



# 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 • March 2019

*Dear Josephite Associates,*

Welcome to 2019! I wish you every grace and blessing this year as we go forward in the spirit of Sr Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr Julian Tension Woods.

I wish to thank all of you who have renewed their memberships (due by 31/3/2019). There were many who contributed donations in addition to their membership and I wish to acknowledge their generosity.

You may recall that NSW Associates incurred an operating loss for the first time in 2018 (reported in the November 2018 Newsletter). The governance team will meet in April and beyond and prepare a special review of memberships renewed for the 2019 year and what impact this will have for the future of the Associates.

During 2018 Sr Moya Campbell rsj (invited by the Congregational Leadership Team) visited all states of Australia where there are Josephite Associate Groups. The reason for these visits was to continue exploring how best to keep working to build our Associate Movement and what changes may occur. The IJALT Group (International Josephite Associates Leadership Team) have been involved with Sister Moya in this work for some time and have held a Conference in January 2019 at North Sydney.

I have included (as an insert in the Newsletter) a letter October 2018 from Mary Hemmings Chair of IJALT forwarded by email to 300 Associates prior to the January 2019 Conference. Also included is a report from the IJALT January 2019 Conference.

The only means of communication to all 1800 NSW Associates is through the Newsletter, March, July and November each year. Hence these March 2019 newsletter inserts are to keep informed the 1500 Josephite Associates who are not on the Newsletter email list and have not received the October 2018 letter. Approximately 300 NSW Associates have already received (by email) Mary Hemmings letter October 2018.

I thank Mary Hemmings (Chair of IJALT) for visiting the Josephite Associates NSW Inc Regional Office at Croydon on the 18th January 2019, one of the hottest days in January. The governance team, shared prayer, our ideas for the future of the Associates, and lunch.

Three on the NSW governance team have faithfully served as volunteers for 10 years. Now is the time for others to come forward and continue the work in the spirit of Mary and Julian. Do you have skills in Word, Access and MYOB? Are you available as a volunteer one or two days per week? Are you able to contribute to the production of the Newsletter, membership renewals or financial transactions at the Croydon Office? Please phone the office 10am – 3pm on a Monday or Tuesday only for further information.

Josephite Associates NSW Inc will hold their annual gathering on Saturday 6th April 2019 in the St Mary's School Hall, 35 Percy Street, Wellington NSW. A separate invitation is enclosed in your

March 2019 Newsletter. Please RSVP (for catering purposes) if attending, see details on the invitation.

The fruit of Silence is Prayer. The fruit of Prayer is Faith. The fruit of Faith is Love. The fruit of Love is Service. The fruit of Service is Peace. Mother Teresa.

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

*- Leonie Bell - President*



*'With humility, charity and truth on our part  
all will in the end be well'*

Mary MacKillop -1883

*'Be considerate of others'*

Rev Julian Tension Woods – 1870

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)

## Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc Governance Group

*President: Leonie Bell*

*Acting Vice President: Geoff Barrett*

*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 DATE

There will be a gathering of Josephite Associates NSW Inc in  
Wellington NSW

**on Saturday 6th April 2019**

RSVP Immediately if attending to

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



## New Portrait of Mary MacKillop Presented

Steve Todd, secondary school principal and artist presented a painting of a young Mary MacKillop, commissioned by the Association of Josephite Associated Secondary Schools (AJASS) Principals to the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in East Melbourne on the 20th November 2018.

The idea for such a painting was initiated by the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph, Sr Monica Cavanagh, during a meeting of AJASS Principals in North Sydney earlier this year.

Steve Todd, Principal of Mary MacKillop College Warnervale, New South Wales is the artist. The National Conference of the Association of Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools made the decision to have the image be given to our Heritage Centre.

*This portrait of a young Mary MacKillop (circa 1860) was inspired by an early photo of a young Mary before she took up the role of a Governess for her uncle's children in Portland. The painting offers an image of a contemplative Mary MacKillop looking hopefully into the future. Mary's sense of gratitude and connection with so many people can be seen in one of her early letters to her mother Flora which ends with the words: 'Oh! How I wish we would only remember that we are travellers here.'* Steve Todd.

It is appropriate that the portrait is titled 'Remember that we are but travellers here.'

The painting is on display in the Contemplation area at MMHC opposite another portrait of a slightly mature Sister Mary of the Cross. It will now be seen by the many AJASS students and others who visit the Centre each year.

- Garry McLean CEO Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Melbourne  
Extract from enews 29/11/2018

### NEWSLETTER IN BY EMAIL

Do you receive your Newsletter by mail?

Do you have an email address?

**Would you like to receive your Newsletter by email?**

If the answer is YES, please email us your request at [nsw.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:nsw.associates@sosj.org.au) and we will update our database and forward your newsletter in future by email.

## Mary MacKillop's Foundational Beliefs

- That God was active in her life and in the lives of all whom she encountered.**  
*'Let us love and praise God in all.'* (1872).  
Mary MacKillop's awareness of God's presence and companionship seemed as natural as breathing. Her relationship with God gave meaning to her daily life.
- That God was loving and provident.**  
*'God's work does not depend on any of us.'* (1895).  
Mary MacKillop placed her trust in God, believing that God would provide whatever was needed in all aspects of her life, be it a fare on the boat from Melbourne to Sydney, food and homes for the Sisters, strength to face opposition and false accusation, or a way through a difficult situation.
- That God, in Jesus, called her and her Sisters to show reverence for the dignity of all people.**  
*'Make no reserves with God. Reject no-one. You never know what grace can do.'* (1871).  
Mary MacKillop's reverence for all people meant she was incapable of 'giving up' on anyone.
- That those who were most needy in our world come first.**  
*'Never be ashamed of work done for God and for God's poor.'* (1874).  
Mary MacKillop and the Sisters established 'bush schools and later, as needs arose, orphanages, refuges and other services for those most vulnerable in the society of their time.
- That the compassionate love of God was available to all whom she met.**  
*'If we have love in our hearts, we shall have God with us.'* (1890).  
*'Be kind to the poor foreigners. Remember that I was a foreigner once, and as such was never laughed at nor unkindly criticised.'* (1875).  
Mary MacKillop had a compassionate heart big enough to enclose all humanity. No one was excluded.
- That the will of God was integral to her life's journey.**  
*'We must hold ourselves in readiness for God's will, whichever way things go.'* (1867).  
Mary MacKillop was deeply attentive to the movement of God in her life. In encouraging the Sisters to seek God's Will, she exhorted them to true discernment, which enabled them to determine the difference between their own ambition and God's will for them.
- That the Cross becomes the Tree of life.**  
*'God is good and has brought light and help when all was very dark.'* (1899).  
Mary MacKillop's endurance of suffering seems to have been an intimate part of her experience. When it came to suffering and hardship Mary MacKillop had more than her fair share including many tragic deaths within her family, a life-long battle with ill-health and many challenges from both within and beyond the church as she set about doing God's will. She trusted that through all these circumstances God's love would suffice.
- That the work was a truly missionary one.**  
*'Let St Joseph's true children remember their mission to seek first the poorest most neglected parts of God's vineyard.'* (1990).  
Mary MacKillop took her religious vows in response to what she perceived as a clear call from God to carry out a mission of love to the poor of the emerging Australian colonies. Mary and her Sisters lived in and among the people going to places for which no other religious were available, responding to the God of life whatever the circumstances might be.

## A New Year's Eve to remember

The passengers on the steam ship The City of Brisbane checked their watches as the ship passed the lighthouse on Cape Moreton.

It was almost ten o'clock on the night of Friday 31st December 1869. It had been a rough passage up the coast from Sydney so there was a sense of relief knowing that soon the ship would dock in Brisbane the capital city of the colony of Queensland. Among the passengers were seven women, listed as 'Sisters of Mercy (Order of Saint Joseph)'. All were in their twenties, four had been born in Australia, two were migrants from Ireland and one from London. Five were experienced school teachers and two were trainee teachers. They had been invited by Bishop James Quinn to open parish schools in his diocese.

Before midnight the glow from the gas street lights of Brisbane was visible and the ship slid in beside the wharf near Market Street. Dr Cani, representing the bishop greeted each of the party as they stepped ashore. Bystanders, who had read in the Brisbane's Courier of the arrival of some nuns, glanced curiously at

the newcomers. They noticed that these women were dressed differently from the Sisters of Mercy. Over a brown dress the newcomers wore a white cotton cloak. Their heads were covered by a waist length brown veil somewhat like a bonnet. Two of the party were dressed differently. One wore black and the other the fashion of the day.

The priest, an Italian, directed the group to a horse drawn carriage and after a short ride they arrived at All Hallows, the two-storey stone convent of the Sisters of Mercy. He introduced the new arrivals to Mother Brigid, the superior of the Sisters of Mercy. After greetings, the Josephites were offered refreshments and the Sisters of Mercy then led the new arrivals to their sleeping quarters on the second floor. It was fortunate that a dormitory, vacated by the girl boarders who were on their annual holidays, was available for use. With grateful hearts and a prayer of gratitude for a safe journey, Mary MacKillop and her companions prepared to rest.

Sleeping in a dormitory was not new to the Sisters of Saint Joseph, but the heat, the humidity and the buzzing of



the mosquitoes was a new experience, one that did not aid sleep. It had been a long journey from Adelaide and having to ask for money to pay the fare from one capital city to the next had not been easy. In Sydney Archbishop Polding, some priests and nuns regarded their coming to Queensland as a 'foolish venture.' They warned the Josephites that they were rushing into troubles the like of which they were ignorant. What difficulties lay ahead?

The new day dawned, Mary MacKillop and her companions welcomed the new year and settled into their surroundings. Whatever the future unfolded, God's love would be their comfort and bolster their courage.

- Sr Margaret McKenna  
Extract from enews 31/12/2018

## St Joseph the Worker

As we celebrate the Feast of St Joseph the Worker on 1/5/2019, we present St Joseph as a very modern intercessor for those who are unemployed and seeking work.

We see work as a right and a privilege to be enjoyed by all. Through work, we share in the creative action of God. Joseph, being a man of integrity, shows us how to bring balance to our interior and exterior aspects of our working lives.

As St Joseph is very frequently looked on as the Husband of Mary and Foster Father of Jesus, we can forget his role as the Worker in the Family. Work, either paid or unpaid, in whatever form, undertaken in a way that enhances our being, gives glory to God.

Work which becomes the aim of our being, and thus an idol, can be a curse and not give life.

We ask St Joseph to give to our Youth the desire to seek work that will give them dignity and enable them to see work as a worthwhile objective. It is a much bigger picture than just asking for work – there are the multiple areas where we need to make sure that our work places are safe,

just and fair. It is easy to be employed by unscrupulous bosses who use our young people in a way that does not allow them to grow into a work ethic that will assist them for life.

His role as Protector of Jesus and Mary, especially when he was fleeing Herod into Egypt, shows us that his relevance, in the mass migrations of people fleeing their war torn, cannot be ignored. These people are barely surviving with no opportunity to be employed and appreciate the role of work in their lives.

St Joseph was the man closest to Jesus. He worked side by side with him, he was Jesus's Dad. So we need to ask him to help us communicate our desires to the One who is forever asking us to: 'Come to me and I will give you rest' Matt.11:28, 'Knock and the door will be opened' Matt.7:7 and 'I am the Way the Truth and the Life' John 14:6.

As we celebrate the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, let all of us who are gifted with the opportunity to work remember and pray for those who continue to walk the road of unemployment and despair.

- Marie McAlister rsj



### Prayer to St Joseph

Joseph, Model of workers, Protector of Jesus and Mary help us to come to an understanding of the power of your Son to intercede for all those who seek your help. Your silence is a strong challenge to values current in our society. Help us to value that interior life which lead you to a total commitment to Jesus and Mary. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Thank you for your donation to our work in Peru

On behalf of Mary MacKillop Today, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps.

2018 was another successful year of us raising approximately \$68,000. A great effort from many, many people! From 2001 till now our total is \$312,000.

It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today.

Tatiana's Story from southern Peru: Tatiana is the School Captain at a disadvantaged secondary school in southern Peru. Through your valuable support for the School Peace Project, Tatiana and her fellow students have turned her school from a place riddled with violence to a peaceful and safe learning environment.

The School Peace Project trains student leaders, like Tatiana, and school staff in skills such as; leadership and values, mediation, and how to make their schools peaceful places to learn. This training gives school students a voice and in the case of Tatiana's school, enabled them to pursue some incredible peace initiatives, including organising a talent show, a theatre performance and even a radio show, all about peace.

The project has had an enormous impact on the entire school community, as one teacher said, 'it is amazing to see the reduction of violence.....' with students getting along much more amicably thanks to the project intervention. This change in the school has also been reflected in the students' families and communities, and Tatiana noted that there had been a decrease in drug and alcohol use by her fellow students since the project began. As one of the many school mediators, she also noted, 'it is difficult to stay neutral and mediate friends,' but Tatiana persisted, much to the appreciation of her fellow students, who can now solve their conflicts in a peaceful way instead of using violence.

Tatiana acknowledges that the project has also allowed her to grow on a personal level: 'I did not like talking to people, and now that I am School Captain, I have learnt values and have more confidence.'

- Helen Saunders rsj

## What attracted me to Josephite life

At primary school in the 1940s I became aware of the initial migration wave coming from war-torn Europe. The Josephite Sisters who taught me mirrored their concern for these people. After school they visited the homes of their students. They saw that many of the new arrivals were living in caravans and sheds in the foothills. These were desperate times for refugees and displaced people. The Sisters went to give a hand to a mother with a new baby or to boil the copper or do some shopping for a needy family. At this point my personal story and the Sisters' world-view became linked.

After school one day, driven by curiosity, I climbed onto the back of a truck with a group of these refugee children. I was off to see where my boy-friend Freddy lived. The truck headed for the Adelaide Hills and set children down near their homes. Freddy's place was a galvanised iron shed with an earthen floor. His mother was sitting on a packing case with a baby at her breast. She did not smile nor greet me but barked an order at Freddy. Freddy ran to find kindling for the fire. His mother looked old and worn, unlike my mother who was gracious and attractive, I was having my first dose of culture shock!

The reason that Freddy never did his homework became clear to me! It puzzled me after this that Sr Patrice made such a fuss about his homework. She must have known his situation! At the end of each school day she would call him to her desk to scold him about his disgraceful homework book. The rest of us would beat a hasty retreat.

By now I was both aware and disturbed. How could I walk away without 'sticking up for him'? I was summoning my courage to speak up for him, when through a crack in the door I saw what Sr Patrice was really up to. She was cramming his school bag with jars of jam, chutney, eggs, baked beans and the like. The homework scenario was just a ruse to protect Freddy's dignity and to make confidential provision for his family!

Though I was only 11 years, this was a defining moment in my life. I remember withdrawing from the crack in the door, thankful I had not been seen and saying to myself, 'I want to be like her when I grow up.' The seed of my Josephite vocation was sown.

Later when I learned the motto of our founders, 'Never see an evil without trying to remedy it,' I understood it because of those Sisters who lived it out. Throughout my years of internalising fuller understandings of Josephite spirituality, community and ministry, the following words continue to make sense:

A vocation is not a once-for-all call to young adulthood to follow a career or enter this religious congregation. It is a life-long conversation with God. Like any rich conversation, it is patterned by periods of spirited exchange, times of strain and argument, and intervals of silence. To be faithful entails more than recalling an early invitation; it requires that we remain in conversation. Our fidelity must be mobile because the conversation continues. Seasons of Strength – Evelyn and James Whitehead.

- Genevieve Ryan rsj  
Extract from enews 5/8/2017

### National Pilgrimage 2019

The Sisters of Saint Joseph offer you the opportunity to journey to significant places in Australia made holy by St Mary MacKillop, including her birth site.

2019 will mark 25 years of the Sisters offering this pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop.

Commencing in Melbourne on **22nd October 2019**, we will experience the early life of Mary and the MacKillop family

The Pilgrimage continues to Hamilton, Portland and Port McDonnell, then to Penola to connect with the stories of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tension Woods, before continuing to Robe and the church built by Fr Woods.

We travel to Adelaide where Mary professed her vows as a Sister of St Joseph. From here we fly to Sydney and stay at Mary MacKillop Place, where Mary lived and died. We visit her tomb in the Memorial Chapel for reflection. The Pilgrimage ends on **2nd**

**November 2019.**

Further information available early 2019:

Tel **02 8912 4818**

or email: [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au).



## Woods Villa Community wins the NSW Volunteer Team Award

Earlier in the year the Woods Villa Community were thrilled to win the NSW Regional Award for the 2018 Volunteer Team for their letter writing to women in prison. The sisters are part of the **Wellington Beyond Barbed Wire** program.

Shiree, the program Supervisor, visited the sisters at St Catherine's Aged Care to announce that 'Wellington Beyond Barbed Wire' had been named the 2018 NSW Volunteer Team of the Year for their support for women who are in or have been released from prison. There is no Australian award, so the Woods Villa Sisters have achieved the highest accolade!

The Awards are an annual event run by The Centre for Volunteering to recognise the outstanding work of volunteers in every region across NSW. The NSW State Awards are given in four categories: Young, adult, senior and Team Volunteer of the Year. The winners were chosen from 112,000 nominations across 20 separate NSW regional and suburban award ceremonies.

There are ladies in the 'Beyond Barbed Wire' program who do hands on mentoring of the women. The Woods Villa sisters support their work by writing letters to the women.

The Centre for Volunteering CEO Gemma Rygate said 'Women in the prison system may not have had the same opportunities that other women in their communities have had. The Beyond Barbed Wire volunteers are working to change this.'

So, Congratulations to the Woods Villa Community who are proving that it is possible to 'be on Mission to our last breath' (Mary MacKillop)!

The Sisters are: Christina Morrissey, Margaret Bolger, Carmel Sheridan, Catherine O'Brien, Joan Farrell, Betty Carroll, (Shiree - Program Supervisor), Kath English and Mary Schiemer.

- Kath O'Connor rsj



## News from Blacktown

The Annual Christmas Luncheon for the Blacktown Josephite Associates was held on Monday 19th November 2018 at the Fox Hills Golf Club, Prospect. The venue chosen was the best, quiet, no loud music and the picturesque outlook over the lawn greens held us all in awe, as twenty-five gathered to share a delicious lunch.

This annual gathering is exceptional, as there is immense preparation required organised by Lyn Griffiths. Throughout the year at the Associates meetings donations are collected, this enables Lyn to purchase gifts to prepare gift baskets for everyone attending. In previous years Lyn did the preparation herself, in 2018 group members started making items for inclusion in the baskets and helped Lyn gift wrap the parcels. Those attending the luncheon purchase a raffle ticket, the butts are placed in a bowl and numbers are drawn, each Associate chooses their gift, from the table, beauty, kitchen, garden, etc. Lyn also hand made an individual Christmas tree from material, decorated with small bells for each one joining in the celebration.

The group leader Antoinette Mangion always requests that a Sister of St Joseph is invited to the lunch. Sr Angela Grant has been delighted to attend each year and has come to know many of the Blacktown Associates. This year Geoff Barrett also joined the Christmas Celebrations. How do I know all this? I have been privileged to attend each year.

- Leonie Bell JA, North Sydney

## Kincumber Retreat 2018



The Josephite Associates Annual Retreat was held at St Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre Kincumber South on the weekend of 19th-21st October 2018 'Hearing Mary's Call Again - challenges for our time.' Sister Jan Barnett rsj certainly kept the thirteen Josephite Associates on task throughout the weekend. Comments from Associates as follows: Sr Jan's retreat was one of the more enjoyable and informative retreats I have been to, I left feeling positive, relaxed and hopeful for the future. I feel grateful, rested, informed and supported in my faith. I intend to carry on the tasks of Mary's five 'P's' - Passion, Possibilities, Practical, Partnership and Prayer.

Sister Jan asked us to live simply, travel lightly, make room for all, God's love embraces us all. Josephites are story tellers, we as Josephites know the story, tell the story, embody the story in our lives.

Do you wish to attend the 2019 Retreat? Make a note in your diary 18th-20th October 2019.

## News from Penrith

We here at St Nicholas of Myra in Penrith no longer have anyone to run our meetings since Una Galvin had to leave due to health reasons. I am unable to do it, as I cannot travel to meetings due to my health and I am 97. I attended the group meetings for many years and would like to stay a member and get the newsletter.

Thank you, regards Alice O'Hare JA Penrith. God bless you all!

### Email Address

Have you had a change since your last advice?  
If yes, please contact us with your new details at:

nsw.associates@sosj.org.au  
Subject: Email address change



## News from Mudgee-Perthville

The legacy of Fr Julian Tension Woods and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop lives on in the diocese of Bathurst and the parish of Mudgee.

As Josephite Associates, we respond to the call to live the charism of Mary MacKillop. The Josephite Associates commissioned and welcomed three new members – Felix Melinz, his wife Margaret and Lyn Bull during the celebration of the Eucharist at St Mary of the Presentation Church, Mudgee.

Fr Owen Gibbons officiated, and the new members were presented with a Josephite Badge, certificate and candle. Associate Eileen Csuba stood in as a proxy for Lyn Bull, due to her unavailability to be present on the day. All then continued the celebration with lunch in the Parish Centre.

Friday 7th December 2018, following the Celebration of the Eucharist, the Mudgee Josephite Associates and friends gathered in a local café to share Christmas lunch together. They will resume their meetings in the new year on the 7/2/2019.

- Angela Krusvar JA Mudgee-Perthville

### News from Perthville

## Vale Brenda Billington

On the 24th September 2018 our dear friend Brenda Billington passed away at Macquarie Care Centre, Bathurst. Brenda was a foundation member of the Associates group here in the village of Perthville. Brenda had long been associated with the Sisters, and took the opportunity to dedicate all her efforts in this organisation. She was one of the driving forces in many of the activities associated with the St Anne's Aged Care Facility run by the Sisters, on the site now known as the Vale Lodge. Very skilled in many handicrafts and a great initiator of social events, Brenda put those skills to very good use, both in initiating activities for the residents and in fundraising. Those great social skills resulted in many happy hours spent with residents and volunteers alike. Brenda was always at the forefront in numerous very successful fundraising activities to support the Sisters in their activities. All her many friends will greatly miss this thoughtful and gracious lady.

- Jan McGuire JA Perthville

# The Spiritual and the Unspiritual

Within every human heart there are both longings and fears. They occupy every waking moment of our day and inspire our nightly dreams. The deepest and most constant longing is always the longing for love. Indeed, all our longings, are nothing more than different expressions of this one longing for love. Many expressions of longing are immediate (I'd love and ice cream, a glass of wine, a good meal). But we are always aware of deeper longings.

We long for a life-work that will inspire us and give meaning to our lives.

We long for a soulmate, a life-partner, who will share our journey, support and inspire us.

We long with all our hearts for the safety, growth and happiness of our children.

We long for family and friends around us.

We long for a world not bound by constant greed and the striving to be the greatest.

We long for a world without war, where no family will be forced to join the millions of refugees trudging through the ice and snow towards an uncertain future; where no child will be washed up on a beach like a piece of garbage.

We long for a world willing to work to overcome global warming, so that we may not leave a barren world to our children.

We long to do all in our collective power to ensure that we never again have to see the enormous eyes and distended stomachs of thousands of children dying of hunger.

We long for many things in the depths of our hearts. We are frustrated by our own limitations and we long to soar beyond the stars.

Somewhere in the very depth of our being we long for a love without limits, a love so deep that we cannot find words for it, and do not even know what it is that we are searching for.

We know only that we will never be fully satisfied until we find it.

Advertising spends vast sums seeking to concentrate our minds on superficial longings for things that can be bought with money.

But those who seek to meet only their more immediate longings are unspiritual people.

Those who genuinely seek to respond to their deeper longings are spiritual people.

The deeper we descend, and the harder we work to fulfil our deepest longings, the more spiritual we are.

- Bishop Geoffrey Robinson DD

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.

## Associates Office

PO Box 184 Croydon NSW 2132 (Letters only)

5 Alexandra Avenue, Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)

(02) 8741 2335

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

# International Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking

8/2/2019

‘O God when we hear of children and adults deceived and taken to unknown places for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour and organ ‘harvesting’, our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry that their dignity and rights are ignored through threats, lies, and force.

We cry out against the evil practice of this modern slavery, and pray with St Bakhita for it to end.

Give us the wisdom and courage to reach out and stand with those whose bodies, hearts and spirits have been so wounded, so that together we may make real your promises to fill these sisters and brothers with a love that is tender and good.

Send the exploiters away empty-handed to be converted from this wickedness, and help us all to claim the freedom that is your gift to your children. Amen.’



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in January, February, March and April 2019

### Newsletter Editorial

Editor: Christine Sivewright  
Member: Leonie Bell,  
Design and Print: Paul McMahon

Why God should want and need us is a mystery. But it is true: otherwise He would not have created us and life would ultimately have no meaning for us. It is good to remember that in God there is a constancy, a consistency of attitude which never changes, irrespective of what we are or how we act: He never changes in His wanting us or needing

us.

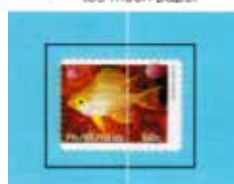
- Cardinal Basil Hume

### 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.



## Prayers for the sick

All the names on our sick list have now been recorded at the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel, North Sydney.

Mass will be celebrated each day for all our sick Josephite Associates and Sisters of St Joseph.

Please continue to forward (to the office at Croydon) names you wish to be prayed for at North Sydney

### Requiescant in pace

- Eileen Bennett (Bathurst-Perthville Group)
- Brenda Billington (Perthville Group)
- Margaret Bonanno (Prayer Member)
- Kath Dunn (Prayer Member)
- Joyce Ford (Gilgandra-Perthville Group)
- Yvonne Hicks (Bankstown Group)
- Cecilia Lacey (Gilgandra-Perthville Group)
- Colin Philpott (Molong Perthville Group)
- Betty Russell (Blacktown Group)
- Larry Skelton (Waterloo Group)
- Therese Smith (Prayer Member)
- Carmel Sullivan (Coonabarabran-Perthville Group)
- Mary Wagner (South Lismore Group)

## 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 2018 - \$68,000.**

*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 Perthville requests that stamps continue to be sent to:-  
Unit 1, St Johns,  
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# Homily - Marian Court Strathfield

9th September 2018

Friends, the many Miracles which Jesus performed point beyond themselves. At a simple level, he heals, not just by what he says but by what Jesus also does. Jesus puts his fingers in the man's ears and touches his tongue with spittle. There is a series of actions which involve his total concentration and energy before the man discovers a new freedom of hearing and speech.

At another level, this process is but an illustration of the concern Jesus has to free the hearing and speech of all who listen to him. It is only when we, as Christ's followers, hear him clearly, that we can in turn proclaim the truth of Jesus' Message of God's love for all People.

St James in his letter notes that God chooses the poor in the eyes of the world to be heirs of the Kingdom. We sometimes express the same insight when we speak of the Church of the Poor. By the name 'poor' we include all those who are inhibited in some way or do not have the comforts the world expects or values or takes for granted. When we are poor, - as for example - in our attempts to speak in a foreign language - we are much more open to learn. So, we don't presume to know. The difficulty Jesus has with the Pharisees is that they know too much. A certain amount of knowledge or competence gets in the way of learning more. The truly wise are always conscious of what they do not know rather than, the little they have mastered. So, Jesus works hard with his Disciples to clear their hearing, so that they do not merely hear but understand, and are in their turn, able to proclaim the love of God.

We are more likely to develop our sense of God working through us dear friends, if we are quick to recognise how deaf we are to God's Word. The truth is that in some sense - all of us have been or are bound by some form of blindness or deafness. The many stories of healing recounted in the Gospels are not told to us so that we can marvel at Jesus, but so that we can realise what he had in mind for each and every one of us. The healing stories are told as personal messages for us and we miss the point if we fail to appreciate this fact!

If we are convinced we have a monopoly on the truth, we reinforce our own blindness and inability to hear. The truth, as Jesus shows us - always challenges us in the heart of our living. Jesus frees us, as he freed the man in the Gospel by using the very earth realities of our daily lives, - touch and spittle. Jesus didn't want his ministry to be seen as extraordinary but, as God's loving response to the painful situation with which he was confronted. Jesus always sought to establish relationships of faith and trust with those whom he encountered. Once, such a relationship was established, everything then became possible!

Dear friends, it is particularly when we too are struggling in the midst of life's journey - that Jesus draws close to us. It may be something which has happened to us or those who are dear to us that we cannot understand, like an illness or a disability. It may be some aspect of ourselves or others which we cannot control or fit easily into our ideals or expectations.

In other words, it is at those moments when we experience our own poverty that Jesus is working with us, touching us, holding us, moving us to open our minds and hearts towards God's healing love. If we do not grasp this reality, if we do not grasp that Jesus is offering this healing to all of us, and inviting us in turn, to minister to others, then we will most certainly remain deaf and blind to the world which is shared with us week in, week out.

Friends, in knowing our own neediness and poverty, we are enabled to see and respond to the needs and poverty of others.

We are sent to open the eyes of the blind to the greatness of God's love for them; we are called to set people free from the things which imprison them - such as selfishness, fear, envy and prejudice. We are called to let the deaf hear the Good News of Salvation, to bring forgiveness and healing to our broken lives and relationships; and we are called to feed all those who are hungry: hungry for justice, for equality and for bread!

Like many of the Saints - Sts Francis of Assisi, or Teresa of Calcutta and our own St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, we will find Christ among the poor, among those in need, among those who know their need of God, while, in turn we shall be close to Christ whenever like him, we seek to bring justice and Good News to people everywhere!

- Fr Graeme Malone SSS - Chaplain, Concord Repatriation  
General Hospital

Scripture References: Isaiah 35:4-7a, James 2:1-5, Mark 7:31-37

## THE TRADITION MIRACLES

*'The jar of meal will not be emptied, and the jug of oil will not fail'*

1Kings 17.14

*Does God Exist? What is God like? Does God care about my troubles?*

Even before such questions are laid to rest with the grace of faith, miracles point us to the answers and prepare our minds to accept the truth.

Not that we are always so accepting. Scripture offers many cautionary tales about people who rejected remarkable supernatural signs from God (see Exodus 7.8-13; John 11.46-53; Acts 16.16-24). Still, for those with eyes to see, miracles illuminate and invite belief in deeper realities. Beyond their very real, amazing externals, they have symbolic meaning. Miracles reveal the very nature of God.

The miracles of Elijah underline God's sovereignty - especially highlighted in the story of Elijah's contest with the pagan prophets. They also reveal God's compassion - as shown to 'little people' like the starving widow and her son (1Kings 17.14). But the best examples of 'miracles with a message' are the ones Jesus worked. Astounding in themselves, they reveal his mission and authenticate Him as the Son of God.

Jesus heals lepers and the blind - a sign that he has come to cure spiritual blindness and the leprosy of sin. He feeds the multitude - a sign that he himself is the Bread of Life. He calms and walks on the sea - a sign that he rules the universe. And in every miracle, Jesus shows a compassionate God who loves his people in a very personal way.

Still today our loving God uses miracles to draw us to himself. Take healings, for example, the more spectacular of these interventions. But on a smaller scale, too, God provides countless signs of his presence.

For one woman on chemotherapy, this assurance took the form of a Scripture verse she happened on 'by chance' one morning, just after she realised that her hair was falling out: 'Even the hairs of your head are all counted,' she read and started to cry (Matthew 10.30).

'I felt God's love so strongly at that moment, as I realised that he cares about every little aspect of my life.'

Personal, everyday miracles like this may be the most persuasive of all.