundreds of Timorese teachers who have benefited from MMI's Teacher



Atabae Kindergarten

Training Program. Like José, many teachers in East Timor are volunteers and often have not been educated beyond a high school level. Therefore, the workshops are crucial, as they not only train teachers how to use the Tetun literacy resources produced by Mary MacKillop International, but also provide teachers with basic skills in lesson planning, classroom management and assessment.

During one session, José spoke with Agostina Boavida Ximenes, one of MMI's team of six Timorese staff members who conduct the training workshops. Below is an excerpt from the interview written by Agostina.

"The condition of the school in Atabae is very bad. There is only one permanent building, which has three rooms that are used for 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. Because there were only three permanent rooms, the students' families helped to build a traditional house made from palm leaves, which was divided into three rooms and are now used for 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade students.

The school does not have enough chairs, tables, storybooks and manuals for students and teachers. The school had a toilet for students, but it soon broke and the school did not have the funds to have it fixed.

The total number of students who are studying at the Atabae school is 166, with 30 to 35 students in each room. The students live far away from the school and there is no transport available. They must walk on foot to school every day and some walk for over 5 km.

Some students no longer go to school because they cannot afford fees, the walk is too far or they have no money for uniforms.

Most of the students' families work in agriculture and so, when the students finish school they have to go to help their family with the farming. Students eat rice and corn every day in the Atabae sub-district.

In the district sometimes one family has eight to ten family members, including students themselves. There is no television,

radio or computers so it is hard for students to access information outside school.

When he teaches the students, José uses the Tetun story books provided by MMI during the training workshops. First, he reads the story with children. He then lets the students write something about the story that they have read to make sure they understand.

José hopes that in the future, NGOs like MMI can continue to provide resources to improve the quality of education at the school."

Unfortunately, the conditions described above are not uncommon for Timorese schools, particularly those in remote areas. Mary MacKillop International aims to improve the quality of education by providing teachers with the tools, confidence and resources to create high quality literacy lessons.

If you would like more information about the work of Mary MacKillop International in East Timor, please visit our website at www.mmi.org.au or call us on (02) 9840 9000.

Sophie Jenkins, MMI Fundraising & Events Officer

Excerpt taken from article written by Agostina Boavida Ximenes, October 2013

Thank you

The Fairfield Associates and East Timorese Rosary Makers Group would like to thank the Oatley Associates for their donation of unused rosary bead stock which was delivered to them in early March. This dedicated group of rosary bead makers for the people of Timor Leste was full of smiles and appreciation for the unexpected gift, a most rewarding experience for the writer to witness their happiness.

- Helen Bache JA

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in July, August, September and October 2014

Newsletter Editorial

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

A little bit about us!

For us Josephite Associates in Lawson, getting together is a time of peace, comfort and friendship.

In 2013 we gathered once a term at the Convent of St Joseph, 332 Great Western Highway, Lawson, the home of Sisters Anna Trinca rsj and Maureen O'Halloran rsj. This year we endeavour to get together at least twice a term. Always beginning with a lighted candle and always concluding with a cuppa and cake. The Sisters always have something yummy prepared and sometimes others bring along treats that are also happily consumed.

Our gatherings usually start with a quick raffle for a little fun (how Catholic of us, lol) and a quick retake on what is presented in the most current Josephite Associates Newsletter. We then address our own criteria. This includes our own outreach programme. Sounds very impressive but rather we keep our acts of charity very simple.

We hold a cake stall once a quarter after a designated Sunday Mass and raise money for needy families in our parish. We agree that the money raised is very like the "loaves and fishes story" but renamed "Lawson cakes and slices story". Always raising so much more money than what is for sale as we are blessed with a very generous community.

Our other form of outreach is to collect medical aids for our East Timorese neighbours. People leave items in a basket placed at the back of our church. In particular we give second-hand glasses to Bob from OPSM, Katoomba, who restores them and sends them off to East Timor. (What a great guy.) So far we have collected about 30 pairs.

Moving on we discuss our outings. Last year we visited Mary MacKillop Place. We were 22 bundled up in an old school bus (kindly offered to us by St Columba's in Springwood) and kindly driven by a lovely parish volunteer. Thanks so much Len; you may have secured a permanent spot as driver. This year we would like to visit the Perthville Convent. The Perthville Josephites have a request at Rome at present and hope to be fused with the Central Josephites, so this will be exciting, not only for the Associates but for our Sisters to visit a new "old" convent.

Our Reflection is held at the end of our meeting and it is a time when we share our stories, listen to music, pray and chat some more. Last year we worked through the series of reflections entitled, "Life is a Journey" lovingly put together by Helen Cooke rsj. We also read extracts from the book, "The Black Dress" by Pamela Freeman, which deepened our understanding of Mary's life. Often we discovered that we could always find a way of relating the challenges Mary faced in her life to our own everyday lives and finding comfort in that.

At the very beginning of our reflection, we randomly choose a quote from a collection of Mary MacKillop quotes, not knowing what it is until we turn our card over. We reflect on it, sometimes discuss it and its relevance in our lives and at the end we use it to help us write our own personal petitions.

We pray over our petitions and at the end we enclose them in our own individual envelopes and they are kept under the safe guard of the sisters. They pray over them during their prayer time when we are not there. On our return we privately reread our petitions, sometimes we add to them, sometimes we write different ones but all the time we are comforted knowing that our thoughts and longings are unleashed to God within the strength and support of our little community. We rarely share what we have written and it doesn't matter.

Getting together as Josephite Associates is a wonderful fellowship. It is a time of peace, comfort and friendship. It is a time when Sr Anna or Sr Maureen will intervene with their stories and experiences and we are all ears.

Lorraine Phillips JA
Mid Mountains Group (Lawson)



Left to right: Wendy Starkey, Moira Sattler and Val Noonan pictured at our parish combined Christmas Lunch at the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls, December 2013.

News from Mullumbimby/Bangalow/ Byron Bay Josephite Associates

While reading the back page of the latest Mary MacKillop International Newsletter, I was surprised and delighted to read the story of a young man named Clint who is currently fundraising for teacher training in East Timor, by participating in a fun run in Canberra. Clint is hoping to raise \$3,000.

When asked how he became interested in the Josephite Mission in East Timor, Clint said he first heard about this from some 'Sisters of St Joseph', who were conducting a street stall in Bangalow to raise funds for East Timor. They gave Clint some information about East Timor to read and he has been interested ever since.

Josephite Associates were conducting the street stall and Clint did not know we were not religious sisters. I was the 'Sister' Clint spoke with and I had gathered a few of the old East Timor Newsletters and put them in a folder to take to the stall for just such an occasion. Clint enjoyed a cup of coffee, read the information about East Timor, then came back with a \$10 donation, apologising that he did not have much money to give. Clint was keen to know that the money raised was being used for what he intended and thanked us for the information. We assured him that his donation was very much appreciated and that every dollar we made was a bonus and would help to make a difference in the life of someone in East Timor.

I have photocopied the article from the Mary MacKillop International Newsletter to share with everyone at our Josephite Associates meeting this afternoon. When I read the article I immediately emailed the girls to tell them, saying that sometimes we can wonder if what we do is really making a difference and we know the money we make is important, but that on this occasion, our mere presence in the street in Bangalow on that day, has made a lasting impression on the life of this young man.

Our East Timorese Street Stall held in Bangalow on 9th May raised \$1,893. Last year we raised \$1,674. We had unexpectedly received a huge bag of knitted craft containing children's jumpers, scarves, baby blankets, bed socks, beanies etc. These were donated by an elderly lady who loves to keep busy by knitting and wishes her work to be sold for charity. One of our Associates knitted beautiful toys, which proved very popular, and we received donations from parishioners as well. The Associates donate grocery items, which are packed into three hampers for first, second and third prizes. For the past two years the first prize has included a \$50 wish card donated by some of the Associates. The raffle this year raised \$502. We are grateful to all for their wonderful support.

Jan Lang JA
Group Leader, Mullumbimby

The Weaving Together of Dreams

At the fusion of the Sisters of St Joseph Perthville with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart on 3rd May 2014, I welcomed Bishop McKenna and Priests of the Bathurst Diocese, Sisters of St Joseph gathered from across Australia and New Zealand, Sisters and Priests from other Congregations, Associates, Ex-students, Former Sisters, family and friends. Also our Sisters in Ireland, Scotland, Peru, NZ, le Puy in France and all around Australia who joined this celebration through the live web stream.

In the late 19th Century, here in Australia, Mary MacKillop and Julian Woods shared a dream born of God, and they brought that dream to reality in the founding of the Sisters of St Joseph – a Religious Congregation uniquely suited to Australian conditions.

Saint Joseph, the man to whom God spoke in dreams, was to be the inspiration and patron for all who would follow their dream. Bishop Matthew Quinn, the first Bishop of Bathurst, saw that his dream for this diocese could be assisted by the presence of Mary and Julian's daughters and so he invited the Sisters to his far-flung diocese, which at that time stretched to the Queensland, South Australian and Victorian borders. Today we celebrate the weaving together of all these dreams, and our present dreams, as the Sisters of St Joseph Perthville celebrate becoming one with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, as we were in the beginning of the Josephite story. What a wonderful and intricate pattern God makes in the weaving together of our dreams!

It was almost 142 years ago that Mary MacKillop and Julian Woods sent, from Adelaide, three sisters and an aspirant to make the first foundation of Sisters of St Joseph in NSW at Perthville. For three and a half years, the founding sisters, the sisters who joined them from Adelaide and the local girls who entered the Convent here, were supported by letters from both Mary and Julian and with two visits by Mary MacKillop, as the Sisters prayed, taught school and built up a community here and in the surrounding area. Then three and a half years later, in early 1876, with the intervention of Bishop Matthew Quinn, Perthville separated from the original Adelaide group of Sisters of St Joseph and, led by Sister Hyacinth, the little group of two professed Sisters, one novice and eleven postulants became a Diocesan Congregation. At the Bishop's request, Father Julian Woods in the following years visited the Sisters, gave

them retreats, and rewrote the rule in keeping with their Diocesan status.

From Perthville, other Diocesan groups were founded in New Zealand, Goulburn, Lochinvar, Tasmania and Victoria. In 1967 the five Diocesan Josephite Congregations, seeking greater solidarity and unity, became the Australian-New Zealand Federation of Sisters of St Joseph. Now, after careful discernment, Perthville becomes the fourth of these Federation Congregations to be united with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. The story of separation and gradual reunion is, then, one that spans 138 years.

With dedication and generosity, the Perthville Sisters have taken the message of the gospel to the corners of this Diocese and also to PNG and ministries in Sydney and the Kimberley. Responding to the directives of the Second Vatican Council the Sisters revised the Rule, updated their customs and dress, expanded their ministries beyond the classroom through a preferential option for the poor and earnestly sought to return to the original charism of our founders. All this brought us into ever closer association with both the Federation and Central Josephite Sisters.

Over many years, we have all steadily re-ignited our connections through the sharing of our founding stories, retreats, pilgrimages, publications, ministries, gatherings and endeavours of many kinds. In particular our passion for God's mission in the spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods has drawn us all closer. The canonisation in 2010 of our co-foundress, Mary MacKillop, was a rich, inclusive experience of being Sisters of St Joseph together and became another catalyst to greater unity.

With fewer active Sisters living in the community and ministering among the people, it became clear to many of the Perthville Sisters that we needed to make some real decisions for the future. At the beginning of 2012 we entered into prayerful discernment regarding our Josephite future, culminating in the collegial decision of our Extraordinary Chapter in July last year to seek to fuse or merge with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. It took the Vatican a long time to answer our request. However, the Decree authorising our fusion was signed on 19th March this year. We have been truly gratified by the generous welcome and ready acceptance afforded us by the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Our fusion in no way denigrates the 138 years of the Perthville Josephites as a Diocesan Congregation. Being and living as a Diocesan Congregation, was all part of God's plan for the Sisters, for the good of the Church and the people of this region. Today though, we respond to the needs of these times, consistent with directives of the Church in *Perfectae Caritatis*, which favours fusion (or union) for small Congregations in order to perpetuate their spiritual gift and contribution to the life and holiness of the Church.

We have much in common with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. We were all one in the beginning. We have the same Co-Founders. We have a shared history, charism and purpose. As an expression of our way of life, our two Constitutions express a similar spirituality and mission. Today as Josephite Sisters we will renew our commitment to God in our service of God's people, as we renew our vows together during this Mass.

Through our fusion, the Perthville Congregation becomes one with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. We take on a new identity. We believe that the strong desire for Josephite unity, expressed by the Perthville Sisters and so many Josephite Sisters, is a movement born of the Spirit in this time of our history. Our Perthville Josephite history and story will always be a vital part of the Bathurst Diocese. Our fusion will not change this as the Sisters will continue predominately to live and minister within the Bathurst Diocese. Our fusion with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart is a mutual sharing of our gifts, charism and mission; a respect for unity in diversity; a Weaving of Dreams.

Today the Perthville Sisters pay tribute to and honour the close and rich relationship we experience with our families and with the parishioners, the Priests and the Religious within this Diocese. Our amazing connection of friendship, shared vision, dreams, sorrows, joys, failures and achievements, are an integral part of our Perthville Josephite story and we are delighted that so many of you are here to share this day with us. We are grateful also for the love and support of our Josephite Sisters. Let us pray as we celebrate Eucharist that all of us may continue to journey in love and joy together into the future, weaving new dreams for God and God's people.

Sister Therese McGarry's address at the fusion celebration Bathurst 3rd May 2014

Getting to Know Your Saint

After a week of steady rain in the city we travelled to Kincumber hoping for pleasant autumn weather on the last weekend in March. During the day we experienced plenty of sunshine and didn't mind that it rained at night.

This weekend was presented by Mrs Kath Evans and Sister Patricia Egan, a Josephite sister from Lochinvar. We were welcomed on Thursday evening with a prayer and get to know the participants. What a great joy to welcome members of Ephpheta, the Catholic Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

Mrs Kath Evans gave us an outline of the lives of Mary MacKillop and her family from the time Alexander MacKillop arrived in Australia in 1838. Mary's mother Flora McDonald came to Australia in 1840 and Alexander helped the family settle in Melbourne. Alexander and Flora married 3 months later and the wedding ring was made from a gold coin.

Mary was born in 1842 and was baptised Maria Ellen MacKillop but was always called Mary. At the place where Mary was born there is a lemon tree and it is still there today. Kath related that Mary's mother would have used lemons from this tree.

Alexander was a good man but was not able to provide for his family financially. This resulted in the family losing their house and they relied on relatives at Darebin Creek. Mary's grandparents lived nearby and Mary was given a pet calf. Alexander gave the calf away, so Grandfather gave Mary money to get the calf back.

Mary didn't have the opportunity to go to school, as Catholic schools were very expensive. Alexander loved Flora and he loved his children. Alexander taught the children and this time with her father was very important for Mary. Mary learnt her Catholic religion and how to love God. The well-known saying "God will provide" was learnt from Mary's mother Flora.

From the age of 16 till Mary was 25, she provided for the financial needs of the family. Mary worked as a governess and a teacher in schools in Portland and Penola. Mary endured many hardships early in life and this is what made her strong for the future.

Father Julian Tension Woods had a strong influence on Mary and together they realised that the children were receiving no education either secular or religious. This resulted in the opening of the school in Penola and Mary taking her vows as a Sister of Saint Joseph. Father Woods came to Australia from England in 1855. He accepted a position as convict chaplain in Hobart. Julian studied to join the Jesuits and was ordained in 1857 and was appointed to Penola from 1857 to 1867.

During the years 1867 to 1871 Father Woods worked in Adelaide as secretary to the Bishop, Diocesan Trustee, and Director of Catholic Education in South Australia, and was founder and editor of the "Southern Cross" newspaper. Owing to many problems in Adelaide, especially opposition from fellow priests and overwork, Julian suffered a breakdown in health and came to Sydney.

Father Julian Tension Woods was a very spiritual man and his priestly duties were his first priority. Julian had great devotion to the Person of Jesus, Sacred Heart, Mary the Mother of God and the Eucharist. Julian worked as a missionary in Tasmania, Queensland and New South Wales. He achieved great success as a scientist and naturalist and worked in South East Asia until 1886.

When Julian returned to Australia he was cared for by the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. He has been credited with many achievements and will always be remembered as the co-founder of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Julian also wrote the Rule for the Diocesan Josephite Sisters, who began their work in the Bathurst Diocese at Perthville. When Father Woods was in Queensland he founded the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in 1874. Father Julian Tension Woods died in Sydney in 1889 and is buried in Waverley

cemetery. Together Father Woods and Mary MacKillop worked to provide for the Catholic communities around Australia, opportunities for Catholic education and to strengthen the Catholic faith.

To complete our time at Kincumber we were given some history of the establishment of St Joseph's Home for Boys since 1887. Mary MacKillop was invited by Cardinal Moran to establish an orphanage for boys. This beautiful place was home to many until 1976 when it ceased to operate as a Home for Boys and is now used as a Retreat and Spirituality Centre. It is a joy to spend time in this tranquil atmosphere.

Working with the Deaf and Hearing Impaired was indeed a great time to appreciate our gifts and to be able to accept and be aware of the needs of others. One thing of note is that, as hearing impaired, they would ask more questions than those of us who have full use of our sense of hearing. It was a privilege for a small group to be included with a large number of hearing impaired participants. Their friendship in including us in all the activities added a sense of appreciation for our gift of life. It is hoped we will have another occasion when we can join together for reflection and prayer at Kincumber.

Beverley Badcock JA, Vice-President

Lalor Park Associates

The Lalor Park Josephite Associates meet at St Bernadette's Parish Centre quarterly on the third Friday of the month. In the past three years, we have celebrated two dedication ceremonies for our new members. Our most recent dedication was 9th November 2013 and this ceremony was led by Father Andrew Robinson, our Parish Priest, who is also a Josephite Associate. Sister Angela Grant rsj, Leonie Bell and Beverley Badcock joined with us to celebrate the dedication of our members. Sister Angela formed the Lalor Park group many years ago. Our Josephite Associate members are scripture teachers and helpers in our state schools, are involved in our parish

activities and also in the Parramatta Diocese. Members also participate in Parish Prayer and Bible Study Groups and the St Vincent de Paul Society, and assist as Readers and Special Eucharistic Ministers at our Parish Masses. This coming August the Associates are planning to hold a cake stall to raise money for the Fairfield Associates Rosary making group. We continually collect used stamps from our parishioners and these are forwarded to the Regional Centre at Croydon and are processed for auction for the Mary MacKillop International - Peruvian mission. Funds raised help the children in Peru and East Timor.

- Nida Ertner JA, Lalor Park



Wonderful celebration for two Penshurst Associates



Mary and Eddie Gallagher were married in St Mirin's Cathedral, Paisley, Scotland on 26/12/1953

The journey for Mary and Eddie Gallagher has taken them further than many. Eddie, from Ireland, and Mary, from Scotland, met in Glasgow in 1952.

The local Dance was where Eddie first

noticed Mary. She was the life of the party, always laughing and having so much fun with her friends. Luckily Eddie had the courage to ask her out and as he said, 'She has been my pride and joy ever since.'

Mary and Eddie married and then moved to Australia when they were just 28, bringing their four-year-old daughter, Mary, with them. Despite the heat, the spiders, and not to mention being so far from their families, they were determined to give their new life together a proper go and Australia soon became their much loved new home.

Sixty years on, Mary and Eddie were not going to let the moment pass without a party. They celebrated with 70 of their closest friends and family at Penshurst RSL, including members of their Josephite Associates group, some of whom they have known for 30 years.

They both showed they are still the life of the party and everyone around them had a wonderful day.

Probably the most fitting tribute came from Mary herself, dedicating a song to Eddie by Celtic Thunder, 'Always There'. There is no doubt that it has been a wonderful 60 years for Mary and Eddie and they will continue to be there for each other for many years to come. Congratulations!

- Trish Cuneen

Josephite student leaders unite in support of asylum seekers

Josephite student leaders, from across Australia and New Zealand, used the 19th March 2014, the feast of St Joseph (himself a refugee), to argue for the needs and rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

The Sisters of St Joseph, founded by Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, have connections with many schools across the two countries. The student leaders are keen to point out that the rights that they take for granted do not exist for many asylum seekers of the same age around the world.

'We need to respect the rights of each person,' said Justin Parker, Captain of MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale, 'and young asylum seekers of our age should not be treated like prisoners.' The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states clearly that everyone has the right to not be subjected to arbitrary detention, and the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees states that Asylum Seekers should not be penalised for arriving in a country without authorisation.

Danny El Kek, Vice-Captain of Holy Spirit Catholic College, Lakemba, in Sydney's South West believes that 'the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers are being violated at this time.' He is strongly supported by Arabella Steenholdt, College Captain of Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College in Leongatha, Victoria, who argues: 'If we don't instigate a change to our inhumane policies, the cycle of the violation of human rights continues.' The students are particularly keen that asylum seekers fleeing to Australia, as well as refugees from Syria, be supported at this very difficult time.

Josephite Schools around Australia and New Zealand are committed to human rights for all, and are also aware that there are many refugees and asylum seekers in Josephite schools who add an enormous richness to school communities. The student leaders would like Australians to be better informed on this issue and to be more generous and accommodating to those in desperate need.

Extract from *soj enews* (used with permission)

Requiescant in Pace

Kay Bokser (Campsie Group);
Graham Harkin (Walgett - Prayer Member);
Mary Heffernan (Punchbowl Group);
Bill Leatham (Grafton - Prayer Member);
Fay Lucas (Warilla Group);
Joan McDonall (Warilla Group);
Noel Norris (Warilla Group);
Betty Pease (Eden Group);
Bernie Quin (Boambee Group);
Angela Robson (Surry Hills - Prayer Member);
Josephine Yott (Bankstown Group)

Prayers for the Sick

Maureen Blood (Canberra);
Bob Cassidy (Penrith);
Sr Jan Cetta rsj;
Margaret Clapham (Warilla);
Annie Clarke (Boambee);
Clare Day (Oatley);
Jenny Falvey (Georges Hall);
Jan & William Farrell (Bombala);
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);
Kevin Moore (Warialda);
Pat O'Brien (Warialda);
Ann O'Hara (Lidcombe);
Allan Opferkuch (Moree);
Melva Perkins (Quirindi);
Helen Perrett (Warialda);
Esme Quinn (Warilla);
Pauline Rendell (Peakhurst);
Kathleen Ryan (Blacktown);
Dominic Scaturchio (Auburn);
Audrey Steinmetz (Belmont);
Rex Tulloch (Laurieton);
Anna Vincent (Bombala);
Ritz Wendt (Peakhurst);
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.

St Brigid's Parish thanksgiving triple celebrations

St Brigid's Parish, in the Armidale Diocese, will in September 2014 celebrate three significant events in the history of Quirindi and district. It was in 1889, just 125 years ago, that the first Catholic Parish began in Quirindi after the reorganisation of the NSW Diocesan boundaries. Up until that time St Anne's, Wallabadah was the Parish Centre serving Quirindi and surrounding towns and villages and was part of the Maitland Diocese.

Just a year prior to that, in 1888, 126 years ago, a community of four Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart was invited to come and set up a Convent in Quirindi. The Sisters, along with 67 students, shared an old wooden building which was also used as the Church. In 1895, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop attended the blessing of the new Convent by Bishop Torregiani, Bishop of Armidale. It was another four years before a school was built on the Convent grounds; it was extended over time, and is still active today as St Joseph's School.

The Parish will also celebrate the foundation of the Quirindi Branch of the Catholic Women's League 50 years ago. The branch also began with a large membership of 56 members and still today continues the tradition and charism of the Catholic Women's League.

The celebrations will be held over the weekend of 6th and 7th September 2014. Celebrations will begin with a Mass at the Cemetery at 9 am to pray and give thanks for the many blessings received from our ancestors. Following the Mass, Quirindi



Josephite Associates will host a morning tea at St Joseph's Centre (previously St Joseph's Convent) with open house and viewing of memorabilia and history of the Convent. St Joseph's School will also have open house on Sunday with a photographic competition for children.

The Catholic Women's League have organised a dinner for Saturday evening and the official Parish celebrations will take place on Sunday 7th September, commencing with Mass at 11 am, presided over by Bishop Michael Kennedy, with Fr Roel Llave PP and visiting priests. After Mass a parish lunch will be held in the church grounds and the Father Stan Campbell hall.

We give thanks to God for past blessings and trust Him into our future.

We reflect on the steadfast Faith of parishioners, relatives and friends throughout the past 125 years and the Faith nurtured and handed on by the dedicated Priests and Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, who always went where help was needed, with no discrimination.

For anyone wishing to attend the celebrations, a program, flyer or more information may be obtained by emailing Kathie_rangari@westnet.com.au, or Pat_mpperkins@bigpond.com

- Pat Perkins JA Quirindi

Boambee Josephite Associates

On Saturday, 15th March 2014, our Group met to celebrate the upcoming Feast of St Joseph (19th March) and to enrol five new members as Josephite Associates. With forty three members present it was a very inspiring and enjoyable morning.

Congratulations to Eddie Demetri, Zoe Butcherine, Kath Smith, Dawn Sillato and Irene Garton, who all received their Certificate of Dedication and also a special candle with our logo on it. Annie Clark had been installed a few weeks earlier as, due to illness, she would not be able to attend this meeting. We are also preparing for two more members, Kevin O'Malley and Margaret Bailey, to be officially installed during the June meeting. So, very exciting times for our Group. On Wednesday, 19th

March, the actual feast of St Joseph, many of our Associates attended Mass at the chapel in honour of our patron saint.

A new Committee for our Group has been elected for a period of two years and we thank Mary McNamara; Kathy Derrett; Geraldine Sandurski and Kyra Quin. This Committee meets prior to each meeting, of which normally there are four each year, to arrange the agenda for the meeting, to organise and support any of our fund raising activities for East Timor and/or Peru and to generally oversee our Josephite Associate Group.

Our thanks to Sr Fidelis rsj, who continues to encourage and support the group, and a special Thank You to those Josephite Associate groups who forward

Remembering Sister Thecla Sullivan rsj

Sister Thecla Sullivan rsj was born on 8th June 1915 and died peacefully on 4th April 2014. Having recently celebrated her Oak Jubilee, eighty years of dedication and commitment as a religious Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Thecla's Jubilee gave her great joy, love and acknowledgement of her long years of service. Thecla celebrated with her family, friends, past pupils and Sisters of St Joseph in March this year.

Sister Thecla served her God, Church and community in many places as a teacher and principal for forty five years. Her appointments included; Annandale, Nyngan, Camperdown, Thirroul, Bombala, Mullumbimby, Walgett, Lilyfield, Gosford, Bexley, Oatley, Kingswood, Panania, Dulwich Hill, Leichhardt, St Martha's, Revesby, Baulkham Hills, North Leichhardt, Bondi and lastly – Hunters Hill. A formidable list for a formidable lady!

Sister Thecla was asked to write about the new Thirroul foundation. 'At twenty four years of age, in 1940 I was asked to go with Sister Alphonsa to open a new school at Thirroul. We were given five pounds in case we needed anything. We went down early to prepare for the opening and to our horror, there was nothing – just a quarter of the church allotted to us and two blackboard easels. With our money, we bought chalk, dusters and a few text books. We started with thirty children between us, mostly coming from a well-run, well-built public school. Soon the numbers grew to one hundred.'

The Sisters spent quite a lot of time visiting the homes – after school, weekends and holidays. 'The children were lovely. I think the most intelligent I ever taught.' No wonder the Thirroul people and pupils held them in high esteem and still do!

Sister Thecla volunteered in the Mary MacKillop Chapel at North Sydney for ten years, walking up the steep hill until she was ninety years of age.

Thecla knew a lot of suffering in her life, but that made her the person she was. As W.B. Yeats said, 'Nothing can be sole or whole that has not been rent.' Thecla was truly an Oak – strong, long-lasting and always productive. Thecla lived her life, best summed up by the prophet's words:

*This is what Yahweh asks of you:
only this, to act justly,
to love tenderly
and to walk humbly with your God.*

*Extract from the eulogy for Sister Thecla Sullivan rsj
by Sister Tess Egan rsj (used with permission)*

Reflection and Prayer sheets to the Associate Office that we can all download and share for our spiritual meditations during our group meetings. They have been very helpful and inspiring.

Mary McNamara JA, Group Leader Boambee



Boambee Junior Josephites

On Thursday 13th March the Junior Josephite Associates of Boambee enrolled 16 students from Mary Help of Christians Primary School Sawtell. These students are learning about St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and ways we can do our bit for God, our family and our school and importantly remembering to "Never see a need without doing something about it". They have shown commitment by attending meetings over the last 6 months and were presented with a certificate and a Mary MacKillop medal. We also welcomed 17 new members to share this day with us and hope to celebrate their journey later in the year. We ask that you keep us in your prayers as we continue to teach the ways of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.



*Sr Fidelis McAnespie, Tina Demetri, Kathryn Butcherine with the
Junior Josephite Associates of Boambee*

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

WOMAN'S CREED

(Author Unknown)

We believe in the goodness and value of women,
our strength and sanity, our willingness to weep.
Our capacity to support each other, instead of being rivals;
Our ability to cope with children's demands and the burdens of life;
Our ability and willingness to get on with the job;
Our spirituality and our earthiness
flowing with life, birth and death.

We affirm the story of woman as the story of humankind;

Food gatherers and farmers,
Child rearers and teachers,
Pioneers and policy-maker
Needle workers and textile-makers,
Home workers and factory-workers
Parents, scientists, doctors,
Housekeepers and economists,

Givers of life and the creators of art and thought,

Unpaid hidden workers at home and
paid members of the workforce outside.

We rejoice in our diversity and versatility,
our intuition and our logic.

We confess our failures, frailties and imperfections,
Including our past acceptance of violence
and injustice in relationships between men and women.

We look forward to the future with faith in our God
and with hope,

Looking forward to the day when we and all our sisters,
No longer have to fit a stereotype,

But are free to use all our gifts

And to share in all the benefits of work that envisions.

We know with the help of God all women will live in a world
where justice, equity, safety and peace abide. Amen.

Transforming ourselves

(Taken in part from 'The Magic of the Moment')

We shed many self images as we walk along on our journey
through life – as we grow and mature - as our passions and
priorities alter - as our life circumstances change.

While change can be uncomfortable, it needn't be so.

Change is fundamental to the creation of new life.

If trees didn't shed their leaves and endure the rigours of winter,
there would be no need for spring.

As a flower fades, its seeds near maturity.

How much more potential our life will hold when we can meet
whatever is before us with an open mind and ask that all the
good that awaits us in this new transformation, may be made
apparent to us!

Anything that is holy radiates higher energies than is normally
the case. The more we expose our selves to these energies, the
more those parts of us that are wounded can be healed.

The more whole we are, the more wholesome are our
relationships with others.

What immense possibilities are ours when we can make room
for this depth of transformation to occur in our life!

In recent years we have grown suspicious of strangers and those
who are different, regarding them with fear and distrust.
The more we build barriers between our selves and others,
the more we cut our selves off from the sacred possibilities
that such encounters offer.

How magical it is to experience the kindness of strangers
how uplifted and optimistic it makes us feel.

If we were to suspend our judgement
and reach out to a stranger, or seek the good in someone
we don't know or understand,
then our actions might just be the beginning of
our own transformation.

A Shared Reflection

Bountiful God

you filled the heart of Mary MacKillop
with hospitable love,
especially for those
at the margins of society.

Deepen the love within us that we may be
welcoming to the stranger,
willing to share our resources,
prepared to forgive offences and hurts,
ready to listen with open hearts and
eager to work for justice and unity.

Companion us, generous God, wherever there is an edge of
need.

We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer for those who suffer

Father of all mankind, teach us the beauty of generosity
May we respond to the cries of suffering humanity
Where aid is not forthcoming, may our prayers do your work
Give us compassionate hearts to care for each other

When others suffer the loss of someone dear
May they find strength in knowing God's love
Be assured of the prayers of others
Trust in God and you need have no fear

May there be peace on earth.
May all nations unite as a power for peace.
May all grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.
This we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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
Subject: Email address change

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