



# WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES' Newsletter



**Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends**

Thanks to each and every one for your contribution to the WA Josephite Associates. Let us now thank the Lord for the many blessings we have received from our Easter Journey to help others with our Friendship ... Prayer ... Service. Take the time to pray for all those who are suffering and the sick. We welcome Louisa Moore to our Central Team; we thank her very much for her time. Louisa is recovering from her shoulder operation; we keep her in our prayers. Thank you to all who have sent donations; they are much appreciated. We also thank Fay for the time she gave to our Committee and the Associates. May the Lord bless each one for their time, friendship and prayers.

**From Sr Denise & Central Committee – Meg, Margaret, Dot, Maureen, Mary, Louisa, Annette from Dardanup and Helen from Esperance.**



**“When storms rage, when persecutions or danger threaten,  
I quietly creep into (the Sacred Heart’s) dark abyss;  
and securely sheltered there, my soul is in peace,  
though my body is tossed upon the stormy waves of a cold and selfish world”.**

Mary MacKillop, Feast of the Sacred Heart, Letter to Sisters, 1907

***How do I respond to God’s compassionate love?***

## Josephite Associates Leaders’ Gathering

**April 2017:** Thirty-six Josephite Associate Leaders from throughout Australia and New Zealand gathered at Baulkham Hills over the weekend of April 7-9 to consider the theme: ‘The future is one we are creating.’

The Josephite spirit was obvious from the very first gathering with a buzz of friendly conversation. Katrina Brill rsj and Christina Neunzerling rsj were the conference facilitators. They were wonderfully inspiring - challenging us in a gentle, good humoured manner. We began by looking more deeply at the Josephite vision from the Sisters’ most recent General

Chapter, focusing on living into mystery and a new consciousness of communion. We reflected on where we find mystery in our lives and contemplated the meaning of communion with all creation. For many of us this involved seeing things in a completely different way.

We then looked at “Friendship, Service and Prayer” from this new perspective, contemplating what these might look like and how they may be experienced differently. Gathering in regional groups, we then planned some practical steps forward to take this new way of living the vision back to our Associate groups.



The IJALT team also shared with us their strategic planning and asked for feedback.

Having been nurtured and empowered, the gathering ended with a Missioning liturgy where we were sent out to participate in God’s flow of love, transformed to create the future within our local areas.

- Helen Dougherty JA

# Breakfast in the Garden



**March 11, 2017**

Once again people poured through the gates at the convent in South Perth and it was clear that we were set for yet another great annual gathering of friends of the Mary MacKillop Foundation. There were the regular faces. Sadly with the passing of the years there are some absent faces. Happily there are also some new faces whom we welcome eagerly.

Preparation for the event involves the usual logistics of procuring, moving and setting up of barbeques, PA system and gazebos. All this is possible because of the generosity of St Columba's Catholic Primary School in South Perth and the manpower provided by volunteers from Notre Dame University in Fremantle. The students and staff at Notre Dame University give their time over two days to help make this event a success.



Breakfast in the Garden this year fell on March 11, the same day as the state election here in Western Australia. We have no way of knowing whether or not this had an impact on our event but in recent years we have become accustomed to approaching the day with concerns about the weather. Waking around 4:00 am to the noise of a massive wind and the sound of the leaves rustling in the trees similar to that of rain of falling, panic surged to the surface. Closer inspection revealed that the wind was an easterly and absolutely no sign of rain. From that point on things continued to improve.



We were blessed with wonderful weather, a magnificent group of people and two engaging speakers. Sr Julianne Murphy shared some of her experiences within the Warmun community and Ngalangangpum School. She described the impact of lack of literacy skills on the community's financial welfare and then outlined the hopes and aspirations for addressing this need through the Reading is Deadly program that is funded by the Mary MacKillop Foundation. Chrystie Flint from Swan City Youth Services spoke of the challenges facing her organisation as they seek to address the needs of marginalized urban youth. Her story of Jack as he completed the final challenge in the Taming the Inner Brumby program held everyone enthralled to the end. The image of Jack embracing his horse will stay with us all.

Throughout the morning guests were served by students from Notre Dame University and Edith Cowan University. These generous students kept up the supply of food and beverages throughout the morning. Meanwhile the two workers in the kitchen, Ali and Mark ensured that no one was kept waiting. Our two very capable B-B-Q chefs, John McCormack and Laurie Mayne worked tirelessly to make the event a success.

Wherever you are in Australia, should you happen to be Perth on the second Saturday in March 2018, we would love to have you join us.

*Margaret McCabe, Chair MMF WA*

## Sr Maree's Sabbatical



Dear Friends and Associates  
Greetings from Maree Riddler rsj on pilgrimage and soon to join the Taizé Community for a few days in France. Sr Maura O'Connell (Presentation Sister and a very good friend) and I are very much enjoying this time of Sabbatical and of prayer / chanting and meeting others from around the world and including a couple of the Taizé Brothers who are friends.  
We joined Father Laurence Freeman (Director of the World Wide Community Christian Meditators) for

our Easter Retreat on Bere Island, just off west coast of Ireland. We truly loved every day of our retreat, which included time to meditate, reflect and soak in the beauty of the small Island, its peacefulness, and stillness drew us to sit and just wonder and reflect on God's beauty with a grateful heart.

During our retreat week we were introduced to the Community of Meditation House in London. Members of the community invited



us to spend some days with them in London to experience the life of the community which is based on the Benedictine Horarium of prayer, (meditation) work, reading and study. This will be very interesting and informative for us. We both practice and teach daily Christian Meditation to young people and adults. Seeing the community in action will also give us more ideas for our teaching.

We send you all love and prayer - Maree and Maura

PS - watch this space for the next part of our Pilgrimage.



## In the Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop 2017 Australian Pilgrimage



**8 - 18 November 2017 National Pilgrimage - Footsteps of Mary MacKillop**

This pilgrimage has been prepared by the Sisters of St Joseph to help you enter more deeply into Mary and Julian's stories and spirituality. The opportunity for prayer and reflection is a significant part of the Pilgrimage which is led by a team of Sisters of St Joseph. Participating in ten days of sharing a journey will draw you more deeply into the story of the foundation of the Congregation by Julian Tension Woods and Mary MacKillop in Penola, and how their vision has unfolded.

**For more information, prices, brochure and application form please email:**

**[MMP.NationalPilgrimage@sosj.org.au](mailto:MMP.NationalPilgrimage@sosj.org.au) or phone Sr Therese Leydon on 02 8912 4845 Mon/Wed or Sr Annie Bond on 02 8912 4818.**



## 14TH JUNE - WINTER PRAYER DAY

Come join us and experience a gentle, prayerful day at South Perth Theme: "Finding Healing and Hope in the new Universe Story" When: Wed 14 June at 10.00am –

1:00pm (9.30am morning tea, and light lunch provided) Where: Mary MacKillop Centre, 16 York Street, South Perth Cost: by Donation, RSVP: (Important for catering), contact Laura: [laura.mccarthy@sosj.org.au](mailto:laura.mccarthy@sosj.org.au) or 9334 0999

# WA ASSOCIATES' GATHERINGS 2017



## SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS 2017

ENQUIRIES/RSVP:

Louisa Moore: [Louisa.moore1@bigpond.com](mailto:Louisa.moore1@bigpond.com)



### CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2017

**Where:** St Joseph's, South Perth

**When:** 24th August

*Committee to have lunch with Sisters afterwards*

**Future Meetings:**  
23rd November



### GATHERINGS 2017

(organised by the Central Committee)

**Where:** St Joseph's, 16 York Street, South Perth

**When:** Sunday 11th June 2017

**Bring:** A plate of food to share

**Future Gatherings:**

10th September 2017

10th December 2017

**All very welcome !**



## SOUTH WEST GATHERINGS 2017

Annette: 9797 1156, [aroveta39@gmail.com](mailto:aroveta39@gmail.com) or Nancy: 9728 1037

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES - ALL VERY WELCOME !

#### JUNE

- **Thurs 22 June - Outreach Gathering** at the Catholic Church, Watcliffe Road, Margaret River

**Mass** at 9:00am **Presenter:** Sr Dora Maguire rsj **Bring:** Please bring a plate of finger food for a **shared lunch**

#### JULY

- **Wed 19 July - Visit of Mary Hemmings** representative from IJALT (International Josephite Associates Leadership Team) **Where:** Dardanup Prayer House. **Mass** in church 9am (if available) **Morning tea** at 9.30am followed by the presentation. **Please bring** a plate of finger food for a shared lunch.

- **28-30 July - Josephite Associates' Retreat Weekend** at *Kilmolee*, 182 Arcadia Drive, **Safety Bay**. Please phone Sr Dianne on 9527 3240 or email [Safety.Bay@sosj.org.au](mailto:Safety.Bay@sosj.org.au)

#### AUGUST

- **Wed 9 Aug - St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feastday** (being celebrated on **9th Aug**) at Dardanup Church with **Mass** at 9:00am followed by **morning tea** in the Prayer House. **Please bring** a plate of finger food to share

#### SEPTEMBER

- **Wed 13th Sept - Annual Retreat Day** at Dardanup Prayer House (starting with 9am Mass, for more information watch this space)

**NOVEMBER** - **Advent / Summer Gathering** on **Wed 8th November**. Election to follow.

#### **CORE GROUP MEETING**

**When:** Monday October 16th

**Where:** Annette's House

## 90 YEAR REUNION CELEBRATION AT MERREDIN



St Mary's School Merredin will be holding a 90 year reunion celebration of the school's opening - back in 1927!

**When:** **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2017**

For any enquiries, contact Dot Caughey 9332 0118 or Mrs Teresa Cutri on 9041 2315 (both past pupils)





# WA Josephite Associates

*God of all blessings,  
you revealed in Mary MacKillop  
a sensitivity to the rights  
and dignity of every person,  
regardless of race or creed.*

*May we learn from her to overcome fear and prejudice.*

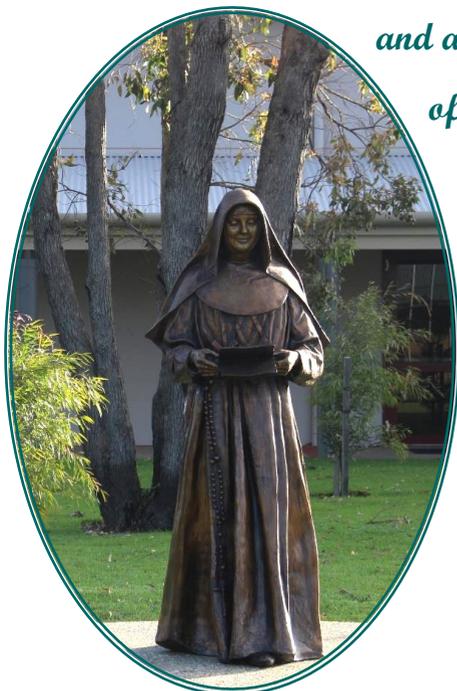
*Help us to value the goodness of each person  
and all the blessings  
of unity in diversity.*

*We ask this through the depth  
and unity of you,  
our bountiful God,  
who hold all things in being.  
Amen.*

Mary MacKillop

*A Window of Hope*

Monica Cavanagh rsj



## MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

*The Holding Cross, which fits comfortably into our hand can give us hope and peace in the midst of pain and suffering. It is a symbol assuring us that we are not alone. Jesus has trodden this path before us and is with us still bringing us hope that suffering will be transformed into enduring life and love.*

*The cross is central to the mystery of the Christian life. Over time it has become the symbol of Jesus' triumph over suffering and death.*

*"The message of the cross is folly for those who do not believe but for those of us who are believers it is the power and wisdom of God" (1 Cor 1 : 18)*

*Mary MacKillop chose to be called "Sister Mary of the Cross". She wrote to her mother: 'My name in religion is Mary of the Cross. No name could be more dear to me.' 1867 She saw the cross as an expression of her commitment to God and her personal relationship to Jesus Christ. She spoke of walking with all those who were struggling and suffering in their lives and who needed hope and encouragement on the way.*

As I hold the cross, God of Hope  
Fill me with your strength and peace.

No matter how fearful I may be,  
I know nothing can separate me from your love.

Be not afraid, I am with you always.  
Help me to continue to believe in your loving presence  
even when I don't feel you with me.



*Have courage no matter what your crosses are.*

Mary MacKillop 1890



*From the writings of  
St Mary MacKillop*

## *The Sacred Heart*

*Its love makes suffering sweet;*

*Its love makes the world a desert.*

*When storms rage,*

*When persecutions or dangers threaten,*

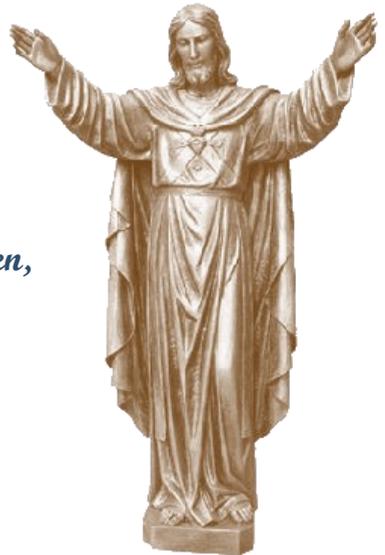
*I quietly creep into its deep abyss,*

*and, securely sheltered there,*

*my soul is in peace,*

*though my body is tossed upon the stormy waves*

*of a cold and selfish world.*



*Taken from 'Praying with Mary MacKillop' copyright Sisters of St Joseph, North Sydney*