

# Seasonal News

SPRING EDITION SEPTEMBER 2016



**Welcome to the  
Josephite Associate Queensland  
Quarterly Newsletter**

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## SPRING FOCUS

*Prayer*

## EDITORIAL – JANETTE DOBSON



### SPRING EDITORIAL 2016: PRAYER

In this Edition we consider the concept of “Prayer” and how we respond to that enormous love that God has for each and every one of us individually. I come to this topic with a great sense of humility. How can I presume to describe that personal love of God which you all so obviously treasure and embody in your daily lives?

God invites us into an intimate relationship with Father, Son and Spirit. We have done nothing to deserve this union, yet God hungers to be one with us. The Mystery of the Incarnation – God becoming man – is the doorway through which we are invited to respond to God’s love. If we respond in love, then we enter into the whole mystery of redemption. Jesus himself gave us a perfect example of how we can accept God’s love when he taught us to pray in the form of the Our Father (Matthew 6:7-15) Jesus promised us that the Father knows our need even before we ask and encouraged us to develop intimacy with a loving God. Even the term Jesus used to describe the Father “Abba” describes a loving parent who embraces, holds and protects a loved child. If we pray with openness then we expose ourselves to the love and mercy of God. In this specially designated Year of Mercy, the concept of accepting mercy ourselves from a loving God, and in turn, also offering mercy to others, takes on a whole new significance.

St Paul wrote many letters exhorting the early church to remain true despite trials and to be witnesses to Christ Jesus. “For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom 8:38-39



Mary MacKillop knew well the need for deep trust in God's love and providence. She understood from her own lived experience that God travelled alongside her and only God could be the source of her life, her hope and encouragement. She knew only too well the bitter taste of abandonment many times, but God's love sustained her through it all. Her letters reveal her deep trust even at the dreadful moment of excommunication: "I think I seemed not to realise the presence of the bishop and priests. I know I did not see them, but I felt, oh, such a love for their office, a love and sort of reverence for the very sentence which I knew was being in full force passed upon me. I do not know how to describe the feeling but that I was intensely happy and felt nearer to God than I had ever felt before. I can only dimly remember the things that were said to me, but the sensation of the calm, beautiful presence of God I shall never forget." Mary encouraged her Sisters to be united with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to pray the Litany of the Sacred Heart, which contains many beautiful descriptions of the faithfulness of God. Some of those titles describe Jesus as "most intimately united to the Word of God", "sanctuary of justice and love", "patient and full of mercy", and the "source of all consolation".

Not many of us would truthfully be able to pray as Mary MacKillop did. We know only too well how distracted we can become; how many requests we make of God; how judgmental we can be; how far short we measure up in extending mercy to others. But we do need to persevere, to spend time in quieting ourselves in order to listen to the often quiet and patient voice of God within.

Fr Richard Leonard SJ has a very apt description of intercessory prayer. He describes it as "prayer that asks an unchanging God to change us to change the world". Change is never easy, but the God of all life loves a challenge.



## **Josephite Associate** **Queensland**

### **Groups**

**Allora**

**Cairns**

**Clermont**

**Caboolture**

**Moorooka**

**Rockhampton**

**Townsville**  
**and places in between**

## **PRAYER**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Josephite Associate handbook gives us a large hint on what our focus as Josephite Associates is - the front cover states it clearly as Friendship, Prayer and Service. Our Mission Statement also affirms that we are called to live the charism of Mary MacKillop and again states clearly how we are to do that - Prayer, Friendship and Service. As our lives get busier and the world spins faster, taking time out for our inner wellbeing has become increasingly difficult. However, it is also become increasingly more important. If we do not take the time to stop and centre ourselves, we lose focus and our ability to reflect on all aspects of our lives. Prayer is one of the most basic activities of all Christians, not just Catholics, and yet it is also one of the least understood.

While Christians are encouraged to pray daily, many find that they do not know how to pray or what to pray for. Prayer at its most basic, is engaging in conversation with God and with the saints. Once we understand that prayer is not always worship, nor is it simply asking God for something, prayer can become as natural as talking to our family and friends. It is only when we enter into conversation with anyone that we begin to form a relationship. This is true of all relationships, as well as with God. A strong relationship with God will only enhance our relationship with ourselves and others.

Pauline McGuire



A conversation is a two-way street;  
How often do I talk to God?  
How often do I take the time to listen to God?



**Good and gracious God,  
this time of year we think of all the things we should be thankful for.  
We take a moment today to give thanks for the blessings you have given us.  
Thank you for our friends, our families, for laughter, for sunshine, for the gentle rains  
and the beautiful skies.  
May we always see the blessings in our lives and take time to appreciate them.  
Amen.**

USED WITH PERMISSION CATHOLIC PRINCIPALS COUNCIL ONTARIO

## **EDUCATION**

### **WHY DO CATHOLICS PRAY TO SAINTS?**

Mary MacKillop certainly had a few 'favourite saints' - Joseph and John the Baptist are two of the Js on the Josephite symbol. I am sure that Mary found much strength through her prayers to these most worthy saints. However, as much as prayer unites most Christians, prayer through the saints can separate the Catholic Church from most Protestant denominations. We recognise the saints as holy men and women who have lived exemplary Christian lives and, after their deaths, are now in the presence of God in Heaven. Many Christians, even some Catholics, misunderstand this devotion, which is based on our belief that, just as our life does not end with death, so too our relationships with our fellow members of the Body of Christ continue after their death. This belief in the Communion of Saints is what unites and fulfils the church. Christ has died once and for all and therefore all members of the church are united in Christ's death and his resurrection.

While we live together on earth as Christians and we are in communion, or unity, with one another, that communion doesn't end when one of us dies. We believe that the saints, the Christians in heaven, remain in communion with those of us on earth. So, just as we might ask a friend or family member to pray for us, we can approach a saint with our prayers.

Many non-Catholic Christians believe that it is wrong to pray to the saints, claiming that our prayers should be directed to God alone. Some Catholics, responding to this criticism, have argued that we do not pray to the saints, but with them. Both groups, however, are confusing prayer with worship. True worship (as opposed to veneration or honour) does indeed belong to God alone, and we should never worship man, woman or any other creature as we worship God. But while worship may take the form of prayer, as in the Mass and other liturgies of the Church, not all prayer is worship. When we pray to the saints, we're simply asking them to help us, by praying to God on our behalf, or thanking them for having already done so.

Pauline McGuire

### **QLD INDUCTION AND FORMATION MANUAL**

The Planning Committee has produced an Induction and Formation Manual for each group. The manual contains the structure which will form the induction process as well as all the resources to conduct formation and the induction ceremony. These manuals will be sent to each group in the near future.



## **ACTION**

### **LOCAL GROUPS**

#### **Townsville**

As we have reported before the local 'Gate Ministry' has been a huge success in Townsville and we are looking to expand the ministry to assist a local Indigenous settlement - Happy Valley.

We are planning to make small packages including a towel, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste. The aim is to provide them with essential items without putting in too much that becomes a rubbish issue.

## **CELEBRATIONS**

### **MARY MACKILLOP FEAST DAY**

**8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2016**

Since our last Newsletter, the main action has been in the preparation and celebrations for the feast of Mary MacKillop. The following are some of the reports that have been received.

#### **Townsville Josephite Associate Celebrations**

Townsville Associates celebrated the feast day over several events. We gathered for evening prayer on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> and joined the Mary MacKillop parish on the 8<sup>th</sup> for Mass. The parish also hosted the annual Mary MacKillop Family Fair on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August with rides, stalls, free kids activities and flower show. This year we partnered with the St Vincent de Paul Youth Conference to hold a 'Buddies Day' at the fair. The conference arranged to bring some of the children in their program to enjoy the day and the Mary MacKillop Parish along with the Associates subsidized some of the activities.

#### **Mary MacKillop Feast Day**

Sisters celebrated the day in many places and in many ways. In Brisbane the celebrations began with the launch of the new song written by **Mary Fletcher: "HEARTBEAT"**. Each Sister is being given a copy of the CD as a Feast Day gift.



Sisters joined in the celebration at **St Joseph's School Nundah** for the Official opening and blessing of the new play area 'MacKillop Green'. This was followed by refreshments and a choir performance. The sisters were presented with a framed image depicting the Centenary of Josephite Education at Nundah.

### MARY MACKILLOP DAY GIFT

Some of the Josephites in Qld plus Volunteers, celebrated the **Feast at Nudgee** with Mass and morning tea. Several sisters joined the Nundah community for the Feast Day lunch.



Kerry Latimer the Principal of St Joseph's School at Nundah presented the Sisters with this framed picture which acknowledges the Centenary of the School and the Sisters' involvement.

This is Kerry's message:

*Dear Annette, Lyn, Denise and the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Happy Feast Day!*

*We wish you every blessing in your Sesquicentenary year and thank God for the continuing presence of the Sisters within our school community.*

*With gratitude.*

*Kerry and the St Joseph's School Community*

### CATHEDRAL OF ST STEPHEN

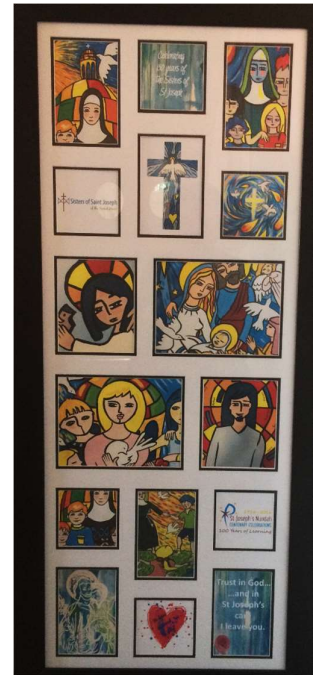
About 30 Sisters were able to get to **St Stephen's Cathedral** for the Blessing and Opening of the **Mary MacKillop Walk** and for the Feast Day Mass. We give thanks to those who have been involved in the planning and carrying out of the work that has produced such a beautiful pilgrimage Walk – to Denise from RLT, Margaret McKenna, Moya for the Archdiocese and to Marie Dowling for her careful negotiating and design work for the two display windows. We have been able to give the Archdiocese the funds received in a bequest made by Dorothy and Eva Baird from Annerley. The bequest was specifically "for use towards the development of some Mary MacKillop feature in Brisbane." So this was the perfect opportunity to meet the request of the bequest. Brenda shared how in their later years these 2 women found it easier to get a bus into the city and attended Mass at the Cathedral. They loved Mary MacKillop and had great devotion to her. After Mass in the Cathedral they would visit the shrine and tell people about Mary MacKillop. They must feel honoured and proud.



## TOOWOOMBA

Margaret Andersen and Di Phillips worked hard to organise a special Mass at the Cathedral in Toowoomba to celebrate the Feast Day and to mark the 150 years of the Congregation. Bishop McGucken was the main celebrant and about 100 students from Catholic schools in the diocese.

One of the Mary MacKillop Banners used on 19 March in St Stephen's was used in the Cathedral. The school captains of MARY MACKILLOP at Highfields carried it in and placed it on the floor between the altar rails and front pews. Later, students from the schools were lining up for photos with the banner!! The celebration went well - lovely music thanks to Libby Rosentreter, Anne Thomas, Vicki, the Cathedral organist and Hugh the Cantor. They had formed a little choir to lead the singing. To recall the places where the Sisters had been in the Diocese, students carried placards naming each town and date of foundation, in the Entrance Procession and placed them along the kneelers of the altar rails. We included Highfields in the list too as they are a school founded in the Mary MacKillop tradition. 4 students and a teacher came from Chinchilla. The cathedral was not full, but a good crowd came, never the less. Quite a number of Priests concelebrated including Fr Peter Doohan, from Charleville and the south west. Bishop McGuckin spoke well telling us of his trip to Poland.



Our years 5/6 group and Yr 6 from Charleville and Cunnamulla were in Mary MacKillop Place on Monday too!

Margaret Anderson rsj

**The following is an account from the Catholic Leader Website:**

**Great feast: Sisters of St Joseph at the Mass in St Stephen's Cathedral celebrating the feast of their co-founder St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.**

AUSTRALIA'S first canonised saint was a pilgrim who has drawn millions of Catholics with her on her journey, Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge said.

In a homily to a packed St Stephen's Cathedral, Archbishop Coleridge, said St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was a daughter of this land, but a saint for the whole world. He acknowledged her suffering in Brisbane and throughout Australia, but "the suffering of Mary of the Cross didn't destroy her, it made her the saint she has become, and before that it made her the unforgettable human being she was. "There was some profoundly radiant humanity about Mary MacKillop," he said. Archbishop Coleridge shared these words on the Solemnity of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop on August 8.

This year also celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sisters of St Joseph which Mary MacKillop co-founded. Moments before the Mass, Archbishop Coleridge blessed the new Mary MacKillop Walk which he said during his homily, will be "an enduring memorial to the patron of the Archdiocese". "Like her it is very simple. But like her it will be enduringly eloquent and will speak of this woman who is so unmistakably and unforgettably one of us," he said.

The new walk leads from the Penola Place through the St Stephen's Cathedral precinct telling the story of her extraordinary journey "from Melbourne to Heaven". "The walk leads into the Cathedral where she prayed and worshipped and where I think the finest image of her stands, hewn out of the wood of the Australian bush – stuff which is of us, to represent the woman who is one of



us,” he said. “This little journey of the Mary MacKillop Walk looks to the journey of faith and touches on the mystery of pilgrimage.”

Archbishop Coleridge said biblical religion “makes a fuss” about the journey because the most fundamental way the bible spoke about who God was “because the real God never leaves us where we are, the real God moves us from one location to another.”

“The God of our faith is a God of the journey. This was absolutely true of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Inscribed on her tomb in North Sydney are words of her own: ‘We are but travellers here’. How true, and how true of her. She was a spectacular traveller. She journeyed all over this vast continent,” he said. “The woman was a pilgrim and drew thousands, millions with her on the journey that became her pilgrimage.”

Archbishop Coleridge said to understand Mary MacKillop one must understand her suffering.

“She suffered in this city. She suffered in all kinds of ways throughout this land, and yet her suffering was the cross of Christ, not some other cross, because you see this world knows many, many crosses and all but one of those crosses destroys the human being, turns us into the living dead,” he said. “There is only one cross that does not, and it is the cross of Christ. Far from destroying the human being it creates the human being.”

★ ★ ★ ★

At the Mass, Sisters of St Joseph Regional Leader Sister Annette Arnold described the feast day as “a great day for us. “Mary MacKillop would be just beaming to hear and see and listen to the music, the prayer of thanksgiving in this wonderful place today,” she said. “I’m sure when Mary MacKillop trod the streets of Brisbane she was certainly listening to the heartbeat of her God and the heartbeat of the world around her, and I wonder what she would make of this place today. “I’m sure she is thrilled. I’m sure she would be really pleased to see the new Mary MacKillop Walkway, not because it’s about her, but because it is a pathway to God, to the God whose heartbeat we are all called to be in tune with.

“Since 1869 when the sisters first arrived here in Brisbane, Mary and the Sisters let the light in to the darkness, the sadness, hurt pain and poverty they saw around them and today that’s her message to us ... be attentive, listen to the heartbeat of the world we live in and let light shine into darkness and troubled places. “Brisbane Catholic Education Executive Director Pam Betts praised Mary MacKillop and “the work of her order, the much-loved Joey’s” who set up schools, particularly where those who were poor and isolated could find a pathway in life. “It is most fitting that our vocal accompaniment this morning has been provided by a combined choir of 200 students from our schools...” Ms Betts said.

A choir and a full band of musicians from Catholic schools across South East Queensland was conducted by Anthony Young. “The Mary MacKillop Walk will be a wonderful place of reflection and contemplation for all who visit this precinct, especially groups of students from our schools who frequently come here,” Ms Betts said.

*By Mark Bowling*

**Below are some of the stepping stones along the Walk**





## **EVENTS**

### **SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH REGIONAL DAY**

The Planning Committee thought it would be a good opportunity for one of the members to speak with the Sisters regarding the new direction for the Associates' Movement. Mrs Janette Dobson from Rockhampton ably presented the future Plan for the Associates in Queensland. One of the issues presented by Janette was the need to develop leadership within the organization and the Planning Committee is working on how this may be done effectively to ensure the smooth running of the Associates.

Another issue raised was that of future membership and the need to explore ways of involving others in the living out of the charism of Mary MacKillop.

Thanks to Janette for her preparation and willingness to do this presentation on behalf of the Planning Committee.

### **Regional Day Report (Janette Dobson)**

Janette Dobson and Sr Moya presented a report from the Planning Committee to the Sisters of St Joseph in Queensland, who were gathered at Nundah for their Regional Day on 8th July. This was an opportunity to provide feedback to the Sisters on how the Qld transition of the Associates movement is progressing from congregational leadership to lay leadership.

The Sisters had previously made the decision for the Associate movement to be a self-sustaining entity under the umbrella of the Sisters of St Joseph, but working autonomously. The Queensland Transition Team was formed to enable that to occur, and we have been working alongside the Sisters in that endeavour, firstly with Sr Janet McDougal and for the past two years with Sr Moya Campbell. As we have worked through the issues that needed to be addressed, the team has moved from being in-transition to being a planning and implementing committee.

Many of the Sisters who were present at Regional Day have fond memories of working with you as Associates over the years and were extremely keen to learn how the Associate groups were going. We were able to show them our progress through a series of power-point slides. We explained how we have made contact with you all, outlined the steps we have taken e.g. trying to keep you all informed; working on providing resources for your Associate groups; providing an Induction Manual so that all new and ongoing members receive the same basic information and formation; and also developing a Ritual for Induction whereby new members formally commit to being Josephite Associates.

The Sisters were able to see our newsletters, our new Induction Manual and Rituals for Reception (which should be available to you soon) and, most importantly, to ask questions. We also spoke about the future challenges we see, i.e. ensuring our membership base continues to grow, resourcing your groups with materials, identifying leaders of the future, and how we manage to obtain finances for the work to continue, conscious that the Associates will need to be financially autonomous as well.

Unfortunately we were limited by time restrictions in such a busy day for the Sisters, but we want to assure you that the Sisters were delighted to know that the Associates are still continuing and poised to move confidently into the future. The Congregational Leadership Team supports the

Associate Movement as a valid pathway into Josephite spirituality and one which travels companionably alongside the Sisters. Let's continue the journey!

## **NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LEADERS**

This conference is specifically focussed on the formation of leaders in the local areas. We are inviting person/s from each local group of Associates to participate in the April conference. This person/s needs to be able to assume a leadership role in the local group particularly in light of the vision that the Associates become a sustainable organization into the future. It is important that each local group contributes to the financial support of the person/s that you wish to attend this conference.

This is a wonderful opportunity as the Associate organization is recognised as an authentic pathway of living out the charism of Mary Mackillop. We are looking to identify potential leaders within the Josephite Associate Movement.

These leaders would go through formation and attend leadership conferences to further develop their skills, thereby enabling them to run induction and formation programs within their local Josephite Associate groups. If you are someone who is able to offer purpose, direction and motivation to others and possess the following qualities you may be one whom we are looking for:

- self-motivated
- inspirational
- clear communication skills
- initiator
- personal integrity
- willing to accept responsibility
- ability to make decisions and simplify situations
- encouraging and supportive
- able to foster and maintain relationships with a variety of people

If you feel that this is something you are interested in pursuing please email your details to the Josephite Associate Planning Committee Office at [qld.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:qld.associates@sosj.org.au) or ring the office on 07 3833 6119 or Marie Sellen on 0421 323 063 by 15th September.

A letter from IJALT (International Josephite Associates Leadership Team) regarding the conference will follow in the near future

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### **OFFICE FOR THE ASSOCIATES IN QUEENSLAND**

Over the last few months, the Planning Committee has been looking at having a more permanent address, phone number and email address for the Associates. Moya has been doing some investigating in Brisbane and we now have an office for the Associates.

The Sisters of Perpetual Adoration have offered us a space at their convent which is situated in Fortitude Valley. These sisters were founded by Julian Tenison Woods and Catherine Gaffney and have been in the valley since 1874. Originally, they took responsibility for the nursing care of the elderly women in this area and this grew into a large nursing home for the elderly. This has now been taken over by Catholic Health. These sisters have always been involved with perpetual

adoration as part of their mission. The Perpetual Adoration is now continued by a group of lay people.

These sisters are very connected with the Sisters of St Joseph so we are very grateful for the hospitality extended to the Associates by these Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

**Contact details:**

Qld Associates Office  
123 Warren Street  
Fortitude Valley Q 4006

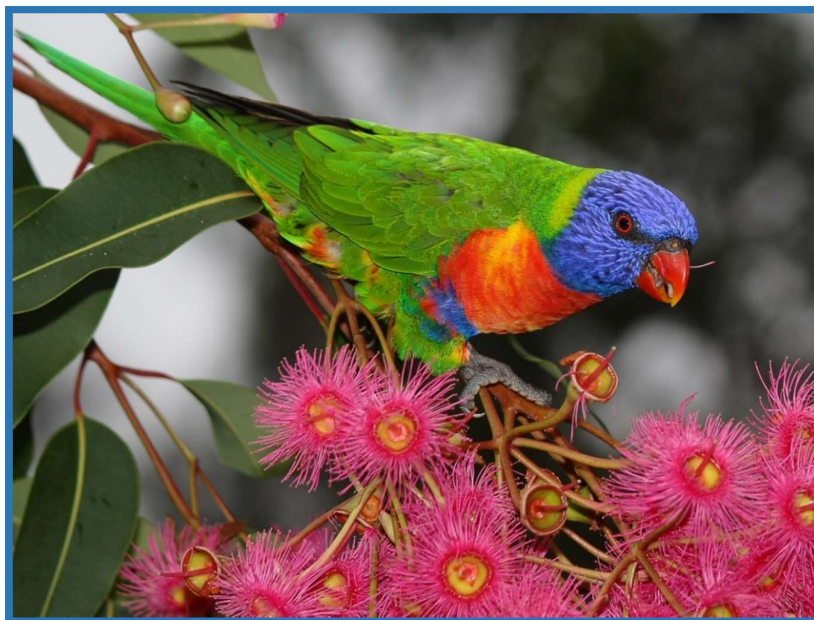
Phone number: 07 3833 6119  
Marie Sellen: 0421 323 063

Email address: [qld.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:qld.associates@sosj.org.au)

**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

With the identification of the Associates' Office, it is important that it is staffed for some regular hours each week. At this point we are looking for an Associate volunteer/s (obviously from Brisbane or environs) who would be available to open the office (maybe two mornings a week or two afternoons), attend to the mail, assist with the newsletter, do any banking, pay the bills, reply to letters and emails etc etc. Computer skills would be helpful.

If this appeals to you and you have the skills and are available for a few hours each week to work in a voluntary capacity, could you please let Sister Moya know on 0408 455 768 or Marie Sellin on 0421 323 063.





Thank you to those who have made a contribution in 2016

**DONATION TO THE QUEENSLAND ASSOCIATE MOVEMENT**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT GIVEN: (PLEASE CIRCLE):**

\$20    \$30    \$40    \$50    OTHER\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL DONATIONS CAN BE FORWARDED TO**

ASSOCIATES PLANNING COMMITTEE

123 WARREN STREET

FORTITUDE VALLEY Q

CHEQUES AND MONEY ORDERS MADE PAYABLE TO JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES QLD

**DIRECT DEPOSIT**

COMMONWEALTH BANK

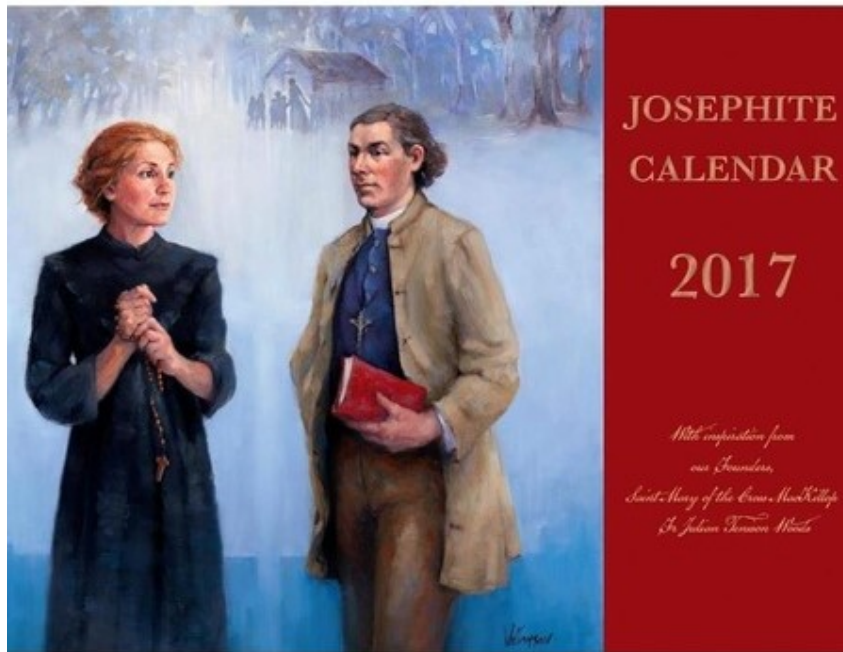
ACCOUNT NAME:        JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES QLD

BSB NO:                064163

ACCOUNT NUMBER:    10429581

REFERENCE:            SURNAME AND INITIAL (E.G. CAMPBELL M)





## **2017 JOSEPHITE CALENDAR**

The Sisters of St Joseph Queensland are happy to give to each Associate a calendar for 2017.

If you require further calendars please look online at:

<https://store.marymackillop.org.au/store/fx-product.cfm?uuid=511DDF1D-F846-D7CB-EC4CEBD7D2EE91AF>