



# WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES' Newsletter



*Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends*

*Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter. A lot has happened recently. Three of us, Meg, Annette and myself went to Sydney for our Josephite Associates Conference. It was a wonderful experience to meet all the other Associates who are working so close to the Spirit of Mary MacKillop. It was an inspirational meeting.*

*From Sister Denise on behalf of the Central Committee*

*- Meg, Fay, Dot, Margaret, Maureen, Mary*

*and all Associates Committee members in the other areas ...*

*special thanks to Annette and Helen.*



## ***“Stepping Stones to New opportunities”***

*Often when challenges arise we feel we have lost our way, when in fact life is simply asking us to shed what is no longer of use, so that a deeper more profound part of us can emerge. When we understand what our challenges are all about, we realize that our difficulties are simply thresholds, beyond which lie wonderful new possibilities.*

***“Keep up your spirits and your trust and confidence in the Goodness of God”***

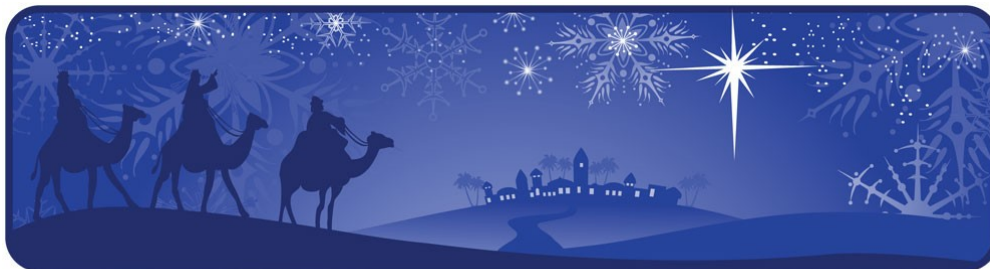
**Mary MacKillop 1880**

## ***Our Christmas Greeting***

***We can all meet together in spirit at the crib of our loving Infant  
and pray for one another.***

***I wish you every grace and blessing of this holy time with fondest love.***

**Mary MacKillop, 1881**



*A Ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart*

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# Associates Conference in Sydney

In WA, Associates are kept in touch through the organization, planning and hard work of our Sister coordinator, the Central



Committee in Perth and the Dardanup Leadership team for the South West. The resources at our disposal in South Perth are excellent and are available to us through the generosity of the Josephite community who support and encourage us in our endeavors. Our

prayer gatherings are in the beautiful chapel, and the facilities for our meetings and celebrations are available in the Mary MacKillop Centre. Sister Denise and Laura McCarthy, secretary, produce a colorful and informative newsletter with contributions from the Sisters and Associates state wide. We have access to DVD's, CD's and the latest books from a well appointed shop run by Sister Maree Riddler.



This year Annette and her group arranged a gathering at Pinjarra to introduce the Associates Movement to parishioners there. The theme was Discipleship, presented by Sister Wendy Lailey who gave us a run-down of the personalities of the apostles

which was revealing and thought provoking.

From the financial point of view our main income is from donations, raffles, and donations received from many Associates. Recently we found ourselves with a \$1,000 to spare so donations of \$500 were forwarded to St Patrick's Community Centre in Fremantle for the support of the needy, and \$500 to Peru for the work of the Sisters there.

A big event for the West was a five Day Pilgrimage back to the Goldfields, led by Sister Leonie Mayne and Sister Kathleen Dawe concluding on the 16<sup>th</sup> October. My heart was with them as I spent ten years teaching with the Sisters in the goldfields. Many of the associates were on this Pilgrimage. – *Meg Phelan*



## Postcard from Geraldton



The Josephite Associates in the Geraldton Region have been very much in our prayers and thoughts and they have been working together to make the Associate a very prayerful group. I visited this group this year and found that their connection to Mary MacKillop was very strong. I listened to their stories and visited each one in their homes and then had time with them at the Sunday Mass. This was very rewarding and each one was very pleased that I had made the trip to be with them. On my way home I stopped at Bindoon to catch up with Associates Jean and Margaret who are doing wonderful work for the church in Bindoon. How do we get on without this wonderful group of people? This is only part of our Associate Story, our other Associates in the country are just great

people close to the work that Mary MacKillop did years ago. - *Denise Casey*





## Postcard from Dardanup



South West Josephite Associates and friends recently marked the feast of St Mary of the Cross by celebrating Mass with Fr Joseph at Dardanup. We were honored to share this occasion with Sisters Denise, Pauline, Rita and Bernadette and with the staff and students from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School.



During Mass, Father Joseph spoke of Mary MacKillop's dream to make a difference in her world by serving God among the poor and the powerless. She shared her vision with others and tirelessly set about making her dream come

true. Now, 150 years later we continue her work by caring for others in Friendship, Prayer and Service.

Sister Denise based her address on the children's book by Diane Phillips RSJ "Horse Tales of Mary MacKillop". She told of Saint Mary's love and appreciation of all animals especially horses, whom she saw as friends and supporters of her work. Sister gifted the book to the school library for the students to read at leisure. At the conclusion of Mass, morning tea was enjoyed by all. The hallmarks of Friendship, Prayer and Service, were abundantly present and contributed to the delightful relaxed and joyous ambience of the gathering. - *Dot Savage*



## RIP Jo Pope

*It is with great sadness and has been a sad task to farewell our dear Associate Jo Pope. Her Requiem Mass was held in our Parish Church Esperance.*

*Jo brought a depth of Spiritual insight on all that she committed herself to do, particularly within the Diocese, which came with her encouragement for us here in our Parish.*

*A marvelous example of communication to all she met and maintained the connections effortlessly. Always courteous and deeply committed to very high ideals.*

*"No matter what happens in the balance, I am grateful. First of all, God has given me the body to be able to do this. He has given me the world that surrounds me. He gives me the people that I come in contact with. He gives me some hard places, but He helps me get beyond and over them" (an extract read and taken from the Madonna Magazine which I feel it says it all about Jo.)*

*God's love is too deep for words to express* - Mary MacKillop 1870

- *Helen Johnson*



RIP Jo Pope (far right)



## Pilgrimage to the Goldfields 12-16 October 2015

(Guide: Sr Leonie Mayne; Photographer: Joanne Linh Le; Archivist: Sue Sondalini; and Chaplain: Fr Maurice Toop.

One pilgrim summed up her experience of this 1200km journey to the Boulder-Kalgoorlie Region with this statement, 'the pilgrimage experience was a faith journey which was life-giving'. There were 35 pilgrims, eight of

whom were Josephite Sisters. Their presence was so enriching in every way. The people loved being among them and the Sisters shared the "sacred space" and "sacred place" emotions in such a warm, personal way that no one else could possibly have made such a rich impact on all the travellers. - *Sr Kathleen Dawe*

\* I just want to add - this great adventure included many Josephite Associates who were very happy and excited to be able to enjoy this Pilgrimage. - *Sr Denise Casey*

All very welcome!

## SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS FOR 2015 - 2016

13TH DECEMBER 2015

13TH MARCH 2016 12TH JUNE 2016 11TH SEPTEMBER 2016 11TH DECEMBER 2016

## WA ASSOCIATES SOUTH WEST GATHERINGS 2015

### Lenten/Autumn Gathering

When: Wednesday 9th March 2016

Morning tea, at 9.30am

Where: House of Prayer, Dardanup

Presenter: Fr Tony Chiera

Cost: Donation

Please bring a plate of finger food to share for lunch

### South West **CORE GROUP** Gatherings

February Monday 29th at 1pm

May Monday 9th at 1pm

June Monday 27th at 1pm

October Monday 24th at 1pm

All very welcome!

### All South West enquiries:

Nancy: 9728 1037 Annette: 9797 1156



## 2016 Central Committee Meetings

25TH FEBRUARY

26TH MAY

25TH AUGUST

24TH NOVEMBER



## Gone to God

**John Haines** - Spearwood

**Betty Morellini** - Bunbury

**Jo Pope** - Esperance

**Des Hardingham** - Rockingham

**Anne Martin** - Mt Barker

*Our prayers are with each family*

## Christmas Reflection

*We can all meet together in spirit at the Crib of our loving Infant and pray for one another.*

*I wish you every grace and blessing of this holy time with fondest love.*

Mary MacKillop, 1881



*Christmas is that season of the human spirit when the 'child in us' is coming to birth.*

*God is born in our hearts. Wonder and mystery touch our spirit.*

*At Christmas time we can have a renewed sense of the innocence of children.*

*In committing our lives to our Christmas journey*

*we provide the opportunity to come face to face with what is most essential and beautiful in life.*

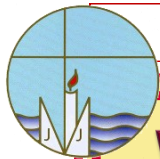
*Spontaneity, joy and delight can return to our lives, re-empowering our attitudes and outlook.*

*Like so many of our families Jesus had many 'skeletons in his cupboard!'*

*His family line was both blessed and flawed with the same humanity  
that any one of us might discover when we search through our family tree.*

(Seasons of Grace - Praying with Mary MacKillop - Genevieve Ryan rsj)





# WA Josephite Associates



## *Christmas Blessing*

*Whenever we gaze into a crib this Christmas season  
May new hope and joy flood our spirit  
Whenever we watch babies and young children playing  
May a new energy delight our hearts  
Whenever we are tantalized by the aroma of a bag  
May we unwind, relax and enjoy time off  
Whenever the crush of family and friends overwhelms us  
May the hospitality of our hearts expand  
Whenever we provide a meal or bed over the holidays  
May we experience love and appreciation  
Whenever we spy our reflection in the mirror or pool  
May we find ourselves to be images of God  
Whenever we put our feet up for leisure  
May the humble of presence of the Incarnate One  
companion us  
Whenever we feel our distance from each other around  
the world  
May the Christ child draw us into unity.  
Amen*

ACT LOVE WALK  
Praying in the Josephite Spirit



## **CHRISTMAS IS FOR HEALING**

**Weep over your city for Christmas (Luke 19:41-42)  
And see if your tears will heal it!**

**Loving you, of course  
I am not at all interested in how much money  
you are spending on Christmas gifts this year  
but rather, in how much blood, sweat and tears  
you are shedding  
to make Christ a vital part of your life  
for you and I will never be able to erase  
the fact that he came:  
to touch lives – to break bread  
to heal hurt – to forgive sins  
to wash feet – to calm seas  
to walk on water – to give us the Spirit  
and to care immensely.**

**Yes, to care enough  
To be born in our Bethlehem  
To live in our land, and weep over our cities  
And die and rise again.**

**So now, it's Christmas  
And I am not sure what part of you is crippled  
Or where you need to feel God's saving power  
but with everything in me  
I believe that Christmas is for healing  
And he came to heal.**





So if you can trust Jesus enough to  
Walk out on the waters of getting involved,  
Of washing feet and anointing people,  
of breaking bread and working miracles,  
I am almost sure his saving presence  
Will touch those blind and crippled parts of  
your life  
And Christmas will come to you.

More than anything else  
I want to give you Christmas this year  
It's a gift, an offer  
You can take it if you like  
But I can't really give it to you  
Like a wrapped up package.  
It is deeper than that,  
It is warmer, brighter, holier.  
It is more personal.  
Christmas is more challenging  
Than a wrapped up package.

It is an offer  
It is a mystery  
It is birth  
It is hope.  
It is Christmas and  
God can never be born enough...  
This offer will not be cancelled in case of  
snow!

From: Seasons of Your Heart – Macrina Wiederkehr



## BLESSING

*May the blessings of Elijah encourage us  
May the blessings of Mary MacKillop fire us  
stretching our imaginations  
to see new possibilities  
May the blessing of our God  
surround us always  
Amen*

ACT LOVE WALK

Praying in the Josephite Spirit