

IJALT Newsletter

February 2020



Greetings - Tena Koutou -

Saludos - Bon Dia

In this month's newsletter we have

- ◆ IJALT Chairperson Report
- ◆ A Reflection on St Joseph
- ◆ IJALT Meeting Report
- ◆ Information about the next Associate Conference 2020

God Bless

IJALT

Feast of St Joseph

As we move to celebrate Joseph's Feast day, these words from Elizabeth Scalia, a Benedictine Oblate (term used for 'Benedictine Associate') are worth reflecting on:

- ◆ Joseph was *righteous*;
- ◆ The righteous life he embraced developed his *faithfulness*;
- ◆ Faithfulness gave him *courage*;
- ◆ Courage permitted his *generosity*;
- ◆ Generosity let him grow in *wisdom*;
- ◆ Wisdom taught Joseph *kindness*.

Oh, that in 2020 the whole world would appreciatively make a model of this righteous, faithful, courageous, generous, and kind Jewish man. Indeed, with such an undertaking, 2021 might look very different.

[Elizabeth Scalia](#): Benedictine Oblate Editor in Chief of 'Word on Fire' 19th Dec 2019

International Josephite Associate Leadership Team

As we look back over the beginning of our new year we are very aware of the challenges that many across Australia and New Zealand have faced in recent months. Drought and bushfires have been significant across many areas of Australia, while the White Island Volcano in early December impacted greatly on New Zealand and beyond. More recently, the coronavirus outbreak is threatening to cross boundaries as it surreptitiously moves across continents. We hope and pray that all who are facing challenges around these events and others in their lives come to know, like Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, how great is God's love for each one of us.

Congregational News

As this communique is written Sr Monica Cavanagh and her team, namely Sisters Josephine Dubiel, Louise Reeves, Mary Ellen O'Donoghue and Clare Conaglen, have just become the new Congregational Leadership Team for the next six years. We congratulate Sister Monica who was re-elected as Congregational Leader. This is a great compliment to Monica as it acknowledges the Sisters' confidence in her leadership; we Associates have certainly benefitted much from her great support and wisdom over many years. In the 2020 Australia Day awards, Monica was also honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for Services to the Catholic Church! We offer her our congratulations on faithfilled and generous service over many years.

2020 is also a year of anniversaries. In January, IJALT met once again in Mount Street in Sydney. (This was our last gathering there for up to two years as the accommodation area closes down to enable new facilities to be built. The Chapel, Museum and café, however, will continue operating over this time.) While meeting, we recognized the 25th anniversary since Mary MacKillop was beatified on 19 January 1995: a great milestone in the story of Mary MacKillop and the Josephite family. Later this year, on 17 October we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Mary's canonization: a wonderful occasion that was celebrated joyfully across many places in our world. At our meeting we sadly 'farewelled' Sr Maryellen Thomas who has been our contact person from the Congregational Leadership Team over the past six years. Maryellen has enabled us to take on greater responsibility and companioned us wisely through this time. We are grateful for her confidence in us and her guiding support as we have taken considerable steps forward under her watch.

We wish both Maryellen and Monica well in their future endeavours and thank God for their truly valuable contributions and impact on the Josephite family of this time.

Mary Hemmings

Chairperson: International Josephite Associate Leadership Team (IJALT)

IJALT Meeting

At our Sydney meeting we again invited some other Associates to gather with us. We have done this for some time as it enables us to gain from their insights and experience and fellow Associates to share in our work. We were delighted to have Antoinette Mangion and Geoff Barrett from Sydney, together with Catherine Birt from New Zealand with us.

Our time together was very productive, planning our July Conference as well as finalizing details re our Handbooks which will be presented at our Conference. We have also determined that our IJALT Newsletter will be published twice this year, namely in February and in August. This will hopefully link more closely with each of the States/NZ posting their newsletters out to Associates at those times. We hope this aligning the times will ensure more efficient distribution of information.

We are in the process of establishing procedures regarding finance and will provide details in our August newsletter for Associates to contribute to our work. For some, this will be done by your Regional Associate team who have set in place increased fees; for others, you may choose to do this independently as your Regional procedures for gathering financial resources are done differently. Further details will follow in August.



‘BE COURAGEOUS AND FULL OF HOPE’

This is the theme of our upcoming Conference in Adelaide in July 2020. You are invited to come and share with fellow Associates as we explore how these words speak to us, in our Church and our world today. The Mary MacKillop Precinct in Adelaide, where the Conference sessions will be held, is where Mary and the early Sisters lived and where Sisters still live today. The Mary MacKillop Museum, recently reopened, includes a focus on the early Sisters who worked closely with Mary in those challenging beginning years. Time in the Museum will be included in the Conference.

Accompanying this newsletter is the Registration Form. Those coming to the Conference are asked to complete this to enable us to know who will be attending and for us to provide updated information in the coming months. Accommodation is off site but a shuttle service, by bus or car, will be provided between the suggested accommodation venues and the Conference site at Kensington.

(Artwork Credit: Jane Maisey rsj—designjane.com used with permission)

In our last IJALT communication that was emailed before Christmas (and which only some postal recipients received due to timing of newsletter distributions) *Expressions of Interest* were invited regarding a possible trip to Penola, the ‘birthplace of the Josephite story’. Due to logistics we are not able to undertake this for a group. Penola is 400 kms from Adelaide and very manageable if 3 – 4 people hire a vehicle from Adelaide for a couple of days. If further information to pursue this option is required to see this beautiful corner of SA, please contact us via the details available on our flyer.

We look forward to gathering with many Associates from far and wide, coming together to re-ignite our connections and commitment to God’s mission in the place where this great Josephite story became established: Kensington, Adelaide.