



Josephite Associates

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NEWSLETTER • Feb 2020

Dear Josephite Associates,

In welcoming you to 2020 I am mindful of the many Josephite Associates and Sisters of St Joseph, who are living in country areas of drought and now the unimaginable fires. I would have to say, 'this has brought our country to its knees.' You are all in prayer during this time of trial.

Reflecting on the Christmas story and 'Jesus born in a stable as there was no room at the inn' places those whose homes have been destroyed by fire in a similar situation. Where do they go now? Who is coming to their aid?

Perhaps the story of the 'Good Samaritan' eloquently written in this edition of the Josephite Associates Newsletter by Sister Susan Connelly rsj places this story in context. Is this our time as Josephite Associates to really understand the story of 'who is my neighbour?' Who and where can I assist those desperately needing my help, whether in drought areas, or families and friends suffering from the results of the devastating fires?

Having listened to 'talk-back' radio I have heard many heart wrenching and courageous stories. People responding and opening-up their homes to strangers providing food and accommodation, however, most of all the love of being a neighbour. Long may this love of our fellow human beings continue into the months ahead as Australians rebuild their lives.

The final address given at the AGM on Saturday 14th September 2019 as President of Josephite Associates NSW Inc is included in this Newsletter. What does this mean to all faithful NSW Josephite Associates? There is no change for each of you personally. The office is managed each Monday 10am – 3pm for any inquiry on 8741 2335. I am continuing to do the administrative work not with a title of President, but as the volunteer I have always been, until others are trained to manage the IT programs. Geoff Barrett chaired a meeting on 14th January 2020 with Josephite Associates to plan the way forward for Josephite Associates NSW, further details to follow.

Thank you to all Josephite Associates with whom I have had the privilege of meeting over the past ten years, whether personally, or by phone. I hope to see some who may be travelling to Perthville in March for the book launch by Dr Marie Crowley.

Every grace and blessing for 2020. 'Look back and see what our good God has done for us' Mary MacKillop 1880. 'Keep courage whatever you do. The best and strongest trees...are the slowest growing.' Rev. Julian Tension Woods 1875.

Whatever our need, God's grace is sufficient...His Power inexhaustible...His love never ending... With God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26.

- Leonie Bell JA
Croydon Office



Birth of Fr Julian Edmund Tenison Woods 1832

A child is born!

Autumn with its myriad colours of gold and red, could be seen in the countryside. And as the Woods family prepared for the cold of winter, another child was born into their family. Little did they realise that this child would leave England's shores at the age of twenty-three, go to a far-off country where his scientific ability, his way with words, his artistry with the paint brush, his musical talent, and his deep faith would have a profound influence on his new country of adoption, Australia.

This son, Julian Edmund Tenison Woods, was the fifth surviving child born to James Dominik Woods and Henrietta Marie St Eloy Tenison on 15th November 1832, at West Square, Southwark, England. James was working away from England, for *The Times*, when Julian was born. This must have been an anxious time for Henrietta without her husband's support, as they had already suffered the deaths of two children.

Those readers of *The Times* the day following Julian's birth, would have seen the announcement of his birth.

Nearly three months later, on 1st February 1833, Julian was baptised by Fr John White, a missionary priest. The baptism may, or may not, have taken place in the family home, but the record of it can be seen in St George's Cathedral, Southwark.

Julian's older siblings were, Edward, James, Nicholas and Henrietta. Three more children would complete the family: Terence, John and Charles. (Three brothers died when young).

Julian's father, James, was one of a family of six: three brothers and two sisters. While Henrietta, Julian's mother was the fourth daughter of Reverend Joseph Tenison, an Anglican clergyman.

The young couple, even though Irish born, were living near London and had been married in the Church of St George-in-the-Fields on 16th August 1819.

The newly weds moved into a house in West Square, a few hundred yards from the catholic church, and quite close to the southern bank of the Thames. It was a substantial house and the family lived at No 13 for seven years. With the gentleness of Henrietta, the education of James, the family grew up with love, care and learning, in a neighbourhood of poor and working-class people. From this tiny baby, Julian grew up to become a man of 'great simplicity, courtesy, quietness of manner, a quite cheerful voice and a ready kindly smile. The love he had for his family, Our Lady, and nature were huge influences in his life both as a child and an adult.

We celebrate with joy and thanksgiving, the death, 130 years ago, of Julian Edmund Tenison Woods; the child, the young man, the immigrant, the lover of creation, music, art, his faith and family, the founder, the priest.

- Colleen Power rsj. *Sisters of St Joseph Lochinvar.*
Extract from enews 15/11/2019

In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage

On Tuesday 22nd October 2019, 21 people arrived in Melbourne to participate in the National Pilgrimage – ‘In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop.’

During the time of pilgrimage, pilgrims had the opportunity to hear of the struggles, joys, hopes and dreams of Mary, her family and Father Julian Tension Woods and the needs of the early white settlers in this country.

While in places of significance in this story, pilgrims were invited to be conscious of the importance of ‘place’ and how this could impact on them if they allowed themselves to be present to it. At these places they took time to pray, in thanksgiving, praise, petition.

One of the significant places we visited was the home of Peter MacKillop’s, Mary’s uncle, at Lara near Geelong in Victoria. Peter owned this place and offered hospitality to Mary’s mother, Flora MacKillop, and Maggie and Peter, Mary’s brother and sister. Here pilgrims were invited to remember the hospitality they have received from others; the hospitality they have offered others and the ways in which they have experienced the

incredible hospitality of God.

Pilgrimage calls us to reflect on our own life and the revelation of God within it and the lives of others. Much time was given for pilgrims to intentionally enter into this reflection. As they heard the beginnings of Mary’s story and the influence of her parents in her life, the pilgrims were encouraged to look at their own beginnings and family life and how they have been shaped into the person each is today.

As this pilgrimage within the pilgrimage came to an end, a few pilgrims were invited to share what this experience meant for them:

What a great opportunity for personal and spiritual renewal through hearing about and experiencing the efforts and achievements of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tension Woods, despite their setbacks and challenges. Wish I had heard about it sooner! Kevin.

To walk in Mary and Julian’s footsteps has been a privilege. To feel the pain, the excitement, the joy and also peace has been such a journey, never to be forgotten. Terri.

Reflecting now on the Pilgrimage journey, it is no longer simply the journey of St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tension Woods, but I learned more about my own journey of life, how I had to leave my own country of birth behind and trust God that there was a new life ahead of me. God was with my family then and is still present to us now. Thank you for showing me the faith journey of Mary and Julian. Nick.

This pilgrimage of Mary MacKillop has given me the opportunity to listen to the stories of Mary and Julian Tension Woods as the layers have been peeled back on their lives, dreams, hopes and achievements. Through the collection of prayers, reflections and hymns of the past days, I have been provided with the opportunities to reflect on my life and drew on the patience of Mary MacKillop that she practised through the trials, tribulations and challenges of her journey. I pray that I may develop a stillness to become more aware of the love and compassion of Jesus in my daily life. Cathy.

Extract from enews 15/11/2019

A book for all those who went to school at Perthville

A new book on the history of St Joseph’s College Perthville near Bathurst will be launched at the small village on 21 March 2020.

St Joseph’s Perthville 1872 – 2017: Mary MacKillop’s first New South Wales School by former student Marie Crowley includes recollections from past boarders – some serious, some funny, some nostalgic and some sad. There are stories of tough times during the Depression and the Wars, of the freezing cold of Perthville winters, of frugal meals and basic sleeping accommodation.

The book begins in 1872 with the first small

Catholic primary school in the village. It then traces the history of St Joseph’s College, a boarding school for girls with most coming from rural and remote parts of New South Wales. It concludes with the final years of the College when it served as the boarding facility for MacKillop College – the Catholic Girls’ High School in Bathurst.

Ms Crowley came from a Trundle farming family. Her own experience as a boarder and careful research has enabled her to bring to life the memories and experiences of other students. Numerous photographs add to the story.

In the Foreword to the book another former Perthville student, Ursula Paul (nee Cahill), praised the book and its role in providing a comprehensive history of St Joseph’s.

‘As we open and read the 145-year life of St Joseph’s, we can see that Marie Crowley has not only captured the history of the period, but has also shown the spirit of those years,’ Mrs Paul wrote.

Whether you boarded at the College, attended the primary school as a day girl or boy or are connected to the Sisters of St Joseph, this book is for you.

St Joseph’s Perthville 1872 – 2017: Mary MacKillop’s first New South Wales School will be launched at 11 am on Saturday 21 March 2020 at Perthville. Cost \$35.00. All ex-students and friends are warmly invited. RSVP by 12 March 2020. A light lunch will be available for \$20 (no EFTPOS) but bookings are essential for catering purposes.

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Neighbours and Victims

This reflection was given by Susan Connelly rsj at the Opening Chapter Mass. It has been reduced and produced with her permission. Based on the Gospel of the Good Samaritan

‘And just who is my neighbour?’

The great saint and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was hanged by the Nazis just before the end of the War, always impressed on his seminary students, men and women, that the Gospel was directly addressed to them, to each one of them. The many questions posed in today’s Gospel are directed to us, to you, to me. We are asked in the words of the lawyer: ‘Just who is my neighbour?’

We’ve grappled with this story and its questions all our lives. We’ve lived it. We’ve heard it, proclaimed it. We try to grasp the strands of the story – the priest and the Levite – who weren’t ‘bad’ people, as opposed to the ‘good’ Samaritan. We see the bashed-up man on the side of the road, bleeding. We love that donkey, as so many of us identify with her. We’re glad there’s an innkeeper and that the Samaritan can afford two day’s wages to ensure the man gets a bed and some care. But has our familiarity with the story dulled its edge? Can we still discern the way Jesus cut through accepted norms of race, culture, politics and religion? Can we grasp the perennial newness of a story where the hero is someone who is NOKD (not our kind, dear)?

We’re told in the writings of Teilhard de Chardin that our call is not merely to bind up the wounds and ease the suffering of the world. Of course, Teilhard is not telling us not to do that, but he says that in this age we are not ‘merely’ to do that. What is he telling us? He’s telling us about a new consciousness, one where the love to which we are called is dynamised. That’s the word he uses in the passage where the quote for the Chapter comes from – the word is “dynamised”. We know about dynamic, dynamos and dynamite. We get the picture.

Jesus’ answer to the lawyer’s question has more to it than meets the eyes. The lawyer asks? ‘Who is my neighbour?’ meaning, ‘who is the one whom I must love alongside God, if I am to inherit eternal life?’

We know that attending to someone in distress is required if we are to love, as is shown in the parable. But the parable doesn’t actually say that the man set upon by robbers was the complete illustration of the ‘neighbour’ upon whom mercy must be poured. It does not make the victim of the crime the only focus.

Instead, Jesus changes the thrust of the question. He asks the lawyer ‘which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?’

An identity parade of three, one of whom acted as a neighbour. Who was it?”

Jesus introduces here another whole concept – the challenge to the prevailing view, which the lawyer shared, that some people are in and some are out, by virtue of their race, religion or some other feature of their lives. Some people are to be considered neighbours and some not. But the Samaritan - the ‘out person’ for a Jew – is presented as the neighbour, because his human heart was wrenched at the sight of the victim and he moved forward to help. The lawyer must have been affronted.

At this stage he knows what’s coming. He knows that mercy to the victim is going to be the standard of judgement of neighbourliness. But to think that he’s going to have to admit that the law has been fulfilled by his enemy. He asked? ‘who is my neighbour’ and the answer is this infuriating Samaritan.

In the story there are two victims, not one. We easily see that the bashed and bleeding one is a victim. But the Samaritan is a member of an annoying, despised, yet closely related group of renegades from just across the border.

He is the one whom the original audience would never have considered a neighbour, but the object of their self-righteous hatred, and vice-versa. Yet it is this one who is held up as the exemplar

of neighbourliness, responding in mercy to the near-dead victim. He himself becomes the answer to the lawyer’s question. He is the lawyer’s neighbour.

The Gospels have introduced a profound shift in human consciousness, one which we are still in the process of realising. We know who were the ones Jesus favoured – the victims. He identified with these least of humankind. His identification with victims and his death as one of them began a process of bringing humanity to a new consciousness. Despite enormous backsliding and betrayal of the revelation, humankind is gradually grasping the absolute value of the victim.

In the midst of the extraordinarily violent events of our time, it is a wonderful sign of hope that we moderns have enormous concern for victims. Rene Girard compared us with ancient societies, and the comparisons are stark. He says:

‘Our society is the most preoccupied with victims of any that ever was. Even if it is insincere, a big show, the phenomenon has no precedent. Examine ancient sources, inquire everywhere, dig up the corners of the planet, and you will not find anything anywhere that even remotely resembles our modern concern for victims.’

In this broadening human consciousness, we are recognising that not only are the oppressed and despised of the world our neighbours for whom our hearts are torn open. We also see more clearly that the very love which we desire to practise and so bring us into God, must turn us towards the ones we do not consider our neighbours. The other, even the enemy, we may find, is one who can teach us.

Jesus’ question forces the lawyer to admit that showing mercy is the criterion of acting as neighbour and therefore the fulfilment of the law. The story calls into question the religious and cultural concepts of ‘good and bad’, ‘insiders and outsiders’. It has the characters of the priest and Levite symbolising our constant tripping over our own structures and missing the point of being human. The structures are good and useful but can tend to become ends in themselves. Inheriting eternal life, or ‘living on the inside of God’ as one writer has put it, does not bow to systems or institutions no matter how religiously or culturally worthy.

Are there ways of doing things which we really think are set in cement, and cannot be changed no matter what, as the priest and Levite did? Are there structures of administration, compliance, fundraising, which take precedence over the victims we are called to serve? Are we so careful in observing religious, cultural and government legalisms that we miss seeing the victims?

(The next paragraph adapted by Sr Mary Fermio to relate to Associates, not Sisters on Chapter).

We are challenged to interpret yet again how to lift-up the victim and find there the one on the Cross. We’ll have opportunities to look at the stranger, the different one, and learn from them how to love. We are called to heed the questions of the times and of the scriptures and continue to turn our gaze toward the victim and allow the dynamite of the dead and risen one to explode in our lives once again, as we recognise our ever-present neighbour and ‘go and do the same’.

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre, Christianity and Evolution: Some Reflections on Science and Religion. Translated by Rene Hague, (Orlando: Harcourt, Inc., First Harvest edition, 1974 184.

2. Rene Girard, Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World. Translated by S. Bann and M. Metteer (Stanford, Cal: Stanford university Press, 1978), 429.

3. James Alison, “Like being dragged through a bush backwards”: Hints of the shape of conversion’s adventure, Charles Sturt University, 2010. <http://www.jamesalison.co.uk/texts/eng64.html>

Canonisation the Journey to Sainthood

Blessed John Henry Newman in St Peter's Square on Sunday 13 October 2019

Newman was born in London in 1801, the son of a London banker, and embarked on a life of religion while a student at Trinity College, Oxford. After becoming a fellow of Oriel College, he was ordained as an Anglican priest at 24 and was initially part of the evangelical tradition.

By 1833 he had moved towards high Anglicanism and was one of the leading lights of the Oxford Movement, a group of scholars who argued that the Church of England should restore some of the customs that had been abandoned during the Reformation. The movement published a series of tracts pushing their case, but the 90th tract caused so much opposition that the bishop of Oxford ordered the group to stop.

By 1845 Newman went into deep meditation, at last he was convinced that the Faith of the Apostles and Fathers was the Faith of Roman Catholicism. The Church of Christ was the Church of Rome. Embracing the Catholic Church as the 'One-Fold of Christ' Newman was received at Littlemore by Blessed Dominic Barberi on 9th October 1845. He bade his farewell to Anglicanism in a famous sermon, *The Parting of Friends*, but it led to Newman being shunned by his former friends and colleagues. He moved to Birmingham, where he founded England's first oratory 1849 – a society of priests – and eventually was made a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879.

'The Anglicans thought he was a traitor and a lot of Catholics thought he was a dangerous liberal.'

'Being made a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII was the acceptance that he was sound, solid.'

Since his death in 1890, Newman's influence has continued to grow.

At the Second Vatican Council, 1962-65 Abbot Christopher Butler (abbot-president of the English Benedictine Congregation) said that he felt 'Newman's spirit brooding over the council.'

He is referenced in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* a number of times, including in relation to conscience. Newman's emphasis on the primacy of conscience influenced both the Polish Pope John Paul II and the German Pope Benedict XVI,



Feast day 9th October

who wrote a dissertation on Newman. While Newman has been described as the imperial intellect of modern religious thinking, he was primarily a priest – both as an Anglican and as a Catholic.

As a young priest he worked for the people in his parish. As an old cardinal, he set out in icy weather to talk to the striking Cadbury workers, believing in the importance of personal contact as captured in his motto '*Heart speaks to Heart*' [*Cor ad cor loquitur*] model of deep and enduring friendship. One of his many outstanding qualities was his capacity for friendship. Jesus Christ radicalized that idea by teaching that a friend is one who would lay down his life for another.

In 1991 Pope John Paul II declared Newman "venerable", putting him on a path to sainthood;

Pope Benedict XVI, a Newman scholar, declared him "blessed" in 2010; and Pope Francis approved two miracles attributed to him, allowing him to become a saint in 2019.

'Prayer is to the spiritual life what the beating of the pulse and the drawing of the breath are to the life of the body.'

Pastoral Care Ministry with the Deaf Community – 'A Privileged one'

Every morning I get up to something new! I am a Pastoral/ Associate/Interpreter with the SA Catholic Deaf Community. My pastoral/interpreting skills come into play when I meet deaf people at appointments, which I, as a hearing person attend.

Within Church Life there are times when I interpret at Eucharist, Funerals, Marriages and Baptisms. My interpretation provides the Deaf Community with an understanding of what is happening. Sometimes, my presence at a family funeral enables the deaf person to 'hear' (using sign language) something about their family member for the first time. To see reactions on the person's face when they 'hear' this information, which a hearing sibling knew, makes my ministry important. My work as an interpreter enables a deaf person to have access to whatever a hearing person experiences.

My ministry is not only to the Catholic Deaf Community, as I have the opportunity to be Ecumenical. Being a Josephite in this Ministry allows me to bring God's Kingdom alive in a 'hidden,' 'silent' world.

My pastoral/interpreting skills lead me into many areas of life that require me to be compassionate. In one situation I had to give news to a man and his family that chemotherapy was not helping and there was nothing more that could be done for him. It was hard to walk away from a situation like this as it really tugged at my heart 'strings.' However, as a professional interpreter I had to.

Fortunately, the man was a member of our community and I was able to journey with him and his family as he prepared to die. It is in situations such as this that I realise that my ministry is truly 'a privileged one.'

My ministry is vast and varied and what I've learnt over the years is that I cannot do or be without my God. I love the challenges that face me each day and the reward of knowing that I've tried my best to give a deaf person access to something that, in the past, I have taken for granted – the message that I hear.

*- Marjella O'Sullivan rsj
Extract from enews 18/3/2019*

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

14th September

I have a friend who exalts the Cross all year round - Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj of the Sisters of St Joseph of Lochinvar, NSW. Since 2006 Dorothy has painted over 700 crosses for Catholic Schools and Parishes.

A Cross's significance is carried almost automatically, its shape alone being enough to remind many of Jesus. As the signature marked upon the bodies of the baptised, the Cross holds a sense of Christian belonging for many. It is like a 'north-south-east-west' blessing from across God's universe, 'in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit.'

A Cross denotes the death and sacrifice of Jesus, executed in consequence of all he had said and done to free people from fear, judgement and exclusion.

For the believer, the Cross proclaims how Jesus accompanies human beings on the 'crosses' of their own painful experiences. The cross shows how, by example, Jesus' life saves human living from the miseries of selfish, competitive and abusive patterns of power over others. His way of responding to God's call was authentically human and Godly. His compassionate, merciful, inclusively healing ways of relating with others reveals all that.

The Cross proclaims that his life was not only *taken* cruelly but *given* freely 'for us' as he invited others to be 'at-home' here on earth and forever with the God he called Abba.

Dorothy's crosses are not blank. They also carry carefully selected images of human life and meaning-making in particular contexts. They express the fulfilment of Jesus' promise: I will be with you always. (Matthew 28:20).

Consider one example (pictured) the Cross painted for St Joseph's School, Merriwa in the Upper Hunter, depicting respect to the Wiradjuri people's presence on the land long before the pastoralists settled in the 1820s, and draws attention to ancient hand-prints still visible near Merriwa. The Cross also hints towards ongoing sorrow for past experiences of inter-cultural pain.

The Cross features St Anne's Catholic Church built between 1879-81 and the emblem of the Lochinvar Sisters, the founding teachers of St Joseph's School from 1885, just two years after their young Order's own founding. Pastoral life is depicted through images of wheat, cattle and sheep farming and horse breeding, all subject to the sometimes-painful rhythm of seasons and fluctuating markets.

Finally, there is the honouring of the community's joyous annual celebration of itself in the 'Festival of the Fleeces' with its unique 'running of the sheep' in red socks knitted by willing locals.

Whilst Dorothy's Crosses do tell of Jesus' life and death in human history, they also exalt the eternal Christ's presence in the real circumstances of the here and now, the past and future of people's lives.

In her artistry, Dorothy gives expression for that famous stance beginning Vatican II's Pastoral Constitution, *The Church in the Modern World*:

The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well.

- Virginia M Bourke rsj Extract from *enews* 14/9/2019



News from Blacktown

The Blacktown Josephite Associates chose for their day of sharing together 'The Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents' 8 Greyfriar Place, Kellyville NSW 2155.

The shrine had humble beginnings in 1993 when the friars created a Garden of the Immaculate with a lovely Marian grotto and a rustic timber chapel. The first Mass for the sanctity of life and protection of unborn children was celebrated in the Garden in May 1994. This Mass is still celebrated on the last Saturday of each month at 11am.

The building of the new shrine chapel dedicated to the Holy Innocents began in November 2011. It took two years to see the dream become a reality through the generosity of the parishioners of Our Lady of the Rosary in Kellyville and several local benefactors. Other donations came from all over Australia from supporters of the Conventual Franciscan newsletter 'The Little Troubadour.'

The Franciscans continue to develop the Garden of the Immaculate as a place of prayer, reflection, and healing. The garden includes near life-sized hand-carved marble Stations of the Cross, St Michael the Archangel Shrine and Bell Tower, the shrine of Our Lady of Grace, Divine Mercy Shrine, The Franciscan Crown Rosary Garden, the shrine of St Joseph and the original memorial for children lost to abortion.

The Associates gathered for prayer in the chapel, followed by a delicious home cooked morning tea prepared by Lyn Griffiths. Ample time for all to enjoy an easy walk to the Stations of the Cross, shrines and landscaped gardens. All aboard the mini bus for lunch at the Lynwood Country Golf Club, Pitt Town. A great day was enjoyed by all.

- Antoinette Mangion JA Blacktown

News from Tamworth

On Sunday 24th March St Josephs School West Tamworth celebrated their centenary 1919 – 2019. One hundred years ago four Sisters of St Joseph came to West Tamworth and commenced classes on 30th March 1919. At commencement, the school accommodated 100 pupils ranging from Kindergarten to Third Year. The Bishop of Armidale Most Reverend Michael Kennedy concelebrated Mass assisted by Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman and expupil Fr Ross O'Brien. Morning tea organised by School Principal Mrs Katie Hanes and her staff was served in the original classroom, where a wonderful display of old school photos and memorabilia was enjoyed by past and present pupils as well as about twenty Sisters of St Joseph, Parishioners, Priests and Josephite Associates.

A formal luncheon was then held at West Leagues Club. Two of the oldest expupils both in their nineties cut the centenary cake, they were Shirley Hobbs and Norma O'Brien who both started school in 1933. They have been Associates for many years. Fr Ross and Norma's mother Dallis O'Brien nee Kennedy was one of the first pupils on that day in 1919 along with Rene Bowler nee Tillot and Mary Cannon nee Maher. The Dallis's six children, seven of her grandchildren and two great grandchildren were pupils over many years and two of her grandchildren are at present teaching at St Joseph's. Several girls who attended St Josephs school West Tamworth went on to join the order of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, as well as other orders, it was lovely to see some of them at the celebrations. St Josephs is the most common school name in our Diocese, we have Sisters still ministering in some Parishes. We continue to be grateful for their work. Saint Mary MacKillop would be pleased with our progress over the last 100 years built on her foundation work.

- Cheryl Lavell, JA Tamworth

[More Tamworth photos page 8](#)

The story of the Sawtell Parish relic

Mary MacKillop, St Mary of the Cross, was born on 15th January, 1842 and died on 8th August 1909. This year marks the 110th anniversary of her death. Following her death on 8th August 1909 Mary was buried in Gore Hill Cemetery, Sydney, where, often, people would remove some of the earth from her grave to take home and place in their garden as a means of keeping her close to them. Her kindness and compassion to all she had met would never be forgotten.

A newly built chapel, at North Sydney, the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel was completed in 1914 and it was decided that Mary's remains would be exhumed and transferred to a specially built vault in the chapel in front of the altar dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Thousands of people turned out to follow the corsage procession, walking the many miles between Gore Hill and North Sydney. Finally, in the chapel, and surrounded by the Sisters of St Joseph, her simple wooden coffin was lifted onto a white sheet before being placed in a lead lined coffin prior to internment in the newly dedicated vault. As the undertakers worked, due to the years of the simple original coffin being in the earth, pieces of wood began to fall away. One of the sisters tenderly gathered those pieces together, the burial was completed and the sheet containing the broken pieces of wood was put away and safely kept by the sisters at their convent in North Sydney.

In June 1995 Mary was beatified by Pope John Paul II. Following the Beatification, Sr Fidelis suggested to our Boambee Josephite Associates that we might write to the Sisters in North Sydney and request, if possible, a small relic of Mary MacKillop, to have in our parish church. Some weeks later, a parcel arrived, and packed inside was the relic - a piece of the original coffin that contained her body at Gore Hill. What a great honour and a wonderful surprise!

The arranging for the framing and presentation of the relic quickly took place and, following a celebration Mass, on Mary's anniversary, 8th August 2009, the picture was installed in the position it has now in our Sawtell Parish Church. A small plaque underneath the relic confirms that this is a true piece of her original coffin.

In February 2010, after evaluating the testimony of an Australian woman who claimed that her terminal cancer had disappeared after she called upon Mary MacKillop in prayer, Pope Benedict XVI recognized Mary MacKillop as a saint. She was canonized that October. Sawtell Parish is very proud of the relic of our first Australian saint.

- Boambee Josephite Associates

Boambee Josephite Associates December 2019

On Saturday, 24th November, we held our final meeting, for the year, at St Joseph's Convent and, with Fr Michael, celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving before enjoying a shared lunch in the very beautiful and peace filled convent garden. Our thanks to everyone who has supported our group throughout the year especially our Parish Office staff who are always very willing to assist us in any way. We have certainly enjoyed having our meetings throughout the year with the new facilities in our parish annex. Our thanks to John, Bill and Roy who, in the background and behind the scenes 'fetch and carry' and generally do anything that is required to assist the group and, special thanks to our Prayer Partners who, because of ill health,

old age or distance, cannot attend our meetings but pray for our group each day.

During November, myself and Maree Payne, had the privilege of representing the 'senior Associates' as we joined with 18 members of the Junior Joeys Group for their final meeting of the year held at the Convent. Our Senior group presented each of the seven members of the Junior Joeys, who are leaving for high school, with a Mary MacKillop prayer card (and a bag of lollies) wishing them the best of luck and God's blessing in the future. Congratulations to Sr Fidelis and Kathryn Butcherine for their leadership of this very special and enthusiastic group of young people at our parish school.

Throughout the past year we have hosted parish celebrations for the feast days of St Joseph with Mass celebrated by Fr Michael and followed by morning tea in the gardens of Marian Grove. We also hosted our parish celebration of the feast day for St Mary of the Cross. Our thanks to all who attended these celebrations and to the staff and maintenance crew of Marian Grove for their support and assistance with the provision of tables and chairs.

We were all prepared to take part in the Sawtell Parish Fair which, due to the smoke and bush fire problems, has had to be deferred until next year where our stall will be bigger, brighter and even better.

Our group is growing and now numbers over 50 members with approx. 35 in attendance at each of our meetings. In March next year we will be officially installing two new members, and again in August on the Feast of St Mary of the Cross two more members will be Installed. Exciting times ahead!

The Boambee Josephite Associate group consists of parishioners and friends from Sawtell, Coffs Harbour and South Grafton parishes. We meet four times a year for a spiritual/social Saturday morning usually from 9am—12 noon at Mary Help of Christians Parish Annex. The aim of our group is to live the spirituality of Mary MacKillop in our everyday lives and we take as our motto her famous saying "Never see a need without doing something about it". If you would like any further information regarding our Associate Group here in Boambee please do not hesitate to contact either Sr Fidelis or any member of the Committee. You would be most welcome to 'come and see' at one of our meetings.

Wishing you all every blessing for the New Year.

- Mary McNamara (6658 6649)

On behalf of our Boambee Josephite Associate Committee Kathryn Butcherine; Carmel Kennedy; Sr Fidelis; Yvonne Burton

News from North Sydney

The very first time I saw Mary MacKillop's picture at St Felix's Primary School Bankstown, as a frightened twelve-year old migrant student with no knowledge of the English language, I was stunned and captivated by her kind eyes. Mary has been my strength, my spiritual inspiration, my teacher, but most of all my dearest friend throughout my life.

- Gabriella Spinetti JA North Sydney

At each meeting a piggy bank is passed around with the proceeds collected being donated each year. The collection at the end of 2019 was donated to the St Vincent de Paul Society in Narrandera. This donation has assisted four young farmers in the district, their wives and children. Each family has pre-school and school age children who are having a tough time as an effect of the drought. A letter of gratitude has been received from the local President of the St Vincent de Paul - Pat Grant.

- Rosina Rotunno JA North Sydney

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

Mila Bandur (Prayer Member Goulburn-Perthville)
John Barber (Former Director Sisters of St Joseph)
Jennie Brooks (Waterloo Group)
Win Buchholz (Prayer Member Perthville)
Noelene Byron (Prayer Member)
Ian Chapman (Former Director Sisters of St Joseph)
Denis Clarke (Lalor Park Group)
Dulcie Cullen (Prayer Member)
Genoveva Da Costa (Fairfield-Perthville Group)
Dorothy Gill (Mullumbimby Group)
Shirley Gorrie (Campsie Group)
Violet Harrison (Prayer Member)
Elizabeth Hawley (Portland-Perthville Group)
Laurel Jamieson (Prayer Member)
Kathleen Lord (Prayer Member)
Fr John McEneaney (Priest of the Maitland Diocese)
Sheila McNamara OAM (Quirindi Group)
Tess McWilliam (Coonabarabran-Perthville Group)
Edna Mack (Coonabarabran-Perthville Group)
Margaret Melinz (Mudgee-Perthville Group)
Pat Miller (Prayer Member)
Doris Teresa Press (Quirindi Group)
Christina Ryan (Prayer Member)
Moya Seymour (Portland-Perthville Group)
Frank Sultana (Cranebrook-Perthville Group)
Elizabeth (Betty) Tyndall (Goulburn-Perthville)

Suggestions for Lent

Fast from criticism and feast on praise
Fast from self-pity and feast on joy
Fast from ill-humour and feast on peace
Fast from resentment; feast on contentment
Fast from jealousy and feast on love
Fast from pride and feast on humility
Fast from selfishness and feast on service
Fast from fear and feast on faith

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

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 Warialda

The Warialda Associates had a great get together celebrating Mary MacKillop's Feast Day. The school Principal Joe Demech organised a special and very appropriate liturgy which the Associates attended, joyfully celebrating with the children in prayer and hymns. This was followed with 'a cuppa'. How appropriate for Associates!



- Anne Jones JA Warialda

News from St Therese Padstow Group

The Josephite Associates Padstow Group gathered for the first time on the 12th May 2011 with ten parishioners, six of whom were, or had previously been Catechists. Sr Margaret Keane rsj was very enthusiastic in ensuring Padstow parish had a Josephite Associates group and was the instigator in its commencement.

Sr Margaret was initially welcomed to the St Therese Padstow Catechist Group in February 1990 and has continued to maintain contact.

Sorry to say, our dear friend and mentor has now moved to Hunter's Hill. Although Margaret maintains good health, she is unable to attend our meetings. We miss her deeply, however, we are pleased to say the group continues to meet and share friendship together.

Grateful thanks for Therese and Bozena from the Josephite Associates Bankstown Group for joining us at our July meeting. God Bless you Sr Margaret Keane rsj!

- Jessie Grundy JA Padstow

The newsletter is now available on the Web, at
www.sosj.org.au/news-events/list_newsletters.cfm

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 2019 - \$65,000.

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

Presidents Address given at the AGM 14th September 2019

We give thanks today for our heritage as Josephite Associates – the Perthville Associates from 1979 and the NSW Associates from 1983.

A day of rejoicing, that Sr Angela Grant rsj is with us today. Associates have had the benefit of her spiritual guidance, wisdom and dedication since 1983. I thank you especially Sister Angela.

The Sisters of St Joseph have never left us neither spiritually nor practically. The NSW regional leaders formerly Sr Mary Quinlan rsj and currently Sr Mary Ellen O'Donoghue rsj have provided office accommodation for the management of the Associates. The Associates could not have survived financially without that support and are most grateful.

The leadership team of the Sisters of St Joseph here at Croydon have always been kind and given generous support. Sr Therese McGarry our liaison sister to the governance team has always assisted in numerous ways and in recent weeks with Sr Mary Ellen O'Donoghue they ensured all legal procedures were adhered to in the winding up of the incorporated works of the Associates.

Sr Lyn Rafferty rsj the IT expert at Croydon has on many occasions assisted. The Mary MacKillop International presentation on Timor Leste given by Kelly Vance would not have been possible without Sr Lyn ensuring the power point electronic system worked satisfactorily. Thank you, Sister Lyn.

Thanks, and gratitude are expressed today, that Eileen Stevenson, Maureen Rayner and I, have had the privilege of being a Josephite Associate, starting with the formation program in 2009 at Baulkham Hills, self-governance from the 17th September 2011 until today. Geoff Barrett is acknowledged for joining us on the governance team recently and preparing the History of Josephite Associates NSW Inc.

The governance team is not deserting the Associates. Our ages Eileen, Leonie and Maureen are preventing us from doing the physical work required to manage the office. Geoff Barrett is prepared to continue to assist in the future.

For the present, there will not be a November Newsletter, including a request for membership renewal.

The Kincumber retreat in October 2019 is unable to be held due to lack of support.

A newsletter in the new year February 2020 with the membership renewal is possible.

We are awaiting renewal which in time will be revealed. All groups and prayer members will continue as you have always done. The only change is to find Josephite Associates to manage the office, produce a Newsletter and complete administrative tasks. A small group will be formed early in 2020. I will be still be managing the office on Mondays 10am – 3pm until others replace me. There is a new leadership team for the Sisters of St Joseph here at Croydon for the next six years. I feel sure once they have settled in at Croydon, discussions will take place for the NSW Josephite Associates.

Why have Josephite Associates continued to grow in NSW from 1979?

The Sisters of St Joseph established Associate groups in NSW from 1979 inviting the laity to share in the Charism of St Mary of the Cross and Fr Julian Tension Woods.

This invitation from the Sisters was a gift to the laity, asking them to respond, in living their lives in Friendship, Prayer and Service as a Josephite Associate.

The simplicity of the call to lay people was the reason for the growth of the movement. Ordinary Catholics could resonate with this call, each to explore in their own lives on how to live out the Charism of the founders.

Each of you here today and those who are not present have responded to the call from the Sisters.

You are the soul of the Associates in attending group meetings, or as a prayer member, all of you, carrying out your committed prayer life, friendship and service in the spirit of Mary and Julian.

I believe your mission in life is with the Josephite Associates and thank all for persevering in Friendship, Prayer and Service.

I conclude with the words from our prayer space:

'Gratitude is the memory of the heart.' Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

'We must tranquilly wait God's time.' Reverend Julian Tension Woods.

- Leonie Bell retiring President of Josephite Associates NSW Inc
14th September 2019.

St Joseph's West Tamworth Centenary



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