



# Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

Josephite Associates NSW (Inc.) PO Box 184, Croydon NSW 2132 (Letters only) • 5 Alexandra Avenue, Croydon NSW 2132, (Parcels)

Phone 02 8741 2335

NEWSLETTER • July 2019

## Associates Day at Wellington 2019



*Nyngan Associates:  
Belle, Anne, Barbara & Dianne*

It was the beginning of a perfect day, on Saturday 6th April, as Associates set out by car and bus from each end of the Bathurst Diocese; each picking up along the way. We were also joined by four faithful Nyngan Associates, two from Blacktown, as well as two from Culcairn: Jill Clark nee O'Regan a native of Perthville and Catherine Mahedy from the Goulburn area.

fellow Associates and the Sisters. Kelly Vance provided valuable background and up to date information RE our Josephite involvement in Timor Leste and the difference education has made and is making in the lives of both children and adults.

Following morning tea Sr Therese McGarry, still on the theme of "making a difference" in the lives of people, spoke on what many of us know as NILS, the "No Interest Loan Scheme," and now under the umbrella of



*Jill Clark nee O'Regan and  
Catherine Mahedy from Culcairn.*

Part of the joy of the day was renewal of friendships forged over the years with Added to this was the input.

Mary MacKillop Today. This program is available throughout all of NSW to people who qualify, not just those within particular post code areas. Therese gave examples of how this programme has improved the lives of many as money is recycled and then loaned out again.

Leonie Bell, Associates President, and Maureen Rayner, Secretary, came from Sydney to be with us, as also Margaret Smith our very capable Emcee.

Mary Murphy updated the group on happenings at Perthville and all saw this as a good news story. Another happy note was to know that the history of the Boarding College at Perthville is in the process of being written by Marie Crowley. Marie spoke of this work and, as usual, the Ethica table prepared by Jan was a real drawcard.

It was a very full day but all left with a sense of pride in their association with the Josephite group.

*Madeline Breen rsj*



*Filling in the Evaluation Sheets.*



*Therese, Kelly, Leonie & Margaret*



*Sisters of St Joseph, Frances McAleer, Mary Murphy and Ruth Croome.*

# Perthville – A Sacred Site

On 16th July 1872 four young women arrived in Queen Charlotte's Vale, now known as Perthville. They came at the request of Bishop Matthew Quinn the first Catholic Bishop of Bathurst, to establish convent schools in small towns and villages throughout the Bathurst Diocese and provide an education to the children of poor Catholic families. The Bathurst Diocese in 1872, reached to the Queensland, South Australian and Victorian borders.

The women, three sisters and a young woman hoping to join the order, travelled in the Bishop's carriage from Bathurst and were greeted warmly by many locals. On the property, which is now the Perthville Convent site, was a small slab church and a partly built, four roomed brick building which would become their convent. To say that the sisters travelled lightly would be an understatement! They arrived with very few personal items. The local women supplied them with a few necessities and some food. Their beds, which had been supplied by the Sisters of Mercy in Bathurst, were strips of material, doubled over, sewn down both sides and stuffed with straw. They moved into the church as their temporary home in the middle of winter. No wonder Sr. Theresa in writing back to the mother house in Adelaide wrote, 'This place is most awfully cold.'

The sacristy had an open fire place, the only facility for heating and cooking. The fire was kept alight day and night. A small area in the body of the church was curtained off to form a dormitory. Their water supply was in a barrel outside the church, (each morning the ice on top of the barrel had to be broken with a hammer), there was no bathroom, no privacy. The sacristy was very cramped with the four women living there, every Thursday and Sunday all their belongings had to be removed so the Priest could prepare for, and celebrate Mass. These women were pioneers in every sense of the word.

The body of the church was used as a class room as well as a place for the women to pray, one week after the sisters arrived classes began for 30 children. At the end of 1872 the sisters prepared the pupils for oral examinations in reading, spelling, grammar, geography and arithmetic. Bishop Quinn and six priests conducted the examinations, congratulating the sisters on 'A highly efficient school of fifty children.'

By November that year the four roomed convent was completed. It consisted of a community room, a reception room, a dormitory and a kitchen all leading off a central hallway. Five hundred people were present at the opening and blessing of the new convent, and during the Mass donated enough money to pay for the construction of the convent with 32 pounds left over. I would like to say here that every building on the Perthville site was fully financed through the efforts of the sisters, through fund raising with fetes, concerts etc., donations from benefactors, or requesting financial assistance from family members, friends or former students. Although the sisters financed the construction of all the buildings

on site at Perthville, the Bishop of Bathurst was the registered owner until the 1990s, when the ownership was officially handed over to the sisters by Bishop Doherty.

Almost as soon as the convent was completed young women from within the Diocese wanted to join the sisters. Just one year after their arrival their numbers increased to 14 so the first of many extensions to the convent was added. Within thirty months the founding group of 4 had increased to 28. In 1891 the sisters numbered 101. In all 426 women entered the convent at Perthville. Not all of them made the decision to spend the rest of their lives as Perthville nuns, however they remain connected through strong friendships with the sisters.

The first school outreach from Perthville was made at Wattle Flat in 1873, followed by 34 more between 1874 and 1889. In all, almost 70 schools were opened by the sisters. As well as schools and convents 23 sisters from Perthville formed foundations in New Zealand, Goulburn, Lochinvar, Victoria and Tasmania.

In the beginning of 1875 the sisters welcomed the first boarders, five little girls. By the end of 1875 there were 15 boarders, including a little two and a half year old, thus began 142 years of boarding at Perthville. Many of the women who entered the convent at Perthville were ex-students of St. Joseph's College. I believe the sisters kept a keen eye out for likely candidates in their schools throughout the Diocese!

It is hard to imagine the work load of the early sisters. Those presenting to become members of the Sisters of St. Joseph had to be nurtured in the Charism and Rule of the Order, their understanding of the Catholic Faith was paramount, their class room skills honed and above all their prayer life as Sisters of St. Joseph was instilled in them. In the first 80 years the training was undertaken by the more senior sisters. Most of the sisters had no formal teaching qualifications. Theirs was an 'on the job training' having initially spent six months as novices learning what was required of them as religious sisters, before being sent out to convents throughout the Diocese.

There was no building available for the sisters when they first arrived in Molong in 1881, so they lived in a few rooms of the Court House Hotel until a cottage was available. In 1882 the sisters lived in tents at Capertee; and at Locksley Sr. Michael Pedder set rabbit traps, then skinned and cleaned the catch to supplement their diet of boiled lambs' tails. These were women of the land, women who knew hardship; mateship; how to survive on practically nothing; they knew that working with friends and neighbours was essential for survival and most importantly that the education of children was the best way forward for families.

The sisters organised many fund-raising activities in the parishes such as fetes, concerts and parish balls to help with the expenses of their convents. All the funds from their endeavours were supposed to go directly to the sisters, however the parish priest got involved in the counting of the takings and he made the decision, more often than not, on how much, if

any, of the money went to the sisters.

Each Christmas in the school holidays the sisters returned to Perthville to come together as a community. To spend time in prayer during their annual retreat, to share their difficulties and triumphs, to further cement friendships, to rest, and to prepare for the coming year. This was a special time for all the sisters. They were truly home, in the bosom of their chosen family, surrounded by the women who had mentored them and encouraging new members of the congregation. These were precious weeks, strengthening their spiritual lives, sustaining them through difficulties, encouraging them in their endeavours. A time when they could relax and be themselves. At the beginning of the school year, the sisters, with their small suit cases, returned to face the challenges of the New Year.

We have all experienced the love and friendship of the Perthville sisters. Some years ago, a friend and I were in Bathurst, and as was my custom, I called into Perthville to say G'day. I was greeted by one of the sisters with open arms and the warmest of embraces. I introduced my friend Carmel, then we all enjoyed a cuppa and catch up. As we were leaving Carmel said 'I now know why you speak with such love for your sisters. I never had a nun as a friend.' I replied, 'I never knew a nun who wasn't my friend.' We have been nourished and enriched, by being able to share part of our life's journey with these beautiful women of faith. Their legacy lives on in us, because we too are people of the land, we know hardship, we know the benefit of mateship, we know how to survive in difficult times, we know that working with friends and neighbours is essential for survival, we have the example of the Perthville sisters on how to live out our faith fully and joyfully.

St. Joseph's Perthville is a sacred place. It was made sacred firstly by the traditional custodians the Wiradjuri people through their care of, and respect for the land. The presence of Mary MacKillop and Fr. Julian Tenison Woods, when they visited there to nurture the first Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart in NSW, added greatly to the sacredness of the site.

Perthville has been made more sacred by the faith, dedication and love of hundreds of sisters who for almost 150 years, have lived the Charism of the Josephites, to pray with and for the community, to roll their sleeves up and get stuck into the work of loving God and His people in a very practical way.

Perthville has been enhanced by thousands of young women who attended the boarding college, who lived within the walls of St Joseph's College, formed a family away from their own families, created lifelong friendships and had the opportunity of a first-class education.

The sacredness of St. Joseph's Perthville continues to grow and deepen, through the love and care of those who have been given the task of preserving the history of our dear sisters, and the members of the public who come to visit and learn more of the fascinating story of the courageous, faith filled, gutsy pioneer women, Our Perthville Sisters.

*Margaret Smith JA, Perthville*

## CLAIM THE DATE – JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

Dr Marie Crowley will launch her new book on the

# History of St Joseph's College Perthville

at 11am on Saturday 21st March 2020 at Perthville.

Associates who wish to attend must confirm their attendance by RSVP 02 8741 2335 or email [nsw.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:nsw.associates@sosj.org.au)

Lunch will be available (cost to be confirmed). After lunch a tour of the Heritage Centre will be conducted.

Overnight accommodation is available and may be booked following your RSVP to the above.

## SAVE THE DAY!

The History of St Joseph's College, Perthville by Marie Crowley will be launched at 11am on

**Saturday 21st March 2020 at Perthville.**

All ex-students and Associates are invited to take part in this long-awaited event and to spend the day at the College. Lunch will be available.

Marie Crowley

## JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES (NSW) INC

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2019**

Venue: **St Joseph's Regional Centre** (Providence Place),  
5 Alexandra Ave Croydon 2132.

Tea and coffee on arrival: 10 am – 10.30 am

Welcome and Opening Prayer: 10.30 am

Kelly Vance: *'Transforming Lives through Education in Timor Leste'* 10.45am

Lunch: 12 Noon

Financial Report, Governance positions 2020-2021, open forum.

Lucky Door Prize: 2.00 pm

**JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE**

**NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 16th AUGUST 2019**

RSVP TO THE JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES OFFICE

BY PHONE 02 8741 2335

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

## JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES NSW INC

Notice is given of the forthcoming election held every two years

### Election for the Governance Group 2020 – 2021

According to the Constitution of Josephite Associates NSW Inc 17(a) nominations are called for the following governance group positions –

#### President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Nominations shall be made in writing, signed by a Member accompanied by a written statement that the Nominee has been contacted and is in agreement with the nomination.

Nominations and voting are open to financial NSW Josephite Associates only.

#### Nominations close Friday 26th July 2019.

Please forward nominations to:

The Returning Officer, Josephite Associates NSW Inc  
PO Box 184 Croydon NSW 2132.

## A Day in the Life: Prison Ministry

On passing through security with personal, and clear plastic bag scanning complete, one collects her keys, duress alarm, and signs in. It's then out into the prison proper, not knowing what the day may hold regarding the residents, nor the situations that may have occurred prior to the day.

For me it's coming into a space where I meet Jesus, broken and poor, walking the Via Dolorosa on the way to judgement day. I see the role of chaplain as being that of Simon helping to carry the cross, trying to lessen the load.

Each visit I make is unique to that resident where in listening to him I offer whatever support I can. Its like I am tending the soil, to allow more nourishment for the plant, the resident. Our support is about helping the person to try to feel a sense of hope for his future. I believe it's important to help him understand that whatever has brought him to this place in his life, does not define who he is, but is a part of him. No person is free from making mistakes, but the important thing is to learn from them.

As a chaplain I attempt to help the resident identify where life started to go off the rails and to encourage them to seek help in working through those issues. It's about helping to build or rebuild their self-esteem and self-confidence, encouraging them to believe they can achieve what they desire in life. Discussions around choices, not only on life matters, but also friendship groups and sometimes family are challenges they often mention, along with the 'band-aid' solutions they seek through alcohol and drugs; either, or both.

I find this ministry to be very grounding, as I listen to the resident's stories and realise what is shared could be so for any person, given the right circumstances and the right buttons pushed. It can be challenging and at times frustrating but it's not about me it's about those on the inside.

Working with staff in a respectful manner has brought respect in return. I believe the prison values our services and sees us as part of the prison team. We have a regular meeting with the Assistant Superintendent Offender Services and our Coordinating Chaplain attends Debrief meetings each Monday and Friday morning with senior staff. We are also included in the daily PRAG meetings for the men in the Critical Care Unit, or on ARMS watch.

This prison is a remand, maximum, medium and minimum facility catering for around 1200 men. The men are remanded here until they are sentenced, then come back to be assessed as to which prison would cater for their sentence requirements.

Each time I visit the prison I feel a deep sense of gratitude for my faith. It's a very humbling and privileged ministry.

Liz Koziol rsj

Extract from enews 8/5/2019



'Seek first the poorest and most neglected parts of  
God's vineyard'

Mary MacKillop -1900

'Do not seek to be regarded as anything but the  
servants of the poor'

Rev Julian Tension Woods – 1887

# First steps towards the Foundation of the Order

Father Julian Woods: First steps towards foundation – little did they then dream.

On 19th March 1866, Julian Woods and Mary MacKillop took their first tentative steps towards the foundation of the Institute [1] of Saint Joseph. Mary who had charge of the catholic school in Penola, indicated her commitment by wearing a black dress. Years later she described it to the Sisters thus:

*Twenty-five years ago, we first kept up St Joseph's Day as the special Feast of our proposed Institute and little did either of us then dream of what was to spring from so small a beginning....but we said little beyond wondering, whom God would call to assist us and how He would make the way clear. [2]*

Within six months the way had become significantly clearer. In August 1866 Julian attended Bishop Sheil's episcopal consecration in Melbourne. Soon afterwards he informed Mary:

*I am appointed Director of General Catholic Education, Chairman of the Board and Inspector of Schools throughout the diocese. [3]*

He could scarcely contain his delight for now he was to have sole control of Catholic Education in the diocese and thus, had received, *suddenly and completely, the means of establishing the religious for poor schools. [4]* In his excitement the words tumbled from his pen and, although he was sad at having to leave Penola, the future held much promise.

Then, on 21st November 1866, Blanche Amsinck, a governess from Western Victoria, became the second woman to commit herself to becoming a Sister of Saint Joseph. Just after New Year, she wrote to Mary:

*There are two Sisters of St Joseph now, and we must pray most earnestly that God would increase our number. I do so long to be professed.....So, Mary, it rests with us, and oh! How I wish we were real Nuns. We have many obstacles to surmount before the Convent can be established but faith and prayer can remove mountains. [5]*

Mountains were moving for, within a week of Blanche's writing, Bishop Sheil had tacitly approved the new foundation by addressing Mary as Sister. At once Blanche adopted the same title. [6] Little did they dream that further dramatic change was afoot!

Woods, who had moved to Adelaide in April 1867, soon realised that he needed Mary's expert help in managing the schools. Then he faced a dilemma! As he announced that the Sisters of Saint Joseph were coming he realised that his Sisters, by this time all three of them, were not wearing an easily recognisable religious habit and did not have a written rule of life. [7]

Wisely, he left the decision regarding the sisters' dress to these women, but he took full responsibility for drawing up their Rule of Life. According to his Memoirs, *'it was written by him in a couple of days in May 1867.'* [8]

He then sent it to his three Sisters, instructing them to copy it out in full and send him their copy. His reason-some of the clergy were throwing *'deluges of cold water'* on his idea and he did not wish to draw their attention to the fact, that he was the one who had written this Rule. [9]

In late June Mary and Rose arrived in Adelaide and undertook the management of the local Cathedral school. Parents were delighted, and enrolment increased dramatically. Thanks to Woods' enthusiasm, more young women joined the Institute. By the end of 1867, it had ten members teaching in three schools and managing a Refuge for women recently released from gaol. The future looked promising indeed!

On 17th December 1868, when the Institute had fifty members teaching in nine schools and managing three charitable institutions - a Refuge, an Orphanage and a House of Providence - Bishop Sheil approved Woods' Rule for use in his diocese and agreed for it to be printed. Matters were moving much more quickly than any of them had ever dreamed.

Sr Marie Foale rsj

Extract from enews 11/5/2019

Footnotes: [1] The word Institute is used in this article because, during those foundation years of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph it was, in fact, known as the Institute. The word Congregation was not used until many years later. [2] Mary to the Sisters on the Silver Jubilee of the Congregation, 4th March 1893. [3] Julian to Mary, 19th September 1866, *Mary & Julian, Their Letters, 1862-1868*, Trustees of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, 1989. [4] Julian to Mary, 19th September 1866. [5] Blanche Amsinck to Mary from Mount Gambier, 3rd January 1867. [6] Mary to Julian, 2nd February 1867. [7] Their third member was Rose Cunningham who donned the black dress on 3rd May 1867. [8] Woods Memoirs, typescript copy without page numbers. One can only wonder how he managed to produce, by hand, a document of more than 7,000 words in a couple of days. [9] Julian to Mary, 23rd August 1866.

## 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**.

Cost \$3575-\$4390 (twin share) depending on capital city of departure. Single supplement all areas \$685.

Further information:

*email national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au*  
or Tel: Sr Therese Leyden rsj 0417 683 123,  
or Sr Annie Bond rsj 02 8912 4818.

## JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES (NSW) INC.

### KINCUMBER RETREAT

**18TH – 20TH OCTOBER 2019**

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

**Facilitator:** To be advised

**Eucharist:** Sunday morning at

Kincumber South Parish Church – 9am

**Cost:** \$220 for retreat, accommodation and meals

**Venue:** St Joseph's Spirituality Centre

8 Humphreys Road, Kincumber South 2251

Phone: 02 4368 2805

**Arrival:** Friday afternoon from 4 p.m.

**Departure:** Sunday afternoon after 2 p.m.

JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES WISHING TO ATTEND

MUST APPLY FOR AN APPLICATION FORM

BY PHONE TO THE JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES OFFICE CROYDON

**PHONE: 02 8741 2335**

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

OR BY MAIL P O BOX 184 CROYDON NSW 2132

Dear Associates,

In October this year the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart will hold their 27th General Chapter and we would appreciate the support of your prayer as we prepare for and conduct this Chapter which will set the pathway for the next six years of our Josephite life and ministry.

The opening Eucharist will be celebrated on 29 September 2019 and the Chapter event will follow from 30 September – 15 October 2019. It is a time to celebrate what God has been doing in and among us and a time to discern together the next phase in our journey of living the Gospel with a Josephite heart.

We invite you to join us in prayerful support of our Chapter Journey as we endeavour to “Raise the Powers of Love” (Teilhard de Chardin) and “Go and Do the Same” (Parable of the Good Samaritan).

Wishing you abundant Blessings

*Sr Mary Ellen O'Donoghue  
NSW Regional Leader*

## Chapter Prayer

God, Power of Love,  
accompany the Sisters of St Joseph  
into a new phase of Congregational life  
leading to their General Chapter.  
Prompt their generosity and honesty  
their trust and openness  
their imagination and vision  
for mission and communion.  
Help them to listen to one another,  
to the world around them,  
to what they have not yet thought of,  
to the clarifying of truth.  
Alert them to prophetic voices  
as they humbly enter into the journey  
the better to glimpse your presence  
the better to appreciate one another  
the better to feel the Spirit  
inviting, prompting, healing  
raising the powers of love.

**Amen**



## What attracted me to Josephite Life

In the 1950s, I was a young person in school. I was taught by the Sisters of Mercy in Primary school and the Josephites in Secondary school as far as the Intermediate Certificate. Upon leaving school I was employed in various places, doing mainly clerical work and studying at night for the Leaving Certificate. I enjoyed being a member of a big family and was reared in the Western Suburbs of Sydney. For us social life was very much intertwined with Church activities, and friendships grew out of association in clubs such as the Catholic Youth Organisation and the Over 21 Club.

Whilst I was satisfied with my employment prospects and had quite a busy life socially, there was a growing realisation within me, that I was being drawn to Josephite Religious Life. Josephites had been part of our family life over a long period because three of my father's sisters and two of my cousins were already Josephites.

My call, however, came as a surprise, as I had not entertained the thought as a younger person and, when asked by my Josephite aunts whether I thought I would become a nun, I had always indicated that I wanted to marry and have children.

The Josephite style of Religious Life appealed to me as the Sisters lived in ordinary houses among the people and served the poorer classes in both city and country areas. My aunts often talked about small country schools where they taught, and I was fascinated to learn where these places with strange names were located.

To withdraw from my social and working life and explain to my friends and colleagues that I was going to enter the convent was not an easy task. People who were not Catholic and had little or no understanding about my decision but were curious and asked many questions. My family was very supportive, and friends, although they knew what Religious Life was about, were varied in their response. In all of this, I believe that the call to Religious Life is quite a mystery. God takes the initiative and allows the realisation to grow. If the call is genuine, God makes the pathway possible and although one may meet many obstacles along the way, somehow the courage and insight is given to enable one to overcome whatever might block the way.

I have been privileged to celebrate fifty years (in 2017) of Religious Profession as a Josephite Sister. These years have been an adventure. I have served in many places in New South Wales, including some country towns with strange names! I have lived interstate and visited our Sisters on mission in the Kimberley Western Australia, Peru, Ireland and Scotland.

The work we do as Josephites is very important, but I know the call to Religious Life is a gift from God which is renewed daily. In response to this daily call it is imperative that I am faithful to a life of prayer and reflection which enables me to discern within myself what God is asking at any time and to respond with generosity and joy.

*Christine Rowan rsj  
Extract from enews 3/8/2017*

### 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.

### 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

## News from Bangalow-Mullumbimby- Byron Bay Associates

The Bangalow-Mullumbimby-Byron Bay Associates held their annual street stall in Bangalow on Friday 3rd May 2019. After months of being drought declared, we have had some lovely rain over the past month and the week leading up to our stall, rain was predicted until Friday. The day dawned overcast, but not raining. We set up at 7.30am ready for an 8am start and to conclude at noon. Some drizzle on and off during the morning may have kept some people away and this was reflected in our results being down about \$300 on last years tally, but we still made a very respectable total of \$1,632.80. The stall raised \$893.80 and our raffle of three grocery hampers raised \$739.00. The proceeds have been forwarded onto 'Mary MacKillop Today' to help provide education resources for the children of East Timor.

Each year the generosity of the people of our parishes who provide cash donations, as well as craft, plants and home baked goodies to sell on the stall, as well as the generosity of the people of Bangalow, astounds us!

On a sad note another of our members, Pattie Phillips, who has been cared for in Coolool Villa since early 2012, went to her eternal rest in mid -April. Her husband and family are remembered in our prayers. This is the second Associate to have died this year. We lost Ruth Slattery ages 97 in late February. Eternal rest grant onto them O Lord, let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

*Jan Lang JA, Mullumbimby*

## News from Coolool Beach

Margaret Webb-Musch a member of the South Lismore Group due to illness in 2016 has moved into care in sunny Queensland at Coolool Beach.

A great change for her following a severe heart attack. Margaret still wishes to receive the Newsletter and keep up-to-date on all Josephite Associate news.

Some advice for all of us from Margaret *'My prayers are for the success of the turn around of the Church and back to following God's commandments, which seemed to have gone out the door, leaving so much evil in this world now.' 'I think there is a big lesson to be learnt, in God's favour, if we just listen to Him and get back to square one with PRAYER.'*

*Margaret Webb-Musch, JA Coolool Beach*

## News from Molong

Our Associates group has dwindled due to age and some necessary movements away from Molong, all limiting the amount of 'Service' we are able to take on. 'Friendship' and 'Prayer' are now forefront for us – gathering each week for prayer together, sharing based on the day's Scripture reading and feeling strengthened by the support of each other. Those of us attending the Wellington Gathering enjoyed that very much.

*Shirley Philpott JA Molong*

The website for  
**Mary MacKillop Place, Mount Street, North Sydney**

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

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

## News from Lidcombe



Earlier this year our group was saddened by the departure of our spiritual leader Sr Marie Carson rsj, as she takes a sea-change to the beautiful fishing village of Eden!

Sr Marie was a true inspiration for all of us from the moment she arrived. Her Josephite spirit shone brilliantly, along with her enthusiasm and exuberant nature and zest for life.

Marie lived her Josephite spirit and was a wonderful example to our whole group. Always welcoming to everyone with her down to earth nature, a true and generous friend, with a wonderful sense of humour. Marie imparted new insights into our scripture readings from the 'Act Love Walk' book and gave a very moving and captivating session for Mary MacKillop's Feast Day, keeping us on track, caring for each one of us deeply. 'Never see a need without doing something about it' is how Marie lived out her religious life with the Lidcombe Josephite Associates.

Many special guests were invited to our Associate meetings to speak to us from the Josephite Missions, including the Seafarers, East Timor and Peru and a very appropriate one on 'Ageing.' Marie encouraged us to save tea tags, which contributed to purchasing two wheelchairs for disadvantaged children. Our group continues to collect used stamps for the Josephite Missions.

Every month though, we were never sure, which Mary MacKillop hymn Marie would choose from her extensive list, this depended on her little 'music box' which could be very temperamental.....

We thank Sr Marie for her generous devotion to our Associates group. We thank God for being blessed with her companionship and friendship every month for many years. We miss you so much!!!

*Rhonda and Tony Tanti JA's, Lidcombe*



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)

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in May, June, July, August, September and October 2019

## 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

Frances Canham (Daughter of Susan Canham Oatley Group)  
Betty Cavanagh (Prayer Member Perthville)  
Fatima Cham (Fairfield Group)  
Gwenda Fitzpatrick (Prayer Member)  
Shirley Gaynor (Prayer Member)  
Joan Giffney (North Sydney Group)  
Madge Green (Prayer Member)  
Yvonne Grady (Prayer Member)  
Aileen Hill (Oberon-Perthville Group)  
Jean Hogan (Oberon-Perthville Group)  
Lauriel Jamieson (North Sydney Group)  
Richard McCosker (Prayer Member)  
Norma Meyer (Moree Group)  
Allen Murphy (Orange-Perthville Group)  
Allan Opferkuch (Brother of Stella Cusack Moree)  
Ailsa Payten (Canowindra-Perthville Group)  
Patricia Phillips (Mullumbimby Group)  
Nancy Pleming (Goulburn-Perthville Group)  
Maria Querubina Moc (Fairfield Group)  
Ruth Slattery (Mullumbimby Group)  
Jean Tyers (Prayer Member Perthville)

## Prayer to Our Blessed Lady

Take my hand O Blessed Mother  
Hold me firmly lest I fall  
I am nervous when I am walking  
And to thee I humbly call  
Guide me over every crossing  
Watch me when I'm on the stairs  
Let me know you are beside me  
Listen to my fervent prayer  
Bring me to my destination safely every day  
Help me with each undertaking  
As the hours pass away  
And when evening falls upon us  
And I fear alone  
Take my hand O Blessed Mother  
Once again and lead me home.

Jan Weaver – Lalor Park JA

## News from St Michael's School Dunedoo

The legacy of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Father Tenison Woods lives on in the students of St Michael's School Dunedoo.

At our parish school mass to celebrate the feast day of St Joseph, 27 primary students were initiated into the Junior Joeys. They were given a badge by Sr Margaret Flood rsj, the principal of the school and Mrs Stella Hooper, the organiser of The Josephite Associates in Dunedoo. The students now proudly wear their badges each day at school.

The students pledged to commit themselves to learn about the spirit of St Mary of the Cross, Father Julian Tenison Woods and the Sisters of St Joseph and to do whatever they can to keep this spirit in their school.

Our aims are to be aware of the needs of others and always be willing to do something about it, through helping our school, our community of Dunedoo and the world outside our small town.

Some of the activities during the year are making Easter cards for the retired Sisters of St Joseph residing in Bathurst, visiting Kahkama House, our aged hostel in Dunedoo and making friendships with some of the residents, as well as making Christmas decorations to sell at the local markets later in the year.

The students will also be learning more about the work of Mary MacKillop International in Timor-Leste and Peru. Due to the ongoing drought in our area, we will not be fundraising for this important organisation but will be learning more about what these countries are like and how we can help in the future.

Thank you to Sr Mary Cain rsj for the help with our badges.

We look forward to helping our communities and living out the model of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.



Our Junior Joeys at our St Joseph's Day Mass

## 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 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,  
Tension Woods Avenue,  
Perthville NSW 2795

# JJAMM Gathering 2019

Provided below, is a reflection on the recent JJAMM (Joseph Julian and Mary MacKillop) 2019 school leadership gathering by students at MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale NSW.

JJAMM was an experience of a lifetime, we were encouraged to step out of our comfort zones, where we found ourselves stepping into an environment full of passionate Josephite leaders, bringing forward similar ideas and sharing similar visions. Being able to spend five days with such inspiring school leaders is an enormous privilege, learning from each other and building on our leadership skills in many structured activities and challenges. This enabled us to assist in exploring the gifts and challenges that come with being a leader.

Upon returning from JJAMM, we are looking forward to introducing the new ideas and opportunities that we have taken away from our time away and hope it will enhance the Josephite Spirit within our school community. Learning from the teachings of Joseph, Julian and Mary MacKillop and implementing them into our plans for the coming year.

Being part of such a passionate group of leaders, gave us an insight into all our school communities. All sharing a focus in creating initiatives towards different problem areas regarding social justice issues, ranging from Asylum Seekers and Refugees, Care for the Environment, and Caring for the Homeless. Our aim is to find solutions to these actions and causes, to assist those who need it, within our own communities and beyond the gates of our school.

We felt extremely proud to share with the leaders of other Josephite schools, Sr Jan, and her team, our school values, initiatives and programs that are built on the very foundations of the Josephite spirit. We received a positive response regarding our school's JUMP initiative and towards our efforts in improving housing affordability within our local area. Many shared our vision and are showing their support, by attending a rally with their school in Sydney that recognises the issue of homelessness. They also made a commitment to our goals by signing our pledge; requesting that NSW politicians ensure a new supply of affordable housing areas will be assigned in new estates (minimum 15%).

We cannot express enough our gratitude towards the Sisters of St Joseph, who created this opportunity for school captains within Josephite schools, our school for providing us with the opportunity to attend JJAMM and to Mrs Baxter for travelling this journey with us. This incredible experience has strengthened our leadership and allowed us to collaborate on new ways in which we can further appreciate and contribute to the Josephite Charism that exists at MacKillop Catholic College.

As students of a Josephite school we must uphold our Josephite hearts and empower others to make a difference in the lives of our neighbours in our school, local and broader community. We strive to continue the mission of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tension Woods by responding to our call for action and helping alleviate the needs of those suffering injustices. Ultimately, JJAMM has taught us both, that to be effective Josephite leaders we must utilise our ambition, skills and resources, to not solely be individuals with a dream, but be the agents of change.

*Lucy and Jack School Captains MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale.  
Extract from enews 7/3/2019*



## Inspirations for us from Julian Tension Woods

- We must love to be hidden and to go on our own simple way trusting in God.
- Cultivate prayer, meditation. Keep hold of this. No matter what else you neglect.
- Do not seek to be regarded as anything but the servants of the poor.
- Nothing makes us feel as charitable towards another as praying for them.
- It is God's own calm, quiet work, and let us do it in His own calm, quiet way.
- We are but images in the hands of God and must never act as if we are more.
- Be kind to all, be gentle, be very, very gentle.
- We must tranquilly wait God's time.
- We must pray and be at peace. Be patient, be firm and pray.
- We should have a great courage, a courage that rises with difficulties rather than being lessened by them.
- When in doubt, invoke the Holy Spirit and then do what you think best. Let nothing disturb your peace.
- It is not necessary that we should succeed in all we undertake.
- We grieve the Spirit of God when we lose courage, are timid, or allow ourselves to be anxious.
- Whether we search in earth or sky or sea, we are everywhere met by the vision of the illimitable.

*Rev Julian Tension Woods*

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