



# 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 8741 2335

NEWSLETTER • July 2018

## Josephite Associates Day at Wellington

The Infant de Prague Hall at Wellington was the venue for our annual Josephite Gathering 2018 on Saturday 7th April.

By 9.30am Associates had arrived from most parts of the Bathurst Dioceses and beyond: Sydney, the Blue Mountains and Nyngan to the West. It was good to see so many of our Sisters able to make the trip.

Having Leonie Bell (NSW Associates President), Margaret Smith as Emcee and Susan Connelly rsj our guest speaker, set the scene for a great day and it certainly was that.

Susan spoke on St Joseph and made a wonderful impression on the group. She could give Joseph his place in Scripture while outlining the religious and cultural challenges of his time and the character of this "Just man." She then looked at our 2018 world and the challenges, suffering and uncertainties of our present time. For our country people, this quality of input was a wonderful treat and I'm sure will leave a lasting impression for Josephite Associates.



Father Carl Mackander, Josephite Associate and PP of Wellington, presided over the celebration of Eucharist. Another very popular attraction was the Ethica Stall and input by Jan re the story behind this project.

We owe a big thank you to the St Mary's P&F for their wonderful catering and to Betty Burke, Pat Doherty, Sandra Christoffersen and all those in the background, who attended so well to our every need for the day. As also to Leonie Bell and Maureen Rayner for making the trip to Wellington and all that went into making the day such a positive experience for each.

- Madeline Breen rsj



*'Pray that prosperity may not elate nor adversity ever shake your courage and generosity in the service of God'*

Mary MacKillop 4-3-1891

*'Let us learn to live as if there were no one in the world but God and ourselves'*

Julian Tension Woods - 1887



### 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

## House of Providence in Cumberland Street, Sydney

Mary MacKillop placed a great emphasis on reliance on Divine Providence.

Her biographer, Fr Paul Gardiner, notes that it was a feature of her spirituality commented on by many of her earlier followers. For her, it meant that the Sisters were to carry out their ministry to the poor and trust that God would send the help they needed. This virtue led to risk-taking so that the needs of the poor would be met. It found concrete expression, especially, in establishing places to care for destitute women and children and naming them Houses of Providence.

The House of Providence in Cumberland Street in The Rocks area of Sydney was the fourth one the Sisters of St Joseph conducted in that part of Sydney. Three others had been in rented property and had soon proved too small for the special ministry. Sr Josephine Carolan had found a building she thought would suit the needs but it was for sale not rent. With generous support from other Sisters and benefactors she eventually raised 1000 pounds towards a deposit on the property which was valued at 6750 pounds. When she approached the bank of Queensland for the loan of the remaining price, she was greeted favourably as her name was known from her public defence of Mary MacKillop in Brisbane. The Sisters may well have seen Divine Providence at work in this situation.

Like the House of Providence in Adelaide, The Providence in Sydney was to serve the needs of destitute older women, orphaned and neglected children and girls from the country seeking employment in the city. The area round The Rocks was a needy one with many poor, illiterate people living in overcrowded and squalid conditions.

'Cheshunt', the newly purchased building, was a three-storey stone building, with a basement, with a frontage in Cumberland Street, and another in Lower Fort Street. Purchased in May 1881, it served also as a Provincial House and at times a Novitiate.

The Sisters supported the work of the Providence by begging. Some local shopkeepers gave regular donations of bread and meat, but the Sisters also met many rebuffs which they endured for the sake of their charges.

In establishing the Providence, Mary MacKillop had found a staunch supporter in Dean Sheridan, the Vicar General who was already sensitive to the social needs in Sydney. Archbishop Vaughan had welcomed the Sisters who had been forced to leave Queensland. He encouraged them to take up the work of education but also admired and encouraged their work in The Rocks. Sr Josephine Carolan wrote to Mary MacKillop in August 1880: When Archbishop Vaughan visited the Sisters, he was impressed by the simplicity with which they were facing the reality of the work; he believed that the fact the Sisters actually lived among the poor would have lasting effects on the minds of the people who appreciated the love and self-sacrifice they witnessed.

After 20 years the Sisters withdrew from the Providence in 1901 as the work could be better carried out in other places. The last of the boys went to Kincumber, the girls to Gore Hill and the old ladies to the Little Sisters of the Poor at Randwick.

- Angela Grant rsj

## Pope sets out path to holiness for the modern world

Holiness is present in the patience of God's people, in parents who raise their children with immense love, in people who work hard to support their families, in the sick and in elderly religious who never lose their smile, says Pope Francis in his latest Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exultate*.

In the document 'Rejoice and be Glad,' Pope Francis says the path to holiness consists in daily acts of charity, joy and a sense of humour and people should choose their own path to holiness according to their state of life.

'To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious,' he says.

We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.

'Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by living and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain.'

Francis calls on Catholics to follow Jesus' beatitudes through serving the marginalised, the poor and migrants, while also defending the child in the womb.

'Our defence of the innocent unborn needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development,' he writes.

'Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection.'

In the exhortation, Francis criticises those who describe the plight of migrants as a 'secondary issue' compared to 'grave bioethical issues,' saying they have adopted an attitude akin to a 'politician looking for votes.' The attitude of a Christian, the Pope explains, is 'to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their lives to offer a future to their children.'

*Extract from Catholic Religious Australia 10/4/2018  
used with permission*



### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our  
Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in  
May, June and July 2018

## A Pope who is not afraid of open discussion and even dissent in the Church

Pope Francis is an unusual Pope who is bringing real change to the Church by encouraging open discussion and refusing to silence dissent. In fact, he has said, 'Open and fraternal debate makes theological and pastoral thought grow.... That doesn't frighten me. What's more, I look for it.'

Many people would like to see him clarify matters and crack down on dissent, but Francis is patient and wants people to speak their minds because he believes in a synodal church. He trusts that the Holy Spirit will guide us in the right direction.

Pope Francis, talking to the bishops before the first session of the Synod on the Family, told them: 'You need to say all that you feel with parrhesia' (boldly candidly and without fear). 'And at the same time, you should listen with humility and accept with an open heart what your brothers say.'

Parrhesia, or speaking boldly, listening humbly and always with an open trusting heart is Francis's prescription for synodality and discernment. It is also collegial consensus-building. Francis is not in a hurry. For him, initiating processes is more important than forcing or arriving at quick decisions.

Here in Australia, we are about to begin

in earnest our process of preparation for the 2020 Plenary Council, where we will discuss and discern the future of our Church in Australia. Archbishop Coleridge, the chair of the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council, has assured us that everyone is invited to speak freely, speaking from their heart and their mind.

At the beginning of the Synod, the Pope invited the bishops to speak up even if they thought he might not want to hear what they had to say. We are invited to speak boldly even if it may seem to be something the bishops and priests might not want to hear. In fact, Vatican II in *Lumen Gentium* (n.37) tells us everyone is 'permitted and sometimes even obliged to express their opinion on those things which concern the good of the Church.' Pope Francis believes in the *sensus fidelium* or the sense of the faithful, as an important part of the teaching authority of the Church.

This is a new approach to what it means to be Church. Lay people have not always been encouraged to speak up and we clergy have not always appreciated our responsibility to invite the *sensus fidelium* and to listen humbly.

We all have much to learn and it

may be a little messy and hurtful in the process. Consulting, speaking up, listening, discerning are all skills and they take practice to master. I imagine that the first time we speak boldly, it may be clumsy and/or angry. It will probably be even more difficult for us to listen humbly, neither pointing a finger at, nor judging others, but with open kind hearts trying to appreciate what the Spirit is saying through each of us.

It will require of us virtues like charity, open-mindedness, trust and patience. Charity to be kind, respect and listen to one another. Open-mindedness because 'we cannot dialogue with people if we already know all the answers to their problems.' And, above all, trusting and patient because, as Pope Francis has shown us, we need not be afraid of open and fraternal debate because that is how we will find what the Spirit wants.

Most important things take time to emerge, but if we give ourselves boldly, humbly and trustingly to the process, it will bear fruit at the right time. There may not be remarkable decisions, but if we become a more synodal, consultative and participatory Church, it will be worth it.

*- Fr Noel Connolly SSC, Plenary Council Facilitation Team. Plenary Council 2020 – listen to what the spirit is saying...*

## Is this a Bonhoeffer Moment?

I was really taken by this question in the recent Sojourners Magazine.

The writers describe the range of attitudes in Nazi Germany – from those German Christians who were complicit with Hitler's regime, to the group called the 'Confessing Church' who resisted strongly. A consideration of the different responses to the Nazi regime, has led the authors to explore the lessons for the American Church today.

It seems to me that these reflections also have clear implications for us – as Australians, as individuals, and as a community, especially during this Easter Season.

Bonhoeffer led a Christian movement, which condemned the dangers of Hitler's white nationalism and rhetoric of the 'master race' his wholesale extermination of the 'enemy Jews' and the widespread culture of deceit, scapegoating, fear and violence.

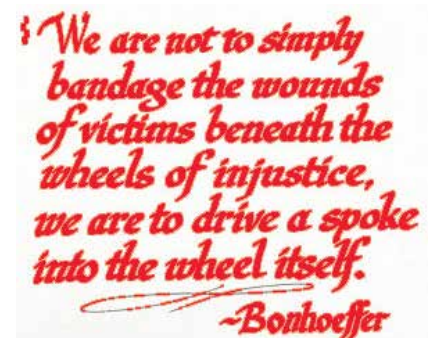
In response, Bonhoeffer emphasised Christian and gospel faithfulness, based

on the discernment of the signs of the times and fidelity to the call of Christ. In the face of widespread accommodation by the majority of Christian Churches to the Nazi regime, his was a stance that was both courageous and outspoken, and inevitably led to his imprisonment and execution.

In the U.S. the contradictions of this presidency, the 'make America great again' nationalism, the racial scapegoating of Mexicans and Muslims, the pervasive influence of 'fake news' and the resultant confusion among people of good will, call us, as Bonhoeffer was called, to a renewed discernment of the signs of the times.

For each of us in Australia, the issues around Indigenous justice, Australia's treatment of asylum seekers and refugees, the ongoing decimation of the environment, the rapidly escalating gap between rich and poor, and the violence suffered by those pushed to the edges of our communities, raise questions around the morality of Government decisions, the seeming apathy on the part of many Australians, and the call to us as Christians and Josephites.

To insist on the rights of those who are most vulnerable, to take the side of those



*We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself.*  
~Bonhoeffer

who are the most powerless, requires huge courage, especially when these run counter to current thinking and the opinions of the popular press and talkback radio.

At the International Women's day breakfast at Monte Sant Angelo in March, Madeline Gleeson spoke of what she sees as the fundamental ingredients of justice at this time. Her reflection on the need for compassion, courage, critical thinking, creativity and resilience has given me much to consider.

As have Bonhoeffer's words. The compelling call of this moment.

*Jan Barnett rsj  
Extract from enews 8/4/2018*

## JJAMM 2018

Vision without action is merely a dream.  
Action without vision just passes the time.  
Vision with action can change the world.  
Joel A. Barker

The above statement grew to be our mantra at the JJAMM (Joseph, Julian and Mary MacKillop) gathering held recently at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney and St Joseph's Retreat Centre, Kincumber.

Student leaders from around Australia and New Zealand gathered to identify qualities of Mary and Julian's leadership. They named qualities they admire and pledged to use their leadership as vehicles promoting justice in their school communities and beyond.

I will allow the student leaders to impart their vision and action commitments for a better world below. Enjoy.....

- To be a leader in a Josephite school is to show empathy through listening, to inspire others through action and a vision for positive change. (St Joseph's Port Lincoln).
- As leaders at St Joseph's Albion Park, we strive to live our school motto of 'Acting Justly', just like Mary MacKillop. We put these values into action by being inclusive, welcoming and accepting students from diverse social and cultural backgrounds.
- Josephite leadership is serving the community through vision communication and action, in a spirit of humour and generosity. (Brendan-Shaw College Tasmania).
- Josephite leadership is serving from within, not from up front. Because we consider ourselves as family, people won't remember what you say to them, they remember how you made them feel. (Cullinane College NZ).
- Leadership in a Josephite school is to have persistence and compassion. It is the ability to nurture growth within the entire school community. (Mary MacKillop College Leongatha).
- Josephite leadership at SJL is to roll your sleeves up and get the job done. It means having strength in difficult times, like Mary and Julian, and bringing vision to reality. (St Joseph's Lochinvar).

After studying injustices that thrive in our world, students stood on their soapbox to tell us their dreams.

### JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES (NSW) INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2018

*'Joseph – Just Man'*

as presented in Wellington 7/4/2018

Venue: St Joseph's Regional Centre,  
5 Alexandra Ave Croydon 2132.

Tea and coffee on arrival: 10 am – 10.30 am

Welcome and Opening Prayer: 10.30 am

**Sister Susan Connelly rsj**

**Joseph Just Man: 10.45 am**

**Lunch: 12 Noon**

Financial Report, Report following Sr Moya's visit

June 2018, Open Forum.

*Lucky Door Prize: 2.00 pm*

**JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PLEASE CONFIRM**

**YOUR ATTENDANCE NO LATER THAN**

**FRIDAY 17th AUGUST 2018**

RSVP TO THE JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES OFFICE

BY PHONE **02 8741 2335** OR **0409 220 143**

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

OR BY MAIL P O BOX 184 CROYDON NSW 2132



### I have a Dream

*I have a dream.*

*A dream where food is a gift from nature, not an expectation.*

*Where water is a sacred resource, not a disposable resource.*

*Where twice as many trees are planted, for every one that is cut down.*

*Where humans live in harmony with nature, being ECO instead of having ego.*

*I have a dream,*

*Where people are not discriminated for their colour, religion or past,*

*but where they unite, accepting everything and everyone.*

*Where people live with open hearts and open minds, instead of having to run from war.*

*A dream where poverty is no longer an issue.*

*The only issues being faced being, what colour flowers should be planted.*

This is the year of youth. Pope Francis has written to our youth: In Krakow, at the opening of the last World Youth Day, I asked you several times: 'Can we change things?' And you shouted: 'Yes.' That shout came from your young and youthful hearts, which do not tolerate injustice and cannot bow to a 'throw-away culture' nor give in to the globalisation of indifference. Listen to the cry arising from your inner selves! Even when you feel, like the prophet Jeremiah, the inexperience of youth, God encourages you to go where He sends you: 'Do not be afraid, because I am with you to deliver you.'

A better world can be built also because of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity.

These young leaders are humorous, inspiring, respectful and determined. After spending five days with them, I believe our future is hopeful.

*- Karen Oxley – Josephite Justice Office  
Extract from enews 27/2/2018*

### NEWSLETTER IN BY EMAIL

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

## News from Dubbo and Wellington Josephite Associates

A gathering for the Dubbo and Wellington Josephite Associates was held at Dubbo on Sunday 11th March 2018.

Sister Christine Rowan led us in a prayerful reflection. The reflection related to the conversation

'At the heart of life God draws us into a new communion.'  
(26th General Chapter).

What is at the heart of life for me at the moment?

Who is the God who draws me?

What is the new communion?

Mary MacKillop reminds us: 'There where you are you will find God.'

Conversation then led to ask what Jesus did.... 'The Gospels provide us with powerful examples of the vital importance of ordinary everyday experiences. Jesus was so grounded in everyday life that he spontaneously allows himself to be called forth by people, events and situations around him. The context of the everyday became the source of his life teachings, of his calling people to reflection upon their lives. He had no lectern; nor did he carry around a briefcase filled with lecture material. His textbook consisted of the persons, places, situations and things around him.' (Excerpts from Vincent Bilotta and Claire Lamoureux).

We were reminded of two more of Mary MacKillop's writings: 'Do all you can with the means at your disposal and leave the rest calmly to God.'

'God has always helped me and I have more than every cause to trust in him.'

Sister Christine posed these statements and encouraged the group to comment;

We are made in the image and likeness of God. (Gen 1:27). Trust in the slow work of God. (Teilhard de Chardin). God's peaceful presence giving strength is everywhere. (Office Book).

The prayerful reflection concluded with the Celtic Blessing.

All enjoyed afternoon tea before returning home.

For Associates, Sisters, Relatives and Friends who are sick or in need of prayers;

Angus Crump, Philippa Beguin, Brittany Browning & unborn baby, Rosemary Doherty, Emma, Kath Freeth, Graham Fryer, Virginia Hayes, Angeliqque Morrish, Sandy Ostini, Paul, Philomena Parker.

Let us pray for deceased Associates, Sisters, Relatives and Friends who have died.

- Bill de Veau.



## News from Gilgandra

On St Joseph's Feast Day the children at St Joseph's School, Gilgandra celebrated with a special Liturgy at which our Year 5 students were enrolled as Junior Joeyes. Sr Robyn and the principal Tony Musgrave presented each with a badge and certificate. Later they continued their celebration at the local swimming pool enjoying a fun day.

- Robyn McNamara rsj

## News from Portland-Perthville

Iris Condon was called to eternal life on the 26/4/2018. A Requiem Mass was celebrated at Portland on the 2/5/2018.

Iris was in her 105th year, and was truly a Portland person, born, lived, worked and died in the town that she loved. Her parents came to Portland in 1908. Iris would have to be the oldest person that has lived and died in Portland. Great faith was her unwavering strength throughout her life.

Her mother wanted to send Iris to Perthville to board, but she was too attached to home, plus she didn't like school! Mrs Condon had a great love of the Sisters of St Joseph and passed this onto Iris.

Iris was very proud of being a Josephite Associate and that seemed to make up for not going to Perthville! Her gifts were music, especially the violin and a perfect tailor who naturally loved fashions, dressing up to the nines with her make-up and outfits! May she enjoy it all and so much more now and for eternity.

- Sr Helen Sullivan rsj

### JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES (NSW) INC.

## KINCUMBER RETREAT

19TH – 21ST OCTOBER 2018

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

**Topic:** 'Hearing Mary's Call Again – challenges for our time.'

**Facilitator:** Sister Jan Barnett 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 8741-2335 Monday & Tuesday 10am – 3pm**

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

**OR BY MAIL P O BOX 184 CROYDON NSW 2132**



## News from Mullumbimby

The Josephite Associates of Mullumbimby/Bangalow/Byron Bay held their annual street stall in Bangalow on Friday 4th May 2018. Funds raised go to Mary MacKillop International to help provide educational resources for the children of East Timor. We set up at 7.30am and finish around noon. This year's stall raised the astounding sum of \$1932.00! Our best results yet. Over the years we have now held eight stalls and raised a total of \$13,561.65. Our first stall was held in 2011 after a suggestion put forward at one of our meetings by Sr Margaret Keane rsj.

Although declining in numbers, members are very faithful to this cause, collecting second hand items for sale, baking cakes and cookies, making pickles, relishes, chutneys and jams, potting plants, producing craft items such as knitted toys, crocheted blankets, knitted children's jumpers, beanies, scarves, socks, etc. This year we even sold bunches of flowers, which proved to be popular. Associates unable to assist with the stall often make a cash donation. We advertise our stall in the Church Bulletins and couldn't achieve this fantastic result without the support of parishioners who are not Associates. Associates donate grocery items to fill three hampers which we raffle. Tickets are sold beforehand by some of the Associates. This year's raffle made \$674.00.

The street stall is also an opportunity to spread the message of St Mary MacKillop. Each year some unexpected little thing occurs, you just need the grace to be able to see it and respond. This time one of our 'customers' felt comfortable enough to share her struggle with us and the conversation that ensued was a blessing for all concerned. At the end of the day, when we were packing up, a young man who had been watching us, offered to carry our heavy items to the cars for us. He too shared a little of his story and we offered encouragement. As one of our Associates said: 'you can evangelise anywhere.'

Our older Associates are becoming frailer, with three now having gone into care, and another four virtually housebound. Our core group of five or six younger ones are busier than ever, between grandchildren and parish responsibilities. However, we still manage to meet three times a year in Mullumbimby, commemorate Josephite Feast Days, pray daily for each other and special intentions that come along and close the year with a Christmas lunch together. Our meetings always include a discussion on a chapter in a book we are all reading, that will give us a deeper understanding and insight into the life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Currently we are reading 'Flora MacKillop a Truly Blessed Mother.'

- Jan Lang JA Mullumbimby

### Newsletter Editorial

Editor: Christine Sivewright

Member: Leonie Bell,

Design and Print: Paul McMahon

The website for

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

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

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

## News from Mudgee - Perthville

The Mudgee - Perthville Josephite Associates Group was very impressed with Sister Susan's presentation and the friendship shared with the Sydney Associates and other groups who travelled all the way to Wellington on Saturday 7th April 2018. I can reassure all that we are already looking forward to next year's gathering.

- Angela Krusvar JA Mudgee-Perthville



[www.marymackillop.org.au](http://www.marymackillop.org.au)

## A Cup of Tea Mini

Ministering with and to the families of prisoners and ex-prisoners at the Bedford Row Family Support Project, Limerick, Ireland, is the most transformative experience of my life.

The ministry is constantly changing me, inviting me to move outside my familiar settings and enter into the unfamiliar culture of poverty and disadvantage associated with prison experiences.

At Bedford Row, I relate in homely ways with the people who call in, offering them cups of tea, listening to troubled hearts brimming over with tragedy, pain and destruction, playing with restless children, doing whatever it takes to help. I sit with victims of violence, addiction and rejection. I witness the struggles of mums without partners who are imprisoned in one way or another, trying to raise children. I hear stories of dependency on the welfare system – existing from one unemployment cheque to the next – worrying how to supply the family meal.

I sense their shame and sensitivity while explaining to me their feelings of worthlessness when confronted by abrupt welfare officials who disrespect their dignity or privacy. Aggressiveness, clouding feelings of inadequacy, becomes the method of coping, and as I pour the tea or coffee, I frequently ask myself how do they survive?

Many were born into chaotic situations of addiction and violence and rarely felt safe. Others were taken from their family of origin, raised by strangers and moved through the foster care system.

## 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);  
John Estens (Coonabarabran-Perthville);  
Jenny Falvey (Georges Hall);  
Joyce Farnham (Belmont);  
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);  
Helen Meldrum (Coonabarabran-  
Perthville);  
Bob & Kathleen Morrissey  
(Coonabarabran-Perthville);

Betty Murphy (Prayer Member Belfield);  
Alan Norgrove (Canberra);  
Nerolie O'Brien (Prayer Member  
Inverell);  
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);  
Norma 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

Kath Birrell (West Denistone Prayer  
Member)  
Patricia Brooks (Prayer Member -  
Kanaooka)  
Iris Condon (Portland-Perthville Group)  
Kevin Conroy (Glen Innes Group)  
Henry Hillery (Goulburn-Perthville  
Group)  
Leila King (Goulburn-Perthville Group)  
Joan Lecerf (Goulburn-Perthville Group)  
Anne Legg (Bingara Group)  
John Rue (Canowindra-Perthville  
Group)  
Mary Simpson (Canowindra-Perthville  
Group)  
Joan Vesper (Prayer Member Winston  
Hills)  
Berna Wright (Canowindra-Perthville  
Group)

### Associates Office

PO Box 184 Croydon NSW 2132  
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(02) 8741 2335  
[nsw.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:nsw.associates@sosj.org.au)

## 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 2017 - \$58,000.**

*Thank you to the workers at the stamp  
engine room, cutters, sorters, collectors  
and those who contribute towards this  
mission.*

**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:-  
Unit 1, St Johns,  
Tension Woods Avenue,  
Perthville NSW 2795

## Industry in Limerick, Ireland

Most received an inadequate education and are illiterate. Some lived on the street and experienced abuse in various forms. The opportunity to escape the cycle of poverty never came.

On many a day while pouring tea, the conversations go on and around me. There is help and advice shared, a hug received, kindnesses bestowed, tears falling, reprimands to toddlers. Sometimes tension arises but never words of condescension or condemnation as all know the reality of hard times. My role is that of presence, sharing, humanity, kindness and compassion, attentiveness, respectfulness, pouring tea and above all providing a safe, peaceful space for a few hours.

I learn so much from the people at the Bedford Row Family Project. While experiencing a little of their world, I frequently feel like the stranger on the margins, the one who does not fit in. I am challenged to walk in their shoes, to see the unfairness of life for many in Ireland and to answer the scriptural question 'who is my neighbour?'

When I drink my cup of tea at eventide, my God often whispers 'Sarah, your neighbours in 2018 Ireland are the homeless person, the refugee, the Muslim, the ex-prisoner, the traveller and those secluded from society.' Mary MacKillop and Julian Tension Woods challenge, 'Sarah, remember to never see a need without doing something about it' and my conscience says 'Sarah, compassion without action for change, is never enough.'

As you drink your evening cup of tea, in companionship with me in Limerick, you might like to ask who is your neighbour is in 2018. Who needs your help?

*- Sarah Hogan rsj*

*Extract from enews 21/3/2018*

## Sacred sites pilgrimage

Dear Friends,

This year we are offering once again in Sydney the opportunity to participate in a pilgrimage to sacred site/s connected with the history of the Sisters of St Joseph.

1. **Waverley** – grave and monument of Rev. Julian Tension- Woods – Founder of the Sisters of St Joseph.
2. **Gore Hill** – graves of pioneer Sisters and columbarium depicting the Josephite Story.
3. **Rocks Area** – pioneer Sisters' ministry to the poor.

The pilgrimage will be conducted by Sister Connie Cummings rsj.

**The above pilgrimages are three separate pilgrimages. When replying to Bert, please indicate your preference.**

Possible dates would be: July 7th/21st, August 4th, September 15th, October 6th, November 3rd/17th.

We will contact those interested with final details as soon as expression of interest is collated. Many thanks.

Please contact Bert Gonzalez – email: bert\_gonzalez@internode.on.net or mobile 0438 187 927.

## Our Prayer to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Here we stand on holy ground  
The ground you lightly stepped on in earlier times.  
Your footprints have left an imprint  
on thousands of hearts all over the world.  
You cared for our first land-dwellers,  
The poor, the sick, those in need  
It made no difference their place in society  
Your hands held their own little miracles  
Your feet trod our barren land  
and walked on into our hearts  
with the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
and St Joseph as your guide.  
And so, filled with this great love  
We ask you to guide us  
as we come together to continue  
to recognise your presence in every person we meet.

We ask this through Jesus the Lord. Amen

*Bombala Josephite Associates*

## Beatitudes for Women

**Blessed is the woman of faith and hope  
She will be a sign of the presence of God among us**

**Blessed is the woman of relationships  
She will be a bond of unity and a sign of the fullness of God**

**Blessed is the woman who welcomes  
She will be kindness, the sign of the love of the Lord**

**Blessed is the woman of the word  
She will be a Word of God for others**

**Blessed is the woman of discernment  
The wisdom of God will be her riches**

**Blessed is the woman of peace and reconciliation  
The strength and joy of the Lord will be hers**

**Blessed is the woman who journeys towards the fullness of  
Christ  
She will live in freedom and light of the Lord**

**Blessed is the woman of prayer  
She will live in communion with God and her brothers and  
sisters.**

**Amen.**

The newsletter is now available on the Web, at  
[www.sosj.org.au/news-events/list\\_newsletters.cfm](http://www.sosj.org.au/news-events/list_newsletters.cfm)



## Now Thank We All Our God

While Kookaburras laugh and chuckle in the gum trees,  
Swift lorikeets flash by and chatter in the soft breeze  
Magpies in dinner suits in song their voices raise  
To let the whole world know, their maker they do praise

*Sung to the tune of 'Now thank we all our God.'  
Helen Cooke rsj*

## 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.



x too much paper



✓ just right



x too little paper