



FRIENDSHIP
PRAYER
SERVICE

NSW JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

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

Phone 02 8741 2335

NEWSLETTER • March 2022

Reflection for NSW Josephite Companions

Dear Companions

We come to the beginning of another year. Believe it or not we are already almost three months into the year. We celebrated Christmas and all the feasts that the Christmas Season brings with it. This year we celebrate with family and friends though still with caution because Covid-19 still lingers.

One of my favourite Christmas feasts is the visit of the Magi to the Child Jesus, Mary and Joseph: The Epiphany. This year for Mass at my parish we had a visiting priest. In his homily he highlighted the fact that these three Magi followed a Star. They didn't consult the prophets but followed a gift of creation. In following this star, they reached their destination. Their darkness became light. He went on to say that after they left Jesus, they went another way. Yes, it was so that Herod wouldn't find the child but he said that now their old ways were gone. Their life had been transformed by what they saw. They wanted to go a new way.

I reflected that we are all stars. We were given this light as soon as we were born and we activated it in our baptism. We are stars leading each other to God. Sometimes the light is very dim and we seem to be walking in darkness but the star that is within us guides us until we can see that brightness again. Our life is transformed because we got in touch with the God who lives and moves within us. Imagine a starry sky on a fine summer's night. Imagine that we are those stars shining down on the world. The darkness becomes bright. We can make that darkness bright.

Now every time I look at the night sky I search for a star. It reminds me that this is my mission in life, to shine in the darkness for others and sometimes in my own darkness. Jesus told us that we are the light of the world and we have to let our light shine so that all can see it: 'No one lights a lamp to cover it with a bowl or to put it under a bed. No, it is put on a lamp-stand so that people may see the light.' (Luke 8:16) This is what Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods did. They allowed the light that they were given to shine and gave birth to the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart of which we are all part of. There were times when they had to face darkness, when they had to overcome difficulties that seemed impossible to conquer but they followed the star that was within and allowed it to shine brightly outside.

May we, like Mary and Julian, allow our light to shine within us, may we be stars for each other as we journey on this year.

- Antoinette Mangion



"We are all of us stars, and we deserve to twinkle."

- Marilyn Monroe

**'When I could not see my way,
God kept my heart full of trust.'**

Mary MacKillop 1874.

**'All created things give us ideas and glimpses
of the beauty of the infinitely beautiful Creator.'**

Fr Julian Tenison Woods 1881



REMINDER

Membership contributions are now due

NSW Josephite Companions Leadership Team

Antoinette Mangion, Geoff Barrett, Lyn Griffiths
Beverley Badcock
Anne Bailey, Aileen Young

Boambee Josephite Associates celebrate!



On a sunny Sawtell Saturday, 11th December 2021 a group of very happy parishioners came together to welcome new members into the Josephite Association.

Like most groups Covid has meant we have not been together and so there was much chatter and joy to share. The new members are from left: Kathy McWilliam, Brian McKinnon, Marie McGuire, Janet Courtney, Jenny Murchie, Janelle Ellen, Beth Schmal and Susan Bayliss.

Our group shares the charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop through friendship, prayer and service. It is a partnership with the Sisters of St Joseph and we are blessed to have Sister Fidelis living at the Josephite Convent in Boambee.

We were fortunate to have with us visitors from Sydney. They were from our parent group; NSW Josephite Companions Team. Antoinette Mangion, Geoff Barrett, Bev Badcock and Lyn Griffiths were amazed at the number of members in our group. They spoke of the commitment and fellowship they saw that binds the group together and expressed their ongoing support.



After the Mass our group also changed the Leadership team. We thanked the outgoing team: (from right) Carmel Kennedy, Yvonne Burton, Kathryn Butcherine and especially Mary McNamara who has been the leader of the group for 9 years. Her commitment and dedication to the work of St. Mary MacKillop in our community has been outstanding and we are grateful for the legacy she leaves us. We look forward to her guidance in the future. The new leadership group are Carolyn Mash, Kathy McWilliam, Lorraine Kirkaldy and Kathryn Butcherine is staying on. We ask God's blessings on our work in 2022.

We would like to thank Father Michael for being with us and for his support. We move onto the new year full of hope and optimism and with trust that we will be guided to where we are needed and never see a need without doing something about it. Thanks to Marie Davey for the photos.

- Lorraine Kirkaldy



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, PO Box 184

Croydon NSW 2132

Phone 02 8741 2335

Thank you for all stamps received.

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

By Courtney Mares is a Rome Correspondent for Catholic News Agency.

On New Year's Day, Pope Francis encouraged people to place their lives under the protection of Mary, the Mother of God.

"The new year begins under the sign of the Holy Mother of God, under the sign of the Mother. A mother's gaze is the path to rebirth and growth. We need mothers, women who look at the world not to exploit it, but so that it can have life," Pope Francis said in St. Peter's Basilica on January 1.

"At the beginning of the New Year, then, let us place ourselves under the protection of this woman, the Mother of God, who is also our mother. May she help us to keep and ponder all things, unafraid of trials and with the joyful certainty that the Lord is faithful and can transform every cross into a resurrection," the pope said.

Pope Francis' first public act of 2022 was to offer Mass for the Solemnity of Mary,



Pope Francis: Let us place the new year under the protection of Mary

Holy Mother of God.

In his homily, the pope said that the Virgin Mary teaches us how to "keep and to ponder," to reflect upon and accept life as it comes, in times of both joy and suffering.

"Mary's pensiveness ... is the expression of a mature, adult faith, not a faith of beginners. Not a newborn faith, it is rather a faith that now gives birth," he said.

"For spiritual fruitfulness is born of trials and testing. From the quiet of Nazareth and from the triumphant promises received by

SR. MARGARET KEAN RSJ.

It was with great sadness that the Companions of the Mullumbimby/Byron Bay/Bangalow Group learnt of the death of Sr. Margaret Keane who died on 13 November 2021 on her 91st birthday.

Sr. Margaret formed our group in 1998 in Mullumbimby and, in 2001, when she discovered that the Byron Bay/Bangalow group had not operated for 5 years, she invited them to join with us. She also started Associates groups in other parishes.

Our group attended a lovely Mass of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sister Margaret at

Mullumbimby on 29th November. Together with a eulogy there was a beautiful power point presentation with photos and comments of Sr. Margaret's time with us. Fr. David Gilbey, who was Parish Priest for much of her time in the parish, celebrated the Mass and also shared some memories.

Sr. Margaret was born in Ireland and following the death of her mother at a very young age, she was taken in as a boarder by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Three of her sisters, Ellen, Mary and Teresa had joined the Order and at the age of only 16 Margaret travelled to Sydney to join them. She completed her secondary schooling there and was professed on 6th January 1951 at the age of 20.

After many years of teaching in country NSW she took time out for renewal and reflection and then trained in Pastoral Care. After serving in 5 other parishes, she arrived in Mullumbimby in 1997. She set about with great energy and zeal doing everything from teaching scripture in state schools to organising all kinds of parish programs and social events.



She lived in the large Convent with Sr. Carthage and after Carthage (another Mullumbimby icon!) passed away in 2000 the convent was closed and Sr. Margaret was set up in her little house in Queen Street. She enjoyed very much being part of the Mullumbimby community and got to know more people around town than most long-time locals. She connected with so many people who responded to her energy and interest in them and their families.

She was a great organiser and had a job for everyone. She sometimes pushed us right outside our comfort zone often not taking "no" for an answer. Parishioners learnt to take responsibility for so many activities and the parish flourished while she was here.

She had the greatest faith. Always certain that God would look after her...or Mary MacKillop...or St. Joseph. Even in her later years she drove alone to Sydney for the holidays. When some of us expressed our concern about her driving all that way alone, she replied "Oh, St. Joseph will look after me". She frequently had us all saying novenas to Mary MacKillop for people who were sick or in need.

Sr. Margaret was posted to Eden at the end of 2002 but returned to Mullum in 2004. In 2010 at the age of 79, she had an operation in Sydney to remove a brain tumour. She recovered well enough to return to the parish and as she could no longer drive, she borrowed a mobility scooter. She zipped around town doing visits and still doing her bit for the parish. One day she drove up beside a little boy on the footpath and she said, "I'll race you!" The boy grinned at her and took off ahead of her. She suddenly realised there was a road up ahead and was afraid he may not stop and get hit by a car. To her relief he did stop. Obviously, the boy won! It just goes to show that after all she'd been through, she hadn't lost her sense of fun.

It was soon decided that she should move to Sydney to be near medical care. She loved Mullum and its people was very sad to leave. She said that when standing on Central Station one day she saw the Country link train come in and "I got an ache in my heart for Mullumbimby".

All up she served here for close to 14 years. She is remembered with great affection for her energy and zest for life and most of all for her deep faith which she continuously passed on to others. She will go down in parish history as one of our great characters.

Rest in Peace, Sr. Margaret, our parish is so much richer for having had you here amongst us.

- Pam Lang

the Angel – the beginnings – Mary now finds herself in the dark stable of Bethlehem. Yet that is where she gives God to the world."

The pope asked people to reflect on how Mary had to endure "the scandal of the manger."

"How can she hold together the throne of a king and the lowly manger? How can she reconcile the glory of the Most High and the bitter poverty of a stable? Let us think of the distress of the Mother of God. What can be more painful for a mother than to see her child suffering poverty? It is troubling indeed," he said.

"We would not blame Mary, were she to complain of those unexpected troubles. Yet she does not lose heart. She does not complain but keeps silent. Rather than complain, she chooses a different part: For her part, the Gospel tells us, Mary 'kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.'"

Pope Francis encouraged people to have the same attitude

of Mary when faced with unexpected problems or troubling situations.

"She shows us that it is necessary: it is the narrow path to achieve the goal, the cross, without which there can be no resurrection. Like the pangs of childbirth, it begets a more mature faith," he said.

After offering Mass, Pope Francis prayed the Angelus at noon from the window of the Apostolic Palace with a crowd gathered below in St. Peter's Square.

"Happy New Year! Let us begin the new year by entrusting it to Mary, the Mother of God," he said.

"The new year begins with God who, in the arms of his mother and lying in a manger, gives us courage with tenderness. We need this encouragement. We are still living in uncertain and difficult times due to the pandemic," the pope said.

Continued page 4

Mudgee Josephite Companions



As we come to the close of the year of St Joseph, Mudgee Companions joined together at a Communion Service.

We gave thanks and prayed with and for those who have suffered so much during this past year. It was important for those who were able to be together to offer support to each other given the disruptions throughout the year with Covid restrictions.

Our priests unfortunately were unable to attend as it coincided with the Diocesan Priests Annual Retreat.

The group are looking forward with much hope for a year where we are able to meet again, pray together and plan our community activities for the year ahead.

A shared lunch with Christmas trimmings was enjoyed by the group.

- Patti Kiddle

*We pray for the souls of our departed
Companion brothers and sisters*

Beryl Boden	Lalor Park
Richard Bowler	Tamworth
Shirley Burke	Tamworth
Liz Chifley	Bathurst
Joyce Comer	Gulgong
Lilia Contemplation	Lalor Park
Patricia Daihou	Mullumbimby
Col Fletcher	Moree
Eileen Heran	Bathurst
Brenda Howe	Prayer Member
Pat Hudson	Gulgong
Shirley Hobbs	Tamworth
Norma Johnston	Bathurst
Sister Margaret Keane RSJ	
Norma Ledingham	Prayer Member
Gloria McPhillamy	Bathurst
Lorraine Moore	Prayer member
Noelene O'Neil	Kincumber
Elizabeth Paul	Prayer Member
Richard Petchell	Gulgong
Brian Ryan	Coonabarabran
Josie White	Bathurst

Breathe with us

In a world of fault lines and fractures,
we stand in a place where opposites come together,
awaiting the birth of what is to come.

If you are doubting, welcome.

If you are healing, welcome.

If you are angry at injustice, welcome.

We await a new genesis,
one more beginning in a series of starts,
trailing backwards in time to the very first day.

If you are afraid, welcome.

If you are joyful, welcome.

If you are longing to belong, welcome.
God's generous rhythm of life, death, resurrection,
moving in and through all things,
the very breath and source of the cosmos itself.

Our pathways converge and continue,
each one of us a catalyst for loving action.

We, a community of saints.

Conspire.

Breathe with us.

Richard Rohr

Pope Francis

Continued from page 3

"Many are frightened about the future and burdened by social problems, personal problems, dangers stemming from the ecological crisis, injustices and by global economic imbalances. Looking at Mary with her Son in her arms, I think of young mothers and their children fleeing wars and famine or waiting in refugee camps. There are so many of them."

Pope Francis said that the thought of Mary holding Jesus in the stable is a reminder that "the world can change and everyone's life can improve only if we make ourselves available to others."

He recalled that January 1 marks the World Day of Peace, instituted by St. Paul VI in 1968.

"We can truly build peace only if we have peace in our hearts, only if we receive it from the Prince of peace. But peace is also our commitment: it asks us to take the first step, it demands concrete actions. It is built by being attentive to the least, by promoting justice, with the courage to forgive thus extinguishing the fire of hatred," he said.

"At the beginning of this year, may the Mother of God, the Queen of Peace, obtain harmony in our hearts and in the entire world," Pope Francis said.

We would like to thank all Josephite Companions who contributed to the membership and to JCoLT

Email Address

Have you had a change since your last advice?
If yes, please contact us with your new details at:
nsw.associates@sosj.org.au
Subject: Email address change

Companions' Office

PO Box 184 Croydon NSW 2132 (Letters only)
5 Alexandra Avenue, Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)
(02) 8741 2335
nsw.companions@sosj.org.au