



# Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

Josephite Associates NSW (Inc.) PO Box 184, Croydon NSW 2132 (Letters only) • 34 Liverpool Rd, Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)

Phone 02 9747 4199

NEWSLETTER • July 2015



## Perthville Josephite Associates Fusion Ceremony

Margaret Smith

I guess most of us here today remember the old green catechism; well today I am reminded of the question 'What is a sacrament?' and the answer 'A sacrament is the outward sign of inward grace.'

I feel today's liturgy could best be described as a very meaningful outward sign of inward grace; and we are going to need that grace to enable us to come together with full hearts and minds as Josephite Associates.

When I was made aware that our Perthville Sisters were considering the possibility of joining with the Central Josephite sisters I must confess I was sceptical about the outcome; this scepticism arose mostly from a very selfish point of view. Will they no longer be OUR sisters? Will they lose their identity, their special charisma, will they be sent far away so I will lose touch with them? Will they be swallowed up being such a small group into a much larger group?

Last May when that most beautiful ceremony took place at MacKillop College amidst snow and ice, my head accepted the rationale of their fusion; but it wasn't until I saw the way our Sisters were welcomed with open arms by the Central Josephite Sisters and the tremendous Joy our Sisters experienced as a result of the fusion that I have been able to truly embrace the courageous decision our sisters took in requesting union with their Central Sisters. This successful union didn't just happen, it had to be worked at, concerns had to be addressed, concessions had to be made, and misunderstandings had to be worked through.

And this is where that grace, the grace we receive today, comes in for us. Our two associations have worked in very different ways. We have developed our own type of commitment, our own communication style, and our own feel. All of this is good

and has served each group well, but now is the time for us to grow, to open ourselves up to a wider world of Josephite Associates, to follow the Sisters' example and embrace a future bigger and richer because we have joined forces.

I see our two Associate groups as two pieces of cloth, each containing its own colours, patterns and styles. The aim of this fusion is not to have one piece of cloth cover and smother the other but to weave the threads of each piece of cloth together, to intertwine the gifts of each group so that the whole becomes stronger and more enlivened, more colourful, full of love, dedication and energy, overflowing with hospitality and the charisma of Mary and Julian. We have here the opportunity to love the Gospel message of 'May they all be one.'

Remember Jesus said, 'Have no fear – do not be troubled'. Why did he say this – because we truly believe Christ is amongst us and with Christ anything and everything is possible. By becoming one we will not lose anything but we will share in the friendship, the support and the wisdom of a larger group of people who are motivated by the same spirit, the spirit of Mary and Julian to share what we have and who we are to honour our dear Sisters and always to glorify our good God.

Margaret Smith JA, Linden

### 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:*



"We must often feel weary and tired yet  
God brings us through all these things"

5.6.1874

# Fusion of Perthville Josephite Associates -



Our journey from Sydney to Wellington NSW on Friday 22nd May began in cold, wet, and foggy conditions. As we travelled over the mountain, sunny skies made our adventure more pleasurable. We enjoyed restful hospitality at The Vale Lodge, Perthville, and then experienced a relaxing country drive to Wellington on Saturday morning.

The atmosphere at Infant de Prague Hall, St Mary's School, Wellington, was one of excitement, renewed friendships and welcome to visitors as we enjoyed a cuppa and country cooking.

Sister Mary Ellen O'Donoghue, Regional Leader NSW, welcomed all to a wonderful day. 'Although there may be mixed feelings' we were encouraged to 'acknowledge what is' and 'anticipate the future'.

Our opening prayer was focused on PRESENCE with reference to sayings of Mary MacKillop. 'I feel this presence of God at all times' (Mary MacKillop 1869). 'God's presence seems to follow me everywhere and makes everything I do, or wish to do a prayer' (1870). We reflected on these words as we listened to the mantra Presence, 'Be presence, in presence be. Listen, the spirit speaks.' (Jen Charadia, 2010) and opened ourselves to the Spirit speaking to us.

The guest speaker, Sally Neaves, spoke to us around the theme 'Doing Something for a Better World'. Sally shared with us her life journey in Australia, Japan, Korea,

Vietnam and Cambodia. Sally is on the Pathway to living in the Josephite spirit and in Affiliation with the Sisters of St Joseph. Her message portrayed struggles and success to understand the Charism of Mary MacKillop on her journey. We were encouraged to have confidence to continue working in our own unique way to serve God and others to build a better world.

The Ritual of Fusion was prayerful and symbolic. As the Perthville Associate poured the yellow water into the blue water, the two emerged as one colour - green, symbolising new life. The readings and prayers gave praise to God for the work of Julian Tenison Woods, Mary MacKillop and the Josephite charism which has passed through many generations to us today.

A lighted lantern was passed by Brian Turner (Perthville) to Leonie Bell (NSW), symbolic of the spirit of unity in leadership and responsibility, as we embrace our future with trust in God's loving providence. All Associates present then stood and recited the Associates Commitment together. The response was very fittingly the 'Prayer of Trust':

You know the way for me, you know the time,  
 Into your hands, I trustingly place mine.  
 Your plan is perfect, born of perfect love.  
 You know the way; your way is love.

Great joy and excitement were experienced when the Perthville Associates received a new badge, which they were proud to wear along with their Perthville Associates badge. As Jesus said, 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in their midst.' (Matthew 18:20)

Sister Mary Ellen O'Donoghue addressed the gathering and congratulated all present with words of encouragement.

Leonie Bell congratulated and welcomed the Perthville Associates to Josephite Associates NSW Inc. 'On this historic occasion we acknowledge as Australians, Sisters and Associates, the past heritage of Julian, Mary and the Sisters of St Joseph, giving thanks to God for their sacrifices. Long may we celebrate the 23rd May 2015 as the day of unity. As I welcome Associates united in spirit today, we do not know what the future holds for us. May we continue to rely on divine providence and the spirit of Julian and





Mary to guide and sustain us?

Sister Mary Ellen O'Donoghue presented the local coordinators with a copy of 'Act, Love, Walk' for use at their meetings. Sister Jean Cain gave the group leaders a copy of Jen Charadia's music book and CD for use with their groups.

The fusion ceremony concluded with the singing of the Josephite Associates Anthem: 'We live in the Spirit of Mary of the Cross'.

After a nutritious lunch outdoors in the sun, we reassembled for discussion and questions about 'Where to from here?' The Perthville groups were encouraged to continue sending a report for publication in the Associates Newsletter. The emblem for their new badge was explained and the suggestion was put forward to support a Josephite Mission Ministry. Associates were encouraged to nominate persons of their choice for positions when the Governance Group elections are held every two years.

Sister Jean extended thanks to the Parents and Friends Association, Caterers and the Coordinating committee for their support, delicious lunch served and organising the setting up of the hall.

After a joyous day we left Wellington with renewed hope for the future as we continue to live, pray and serve others in the spirit of Joseph our patron, and of our Josephite Founders St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods.

*Beverley Badcock, JA Vice-President*

## Congratulations and welcome Perthville Associates

Congratulations and thank you to all who have travelled to Wellington for this historic, joyous, and prayerful celebration.

We are all indebted to the organising committee for the spirit of hospitality given so generously to us as we arrived and the sharing of friendship over morning tea.

I would like to reflect on the time when I felt the seed of unity for Josephite Associates was sown. The year was 2011 in the Emmaus Convent in Bathurst.

Sister Jean Cain and the community of Sisters welcomed Sister Clare Noonan visiting from Sydney.

Sister Clare Noonan was the Josephite Sister appointed by Sister Mary Quinlan NSW Provincial of the Sisters of St Joseph, to lead Josephite Associates (NSW) into self governance. Sister Clare travelled all over NSW during 2011 visiting Associate Groups, preparing the group leaders and associates for the move to self governance.

On the 23rd March 2012 Sister Clare invited Beverley and

me to accompany her at a gathering in the Emmaus Convent, Bathurst, where we met Sister Jean Cain, Sister Colleen Howe, Sister Janet Glass, and Perthville Associates.

At a further gathering with Sister Jean and the Perthville Associates at the Emmaus Convent in 2013, we shared ideas for the future of all Associates, especially since NSW had made the move to self-governance.

Sister Jean Cain, as Perthville Associates will know, has been visiting all groups in 2015 to ensure ideas are shared and all understand what the fusion will mean for each Associate.

The tireless work carried out by Sister Jean particularly in 2015 is the culmination of that first meeting in 2011 where a Federation Sister (Sister Jean) met with a Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (Sr Clare) sharing ideas of the work of Josephite Associates and what the future holds for each Associate.

On behalf of all here present I congratulate Sister Jean Cain for the magnificent contribution and support given to the Perthville Associates as director over many years. I know, Jean, that the Perthville groups want you to remain here forever.

The Holy Spirit has certainly been at work guiding us all to this day. The friendships and prayers shared have led to this historic occasion where we are united as one body in Christ.

On this historic occasion we acknowledge as Australians, Sisters and Associates, the past heritage of Julian, Mary and the Sister of Sisters of St Joseph, giving thanks to God for their sacrifices.

Long may we celebrate the 23rd May 2015 as the day of unity.

As I welcome Associates united in spirit today, we do not know what the future holds for us. May we continue to rely on divine providence and the spirit of Julian and Mary to guide and sustain us.

Whatever our need, God's grace is sufficient, His power inexhaustible, His love never-ending. With God all things are possible.

The following Associates prayer is taken from the Ritual of Self-Governance – Josephite Associates – Croydon, Sydney on the 15th September 2012.

Loving God, we give you thanks that we, Josephite Associates, like Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods can be involved in your vision for love and unity in our land and world. Through our friendship may we spread community and hospitality in our families and neighbourhoods. Amen.

*Leonie Bell, JA President*



## The Interweaving of Death and Resurrection

**The pain, suffering and death of Jesus is lived out daily in our lives. Each of us carries a cross, either consciously or unconsciously known.**

We know something of the cross when we experience physical or mental illness, the pain of separation, broken relationships, loneliness, sudden loss of someone we love, or simply having to endure the ordinary struggles of daily living. Whenever we endure and keep going despite the fragility of our lives, we are living out the passion of Jesus.

In difficult and traumatic moments we stand beside Mary at the foot of the Cross. We too, have within us what Mary had within her – an enormous courage and a capacity to endure pain. A courage to face our daily crosses, to befriend and accept them and to trust the power of God to uphold us. In moments of pain, disappointment, disillusionment, disbelief and sheer exhaustion, God is holding, consoling and empowering us. The cross reminds us again and again that the death of Jesus transforms every known situation, no matter how difficult or how hopeless it may seem, and makes it meaningful and whole. The suffering of our individual lives and that of our world is raised with Jesus on the Cross.

In the midst of darkness, the dawn breaks, holding the possibility of new life. The stone is moved, Jesus is risen. His crucified body shines with resurrected light, casting a radiant brightness over the shadows of our lives and our world. Suffering is transformed into new life, good triumphs over evil and everything that is broken and dead is renewed. Death becomes the gateway to new life. The cross and the glory are forever intertwined. The light of the resurrected body of Jesus changes forever our vision of death. Death no longer has power over Him, nor has it power over us. We are destined to live and to have life eternal.

The resurrection of Jesus sets free forever what was promised at His birth. Daniel O’Leary reassures us that we have God’s creative power at our core. He says, ‘Believing in this incredible power within us, nothing is impossible anymore, it enables us to live with courage, knowing that no matter what happens to us, or around us we are under the protection of God and we can do all things in Him who strengthens us.’

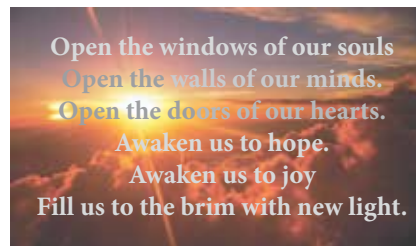
We live the miracle of Easter when we discover meaning and

life in the ordinary ‘bits and pieces’ of our daily lives, when we have a positive attitude to our work, when we make our life a journey of wonder and thanksgiving, when we remove the limits we place around ourselves and others by daring to believe.

We all need moments of resurrection, moments when God’s glory and power are shown to us in our daily routines and through the love and care of others. These simple moments of new life have the potential to carry us through the difficult times.

At Easter, we are called once again, to believe in the incredible power of the divine light which enfolds us and floods our being. May we mirror that brightness to all we meet.

And so, in the spirit of Macrina Wiederkehr, O.S.B, author and lecturer, we pray:



Heaven and earth lie before us today, do we dare to choose the life it offers?

*Sr Antoinette Dilworth rsj Ireland Region  
Extract from sosj enews (used with permission)*

## Junior Joeys

Junior Joeys groups are thriving in Northern Tasmania. Almost 100 students have been commissioned during term one across St Thomas More’s, Our Lady of Lourdes, Sacred Heart and St Peter Chanel Catholic Schools.

On St Joseph’s Day at St Thomas More’s Catholic School in Newstead a group of thirty one Junior Joeys made their commitment at the School Liturgy for St Joseph.

The group wrote their own Mission Statement, which was in the form of questions put to them at their commitment:

- Do you aspire to be people of joy and integrity, doing what is right?
- Will you notice the needs in your community and help when you can?
- Are you willing to learn about our Josephite heritage and share your knowledge with our school community?

The group, who are passionate about sharing the Josephite story with class groups, demonstrated in drama, during the commitment liturgy, how they could respond to a need in their school community. They have also adopted our school Fey Allegria in Tarma, Peru, for whom they have already raised over \$400 to provide concrete to make a playground strip for three- to five-year old children to play on. The school is on the side of the steep slopes of the Andes and is subject to landslides.

Recently the Junior Joeys met up with the Junior Joeys from Devonport and Ulverstone at MacKillop Hill in Forth for a day of learning and sharing about the Josephite story. A similar day was also held at Smithton.

*Sr Lynette Young rsj  
Extract from sosj enews (used with permission)*



### Newsletter Editorial

Editor: Christine Sivewright

Members: Beverley Badcock, Leonie Bell,

Design and Print: Paul McMahon

## St Mary of the Cross The Miracle of Faith



After months of shaping raw Springstone from the Great Dyke of Zimbabwe, into the power and beauty of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, artist Stephen Murenza has produced a Miracle of Faith!

Stephen has dedicated Mary to the students and teachers of Lumen Christi College, Pambula, New South Wales. In Stephen's own words he said, 'I have produced her from the natural beauty of a stone called Springstone, with inspiration from the life of St Mary as an educator and from her most important saying: 'Never see a need without doing something about it.'

It is my wish that this piece of Africa will live in Peace and Harmony in Australia.

God Bless,

*Stephen Banda Murenza  
Harare, Zimbabwe, 2015*



## Caring for Kids Who Need Nurturing

Sister Frances Fleming rsj lives in a tidy townhouse in Quakers Hill. There's a pile of plastic dominoes on her kitchen bench, the kind that come free with your groceries at Woolworths. Kids love them, and Sister Fran works with children.

For the past three years, Sister Fran has been working as a Chaplain at Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre in Airids. The detainees are boys who are mostly between 12 and 16 years of age. On occasion boys as young as 10 are held at the centre because there is nowhere safe for them to stay.

'These are children who have not had the advantages that the majority of children have,' Sister Fran said.

'These kids are kids in need. I don't think about what they've done. They're here now. They need nurturing, they need to know that God loves them and that there's a way out of what they're in ... we're there for them.'

When she first heard that Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre needed a new chaplain, Sister Fran was working in Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in the Mt Druitt area.

Some of the Aboriginal women in the community told her: 'You've got to go for it, Sister. That's where we need the help with our young fellas.'

Across NSW, about half of all the children and young people in prison are of Aboriginal descent.

Sister Fran spent twelve years working with Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley Region of Western Australia before her work in Mt Druitt. She likes to tell a story about George, an Aboriginal man from Bourke, who was asked by her chaplaincy colleague Pastor Lee Bromley what help his community needed.

'Lee, you'll have to sit in the gutter for three years with me and then you'll know what to do,' was George's laconic response. Sister Fran understands exactly what George meant.

Though most of the boys at Reiby come from dysfunctional backgrounds, the chaplains work hard to provide a family atmosphere. 'I'm a little bit like the grandma,' she said warmly.

Sister Fran, who recently celebrated 50 years as a Sister of St Joseph of the

Sacred Heart, often returns to the example of another keen prison visitor, her order's co-founder, Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

When I asked her about Pope Francis washing the feet of young men and women in prison on Holy Thursday, Sister Fran seemed a little overwhelmed. It means a lot, this 'going to the edges' as she described it. 'You get a better view from the edge.'

Reflecting on consecrated life, Sister Fran comments that her vows include a commitment to making a difference. 'It's looking at and being with those who are on the fringes, on the edges, who have fewer opportunities than others,' she said.

Of her ministry to the boys at Reiby, Sister Fran said these young people need to be given a go. 'They're God's children and He loves them. What can we do except love them too?'

*Extract from Catholic Religious Australia –  
April 2015 – Elizabeth Scully  
(used with permission)*



The newsletter is now available on the Web, at [www.sosj.org.au/news-events/list\\_newsletters.cfm](http://www.sosj.org.au/news-events/list_newsletters.cfm)

### JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES (NSW) INC

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2015**

*AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRAY, RENEW FRIENDSHIPS AND SHARE LUNCH*

Venue:

Marian Court, 18 Margaret Street, Strathfield 2135

*(no parking in the grounds, unlimited street parking available)*

Morning Tea: 10 am - 10.30 am

Welcome and Prayer

Guest Speaker - To be advised

Lunch: 12 Noon

Financial Report: 1.30 pm

Lucky Door Prize: 2pm

**JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PLEASE**

**CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE**

**NO LATER THAN FRIDAY AUGUST 21ST 2015**

*RSVP TO THE JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES OFFICE*

**BY PHONE 02 9747 4199**

OR EMAIL [nsw.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:nsw.associates@sosj.org.au)

OR BY MAIL P O BOX 184 CROYDON NSW 2132

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in July, August, September and October 2015

## St Joseph the Worker: Joe the Tradie

How inspiring is the Feast of Joseph the Worker! – 1st May. In the Gospels Jesus is referred to both as a carpenter, and as the carpenter's son.

God chose Joseph as primary carer of Mary and the child Jesus. This humble man would have worked to provide a comfortable place to live, even when the family were refugees in a foreign country. How lovingly Joseph would have crafted a crib for the baby or a chair for the baby's mother! Joseph spent his life engaged in the type of work common to poor people, working with wood, working in a workshop situation.

Recent pictures on television of places struck by cyclones show the basic work of rebuilding broken lives as first providing shelter, housing and some comfort using wood and other materials available. St Joseph and his foster Son spent quiet days working manually, working for the poor and with the poor, showing a respect for work that is a lesson for us that all honest work is worthy of God's blessing.

Mary MacKillop certainly learnt this lesson and her Sisters followed her example. Such things as sharing the physical tasks in the Convent, great musicians cooking the midday meal, Sister Patrick Donahoo cooking a special birthday cake for every child at Surry Hills with the child's name on top. When a homeless man died in the gardens at East Melbourne the only note found on him read: 'Thank Sister Patrick for the sandwiches.'

Work for, and respect for the poor is our heritage from Joseph, and for those who seek to know the charism of Mary MacKillop, that respect, a sense of hospitality and a preparedness to get one's hands dirty at times is essential.

Another lesson for us is that in addition to St Joseph's practical life of caring and labouring from day to day, Joseph was a man of dreams, deeply in touch with the spiritual. Matthew writes: An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream telling Joseph to take Mary as his wife, that the coming child was from the Holy Spirit and that Joseph was to call the child Jesus.

Later Joseph led his family from Egypt after an angel appeared to him in a dream, and again, after being warned in a dream, brought Mary and Jesus to Galilee. What holy work that journey was!

May we pray, as in the Eucharist for 1st May, the Feast of St Joseph the Worker:

With St Joseph as our example and guide  
Help us to do the work you have asked  
And come to the rewards you have promised.  
St Joseph, pray for us and for our Congregation.

*Sister Judith Geddes rsj*

*Extract from sosj enews (used with permission)*

### St Bakhita Centre for Sudanese Refugees

2 Hornsey Road Homebush West (opp. Flemington Railway Station)

Sudanese mothers have English lessons

Wednesday or Friday mornings 9:45 – 12:45  
during school term only.

*Volunteers are needed to mind children whilst the mothers are attending tuition.*

If interested in assisting, please contact  
Mary-Anne Armstrong

by email at wilcon@bigpond.com or on **0407 526 195**.

*Two teachers are needed for Thursday evenings  
for adult men and women 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.*

Contact Anne Nesbitt by email at nesbitt.anne2@gmail.com.

*Are you available to assist with basic computer or  
simple sewing on Thursday mornings?*

Contact Sister Cecilia by email at ceciliario@bigpond.com.

*Thank you for your support; it makes so much difference.*

*Sister Maria Sullivan rsj*



ethica\*accessories

Helping Women Help Themselves

Ethica Accessories is the fair trade organisation of Mary MacKillop International.

Our mission is to give marginalised and impoverished women in Peru the opportunity to earn a fair income by providing them with the resources to make products for sale in Australia and paying them a fair income for those products.

It is a strategy for poverty alleviation and sustainable development that maintains the dignity and pride of the women and teaches them skills for the future.

This scheme empowers women to help themselves out of poverty. It is a reliable, long-term solution. Many of the women we seek out to help would be unemployed without this scheme. They rely on sales of products for their continued income and welfare.

The range of products includes bags and purses, baby blankets and rattles, home wares, a beautiful alpaca range and more

If you are passionate about social justice, fair trade and helping those in need, we would like to invite you to be part of our network by helping us with the sale of these goods.

Commit to have 6 to 10 sales/events per year; these can be at parishes, annual gatherings, schools, etc.

Help us make a difference in their lives.

Expressions of interest or more information please contact Gina on (02) 8912 2716 or email [gina.bradley@sosj.org.au](mailto:gina.bradley@sosj.org.au).

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

JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES (NSW) INC.

## KINCUMBER RETREAT

16TH – 18TH OCTOBER 2015

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

Topic: **The 'YES' that changed history**

Facilitator: **Sister Margaret Paton rsj**

Eucharist: Sunday morning at Kincumber South Parish  
Church – 10am

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: [nsw.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:nsw.associates@sosj.org.au)

OR BY MAIL P O BOX 184 CROYDON NSW 2132

## Prayers for the Sick

Prayers for the Sick

Connie Barnes (Campsie);  
Maureen Blood (Canberra);  
Leone Carse (Canberra);  
Sr Jan Cetta rsj;  
Margaret Clapham (Warilla);  
Clare Day (Oatley);  
Jenny Falvey (Georges Hall);  
Joyce Farnham (Belmont Group);  
Jan & William Farrell (Bombala);  
Kieran Fitzpatrick (Menai);  
Lou Fry (Blacktown);  
Shirley Gorrie (Campsie);  
Alma Halse (Canberra);  
Helen Harnett (Peakhurst);  
Barbara Irwin (Lalor Park);  
Daisy Keogh (Lidcombe);  
Maria Kopjar (Menai);  
Edna Lay (Prayer Member);  
Mary-Clare Lees (Canberra);  
Pat McDonald (Peakhurst);  
Jill McKenzie (Canberra);  
Carmel Martin (Prayer Member Kingscliff);  
Margaret Millar (Blacktown);  
Lyall Molloy (Bingara);  
Gloria Monck (Canberra);  
Kevin Moore (Warialda);  
Alan Norgrove (Canberra);  
Pat O'Brien (Warialda);  
Sr Bridie O'Connell rsj;  
Ann O'Hara (Lidcombe);  
Allan Opferkuch (Moree);  
Filippa Palazotto (Campsie);  
Helen Perrett (Warialda);  
Esme Quinn (Warilla);  
Pauline Rendell (Peakhurst);  
Rosina Rotunno (Lakemba);  
Kathleen Ryan (Blacktown);  
Dorothy Spratt (Prayer Member Yennora);  
Norma & Ned Steele (Canberra);  
Audrey Steinmetz (Belmont);  
Kay Tuckerman (Thirroul);  
Anna Vincent (Bombala);  
Ritz Wendt (Peakhurst);  
Jenice White (Ballina);  
Gwen Witton (Penrith)

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

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

for coming events, feast and  
memorial dates, pilgrimage  
information and an invitation to a  
place of prayer with our  
Australian Saint.

## Requiescant in Pace

Heather Mary Carter  
(Prayer Member – Peakhurst);  
Robert Cassidy (Penrith Group);  
Neville Compton (Lidcombe Group);  
Mary Kirby (Prayer Member – Greenacre);  
Mel Perkins (Quirindi Group);  
Bill Sevil (Quirindi Group);  
Laura Skelton (Waterloo Group);  
Dolor Westaway (South Lismore Group)

### Dear Josephite Associate Friends,

My deepest thanks for your ongoing prayer support in my daily struggle with cancer. As many of you know, there is no cure, so I rely on Palliative care for pain relief. While it's a slow growing cancer, we know that the tumours have increased. This tongue cancer causes problems with speech and swallowing. However, small miracles continue to happen – good medical care, support from the Sisters and friends as well as short visits from family in Ireland; and being able to stay quite active. I've become totally reliant on God as I face a frightening future. Many of you too live from that strength of God as you wrestle with all kinds of challenges. So we remain close in Him.

My love and thanks for your care,  
*Sister Bridie O'Connell rsj*

## 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 2300

**Thank you for all stamps received.**

## REMEMBRANCE

The soldier stood and faced God,  
Which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his shoes were shining,  
Just as brightly as his brass.

'Step forward now, you soldier,  
How shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other cheek?  
To My Church have you been true?'

The soldier squared his shoulders and  
said,  
'No Lord, I guess I haven't.  
Because those of us who carry guns,  
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,  
And at times my talk was tough.  
And sometimes I've been violent,  
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,  
That wasn't mine to keep....  
Though I worked a lot of time,  
And the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,  
Though at times I shook with fear.  
And sometimes, God, forgive me,  
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,  
Among the people here.  
They never wanted me around,  
Except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,  
It needn't be so grand.  
I never expected or had too much,  
But if you don't, I'll understand.'

There was silence all around the throne,  
Where saints had often trod,  
As the soldier waited quietly,  
For the judgement of his God.

'Step forward now, you soldier,  
You've borne your burdens well.  
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,  
You've done your time in Hell.'

*Author unknown*



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

Prayer for Consecrated Life

## Consecration

We may not now see our consecration as separation, splendour, as though humanity, the world itself, or the universe were not themselves entirely consecrated to You by being Your home, the locus of Your love.

No, those who give themselves to You without the intermediary of spouse, of goods, become an open ear and a word heard, a sign to the world of Your direct love for each created thing: love complete and undivided for each star, each bird and fish, each grain of sand, each falling leaf, each and every child.

Gone are the old sacrificial forms and rites where we thought we could give You anything. All of it, everything, is You giving Yourself; You, consecrating.

How gracious are You to choose me to be a gift to those You love. What fortune it was for me to have delivered myself up to You.

You carry my bags for me, Beloved, While I dither at Day's door; You have picked them up and are ready. You are ahead of me, and yet behind and within, Consecrating me within your holy universe, Consecrating me with Your poor, Your outcasts, Your oppressed ones.

I follow.

*Susan Connelly RSJ*

*Used with permission – Mass for Institutes of Consecrated Life  
St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney 11th April 2015*

### Email Address

Have you had a change since your last advice?  
If so, please contact us with your new details at:  
[nsw.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:nsw.associates@sosj.org.au)  
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## Prayer in Response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

Gracious God in Whom All Life is Sacred,  
during these days,  
as we are confronted by the disgrace of child sexual abuse,  
we pray for everyone who is concerned with  
the Royal Commission or  
affected by its work.

We commend to you  
all women and men who suffered abuse as children,  
the Commissioners and their associates;  
authorities who must answer to the Commission on behalf of  
their institutes;  
good people throughout Australia who are distressed  
that children have been so shamefully exploited;  
good people whose trust in your Church has been bruised and  
broken.

For each of these, loving God,  
as your Spirit of Justice is needed, may it prevail;  
as your Spirit of Truth is needed, may it enlighten and liberate;  
as your Spirit of Compassion is needed, may it be deeply  
experienced;  
as your Spirit of Hope is needed, may it change hearts and minds;  
as your Spirit of Healing is needed, may it restore and renew.

We make this prayer in company with Venerable Catherine  
McAuley, through Jesus in whom your Mercy became flesh and  
lived among us. Amen.

*Written by Caroline Ryan RSM on behalf of  
Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea.*

## In the Footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop Australian Pilgrimage 21st October – 31st October 2015

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*  
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