



Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

Josephite Associates NSW (Inc.) PO Box 184, Croydon NSW 2132 (Letters only) • 5 Alexandra Avenue, Croydon NSW 2132, (Parcels)

Phone 02 9747 4199

NEWSLETTER • Nov 2017

Dear Josephite Associates,

Every grace and blessing to you and your families as you prepare for Christmas. In the July 2017 Newsletter there was a report on the very successful Josephite Associates Gathering in Wellington on 20th May. I thank the fourteen generous Sisters and Associates who assisted with the planning of the day. The date for the Associates Gathering next year is Saturday 7th April 2018 in Wellington. I hope moving this gathering to the month of April will provide us with warmer weather and an absence of fog.

The AGM was held on Saturday 16th September 2017 in the Lidcombe Parish Hall, commencing with the celebration of the Eucharist (gratitude to Fr Terry Bell for his presence). The day was less formal to enable the fifty five Associates (including Sisters of St Joseph) to relax and share friendships together. A delicious lunch was shared, followed by an open forum with great discussion regarding the voting process, and how can we grow into the future etc. The consensus regarding the nomination and voting process for the Josephite Associates Governance Group elections in 2019 will mean only financial Associates will receive by mail, nomination/voting forms. Many thanks to those who volunteered to help with the Newsletter distribution and assist in the office.

I am pleased to report that Mary McNamara the group leader from Boambee, has accepted a position on the governance group. Mary will be the Group Establishment Co-Ordinator – North Coast. The following are extracts from the President's Report delivered at the AGM:-

- Sister Therese McGarry continues as the liaison Sister of St Joseph to the governance group at Croydon. I thank Sister Therese for her support and encouragement.
- The Annual Retreat and AGM 2016 were held at the Kincumber Spirituality and Education Centre. Special thanks to Sr Ann Morrison rsj who facilitated the retreat.
- The International Josephite Associates Leadership Team held a Conference at Baulkham Hills 7th – 9th April 2017. Thirty six Associates attended the conference (nine represented NSW). Beverley Badcock is the NSW representative on the IJALT team.
- Josephite Associates (NSW) held their annual prayer and reflection day in Wellington on Saturday 20th May 2017.
- Charity Reports were forwarded to the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission.
- Business Activity Statements were forwarded quarterly to the Australian Government.
- Monthly reports were emailed to the Sisters of St Joseph Regional Leadership Team at Croydon and copies forwarded to the archives offices at Croydon and North Sydney.
- Beverley Badcock resigned from the Governance Group effective 31/7/2017. I wish to publicly acknowledge and thank Beverley for her generous service at Croydon from 2011 until the 31/7/2017. As previously mentioned in this report Beverley is remaining on the IJALT team.
- There are currently 1910 Josephite Associates and 58 Josephite Associate Groups.

I am pleased to announce the new address for Josephite Associates (NSW) is 5 Alexandra Avenue Croydon NSW 2132. P.O. Box 184 Croydon NSW 2132 is unchanged. I thank the Sisters of St Joseph Regional Leadership Team for continuing to provide office accommodation for the Associates.

Whatever our need, God's Grace is sufficient, His Power, inexhaustible, His Love, never-ending.....

With God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26.

St Joseph pray with us, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop pray with us. Fr Julian Tenison Woods pray with us.

Leonie Bell – President

Advice to those who save Stamps

Please separate cut and uncut stamps and not place them into the same bag as they need to be kept separate. Stamps on single paper are preferred to double paper as it cuts down on the work load.

The perforation should be left around the stamp and not cut too close – 3mm

Helen Bache – JA Lakemba

Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc Governance Group

President: Leonie Bell

Vice President: Position Vacant

Treasurer: Eileen Stevenson

Secretary: Maureen Rayner

*North Coast Representative: Jan Lang
Group Establishment Co-ordinator North Coast –
Mary McNamara
South Coast Representative: Christine Sivewright*

CLAIM THE DATES

There will be a gathering of Josephite Associates NSW Inc in Wellington NSW on Saturday 7th April 2018.

*The Josephite Associates NSW Inc Annual Retreat
Kincumber*

*Friday 19th October – Sunday 21st October 2018
Sister Jan Barnett rsj*

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



*"Do not give way to fears and anxieties."
1874*

*What humans owe God is adoration and praise.
Julian Tenison Woods - 1886*

What role do Lay Associates play?

The introduction to the Vatican II Document, 'The Role of the Laity', states 'The apostolate of the Laity derives from their Christian Vocation and the Church can never be without it.' Yet for many years, this role was denied its rightful importance. The Council began the task of exploring this vocation and Pope John Paul II continued it through his Exhortation *Christifideles Laici*.

In this short article, I would like to explore how lay people have been helped appreciate their distinctive vocation through belonging to the Associates of the Sisters of St Joseph. I am sure similar articles could be written about belonging to groups that follow the Charism of other Congregations e.g. the Mercies, Dominicans, Jesuits.

Central to the concept of lay Associations is that lay people are called by Baptism to holiness of life and to ministry. They are to fulfil this call as fully as those in religious life but in their unique way. How can belonging to an Association linked to a religious order foster the lay vocation to holiness and to ministry?

Each religious Congregation has a unique Charism or spirit which derives from the Charism gifted to it by its founder. This Charism flavours the way the religious group organises itself in its prayer life, its ministry and its relationship to the Church.

For the Sisters of St Joseph, the spirit of their founders, St Mary MacKillop and Fr J E Tenison Woods, distinctively shapes their lives. The Josephite spirit emphasises a very practical approach to life, to ministry with a special emphasis on the service of 'the poor.' Often the spirit is expressed in sayings attributed to the founders, such as 'Never see a need without doing something about it.'

The prayer life of the early Sisters was adapted to their situation of isolation from regular Church services, so the recitation of vocal prayers, such as the Rosary or short repetitive aspirations was a way of maintaining contact with God. This type of prayer fitted a group busy in schools and in visitation of the sick and house-bound. Later more sophisticated prayer forms were built on the base of vocal prayer.

The Sisters' relationship to the local Church was that of serving presence, in the school, visiting the sick, conducting Church services in the absence of the priest, supporting the priest when one was available. The ministry was very much grounded in the practical expression of Gospel availability. Even as the range of the Sisters' ministries widened over the years, they maintained the values of their founders.

People who join the Associates of the Sisters of St Joseph, simply known as Josephite Associates, reframe the expression of the Charism of the Congregation. They are aided to know the founding story, to study the many books now available on the lives of the founders, learning also of the current ministries of the Sisters. Thus they have a context for looking at their own vocation. They explore what living in the Josephite spirit means in their lives. 'What needs are in my home, my parish, my school, my neighbourhood that elicit a response from me?' would be typical questions they ask.

To support the goal of attaining holiness of life, opportunities are provided to, group prayers, retreats and the provision of reflection materials. Often, the Associates form local groups which serve to build community among the Associates. They develop their understanding of the motto Friendship, Prayer and Service.

Today, thousands of Associates fulfil ministries of Josephite service in schools, in aged care, as catechists and in their own professional lives. Sometimes, a group of Associates will say proudly that they keep parishes alive in areas where there are no longer religious to care for the Church, teach the children their religion, visiting the hospitals as well as being fully engaged family members and active in their wider community.

Lay Associations, such as I have described, give lay people another family within the family of the Church, the encouragement of a tradition of spirituality and ministry, a form of Adult Formation often not available to them elsewhere in the Church. My experience, as an Adult Faith Educator over many years in schools and in

Catholic School Administration, has proved to me the value of religious Congregations contributing to the development of the laity through lay Associations.

Together, as lay and religious, we carry on in prayer and service, the mission of Christ. We support the growth of prayerful, ministering Catholics. St Teresa of Avila gave us a beautiful poem that does not distinguish between lay and religious:

*Christ has no Body now but yours
No hands, no feet on earth but yours
Yours are the eyes through which he looks
Compassion on this world*

St Angela Grant is a Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, with many years' experience as an Educator and Administrator in Secondary Schools and in the Catholic Education Office in the Wollongong Diocese. Sister Angela assisted in the development of the Josephite Associates in NSW. Currently there are approximately 2000 Josephite Associates in NSW, administered now by the Associates themselves. Sister Angela considers the establishment of the Associates one of her Order's most significant contribution to the laity. Josephite Associates are in every state in Australia, also in New Zealand and in East Timor and Peru.

Angela Grant rsj

A charism for our times

Each charism (charism is a special gift of the Spirit given to a religious group) has its place. Each charism fulfils a need. And just as each charism is lived out by members of specific religious congregations; each charism embodies the spirit of a religious foundation and utilizes the gifts of that foundation's members toward the same end: the glory of God and living of the Gospel.

As religious life evolves, so does the nature of charism. A charism is only as sustainable as the needs it serves and the response of individuals to the call to live it out. Today, that response and the needs served by a charism are in constant need of reconsideration. While charism is associated with a specific religious institute, the call to live out that charism, which once might have been considered limited to vowed religious, has expanded to lay associates.

Such expansion gives new life and expression to a charism; yet such expansion mustn't forego the need for vowed religious commitment in our world. Each new moment requires a new expression and living of our charism. With openness and freedom, we must surrender to the Spirit's creative work in us and our way of life, allowing the development of means to envision (and re-envision) charism for our times.

Perhaps what is needed now more than ever is an open response to the call of the Spirit. That call and response isn't one and done. It is the 'yes' of a lifetime: a life well-lived in pursuit of Truth and Love through the expression of our gifted and grace-filled being.

For those who are conscious of the world both around them and within them, there's no escaping the call to live out one's God-given gifts in the service of God and neighbour. To do so is to live in love. And there's nothing our world needs now more than that!

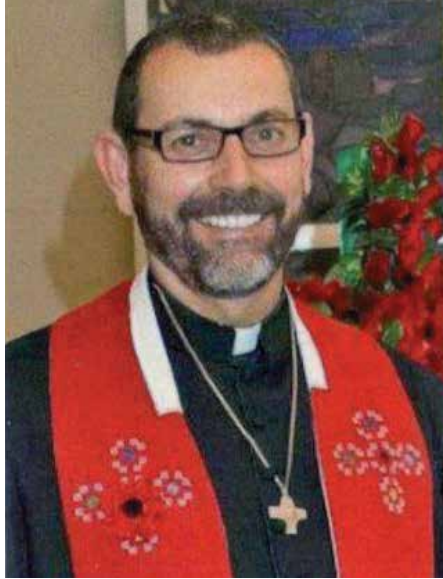
*Colleen Gibson a Sister of St Joseph of Philadelphia
Extract from Global Sisters Report September 2017*

The website for

Mary MacKillop Place, Mount Street, North Sydney

www.marymackillopplace.org.au

for coming events, feast and memorial dates, pilgrimage information and an invitation to a place of prayer with our Australian Saint.



25th Ordination Anniversary Pentecost 2017 – Marian Court Strathfield

It is the Crucifix that is our defining symbol as Catholics dear friends. Our Faith is not, in a Cross, or in books or documents, but it is in a living person and His name is Jesus Christ, - God's love made manifest for our World, and We, together are - His Body - The Church. Each one of us is a vital part of that body, and in short; we need the body of Christ, and We Are - the Body of Christ!

Secondly, I learned that if we wish to reach out to our younger generations of Catholics, or Christians, or just any young people of our day, then we must not simply do things for them, but accomplish great things with them, for they too, are Christ's body, and our accompanying of them, our encouraging of them, our believing in them, and the handing over to them of our hopes, our dreams and our visions of the Church is fundamentally essential.

Thirdly, I learned a lesson that has served me well these past years, and is something in particular, that the world needs most in this uncertain time, and that is 'the witness of heroes,' authentic heroes, unlike those offered to us by the world of spectacle, of sports, or cinema and success. Such figures often let us down and leave us empty and flat. What we and our world needs are the 'Saints' (not just the canonised variety either) but those holy women and men who lift us up and remind us of what it means to love Jesus Christ and to lay down our life for our friends.

That is why I consider one of the most significant aspects of my ministry as a Blessed Sacrament Religious and priest, is to have introduced people to St Peter Julian Eymard, through his Charism and spirit as we together celebrate and proclaim the Eucharist! It is a power for healing, for life's sustenance, for contemplation, for loving beyond our very selves, and so much more!

There's no doubt too, that St Mary of the Cross MacKillop has been 'a beacon' in my spirituality and faith life. In 1992 I met and worked alongside two Josephite Sisters, Teresa Noon and Margaret Gooley, through them and others, my cousin Sister Pat Malone here before me, watching my every move; coupled with the great joys I experienced and shared as the Pastoral Care Team Priest to Mary MacKillop Place - I've been so fortunate to get to know concretely a little of the essence and spirit of Mary MacKillop, a truly remarkable Australian woman, and her distinctive and unique faith-vision. Mary's tenacious faith amidst opposition, outright liars and ridicule,

encouraged me greatly whenever I've been judged harshly by someone or hurt at times deeply by an individual. We all need 'icons' and 'heroes' more than ever, and the Saints those officially canonised and those among us who touch our lives most personally, our friends, our family members and our work colleagues, have long been 'road maps' for my living of the Gospel.

I thank God for each of them, as tonight I thank God for each of you, for providing pleasure in sharing my priestly ministry here at Marian Court Chapel and beyond, to which we are all sharers respectively, through a common Baptismal calling. So tonight, let us all give thanks for this 'call' of God upon our hearts and lives. To the God who touches us a Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I particularly wish to give thanks for each and every one of you who through your prayer and friendships, help me to remain 'a priest,' and to daily strive in remaining faithful to the promises I made 25 years ago during the Vigil of Pentecost.

As our lives have been able to touch and influence one another over recent years; then, let us give thanks to God and pray for each other, as we continue our 'wonderful journey' as Christ disciples, as friends, sisters and brothers one to another! May God Bless you abundantly!

*Graeme Malone SSS - Marian Court Chapel
Strathfield - Feast of Pentecost 2017*

Dear friends, we have gathered together this evening to celebrate and to give thanks to God. That's what Eucharist is about, and particularly on this Feast of the Birthday of the Church, the Feast of Pentecost, I wish to join in thanksgiving to God for the gift of the Priesthood that I have been so privileged to share among you for some years now. You have been neither a not too small part, nor an insignificant part within the past twenty-five years of my ministry. In the greater picture of things, 25 years is a relatively small amount of time, however, in today's broken world and broader context, we quickly appreciate how every single day of life is cause for thanksgiving and prayer.

People have asked me over the past few months 'What was the highlight of these past 25 years?' 'What were your most significant assignment and moment?' Some close friends, and even a few acquaintances expected me to perhaps answer: 'World Youth Day 2008, including the Papal Visit to Sydney, and the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop' which followed, would all rank with significance. One friend even stated: 'More than these, what could one want?'

Well, while all these wonderful Spiritual events that I was privileged to have a small involvement in, it is here, in a place such as Marian Court - with its small, but significant Faith-Community, that ranks among the more fortunate aspects of my ministry. As you can imagine, death and dying, fear and illness in a hospital setting, can each be somewhat personally challenging? So, when I was invited to occasionally celebrate the Eucharist and the Church's Liturgies here - from time to time - I knew it would be both life-giving and a fruitful experience!

I've learned three great lessons during the past 25 years of my Priesthood.

Firstly, I've learned about the Cross. Francis of Assisi whose baptismal name I proudly carry, had the Cross of San Damiano that spoke to Francis: 'Go and repair my Church.'





The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Recently I visited Copperfield in Central Queensland, where the Sisters served in the early 1870s and where Mary herself visited in 1875.

All that remains today is a store, a cemetery and a chimney stack, but Copperfield was once a thriving

pioneer mining town. What struck me most was the remoteness of the area. The Sisters and the townspeople would have suffered many hardships in this dry, arid land, burnished by a harsh hot climate and lack of regular rainfall. Copperfield is but one example of the many struggles and deprivations that the Sisters and their companions were happy to accept with courage, while selflessly spreading the Word of God to the people in their care.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy is celebrated on September 14th. This ancient feast has been celebrated by Christians in the East and West since the fourth century. It originally marked the dedication of Constantine's Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre and was followed by the veneration of the wood of the cross, associated with Constantine's mother, St Helen.

The feast marks the 'lifting up' of all humanity to God through the power of the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ. It is of particular significance to followers of St Mary Helen MacKillop, who was so drawn to the selfless love of the suffering Christ that she chose to be known as Mary of the Cross.

Mary often spoke of the courage of the cross, and urged her sisters not to be cowards in the face of the crosses they were called to endure. In this she led by example. Her life was marked by suffering – sickness, death, excommunication, exile and many misunderstandings; and yet she not only embraced the cross but took on further hardship to support the Sisters.

It is hard to imagine the personal cost and discomfort, not to mention danger, of travelling in the 19th century to such remote places as Copperfield and the many outback towns across the vast continent. While Mary often spoke of the many crosses in her life and those of her Sisters, she was always willing to join her suffering to the cross of Christ. Mary did not give in to suffering and hardship but 'lifted up' her life to Jesus in love, and invited her Sisters and friends to do likewise.

The image of Mary mother of God and the faithful vigilant women standing at the foot of the cross of Christ crucified could well have included that other Mary, Mary of the Cross MacKillop and her Sisters who came after her. Today we, too, are invited to take up our cross with courage. Whatever the cross might look like – failing health, difficult ministry situations, the loss of family members and friends or just the daily grind of life – we too can 'lift up' our hearts in hope, love and faithfulness. We pray with the church,

Lifted up among us, O God, is Jesus the crucified: sign of your steadfast love and pledge of your will to save. To those who look upon the cross with faith grant healing of soul and life eternal.

(ICEL Missal 1998)

Carmel Pilcher rsj

Extract from enews used with permission

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in November, December 2017 and January 2018

The Verve and Nerve of John the Baptist

John the Baptist's birth in Luke's Gospel sets him in a particular kinship group with Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zachariah.

Living simple faith, they typify those 'salt of the earth' 'animi' Jews who wait upon God's revealing and respond to it open-heartedly, yet without fear of asking a few clarifying questions!

John's and Jesus' kin are true 'yes people.' Conscious of Divine presence and bounty their desire to

praise God seems close to the tops of their hearts and the tips of their tongues. Luke leaves us with the canticles of Mary's Magnificat and Zachariah's Benedictus, 'snapshots' of early Christian spirituality, still prayed daily in the Divine Office.

John is God's instrument at the baptism where Jesus' 'beloved Sonship' is manifested. How John 'reads' this exactly is not recorded, but scripture clearly shows both men sense a call to proclaim God's word in Israel's prophetic tradition. The 'yes' to God in which they are born and bred has grown strong in them.

The tenor of their preaching ensures they cannot be ignored. With verve and nerve John calls people to repent the scandalous gap between how they speak of God and how they live, and Jesus leads people to encounter God freshly through his own loving inclusion and merciful compassion. Differently styled, their ministries arise from the core of their familial learning: God matters 'on earth as in heaven!'

John and Jesus are martyred for their challenging honesty, a backdrop against which early persecuted Christians learn to understand that faith asks no less than everything. Martyrdom thus becomes a key prism through which Christians view their call to discipleship, as Tertullian writes: 'The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church.'

Commenting on Martyrdom's ongoing significance, Ronald Rolheiser uses the example of Archbishop Romero of El Salvador, martyred in 1980 for his stand against state-led oppression and violence towards supporters of the poor.(1) Using insights from Mary Jo Leddy, Rolheiser suggests that real martyrdom involves a life-given as well as a life-taken. Effective stances against injustice need people who have actually 'died before they die,' people who, before death, are already 'given.'

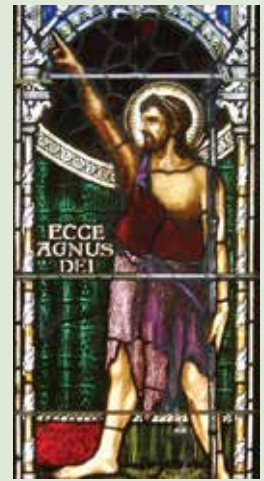
As such, Romero writes, 'I have often been threatened with death. Nevertheless, as a Christian, I do not believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me I will rise in the Salvadoran people. I say so without meaning to boast, with the greatest humility. As a pastor I am obliged by divine mandate to give my life for those I love – for all Salvadorans, even those who may be going to kill me. Martyrdom is a grace of God that I do not believe I deserve. But if God accepts the sacrifice of my life, let my blood be a seed of freedom, and the sign that hope will soon be a reality.'

I find myself personally inspired by Jesus, by John and by the thousands who follow them, like Romero, the Salvadoran Jesuits, the Cistercian monks of Tibhirine and those who live and sometimes die giving life for the sake of life, truth and goodness. Has anyone else ever felt the temptation to have the verve and nerve to try to be in the world what Jesus knew God wants us all to be?

Virginia M Bourke rsj

Extract from enews used with permission.

Reference 1: Fr Ronald Rolheiser's archives, 'Romero Died Before He Was Killed,' 23/10/89





The Mary MacKillop Journey to Canonisation

Mary MacKillop, born on January 15 1842, was baptised Maria Ellen MacKillop in St Francis' Church, Melbourne, on February 28. Little did anyone know of the journeys that would lead to Rome to confirm that Mary's name is now inscribed in the Canon of Saints? That journey from Fitzroy, Melbourne to the glory of Rome included numerous physical journeys. In her young life Mary travelled with her family from place to place as they endeavoured to find a home while her father's fortunes waxed and waned. As a young woman and throughout much of her life she travelled by all available means of transport. She was an indomitable horsewoman, a traveller by coach over rough and poorly made roads and a woman who made numerous trips by ship including several to New Zealand as well as a long voyage to Rome to meet Pope Pius IX to seek approval for the congregation she founded with Julian Tenison Woods in Penola. As Mary physically travelled through Australia, New Zealand and Europe, including her beloved Scotland, she undertook an even more profound inner journey with her God.

She had learned from her 'dear Mamma' that 'in hardships, poverty and even want and....in greatest need your confidence in Divine Providence never failed.' Mary inherited that profound trust in Providence and made it a hallmark of her life and work with the poor. It led her to deep acceptance of the will of God so that she could write, 'To me the will of God is a dear book which I am never tired of reading.'

Devotion to the will of God was the essence of Mary's spiritual journey. Despite frailty of health, misunderstandings and difficulties with some of her religious sisters, clergy and bishops, one of whom even excommunicated her, Mary accepted the Will of God, becoming a holy woman. Her holiness was evident. Cardinal Moran, leaving her death bed a few days before she died in 1909, is quoted as saying, 'I consider this day to have assisted at the deathbed of a Saint.'

Even after her death, Mary had another journey, the one that saw her declared a saint for the universal Church. As in life, this journey for Mary had many twists and turns. Because of the faith of the People of God, the devoted work of many over decades, four Postulators, two approved miracles, and beatification by Pope Saint John Paul II at Randwick Racecourse on January 19 1995 before a quarter of a million faithful, Mary's canonisation journey ended in Rome.



There, on October 17, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI declared Mary a saint for the universal Church much to the delight and admiration of millions of people worldwide. While Mary's earthly journeys are ended she continues to travel as intercessor for countless needy people.

On the anniversary of her canonisation may she continue to remind us that we are but travellers here?

Maria Casey rsj

Extract from enews 17/10/2017

News from East Timor

Sister Kathy Jennings rsj in East Timor reports on 37 new Associates enrolled on the 8th October 2017 in Dili. The group numbered 4 from the early years who have faithfully hung on! Kathy has been doing a monthly formation session all the year with the men and women who want to be associates. Sister Margaret Cleary and Mary Hemmings joined in the celebrations in Dili on the 8th October 2017.

Therese McGarry rsj



News from Gilgandra

We gathered at the Convent to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Rosary and Julian Tension Woods Day on Saturday 7th October. Two new Associates were received by Sr Robyn. After Mass we gathered for lunch. Everyone had a wonderful day. A big thank you to Sister Monica Barlow for the beautiful prayer Reflection we used during Mass. Prayers were offered for deceased Associates and Associates who were unable to be present.

Robyn McNamara rsj



News from Moree

On Monday 29th May 2017, 44 people were nominated for an award presented by Mayor Katrina Humphries as Community Elders. It was the beginning of Reconciliation week, and there were indigenous and non-indigenous people who had made significant contributions in their lives to the aboriginal community of Moree. There was a printed citation on each person in a small booklet distributed on the day. Stella Cusack, who is a 91 year old Josephite Associate of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart and mother of Sister Margaret Cusack rsj, was among those presented with a medal from the Mayor and her name was included on an Honour Roll of Community Elders to be mounted at the Moree Town Hall. There were also posthumous awards for those who have departed this life and their families were able to receive the award on the day.



Margaret Cusack rsj



11 August 2017

Dear Associates

The 2013 Chapter document of the Sisters of St Joseph asks the Sisters and those who work alongside us in ministry to embrace “new emerging possibilities”. In light of that call, over the past few years the Sisters and the Boards of our various ministries have been exploring ways to ensure our long term commitment to serve the poorest.

After extensive reflection, consultation and discussion I write to announce the decision to unite the Josephite Foundation, the Mary MacKillop Foundation (MMF) and Mary MacKillop International (MMI). The Sisters of St Joseph are determined to ensure that the wonderful work that our ministries do continues to expand in its reach and impact in the years ahead.

Those involved are excited by the possibility this will offer to revitalise the Josephite spirit in the communities these ministries serve and the opportunity it brings to reduce supporter confusion and fragmentation and to reduce administrative burdens.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing commitment to the vision of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods through your prayers, financial support and your on-going interest in the work of our ministries. During this transition I specifically thank you in advance for your commitment to ensuring the success of our new, combined single ministry.

With every blessing

Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj
Congregational Leader

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Trustees of the Sisters of Saint Joseph - incorporated in New South Wales, the liability of the members is limited

ABRN: 162 276 422 Member of the Catholic Church Religious Group

Prayers for the Sick

Prayers for the Sick

Helen Bache (Lakemba)
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);
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);
Christine Sivewright (Bowral);
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

Mr John Casey (Quakers Hill)
Maurice Coleman (Lidcombe Group)
Sheila Goodacre (Canowindra-Perthville
Group)
Barbara Irwin (Lalor Park Group)
Helen Magann (Baradine-Perthville Group)
Maria Ng (Chinese Group)
Patrick O'Shannessy (Gilgandra-Perthville
Group)
Mary Ryan (Penrith Group)
Beverley Strang (Nyngan Group)

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Newsletter Editorial

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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:-
Emmaus Convent 163-165 Mitre Street,
Bathurst 2795

News from Mudgee

Our monthly meetings are very interesting and we felt very blessed when Bishop Michael McKenna visited and gave us a special blessing. Bishop Michael was visiting Mudgee Parish and took time out and made an effort to speak to our group. During August we celebrated (the 1st anniversary of Vonnie Gilders death). Vonnie was the dear founder and former leader of the Mudgee Group. Apologies were received from the following Sisters of St Joseph who were unable to attend the celebration of the Eucharist - Sr Jean Cain, Sr Christine, Sr Clare and Sr Carmel. The group then continued their celebrations at the local café 89.

I am also pleased to report we have a new member Lynn Bull from Mudgee. Lynn was very touched and inspired by the way we follow St Mary and Julian, and the way we care for each other.

Angela Krusvar JA Mudgee

I'm the Daddy of a Nun

Sure my daughter has been vested
And my joy I cannot hide
For I've watched her from the cradle
With a father's honest pride.

But the morn she left me early
I was feeling mighty blue
Just a-thinking how I'd miss her
And the things she used to do.

But now, somehow it's different
With each rising of the sun
And my heart is even singing
'I'm the daddy of a nun.'

Since to err is only human
There's a whole lot on the slate
That I'll have to make account for
When I reach the golden gate.

But then I'm not a-worrying
About the deeds I've done
I'll just whisper to St Peter:
I'm the daddy of a nun.'



Our Father – A poem by Mary Jo Wells rsj

Father, who carried me in your arms;
Dad, who took my hand in yours;
Steadied me, helped me to walk;
Pop who fed me with love;
Daddy who read to me each night.

Man of patience and integrity,
Of subtle humour and life skills;
When it was time for you to be home,
I would run to the gate in expectation;
Eager to share my day with you.

Mirror of the God who created me;
You made our home a miniature heaven;
You provided me with food each day;
You taught me how to love;
You lived compassion and forgiveness.

The Apostles asked Jesus to teach them to pray,
He used the humblest, most loved words.
From their lived experience He showed them
The loving relationship with His Father.
He urged them to pray with simplicity.

When I pray the prayer Jesus gave,
For me, this is the core of 'Father'.
The God who is in heaven has done this:
He has carried me through difficulties;
He feeds me with the Body of Christ.

I breathe His holy name in love;
I struggle to share my day with Him;
I endeavour to carry out His will;
As He forgives me, I try to forgive;
He treads the path I must travel.

Joseph taught Jesus how to be a man;
Took Him to the temple and synagogue;
Helped him to ply His trade;
Mentored Him in love and compassion;
Modelled for Him the joy of human life.

Jesus you gave us this prayer,
Hallowing the Fatherhood of God;
Bowing before His awesome glory;
We pray for the spread of His kingdom here,
As we try to live with justice and love.

Mary Jo Wells rsj – June 2017

Mary Jo, aged 86 years, died peacefully on 17th September 2017 after a short illness.

The Sisters of St Joseph, her family and friends and her many past students give thanks for the life of faith, hope and love of this wonderful woman.

The above poem was written only a few weeks before her death. May Mary rest in peace. Amen.

Ethica and Fair Trade

Women in Peru who live in marginalised areas have little or no opportunities of earning an income, but possess other skills, determination, ability and compassion.

Through their work with Ethica they have been able to achieve many milestones in their development, which has helped them to not only receive an income but has had a ripple effect for their families and communities.

It is wonderful to see how one of our groups, Puka Phallcha, has been able to benefit from working with us and being part of fair trade.

The ongoing process has seen them being empowered to use their incredible skills, while keeping their traditional values and still make the most of their potential, with drive and determination to see their lives improve.

The success of working with Fair Trade looks like this:
For us:

- When we make the choice to buy fair trade quality products we are making a difference in the lives of the women who create them, having a positive impact. When we stick to the principals of fair trade we can see positive changes for them.

For them:

- They have formed their own registered association, sharing decision making and profits.
- They elect a board every two years to give everyone an opportunity to learn business knowledge.
- Their confidence grows.
- They have support on product development, marketing and training in new techniques and skills.
- With the income they receive they can buy better food, send their children to school and buy medicine.
- The preservation of traditional artefacts and techniques.
- Investment in equipment and technology to assist them.
- By having the chance to send their goods overseas they have learnt about quality control and are very proud of what it means for them in the community.
- They can work at home in their own time whilst looking after their children.

Gina Bradley – Sales and Operations Manager – Ethica Accessories

NEWSLETTER IN BY EMAIL

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