



Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

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NEWSLETTER • November 2015

Dear Josephite Associates,

I welcome the Goulburn Associates following the joint fusion ceremony of the Goulburn Associates with Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc. held on the 31st October 2015 in Leeton and Lyneham (Canberra). A report on these ceremonies will be published in the March 2016 newsletter.

A happy group (pictured) attended the Annual General Meeting held at Marian Court, Margaret Street, Strathfield on Saturday 12th September 2015. This day was one of celebration, with a Dedication Ceremony, a ritual of prayer and song, welcoming Josephite Associates, who formalised their commitment, to live the Charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop by their lives of friendship, prayer and service. Forty three names were proclaimed, remembering those Associates (NSW and Perthville Associates) who have been called to eternal life since our last AGM.

Our guest speaker at the AGM was Margaret Smith (JA Linden). I congratulate Margaret on her magnificent presentation of 'The Perthville Connection'. Those who were unable to attend the AGM will find the full text Margaret delivered, published in this newsletter.

Looking to the future I raise the following points for discussion by group leaders and all reading this newsletter!

- With twenty additional groups of Perthville Associates, and the Goulburn Associates fused on the 31/10/2015, how are we going to support them?

- Are the Perthville and Goulburn Associates going to feel lost in the larger group?

- Would all groups consider choosing another group as their buddy/link and share prayers/ideas/activities by phone/mail or email and if possible send a report for the newsletter?

- In considering a group to link with should preference be given to the country Perthville/Goulburn groups?

- How is the management of the Croydon office to be maintained with volunteers?

- Should voluntary help not be forthcoming, do Josephite Associates require a paid employee (two days per week) to sustain us in the future?

- Beverley Badcock and Margaret Smith attended a planning weekend 16-18th October to prepare for a Conference to be held in 2017 at North Sydney. This weekend was organised by the Sisters of St Joseph Congregational Leadership Team. Josephite Associate representatives from other states in Australia and from NZ attended.

- The following will be discussed at the 2017 conference: the possibility of Josephite Associates in Australia being formed into one large group. As you know, at present Josephite Associate Groups operate independently in each state in Australia.

News from Carol Badewitz -Bombala

A big, big thank you for all those who have and are praying for courage for me to face whatever is ahead. I know your prayers are carrying me as I am full of calm and peace...it is the most beautiful place I'm in. I have so many lovely friends who are here for me and I for them. My family are amazing and all very accepting as to where I am.

Lots of love and blessings - Carol.



- A further suggestion to be raised at the 2017 Conference, is to review the Josephite Associates prayer card and include the name of Fr Julian Tenison Woods with Saint Mary MacKillop.

- Do Associates have items they wish discussed at the conference in 2017?

- Please share these ideas within groups or as individuals and provide feedback by email or mail.

Dwell upon the face of Christ

Look for the face of Christ in others

Let others see the face of Christ in you!

(Knights of the Southern Cross Triennial Conference 2009)

I wish you every blessing, peace and joy for Christmas and the New Year.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – pray with us. Father Julian Tenison Woods – pray with us. St Joseph – pray with us.

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

"Serving others is the most grateful sacrifice we can make."

Rev. Julian Tenison Woods - 1870

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



"It is our good God who is our support and strength."

10.10.1871



Kath and Barry Evans visit Lawson
4th to 8th May 2015

The Miracle of Prayer

Talks

In the week beginning 4 May 2015, Lawson was blessed with the visit of Kath and her husband Barry Evans. The idea of asking Kath to visit our parish came up during a Josephite Associates gathering probably a year ago now. If you have read Kath's Miracle, you would know it is an unembellished but amazing story of how she became the recipient of the second miracle which led to the canonisation of Mary MacKillop. Diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer, Kath recovered completely to share her story.

When first making up the flyer to advertise the talks, I thought I would email Kath a copy out of courtesy. Not long after I received a phone call from the lovely couple. In the flyer I had stated that Kath and Barry not only travel around Australia but the world sharing her story. "Lorraine," Kath said, "I haven't conquered the world yet!" and "We only ever ask for a donation." I was going to ask people to pay a specific amount of money to attend the talk.

After a little bit of friendly chatter we said our goodbyes. Kath and Barry were just kind ordinary people, just like the ones we know in our parish community. It was so easy to chat with them. They were warm and easy going and I felt privileged to meet them.

Kath gave three talks during her visit, with more than 100 people attending, not including the school children. On Monday 4th May, Kath's first talk began at 10 am with the Stage 2 and 3 OLN children held in the church and later at 11.30 am with the parishioners and visitors in the school hall. On Friday 8th May, Kath's final talk was held at 7 pm and it was great that the youth group were able to be part of the audience. It was wonderful to hear Kath tell her story and Barry sharing in the telling as well.

Many were touched with Kath and Barry's "Prayer for Today". They are happy to share it with everyone they meet. It reads:

Every day, I need Thee Lord, but this day especially.
I need some extra strength to face whatever is to be.
This day, more than any day, I need to feel Thee near
to fortify my courage and to overcome my fear.
By myself I cannot meet the challenge of the hour.
There are times when human creatures need a higher Power
to help them bear what must be borne
And so, dear Lord, I pray:
Hold on to my trembling hand and be with me today.



It was amazing to hear Kath's beautiful story. A true and simple reminder that Jesus is with us. For me it highlighted the wonderful power of prayer and community. I'm sure Mary MacKillop is constantly interceding for us Aussies. It must be her full-time vocation now.

Kath's reaction to her prognosis was the same as any other person who is told that they are going to die. It was her faith and her community's outpouring of love and prayer that really made a difference. Kath is often asked the question "Why Kath Evans?" She states that she doesn't know the answer to that, but I'm sure the people who meet her may have an idea.



Morning Tea/Dinner

The Associates shared a cuppa and reflection morning at Sr Anna's and Sr Coral's place on Tuesday 5th May. It was an intimate time with Kath and Barry, particularly during the reflection. Tony Michel, a new soon-to-be Associate, has his own very special story and will now travel from Kurnell to meet with us each term.

It was great to share dinner with Kath and Barry that evening. Broccoli was the main vegetable on the menu and as luck would have it this was Barry's favourite. Thought at the last minute that I'd better double check and text Barry to see if "they ate everything!" One of my very few texts, as Barry recalls. Well Barry says, "Kath eats everything and I don't eat broccoli." We did have a lovely evening anyway. I gave him a big serve.

Thank you for all the donations we collected during the visit. We raised close to \$500 as well as the book sales, which well and truly exceeded Kath and Barry's expectations. We even had to have extra copies shipped in at a later date. It can be quite costly for the couple to travel, especially to distant places, to give these talks. We are so grateful to them.

Thank you to all the Sisters of St Joseph, Anne, Anna, Coral and Maureen, the Good Samaritan Sisters, the OLN School, the Associates and Parishioners, especially Paula Currie who enabled this visit to run so smoothly. For those who baked, cleaned up, popped up signs, directed visitors. Etc. etc. We would like to especially thank Patricia Verhoeven for going that extra mile and for those great photos. Thank you, Allan Walsh, for publishing this article plus all your support; and thank you to the youth group for being part of the Friday night talk. Lawson, you are a wonderful parish.

Finally, to Kathleen and Barry, thank you so much for sharing your time with us. We will always remember your visit, especially that little story!

Lorraine Phillips

Mid Mountains Josephite Associates Coordinator



www.marymackillop.org.au

Celebrating 150 years of Josephite life – 2016

Greetings to all in this special Sesquicentenary Year for the Sisters of St Joseph.

We reflect back over these past 150 years with gratitude for the many ways in which our good God has blessed the tiny Josephite seed planted in Penola in 1866.

As Mary MacKillop once reflected, who could have ever imagined what would have become of so small a beginning. The seeds from that first community have been scattered across our world where they have taken root in earth that has lain fallow. In these unknown and unfamiliar places the Josephite spirit has flourished.

The story of the Sisters of St Joseph is one founded in partnership. Fr Julian Tenison Woods saw the needs and created the vision. Mary MacKillop had a deep desire and the skill to answer the need.

This thread of partnership has been an on-going weave in our Josephite story. On behalf of the Congregational Leadership Team I wish to express our deep appreciation to all our supporters and benefactors over these long years. The Josephite story and heritage would not be what it is today without the many friends and benefactors who have befriended the Sisters and encouraged them when the pathway was not always clear. From the very beginning our families and neighbours have been there for us. John MacKillop, Mary's brother, was there working alongside her as he transformed the stable into a classroom with his handyman skills. Her sisters Annie and Lexie assisted with the classes. The tradition of the Houses of Providence depended solely on the generosity of supporters in providing for those living at the edges of our society. Over the years parish communities have provided for the Sisters' needs. In more recent years our associates, past students, volunteers and Board Directors have continued this tradition. Each one drawing inspiration from the way the Sisters of St Joseph have given flesh to the mission heart of God. So in the words of St Mary MacKillop 'we have much for which to be thankful.' (1873).

Sr Monica Cavanagh – Congregational Leader

Extract from the 2016 Josephite Calendar – used with permission

Our logo for this Sesquicentenary year draws us into the pulsating heart of God. Here at the heart of all life, God's creative energy and love continues to be birthed in and through the Sisters of St Joseph and all those who live the gospel with a Josephite heart. You might like to take a moment's pause to contemplate its wisdom.

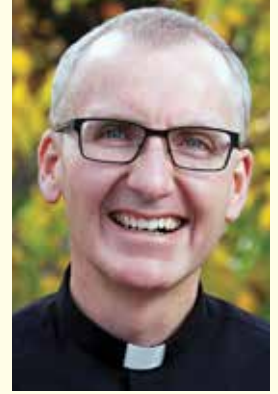


Allow your ears to rest in the heart of God and to know in this place that the divine spark of passionate love ignites our spirit to imagine new possibilities for living the gospel with a Josephite heart. Attuned to the heartbeat of God we hear the anguished cries of children as Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods did. We see our fragile planet lamenting, weighed down by the destructive actions of people. We touch wounds where we find humanity diminished. The life-sustaining heartbeat of God flows through it all.

*Congregational Leadership Team
Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart*

*Srs Monica Cavanagh, Marion Gambin, Louise Reeves,
Catherine Shelton, Maryellen Thomas*

Homily given at Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel 1st August 2015



As some of you may be aware, every Good Friday at the afternoon Passion Service in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, it is not the Pope who breaks open the word through the homily, but ever since the time of Pope St John Paul II this role has been given to the preacher of the pontifical household (or as some might call him – the Pope's private homilist).

For the last few years, this task of being the preacher of the pontifical household has been undertaken by the Capuchin Friar and theologian Father Raniero Cantalamessa. In the Good Friday homily entitled 'There were also some women', given in 2007, Father Raniero bravely and courageously focused his reflections on the role of women in the life of the Church – and in particular on the courage shown by the women who gathered on that first Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Father Raniero said, 'as men and women called to reflect on the Gospels we need to ask ourselves – why did the women on that first Good Friday remain firm despite the scandal of the cross? Why did they remain close to Jesus when all seemed to be over? Even those who had been his most intimate disciples had abandoned Jesus and were getting ready to go home again. It was Jesus himself who gave us the answer when he replied to Simon, saying of the sinner who had bathed and kissed Jesus' feet, 'she has shown great love!' (Luke 7:47).

The women followed Jesus out of gratitude for the good they had received from Him and not for any hope of making a career of following Jesus. No promise of 'twelve thrones' was made to these women, nor did any of them ask for seats on His right and His left in His Kingdom.

They followed Jesus, it is written, 'to look after Him; to provide for them out of their own resources' – they were the only ones, after Mary His mother, who truly made the spirit of the Gospel their own and followed Jesus for reasons of the heart.

Today as Sisters of St Joseph, as Associates, former Josephites, benefactors and friends, we gather here in this Memorial Chapel to honour and celebrate the life of a woman who, as we all know, not only made the Spirit of the Gospel her own but who 'followed Jesus for reasons of the heart'. As the opening prayer of today's Mass so beautifully says, Mary was a woman who 'lived by the power of the Cross, a woman who welcomed people into her home and into her heart'.

In honouring Saint Mary MacKillop, a woman of faith, who clothed herself in the garments of compassion and generosity, we also pay tribute to all those faith filled and courageous women like Mary of Nazareth, Judith, Teresa of Avila (whose 500th anniversary of her birth we celebrate this year) and those who support their children and families as they seek refuge and asylum. Women, who continue to call us to 'trust in the presence and providence of God'.

As we gather in this place of pilgrimage, a place visited by Popes and poor ones alike, a place that has always been a house of welcome, that is made holy not only by the presence of Saint Mary MacKillop but by the abiding presence of all those who continue to be their needs and intercessions...

Let us ask St Mary MacKillop to continue to pray with us and for us, that like her and all those women and men whom we acclaim as God's blessed ones, we will strive to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who calls us to set our hearts on the reign of God and who calls us in the words of St Mary MacKillop 'to always have love in our hearts'.

Father David Catterall – Parish Priest of St Mary MacKillop, Oran Park

Claiming the date for **Sesquicentenary Celebrations in NSW & ACT 2016**

In 2016 we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of St Joseph.

Associates and friends are invited to join with the Sisters in celebrating this sesquicentenary on the 19th March 2016 at one of the following Churches:

Sydney (St Mary's Cathedral, Woodburn, Tamworth, Wellington, Leeton and O'ConnorACT.

Please mark the date in your calendar.

More details to follow.

The Perthville Connection

Margaret Smith JA – Guest speaker at the AGM 12/9/2015



Good morning, everyone; thank you, Leonie, for your warm welcome. I feel honoured to have been invited to speak about the 'Perthville connection' today.

I was a boarder at St Joseph's College, Perthville between 1959 and 1961 and have continued my connection through the sisters, our Ex-Students' Association and the Perthville Associates. I was a member of the Perthville World Youth Day Committee and presently I am part of a committee setting up a Heritage and Mission Centre on site at Perthville.

Perthville Foundation: 1866 was a very important year in the Perthville story; it was the year that the Institute of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart was founded in Penola, South Australia; and the year Matthew Quinn was named Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Bathurst, which covered a vast area of NSW, extending to the Victorian, South Australian and Queensland borders.

Bishop Quinn was aware that the Josephite Sisters lived and worked in isolated areas, teaching the children and visiting the sick and needy, so he invited the sisters to establish a convent in his Diocese, which they did willingly.

In July 1872, Sisters Teresa Macdonald, Joseph Dwyer and Hyacinth Quinlan, together with Ada Braham (who wished to join the sisters), arrived in Bathurst after travelling by boat from Adelaide to Sydney, then by train to Macquarie Plains (now called Bathurst), where the Sisters of Mercy offered them hospitality before they travelled to Perthville. Bags made from strips of material were filled with straw by the Sisters of Mercy to be used as mattresses; they also provided the Josephite community with enough tea, sugar, meat and bread for their immediate needs, thus beginning their mission in New South Wales living by the motto 'God will provide', a motto which was to become their way of life.

Travelling in style in the Bishop's carriage on the afternoon of 16th July 1872 (the depths of winter), the four women arrived at The Vale, now called Perthville. Sister Teresa wrote, 'the people and children were there to meet us; took off their hats and shouted hurrah; and in the evening came with edibles and other things; and a woman offered to bring us some sheets.'

As the convent building was not completed, the sisters lived in the sacristy of the slab-built church, which offered little protection against the cold of the winter months. They cooked on an open fire outside the church and on Sundays and Thursdays moved all their belongings outside so the priest could prepare for Mass. The body of the church was used as a class room as well as a place to pray.

One week after the sisters arrived classes began for 30 children. At the end of 1872 the sisters prepared the pupils for oral examinations in reading, spelling, grammar, geography and arithmetic. Bishop Quinn and six priests conducted the examination, congratulating the sisters on

'a highly efficient school of fifty children.' How dedicated must those sisters have been, can you imagine? A Bishop and six priests examining children and teachers less than five months after setting up the school. How intimidated must those children and sisters have felt?

A four-roomed brick convent was opened in November 1872. It consisted of a reception room, a community room, a dormitory and a kitchen. Five hundred people were present at the opening and blessing of the new convent and during the Mass donated not only enough money to pay for the construction of the convent but there was 32 pounds left over. Almost as soon as the convent was completed, young women from within the diocese wanted to join the sisters. Just one year after their arrival their numbers increased to 14 so the convent building had to be extended. A boarding facility was started in 1874, necessitating again further expansion of the convent.

Father Woods first visited Perthville in 1872 and on many occasions after that, instructing the sisters and directing retreats for them. Mary MacKillop visited twice in 1875. Mary MacKillop and Father Woods were never at Perthville together. The Bishop forbade Mother Mary from visiting Perthville after the separation; however, Father Julian returned many times over a number of years, supporting and instructing the sisters. It is for this reason that the Perthville sisters hold him in such high esteem.

The first of many convent outreaches was made to Wattle Flat in 1873 and in 1874 one was established at Gorman Hill near Orange. Remember this was early in the settlement of inland New South Wales. Transport was by carriage or horse back and communications mostly carried by Cobb & Co. Coaches. The sisters lived 'with the people' in very modest accommodation. In the gold fields they lived in tents and taught the children sitting on logs. All of this while wearing the traditional long habit, head dress and veil. I don't know which would be the worst: the freezing cold of winter or the stifling heat of summer! Over 50 convents, plus schools, were established during the next 100 years.

When the Sisters of St. Joseph came to The Vale in 1872, they were members of a group under the leadership of Mary MacKillop. Bishop Quinn wanted to be able to direct the sisters in the Diocese of Bathurst himself, so in December 1875 he informed Mother Mary and the sisters. Those sisters who wished to stay in the Bathurst Diocese would obey his authority and those who wished to stay with Mary MacKillop were to leave the Diocese. Mother Mary said it was up to the individual sisters whether they wished to stay or return to Adelaide. Fourteen sisters remained at The Vale with Sister Hyacinth Quinlan (who was appointed by Bishop Quinn), their superior.

Outreach from the Perthville community set up congregations in Goulburn, Tasmania, Victoria, New Zealand, Lochinvar and Papua New Guinea. These groups formed the Federation of Josephites. All, except the Lochinvar Group, have made the decision to fuse with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Almost 170 women have joined the convent at Perthville and spent the rest of their lives in service and prayer. Many more entered the convent only to find out that life as a Josephite Sister wasn't for them. However, they remain part of the Perthville story.

Women from all walks of life chose to be Sisters of St Joseph, Perthville. Many of these women were pupils of the sisters or boarders at Perthville, some travelled from other parts of Australia or countries overseas. All of them contributed to the tremendous work of the Sisters of St Joseph, Perthville.

I would like to share with you the stories of three such women.

Sr Felicitas O'Donnell, who travelled from Ireland as a 16 year old to enter the convent at Perthville, left behind her family and all that was familiar to her and travelled to the other side of the world, not knowing if she would ever see family, friends or her beloved Ireland again. She was my teacher in 1st Year at high school, (now called Year 7). Our class room was next to the car park and every time a car pulled up we would all look out the window to see who had arrived. If the man was a large person Sr Felicitas would say 'what a beautiful big man'. We wondered if perhaps her 'dar' or brothers in Ireland were 'beautiful big men'.

Newsletter Editorial

Editor: Christine Sivewright

Members: Beverley Badcock, Leonie Bell,

Design and Print: Paul McMahon

Sister Thelma Pellett was a qualified teacher working in Blayney, when she got to know the Sisters of St Joseph who ran the convent school there. She was not Catholic by birth but decided to become a member of the Catholic faith as an adult, then made the decision to enter the convent. Many years after I had left the boarding school at Perthville, I was working in the local St Vincent de Paul shop when the lady working on the counter came into the office and said, 'there is a lady in the shop who wants 1000 Christmas cards and she doesn't want to pay for them!' That was Sr Thelma. She was chaplain at the Emu Plains Prison and she wanted the women inmates to have the dignity of being able to send Christmas cards to family and friends. We gave her those cards as well as many other things to support the women. Things like: decorations for their Christmas tree; drinks and sweets for their children when they came to visit; outfits to wear when they were on day work release; and money to pay for their transport home when they had completed their time in prison. Vinnies contribution was minimal when you consider the difference Sr Thelma made in their lives. She was with them when they received letters from home telling them of the illness or death of a family member; when news arrived telling them that their husband or partner had decided to form another relationship and wouldn't wait for them to be released from prison; when permission for their children to visit or stay with their mums during the school holidays had been denied; and, devastatingly, when a woman who gave birth while in gaol had to give her baby up. Sr Thelma was their rock. When Thelma died many prison personnel came to her funeral in full dress uniform, formed a guard of honour from the chapel to the cemetery and six carried her casket. Such was the love and respect they had for her.

Sr Margaret Press was a very academically gifted woman. She spent most of her school years, primary and secondary, at Perthville. She excelled at languages and was a brilliant researcher and biographer. Her books on the life and work of Fr Julian are considered among the best published. She certainly was a woman before her time. Sr Margaret was the first female lecturer at St. Patrick's Seminary, Manly, where men studying for the priesthood were trained. Once, when asked by a member of the hierarchy what she did, Sr Margaret responded 'I teach at the seminary.' When told that the Vatican didn't permit female lecturers, she simply replied, 'Manly is a long way from the Vatican!' Messages of condolence from around the world were received by the sisters after Sr Margaret's death; such was her influence on the world of academia.

To conclude, I would like to share with you part of a presentation I gave to the 2011 Year 12 graduating class.

St Joseph's Perthville is a sacred place. It was made sacred firstly by the traditional custodians, the Waradgerie people, through their care of and respect for this land.

The presence of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods added greatly to the sacredness of this site. They visited here to establish the First Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in New South Wales. They supported and nourished the fledgling group of women, whose vision it was to bring quality education to the children of poor families.

This place has been made more sacred by the faith, dedication and love of hundreds of sisters, who for over 140 years have lived the charism of the Josephites, to roll up their sleeves and get stuck into the work of loving God and His people in a very practical way.

Perthville has been enhanced by young women who, like you, have lived within these walls, formed a family away from your own families, cemented friendships and had the opportunity to achieve through a first class education.

Your presence also has enhanced the sacredness of this place. Through every prayer, every kind deed, every act of thoughtfulness, your words of encouragement, your respect for each other and the staff, and your dedication to your school community.

I have been abundantly blessed to have been connected with Perthville for over 55 years; those of you who have visited there would have, I am sure, found it a place of peace and simplicity. Those who have not yet had the pleasure and privilege, I can recommend Perthville as a place of pilgrimage.

If someone rings home to contact me while I am at Perthville, my husband, Cliff, simply says, 'sorry she isn't here, she is having her Perthville Fix!!!!'

Margaret Smith JA Linden



90th Birthday Celebrations in Moree

On Sunday 2nd August 2015, 61 guests, including some Associates and relatives near and far, gathered at the RSL Club Moree, to honour Mrs Stella Cusack, Moree Associates Group Leader. Guests included Stella's brother Allan from Shoalhaven, who expressed how proud he was of his sister and her contribution to her family and the wider community over so many years. Mr Richard O'Connor who taught at St Philomena's with Stella (1971-1978) spoke of her passion for the less fortunate among her students and for social justice throughout the years. Mr Malcolm McNiven from the parish spoke about Stella's deep faith and example of extraordinary generosity. Topsy Cain paid a moving tribute as the last indigenous person educated by Stella to gain her certificate in child care. Topsy said that she could now get a job anywhere on account of this award. Sister Margaret T. Cusack, daughter of Stella, organised the birthday cake with her helpers and the afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Among Stella's awards have been: a Bene Merenti Medal from the Pope, a Premiers Award and the Cusack Units named after Stella for her work for lower income earners through the Community Tenancy Scheme.

Sister Margaret Therese Cusack 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.

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

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in November and December 2015, January and February 2016



Celebrating the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

On Friday 7th August, the Mary Help of Christians Primary School, Sawtell, celebrated the Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop by holding a Jammies for Joeys Day. All students

were asked to wear their pyjamas to school and give a gold coin donation to go to the Josephite Missions in East Timor. The day was organised by the Junior Josephite Associates and their leaders Sr Fidelis McAnespie and staff member Kathryn Butcherine. The day started with an Assembly to welcome and enrol new Junior Josephite Associates with a certificate and badge. Students were very generous with their donations. Students gave money even if they did not dress up and even gave up their canteen money. The total fundraising for the day came to \$383.40. A wonderful effort from our school community.

On Saturday, 8th August, the actual feast day, our Associates hosted a parish celebration, with Fr Michael and Fr John Fitz-Walter concelebrating an 8.00 a.m. Mass attended by over 70 people. Thank you to all who attended and made the celebration such a happy event. Following the Mass we enjoyed a sausage sizzle, beautifully cooked by John and Roy, our very own Masterchefs, and coffee/tea and cake. A celebration cake, prepared by Kathy Derrett, was cut by Sr Fidelis and Sr Anne, an old friend of our parish, who is visiting Sawtell from Temora, NSW.

The Josephite Associates Mini-Market was held in MHOC church grounds on Sunday, 13th September. With eight beautifully decorated stalls on a glorious spring day we were able to raise over \$3,000, which allowed us to present \$2,000 to the Pregnancy Care Coffs Harbour Group and the remaining amount will be used to finance a Retreat Day with a guest speaker sometime next year.

The Boambee Josephite Associates group now numbers 43 members, both men and women, aged from 18yrs to 80+ and with two people waiting to be officially enrolled early next year. The group is made up of parishioners and friends from Sawtell, Coffs Harbour and South Grafton parishes. We meet four times a year for a spiritual/social Saturday morning usually from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Mary Help of Christians School. The aim of our group is to imitate the spirituality of Mary Mackillop and we take as our motto her famous saying 'Never see a need without doing something about it.' If you would like any further information in regard to our Associate Group here in Boambee please do not hesitate to contact either Sr Fidelis or any member of the Committee.

*Mary McNamara JA on behalf of our Josephite Committee
Kyra Quin, Kathy Derrett & Geraldine Sandurski*

News from Fairfield Josephite Associates

Fairfield Josephite Associates have not enjoyed the cold winter, with many of the group quite ill. On Saturday 1st August Fairfield Associates joined in the celebrations at Mount Street, North Sydney and an animated table gathering enjoyed the refreshments.

On the feast day of Mary MacKillop, Sister Janine joined Fairfield Associates for Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, then on to Neeta City to celebrate with lunch.

Fairfield Associates continue to engage in Rosary making and stamp preparation and this is a wonderful community effort. We ask that you keep the Fairfield Associates in prayer for their many family needs.

Sister Janine Keating rsj

News from Gilgandra/Tooraweenah-Perthville Josephite Associates

Thirty Associates and friends celebrated St Mary of the Cross Feast Day with Mass in the Convent Chapel. Afterwards we enjoyed lunch in the convent dining room. Two new members were dedicated and badges were distributed to those unable to attend the fusion ceremony on 23rd May 2015 in Wellington.

Our next gathering will be in October to celebrate Father Julian Tenison Woods' Anniversary. We will have a trading table to raise funds for the East Timor Mission. Please pray for our sick Associates and friends.

Denise Quealy JA Gilgandra-Perthville

News from the Gulgong-Perthville Josephite Associates



Gulgong Josephite Associates continue to meet twice a year. Twelve of our group are also members of the Catholic Women's Group and meet once a month. Our Associates also assist the parish in roles of Eucharistic ministers, readers and sacristans, and raise money by holding street stalls. In May some of our members had a very enjoyable day in Wellington at the annual gathering, which was also the celebration of the fusion ceremony with the Josephite Associates NSW Inc. Josephite Associates continue to collect stamps and pray for the Sisters.

Here are Sister Clare and Sister Carmel cutting the cake for their birthdays.

Margaret Evans JA Gulgong-Perthville

News from Josephite Associates Blayney-Perthville

A large group of friends gathered in September to celebrate Maria Reynder's 90th birthday. Maria is a strong supporter of St Mary MacKillop. Norma Molloy celebrated her 104th birthday. Norma is a resident of the Littlewood House, a facility of the local hospital.

Visitors to Sunday Mass have received a framed print of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The visitors joined with the parish community in praying the prayer to St Mary of the Cross. The rosary is always recited on the first Wednesday of the month following the 10 a.m. Mass.

Pam Baker, a long-time member, is recovering at home following a knee replacement. Megan Rose Stammers is going great guns after battling cancer, thanks to the care of her parents, support from Father Tony Hennessy and prayers to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Brian Turner JA Blayney-Perthville

The website for
Mary MacKillop Place, Mount Street, North Sydney
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.

Prayers for the Sick

Carol Badewitz (Bombala);
Connie Barnes (Campsie);
Eileen Bennett (Bathurst-Perthville);
Maureen Blood (Canberra);
Leone Carse (Canberra);
Sr Jan Cetta rsj;
Margaret Clapham (Warilla);
Joyce Comer (Gulgong-Perthville);
Angela Corby (Gilgandra-Perthville);
Jenny Falvey (Georges Hall);
Joyce Farnham (Belmont);
Jan & William Farrell (Bombala);
Kieran Fitzpatrick (Menai);
Lou Fry (Blacktown);
Shirley Gorrie (Campsie);
Alma Halse (Canberra);
Helen Harnett (Peakhurst);
Jean Hogan (Oberon-Perthville);
Barbara Irwin (Lalor Park);
Maria Kopjar (Menai);
Cecilia Lacey (Gilgandra-Perthville);
Edna Lay (Prayer Member);
Mary-Clare Lees (Canberra);
Lynne Luxford (Blayney-Perthville);
Pat McDonald (Peakhurst);
Peter & Charles McGrath
(Gilgandra-Perthville);
Bev McKechnie (Gilgandra-Perthville);
Jill McKenzie (Canberra);
Carmel Martin
(Prayer Member Kingscliff);
Margaret Millar (Blacktown);
Lyll Molloy (Bingara);
Gloria Monck (Canberra);
Kevin Moore (Warialda);
Muriel Morley (Gulgong-Perthville);
Alan Norgrove (Canberra);
Pat O'Brien (Warialda);
Sr Bridie O'Connell rsj;
Ann O'Hara (Lidcombe);
Allan Opferkuch (Moree);
Flo Oxley (Lidcombe);
Filippa Palazotto (Campsie);
Helen Perrett (Warialda);
Esme Quinn (Warilla);
Jan Raines (Gilgandra-Perthville);
Pauline Rendell (Peakhurst);
Moya Rivett (Bathurst-Perthville);
Gloria Roberts (Oberon-Perthville);
Helen Rowles (Oberon-Perthville);
Trish Ryan (Orange-Perthville);
Wally Ryan (Bathurst-Perthville);
Kay Shine (Bathurst-Perthville);
Dorothy Spratt
(Prayer Member Yennora);
Kath Squires (Bathurst-Perthville);
Norma & Ned Steele (Canberra);
Audrey Steinmetz (Belmont);
Kay Tuckerman (Thirroul);
Bernadette Ulbrich (Lidcombe);
Anna Vincent (Bombala);
Ritz Wendt (Peakhurst);

Jenice White (Ballina);
Gwen Witton (Penrith);
Derek Wolfenden (Gilgandra-Perthville);
Robyn Woodhouse (Gulgong-Perthville).

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

Requiescant in Pace

Beverly Artery
(Bathurst-Perthville Group)
Mollie Conliffe
(Dunedoo-Perthville Group)
Clare Day (Oatley Group)
Ronald Dignam (Thirroul Group)
Terry Dowling
(Bathurst-Perthville Group)
Regina Fava (Prayer Member Woodburn)
Edna Foran (Gilgandra-Perthville Group)
Enid Grimshaw
(Orange-Perthville Group)
Daryl Jesse Grundy (Padstow)
Pat Hawkins (Baradine-Perthville Group)
Joe Hope (Gulgong-Perthville)
John Ireland (Bathurst-Perthville Group)
Daisy Keogh (Lidcombe Group)
Helen Loczi (Padstow Group)
John McMahan (Thirroul Group)
Mary Mohr (Gulgong-Perthville Group)
Nell O'Keefe (Oberon-Perthville Group)
Gerald O'Meara (Mullumbimby Group)
Monie Purcell
(Gilgandra-Perthville Group)
Reverend Father Maurice Rosa
(Priest Unanderra)
Kathleen Ryan (Blacktown Group)
June Snedden (Mullumbimby Group)
Eunice Sparke
(Blayney-Perthville Group)
Joan Whitty (Thirroul Group)
Tony Windsor
(Bathurst-Perthville Group)

Give Your Heart a Home
Penshurst Josephite Associates
welcome all to an
Advent Reflection
Morning
on Saturday 28th November
9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
in St Declan's Parish Meeting
Room
corner of Penshurst Street and
Forest Road Penshurst
RSVP by 22nd November to:
Mary 02 9579 6893
or Angela 02 9584 9769



*Kay Shine pictured with Carla Robinson
and the red socks knitted for Kenya*

Never see a need

Kay Shine JA "doing something about it"!

100 pairs of knitted socks were recently placed on board a flight to Kenya, hand-made lovingly by 90-year-old Bathurst Associate, Kay Shine. As Kay told "Bathurst City Life" Newspaper, she met Carla Robinson and learned about "Project Hope" earlier this year and offered to knit the socks for students of the Makindu School, which is supported by the locally established charity. "I really wanted to support Carla and her family's work in Kenya," Kay beamed. "When the idea of the socks came up, it just made sense." Kay noted she can practically knit them now with her eyes closed. "I can knit a sock in a night while I sit here watching TV and knowing they will be so welcomed by the children when Carla visits. Plenty of people have donated the red wool for this project and I have really enjoyed being able to contribute to the work of Project Hope."

*Extract acknowledgement from 'Bathurst
City Life' 27/8/2015.*

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

Subject: Email address change



News from the Lithgow Josephite Associates

The Lithgow Associates gather regularly at the Parish Meeting Room on the second Tuesday of each month for prayer and afternoon tea. Sister Anne Houston rsj, pastoral worker in our parish, is a great blessing for us and her interest and support for the group is much appreciated. The Lithgow community, having been visited by St Mary MacKillop, who sent the first Sisters of St Joseph to set up St Patrick's School, are familiar with Mary's story and celebrate it regularly.

We have been interested for some time in finding out more about Father Julian Tenison Woods and Sister Anne arranged for Sister Jean Cain to visit our Associates group on 8th September and give an overview of Father Julian's multi-faceted life. We found the facts fascinating and were amazed at all the places Julian had visited and what he had achieved in his short life of 56 years. Sister Christina Morrissey accompanied Sister Jean from Bathurst and we enjoyed meeting up with them both after some years, as well as having our usual sharing on the day.

Sister Anne Houston rsj

News from Mullumbimby Josephite Associates

Jan Lang, the Josephite Associates group leader for Mullumbimby, has moved residence to Spring Grove in the Casino parish, where Jan's husband Ron can enjoy his time farming.

The Associates group in Mullumbimby is dwindling and it is difficult to attract new members. The group continues to meet three times a year and enjoy a Christmas lunch. Mullumbimby Associates celebrate the Josephite Feast Days of St Joseph and St Mary MacKillop, pray the Associates Prayer daily, continue to conduct a street stall for East Timor and collect stamps for Peru. Our street stall in May this year raised \$1,893.00 which was forwarded to Mary MacKillop International.

The Associates enjoy receiving their Newsletters.

Jan Lang JA, Mullumbimby

News from Oberon-Perthville Josephite Associates

The more active Associates assist in various ministries of the local Church, especially flower arrangement each week.

Sr Maureen Schiemer rsj

*(Contact Sister) for Associates Co-ordinator Mrs June Evans JA
Oberon-Perthville*

News from Thirroul Associates

St Michael's Parish School, Thirroul is celebrating 75 years since it was established by the Sisters of St Joseph in 1940. Josephite Associates members held a working bee at their last gathering to complete St Mary MacKillop fridge magnets to be given to those attending the Anniversary Dinner on Saturday 8th August 2015.

Anne Bower JA, Thirroul



Good news for people who have been trafficked into Australia

On May 27th, 2015 we received the good news from two Federal Government Ministers that there would be changes in the visas for people who have been trafficked into Australia.

It has been a major concern of agencies such as the Josephite Counter Trafficking Project, ACRATH, The Freedom Partnership, Anti-Slavery Australia, Project Respect and other stakeholders against human trafficking, that Trafficked people were being stigmatised by Visa names, i.e. the Criminal Justice Stay Visa.

It has taken us six years, writing to and meeting with the relevant ministers and getting bi-lateral support from Parliamentarians, to bring about change.

Together with other members of ACRATH, I have travelled annually to Canberra, traipsing the corridors of Parliament House as we worked in collaboration with government department officers and Ministerial advisors regarding the needs of Trafficked people in Australia.

The reforms announced by the Minister for Social Services, the Honourable Scott Morrison, and the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women, Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash, are as follows:

- Renaming the permanent Witness Protection Trafficking Visa (WPTV) to protect victims' confidentiality.
- Removing the Criminal Justice Stay Visa (CJSV) from the framework, to be replaced with a new visa framework.
- Adding eligibility for the Adult Migrant English Program for bridging visa holders.
- Removing the two-year waiting period for an alternate support payment to Special Benefit after grant of the permanent visa.

These reforms represent the collective work of stakeholders working in collaboration against trafficking and on behalf of those who have been trafficked into Australia.

Margaret Ng rsj

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(02) 9747 4199

nsw.associates@sosj.org.au

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If the answer is YES, please email us your request at

nsw.associates@sosj.org.au

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