



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 • July 2017



Josephite Associates Day at Wellington

Saturday 20th May 2017 was Associates Day at Wellington. People arrived by car and bus from places as far flung as Nyngan to Sydney (Fairfield, Lidcombe, Tamworth, Blacktown and the Associates office at Croydon) though most were from throughout the Bathurst Dioceses. Buses picked



up along the way from Bathurst in the south, Coonabarabran in the north, coming together at Wellington.

Dr Marie Crowley captivated the group as she spoke of the life of Teresa McDonald – A Priceless Treasure and Sister Anne Morrison rsj then drew out what each had gleaned from Marie's presentation through a very Prayerful Reflection.

Leonie Bell and her team, from the Croydon Associates office, did a great job in organising a truly enjoyable day for all who attended and Margaret Smith (our ever loyal Perthville ex-student and Associate) was Emcee for the day. Catering was taken care of by the Red Cross Ladies since it was Wellington Show Day and the P & F Association were unable to assist this year. The presence of Ethica was a great attraction and added another dimension to the day as did the wall hanging created in Penola for the Sesquicentenary and now displayed in the Associates Office at Croydon. General business focused on the value of the Associates Movement. An Associate from one of our tiny communities said to me 'We have no Sisters, no Priest and we just struggle along ourselves as best we can.' My response was 'Thank God we have people like you.'

We were delighted that Sister Therese McGarry could be with us and offered a vote of thanks to all who contributed to making the day truly enjoyable for all.

Sister Madeline Breen rsj



In everything let us do what is pleasing to God
in our state of life.
Julian Tenison Woods



A Place to rest awhile, soothe the spirit, relax, pray, and re-energise

There is a Josephite treasure nestled in the picturesque village of Perthville, 10 km outside of Bathurst, known as The Perthville Heritage and Conference Centre. The property carries a rich history of the Sisters of St Joseph and was visited by both St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods in the 1870s.

On this site The Vale Lodge offers accommodation as well as opportunities for prayer days, retreats or conferences. The building has easy access with ensuite rooms, conference rooms, dining room, lounge areas and a chapel, all disability compliant.

The Perthville Convent Heritage Centre tells of the lives of St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Woods, co-founders of the Sisters of St Joseph. The story of the first foundation of the Sisters of St Joseph in NSW and the on-going work of the Sisters is told in storyboard and displays show-casing a collection of Josephite memorabilia. Families, school and community groups as well as individual guests are welcome to explore this sacred site. Tour guides are available during opening hours: weekdays 10am-4pm; First Sunday in the month 11am – 1pm.

St Joseph's Heritage and Conference Centre is set in spacious, peaceful grounds. So come, rest awhile and soothe the spirit or engage in retreats and other group activities at St Joseph's Heritage and Conference Centre, Tenison Woods Ave, Perthville. Enquiries and bookings for The Vale Lodge and The Perthville Convent Heritage Centre can be made by phoning (02) 63372420 or emailing Perthville.coordinator@sosj.org.au

NOTE: On the first Sundays in September, October and November the Perthville Heritage and Mission Centre, Tenison Woods Avenue, Perthville will be open to the public with historical presentations, guided tours and stories of the Sisters and their missions, past, present and future. The centre will be open at 11am. The cost of the day is \$20 which includes lunch, a special price for Associates. For catering purposes booking for the lunch is necessary. Please contact Sr Mary Murphy rsj at mary.murphy@sosj.org.au or phone 63372420 for further information.



Josephite Religious Life: New form or Not?

The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart came into being on 19 March 1866 in order to educate the children of the poor through teaching in schools or by managing orphanages or refuges for destitute people.(1)

Its membership was drawn mainly from among the children of the families the Sisters served and they lived simply in unostentatious buildings. They achieved their aim by going out in small groups of as few as two or three Sisters to remote settlements in the country and to the poorer suburbs of large cities. Today the question has arisen: was the Josephite way of living religious life and doing ministry a new form of religious life, or was it another example of an already well-established one?

Strong historical evidence points to its being the latter. To begin, Julian Woods wrote in his 'Memoirs' that when, as a young man, he had visited the French town of Le Puy, he had met some Sisters of St Joseph, members of a French Congregation where, as he put it: a convent system prevailed which was of great assistance to the Church in every way. The daughters of farmers and humble people were the sources from which the convents were recruited. They were not highly educated, nor probably very refined, but they lived a life of great edification, and supplied most of the wants which religious communities could fulfil. They lived in great poverty and simplicity, and there was no fine ladyism about them. I felt instinctively that a nun to be one with the poor, and a servant of the poor, should belong to the humbler classes. But when I saw how the want was supplied in France, I made up my mind that I would use all my efforts to extend these institutions to my own country, though I never dreamt of trying myself to establish a thing of the kind at that time, as naturally, it seemed utterly out of my power.(2)

These sisters were members of a religious Congregation founded to meet the needs of the people of their town, their province and, ultimately, their country. They were not unique, however for, since the early seventeenth century there had been a gradual growth of religious congregations where the members took simple vows, lived together in small communities, and worked among the people of their particular areas. Initially this was not easy, for Church leaders believed strongly that women religious needed the protection of the cloister. Therefore, these women lived in large monasteries or convents, made solemn vows, and never ventured outside the protective walls around their places of residence. Over time, European society changed and, by the 16th century, pious women and small groups of followers were moving into the wider community to minister to people in need. Church laws forbade such activities and so, before long the Ursuline Sisters, founded by Saint Angela Merici, and the Visitation nuns, founded by Saints Francis de Sales and Jane Frances de Chantal, were forced into the enclosure. Mary Ward, foundress of the Loreto Sisters, was imprisoned and her Congregation was suppressed in 1630 before eventually being approved by Church authorities. Saints Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac overcame the difficulty by having their Sisters take private vows.

This situation persisted until after the French Revolution, when most religious in France were evicted from their convents and forced to cease wearing their religious habits. The outcome was the foundation of numerous new religious congregations of women without solemn vows or enclosure. Most were under the control of the local bishop but, by the latter half of the nineteenth century, Rome was giving approval to centrally governed religious congregations such as the Sisters of St Joseph. In fact, it might be true to say that Mary MacKillop, through her behaviour during her visit to Rome, may have assisted this process. The fact is that in 1888, the Josephites became one of the many centrally governed religious congregations of women with simple vows to receive papal approval.

Hence, Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods did not found a new form of religious life. (Religious life is the form - apostolic is the expression of it). Rather, they founded one that fitted the mould

of the time and gave it a rule of life which enabled its members to minister effectively to the people of Australia, New Zealand and beyond.

Sr Marie Foale rsj

Further information:

A "form" is a particular concrete expression of consecrated life – e.g. Communal expressions - religious life with three vows and life in community, whether enclosed or apostolic; secular institutes with vows and living in the secular sphere; and individual consecration such as consecrated virgins and hermits.

Until the late nineteenth century, Rome approved Constitutions, and even "tolerated" the institutes but it was not until 1901 that it recognised that members of institutes with simple vows were true religious. The 1888 Decree approving our Constitutions reads:

...His Holiness, in the audience of the 15th of the month of July 1888,....decreed as follows:

1. That (whilst reserving to the Apostolic See the approval of the constitutions of the aforesaid Sisters) the said institution be erected into a Regular Congregation having the Mother House in Sydney.

References:

(1) Woods, Rules of the Institute of St Joseph for the Catholic Education of Poor Children (Adelaide 1867 . 1, article 1)

(2) Anne Bulger, scribe, Memoirs of Reverend J E Tenison Woods (ms. Sydney 1888 – 1889) 63, Archives of the Sisters of St Joseph, North Sydney.

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' previous 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 into regional groups, we then planned some practical steps forward to take this new way of living the vision within the Associate groups.

The International Josephite Associates Leaders Team (IJALT) 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, Josephite Companion NZ, S.O.S.J. News



Walking the Aussie Camino

David Schultz and Sean Deany walked the inland trail over eight days that started in Orbost, Victoria, following in the footsteps of Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop. The pair was joined by Paul Coghlan, who played the role as driver and cyclist.

The three Melbournians passed through Goongerah, Bendoc, Craigie, Bombala, Cathcart and Towamba on the 240km journey.

Mr Schultz said the experience evolved over the pilgrimage. 'At the start the focus was on being out in nature, but the balance changed with the engagement we had with people along the way, especially the passage from Bombala through Rocky Hall and Towamba and now Eden,' he said. 'The engagement with the people has been a very touching thing for me.'

Mr Deany said it was a pleasure to educate people about St Mary MacKillop when people asked about their pilgrimage, while Mr Coghlan was full of praise for fellow drivers on the road.

The group averaged 27.5 km each day and each pilgrim admitted their experience varied.

'People do it for different reasons, whether it's spiritual reasons or physical reasons,' Mr Schultz said. 'The man who started the 'Aussie Camino', his wife had died and he needed to process that and thought walking would do it. No one can impose the meaning of a pilgrimage.'

The three men were welcomed at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Eden, including Mass, dinner and morning tea on April 27th before they returned to Melbourne.

Extract from cathnews 2/5/2017

In the Footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop Australian Pilgrimage 8th - 18th November 2017

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.

Today we recognise that each of us in on a daily journey of faith but there is a time in life when we feel called to join others, seeking, listening, reflecting and seeing the hand of God at work in our own lives.

Mary MacKillop Place offers such an opportunity to journey to significant places in Australia made holy by St Mary MacKillop.

While on pilgrimage we are invited to reflect on St Mary MacKillop's life and recognise her relevance in our own lives. Such reflection can encourage us to emulate her courage, perseverance, joy and deep faith.

Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney is recognised as a national place of pilgrimage in Australia and is made sacred by Australia's first canonised saint being entombed in the Memorial Chapel.

*For further information phone
Sister Therese Leydon 02 8912 4845 Mon/Wed
or email Therese.Leydon@sosj.org.au*

Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc.

Kincumber Retreat

20th – 22nd October 2017

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

Topic: 'Following Jesus: truly human One, the Christ who is God's eternal Word, beloved Son.'

Facilitator: Sister Virginia Bourke rsj

Eucharist: Sunday morning at Kincumber South Parish Church – 9am

Cost: \$220 for retreat, accommodation and meals

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: PO Box 184 Croydon Nsw 2132

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



"Courage, courage, trust in God who helps you in all things."

10-3-1874

Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 16th September 2017

An opportunity to pray, renew friendships and share lunch

Venue: St Joachim's Catholic Church Hall

John Street Lidcombe.

Car access for parking take a left hand turn only off John Street into Keating Street

Tea and coffee on arrival: 10 am – 10.30 am

Welcome: 10.30

Celebration of the Eucharist and recommitment of

Associates: 10.45 am

Lunch: 12 Noon

Financial Report, Open Forum come with ideas and suggestions for future growth of the Associates, prayer days, etc

Lucky Door Prize: 2.00pm

Josephite Associate members please confirm your attendance no later than Friday August 18th 2017

RSVP to The Josephite Associates Office

By phone 02 9747 4199

Or email nsw.associates@sosj.org.au

Or by mail P O Box 184 Croydon NSW 2132

St Mary MacKillop 'saved my son'

St Mary MacKillop is being credited for a miraculous healing of a Victorian boy and of appearing to his mother, reports the Catholic Weekly.

The bottom fell out of Sharon Simpson's life in 1999 when her then eight-year-old son Jack suffered a debilitating epileptic seizure.

The effects of the seizure were compounded by the fact that in addition to being diagnosed with epilepsy he was also diagnosed over the next two years with multiple sclerosis and Hodgkin's lymphoma, rendering him a complete invalid. From the 39-year-old mother of five's perspective it seemed like there was no hope of a cure.

But in spite of suffering a loss of brain function, Jack went on to complete Year 12 after an apparent healing of not one, but all his diagnosed medical conditions. Eighteen years after several severe medical diagnoses of conditions which should have shortened his life and made a normal existence impossible, Jack works in a local supermarket without any visible signs of his previous conditions.

What could account for such an extraordinary triumph over adversity? Sharon has no doubt. It was the direct intervention of St Mary MacKillop, after the parish community of St Ambrose's, Woodend, and the Sisters of St Joseph, implored her intercession.

Sharon, who is also a member of the parish choir, launched the book of her testimony, *Seeing the Light, A Mother's Story* at St Ambrose's in early December. It's an impressive chronicle that illustrates the fact that in the most seemingly hopeless situations, faith, hope and charity can bring about the unexpected.

Many of the fellow parishioners at the gathering confirm the extraordinary tale, having personally known the Simpson family for many years, including from the time of Jack's collapse.

Dr Andrew Kornberg, who was Jack's neurologist at the Royal Children's Hospital in North Melbourne, entirely concurs with the description of Jack's recovery as a miracle.

'The treatment for the multiple sclerosis and lymphoma may account for the healings there, but what is so unexpected has been the recovery of brain function,' he told the Catholic Weekly.

But what is even more extraordinary is both Sharon and Jack's testimony of appearances of Mary MacKillop both claimed to have received while many were praying for Jack.

Extract from Cath News 24/3/2017

Preparing Stamps

Used stamps are easier to post or carry if they are trimmed from the envelope.

Please leave stamps on their backing paper but trim to 3mm surrounds (as shown).

Please discard stamps that are heavily franked, torn, or have biro or felt pen lines across them.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in July, August, September and October 2017

Celebrating the Birth of Julian Tenison Woods

You are invited to join a birthday gathering which traverses decades as we honour the anniversary of the birth of Julian Edmund Tenison Woods.

Henrietta and James Woods could never have imagined when they gave birth to their fourth born child on the 15th November 1832, the influence for good their son would have on so many people on the other side of the world. Who are the people who have joined us as we honour Julian's memory?

Terry Woods: As children together Julian was always protective of me, his younger brother, as we attended school, had lessons from our father or rambled about the countryside. Being a tender-hearted child Julian and I came closer during our mother's illness and death when Julian was fourteen.

In 1856, I followed Julian to Australia. He was so compassionate to me when my first wife died after five years of marriage leaving me with three little daughters. He was fond of my second wife Sarah and our two sons and corresponded regularly.

Over a period of years Julian generously sent money to help my family when he was able. When I was dying Julian promised to help Sarah and my children and this was an immense comfort to me as was his visit when he returned from his Asian explorations just before I died in 1887.

Throughout our life I enjoyed Julian's gregarious and affectionate company. He was a loyal, faithful, generous and caring brother.

Penola Parishioner: We considered ourselves fortunate to have had Fr Julian Tenison Woods as our Parish Priest for ten years. Tall, handsome, self-assured, enthusiastic and comfortable with people from all walks of life, Fr Woods made easy conversation and we enjoyed his sense of humour. He was a commendable citizen advocating for better roads and mail service and standing up for the Aboriginal people.

He did not stint himself in visiting his parishioners and ministering to them; he cared for their needs, both temporal and spiritual. He also provided pleasant company and musical talents at our social gatherings. We were very fond of him and were delighted and proud when he, in company with Mary MacKillop set up the school at Penola and began the Sisters of St Joseph.

Mary MacKillop: I was nineteen when I first met Fr Woods and we shared our dream of educating children in the knowledge and love of God and through education, providing them opportunities for their future. We were both so delighted when this became a reality in 1866 and I became the first Sister of St Joseph.

I so valued Julian's spiritual guidance and we worked conscientiously together in Penola and Adelaide. Fr Woods had such a sense of justice and charity and so we based our work on respect for the dignity of all people. In those early days I so valued his experience (albeit sketchy) in religious life and appreciated his instructions and our spiritual unity and intimate friendship. He was so enthusiastic, optimistic and believed in God's will yet he could be imprudent and head-strong and he suffered with ill health.

He experienced God as much in nature as in the Blessed Sacrament and the love of Jesus in the Sacred Heart upheld him. He was an inspiration to me and the early Sisters.

Yes, we had our disagreements and he suffered greatly from rejection by a number of people. However, we always referred to each other with affection and I was only sorry that he did not afford me the opportunity of a face to face reconciliation before he died. Yet I can truly say I could not have begun the good work of the Sisters of St Joseph without him and I always loved him and was grateful to him...'

*Sister Therese McGarry rsj
Extract from enews 22/11/2016*

Hail Joseph, Son of David, Spouse of Mary, Foster father of Jesus. Saint Joseph pray for us your children now and at the hour of death. Amen

These are the much loved words Mum taught us as children. Every night we were called to pray and we were encouraged to thank God for our day, pray for the sick and remember all those who had died. At the end of our prayer time we always prayed to St Joseph. Her love and devotion to St Joseph was only surpassed by her love for the Virgin Mary and the rosary.

Mum was educated at St Patrick's School at Kogarah by the beautiful sisters of St Joseph. Mum loved her religious lessons the most. She often spoke about the lovely picture of Mother Mary, better known today as St Mary MacKillop. Mum always said that Mother Mary was watching over her.

She always reminded us to pray to St Joseph for a 'good' death and it was not until Mum went into God's care that we realised the special link she had with St Joseph during her sickness. It was the March 19th, the Feast of St Joseph, when Mum had her stroke and after much struggle she went to God on the May 1st, the feast of St Joseph the Worker. The family doubt this was 'just a coincidence!'

God had answered her prayers for a peaceful death and in her own special way, Mum was showing us through her example to trust in our loving God, 'keep praying' and to always have hope in our Loving God.

Now Mum is with God, she will continue to help us, pray for us and inspire us. Mum always reminded us and firmly believed that 'God is Good!' and to always be thankful!

Mum will be greatly missed by all of us but in our sadness we know she has gifted us with faith, love and hope. Mum lived by Mary MacKillop's words.

"Let us show love in our acts";

Let us hope and pray we carry that same torch as we journey on without her. We love you Mum!



Associate from the parish of St Bernadette's Lalor Park

News from Belmont

Josephite Associate Margaret Byrom was a member of the original Belmont Josephite Associate Group under the leadership of Maureen Dean. Margaret was called to eternal life on 4th January and her Funeral Mass was held at St Francis Xavier Church, Belmont on 13th January 2017. Margaret was diagnosed with ovarian cancer sometime in 2016 and will be greatly missed by the Josephite Associates as well as members of the Belmont Family Group. Present in the photograph taken on 15th May 2016 at the Dedication of the new Church: standing left to right are Pat Jarrett and Joan Carter, seated are Margaret Byrom and Joyce Farnham. Pat and Joyce were also members of the original Associates group



and Pat visited Margaret on a regular basis during her illness and helped Margaret choose the hymns for her funeral Mass. Joyce will be 90 in July and Maureen Dean's husband George now in his 90s is very much part of the worshipping community at Belmont Parish.

Pauline McGrath JA
Belmont

Josephite Associates Lidcombe Group - Change in Leadership

At the Lidcombe Josephite Associates Group meeting held on 1 April 2017, recognition was given to our retiring Group Leader, Dawn Fitzpatrick, who has served as leader from the establishment of the group in November 1992 until she retired in February of this year. Dawn remains as a member of the group.

The 'Ending Ritual' reflection from 'Act Love Walk: Praying in the Josephite Spirit' was used at this meeting. A small suitcase was provided as a symbol of the closure of Dawn's role as leader. Members were invited to share their memories of the contribution that Dawn had made during this period and for these to be packed into the suitcase to take away with her. Words used included devotion, friendship and patience. Long-time members recalled fond memories of our early retreats at Kincumber and how we were welcomed by the Sisters.

As a gesture of appreciation, Dawn was presented with a gift, flowers and a Certificate from the Josephite Associates congratulating her on her 25 years as Leader of the group.

We were blessed to have at this meeting Sister Marcia Brady rsj, who was the founder and driving force in encouraging over fifty people to join the group in its initial years. Also present was our current local Sister, Marie Carson rsj to guide us in our reflections.

One of our initial members, Joan Claxton, also advised of her retirement from the group. Joan was also thanked for her many years with the group.

At this meeting, Rhonda and Tony Tanti officially took over the role of Joint Leaders following their acceptance of the role at the March meeting of the group. While the Tanti's have only recently returned to the group, they were active members in its early years.

As a final sign of fellowship, our meeting ended with morning tea.



Geoff Barrett JA Lidcombe

News from Nimmitabel

It was with sadness that we farewelled Sister Bernadette O'Sullivan rsj on the 19th February 2017. Sister is retiring from the Nimmitabel Convent and returning to live in Sydney. Sadly the convent is closing after 115 years of continuous occupation by the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

A Mass of celebration and thanksgiving was held at St Andrew's Church Nimmitabel and was packed with people from all denominations. Local residents and parishioners continued the celebrations sharing a delicious lunch at the local Country Club.

Sister Bernadette has been at Nimmitabel for nine years, a wonderful caring sister in the Spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Bernadette was always available to ALL; we are going to miss her very much. Sister organised scripture with a group of Catechists and she loved going to the Nimmitabel Public School each week, and the children loved her also.

Sister was awarded a local Australia Day Award on the 26th January 2017 for her contribution to the local community. At the Australia Day breakfast, the students from the school past and present lined up and all hugged her and said farewell; this was very moving. Bernadette also received a certificate of Appreciation from St Andrew's Church Committee for her service to all of us over these past nine years.

Sister Bernadette was special to all of us and while we are sad, we wish her a happy and healthy retirement. God bless you Sister Bernadette.

Rae Blyton JA Nimmitabel



An unbreakable bond: Katie Kelly and guide Michellie Jones win triathlon gold at the Rio olympics

There are partnerships in sport that we think are important. Then there are those where the proof is irrefutable.

For Katie Kelly and her triathlon guide Michellie Jones, a bond formed little more than 12 months ago has resulted in a gold medal at the sport's Paralympics debut in Rio de Janeiro.

Kelly 41, has Usher syndrome, a degenerative condition that causes vision and hearing loss. With Jones close by her side, figuratively and literally, they took to the course at Rio's world-famous Copacabana Beach and topped the podium in the PT5 category.

For Kelly – or simply 'KK' to her close friends – the joy was overwhelming after crossing the finish line after a 750m swim, 20km bike ride and 5km run, 1:02 ahead of Alison Patrick and her guide Hazel Smith of Great Britain.

'I'm just truly honoured and chuffed and to do that para-triathlon here at Rio is a really special moment,' Kelly said. 'To have my mum and dad here, you know what parents are like. They've been crying all week, so imagine what they're like now. It is just so special to share with everybody. And everyone who has been along with me on the ride.' That ride has filled with more challenges than the average person confronts.

Usher syndrome is a genetic condition. On the day Kelly was told her eyesight had deteriorated to the point where she was legally blind, she rang Triathlon Australia to ask about the options for continuing the sport as a vision-impaired athlete. She was actually curious about taking on the Hawaiian Ironman. Instead, they told her all about the Paralympics.

As with most athletes who live with impairment, especially a deteriorating condition, adaptation is the mantra. 'When you have a disability, impairment, whatever, you just learn to modify and adapt. That's what I've done and I've always been very active. Then when it got to the point where I was told I was legally blind, I thought how can I stay doing triathlon, doing what I love doing,' Kelly says.

Of course none of this was possible without finding the right guide. Michellie Jones was that person. The pair has a special bond and there was plenty of banter during Sunday's race. Jones was driving her hard all the way and Kelly was told she couldn't celebrate until they reached the blue carpet beyond the finishing tape. Not that Kelly wants to listen all the time! 'Sometimes I turn the hearing aids off and tune out. Michellie will give it to me! She's pretty tough, and that's what made her successful. So I'm happy to be told what to do and go along with it,' Kelly says.

The name Michellie Jones probably rings a bell. She famously won Australia's first medal at the 2000 Olympics – silver – on day one of competition. It was triathlon's debut at the Olympics. In some lovely symmetry, she has topped that moment from sixteen years ago with a gold medal at the sport's debut at Paralympics level. 'Oh, this is better,' the 47 year old said. 'This is so much better, because when I think of everything that KK has been through, to be able to come here and do everything she's done in such a short amount of time, to me this is the best thing I've ever done.'

Eileen and Gerard Kelly proud parents of Katie Kelly (right hand side in the photograph)

Eileen Kelly JA Armidale

Eileen Stevenson – 40 years as a School Secretary

Eileen commenced work at Christ the King Primary School, Bass Hill NSW in 1976. This was the first school in the Southern Region of Sydney to have a Lay Principal appointed, as up until this time, the school had been staffed by the Sisters of St Joseph. Three Josephite Sisters remained on the staff.

During the first year three Lay Principals were appointed and I am proud to say I have been very blessed having had a great relationship with all 14 Principals who all came with varied talents and personalities. I had to adapt myself to each one of them and perhaps over the years was responsible for teaching them many things about the school.

The families here at Christ the King have been the centre of my daily work. I have listened to many parents tell their stories and I was always happy to share whatever wisdom I had, especially with the young parents just starting on their school journey. When my two daughters started school here I managed to get through my school journey by meeting and socialising with other parents. Many of these people are some of my best and dearest friends.

Of course at the centre of my work has always been the children. Those little and not so little faces that presented themselves to the office each day, bringing their joys, worries, cuts and bumps. The time spent with the students always touched the core of my work at Christ the King and sometimes the funny stories caused big belly laughs.

In 1976 when I started, my office was in a box on the end of a veranda which I shared with the Principal. If someone came to see the Principal I would stand on the verandah until she was finished the meeting. The following year another box was built on the other end of the verandah for the Principal and this became our Administration Area until 1986.

In 1987 we moved the office to one of two old demountables. The Principal, Assistant Principal, REC and I were all in there together. We stayed here for 17 years until 2005. In those days we survived so much – when it rained the Principal would stand on a cupboard with a cardboard cylinder directing the rain from a leaking roof into the garbage bin that I was holding. When the bin was full I would run outside, throw the water out the door and race back to collect the next lot of rain. If we were ever to complain all we were told was that we should all wear our swimmers when it rained!

My position as secretary was solo for many years. My association with three other secretaries from St Mary's, Georges Hall, St Felix, Bankstown and St Brendan's, Bankstown was most important. This association has led to lifelong friendships. As more time was allocated for office work I have had the privilege of working with four very efficient ladies and now one of them has taken over as the full time Secretary and I wish her many happy years of enjoying the work as much as I have.

In 1976 there was not much accountability for money. I started with a small note book documenting the government grants. Following this a journal was used to receipt all monies recording same by hand. The Chart of Accounts was provided from the central office as a guide for secretaries, with the big Red Book for recording payments and the Blue Book for receipting purposes. In 1993 the Oasis system of Accounting was introduced. I thought then it was time to give it all away. My Principal at the time convinced me to try, so after many in-services I mastered the computers and continued on with what I had learned and what I needed to know.

I have been at Christ the King for forty years. This is more than half my life but it has been such a great journey. Seeing children start school, watching them grow into fine young students, following them on their journey to high school then some of them return and enrol their children. I am often greeted with the question 'Are you still here?' I can honestly say that I always looked forward to coming to work at Christ the King.

I wish to thank with much gratitude the many Principals, Teachers and Office Staff, with whom I have worked for their friendship and support. I leave with many happy memories.

Eileen Stevenson JA Prayer Member



Prayers for the Sick

Connie Barnes (Campsie);
 Eileen Bennett (Bathurst-Perthville);
 Maureen Blood (Canberra);
 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);
 Helen Geraghty (Eden Group);
 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);
 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

Monica Brown (Lalor Park Group)
 Margaret Byrom (Belmont Group Leader)
 Maureen Kearney (Wyong Group)
 John Macdonald (Blacktown Group)
 Leonard Moodley
 (Prayer Member Rooty Hill)
 Barbara Oakley
 (Prayer Member Charlestown)
 Eileen Patricia Smith
 (North Sydney Group)
 Lenore Szymanski
 (Medowie Prayer Member)
 Julie Walker (Mudgee-Perthville Group)
 Olga Wilson (Prayer Member Girraween)

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Newsletter Editorial

Editor: Christine Sivewright
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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.

Funds raised in 2016 - \$62,000.

Thank you to Helen Bache, sorters and collectors.

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:-
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 Bathurst 2795



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 future by email.

Josephite Associates Day at Wellington from page 1



A REFLECTION

Submitted by **Boambee Josephite Associates Group** with the kind permission of the author of "The Reed", (Sr Mary Jo Well) and responses by our own Associate members.

THE REED

*Cut from its snug place by the creek
The reed submits to the piper's pruning.
Carefully, he hollows it out, smooths its heart,
Then polishes its exterior to a glowing finish.*

*He waits for it to dry out, oils and varnishes it.
Then he cuts holes along one side.
When it is finished he puts it to his lips.
Gently, he blows through it, and makes
incredible music.*

*In this way Abba fashioned Mary of Nazareth
To be the one through whom He would come.
To be the unique pipe, and the breath
To bring each one to unity with him.*

*So, too, he called Mary MacKillop,
To care for the outcast, the deprived;
His breath in her resounded in our land,
And echoes still in our hearts and minds.*

*Like the reed, I must be ready to vacate
My place of comfort and familiarity;
Jesus, the Piper, will empty me
Of selfishness and pride, as I undergo conversion.*

*Day by day His Breath will flow through me,
Energising me and presenting His sacred music.
He will fashion me, through prayer and
Suffering. To be his instrument,
His face and message to all.*

*Mary Jo Well rsj
July 2015*

*Dear Lord, Grant me the grace
to hear your song and sing it
with you. Amen*

'When we give our day to the Lord he works in us to rid us of self-centredness and ego. He is asking us to go out to others and give them his love.' **Marie**

'Offering care and comfort to others, putting aside our own needs, ready to let His will be our own will.' **Cecilia**

'I see a gentle Jesus carefully fashioning a pipe with which he makes the most heavenly music in a haunting melody which sings of hope as it touches each of us.' **Kyra**

'Lord, I love my snug place, my comfort. But I yearn more to do your will, give me your grace to be fashioned and shaped to play YOUR music.' **Kathy**

'Lord, I look back and see your hand reaching out to mould me like a reed, shaping me, preparing me for the life you want for me. Let me not hinder you in any way but help me to be open and willing to be the instrument of your music and love for others.' **Mary**

'From my early childhood his breath has flowed through me, energising me and presenting his sacred music in my life.'
Irene

'Like "The Reed" his breath flows through us to be the change that we wish to see in the world.'
Carmel and Frank

How will you respond ?

