



# WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES Newsletter



## Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends

Thank you to each one for prayers and your contributions which are a wonderful help to the Josephite Associates. We are fast moving through our winter into spring which will bring many blessings. We may have asked Mary MacKillop as her feastday approached on the 8<sup>th</sup>



August, to help all those who are suffering. What did you do to celebrate Mary's feastday?

Much gratitude goes to Dot Caughey for her

many years of service - as the group's secretary and to the sisters. We look forward to sharing many more years with you as an Associate Dot.

## JULIAN SPEAKS

*I see God in the flowers,  
in the insects,  
in the birds as they fly,  
and I can only turn sadly  
away from all and think of  
the beauty I have never seen.*

*Julian Tenison Woods letter  
to Mary 1870*



## WE PONDER SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 6:26*

Look at the birds in the sky;  
They do not sow,  
they do not harvest  
nor do they store food in barns,  
and yet  
your heavenly (Creator) feeds them.  
Are you not worth  
much more than birds?

✦ From Louisa and the MCG ~ Marg, Meg, Mary and Maureen.

✦ Dot from Dardanup and Helen from Esperance

✦ Greetings to our Geraldton and surrounding Associates.

## UPDATE FROM THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATES

The Metropolitan Coordinating Group (MCG) are:

Louisa Moore  
(08) 9359 4960

Marg Jones  
(08) 9370 3206

Meg Phelan  
(08) 9295 1682

Mary Sheehan  
(08) 9295-3020

Maureen Lanigan  
(08) 9447 2346

At the time of receiving this letter from Meg Phelan (below) I had just become the group's secretary. Dot Caughey had stayed on the committee and was kindly showing me the ropes. So many things have changed in this short time. The meeting with Mary Hemmings explained the way forward. During many other meetings the committee soon learned that we had to change the way we were set up so we could move forward. Consequently I am now the Coordinating Group Leader of the Metropolitan Coordinating Group (the MCG), Marg Jones the treasurer, with Maureen Lanigan, Mary Sheehan and Meg Phelan completing the Group. With the resignations of Margaret Hardingham and Dot Caughey **we are praying for at least three new core group members to come forward.** When Meg submitted

this letter I asked her stay on to mentor me in my new role. I could not have attempted this without her and Dot's help. I think the time is right for Meg's letter to be published as it tells a most wonderful story of the Associates' history and I think it needs to be shared with all of you. The Coordinating Group sincerely thanks Meg for staying on to show us the way through these transitional times. There is so much we new members need to learn from the old guard who have served so faithfully over many years. What a wonderful Associate Meg has been all these years and we thank her from our hearts and hope she can go on mentoring us for a long while yet.

*Enjoy ~ Louisa Moore JA, Group Leader (MCG)  
~ May St Mary MacKillop be with us all*



## ASSOCIATES GATHERING ~ 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 2017 PRESENTATION BY MEG PHELAN

*"Welcome to you all and thank you for making the special effort to come early for this meeting. As you know I am retiring as the President-Chairperson after more than twenty years in this position - years of great enjoyment during which I have become immersed in the Josephite Associates' movement. My involvement began in 1987 in Kalgoorlie, when Sister Celsus invited me to a meeting to introduce me to this new phase in my life. Things moved quickly and a group was formed in South Perth,*

by which time my husband and I had moved to Parkerville. Tony became the first Secretary and I attended the inaugural conference in Sydney with Sister Dora Maguire, our first Sister Co-Ordinator. Here I met the wonderful Sister Elizabeth Murphy, Congregational Leader, at whose instigation the Brown Josephite in mission as it was then called was launched in Australia, New Zealand and Peru. Soon Groups were set up in all of these areas and the movement flourished.

When Sister Dora moved to the country Sister Mary Engelbrecht and Sister Pauline Dundon became co-ordinators for a time, and then Sister Carla assumed the role. She was our mainstay for 18 years and did we have a great time! Conferences in Sydney, visitations round the South West, and we formed groups in Geraldton, Busselton, Bunbury, Esperance and Dardanup. Annette Morellini has been a tower of strength here and is now about to retire as the leader of this area.

Sister Denise, our dedicated and much loved Sister Co-Ordinator is a vital part of our group, and without her and Laura McCarthy, the Sisters' secretary, we would not have the colourful and informative newsletters which they collate and print. The Sisters have supported the Associates in every possible way and they are all our dear friends.

Over the years I have been taught by, and taught with, many inspirational Sisters. If it hadn't been for Sister Frances Prendergast, my wonderful teacher, I would not have been awarded one of the 50 State Scholarships in 1944. She taught all classes from grade four to Junior, as well as shorthand and typing and the choir, looked after the boarders and still found time to prepare me for the examination, giving up her holidays to devote time

to me. This helped me on the road to my career in teaching, and later we worked together in the English departments at New Norcia and Kalgoorlie. Sisters I have taught beside over the years since then are Roberta, Leonie, Irene, Anne Boland, Anne Lanigan, Georgina, Anne Virginia (Kavanagh), Frances Maguire and Mary Engelbrecht.

The Sisters here and in Safety Bay, have become dear friends and Sister Kathleen Hitchcock played guitar and sang with me in our Kalgoorlie Players Group. Sister Lyn Sparling and I had violin lessons together through the Goldfields Music Society and I had a special bond with Mary Jo Wells, my "Twinny". (We were born on the same date in the same year).



'Twinny' Sr Mary Jo Wells (RIP) reads one of her poems.

Thank You all for your attendance at our gatherings, your support for the Bring and Buy stall, your generous donations and most of all your friendships and support. Thanks to the committee for their dedication, to Sister Denise for all she does for us and to the Sisters of South Perth for their love and support and for the many delicious lunches they have shared with us.

May we all continue to make St Mary MacKillop known and loved, and to do our best to live our everyday lives in her spirit of prayer, friendship and service."

~ Meg Phelan JA

### MEG PHELAN MAKING ONE OF HER WONDERFUL SPEECHES AS ONLY SHE CAN!

~ The MCG and Sr Carla took Sr Denise out to lunch in South Perth to **recognise and thank Denise for all her years' work with the Associates** - all the love and hard work that went into those years of service all over WA!



Meg told both sisters that we and all the Associates hoped that they would be around for us in times to come - to pass on their faith and their example of living with St Mary MacKillop's Charism.

~ Louisa Moore JA

### IN MEMORY OF 'TWINNY' SR MARY JO WELLS AND IN CELEBRATION OF MARY MACKILLOP'S FEASTDAY, ENJOY ONE OF MARY JO'S POEMS ~

#### Treasuring Our Spirit

Imbued from our earliest years  
 With the spirit of Mary and Julian  
 We walk, in partnership with others,  
 To serve the needy and the marginalised.  
 Called to a life of prayer,  
 We step out in unity.  
 Obligated by ministry to live alone,  
 Yet deeply connected to each other.  
 Hearts and minds lifted to our God,  
 We strive for justice and peace  
 As we mirror Christ in our living.  
 With Jesus, Joseph and John the Baptist  
 We tread the path to our future  
 With courage and confidence.





# Notes, Messages and Requests from the MCG!



✚ If anyone would like to be enrolled as an Associate please get in touch with Meg Phelan or Louisa Moore. We are planning to include new enrolments at our 9<sup>th</sup> December gathering.

- ✚ **THANK YOU** for the generous donations that have come in. Please keep them coming. Receipts and messages of gratitude have now been sent out.
- ✚ **Sr Dora Maguire** will be our guest speaker at our gathering on the 9<sup>th</sup> September
- ✚ The **Metro Coordinating Group's** next general meeting is on **Thursday 8th November at 10am**. This is also the time when we fold and envelope our newsletter so it can be posted and shared by all. **If there is anyone that may be thinking about joining the 'MCG'**, please do come along to experience the morning and then enjoy sharing lunch with the sisters. **We would be very grateful to welcome three new people!**
- ✚ **A warm 'Hello' to all our Geraldton Associates!** We are trying to get a group to go up there for a visit in the near future ~ we think of you often and haven't forgotten you!
- ✚ **Thank you** to everyone who took part in our Novena last month.



## KALGOORLIE SPECIAL WEEKEND

St Joseph, all Irish recruits who came to the goldfields in the early years, have recently been refurbished and were rededicated in this ceremony. These pioneers were Ursula Tynan who died 1905; Anthony Mullins, 1915;

then in a tin and wood convent before moving to a substantial brick building in 1905. They endured tough conditions with extreme heat in summer and cold in winter, a lack of water, dust storms, and isolation in a male dominated goldrush town.

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June Sisters Denise Casey, Kath Hitchcock, Rita Kelly, Philomena Kalmund, Gemma Scott, Dora Maguire and Francis Maguire, accompanied by Sue Sondalini, their Archivist, travelled by train to Kalgoorlie, 600 kms to the east of Perth to attend a weekend of ceremonies remembering the service of the pioneering sisters on the Kalgoorlie – Boulder goldfields.

Teresa Scanlan, 1920; Ignatius Minnock, 1925; Philomena O'Neill, 1936; John Moroney, 1939; and Monica Butler, 1957.

On Sunday the sisters attended the 125 Year Celebration Mass at the Goldfields Art Centre. This was followed by the unveiling of a restored statue of St John of God at St Mary's School. This acknowledged the service of the Sisters of St John of God as nurses in the community and founders of the school. Responsibility for teaching at St Mary's was taken over by the Josephites from 1937 until 1992.

The next day on a bright clear morning this group, along with Josephite Associates and other friends, attended a special ceremony at Kalgoorlie Cemetery led by the Parish Priest Fr Brennan Sia who was accompanied by retired Bishop Justin Bianchini, a great friend of the sisters.

The previously unmarked grave of Sr Mary Brigid Murphy who died in November 1900, just two years after her arrival from Ireland, was blessed and now has a permanent plaque. Mary Brigid had entered the Sisters of Mercy in Perth but after 18 months was considered "unfitted" and with the Bishop's permission went to Boulder where she lived as a novice with the Sisters of St Joseph.

Each of the sisters who had travelled to Kalgoorlie for this weekend had taught and served in the goldfields.

The graves of seven pioneering Sisters of

A brief biography of each of the sisters was read to those assembled and we honoured the ministry of these pioneers who served as teachers and in domestic roles within the convent. The Josephites arrived on the goldfields in 1897 and initially lived in tents,

The story of the pioneering sisters on the goldfields is a special part of the memory of the sisters in Western Australia. It is good that the memorials on these graves are now refurbished and that the previously unmarked grave has a suitable marker.

~ Sue Sondalini, WA Archivist



## St Mary MacKillop 2018 Australian Pilgrimage

'In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop', gives participants the opportunity to journey to places in Australia made holy by St Mary MacKillop.

Commencing in Melbourne 23 October, the Pilgrimage visits Penola, Adelaide and other significant places, concluding in Sydney 3 November 2018.

Cost is \$3,230 - \$3,765 (twin share) depending on capital city of departure. Single supplement for all States is \$700.

For further information, please contact Sr Therese Leydon 0417 683123 or Sr Annie Bond 02 89124818, or email [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au).

Contact Laura if you would like a brochure/application form: [laura.mccarthy@sosj.org.au](mailto:laura.mccarthy@sosj.org.au) or (08) 9334 0999.

# WA ASSOCIATES GATHERINGS & UPCOMING SOSJ EVENTS



## GATHERINGS at SOUTH PERTH 2018

ENQUIRIES: [wa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:wa.associates@sosj.org.au) (08) 9359 4960



### NEXT (SPRING) GATHERING ~ SUNDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

- ✦ 2.00pm ~ Time for greeting one another, 'Bring & Buy' and Raffle
  - ✦ 2.30pm ~ Prayer in Chapel, guest speaker ~ **Sr Dora Maguire** followed by afternoon tea and drawing of the raffle in the Function Room
- Where:** St Joseph's Convent, 16 York Street, South Perth  
**Bring:** A plate of food to share  
 A friend | Bring & Buy item

**Next Gathering (Summer/Christmas) ~ Sunday 9th Dec**

June Gathering - Come and join the fun!



Maud Morrison, Irene Rodgers, Sr Denise, Annette Morellini, Meg Phelan, Helen Whitcombe, Sr Carla, Louisa Moore, Dot Caughey, Margaret Jones, Dot Savage

## ESPERANCE ASSOCIATES UPDATE

Helen Johnson sent in and shared the Esperance groups' newsletter with the Metro group. We very much enjoyed reading all about the Esperance group and parish. It really is lovely to hear about the group's participation in so many parish activities.

The spirit of the Josephite Associates was well and truly alive (Friendship, Prayer, Service) when Helen sent in names of some Associates that were coming to the city for medical treatment. We then put their names into the prayer book at the South Perth chapel. We wish all those who are still not well many blessings and prayers. Helen is looking forward to getting a full group gathering together soon. This is the prayer Helen shared for us all to pray - Thank You, Helen! ~ *Louisa Moore JA for Helen Johnson JA and the Esperance Associates*



"Blessed are those who will see you, and those who have fallen asleep in love; for we too shall certainly have life."



*Jesus, your prayer encapsulates relationship with God.*

*This Relationship is a reflection of your own experience of your Father, an experience that was not based on a remote transcendental God or a God who patronises and controls his creatures. (taken from Madonna Magazine winter edition)*

## GREETINGS FROM THE ASSOCIATES IN DARDANUP

**ENQUIRIES } Dot Savage: (08) 9791 4008 or email Dot: [helenbrown.hb@gmail.com](mailto:helenbrown.hb@gmail.com)  
 Irene Rodgers: 0423 488 018 or email Irene: [irenerodgers1@bigpond.com](mailto:irenerodgers1@bigpond.com)**

All very welcome!

### 11 SEPT ~ RETREAT AT DARDANUP

**Facilitator:** Sr Genevieve Ryan rsj  
**Theme:** "Mary our Mother and Mother of the Church"  
**Time:** 9am Mass - retreat following

Bring a friend!

## DONATION TO THE WA ASSOCIATE MOVEMENT

(donations will help with costs associated with printing, newsletter expenses, postage, gatherings etc)

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

Amount given: (Please circle one)

\$5.00    \$10.00    \$20.00    \$30.00    \$40.00    \$50.00

All donations can be forwarded to:

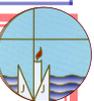
WA Associates, PO Box 593, South Perth, WA 6951

- ◆ Cheques payable to:  
**Religious of St Josephs Associates**
- ◆ Or paid by Direct Debit (EFT) to

**BSB: No 06 6124 Account Number: 00920658**

**Reference: Surname and Initial (e.g. Campbell M)**

**Thank you to those who have made a contribution in 2018**





*Loving God*

*we thank you for the example of Mary MacKillop*

*who in her living of the Gospel  
witnessed to the human dignity  
of each person.*

*She faced life's challenges with  
faith and courage.*

*We pray through her  
intercession for our needs.*

*May her holiness inspire us to be people of  
hope, love and forgiveness.*

*We make this prayer through  
Jesus the Lord. Amen*

(Mary MacKillop – A Window of Hope by Monica Cavanagh rsj)



## WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

*Offer Thanks and Praise*

“Gracious God, here present, listen as we pray”

Psalm 44:8

Living God, we praise you with all our heart.

“In you, God, have we gloried all day long,  
and we will praise your name forever.”

All that is good comes from you, gracious God,  
as a gift to us. To praise you is the only fitting response.

May we never forget that we live and move  
and have our being because of your creative, loving grace.

Praised be your name forever.

(As We Gather As Part – Carl Koch)



**SPRING 2018**

# COMPANIONSHIP

## *Doing Things Together*

We often think that service is doing things for others. That sometimes needs to be. But service takes on its true character when we do things with others. This is never an easy road to travel. It is the slow road requiring much patience and care. It gives credit to what another may contribute. It takes on the pace of another.

We find it easier to do things for others. We can then be our quick and efficient selves. We can then set terms and conditions. We can then be available or withdraw when it suits us. Such service may make us feel good, but it frequently disempowers the other person.

Nouwen from his experience of working with mentally and physically disabled persons at L'Arche, came to realize that true service "asks for deep inner conviction that a slow job done together is better than a fast job done alone," such service does not have a quick end result in view. It has a process in view. It sees service as a joining with the other. It sees service as a companionship and walking a common road for a period of time.

"Dare To Journey" – with Henry Nouwen - Charles Ringma

## *Who are Associates?*

*People of any age, married or single who are drawn to the spirit of the Josephite charism.*

## *Our Mission -*

*As Josephite Associates we respond*

*to the call to live the charism of*

**ST MARY MACKILLOP**

*in our daily lives in our own unique way.*

*We support one another by*

**FRIENDSHIP, PRAYER AND SERVICE**

*to make a difference in our local area*

*and so further the*

*Reign of God in our World.*

*Associates gather for friendship, for prayer, and to deepen their understanding of St Mary of the Cross's life and spirituality, reflecting on how they can daily live this spirit so as to make a difference in our world.*

*Taken from the  
WA Associates brochure*

**friendship ...  
prayer ...  
service ...**

