



# Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

Josephite Associates NSW (Inc.) PO Box 184, Croydon NSW 2132 (Letters only) • 34 Liverpool Rd, Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)

Phone 02 9747 4199

NEWSLETTER • March 2017

*Dear Josephite Associates,*

Every grace and blessing to you for 2017. By the time you receive this newsletter may there be some relief for all, following the extreme summer we have experienced.

I particularly draw your attention to the 2017 program inserted loose leaf in the newsletter. At the Josephite Associates fusion ceremony on the 23rd May 2015 in Wellington, a request was made to continue this annual gathering. During 2016 this gathering was not organised as the Sesquicentenary of the Sisters of St Joseph (marking the founding of the Sisters of St Joseph in Penola) was magnificently celebrated on Saturday 19th March 2016 in Wellington and at various churches throughout NSW and Australia.

In preparation for the Josephite Associates NSW (Inc) gathering on Saturday 20th May 2017, I wish to thank Sister Jean Cain for providing the names of all the wonderful country Associates who in the past have worked so generously to make the annual gathering so successful. Contact has been made by telephone, mail and email from the Sydney office to all the helpers who assisted Sr Jean Cain in the past, and they have most graciously accepted to assist again in 2017. We look forward to a day of friendship and prayer.

The Constitution of Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc states as a requirement of the Governance Group, 'The Governance Group shall comprise not less than six and not more than nine members (16 a).' Due to death of our beloved Carol Badewitz, a casual vacancy on the Governance Group has been in place. I am pleased to announce that Christine Sivewright JA Bowral and editor of the Newsletter has accepted the position of Southern NSW Representative on the Governance Group. Christine will provide the office with prayer resources by email which will be shared with Josephite Associates who are on our email list.

The International Josephite Associates Leadership Team circulated a Formation Questionnaire to all Josephite Associate Group Leaders. This questionnaire is due to be completed and returned by 27th March 2017 to Anne-Marie Wilkinson a member of the team. IJALT with the assistance of Josephite Leaders, is working towards a five year plan, so that by 2020 the Associate Movement will have an established formation program. The results of this questionnaire will assist in planning for the IJALT Conference to be held at Baulkham Hills from Friday 7th April – Sunday 9th April 2017.

The annual Josephite Associates Retreat will be held at St Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre Kincumber South, from Friday 20th October – Sunday 22nd October. The Facilitator will be Sister Virginia Burke rsj. Application details to attend this retreat will be listed in the July 2017 Newsletter.

Kath Evans (the recipient of the second miracle) ensuring the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross was called to eternal life on Sunday 18th December 2016. May Kath rest in peace. Amen.

May we all continue to live the charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods through Friendship, Prayer and Service.

Whatever our need,  
God's grace is sufficient....  
His power inexhaustible....  
His Love, never-ending....  
With God all things are possible

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:* Christine Sivewright

*There is an echo in the harmonies of nature  
which penetrates the soul.  
Julian Tenison Woods 1882*

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



*"We know not what the hidden designs of God may be"  
1890*

# Homily for Kath Evans

Today's gospel (Luke 24:13-35) puts us in a position similar to that of Luke's community, in that sometimes we are unable to see Jesus in the ordinary experiences of our lives, but when we do these experiences are life changing.

Let us put ourselves into the position of the disciples as they walk along, what do they encounter? Who do we encounter? As they walk the road they are doing what good all Jews would do, they echo the Lord's command in Deuteronomy,

*'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.'*

They will be talking about the events and the experience of the presence of God in their midst as they walk along, trying to make sense of it all and unable to do so. They encounter Jesus, where they are at; this is essential in the story because as they walk with Him Jesus listens to their expectations, their hopes and their disappointments. In this reality Christ opens up for them the experience of God's presence that they have been unable to see. Through this he enables the disciples to see through their disillusionment and so to speak 'join the dots' and make the connection, between what they are going through with the whole reality of salvation. They are now seeing a new hope. Yes things are different; however they still cannot recognise Christ, and only when they come to the ordinary experience of praying the blessing over bread and breaking it to share do they, 'get it'. Everything now makes sense to them.

Today as we gather to bring Kath before the Lord, our journey of faith, our road to Emmaus is put before us. There is no point in us coming here today and pretending to be different from how we actually feel and who we are. God sees our hearts and minds and wants to meet us in the midst of our lives, whatever they may be like. The Emmaus story teaches us that Christ firstly wants to listen to us before he wants us to listen to Him.

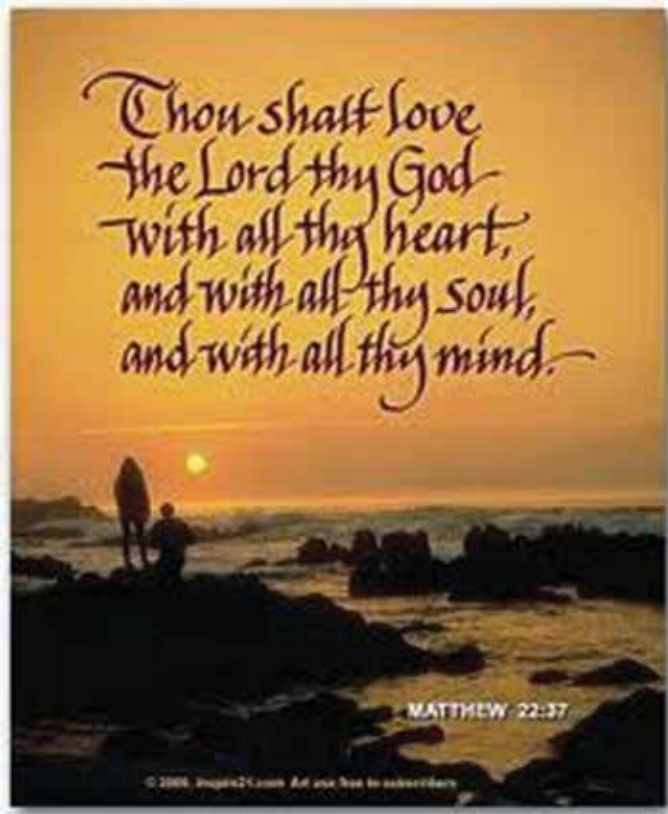
In many ways Emmaus was not just about the disciples and their lives, in the same way that when we celebrate the Eucharist it is not just about our lives either. Christ meets us here today, opens the scriptures to us so that we can make sense of our experience and see the ways in which God is present and absent and help us recognise the foolishness of our own expectations. As with the Emmaus disciples, we are welcomed to the table of the Lord where we recognise Christ in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the cup, which commands us to go out from here and proclaim to all we meet, that Christ is Risen. As we have heard in Deuteronomy,

*'Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.'*

In October, just past, the clergy of Maitland-Newcastle gathered at the retreat centre for our annual retreat. During that time a number of us would use the opportunity to sit with Kath on the verandah of the cottage. Each day one of us would take the Eucharist from our celebration to share with her. I know from the others that this was a powerful moment for those involved.

## CLAIM THE DATE

Josephite Associates Retreat Kincumber South on the  
**weekend of 20th – 22nd October 2017**  
Facilitator Sister Virginia Burke rsj



We were part of this encounter with Christ that Kath was having.

On the first day of the retreat I called in to anoint her and bring her communion. Lisa and Barry were there, then all of a sudden they were gone, they had made themselves scarce. I thought they want me to have some deep conversation with Kath. Rather it became a great chance to listen to Kath and her faith-filled encounter with Jesus throughout the time I have known her, for over twenty years. One of the profound things she said to me was that this was never about her, but rather it was always about God and God's activity in her life and in the lives of others around her, and in her words, 'don't you ever forget that, son.'

In her days working with the Antioch group in Windale, where I first met Kath and Barry, she was always ready to walk with those kids who were a bit on the outer, who lacked a little bit of hope and what did she do, but she loved them, she encouraged them. She held up to them the experience of Hope. She herself had walked in a long line of faithful people who along the way encounter disappointment and disillusionment, but when she discovered the Christ of Emmaus, she made sure that there was hope for others; they were going to know Him too.

We share with thousands of generations the same fire of God's faithful love burning in our hearts as we are welcomed to these tables of Word and Eucharist, where we are listened to, and where we listen, where we are taught, nourished and sent out to do our bit for the reign of God's Kingdom. This is never about us it is always about God, and this is the example that Kath gives to us all as we say goodbye, good and faithful servant.

*'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.'*

In the spirit of the disciples who walked along the road and talked about their experiences, let us talk and never be afraid to share the experience of God for us as Kath has done and will continue to do in our hearts.

Father Brian Mascord  
Vicar General – Diocese of Maitland Newcastle



## Prayers for Kath Evans

*"A beautiful bright light shines at the end of this path  
and a few more windings will bring us to it" - 1907*

Ever generous God,  
You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop to live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
and constant in bringing hope and encouragement to those who were  
disheartened, lonely or needy.

With confidence in your generous providence and  
through the intercession of Saint Mary MacKillop, we place our needs before you....

We pray for Kath. Dear Lord may Kath rest in peace with you.

As we celebrate her special life we remember those who have loved her.  
May Jesus hold them and Kath close to his heart. May her family and friends be given  
strength and peace during this sad time.

Here at Lawson we are grateful to have met Kath and to have  
heard her story. We trust in your loving care for us. We ask that our faith and hope  
be fired anew by your Holy Spirit so that, like Mary MacKillop, we may act more  
justly, love more tenderly and walk humbly with You.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



*Photo of Kath and Barry courtesy of Trish Verhoeven*

# Harmony

Father Julian Tenison Woods understood harmony in music. Music was very much part of his life. His Uncle Nicholas, who lived with the family for some time at West Square, London, was a gifted musician and encouraged an interest in music in the young Woods boys. Julian learnt to play the piano and continued to play both piano and organ throughout his life. He was the only organist in the Marist Fathers College at La Seyne in France. At Penola there was a harmonium in the church and every evening that he was home he played the music of great ecclesiastical composers. He was also fond of singing and, when visiting homes in his parish, often provided music for the entertainment of family and guests.

Fr Julian saw harmony in nature: There is an echo in the harmonies of nature which penetrates the soul and lures it on like the sound of distant music, until it has no eye or ear for aught except the works of its Creator (quoted by Fr Julian).

Fr Julian urged the Sisters to live in harmony: We are but instruments held in the hands of God and must never act as if we were more (Book of Instructions 1870). In a musical instrument we see if some, or if only one, of the chords go wrong, the rest in some way suffer from it. We know at once what is wrong by the sound these suffering chords make, until it is repaired and harmony restored again.....So, all pull together, and all be one in mind and spirit (Instruction to Sisters of Perpetual Adoration 30th November 1880). Living in harmony with nature and with God gives us full happiness and purpose (1887).

Pope Francis, too, understands harmony in music and speaks of harmony in the Church: Let us think about the image of a symphony, which implies accord, harmony, various instruments playing together. Each one preserves its own unmistakable timbre and the sounds characteristic of each blend together around a common theme. Then there is the one who directs it, the conductor, and as the symphony is performed all play together in 'harmony,' but the timbre of each individual instrument is never eliminated; indeed, the uniqueness of each is greatly enhanced! It is a beautiful image which tells us that the Church is like a great orchestra in which there is great variety. We are not all the same and we do not all have to be the same. We are all different, varied, each of us with their special qualities. And this is the beauty of the Church: everyone brings his own gift, which God has given him, for the sake of enriching others. And between the various components there is diversity; however, it is a diversity that does not enter into conflict and opposition. It is a variety that allows the Holy Spirit to blend it into harmony. He is the true 'Maestro.' He is harmony. And here let us ask ourselves; in our communities do we live in harmony or do we argue amongst ourselves?.....

The Church is everyone in harmony: never gossip about others, never argue! Let us accept others, let us accept that there is a fitting variety, that this person is different, and that this person thinks about things in this way or that – that within one and the same faith we can think about things differently – or do we tend to make everything uniform? But uniformity kills life. The life of the Church is variety, and when we want to impose this uniformity on everyone we kill the gifts of the Holy Spirit (General Audience October 2013).

Where do I find harmony today – in my life, in nature, in the Church?

*Sister Carmel Jones rsj*  
Extract from enews 22/11/2016



## *Citizen of the Year* **Ethelwyn Townsend**

Ethelwyn Townsend, a Josephite Associate from the Molong-Perthville Group who lives at Manildra, has been awarded the local Citizen of the Year Award on Australia Day.

Sister Joan Farrell rsj remembers Ethelwyn's wonderful support and voluntary work at the school when she was Principal over thirty years ago.

The following lists Ethelwyn's achievements for which she was awarded the local award on Australia Day:

- Ethelwyn has spent over 20 years of actively fundraising for the Manildra Memorial Pool.
- Actively fundraising for St Joseph's School Manildra since 1963.
- Supporting St Joseph's Net Ball teams with transport and uniforms.
- Making school uniforms for the female students of all ages at St Joseph's School Manildra.
- Ethelwyn volunteers at St Michael's Church making sacramental robes and clergy robes, making sure there are flower arrangements, robes are correctly in place for each service and other materials for weekly and weekend Masses also for other occasions (Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals).
- A member of the Church Pastoral Committee, spending time visiting and caring for parishioners in the community.
- Provided assistance to her husband Arnold Townsend - Cub Master for 29 years of the Cubs and Scouts Association.
- Volunteers for Meals on Wheels
- Assists with the local Craft Cottage.

Congratulations Ethelwyn! From all your Josephite Associate friends.

*- Sister Jean Cain rsj, Bathurst*

### **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in March, April, May and June 2017

# Prison Chaplaincy

*'I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

In visiting prisons I have crossed a certain threshold many times. For over 20 years I have consciously been passing through the gates of Silverwater Women's prison, formerly known as Mulawa, the principle women's prison in NSW. The prison threshold is the dividing line between outside and inside. Outside is the world where we can go wherever we want, choosing the people we want to meet. It is a world of families, jobs and where we have time for relaxation. Inside everything is different. Freedom to move is restricted. The women are locked up in a small cell from 3.30 pm to 8.00 am, and often many times during the day as well. Inside is a world of limited contact, regulated visiting times, forced togetherness of people who otherwise would never have dreamed of sharing their living space, and it is in this kind of living space I find concentrated the misery of the world, hardship, loneliness and despair.

Time and again the question is asked 'who is God.' Many women feel strongly that they have not just been deserted by people but also by God. For these people God seems to be on the outside. The thick prison walls have left God outside. They feel disappointed. Perhaps God chooses only the successful. Many of the women I meet in prison feel they are not worthy of God's love. Quite often when I am with them on a one-to-one basis I experience their brokenness. They are rock bottom and helpless. I often ask them what their desire is. What do they want? Mostly they answer to be loved. I tell them God loves them and God desires them to experience that love. I help them ponder words in scripture of God's love encouraging them to keep touching into their own desires. When they share with me what touches them, they often start to recognise themselves as human beings and then start to recognise what they have done. I encourage them to allow God to change them and to experience God's grace which is always sufficient. I have often invited inmates to take part in a Retreat in Daily Life in which I invite some of my colleagues to accompany them. What I have seen is how barriers are broken as together conversation is shared. Women from all different backgrounds simply became women together. The space where it happened became sacred and holy. Many of them are still having ongoing Spiritual Direction each month.

There is no one so bad, so far away from God, so evil, that the grace of God cannot penetrate. If we are not convinced that people can change, then all our work is for nothing. If we really think that person in front of us is an image of God, is a child of God, convinced of their dignity, then this is what keeps me going. It seems to me that as long as we separate and stay apart from one another we will not understand or enter the process of deep healing. By bringing people into prison the outside view can change by all working and sharing together.

For over 15 years I have experienced this conversion by involving people from my own parish community here at Epping and Carlingford in a special ministry of Sunday prayer service in the Chapel. Their role is to gather with the inmates and generally welcome them when they arrive for the service. Following the service the inmates share a morning tea prepared by these ladies. They spend time mingling, talking over assorted topics and generally enjoying the calm and relating at this time. Some are well known to each other by their first names and they are able to take up continuing conversations when next they meet.

It is true that when oppression and violence threaten or destroy human dignity those who hold all human beings precious in God's eyes and are vulnerable to spiritual power within them cannot stand by because all of us are made in the image and likeness of God. We forget that. Getting so many knocks and bruises in our life and suffering so many setbacks, feeling rejected and a failure, often feeling helpless and insignificant, we can forget that we are precious in God's eyes.

I think any mission is about being present to God, I have discovered that by spending time with someone I understand that as human beings we all suffer, some more than others, and that it is standing in solidarity with another's pain, I find the presence of God. I was in prison. How does this statement fit into the outside world and inside world every time I cross the prison threshold..... 'in as much as you did this to the least of these you did it to me.' If I had to divide the world between outside and inside then for me Jesus is definitely on the inside and with the imprisoned. As I accompany some of these women I am more and more experiencing Christ for me. I can say that I have seen with my eyes and touched with my hands the suffering face of Christ in these the least of these.

The love I feel for these women, who I believe are the poorest of the poor, God's anawin, loved by God (and sometimes only God) almost breaks my heart. God in these women leads me, teaches me, and takes me to a deeper place of love – if I trust that. And I do. Receiving, embracing, loving them is integral to my own wholeness. I often feel and I have told them this, that they make me a better woman and that I often need them more than they need me. I feel that my compassion goes a little deeper and I am richer for their presence. The women do a little dance of delight when they see me. They run to me, hug me.....I love you they say and I reply I love you too. I cannot become whole if I experience myself as separate from God's anawin. There are often times when I sense something is not right, something is missing and I feel restless in that empty space. St Augustine says that 'we are made for God and our hearts are restless until they rest in God.' He also says: 'Peace is the way things should be.' I believe too, that our hearts are restless until all God's people live in peace.

Margaret Wiseman, Chaplain  
Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre  
Edited Extract from Unity Magazine Darwin December 2016  
– used with permission

## News from Nyngan Josephite Associates



Nyngan Josephite Associates meet each month and alternate their program. One month they have a Reflection and Cuppa and the following month they recite the Rosary.

Associates are engaged in a variety of activities in their local area including visiting the Aged Care Facilities and Home Visits to those in need.

Two of the Nyngan Josephite Associates participated in the National Pilgrimage to Penola in 2016 'Following in the Footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop'.

We were all sorry to say goodbye to Sr Frances McAleer, who has been of great support to us. We wish Sister every success and her presence will be greatly missed here in Nyngan.

Barbara Simmonds JA, Nyngan



## News from Mudgee Josephite Associates

Sister Jean Cain and Sister Christina from Bathurst visited the Mudgee Associates and gave the group a sense of the Fusion. Sister Jean shared with the group information about the early life of Fr Julian Tenison Woods and Saint Mary MacKillop.

The Mudgee Associates gave Sister Jean stamps and \$352.00 for the Josephite Mission in Timor Leste.

Sister Jean and Sister Christina were present for Mass and shared in the Christmas Lunch with the Associates. We are very thankful to Sister Jean and Sister Christina for giving of their time and making the effort to attend our meeting.

*Angela Krusvar JA, Mudgee Group Leader*

## News from Gulgong

Sunday 29th January 2017 was the end of an era in Gulgong when the Convent was closed. The Josephite Sisters have been in Gulgong for 133 years.

Sister Clare and Sister Carmel were farewelled during Mass followed by lunch at the RSL Club, there were many tears shed as we said goodbye to the Sisters who were leaving our lovely little town.

Sister Carmel has gone to Coonabarabran and Sister Clare to Bathurst for a well-earned rest. We will miss the Sisters presence very much and wonder how we will fill the big hole left in the community.

The Josephite Associates aim to step up and take over some of the duties. We will continue our work as sacristan, commentators and readers at Mass, visiting the sick etc.

Please remember in your prayers our sick Associates, Joyce Comer, Mary and Tony Dimmock and Tony Petchell.

*Margaret Evans JA, Group Leader Gulgong*

## Boambee Josephite Associate Group



Saturday 19th November 2016 was our final meeting for the year, at Mary Help of Christians Primary School. We joined with Fr Colin Reinhard in celebrating a Mass of thanksgiving before enjoying a shared lunch in the shaded play area of our school. Our thanks to everyone who has supported our group throughout the year, especially our school staff, who very generously allow us to

use the school annex for our meetings; to our Parish Manager, Don Spence, who faithfully comes along before and after each meeting, to open up doors and turn off alarms; and to two of the husbands, John and Roy, who in the background and behind the scenes 'fetch and carry' and generally do anything that is required to assist our group.

On Monday 21st November I had the privilege, together with Zoe Butcherine, of representing the 'Senior Associates' at the meeting of the Junior Joeys Group at MHOC School for their final meeting of the year. Amongst the various gifts received by the children as they concluded their Junior Joeys year were copies of the Mary MacKillop Story and a miniature cactus plant presented to each of the Year 6 children who are off to High School next year, with a reminder from Sr Fidelis to water and care for the plant as they will care for and continue to grow in the faith they have experienced as Junior Josephites at MHOC. Also, our senior group presented each junior member with a bag of lollies, which caused much excitement. Special thanks to Sr Fidelis and Kathryn Butcherine for their leadership of this very special and enthusiastic group.

A new initiative this year was to introduce to our Committee a Pastoral member who would be responsible for visiting, contacting and generally keeping in touch with those members who, through age or illness, are no longer able to participate in our meetings, but remain very firmly members of our Josephite Associate group. This position was accepted by Kathy Derrett and we thank her for returning as a Committee member in this role.

Our Group will now break for the Christmas holidays and meet again early next year, when we will be making arrangements for a Retreat Day sometime during the year, which will be open to members of our parishes.

The Boambee Josephite Associate group now numbers 45 members, both men and women, aged from 18 years to 70+ and with several 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 9am to 12 noon at the Mary Help of Christians School. The aim of our group is to imitate the spirituality of Mary MacKillop in our everyday lives 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 about our Associate Group here in Boambee, please do not hesitate to contact either Sr Fidelis or any member of the Committee. You would be most welcome to come along to our meetings.

*Mary McNamara, on behalf of our Josephite Committee  
Kyra Quin, Brenda Rainbow, Maureen O'Sullivan and Kathy Derrett*

### NEWSLETTER IN BY EMAIL

Do you receive your Newsletter by mail?

Do you have an email address?

***Would you like to receive your Newsletter by email?***

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

[nsw.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:nsw.associates@sosj.org.au)

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

## Prayers for the Sick

Connie Barnes (Campsie);  
Eileen Bennett (Bathurst-Perthville);  
Maureen Blood (Canberra);  
Monica Brown (Lalor Park);  
Trish Buckley (Gilgandra-Perthville);  
Leone Carse (Canberra);  
Sr Jan Cetta rsj;  
Margaret Clapham (Warilla);  
Joyce Comer (Gulgong-Perthville);  
Angela Corby (Gilgandra-Perthville);  
Stella Cusack (Moree Group);  
Jenny Falvey (Georges Hall);  
Joyce Farnham (Belmont);  
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);  
Ann McNamara (Gilgandra-Perthville);  
Carmel Martin (Prayer Member Kingscliff);  
Gloria Monck (Canberra);  
Kevin Moore (Warialda);

Betty Murphy (Prayer Member Belfield)  
Alan Norgrove (Canberra);  
Nerolie O'Brien (Prayer Member Inverell);  
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);  
Pauline Rendell (Peakhurst);  
Moya Rivett (Bathurst-Perthville);  
Gloria Roberts (Oberon-Perthville);  
Helen Rowles (Oberon-Perthville);  
Trish Ryan (Orange-Perthville);  
Shirley Schmidt (Moree Group);  
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).  
*We remain united in prayer for all our sick  
Josephite Associates and Sisters of  
St Joseph.*

## Requiescant in Pace

Marjorie Attard (Bathurst-Perthville)  
Kevin Barber (Eden)  
Rita Callaghan (Perthville Relatives & Friends)  
Beryl Cannen (Dunedoo-Perthville)  
Margaret Cusack (Goulburn-Perthville)  
Angelina De Almeida (Dili – East Timor)  
Joy Doolan (Quirindi)  
Sheila Mary England (Wellington-Perthville)  
Kathleen Evans (Kincumber)  
Mary Kearns (Portland-Perthville)  
Des McFadden (Swansea Prayer Member)  
Noel McNamara (Perthville Relatives & Friends)  
Muriel Morley (Gulgong-Perthville)  
Betty Murphy (Quirindi)  
Frank Pankhurst (Armidale)  
Kath Rohr (Gilgandra-Perthville)  
Wally Ryan (Bathurst-Perthville)  
Margaret Wahlin (Woy Woy)  
Tony Windsor (Bathurst-Perthville)  
Reverend Fr Vince Whiteman (Thirroul)

### Associates Office

PO Box 184 Croydon NSW 2132

(Letters only)

34 Liverpool Rd, Croydon NSW 2132

(Parcels)

(02) 9747 4199

[nsw.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:nsw.associates@sosj.org.au)

## Bus fire 'Hero' prefers seeing kids Baptised to receiving award

The Catholic father-of-four who rescued passengers during a fatal attack on a bus driver in October 2016 has been handed an award for his bravery.

The cabbie kicked in the rear door of the bus to help passengers escape the blaze that claimed the life of 29 year-old bus driver Manmeet Alisher.

With wife Monica by his side Mr Nyok, 31, a former refugee from South Sudan, was awarded the Taxi Hero Award by the Taxi Council Queensland for his response to the attack.

As part of the award, Mr Nyok received a trip to the Gold Coast including a BMW for a weekend away.

But rather than head straight down the M1 for a well-earned break Mr Nyok put his holiday on hold and went to church for the Baptism of his two youngest children – a two-and-a-half-year-old and a nine-month-old.

The Baptisms took place at St Pius X Church, Salisbury, on Brisbane's southside.

It's something really good to see your

kids going to the house of God and willing to be a part of that house,' Mr Nyok said.

'It makes me feel really good and makes me feel as a parent you are doing part of your job.'

Mr Nyok is still coming to grips with the fatal attack at Moorooka, and it has been family prayer and workmates that have helped him get through.

His bravery is being recognised because he didn't stop to think of his own safety before rushing in to save 11 people trapped inside the burning vehicle.

Since the tragedy he has tried to stick to his normal routine. Mr Nyok went back to work driving his taxi the day after the attack.

'It's not like something easy that you can forget after one night,' he said. 'I am always praying to God to let me pass through this and live a normal life.'

*Extract from cathnews 6/12/2016*



## 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.*

**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

## Sister Teresa Cooper shares her love for St Mary MacKillop

At a gathering of South Australian Josephite Associates who were celebrating the feast day of St Mary MacKillop, Sister Teresa shared with the group 'St Mary MacKillop in My Life.' Sister Teresa's presentation was part of the celebration; her sharing touched every heart!

'My introduction to Mary MacKillop must have been early in my life. I'm not sure when I first heard her name. I began school at St Joseph's in Port Lincoln when I was about 7 years old as a boarder at the convent. Sister Gemma was my first teacher. She was kind and gentle and I loved her. She prepared me for my First Confession and Communion and I was confirmed there too.'

The six Sisters in Port Lincoln were truly Mary MacKillop women, doing household chores, cooking, washing, teaching, visiting the sick and needy. I have a recollection of Sister Michelle preparing a pot of hot soup which I, as one of the boarders, was commissioned to take up the hill to a sick and elderly lady living alone. That's what Mary MacKillop taught her Sisters to do: 'Never see a need without doing something about it.'

After my intermediate, I said goodbye to Mary MacKillop's Josephite Sisters. I went to Marrabel, and, being the second oldest of seven children, became my mother's helper for a few years. There were no Josephite schools near Marrabel. Then came the War, and, to help the War Effort, I became a nurse at a general private hospital.

My intent was to get married and have a family. But God had different plans! While I was enjoying a good life, God suddenly hit me with a jolt! Now I had to say 'yes' to God! I went to Kensington and met my Josephite Sisters again.

As a postulant-dressed in a black dress and a little black cap – I was privileged to be appointed to Penola. Here I was – in the very place where Mary MacKillop became the first Sister of St Joseph!

Like most Josephites, I lived in numerous country and city places. Being involved with families in their times of joy, sickness, sorrow and death – just as Mary and her Sisters did – was an enriching privilege. God's choicest gift to me is my Josephite vocation, allowing me to follow in the footsteps of St Mary MacKillop. I would not be here today without the example and influence of family, Sisters and friends, past and present who have walked with me along the way and helped me to persevere. I thank God for each one!

Age catches up with one! I am retired from active duty. I have more time for prayer, time to relax and time to be part of the Josephite Associates. You Associates are an inspiration to me! You are such a dedicated and vibrant group! Mary MacKillop's spirit is alive in each one of you – spreading her charism among your family, friends and community.

There is a book of Mary's letters called Mary MacKillop – On Mission to Her Last Breath. YOU Associates give me the incentive to keep going – hopefully for MY last breath!

*Sister Teresa Cooper rsj  
Extract from enews 3/9/2014*

### **Newsletter Editorial**

Editor: Christine Sivewright

Members: Beverley Badcock, Leonie Bell,

Design and Print: Paul McMahon

The website for

**Mary MacKillop Place, Mount Street, North Sydney**

**[www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://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.



## Go on, be a saint

Since the earliest Christian times the Saints have been venerated as models we should emulate – the Apostles, Martyrs, Doctors of the Church, Popes, Bishops and any number of holy people who kept the faith and did remarkable things in the name of God and of the Church.

As a child I had a very narrow view of sainthood. While it was something that I could attain to, it wasn't something that I considered achievable or even remotely possible.

The Feast of All Saints broadened the possibilities for me, acknowledging that there were thousands of saints who just hadn't been given the official title. When I was about thirteen my paternal grandmother died and just happened to be buried on All Saints Day. She had always been a quiet and gentle person and to be buried on such a feast day was confirmation to me at the time, that she was no doubt sharing her new life with God.

However, you don't have to be dead to be a saint. I'm sure we have all come across people in our lives that we consider saintly. It may show as an outward care and concern for the needs and worries of people around them; a willingness to go out of their way to make life easier and happier for those struggling with life's problems; a willingness to be patient and tolerant when dealing with people who are difficult, violent, angry and at times impossible to please; a willingness to listen to unhappy and disgruntled people who repeat their woes incessantly, but are unwilling to listen to advice or to try and change themselves.

No doubt many of you have heard about the small child's reply when asked about saints. Thinking about the stained glass windows in the local church he said, 'Oh! They are the people that the light shines through!'

Saints are just ordinary people through whom the light does shine. Those who go a step further than most and put the other person first. They bring the good news; they lighten the burdens, they feed the hungry, clothe the naked; visit the sick and lonely; enlighten those who seem to have lost their way; and free those who are captive in so many ways, whether spiritually, emotionally or physically.

We all have the potential to be saints here and now and we don't have to be perfect. As it was once said, 'Every saint had a past and every sinner has a future.'

It doesn't matter what age we are, what race we belong to, what creed we follow, what our past has been or what our future will be. If we haven't tried before, we can begin today. Go on, be a saint!

*Sister Irene Macinante rsj  
Extract from enews 22/11/2016*