

# Associates News

Welcome to the **JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES QUEENSLAND** Quarterly Newsletter

Celebrating *Spring*— September 2020

***“Do all you can with the means at your disposal and calmly leave the rest to God.”***

Mary MacKillop (1891)

**W**arm greetings to all.

Those of us who are keen gardeners have been counting the numbers of buds from our winter planting and closely observing changes in growth and formation, in the hope that blossoms will come to fruition. As Spring arrives this year, we will see many of us also continuing to check the daily tallies of COVID-19 numbers and observing changes in the formation of the statistical curve. Buds remind us that there is something beautiful being formed which will blossom if given our nurturing attention.



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**FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SEASONAL NEWS PLEASE EMAIL:**  
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**During these somewhat unusual and perhaps anxious times for many, what buds of hope have you noticed recently in your life, that herald the potential for something good to emerge?**

Many of us have favourite “go to” sayings of Mary MacKillop from which we derive inspiration. The quote for this Newsletter seems to encapsulate for me the essence of many of Mary’s other sayings. The recurring themes of trusting in God’s providence, having courage, remaining calm and holding on to hope, permeate many of Mary’s sayings, letters and circulars to her Sisters. Aiming to be proactive, practical people of action, who respond to the call to address needs that we see around us, resides at the core of what being a Josephite Associate is all about. We respond to the call to live the charism of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods by always trying to “support one another by friendship, prayer and service, to make a difference in our local area and so further the reign of God.”

***“Do all you can...”*** At the Queensland Associates Leadership Team’s Meeting in Brisbane in March 2020, members reflected on the Josephite Chapter Statement, “Bring Me What You Have”, considering the implications for us as Associates with a focus on current realities. Key words from this Statement will be unpacked as themes for our newsletters in 2021. Inherent in the challenges of these uncertain times lies the certainty that our collective actions can make a difference to others when we personally commit to consistently embracing Gospel values and engaging in mission that is always other-centred.

**Which particular Gospel values are we called to embrace and activate during these times, when many around us are struggling in varying ways?**

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**“... with the means at your disposal ...”** There is a liberating sense of giftedness when one acknowledges and recognises that there are means at our disposal to be freely used, whenever and for whatever purpose we choose. For Josephite Associates, becoming at someone else’s disposal means that one is willing to help that person, in any way they can.

**What means are currently at your disposal to help someone in particular, creating possibilities for change, healing, friendship and service?**

**“... and calmly leave the rest to God.”** This is not a passive process. We watch and wait in anticipation, just as we would calmly observe our buds in Spring, in the hope that what is meant to be will blossom accordingly. When we do this, right before our eyes, great things happen at the appointed time.

**What are some things that we might need to leave in God’s loving care at the moment, as we watch and wait in anticipation?**

It seems appropriate at this time to reflect on Mary MacKillop’s words from 1891. This was a year of change and adaptation for Mary — a year of ups and downs, joy and sadness, new duties and roles, new projects, Anniversary celebrations and a bout of serious illness commencing late in the year. She travelled

constantly and extensively as the representative of Mother Bernard, the Mother General at the time. In March 1891 Mary wrote 25th Anniversary letters to all the Sisters and expressed her sadness at no longer having Fr Woods present to share in the joy and gratitude around all that had been achieved since 1866 at Penola. Plans for a new Chapel to be built at the Mount Street Convent, in memory of Julian Tenison Woods who died on 7 October 1889 and to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the Sisters, were well under way during 1891.

In 2020, we too are encountering the need to make certain changes and to adapt in a world with the COVID-19 pandemic currently on our daily radar. Mary MacKillop’s Feast Day on 8 August was celebrated differently this year. Although we were required to adhere to social distancing rules and certain restrictions, many were able to socially connect for Mass and liturgical celebrations, united in spirit via digital platforms such as live-streaming, Zoom, websites and Facetime.

This Spring we are about to honour Julian Tenison Woods’ special day on 7 October, and there is excitement in the air as we prepare to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Mary MacKillop’s canonisation in Rome on 17 October. May you and your loved ones remain safe and well in the days ahead.

*Bernadette Roche*



*Notes from the Chair*



**A**s Spring approaches, it feels like a time of anticipation and new beginnings. This year in Queensland there is tentative excitement in the hope that Queensland continues on the positive path between fighting COVID and regenerating the economy. We pray in solidarity with those states and regions that are not as fortunate.

October is a busy month with the Anniversary of Fr Julian Tenison Woods on 7 October and the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) on 17 October. This Queensland newsletter is informative and prayerful with a spotlight article by Ken Theodore on Fr Julian, which is informative and thought-provoking. Celebrations for the 10th anniversary will be different than anticipated; however, they will be no less powerful and prayerful. The events will be promoted through email and via the SOSJ website. 17 October will also see a relaunch of our movement; the plans for this are outlined in the attached IJALT Newsletter.

May the blessings of Saint Joseph be with you as we face the challenges life presents at the moment. Take courage and rely on each other’s friendship, join together in prayer and provide service where you can.

*Pauline McGuire*



Graphic from [assumptionbvm.com/st-joseph/](http://assumptionbvm.com/st-joseph/)

## JULIAN TENISON WOODS

*“Chosen by your God to become  
His trusted instrument for your world;  
Itinerant Priest of Outback South Australia;  
Filled with concern for the poor and forsaken.”*

From Sister Mary Jo Wells' October 2014 poem about Julian Tenison Woods

*“Nothing makes us feel as charitable towards another  
as praying for them.”* JTW, 1863

**J**ulian became Parish Priest of South East, South Australia in 1857, having been ordained in Adelaide 3 months prior to this appointment.

He immediately set up a system of regular visitations to Penola, Robe and Mount Gambier, and by 1860 established churches in these three centres. Julian was known throughout this region as a talented public speaker and sound scientific observer.

Deeply troubled because of so many poor children with no access to education, Julian established a school in 1861 in Penola; however, the people were too poor to support it and it had to close down.

Around this time, Julian met Mary MacKillop and, with her help, he was able to establish a religious order that would work for the poor in the remote areas of his parish, especially providing education.

In January 1866, Mary arrived in Penola and by March there were 33 children on the roll in the new school.

Father Woods stayed in the SE of South Australia for 10 years. During this time, he wrote a book on Geographical Observations in South Australia. It is still used today as a definitive reference.

In recognition of Julian's contribution to education in the SE of South Australia, the Tenison Woods College was formally established in 2001 as an R-12 Catholic Co-Education College. This College is in Mount Gambier.

*“Take refuge in the heart of Jesus in all your cares.”* JTW, 1872

From the SE of South Australia, Julian moved to Adelaide, where he was appointed to the position of Bishop's Secretary and Vicar for Education. During this time, he developed a system of Catholic Education for South Australia and used Mary MacKillop's School Day Program for every new school established.

In 1871, Julian travelled from Adelaide to Melbourne to Sydney, where he was invited by Archbishop Polding to celebrate Mass in the temporary Cathedral.

Julian had become a noted public speaker and, as well as regularly being asked to speak at science gatherings in Australia, he was also asked to lead missions in many parts of Australia: Tasmania in 1876, New South Wales in 1877 and 1878, and Queensland in 1879.

After completing scientific studies in NSW and Qld, Julian travelled to Java and Malaya in 1883, returning to Sydney in 1886. From then until his death in October 1889, as Julian's health deteriorated his time was spent completing writings from his travels.

*“When you are in any doubt, invite the Holy Spirit and then do what you think is best.  
Let nothing disturb your peace.”* JTW 1887

To assist with your commemoration of the 130th anniversary of Julian Tenison Woods' death, there are a number of resources available from the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart's website: [www.sosj.org.au/](http://www.sosj.org.au/)



Part of a painting by Jan Williamson, from the Tenison Woods Catholic School website: [www.twcs.catholic.edu.au/about/our-history](http://www.twcs.catholic.edu.au/about/our-history)

*Contributed by Ken Theodore*

## SPOTLIGHT ON AN ASSOCIATE

### *Bernadette Roche*

**M**y first association with the Sisters of St Joseph occurred many years ago in Toowoomba when I was 16 years of age. I came across a large published photograph and article about Mother Mary of the Cross. I remember the definitive moment when I realised that Mary MacKillop was an inspiring and very credible lady with whom I wished to establish a lifelong connection. After a brief but rewarding and rich formation experience spent living with the Sisters of St Joseph in community, I embarked on a journey that enabled me to continue living my choice to embrace the Josephite charism in daily life in marriage, raising two beautiful children and teaching for 43 years.



Fast track to 1992 and I commenced my journey as a Josephite Associate as part of a group who met at Maryhaven and later I led Associate meetings at the Scarborough Convent. I attended Associate Retreats at Beachmere and conferences at Penola and Mount Street which enabled Associates from other States to meet and deliberate about ways in which to live out the Josephite charism in the world. I fondly recall the excitement I shared one day with the Sisters at the Mary MacKillop Centre, Annerley, when the wonderful displays were being set up as a learning and interactive experience for many students and tours to come. In the true spirit Josephite hospitality a mini café was set up with red gingham tablecloths and a vase of flowers on each table.

One of the many highlights of my journey as an Associate was when I was chosen to carry a special jar, containing soil from each of the Josephite Schools throughout Queensland, in the Offertory Procession at Mary MacKillop's Beatification Ceremony in Sydney, in January 1995. Years later, on the day of her Canonisation, 17 October 2010, my brother and I visited Penola early in the morning, drove to Naracoorte to pick up a little "souvenir" from Fr Julian Tenison Woods' frequented tracks and then we placed flowers on Alexander MacKillop's grave at Hamilton late in the afternoon. We placed these flowers in a bottle of water that contained samples from each of the significant places on our road trip that day. We hurriedly made it to the Grampians to our accommodation to remotely watch the telecast of the Canonisation in Rome on TV. Now on Mary's 10th Anniversary of Canonisation we well might be doing the same thing, watching and participating in the Anniversary celebrations remotely.

Along the way, there have been reviews, planning workshops and the development of strategic plans for Associates at Nundah, Bayview Terrace and Villa Maria. I am deeply grateful to the Congregational and Queensland Leadership Teams and all of the Sisters of St Joseph for being so welcoming, relational, supportive and inclusive as we continue to "connect with others in God's mission and engage with the opportunities this offers". In particular, during my time as an Associate I have learnt much from the mentoring, wisdom and friendship of Sr Joan Finucane in the early days and beyond, Sr Janet McDougall in the transition period of the Movement, and Sr Moya Campbell for her tremendous support, wisdom and tireless efforts to guide us to new places, towards establishing self-governance for the Associates.

Members of the Queensland Associates Leadership and IJALT have also added to the richness of experiences in my life as an Associate through their companionship and dedication to grounding our Mission.

I now live at the Gold Coast. I am in the process of setting up a Josephite Associates group here on the Coast. Efforts to do so have not eventuated because of potential members having a change in circumstances or relocating from the Gold Coast. Currently there are two members (myself and Kim) ready and keen to go... I look forward to the release and publication of the new Josephite Associates Formation handbook and the establishment of a formal Associates Group here on the Coast. All are welcome to join us!



## Out and About



### Cairns

This year our Prayer Gathering has been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions. We gathered for our first session of the year but will not continue now until 2021. We were making a decision on a monthly basis but recently made a unanimous decision to cancel out 2020.

We use the chapel at Mercy Place and they will be continuing with lockdown for some time to come. This restriction impacted on the availability of the chapel.

I will continue to email a Prayer Sheet each month should our Associates wish to have silent prayer at home.

Recently we welcomed **Alicia de Haas** into our group. Due to COVID-19 Alicia has not been part of our Prayer Group but will receive our Prayer sheets each month.

I hope all our Queensland Associates are staying safe.

**Carol Leary**

for Cairns Associates

### Brisbane Northside

In light of the current situation we have decided to leave any further development of an Associate group on the Northside in abeyance

until 2021. The continually changing restrictions and the difficulty of securing a COVID-safe venue has made it impossible to plan with any certainty. We hope that 2021 will bring improvement and clarity.

**Marie Sellin and Carolyn Grimward**

for Brisbane Northside

### Brisbane Southside

Our group has not met since March when we welcomed **Bev Badcock** from IJALT. Because of the age and frailty of many of our members, our scheduled meeting for June was cancelled and it was decided not to go ahead with the September meeting. I think it would be imprudent to try to meet again until the COVID situation is more stable.

Our members were appreciative of the material which arrived for St Mary MacKillop's feast day. We are continuing to pray for each other and try to keep in contact as best we can. Sadly one of our long time members, **Joan Tathem**, died a couple of months ago. Fortunately her funeral was in the week when the funeral restrictions were somewhat relaxed and several of us were able to farewell her.

**Judy Harris**

for Brisbane southside

### Reminder

The Josephite Associate Local Group Report 2020 for IJALT is due in to our Queensland Office by October so we can send the Reports on to IJALT in Sydney. The General Comments will reflect the difficult situation faced by all groups this year.

### Prayer Request

In July, Leslie Rodriguez, one of our long-term Associates, suffered a stroke and is now in Rehab at Redcliffe Hospital. Hazel, his wife, has been much comforted by the prayers of those around her and would appreciate our prayers as Leslie continues to make good progress.

### Australian Springtime Prayer

Let us pray. God of our springtime, eternally young,  
make us aware of your merciful presence in our creation.

May we move to the rhythm of life, death and rebirth,  
and recognise that is the pattern of your love permeating our universe.

Make us consciously choose to be co-creators with you,  
walking the path of peace wherever we are.

May we trust in the promise of new beginnings made to your prophets,  
and above all, through your Son and the second Advocate, the Spirit of Love.  
Amen.

Sr Anne Gilroy rsj, *A New Creation*

### Thank you

Thanks again to those who have donated to the ongoing upkeep of the Associates here in Queensland.

Please notify our Office at Villa Maria of any change to contact details so the database can be kept accurate and up to date:

qldassociates@sosj.org.au

or Villa Maria Convent, 123 Warren Street, Fortitude Valley Qld 4006



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