



# 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 • November 2018

*Dear Josephite Associates,*

Every grace and blessing to you and your families as you prepare for Christmas. Is your group having a gathering over Christmas? If so, send an article for publishing in the March 2019 Newsletter.

I am pleased to report that Geoff Barrett from the Lidcombe Group, has accepted the position of Acting Vice President. Geoff's role is to gather and produce the group history of NSW Josephite Associates. All group leaders have been contacted and asked to send in their groups history report. The response to date is very encouraging, many thanks to all for replying so quickly. Are you a prayer member and would like to send a few lines of your story as an Associate to form part of the history? All are welcome to contribute.

The AGM was held on Saturday 15th September 2018 at the Regional Centre, Providence Place, Croydon. Sister Therese McGarry rsj continues as the liaison Sister of St Joseph to the governance group at Croydon. The day was less formal to enable the fifty Associates (including Sisters of St Joseph) to relax and share friendships together. A delicious lunch was shared, followed by an open forum with great discussion regarding the financial situation, the annual retreat at Kincumber, and how the Josephite Associates grow into the future etc.

Each year on average thirty- eight Josephite Associates are called to eternal life, these names were proclaimed and prayed for at the Annual General Meeting. The reduction in Associate membership (which was discussed at the AGM) is a concern for our continued growth. At the AGM the financial report at the 30th June 2018 disclosed an operating loss of \$5,413.00. This was due to the reduction of membership renewals and donations received to the 30/6/2018. This is the first operating loss incurred, should this pattern continue, we will be drawing on reserve funds and this cannot continue indefinitely.

Enclosed with the November Newsletter is your membership renewal form for 2019, please forward your renewal as soon as possible either as a group payment, direct deposit or individually. If you do not wish to continue receiving the Newsletter it would be helpful if you could return the membership renewal form.

Australia continues to experience hardship with the drought. I recently met a young friend from the Kingsgrove Parish who was very excited that they had raised \$12,000.00 for drought relief. What impressed me was the huge effort made to raise the funds and then they drove to Coonabarabran to deliver the proceeds personally to Catholic organisations. Will Associates in other parishes follow the example of Kingsgrove? If so, send a few lines for publishing in the March 2019 Newsletter.

Please continue to pray for rain for our farmers and for their mental well-being, give thanks for the example showed by the Country Women's Association on the Four Corners drought program on Quirindi. CWA women prepare parcels of goods to assist families, prepaid vouchers are hand delivered to local

shop owners to assist the poor. May God continue to bless these women for their generosity. This certainly follows the message from Sr Mary of the Cross 'never see a need without doing something about it'

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

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

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

*Leonie Bell – President*



Let us often pause and examine ourselves on the desires and motions of our hearts'

Mary MacKillop 1893

'We must tranquilly wait God's time'

Julian Tension Woods – 1886

## 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

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)

## CLAIM THE DATE

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

On

**Saturday 6th April 2019**

# Archbishop Peter Comensoli's Mass of Installation Homily Melbourne

We can be reasonably confident that the Apostle Paul's determination to get to Rome was not for the spaghetti and coffee. St Paul's extraordinary missionary journey of faith took him from Jerusalem, and the Semitic world of the one true God, through Athens and the Greek world of the intellectual gods, to Rome and the cultural world of the political gods. Paul always saw it as God's intention to get him to Rome. For it would be from Rome that he could bring the name of Jesus Christ from the peripheries into the centre of the world. He was certainly determined, even driven, to proclaiming Christ with gospel boldness; there was a deep intentionality about all he did. Paul was unfailingly open and accountable for what he had been given in Christ.

He was a man who boldly carried the yoke of the crucified Christ, both as burden and a joy, but was also a man of deep sensitivity, being gratefully encouraged, as we heard, from the Christian community he was soon to live and die among. For its part, the Church in Rome had known of Paul for some time and were eager for his coming. They were a community of many languages and faces: Jews, Gentiles, Asiatic, Middle Eastern, African, European – citizens and immigrants from all over the empire. The Church in Rome was young and vibrant, though somewhat messy and not without its struggles.

They had found in Christ a way of living a common life in friendship, amid the disorienting and fragmenting commotion of a world – and worldly – city. Here were a people who had been found by God, and worthy to be considered a pearl of great price. These were the faithful to whom Paul had been anointed and sent by God. His final missionary journey to them, made as a 'prisoner in the Lord,' passed from Israel, through the Mediterranean, and onto Italy. He survived starvation, shipwreck and a deadly snake bite (on Malta, of all places!), until, around the year 60AD, as St Luke rather casually observed: And so, we came to Rome. In our own way, and in this time and place, we are at a Pauline/Roman moment, you and me.

## Request from Geoff Barrett – Acting Vice President

Associates who have not submitted an Associates History Report for your group, (you may not have been able to find the previous history) please send current details of your groups activities, if only a paragraph and photo if available. Geoff would like to include all in this report where possible. The same request to Associates who received a letter.

Replies to PO Box 184 Croydon NSW 2132.

*Thank you.*

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in August, September, October, November and December 2018

### Associates Office

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5 Alexandra Avenue, Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)  
(02) 8741 2335

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

This particular successor of the Apostles, who began his missionary journey in Wollongong, having travelled via Broken Bay, has come to Melbourne. I am a sinner, who has been found by God, and now sent to you. And you? You are God's own people, living in this metropolis of the south. You carry the wounds and grief of a shameful past, yet you have stood up tonight to be counted as friends of God.

As the Romans gathered from the far reaches of that great city, so you have gathered from up north beyond Mount Macedon, over into the east past the Dandenong Ranges, out west from Geelong and Port Philip Bay, down south along the Mornington Peninsula, and everywhere in between. You are the living Church in Melbourne, who have also been found by God and are now welcoming me. Like Luke before us, now we might say: And so, we come to Melbourne. But how do we proclaim a Gospel from the peripheries into the centre? How do we speak of grace and mercy in a diverse society? How do we become signs of hope and joy in a culture of rival visions?

Though we need accountable structures to do this, the Church is not an institution; though we strive to do good works, we are not an NGO; though we have things of beauty to show, we are not a museum. The Church we belong to is a 'she' not an 'it', a living person, not a lifeless thing. We are a pilgrim People of God, called to be missionary disciples. We are the body of Christ, where the weakest and most vulnerable have the places of honour. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit and stewards of God's grace.

Our common task, then, is a missionary one. We have been anointed and sent with the gospel of Jesus Christ into our families, our local neighbourhoods, and the wider society. How do we do this? Well, a good start might be to get the soil of our culture under our fingernails as we plant seeds of grace and peace. Pray for one another; befriend each other. Forgive, and seek forgiveness. Barrack for Gospel Joy, not just your footy team. Make mercy our calling card and healing our gift. Be open, warm and honest in the way we attend to others. Nurture a faith that trusts, a hope that encourages, and a love that is tender. This is what it means to proclaim Jesus Christ, because it is what Jesus Christ proclaimed.

We need only to take a first step. Here, in Melbourne, we have a home-grown example of one such first-stepper, Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Just up on Brunswick Street, in the ACU quadrangle you will pass on the way to the reception this evening, there is a statue of a young Mary on the threshold of saintliness. She is sitting on a bench looking out, poised for her future, about to get on the move. I've come from the city where Mary completed her missionary journey, to the city where she began it. You are the Church that produced Australia's first saint. And as Mary sits eager and expectant to what lies before her, I now join you on this threshold, poised in anticipation of what we are to do in Christ Jesus.

So, Church of Melbourne, may I claim a newbie's boldness and remind you of what I already know about you? You are a Church that can produce great fruits. You have it in you already to do this, for you – we – are saint whisperers here! As you pass Mary's statue tonight, or on some other occasion, go sit with her. Look out with her. Get up with her. Our time has come to see the gospel need and do something about it. Yes, we carry great wounds and grief, and faith can be such a struggle, but we – the Church in Melbourne – can be young again, in Jesus Christ. May we prefer nothing to Him, for He prefers nothing to us.

*Archbishop Peter Comensoli's Homily, St Patricks Cathedral  
Melbourne – 2nd August 2018.*

*Extract from Melbourne Catholic 7/8/2018 used with permission.*

## Celebrating 150 Years of Aged Care – Elizabeth Etheridge

*A recount of a presentation follows below...*

My name is Elizabeth Etheridge and I was one of Mary MacKillop's first companions. I spent my entire life working in aged care, one of the works begun by Mary and Father Woods when they founded the Sisters of Saint Joseph. In fact, I believe that I can lay claim to having been the first Josephite Aged Care nurse and carer.

Mary's motto – our motto – was to do all the good we could and never to see an evil without doing something about it.

We did our best to be faithful to that motto. There were so many evils that needed addressing. I'd become aware of them when I was growing up in the Port Adelaide area where my dad was a policeman.

Times were tough and there were often fatal accidents on the wharves, in the factories or on the roads. Back then there was no Work Cover, nor were there pensions, and widows and deserted wives had the hardest time of all, especially if they had young children to support.

There were many older women living alone in squalor or on the streets because they had no one to care for them.

The government did have a rough institution called the Destitute Asylum located on Kintore Avenue behind what is now the State Library. It was managed according to the same system as the English workhouses, where inmates had to wear prison-like uniforms and were subject to strict discipline. The poverty of the South Australian colony, ravaged by drought and financial depression, meant that those confined in the Destitute, as it was called, barely survived. Only the really desperate went there!

Then in 1867 Father Woods and young Mary MacKillop arrived from Penola and the Sisters of Saint Joseph began their ministry in Adelaide.

What a difference they made! Besides enabling poor children to attend school, the sisters opened a House of Refuge for prostitutes and newly released female prisoners. They also took charge of the Catholic orphanage.

It was at this stage that I became a sister in 1868. Almost at once, Mary asked me to help at the Providence, the new home she and Father Woods were setting up for the homeless and destitute women and girls. We walked the streets together to find the neediest among them and very soon we had several very sick, elderly women living with us. How I loved caring

for those darling people. It was a special privilege to be with them when they were dying. I remember writing several letters about these women to Sister Mary when she was in Queensland, telling her of Mrs Cane, for example, who was sometimes pleased and other times in violent tempers with her food and the Sisters'; and of Mrs Walsh who used to call me 'Queen Elizabeth,' and thought I was the only friend she had. Then there were some women who had cancer, were blind, or had mental illness- we took care of them all until they crossed the threshold of death to enter their 'long home.'

From the beginning, many people sought admission because we were the only non-government organisation in South Australia offering residential aged care. In fact, it was more than thirty years before the Salvation Army began offering similar service in Adelaide.

Destitute men could not stay with us back then and so we did what we could for them in other ways. We called them 'St Joseph's' and provided them with hot food and drinks, and warm clothing in the cold weather. One of our sisters, Sister Hilda McNamara, became well-known for her ministry with these men. During the First-World War and the years of the Depression she fed them, sobered them up, listened to their stories, and at times sheltered them from police. They loved her and had a lasting respect for her.

Because we had no fixed income, some of us went out and begged for money, food or clothing from the good people of Adelaide. Ever so many, including Catholics, non-Catholics and non-Christians, supported us because they could see the good work we were doing. At times I had so much to carry that getting it home was a real struggle. But then we got a cart! In 1875 Mary MacKillop wrote to Sister Josephine in Queensland,

*'The Adelaide people are as pleased as the Sisters are to see Sister Elizabeth having a cart at last, and many of them say it was not a day too soon, as they often feared she would sink under her load in the streets.'*



For many years, as demands grew, we moved from smaller to larger rented houses in Franklin St, Gouger St, Whitmore Square, Rosetta Terrace and Flinders Street, Adelaide. Finally, with the help of the Archbishop, in 1905 we purchased a fine property at 32 West Terrace (Today this property is occupied by the BMW showrooms).

But still we were over-crowded, and so in 1950 we moved to the large home at Cowandilla, left to the sisters some years previously by a very generous man, John Byrne. The naming of the driveway of the recently redeveloped site perpetuates his memory.

Much has changed over the years, but the work continues. Without the generosity of sisters, employed staff, volunteers and friends, it would not have survived the challenges it has faced. Together, bands of wonderful people have found creative ways of raising funds and have donated their time and their money to the support of the home and the well-being of its residents.

Today the Cowandilla home is named for Mary MacKillop's mother, Flora McDonald. A hundred and fifty-three men and women of many different ethnic and religious backgrounds call it home while others do likewise at St Catherine's Home in Berri. Those who share the lives of residents in these places are privileged to walk this final part of their journey with them.

In June 2017 Mary MacKillop Care South Australia joined Calvary Retirement Communities to more effectively continue what was begun 150 years ago by Mary MacKillop and Julian Tension Woods. I count this as a major turning-point in our story, and one in keeping with the spirit that was handed on to us by our founders.

You can imagine heaven's joy when Mary MacKillop and \* Mary Potter linked hands, encouraging those who minister at Calvary Flora McDonald to extend God's loving care into the future.

*\*Venerable Mary Potter foundress of the Little Company of Mary, Nottingham. UK.*

*Sr Marie Foale rsj*

*Extract from enews 2/8/2018*



## International Day of Friendship – 30th July

From little things, big things, grow, to offer hope to the world. Who and what is a friend? What is friendship?

Jesus says:

*Love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends...I do not call you servants any longer...but I have called you friends because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father. John 15:12.15.*

'In the ancient world, Jesus' words articulated a well-known ideal of friendship, not a brand- new idea' e.g. for Aristotle, friendship was a key social relationship. It is also true the virtuous man's conduct is often guided by the interests of his friends and his country, and that he will if necessary lay down his life on their behalf.'

*Jesus is our model for friendship – because he loved without limits.*

Gail R O'Day

In modern times, we do not often think of needing to 'lay down one's life' for a friend, but we love our friends, we treasure friendship, we celebrate friendship, and we willingly give of ourselves for our friends in need.

To celebrate friends, Friendship Day was originated by the founder of Hallmark cards in 1930, but it was not popular at the time because it was too obviously a gimmick for promoting greeting cards.

On a deeper level, 'The idea of a World Friendship Day was first proposed on 20th July 1958 by Dr Ramon Artemio Bracho during a dinner with friends in Puerto Pinasco, a town in Paraguay.' 'Out of this humble meeting of friends, the World Friendship Crusade was born...a foundation that promotes friendship and fellowship among all human beings, regardless of race, colour or religion.'

In May 2011, after much urging by the World Friendship Crusade members, the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) decided to designate 30th July as the International Day of Friendship.

### News from Canowindra-Perthville

The Canowindra-Perthville Josephite Associates gathered in Canowindra on Monday 20th August 2018, with eleven attending.

Sr Jean Cain rsj visited us explaining the future for Josephite Associates. Everyone was very appreciative of Sr Jean sharing her time with us and her insights.

Prayer, companionship, friendship and delicious food was abundant. The morning was enjoyed by all.

Deb Rutter JA Canowindra



The UN proclaimed the International Day of Friendship with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, and cultures can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities. The UN wanted for the day to involve young people, as future leaders, in community activities that include different cultures and promote international understanding and respect for diversity.

Through friendship – by accumulating bonds of camaraderie and developing strong ties of trust – we can contribute to the fundamental shifts that are urgently needed to achieve lasting stability, weave a safety net that will protect us all, and generate passion for a better world where all are united for the greater good. United Nations.

In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr:

*Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.*

Martin Luther King Jr

In a recent powerful and inspirational You Tube video, a group called Koolulam organised 3000 Israeli women, men and children from all faiths including, Jews, Muslims and Christians to gather in Haifa and sing together a beautiful rendition of Matisyahu's 'One Day' a song with the message of peace and co-existence. They prayed and sang:

*All my life I've been waiting for  
I've been praying for  
The people to say  
That we don't wanna fight no more  
There'll be no more wars  
And the children will play  
One day, one day...*

The intensity, passion and the sincerity of their shared hope echoed through their wonderful sound.

How can we in our own countries communities 'promote friendship between people, countries, and cultures, inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities?' As in all things, we need to start small, where we are, and be open to joining with the efforts of others around us, inspired and empowered by the love Jesus embodied.

As an example, the logo and theme for the Sesquicentenary (150 years) celebration of the Sisters of St Joseph (in 2016) echoes and promotes the deeper intent of the United Nations. (By referring to Josephite in this instance, we are including all those who are following the legacy of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tension Woods, not only vowed Josephites). The red line is the heartbeat which ultimately forms a heart. The heart wraps around the world signifying love for humanity and for the earth. The heartbeat is woven through the Josephite emblem to show that the Josephites have an attachment to life, sustainability of life, love and care for our earth. 'Listening to the Heartbeat of the World' is an invitation to listen and to respond.



Margaret Rowley rsj  
Extract from enews 10/7/2018

## Plenary Council 2020

Sister Monica Cavanagh Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph has been appointed as President of Catholic Religious Australia. Congratulations Sr Monica!

In a recent publication 'Catholic Religious Australia' Sr Monica draws Associates attention to the Plenary Council 2020 – 'The journey continues. We might ask ourselves, will it make a difference? This is a time to trust and believe that the voice of the Spirit will be heard in the stories of the people. Stories that will draw us into the heart of people's experience, suffering and hope. It will require each one to become an involved participant, that requires an adult ownership of the Church, as the People of God. The small group encounter is an opportunity to know that we are a community of missionary disciples believing that the power of the Spirit is alive and active in our collective wisdom. Let us move forward believing that the living God walks with us into a new reality of Church in Australia.' (Extract from Catholic Religious Australia 11/9/18 Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj).

Have you heard of the Plenary Council 2020? Is your parish actively involved? This is the first time since 1936 that Catholics in Australia can have the opportunity to 'have your say'.

*There are three questions you are asked to respond to:*

1. What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?
2. What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?
3. Do you have a story of your experience of faith, or the Church, you would like to share?

**As Josephite Associates may we not let this opportunity pass us by and not respond!**

Replies to be sent to:

The Plenary Council Team P O Box 747 North Sydney 2059

### *A Prayer to Saint Mary MacKillop*

Mary, your dream in life was to live your love for God in a very real way.  
Help us to bring God's love alive in our daily lives.

Gracious God,

We thank you for making Mary MacKillop  
Strong in faith and conviction.

Inspired by her example

May we the people of Australia  
Endeavour to make our country a place  
Free of poverty and injustice,  
A place of wisdom and learning  
Where you are praised in peace and love.

*Amen.*

*B. Turner JA Blayney*

### NEWSLETTER IN BY EMAIL

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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.

## St Benedict's Charism Project

The Charism Project at St Benedict's Primary School Edgeworth, was recently completed with the installation of their new mural.

Two years ago, the staff of St Benedict's visited Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney for a Faith Formation Day.

As a Josephite school this special venue helped to connect the school with their faith heritage. Whilst at Mary MacKillop Place, staff heard of the history of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the beautiful story behind their formation.

During the first session, we learnt of the charisms of the Josephite Sisters, and our Principal Mark Hornby-Howell jotted down some of the charisms that reflected what the school community of St Benedict's endeavour to live out daily. It was at this time that St Benedict's Charism Project was born.

On our return to school, staff discussed how we would like to physically represent these charisms around the school grounds as a reminder of our connection to Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph.

After lengthy discussion with our then Parish Priest, Father Peter Rees, and the Parish Pastoral Council, it was decided to name our school chapel 'St Mary of the Cross Chapel.' Outside the chapel we created the Charism Garden. In this garden we planted the MacKillop rose and placed stepping stones with words on them, love, courage, compassion, empowerment, honesty, action and faith.

These same words are also displayed on the wall of the school hall as a visual reminder of the MacKillop charisms that we at St Benedict's attempt to follow.

It has been a project that has taken many hours of discussion, thought and prayer. We are very happy with the final project and how it reflects the faith life of our school.

*Michelle Collins MN (Maitland-Newcastle) News Today  
Extract from enews 15/8/2018*

## Be kind

The student leaders and their peers at Marian College Christchurch, New Zealand, braved the cold mornings to collect money for a worthy charity. Great work girls!

This year our school has explored the concept of 'Be Kind'. Mary MacKillop saw a need and combined her kindness with action to help poor children receive an education and so break the poverty cycle. Well, we tried to do the same!

Last week we had 30 girls participate in the Ronald McDonald House Street Appeal. For some students, collecting began at 7am. We braved the cold streets of Christchurch to collect for this worthy cause, Ronald McDonald House.

Ronald McDonald House is a local, not for profit charity based in Christchurch providing care for families who are supporting children in hospital undergoing treatments. The house provides accommodation, meals, support and fun activities all free of charge to the families during what is a very difficult time. Ronald McDonald House support around 3700 charities each year and it was an absolute privilege to lend our time during their biggest fundraiser of the year.

That same week we wrote personalised notes to every girl in the college encouraging statements to help brighten their day. Our well-being leaders also organised for every girl to write her name and values on a coloured hand and these were pinned up in our well-being room.

We continue to attempt to imitate the work of Mary MacKillop and 'Be Kind' to our community friends.

*Izzy Bloxham, Marian College, Christchurch. NZ  
Extract from enews 12/6/2018*



## Why Did I Become a Sister?



The most common question I am asked is, why did you become a Sister? That's probably the hardest question to answer.

Maybe married people get asked – 'How do you know that 'he/she' is the one?' The answer is probably quite simple, 'You just know.' Following your heart. Following your deepest desire.

A vocation is not a job. A vocation is your whole life. Simple, but profound all at once. Vocation from the Latin word: vocare 'to name or call.'

It takes great conviction to follow a vocation – to follow a call, that you can't really name or explain to others.

Growing up in Australia from a Middle Eastern/Mediterranean family, my faith was treasured and encouraged. Family values of support and care of one another, reaching out to others, knowing your family background were all explored and appreciated. Not one vocation was put higher than the other. Priests and Religious were always respected and I knew growing up that all vocations through Baptism were valued. But how and when did I discover I might have a vocation to Religious Life?

After finishing secondary school at Year 12, I was involved in youth leadership training in Rosie's (held in Rosebud, Victoria in those days). It was through this training and involvement that I discovered that Religious Life would be an enormous gift to me, and to the Church.

Mary MacKillop took her final vows on 8th December 1869 and the next year she wrote this profound statement in a letter to her mother, Flora:

'Believe in the whisperings of God in your own heart.'

I listened to those whisperings and I realised that God was not asking me to be perfect, God was only asking me to be faith-filled. And so, using the vow formula for the Sisters of Saint Joseph, 'I give myself completely to God, and I choose to express this commitment in joyful and loving service of God and the Church,' I made my commitment to Religious Life on the 8th July 1989.

So how did I know? I had a sense that my life without being a Religious sister would somehow be incomplete. It was a call I sensed deep inside myself.

My life as a sister has opened new horizons for finding joy.

*Rita Malavisi rsj*

### **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.

## Young ambassador inspired by Australia's Saint

Inspired by the words of St Mary MacKillop 'never see a need without doing something about it,' young Mount Gambier parishioner Ally Finnis is making a difference to the lives of children as a Young Ambassador for UNICEF Australia.



One of only nine Australians selected from 450 applicants. Ally will this month begin her role which involves consulting with children and young people to encourage them to speak up for their rights. This information will be compiled and reported back to national decision makers.

This is despite suffering chronic vestibular migraine, which has interrupted her tertiary studies but has not prevented her from volunteering at a local and national level for headspace, the National Youth Mental Health Foundation.

Since the age of 17, Ally has also been involved in volunteering for the local council and is a reader at her local church, St Paul's Mount Gambier.

'I think being raised in the Catholic faith instilled in me, from an early age, the importance of doing what one can to help others, and the potential of small actions to ripple out into significant change,' Ally told *The Southern Cross*.

When I was at Tension Woods College in Mount Gambier, I was involved in student leadership (SRC, St Vincent de Paul) and participated in social justice initiatives. This also contributed to my desire to make a positive difference where I could.

Over the years a quote from St Mary of the Cross MacKillop (who began her work in nearby Penola) has stayed with me: 'Never see a need without doing something about it.' 'Though I have a long way to go, I try to follow this teaching as I go about life.'

The Young Ambassador program is part of UNICEF Australia's commitment to fulfil its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The ambassadors, aged between 15 and 24 come from diverse life experiences and backgrounds throughout the five mainland states.

Ally said she wanted to become a UNICEF young ambassador because she believed in raising awareness of, and upholding children's rights and their ability to participate in discussions that affect them.

'I think it's important for children to have a connection to their sense of self, what matters to them, and to a loving safe and accepting community,' she said.

Ally and the other ambassadors have received training to guide them in developing skills and knowledge in children's rights, government advocacy, public speaking, media interviews and engagement and consultations with children and young people. They will spend the next six months consulting with children around Australia from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds.

*Extract from Cath News and The Southern Cross 28/9/2018*

## 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);  
 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);  
 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);  
 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

Beryl Colgan (Orange-Perthville Group)  
 Gerald Conliffe (Dunedoo-Perthville  
 Group)  
 George Dean (Belmont)  
 Gloria George (Guyra Group)  
 Bernard Glasheen (Penrith Group)  
 Patricia Grant (Canowindra-Perthville  
 Group)  
 Alma Halse (Canberra Group)  
 Brian Lehane (Thirroul -Northern  
 Illawarra Group)  
 Jim Lupton (Tamworth Group)  
 Peter McCann (Prayer Member  
 Perthville)  
 Joan Morgan (Lidcombe Group)  
 Celestine O'Connor (Canberra Group)  
 Eunice Redden (Coonabarabran-  
 Perthville Group)  
 Margaret Stapleton (North Sydney  
 Group)  
 Audrey Steinmetz (Belmont)  
 Marilyn Tramby (Moree Group)  
 Tony Young (Coonabarabran-Perthville  
 Group)



## News from Gilgandra-Perthville

Four new members joined our Associates group in Gilgandra at a special Mass to celebrate the feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Our new members are Paul and Denise Dolan, Fr Greg Kennedy and Harry Langers. Sr Robyn McNamara presented them their badges. St Joseph's school children attended and sang beautifully during Mass. Everyone was then invited to morning tea.

*Robyn McNamara 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.



## 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



## Warialda – An era ends - Farewell

The celebration and thanking the Sisters of St Joseph at the weekend of the 23rd/24th June 2018 for their 113 years of service in Warialda was a great success, but also rather sad. The NSW Regional Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph, Sr Mary Ellen O'Donoghue was only able to be with us on Sunday. Present though for



the whole weekend were Sr Mary Ellen Griffin, Sr Magdalen McDonald, Sr Jenny Scally, Sr Anita Vagg, Sr Petra Ries, Sr Jan Baker, Sr Therese Conroy, Sr Margaret Cusack, Sr Anne Gibson and Sr Mary Quinlan from an early Warialda family.

Fr Paul McCabe led us in prayer and reflection on Saturday morning. He made the point of St Mary MacKillop being a prophet of her time, with a passion for helping the poor and under privileged. We were asked what does the future hold for our world, with most of the wealth being in so few hands?

A delicious lunch of pumpkin soup followed by roast lamb and vegetables, tea/coffee and slice prepared and served by Don Stevenson and his many capable helpers. Joey's students Luca and Gabby Quarello presented the Sisters with table place mats and a cardboard figure of St Mary MacKillop that the children had made especially for the celebration. After lunch the Sisters visited residents at Naroo and patients at the hospital.

There was a packed church for the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday. Sr Mary Ellen O'Donoghue spoke about the future of the Order and thanked the people of Warialda for the wonderful support and care given over 113 years.

We pray that God will bless our families with an ongoing spirit of reverence and love for each other and a spirit of generosity so that we keep building a more caring and loving society. Some time on Sunday was spent at the cemetery where two of the original Josephite sisters are buried.

We appreciated that so many past Warialda residents travelled from afar to attend the celebratory weekend.

*Anne Jones JA Warialda*



## Father Julian Tension Woods: A Reflection

How proud can we be of 'Father Founder' as Saint Mary MacKillop lovingly entitled him. A dedicated Priest, Educator, Founder, Scientist, Missionary and Journalist, Julian used his many talents in the service of God and God's people.

His 57 years were spent listening to the voice of the Spirit calling him to live the Gospel.

In the early years, Julian searched for God in nature, in the Church among learned groups and in Religious Life. All this brought him into deep union with God which was reflected in his prayer life and ministry.

The monument over Julian's grave in Waverley Cemetery, Sydney, depicts many aspects of his life. It is surmounted by a Cross, symbolic of the many crosses Julian endured during his life: indifferent health, misunderstandings, feelings of isolation and conflict with Church authorities. Julian reflected:

***'What would life be without the Cross? Under its shadow we meet the Mother of Sorrows who can teach us best through the Cross the infinite love of Christ.'***

*Julian to Sisters of Perpetual Adoration – 9 August 1887.*

Below the cross is a symbolic church-like structure with columns and spire, reminding us that commitment and loyalty to Church was paramount in Julian's life. The spire depicts Julian's life of contemplative prayer, aspiring heavenward and encouraging the Sisters of the Religious Congregations he founded to be women of prayer. Julian wrote:

***'Cultivate...prayer, meditation. Keep hold of this no matter what else you neglect.'***

*Julian to Mary MacKillop – 27 February 1864.*

Devotion to Mary was a great consolation in Julian's life and intensified for him when a lad of fourteen after the death of his mother. Within the church-like structure stands a statue of Mary, whom Julian named 'his Mother.' He wrote hymns and poems expressing his love for Mary and had utmost confidence in her intercession. His devotion was enhanced when he spent time as student with the Marist Fathers in France. He later wrote to Mary MacKillop on 27 February 1864: *'Our Mother will come to our aid...feel no doubt.'*

Julian's life is summarised on three plaques on the monument, naming him on the right face as Founder of the Sisters of St Joseph in 1866 and the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in 1874.

The scientific 'world' in which Julian delighted, is recorded on the left face and this, with the granite monument, was donated from subscriptions raised by his friend William Archer. Julian's death on 7 October 1889 is recorded on the centre face.

At the base, a book depicts the Scriptures, source of inspiration for Julian in prayer, with words he tried to live and also wrote to Mary MacKillop on 5 November 1871: *'God's Will be Done.'*

Mary MacKillop described his grave thus:

***'How appropriate is the last resting place of a gentle learned priest and naturalist...here on the hillside overlooking the Pacific...the mortal remains of Father JE Tension Woods await the Resurrection.'***

***Mary MacKillop's Life of J E T Woods***

May Julian's life inspire us all!

*Connie Cummings rsj  
Extract from enews 7/10/2018*