



Winter 2018

May 2018 Newsletter

Launch into a New Year

by Pauline Gear

Saturday the 3rd March saw the launch of **Josephites Jumping Into Action** with guest speakers from Catherine House and Mercy House of Welcome to help inspire us into 'doing' more for our communities.



Jaylee Cooper, Fundraising Manager for Catherine House, spoke of the help offered by this organisation which includes support and accommodation to women 18 years and over who are experiencing homelessness.

Catherine House was founded in 1988 as a partnership between the Sisters of Mercy, SA Housing Trust and Adelaide City Council to fill a void in the need for assistance for women experiencing homelessness in South Australia. Over the 30 years, Catherine House has grown and refined its model and is recognised as Adelaide's only recovery-based service for women experiencing homelessness.

Across the organisation Catherine House accommodates 48 women on a nightly basis and are campaigning to expand their service. There are many reasons why a woman can

become homeless, for example, domestic violence, health (both physical and mental), education and employment issues, addiction, grief and loss. The staff aim to assist women to 're-enter the world' stronger, healthier and more able to contribute to society. They offer education services and self-development courses as well as short term accommodation and assistance with finding more permanent housing.

At our Christmas gathering last December we were encouraged to bring along toiletry items for Catherine House. Jaylee told us of the constant need for such 'luxuries' for the clients of Catherine House. Things such as hand cream, lip balm, sanitary items and loofahs are gratefully accepted while new bras and knickers are always in demand. Often the women arrive in just what they are wearing, so clean new nightwear, slippers and underwear along with basic toiletries are provided to each client on her first night at the house.

Jaylee is passionate about her work and was very excited to meet several women at our gathering who had an intimate working knowledge of Catherine House through their personal involvement throughout the years.

The Josephite Associates would like to encourage everyone to add an item to your shopping list each time you shop for groceries,



'Have courage, trust in God, St Joseph and our blessed Mother, and you need have no fear.'
MMK 1905

and bring the items along to each of our events. One of the Leadership Group will happily collect, store and deliver these items to Catherine House on a regular basis. Of course, cash donations are always accepted. You can do this by telephoning 8232 2282 to obtain bank details or send a cheque made payable to Catherine House, PO Box 6031 Halifax Street Adelaide SA 5000.

Mercy House of Welcome

We also heard from Sr Mary Symons, a Mercy Sister, from the Mercy Refugee Centre at Kilburn. Some of what we heard would make us question what we can really do to help, and she challenged us regarding our desire to help.

Mercy House of Welcome offers asylum seekers a place to come together and receive settlement and visa support. Without any legal rights, welfare support or the right to work while they await the outcome of their application, life for some can be very grim and the impact on their mental and physical health can be devastating.

English and Art classes, gardening, assistance with accommodation, bills, food and clothing, legal services and companionship are offered.

The cultural differences are huge and people who are denied integration and the right to work or receive welfare, struggle to 'fit in' with their new/adopted country. It is easy to see how they can become angry and frustrated at the slow pace of progress of visas and the seemingly senseless denial of basic human rights. How can we expect asylum seekers to live by our Australian standards when we deny them everything – even their existence?

Sr Mary mentioned that there are currently more men than women accessing the services as many men come alone, leaving wives and children behind, in order to set up a new life for their family. Obviously, asylum seekers bring their own cultural and belief systems with them and Sr Mary noted that for many of the men this meant that women are seen as second class citizens, which she finds amusing as most of the volunteering/assistance is female driven!

The most valuable help to the asylum seekers would be in the form of financial assistance and conversational English. Contact details are Mercy House of Welcome, PO Box 258 Prospect SA 5082 or telephone 0434 450 666 or email mhw@mercy.org.au.



Sr Mary and Jaylee



With former staff and volunteers of Catherine House



Happy for a photo during morning tea

Come, Listen, Share

Wednesday, 2nd May 2018

Bethany Centre

4 High St

Kensington

2pm



Sr Moya Campbell rsj has been appointed by the Congregational Leadership to work with our *International Josephite Associate Leadership Team* (IJALT) as we explore how best to keep Mary MacKillop's spirit alive through the work of the Associates. Over the coming months Sr Moya is visiting Associates across Australia and New Zealand to gain a picture of what is happening and how Associates and Sisters see possibilities for the future.

All are invited to **COME** along, **LISTEN** to Sr Moya's overview and input and **SHARE** your thoughts about how we can build our future as Josephite Associates. Please let us know if you are able to attend by contacting Mary Hemmings on 0417 871 904 or email sa.associates@sosj.org.au

Anyone not able to attend, please feel free to call and have a chat or write your thoughts about how we might move forward.



JUSTICE ACTION DAY

Saturday, 2nd June 2018

Bethany Centre

9.30am – 1.30pm

Our *Josephites Jumping Into Justice* event enabled us to hear from speakers about different ways that many in our community are responding to the myriad of needs that are present in our wider community.

This gathering on the 2nd June will be one of action and you are invited to come along and help create soup or slices/cakes. Any other ideas will be welcome. The products we make will then be distributed as needed to communities. *In small ways we can make a difference in the lives of another.* Let us know if you can join us in this action.

Please contact Mary Hemmings on 0417 871 904 or sa.associates@sosj.org.au

On this day of action, and at subsequent gatherings during the year, Associates (and others who may like to help) are invited to bring along an item or two that we will ensure is delivered to Catherine House to support the women there. These items may include toiletries, women's pyjamas and underwear (all new please). Other practical suggestions are available on their website at <https://catherinehouse.org.au>

Sr Mary Cresp rsj

presents:

Friends Forever

Wednesday, 16th May

Why is **friendship** important for spirituality?

“Carpe Diem!”

Wednesday, 25th July

Seizing opportunities to **pray**.

Making Life Worthwhile

Wednesday 26th September

Discipleship and **service**.

Bethany Centre

4 High St

Kensington

1.30pm - 3pm or

7.30pm - 9pm (repeated)

Register with the Mary MacKillop Precinct one week before each event. Telephone 8130 5900 or email infos@sosj.org.au

Cost per event: \$30 or \$20 (concession)
Refreshments provided

Twelve years ago I completed my book *In the Spirit of Joseph* where I identified ‘Josephite-ness’ as a gift of the Spirit that can be traced back to Joseph himself. The characteristics of those who share this spirit come from all walks of life and tend to approach things in down-to-earth and practical ways. In other words, they encounter God in the everyday. The bonds between those who share this spirit create a kind of movement across the globe.

In our day, where many people seem to have lost direction and meaning in their lives, this movement or gift of the Spirit is needed more than ever. Sisters of St Joseph express this gift in a public profession of vowed life – chastity (loving all without condition), poverty (directing all one is and has to serving God’s mission) and obedience (listening for and giving oneself over to God’s will). Associates have chosen to describe them in the three features of *friendship, prayer and service*.

In our time together in May, July and September, we will reflect on these gifts as representations of what makes us ‘Josephite’. I look forward to being with you. *Sr Mary*

What’s Happening in Western Australia?

From the IJALT Newsletter – April 2018

In the West changes in group leadership have been significant. After many years of committed service as leader of the Associates Sr Denise Casey rsj has retired. This year the Perth group has established a new leadership team with seven members, calling themselves the Metropolitan Co-ordinating Group, with Louisa Smith as the Co-ordinator. They have been busy organising different roles and responsibilities within their group and planning for the year ahead.

Down south in Dardanup, Annette Morellini has stepped down after 21 years of faithful service as Co-ordinator of their group. They too have a

new co-ordinating group, consisting of seven members, with Dot Savage as Leader and Irene Rodgers as Secretary.

Associates from these groups make the effort to travel to each other’s gatherings as a means of supporting each other and being nourished by the different input that is provided.

Leadership is pivotal to how a group functions and team leadership provides many wonderful possibilities. We wish both of these groups many blessings as they continue sharing the story and legacy of Mary MacKillop in their communities.

Fundraising Presentation for Peru by Julie Langman

The Josephite Associates' fundraising focus for the 2016/2017 financial year was for the Josephite Ministry in Peru.

At our Associates' Christmas celebration on the 8th December last year, the Associate Leadership Team, on behalf of all Associates, presented a cheque to Sr Katrina van Ruth rsj for \$1,000 to support her ministry in Peru. This presentation was a delayed offering as we waited for Sr Katrina to return to Adelaide for Christmas and to celebrate her 50th Jubilee in March this year.

Throughout 2016, Associates also made

donations of wool after much discussion between Sr Katrina and Paul & Sue van Ruth. It was this wool which Mary Hemmings took to Peru in a very large suitcase!

Sr Katrina has now returned to Peru and I am sure our Associates' donation will be used where it is most needed.

Our fundraising focus for this current financial year, ending June 2018, is the Mary MacKillop Museum. Then, in line with our current focus on the attribute of 'service,' we will, for the next financial year, offer support to Catherine House and the Mercy House of Welcome.

"It is not those who can pay us well that we should first seek, but rather the poor and neglected where we can find the means of supporting them."
MMK 1875

Update on Peru by Mary Hemmings

Since 1981 Josephites have been living and working in Peru. Sr Katrina Van Ruth rsj, from South Australia, has been there for several years and spent time in Adelaide recently to celebrate her Golden Jubilee. After our *Josephites Jumping Into Justice* session on the 2nd March, Sr Katrina generously provided some insights into life as a Josephite in Peru.

As well as Australian and New Zealand Sisters, several Peruvian Sisters also form part of the Josephite family there, together with many Associates. Some of the areas in which the Sisters are involved include schools, parish life and prisons. Sr Katrina outlined some of the damage that was caused to the school in which she is involved by recent floods and the small improvements that they have been able to make such as creating a play area with artificial turf.

The wool that was sent from our Associates was sold at a low price to the local families. The money raised by this then provided further resources for the school. Sr Katrina has now returned to Peru to continue her ministry there.



Sr Katrina celebrating her birthday after the presentation

DIARY DATES FOR 2018

Come, Listen, Share

Wednesday 2nd May
See page 3 for details

Friends Forever

Wednesday 16th May
See page 4 for details

Justice Action Day

Saturday 2nd June
See page 3 for details

"Carpe Diem!"

Wednesday 25th July
See page 4 for details

Feast of Mary MacKillop

Wednesday 8th August
5.30pm – 7.30pm
Bethany Centre

Social Justice in Action

Saturday 8th September
Following the 10.30am Mass in the Chapel
Bethany Centre

Making Life Worthwhile

Wednesday 26th September
See page 4 for details

Country Retreat

Saturday 6th October
Sevenhill Conference Centre

A Christmas Event

Saturday 8th December
Bethany Centre

Please put these dates in your diary. Details about other upcoming events will appear in later newsletters.

"Keep courage whatever you do. The best and strongest trees you know are the slowest growing."

JTW 1875

Associate Newsletter

This newsletter is also available on the internet. Check out the web address:

http://www.sosj.org.au/being-involved/list_newsletters.cfm?filter=NLSAA&loadref=544

There you will also find the newsletters of other regions. This is part of the Sisters of St Joseph website where you will find many articles of interest.

Recycle your Newsletter

When you have finished with the newsletter, a good recycling idea is to pass it round for others to read.

Stamps for the Missions

Stamps which are donated are then processed, parcelled up and sold at auction. The money raised goes to Mary MacKillop International for the missions in Brazil, Peru and Timor Leste. Over the last few years thousands of dollars have been raised in this way.

Please send your used stamps, leaving a 1cm border, to:
Used Stamps, Locked Bag 3031, Burwood, NSW, 1805

Other Josephite News

- **St Joseph's Old Scholars Association**

An Old Scholar is anyone (female or male) who has ever been connected to a Josephite school or college in Australia, as a student or teacher.

Our Association has been in existence for over 100 years. Our last 2 functions for 2018 are:

- The Winter Old Scholars Luncheon
Wednesday 6th June
Hampstead Hotel, 143 North East Rd, Collinswood
11.45am for a 12noon start
Bookings by 1st June. Contact Josie 8295 3667 or Margaret 8264 0780
- The Spring Old Scholars Luncheon
Wednesday 3rd October

- **Mary MacKillop Old Scholars Association**

The Association continues the friendships and encourages the building of life-long networks amongst past students and staff after high school. It also fosters justice and compassion, hospitality and concern for those in need and has a special relationship with the Sisters of St Joseph.

Everyone is very welcome to the Annual Reunion which will be on Friday 26th October this year.

Newsletters and our popular Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179768134304>) keep people in touch with each other. Make contact and share your news.

- **Mary MacKillop Precinct**

1. *Our 3 Venues*

Comprising the Bethany Centre, the Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide and St Joseph's Chapel. The Chapel is open every day whereas the Museum is still closed until renovations are complete. To contact the office please telephone 8130 5900.

2. *Monthly Mass (10.30am) & Reflection (5.45pm)*

Venue: St Joseph's Chapel

June	Friday, 8/6/2018	Mass & Reflection
July	Sunday, 8/7/2018	Reflection ONLY
August	Wednesday, 8/8/2018	Mass & ***Special Reflection
September	Saturday, 8/9/2018	Mass & Reflection

*****Special Reflection** – The Associates have organized a talk on Mary MacKillop and Social Justice. This will take place in Bethany commencing at 5.30pm followed by supper.

3. *2018 Calendar*

The calendars are still available and make a great buy.

Each month contains a quote from one of our co-founders and gives information on the Josephite story.



New Year Sale! \$4 each or 3 for \$10

Josephite Calendars on Sale!

Pay & Collect your Calendars:
The Regional Administration Centre,
4 High Street, Kensington

Credit Card - Pay by phone
Ph: 8130 5916



St Joseph



Introduction

The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart take their order's name and ethos from Joseph, the husband of Mary, foster-father of Jesus, carpenter, patron of families and workers. Joseph, humble and just, took Mary as his wife when he could not have possibly understood her pregnancy. Joseph saved Mary from the harsh judgement and penalty of those times. His faith was real and practical.

We celebrate two feast days for Joseph: 19th March and 1st May for Joseph the Worker. 1st May is also May Day (International Workers' Day) and reflects Joseph's status as the patron of workers.

Scripture

Because Joseph was faithful to the law, and he did not want to expose Mary to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Mt 1:19-20

Reflection

Joseph was a compassionate and caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly so as not to expose her to shame or cruelty.

Joseph loved Jesus. His concern for the safety of this child, who was entrusted to his care, led Joseph to leaving his homeland in order to protect Jesus and Mary.

Joseph respected God. He followed God's commands in handling the situation with Mary. He took his family to Jerusalem every year for Passover, something that could not have been easy for a working man.

From Pope Francis

"Do not lose hope; St Joseph also experienced moments of difficulty, but he never lost faith and was able to overcome them, in the certainty that God never abandons us. (2013)

Phrases from Mary MacKillop's letter of 1893 speak about St Joseph

His was a quiet humility.

It was a humility of heart not words.

It was a humility that didn't hinder him putting himself forward.

It was a humility that obeyed the inspiration from God.

Prayer

God of faithfulness, You entrusted Joseph with the care of Your Son Jesus. He provided for his family and kept them safe. May we, like Joseph, remain faithful to You in times of uncertainty and honour You in the way we treat those we call family. Amen

Action

Where there is a need for healing be the one to show how love can heal.

