



WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES' Newsletter



Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends

We have now moved into our Sesquicentenary Celebrations, which are of great significance, celebrating our wonderful years of journeying with Mary and Julian. I thank each one for your interest and involvement. My prayer and thanks to each one on this wonderful journey. The year seems to be moving very quickly, but let us pray for all those gone before us and think of the wonderful path we are on.

God bless each one for your generosity and prayers ...

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



Sesquicentenary Celebration at South Perth



On Friday 18th March 2016, St Columba's Church and St Joseph's Convent South Perth came together as the venue for a shared celebration of the 150 years of Josephite life and ministry. The staff of Saint Columba's School, and in particular Ondine Komnick, the Assistant Principal, worked with Maree Riddler to prepare the children for this celebration.

A large number of Associates, friends, parishioners and parents of the children were present with the Sisters of Saint Joseph for this joyful celebration.

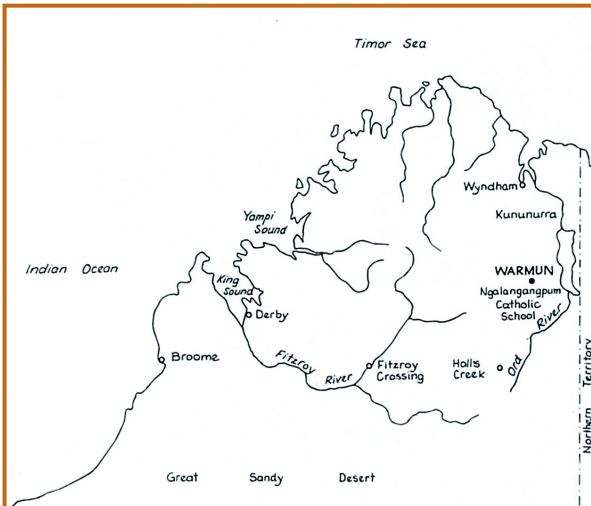
The Church was packed for the Mass at 10.00am. The celebrants were Monsignor Brian O'Loughlin and Fr Greg Donovan, and the children of St Columba's School sang like angels. The children also did the readings and prayers and carried appropriate symbols of their understanding of the journey that Mary and Julian began 150 years ago, a journey that has been embraced by many Sisters of Saint Joseph, Josephite Associates, Covenant Josephites and thousands of faithful followers and benefactors.

In his homily, Fr Greg Donovan, himself a Josephite Associate, spoke of his links with the Josephites over many years. He said he is proud of the Josephite Congregation in their offering sanctuary to asylum seekers. At present, Fr Greg is providing accommodation to an asylum seeker from Iran in his home.

After the Mass, the adults enjoyed morning tea and chat in the Convent grounds, catching up with old friends. Later in the day, Maree Riddler visited all the classes at St Columba's to thank them and to give them each a memento of this special Day. - *Sr Margaret Keane rsj*



A Queensland Associate Goes West!



The Kimberley, showing the great distances between towns such as Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creeks, Warmun, Kununurra

I recently had the pleasure of meeting a Queensland Associate who lives in Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley. Marion Smith has been working as a nurse in Fitzroy Crossing for four years. She is an amazing woman; she cleans and prepares the Church for the Priest and Mass every second Sunday, prepares the presbytery for the Priest to stay overnight, picks up some Aboriginal people to attend Mass and takes them home again.



Marion also helps getting second hand clothes for those in need. She is a real inspiration. Along with Ian and Claudette she attended the reflection and prayer day at the Warmun Retreat

Centre on 12th March. On her way through Halls Creek she met up with Maria, a child health nurse, and invited her along to the day. What a woman! She lives in an isolated place as a nurse, facilitates the Church community and reaches out to the poor. She evangelizes by her actions and relations.

- Sr Alma Cabassi

Breakfast in the Garden

South Perth, 12 March 2016



Since 2003 the WA Committee of the Mary MacKillop Foundation has held an annual BBQ Breakfast on the second Saturday in March. Over the years the event has been held under the banner of various names, *Breakfast in the Park* (Burswood), and more recently *Breakfast in the Garden* (the Convent grounds at South Perth). Different names – but always a breakfast!

In 2015 the continuity of this practice was hampered as gale force winds were forecasted with 100% certainty of extremely heavy rainfall throughout the day. The event was cancelled and the day arrived, hot and humid but no wind and no rain! In 2016 this break in continuity was a challenge for the committee as they approached the second weekend in March. Undeterred they pressed on. The weather was brilliant. Guests arrived on schedule around 8:00am and continued to pour in. The figures for the day suggest that there were 120 guests.

As the sun rose higher in the sky the colourful gazebos erected around the garden provided ample shade. This year an innovation to the tradition of the breakfast was the guest speakers. These were representatives from the two organisations that were successful in their bid for

funding during 2015. Chrystie Flint, the CEO of Swan City Youth Services and Peter Giliano, Chair of the Board for the Centre for Asylum-Seekers, Refugees and Detainees (CARAD) spoke about the work that the funding has enabled them to do. Chrystie's account of the amazing work being achieved through the *Taming the Inner Brumby* program held listeners spellbound. Peter's personal story threw light on the long term successes stories that emerge in the second and third generations of refugees who make Australia their home.

Old friends met up and chatted over their breakfast fare. New friends made themselves known and mixed with the 'old timers'. The raffle highlight was the Mary MacKillop toile bed quilt made by Marianne Lewis and won by Jacqui Mayne. Throughout the morning guests were served by students from Notre Dame University and Edith Cowan University. These generous students kept up the supply of food and beverages throughout the morning. All the members of the Mary MacKillop Foundation Committee worked tirelessly over a number of days to make the





event a success.

When all the guests had departed and the cleaning up done you would not have known there were more than 120 people enjoying themselves there only an hour ago – except for the band of workers who remained behind to clean up.

If you missed out on this wonderful gathering of friends this year - save the date for 2017! Second Saturday in March – we would love to have you join us.

- Mrs Margaret McCabe, Chairperson Mary MacKillop Foundation WA

FAITH ENRICHMENT IN YOUR HOME

The **Centre for Faith Enrichment** is pleased to let you know about two of our forthcoming courses you can take from home – by yourself, with your family or with a couple of friends. The courses are online so all you need is access to the internet – and a very small bit of courage for the courses are very user friendly. Why not try one of them?

Last Things. What does the Church teach us about death, judgement, heaven, hell and the Second Coming? This online course explores the Church's answers to, or, more correctly, avenues into these mysteries so that we may enter more fully into the depth of God's love. (Wednesdays 11th May – 1st June, 8 – 8.30 pm, \$20 per computer)

Dive Deeper: Exploring the Faith. This short, user-friendly online course explores questions of life, faith and meaning. You don't have to be a good Catholic - or a Catholic at all! (Wednesdays 18th May – 1st June, 12 – 12.30 pm, \$15 per computer)

For more information please go to:
www.cfe.org.au or ring (08) 9241 5221.

*(sent in by Fr Charles Waddell,
Centre for Faith Enrichment)*



Fr Charles Waddell STL, PhD
ONLINE COORDINATOR

online.cfe@perthcatholic.org.au
+61 8 9241 5222
+61 8 9241 5225
www.cfe.org.au

33 Williamstown Road, Doubleview WA 6018

SESQUICENTENARY INVITATIONS / DATE SAVERS

Sat May 21

9.30am Mass at St Columba's Church, South Perth
to mark the 25th Anniversary of the death of Sr Irene McCormack.
Followed by refreshments in the Convent Gardens, 16 York St, South Perth
RSVP appreciated to laura.mccarthy@sosj.org.au, 9334 0999 before 30 April

Sun August 7

10.00am Mass of Thanksgiving at St Patrick's Cathedral Bunbury.
Followed by refreshments and entertainment. RSVP Annette: 9797 1156,
aroveta39@gmail.com or Nancy: 9728 1037

Sat August 13

10.00am - 3.00pm At La Salle College, Muriel St, Viveash, facilitator,
Sr Michele Connolly rsj (Michele lectures at the Catholic Institute Sydney)
Morning tea and lunch provided. RSVP Laura: 9334 0999, laura.mccarthy@sosj.org.au



Taizé Meditative Prayer

15 May (Celebrating Sr Irene),

19 June, 21 August

Where: St Joseph's Convent Chapel, Mary MacKillop Centre, 16 York St, South Perth
Time: 7pm - 8pm, Chapel doors open 6:30pm
Enquiries: Sr Maree Riddler rsj, P: 0414 683 926, E: mriddler@sosjwa.org.au

Bring a small torch, and invite a friend!



WA ASSOCIATES' GATHERINGS IN THIS SESQUICENTENARY YEAR



SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS 2016

ENQUIRIES:

Dot Caughey: 9332 0118 , dotline1@bigpond.com



CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2016

Where: South Perth Convent
When: 10am Thursday 26th May

Committee to have lunch with Sisters afterwards

Future Meetings:

25th August 24th November



GATHERINGS 2016

(organised by the Central Committee)

Where: Convent, 16 York Street, South Perth

When: 2.30pm Sunday 12th June

Presenter: *A special presentation by Louisa Moore on her battle with cancer*

Bring: A plate of food to share

Future Gatherings:

11th September 11th December

All very welcome!



SOUTH WEST GATHERINGS

ALL SOUTH WEST ENQUIRIES:

Annette: 9797 1156, aroveta39@gmail.com
or Nancy: 9728 1037



OUTREACH GATHERING

When: 16th June 2016 ...

to visit Josephite Associates in Esperance.

RSVP: Could those that have indicated interest, and those who would like to come to Esperance, *please confirm by 20th May*

RSVP: details above

SESQUICENTENARY MASS OF THANKSGIVING

When: 10am Sunday 7th August

Where: St Patrick's Cathedral, Bunbury followed by Morning Tea and Exhibits

** Josephite Associates - a plate of cake/slices/biscuits etc., would be greatly appreciated for the Morning Tea following Mass*

All Very Welcome! RSVP: details above

FEAST DAY OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP

When: 9am Wednesday 10th August **Where:** Dardanup Church

Morning tea to follow - please bring a plate to share ... *All Very Welcome! RSVP: details above*

COMMUNITY RETREAT DAY ... *Josephite Associates / Catechists and all interested people are invited and very welcome to attend a Day of Retreat*

When: 9.30am - 3.30pm Saturday 27th August **Where:** Community Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral, Bunbury

Presenter: Sr Genevieve Ryan rsj **Topic:** Mary MacKillop ... Pilgrim Servant, Prophet and Shepherd

Register: Sr Pauline: 9710 0520, dundonpauline571@gmail.com by 12th August *(please - for catering purposes)*



Gone to God

Our prayers are with each family member and Associates for this wonderful woman who gave so much time helping others – Marj Delane

Reflection *"Never be ashamed of work done for God and God's poor."*

Mary MacKillop 1874



John 15: 12-15

God, you brought us into a new and intimate relationship with you through Jesus, who tells us “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you ... I do not call you servants any longer, ... I have called you friends.”

Well, God, all of us are commonplace, frail, ordinary humans. Help us to treat one another as well as we would treat Jesus. Let us welcome one another and serve one another with all the kindness, respect, and generosity that we would offer to Christ. Let us be true friends of one another.

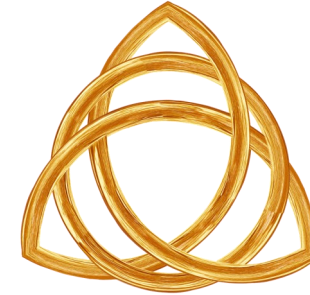
As We Gather As We Part – Carl Koch



WA Josephite Associates

THROUGH THE YEAR WITH - POPE FRANCIS

Walking With Jesus



The Most Holy Trinity is not the product of human reasoning but the face with which God actually revealed himself, not from the heights of a throne, but walking with humanity. It is Jesus himself who revealed the Father to us and who promised us the Holy Spirit.

God walked with his people in the history of the People of Israel, and Jesus has always walked with us and promised us the Holy Spirit, who is fire, who teaches us everything we do not know, and from within us guides us, gives us good ideas and good inspirations.

Angelus address, May 26, 2013

Reflection

*Our earthly fathers often walked with us through life.
Our heavenly Father continues to walk with us here on earth.
Take time to have a conversation with your heavenly Father.
Ask him to guide and inspire you ...*

Winter 2016

MARY'S PRAYER OF GENEROSITY

Mary MacKillop also had a strong devotion to John the Baptist. She well understood the occasion in John's life when he was asked by the priests and Levites from Jerusalem to identify himself, John replied:

I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

A voice of one that cries

Prepare a way for the Lord.

Make his paths straight!

Jn 1:23

This is an Advent stance and Mary seems to have identified with John's way of life. This is all she really wanted to be – one who prepares, one who wants to lead others towards God, to facilitate God's encounter with others especially those in need.

In her Book of instructions to the Sisters, recalling St John the Baptist, Mary encourages:

"We must trust to his wonderful light as a Patriarch and



Prophet, and pray earnestly for his spirit of penance".

The theologian, Walter Bruggeman, defines a 'prophet' in language which fits Mary's spirituality and describes the orientation of her life. Such a person "sees with different eyes and perceives the depth of what is really taking place, is not simply swayed by how others define that reality. She hears at a different pitch and feels with the heart of God."

Seasons of Grace – Praying with Mary MacKillop. Genevieve Ryan rsj