



Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

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NEWSLETTER • July 2016

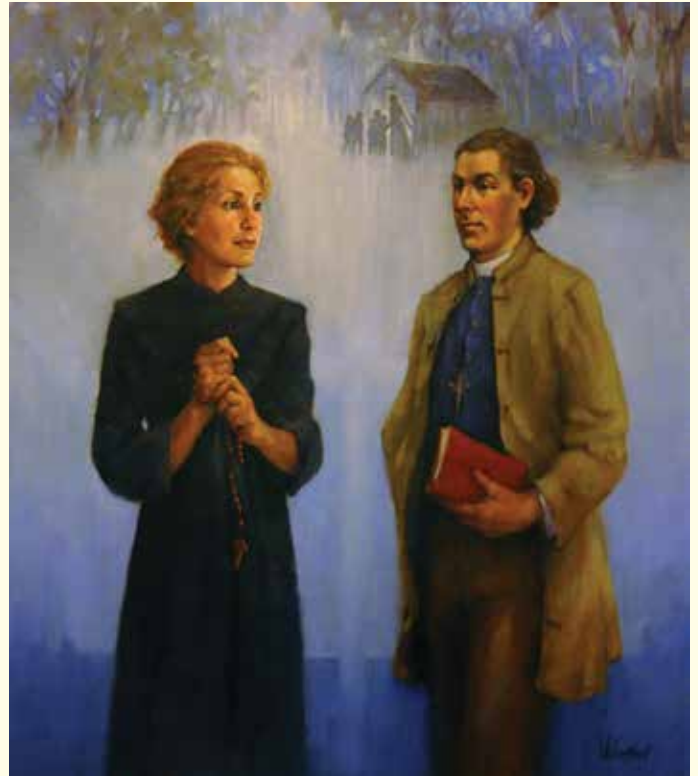
Dear Josephite Associates,

The stable School Park in Penola was alive with greetings of 'Happy Feast Day' from Sisters of St Joseph who gathered to celebrate the 150 years since Mary MacKillop started the school in a disused stable.

Mass was celebrated in the park by Archbishop Philip Wilson, with local and visiting Priests. Before Mass children from the MacKillop College Kensington dramatised the beginning with Mary and Julian.

Sister Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader, and Sister Megan Brock, Lochinvar Leader, spoke to the assembled gathering of the joy being celebrated throughout Australia and New Zealand by the Sisters.

Following a refreshing lunch we were called to gather in the Church by the local Caledonian Pipe Band. We were piped to Cameron Cottage, which has been rebuilt using many of the original slabs. Mary lived in Cameron Cottage when she was governess to her cousins.



A bronze bust of Mary MacKillop sculptured by Judith Rolevink was unveiled and blessed in the Interpretative Centre. Judith is working on her 16th sculpture of Mary MacKillop.

On Palm Sunday we were present for the blessing of the new porch in the church. The feature is the Stained Glass windows from the first church which have been restored using much of the original glass.

A special painting commissioned by the Congregation was unveiled by the Congregational Leadership Team. This painting depicts a young Mary and Julian, with a beautiful reflection of the stable school in the background. The painting will be taken on tour throughout Australia and New Zealand and then as a thank you from the Sisters of St Joseph have a permanent home in Penola.

Beverley Badcock JA Vice President

*Serving others is the most grateful
sacrifice we can make.
Fr Julian Tenison Woods 1870*

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



**"Let the motives of our actions
be to please God alone"
2.6.1867**

150 Years – Telling the Story

On 3rd February 1958, my parents watched apprehensively as I disappeared through the impressive front doors of Kensington Convent to prepare for the Entering ceremony – I was about to become a Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.



I was an immature 17, and was wearing a pretty dress with a hooped petticoat. Folding this into a suitcase amused the Sisters helping me to change into the long black postulant's dress with cape, celluloid collar and frilled bonnet. Six of us entered the Congregation in Adelaide that day – 72 others also entered that year.

My new home, St Joseph's Convent Kensington, was then home to about 80 Sisters. The place ran like a well-oiled military stronghold. There was a hierarchy of command overseeing designated duties. All followed a strict timetable and monastic-type spiritual practices, and had highly organised interactions. Each day teaching Sisters hurried out to their work in 10 parish schools in nearby suburbs. I imagine someone reading this might think, 'How soul-destroying that experience must have been!' Perhaps some did find it so. Actually, for all this apparent rigidity there was, for me, a two-pronged saving grace: Humour and Affection! The Sisters who were the foot-soldiers (if you like) were fun to be with. There was something irrepressible about these women. They were good companions to each other through thick and thin. I was inspired by them. In that institutional setting I learned the codes, the culture, and the survival skills of those who knew how to be fully alive no matter what!

Twenty years on and I was well and truly part of the Josephite hardworking, mobile, apostolic workforce. Our focus during those decades had been on institutional ministry – schools, motor missions, hospitals, nursing homes. We still lived in communal houses.

Then came Vatican III! Since then we have enjoyed greater personal freedom regarding our spirituality, lifestyle and self-expression. Higher Education in the Humanities, Creative Arts, Science and Psychology has equipped us to take on diverse ministries. We have also gained new theological, scriptural and spiritual understandings. Our horizons are now defined by God's Spirit and the Josephite Charism – not by the Rule Book!

Our leaders have urged us to acquire discernment skills and to make good decisions for ourselves and for the Congregation. Good consultation processes have enabled us to commit our unique, God-given gifts to the ministry situations for which we are best suited. Well into our seventies now, those who joined the Congregation in 1958 continue 'to serve in a variety of ministries – of being and presence, of suffering and healing, of education and caring'. (Const. 3)

When we met in North Sydney in 2011 for our Golden Jubilee, one wit pointed out that we can now describe ourselves as *www.com* women. WHITER – certainly, WIDER – regrettably and WISER – hopefully!

In her analysis of the past 50 years or so years of Religious Life, Sandra Schneiders claims that we lived three forms of Religious Life during that time. We began in a monastic setting. We then added an apostolic form to that. At present we are living in a ministerial religious life.

Fervently I pray: 'Thank God I lived long enough to reach this evolutionary moment of Religious and Josephite Life.'

Sister Genevieve Ryan rsj

*Extract from *soj enews* (used with permission)*

This is Holy Ground

'This is holy ground! We're standing on holy ground...'

So sang those present in the Stable Park at Penola on 19th March 2016, exactly 150 years after Mary MacKillop and Julian Woods committed themselves to the founding of a new Religious Congregation for the education of children from poor families. That was the day when Mary donned her black dress as a symbol of her commitment.

What a weekend it was! What a privilege it was to be present there among so many Josephite Sisters and wonderful lay people and to take part in the celebration of the special Mass that marked the occasion!

As we drove into Penola on the previous afternoon, we were greeted by banners proclaiming proudly: Penola where it all began. Yes, that was it, and a sense of excitement and of joy and gratitude for the 150 years of growth and development that have resulted from that seemingly tiny event right there so long ago.

Friday's weather was threatening and it rained during Friday night, but true to form, St Joseph kept the rain at bay and all enjoyed comfortable outdoor conditions at the park. Right from the beginning, everything went like clockwork – the seating of guests, the arrival and welcoming of Archbishop Philip Wilson of Adelaide and the Governor of South Australia, the Honourable Hieu Van Le, and his wife, Mrs Lan Le, the miming events surrounding the original foundation by students from MacKillop College Kensington, and then the Mass itself.

The presence of the Governor gave rise to memories of that other Governor of South Australia who wished to have his grandson attend Mary's school. The little boy did not stay because Mary insisted that he be treated as an equal to the poorest child there. The presence of Governor Van Le, a former refugee, who came to Australia from Vietnam by boat 40 years ago, also served to remind us that there was a time when our nation welcomed boat people.

After the Mass came a well-orchestrated picnic lunch for all present and plenty of opportunities to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

The unveiling of the new sculpture of Mary MacKillop in the local Woods MacKillop interpretive Centre and of a beautiful painting of Mary and Julian in the church were also highlights of the weekend. Both are beautiful representations of their subjects – the statue of the mature Mary and the painting of the young Mary and Julian on foundation day. One may wonder what they were thinking on that day, a day when, as Mary put it, neither of them dreamed of what was to spring from that very small beginning in that tiny isolated settlement that was the Penola of 1866?

It certainly was a privilege to be there, to remember all that has been since 19th March 1866 and, like Mary and Julian, to be ready for all that will be in a spirit of faith and trust in the loving Providence of our God.

Sister Marie Foale rsj

*(Extract from *enews* used with permission)*

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in July to October 2016



Grand Celebrations in Wellington

Autumn hit the Central West the week leading up to 19th March 2016, with some rain and very cool mornings. But come the day, the weather was perfect! As we drove from Orange to Wellington, we were conscious of the two buses bringing Josephite friends from other parts of the Diocese. On reaching Wellington the sun was shining and all was in readiness.

The church looked a picture with glorious flowers and the choir were there learning the music. Sister Jeanette Foxe led the choir and we had some people from Bathurst, Perthville, Orange and Wellington in the group. Most did not know the hymns, but soon learnt them and by 11 a.m., you would have thought that they had been singing them for years!

The ladies of the parish of Wellington were thinking of the long way many had to travel, so before Mass began they put on a magnificent morning tea. This was served on the back verandah of the old Mercy Convent, next to the church.

Fr Carl Mackander PP of Wellington and Fr Martin O'Mahony PP of Gilgandra were our leaders in the liturgy. Ministries were shared out and there was a wide representation of Josephites, Associates, Junior Joeys, Sisters all, ex-students and friends. Fr Carl, who has a great love of all things Josephite, spoke of the MacKillop/Woods story and how it took root in this diocese.

After Mass we all headed for the Civic Centre where it was time to catch up with old friends. The catering was prepared by the P & F from St Mary's school at Wellington and in typical country fashion, there was an abundance of things to eat!

We acknowledge the great assistance given by the Wellington sisters, Sr Marjorie Fitzgerald rsm and Sr Joanna Healy osu.

Sister Helen Saunders rsj

O'Connor ACT Celebrations

19th March 2016

On a beautiful Autumn Day in the National Capital, at St Joseph's Church in O'Connor ACT, Sisters of St Joseph, Associates, relatives and friends gathered to celebrate the Sesquicentenary.

Beautiful native flowers decorated the Church, and relics of Father Julian Tenison Woods and Mary MacKillop were displayed near the Altar. These included wood from the coffin of Mary MacKillop, a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes held by Father Julian in his last hours and books belonging to Father Woods.



Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Priests from Canberra and Goulburn, Sisters of St Joseph, and students from schools in the area assisted in the celebration with readings, prayers and the Offertory Procession.

Joyful celebrations continued after Mass in the Parish Hall.

Zulma Gonzalez JA North Sydney

Blessed Are the Merciful

When visiting in Canada some time ago, I had the opportunity to visit a national park where a very long bridge over a deep gorge was suspended on steel cables.

A wild river far below surged over the rocks. Groups of people stepped onto the bridge and the bridge moved as people walked across. Nobody appeared to step nonchalantly onto that bridge. Some began the journey and turned back in fear, others held hands and crossed, some paused for a long time before beginning to cross. Others made a choice to pause in the centre to admire the beauty of the scenery. There was much joy for those who successfully stepped onto solid land on the opposite side. Once they had completed the crossing a whole new world of beauty awaited them in the forest.

In recent weeks I watched Pope Francis commence the Jubilee Year of Mercy by entering through a Holy Door. The symbolism as he stepped through the door was significant.

There is something about crossing a threshold that marks a transition, a step into another reality. The invitation to enter into a Year of Mercy calls each one of us to cross into a sacred space, to allow ourselves to be challenged to give and receive mercy. Our culture values 'a fair go', a second chance, an opportunity to rehabilitate. Where will we draw the line?

Still fresh in our memories are the executions in early 2015 of Australians Myuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan. These young men along with others were on death row in Indonesia for drug offences. Their journey through the trial process and the appeal process absorbed our country. Their names became so familiar to us. We felt the distress of their families as they begged the Indonesian Government to show mercy. We viewed daily in the media the efforts of their legal teams and the immense strain on them as they tried every legal avenue to save Andrew and Myuran. Both Andrew and Myuran had been rehabilitated. It became clear that the Indonesian Government did not intend to grant them clemency and they were executed.

This year, Pope Francis has called for a Holy Year Suspension of the Death Penalty and for people around the world to work to abolish the death penalty permanently.

At the weekly Angelus prayer in Rome, Pope Francis stated; 'The commandment 'you shall not kill' has absolute value and covers both the innocent and the guilty, even the criminal keeps the inviolable right to life, a gift from God. I appeal to the conscience of the rulers, so that we achieve an international consensus for the abolition of the death penalty.'

The compassionate and merciful words of Jesus to the Good Thief in the Gospel say: 'this day you will be with me in Paradise.' The Beatitude states: 'Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.' This beatitude challenges us, if we want to be graced with mercy; we need to live a spirit of mercy ourselves. It is a reminder to us that we can make a conscious choice to be merciful. We do not grant mercy by chance, it is intentional, and it calls us to a higher level of our humanity.

As Teilhard de Chardin wrote: 'Our role is no longer to merely ease suffering, bind up wounds, and feed the hungry, but through every form of effort to raise the powers of love upward to the next stage of consciousness.'

Sister Louise Reeves rsj

(Extract from enews used with permission)



Meet homeless Jesus

Meet Homeless Jesus, the new bronze statue Pope Francis blessed during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. It will remain in the Vatican alongside the Pope's charity offices dedicated to the poor in the area.

You will not recognise his face. He could be one among many who roam the streets without a roof for the night.

However, he is nothing less than Christ. The remains of the crucifixion are what the holes in his feet reveal.

The life-size piece of work was crafted by Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz, who says 'what moved him to do it was a homeless person he found sleeping on a bench during Christmas holidays.'

Schmalz has made several sculptures that reflect powerful images, scenes or themes related to the Gospel.

Extract from CathNews 29/3/2016

Newsletter Editorial

Editor: Christine Sivewright

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

JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES (NSW) INC.

KINCUMBER RETREAT

14TH – 16TH OCTOBER 2016

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

Topic: To be advised (Sister Ann is on Sabbatical in Ireland until the end of July)

Facilitator: Sister Ann Morrison rsj (former Perthville Sister)

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
OR BY MAIL P O BOX 184 CROYDON NSW 2132

Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc will hold their Annual General Meeting at 5pm prior to the commencement of the Retreat. Dinner to follow at 6pm

Invitation to final sesquicentenary celebration 12th November 2016

The Sisters of St Joseph rejoiced and thanked God in March 2016 for 150 years of ministry in Australia and beyond since Rev. Julian Tenison Woods and Mary MacKillop were inspired to begin our Religious Congregation.

We have also rejoiced with you, dear Associates, who have joined us in huge numbers across NSW at the Regional Masses and celebrations. We offer our sincere thanks to each of you for being part of this expression of our gratitude to God.

We invite you to the final celebration of our Sesquicentenary, honouring Rev. Julian T. Woods, to be held in Mary Immaculate Church, 45A Victoria Rd, Waverley on Saturday, 12th November, 2016 at 11 am. Following the celebration of Eucharist we will proceed as pilgrims to Fr Julian's grave in Waverley cemetery for brief input and prayer. (Details re transport to the cemetery will be suggested closer to the event).

Fr David Catterall PP, Mary MacKillop Parish Oran Park, known to many through the National Pilgrimage and other celebrations, will be the celebrant and accompany us on pilgrimage.

Car parking in proximity to the Church is limited but is available in some nearby streets. Perhaps car pooling may be appropriate. Suggested transport is bus M40 from Stand H in York St Wynyard to Bondi Junction Interchange, then bus 348 from Stand G to Charing Cross, alighting at Bronte Rd. The church, with cream twin towers, is 2 minutes' walk across the intersection. The transport Information Line 131 500 would give details re Saturday timetables closer to the event.

We invite you to claim the date now in your diary so you can join us for this occasion and we look forward to welcoming you.

RSVP – Josephite Associates – P O Box 184 Croydon NSW 2132, Phone 9747-4199 or email: nsw.associates@sosj.org.au.

Sister Connie Cummings rsj

On behalf of The Founders and Followers Committee

News from Mullumbimby

We held our annual street stall in Bangalow to raise funds for East Timor on Friday 6th May 2016. It was a brilliant autumn day and Dot Gill, Frances Raisch, Marie Cook and Jan Lang were on the job at 7.30am, later joined by Rita Harriott with her beautiful cooking and plants. As we were setting up our display of jams, pickles, relish, home baked goodies, craft, second hand jewellery, books, plants and other bits and pieces, outside the newsagents, the early morning walkers and risers were stopping to purchase from us. 'The early bird gets the worm,' as the saying goes. As well as our usual grocery hamper raffle, divided into 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes (with contents donated by our Associates), we were given a beautiful vintage dressed bride doll to raffle, which was won by the granddaughter of Marie Cook. We finished as usual around 12.30pm and although the day appeared to be rather 'slow' compared to other years, a cheque has been posted to MMI for \$1,650. Thank you to our Associates and the parishioners from St John's and Holy Spirit Parishes who provided goodies for us to sell. A great effort by all.

Jan Lang JA Mullumbimby

News from Boambee

The Josephite Associates enjoyed the wonderful celebrations for the 150th Anniversary in Woodburn. We had a great time and loved meeting up with so many Josephite Sisters, ex-pupils of Josephite schools and of course our Josephite Associate friends.

Mary McNamara JA Boambee

News from Dunedoo



On the Sunday prior to Christmas 2015, the Dunedoo Associates gathered to farewell and thank Dawne Court, who has been the co-ordinator of the group for many years. Special guests were Sr Clare (Marie) and Carmel from Gulgong. Sr Clare made a presentation to Dawne and spoke to us about our role as Associates. Therese Sullivan will be our new co-ordinator.

Thanks to Chris and Therese Sullivan for providing such a delicious meal and comfortable venue. Everyone went home very happy and contented.

At our next gathering on Sunday 21st February 2016, we discussed the upcoming 150 years celebration in Wellington.

Margaret Flood JA, Dunedoo/Perthville

News from Gilgandra

Our schools, parishes and offices sit upon the lands of Australia's first peoples. As we work together, we acknowledge and pay our respects to the spirituality of Elders both past and present.

We celebrated the feast of St Joseph on 21st March at a school Mass, where 25 children from St Joseph's Gilgandra were presented with their Junior Joeys' Badges. Father Martin O'Mahony, Sister Robyn McNamara, Tim Keady (class teacher), Dominica Banks (REC), and Tony Musgrave (Principal) were delighted with the response when the young students were invited to join the Junior Joeys. Their motto, 'Never see a need without doing something about it,' inspires them to become involved in many activities both at school and beyond. Some of these include: visiting Cooee Lodge where our senior residents live, looking out for the new children who have come to the school, doing jobs for Sister Robyn such as watering her garden when she is away, etc. As time goes on they will be looking to do something to raise money for the missions.

Sister Robyn McNamara rsj

A letter from Getrudes – Timor-Leste

Having started as a Music Program volunteer back in 2009, Getrudes is now the Literacy Program Co-ordinator at our Timor-Leste office. In this newsletter, she wanted to tell you about the difference you are making in her country.

The work of Mary MacKillop International is special to me because it lets me help our own teachers in Timor-Leste. Our teachers are very limited in training and how to manage the classroom.

We heard that teachers from the rural areas needed training, so we interviewed them and chose what kind of topics they wanted to learn. We prepared the syllabus and timetable; we also prepared the materials. After that, we ran the training for pre-school and basic education teachers.

The thing that inspires me is working with my own people and sharing the knowledge that I have from others – I pass it onto the teachers in Timor-Leste. I love to help in rural areas with education so they understand more and are more strategic in their school.

I see a positive impact that the teacher training program is having for the children in Timor-Leste. When I started in 2010 as a teacher trainer, I practised one month in school and I used all the methodology of reading stories and animation. The children made a lot of progress, in their testing at school. After we taught the children, we saw that many – including at least one or two that couldn't before – could now read the stories.

If the teacher is animated and proactive, the children learn so much more. The first children that I was teaching have all been successful and have been getting good results.

My dream is that for the future, there is more education, especially in rural areas. Hopefully the education programs offered go more deeply into rural areas and train all the teachers so that all the children – in both rural and urban areas – get the same education. If that happens, in the future all the children will learn and be creative.

Thank you for your contributions and prayers to build up our own children and our own people in Timor-Leste. Through your support we can help build the teachers' capacity in Timor-Leste and a bright future for our country.

Getrudes JA, Timor-Leste

News from Lithgow

Our Josephite Associates Group is getting smaller, as many are moving into nursing homes. Unfortunately our age has got to us and we find we haven't the transport to attend very many activities. We do try to keep the light burning for St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

My association with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart goes back to 1936 and I have had eight children educated in Josephite Schools. The sisters were always a very great part of my life and Sr Ita Harris (still in Hunter's Hill Nursing Home) taught me for the Intermediate in 1944. We are very fortunate to have Sister Anne Houston in Lithgow as our group leader and parish worker.

Pat Okon JA, Lithgow

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

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Josephite Associates Leaders Conference

7th - 9th April 2017

St Joseph's Centre for Reflective Living
64 MacKillop Drive
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

Theme: THE FUTURE IS ONE WE ARE CREATING

Please advise Josephite Associates Office if you would be interested in attending.

Self-funded expenses include your own travel, accommodation and conference fee.

Email: nsw.associates@sosj.org.au
Post: PO Box 184, Croydon NSW 2132

Julian Tenison Woods story (1832-1889)



Julian Tenison Woods was born in London on November 15, 1832. He was one of eleven children and came from a family who encouraged a love of learning, nature and the outdoors.

In 1855 Julian arrived in Tasmania. He was ordained a Priest in Adelaide and sent to work in the Parish of Penola in South Australia. As Julian described it, the parish included 22,000 square miles* of country, more than half of which was desert. The

remaining portion was taken up with sheep and cattle runs. (*56,000 square kilometres)

Julian was an Englishman in a largely Irish Church, a friend of leading Establishment figures, a founder of two religious orders, a gifted missionary priest, scientist, writer, musician and popular lecturer. In 1861, Julian met Mary MacKillop. Together in Penola in 1866 they founded the Sisters of St Joseph dedicated to the Catholic education of the children of the poor and to other pressing social needs. Later that year, Julian was appointed Director of Catholic Education and asked Mary to come to Adelaide to assist him in developing an organised system of Catholic Education with schools staffed by the Sisters of St Joseph.

After four years as Director of Catholic Education, Julian continued working as a scientist and missionary priest in New South Wales, Tasmania and Queensland.

In 1883, he spent three years travelling through Asia, exploring and reporting on the mineral and coal deposits of the Malayan Peninsular and other nearby countries.

He returned to Sydney in 1886 and was later awarded the prestigious Clarke Medal for distinguished contribution to Natural Science.

He died in Sydney on October 7, 1889 at the age of 57.

Wood's life presents an enigma in its dichotomies: a gentleman-scientist and a roving Catholic missionary priest; a member of the elite Australian Club and a founder of religious orders; a talented and clear-thinking scientist and one who encouraged a suspect mysticism in some members of the Sisters of St Joseph.

Yet for all his shadow side, Woods worked tirelessly to extend the reign of God in his times. Creatively and innovatively he used his considerable gifts to add to the "edifices" of Church and society. Underpinning all that he strove to be and all that he did was his unshakeable belief that the Providence of a loving God guided him and pervaded all creation.

How appropriate is the last resting place of the gentle learned priest and naturalist! Crowned with the cross, beneath the statue of 'Sweet Mother' whom he loved tenderly – a little child in the next grave, 'Australia's gifted Son' Deniehy at his feet, the Silver-tongued Dalley close by – typifying all that during life had most delighted him – Devotion, Innocence, and Intellect! (Mary Mackillop 1903).

There on the hillside at Waverley overlooking the Pacific Ocean, which washes far below the rocky cemetery and murmurs a perpetual Requiem in its own soul-stirring music, the mortal remains of Father J.E. Tenison Woods await the resurrection.

In its triumphs and its diminishments, in its serenity and its turmoil Woods' life uniquely contributed to the symphony of creation.

Extract from sosj enews 9/8/2015 used with permission.

Joseph of the grassroots

When I told another Sister I was writing on Joseph, she said: 'It might sound funny, but when I find myself talking to someone across the day, it's usually Joseph.'

For some Sisters a sense of companionship with Joseph is not so surprising. Both co-founders, Father Woods and Mother Mary, saw themselves reliant on him at every turn. Their letters to each other before and after the founding 150 years ago rarely omit reference to him.

Joseph is often called 'silent', simply because Scripture does not record his side of his conversations with anyone. Designed more to evoke a sense of spiritual identification with him than to record historical details, Scripture styles Joseph as a 'mystery man' caught up in willing co-operation with the God of Mystery who matters to him. It calls him 'just', implies he is respected, and reveals the compassionate way he sets about resolving stretched loyalties in his life.

Given the high regard today for Joseph, it is amazing to discover that his official prominence came late. Though ancient Christian writings did reference him, the early Church's primary attention was on establishing and defending sound theology about Jesus and Mary.

There was, in fact, no general veneration of Joseph in Western Europe till after the Crusades, when private devotion spread from the East. From then on, interest in him grew at 'the grassroots' of Europe. Wise guides stressed Joseph's humility as a model for authentically human and holy Christian life: Bernard (12th C), Aquinas (13th C), Gertrude (14th C), the Franciscans, Dominicans and Carmelites (from 14th C) as they moved amongst ordinary people, influencing monks and nuns and parishioners alike.

Joseph came to be loved by ordinary people who saw in him someone with whom they could identify: a person minding his own business, provoked to 'get up and go' when the need demanded; a refugee, choosing to risk all to protect loved ones; someone who met the will of God in life's experiences. Thus did Joseph come to be sensed as a holy man worth emulating, and so the Patron of many causes and nations.

It was not until 1870 that Pius IX declared Joseph official Patron of the Universal Church. In 1960 John XXIII inserted him into the Canon of the Mass. But the passage of simple devotion over the centuries had shown that grassroots Christians were not content to forget Joseph or leave him in quiet shadow. One might wonder: Would the humble Joseph have been comfortable with a quick route to a high pedestal anyway?

Thus it could come to pass that at a meal table in 1851, a 19-year-old Passionist novice, Julian Tenison Woods, found himself inspired when hearing the words of one of Joseph's greatest devotees, St Teresa of Avila. Many years later Julian wrote: 'What she said about St Joseph so took possession of me that I resolved in a special manner henceforth to choose him as my patron and protector.'

Virginia M Bourke, Sister of St Joseph

(extract from enews used with permission)

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.

Requiescant in Pace

Vicki Conti (Campsie Group)
Shirley Bull (Dunedoo-Perthville Group)
Betty Burke (Tamworth Group)
Jim Daly (Winnmalee)
Reverend Father Geoff Dickinson (Penrith)
Patricia Driscoll (Quirindi Group)
Ralph Glasheen (Katoomba)
Margaret Glencorse (Lithgow Group)
Pat Hodges (Willoughby)
Coral Jenkins (Quirindi Group)
Maureen Lewis (Canberra Group)
Terry McGoldrick (Coonabarabran-Perthville Group)
Terezinha Maia-Lee (Fairfield-Perthville Group)
Lyll Molloy (Bingara)
Jill Pleming (Goulburn-Perthville Group)
Graham Porter (Quirindi Group)
Phyllis Pullinger (Boambee Group)
Bill Sevell (Quirindi Group)
Shirley Sexton (Boambee Group)
Jack Simonian (North Sydney Group)
Olivette Twohill (Prayer Member Tumbulgum)
Pat White (Bingara Group)
Maria Wykamp (Forbes)



www.marymackillop.org.au

Thank you for the tea tags!

Josephite Associates who have been collecting the paper tea tags each time they make a cup of tea using a tea bag, wished to know what happens when they are handed on in bulk to Anne Hanna (Josephite Associate), who kindly forwards them on to Carol Trindall.

Carol has been collecting the tags from tea bags, the plastic clips from the bread wrappings and the ring pulls from cans of drinks.

There are several charities who want these items and they distribute them to certain organisations, for example Cerebral Palsy and Motor Neurone Disease. What happens after that?

A wheel chair can be purchased as soon as the bulk weight of the tea tags reaches the weight of a child or an adult. This sounds incredible, as they do not weigh very much, but Carol has many helpers and wishes to thank the Josephite Associates. Carol offered a special prayer to thank you for your kindness.

Prayers for the Sick

Gloria Monck (Canberra);
Kevin Moore (Warialda);
Muriel Morley (Gulgong-Perthville);
Alan Norgrove (Canberra);
Sr Bridie O'Connell rsj;
Ann O'Hara (Lidcombe);
Allan Opferkuch (Moree);
Flo Oxley (Lidcombe);
Filippa Palazotto (Campsie);
Maryann Paterson (Peakhurst);
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);
Dorothy Spratt (Prayer Member Yennora);
Kath Squires (Bathurst-Perthville)
Norma & Ned Steele (Canberra);
Audrey Steinmetz (Belmont);
Kay Tuckerman (Thirroul);
Bernadette Ulbrich (Lidcombe);
Robin Vaughan (Narara);
Ritz Wendt (Peakhurst);
Jenice White (Ballina);
Derek Wolfenden (Gilgandra-Perthville);
Robyn Woodhouse (Gulgong-Perthville).
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);
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);
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);
We remain united in prayer for all our sick Josephite Associates and Sisters of St Joseph.

In the Footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop Australian Pilgrimage 9th November – 19th November 2016

The notion of going on a pilgrimage and being a pilgrim is a very ancient one that belongs to the spiritual traditions of all great faiths.

Places of pilgrimage beckon people to touch and get caught up in the atmosphere and spiritual realities that belong to their origins. However, it is not only the site that takes people deep into the heart of their faith, but the journey itself.

A pilgrimage is a very personal experience but it is usually a journey with others: seeking, listening, reflecting and seeing the hand of God at work in our own lives.

This Australian Pilgrimage to many of the places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry is a unique opportunity for us to absorb some of the aspects of her life and appreciate anew her role as our Australian saint.

For further information phone

Sister Therese Leydon

02 8912 4845

or email Therese.Leydon@sosj.org.au

Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the
Josephite Mission in Peru

Please send to:

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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.

Request from Bathurst

Used stamps for the
Josephite Mission in Timor Leste
Sister Jean Cain rsj Bathurst requests that
stamps continue to be sent to:-
Emmaus Convent 163-165 Mitre Street,
Bathurst 2795

A Very Australian Saint

The canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Australia's first saint – is a cause for celebration for all Australians. It is a significant milestone in Australia's history because it recognises and acclaims what being Australian is all about; and it celebrates achievement regardless of class or status, courage despite odds, tenacity, and the strength of an individual's conviction to stand up to officialdom when officialdom goes wrong. So who was, and is, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop?

- Mary was female; Mary was an Australian; Mary was poor
- Mary was intelligent; Mary was a teacher; Mary was a risk-taker
- Mary was resourceful; Mary was optimistic; Mary was kind

Mary is much more than all of those things put together. Her life's story is that of a saint. Mary MacKillop's secret was that she saw things differently. Nothing unpleasant in others blinded her to seeing God in them, to seeing their basic dignity as human beings. St Mary MacKillop is significant because she:

- Is the only acknowledged saint in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia;
- Lived and worked for, and in, Australia;
- Died in Australia.

A woman of great energy, vitality and action:

- Mary stepped outside the expectations that religious and secular culture had for women of the Victorian era;
- Mary and Father Julian Tenison Woods established an educational system which spread across Australia and New Zealand;
- Mary tackled major questions of social justice in Australia, cutting across class boundaries and believing in the dignity of all peoples.

A reflective woman:

- A woman of prayer and compassion;
- A woman who forgave her enemies and worked for reconciliation with all of them;
- An Australian who values the inner life as well as the active life;
- A woman who challenges us now to do as she did.

A woman who has inspired others today:

- To work in third world countries;
- To look for ways to stand with the dispossessed and alienated;
- To realise there are other dimensions in life beside the material;
- To rejuvenate their 'frayed spirituality'.

An Australian whose spirit can lead us into the future because:

- Mary was a realist who faced her inadequacies but believed in her dream;
- Mary calls us all to tenacity and shows us that hope can triumph over despair;
- Mary responded to all in need and, above all;
- Mary was a human being in love with God and God's people.

Bountiful God,

You filled the heart of Mary MacKillop
With hospitable love,
Especially for those
At the margins of our society.
Deepen the love within us that we may be
Welcoming to the stranger,
Willing to share our resources,
Prepared to forgive offences and hurts,
Ready to listen with open hearts and
Eager to work for justice and unity.
Companion us, generous God,
wherever there is an edge of need.
We ask this through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Sisters of St Joseph Sesquicentenary Prayer

We give thanks for God's generosity in calling
the Sisters of St Joseph into being.

For Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods,
the first Sisters, the children in schools,
the families around them,
the friends supporting them.

For the vision, energy and legacy they left.

We give thanks for the Josephite spirit in God's mission,
for the women who heeded the call,
the people who supported the mission,
the families who welcomed the Sisters.
For the love and healing in our parishes.

Join with us all who have gone before,
walking the Josephite way,
supporting the Josephite vision,
drawn into Josephite communion.

Join us in praising God's abounding kindness. Amen.

Friends

Friends come and go in our life, but true friends stay.
You have always been there to help me along life's way,
Giving trust and understanding on any given day.
Knowing I can count on you means more than words can say.
Memories my heart preserves bind our friendship true.
I will always treasure life's richest gift,
A friend like you.

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

Associates Office

PO Box 184 Croydon NSW 2132
(Letters only)

34 Liverpool Rd, Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)
(02) 9747 4199

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