

## SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH

**Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop** - Mary was working as a governess near Penola South Australia, when she met Father Tenison Woods. Together they founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in Penola, SA.

After a foundation was made at The Vale (Perthville) in 1872, Mary visited the Sisters on three occasions, twice in 1875 and once in 1876.

Mary died in Sydney in 1909. She was beatified in January, 1995 and canonised in October 2010.

**Julian Tenison Woods** - Born in London in 1832, Julian sailed to Australia in 1854 and in 1857 was ordained a Catholic priest in Adelaide. Father Woods first visited the Sisters at The Vale in 1872 and for the next ten years he continued to visit. Julian was also a gifted musician, writer, preacher, artist and scientist. He died in Sydney in 1889.

**Matthew Quinn** - Born in Ireland in 1821, Matthew arrived in Bathurst as the first Bishop of the Diocese in 1866. He invited the Sisters of St Joseph to make a foundation in the Diocese and to staff the schools he wished to establish. Bishop Quinn would not recognise the authority of Mother Mary as the Superior of the Sisters as he wanted to complete control. In 1876, after those remaining loyal to Mother Mary had left the Diocese, he established the remaining group of Sisters of St Joseph as a Diocesan Congregation under his authority. Bishop Quinn died in Bathurst in 1885.

**Sister Hyacinth Quinlan** - Bridget Quinlan was born near Clare SA in 1852. She joined the Sisters of St Joseph in 1868 taking the name Sister Hyacinth. She was a member of the founding community of The Vale in 1872. In 1876 she was appointed Leader or Sister Guardian of the group of Sisters who chose to remain in the Bathurst Diocese under the authority of Bishop Quinn. In 1880 she led a community of Sisters to New Zealand and in 1891 she moved to Tasmania where she remained until her death in 1933.



*Mary MacKillop embodied all that is best in your nation and in its people: genuine openness to others, hospitality to strangers, generosity to the needy, justice to those unfairly treated, perseverance in the face of adversity, kindness and support to the suffering. Think of Mother Mary MacKillop and learn from her to be a gift of love and compassion for one another, for all Australians, and for the world.*

Pope John Paul II - Sydney, 18-20 January 1995



## ST JOSEPH'S HERITAGE & CONFERENCE CENTRE PERTHVILLE

Tenison Woods Avenue  
Perthville NSW 2795  
02 6337 2420



### Hours

Week days 10.00am ~ 4.00pm  
First Sunday in the month ~ 11am-1pm

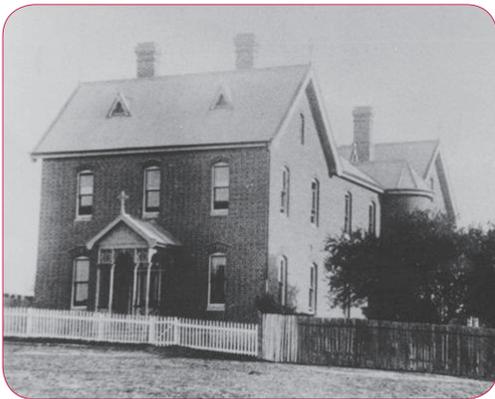
Other times by appointment

# BEGINNINGS

On 16 July 1872, Sisters Teresa McDonald, Joseph Dwyer, Hyacinth Quinlan and Miss Ada Braham, arrived at The Vale (Perthville) to make a foundation of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

They came at the invitation of Bishop Matthew Quinn who wanted them to establish convents and schools throughout the Bathurst diocese.

The Sisters of St Joseph were founded in South Australia in 1866 by Father Julian Tension Woods and Mother Mary MacKillop to meet the educational needs of Catholic families. Perthville convent became the first foundation of the diocesan Sisters of St Joseph and from here the foundations to Wanganui (New Zealand); Goulburn and Lochinvar (New South Wales); Westbury (Tasmania); Bungaree (Victoria) and Suain (Papua New Guinea) were made.



St Joseph's Convent taken in 1891 after substantial extensions to the original 1872 convent had been completed.

The original convent at Perthville opened in 1872. It consisted of the front ground floor rooms of the present administration building.

Although Father Julian Tenison Woods visited this convent many times between 1872 and 1882 and Mother Mary MacKillop visited twice in 1875 and came to the village in 1876, the two were never here together.

The site of the original church was part of the Cathedral parish of St Michael and St John, Bathurst. It served as convent, school and church and later as school and church for the first Sisters. About 1887, it was relocated to a nearby area where it continued to be used as a school until 1956.

The Classroom building, completed in 1913, consisted of three classrooms. For over fifty years these rooms provided a place of education for the high school students of St Joseph's College. Other classrooms were added in 1956.

St John's Church, built in 1886, was the place of worship for Catholics of the surrounding areas. It was used by the Sisters when they gathered at Perthville for prayer, the annual retreat and other significant meetings until a Chapel, attached to the convent, was completed in 1960.

The Sisters' first cemetery was located near the original church. In the late 1880s, the remains of the four Sisters buried there were re-interred in the present cemetery. Since then over two hundred Sisters have been laid to rest here, while another nineteen have been buried in other cemeteries.

The novitiate and training school was built in 1926 and extended in 1929. Here the Sisters were instructed in the religious life and over a period of two and a half years received their teacher training.

The bell was presented by Father Woods in 1875 and was located in several places before it was permanently hung in the tower of the Chapel in 1960. It bears the inscription *Our Lady of Dolours 1875*.



A bust of Saint Mary of the Cross by the sculptor Peter Corlett is the centrepiece of a shrine dedicated to the Saint and located in the Convent Chapel.



The foundation at Bathurst is chosen - a poor little school at Vale Road five miles from Bathurst. The Sacristy will be your convent at first, so we shall begin well!

Father Woods to Mother Mary MacKillop 19.4.1872