

Associates News

Welcome to the JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES QUEENSLAND Quarterly Newsletter

Celebrating Autumn — March 2018

Autumn — Change (2018)

Autumn is approaching. Soon the long, hot summer days will shorten and the temperature will begin to drop a little. If you live in an area where nature displays her autumn colours, you will experience the change from green to every hue of yellow, orange, fiery red and russet brown. Then the spent leaves will begin to fall and form a



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rich carpet underfoot to provide nutrients for the next burst of life. Autumn signals change, a time of transition before the approach of winter.

We could protest that we don't want to change the warm and bright summer days for those shorter, colder and darker days of winter, but the seasonal cycle will occur in its due time whether we are ready to embrace it or not. Our God has designed and created our world with amazing skill and tenderness. Seasons follow each other in a never ending cycle of life. Summer dies to give way to autumn and then in turn winter will follow before the rebirth of spring.

Our lives also repeat this pattern of our Creator God. We experience the warmth and lushness of summer when our life is coasting along beautifully, followed by the less bright and colder times of autumn, when it is harder to find meaning in what we do or what happens in our life. Then there is the darkness and bitter cold of winter, where we might feel lost in a swirling mist and our God is far away from us. In due time the cycle continues again with the advent of spring in our lives and we feel again the closeness of the God who loves us. In fact, God was never apart from us, but close beside us in that journey. It was our perspective that moved. In the "transfiguration moments" of our lives, when we've climbed that mountain, soared above our human fears and frailties and experienced a tiny portion of the vision God has planned for us from the beginning, it's as if we begin to see and understand true reality. We don't want to come back down the mountain again. We want to keep savouring that ultimate closeness to the divine.

But once we have descended from the high mountain and back into the hurly burly of life, our humanity has a habit of allowing us to forget the vision. We put up the shutters again and block out the only true light. We want life to be comfortable again. We don't want

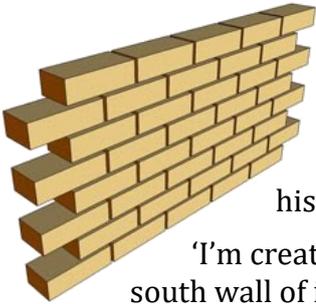
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to acknowledge the challenge of God's call. We resist God's challenge to be open to change and so we lose perspective.

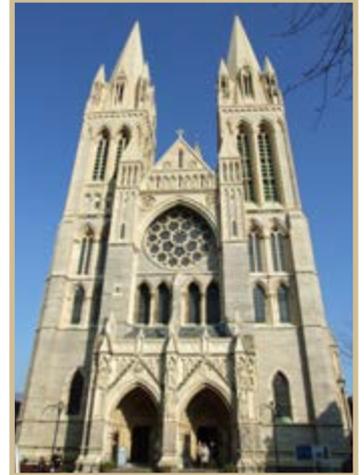
Daniel O' Leary, a well known author and priest, tells a wonderful story about accepting and embracing the grace of awareness, the gift of being able to blend our hearts, mind and our work together in union with God.

He writes: "Two men were building a wall – long and high, one at each end. When asked what he was doing, the first brickie replied that, for a start, he had no interest whatever in his work. A wall is a wall is a wall. He was bored and listless. Brick after brick, day after day, month after month. He longed for Fridays; he hated Mondays. With no interest or involvement, his work was slowly killing him.



'I'm creating a cathedral', murmured the other man. 'This is the south wall of it. I've seen the plans. It will be such a beautiful building. I can't believe I'm part of it. When I watch the young children playing around here, I can see them and their own children, worshipping in this holy and lovely place for the decades of their lives'."

In this graced season of Lent, when we are called to reflect, to repent, to embrace change, to prepare to rise again from the tomb with the resurrected Christ at Easter, which of these men's perspectives will guide you?



FOOD FOR THOUGHT *this Lenten Season...*

A story of human kindness incorporating the word 'ubuntu', an African word meaning 'human kindness'

Although its meaning is much bigger in scope than that – it embodies the ideas of connection, community and mutual caring for all – something we want to concentrate on this Lent. It has also been translated as – 'I am because we are'.

At the Festival of Peace, the Journalist and Philosopher, Lia Diskin, related a beautiful and touching story of a tribe in Africa she called Ubuntu.

She explained how an anthropologist had been studying the habits and customs of this Tribe, and when he finished his work, had to wait for transportation that would take him to the airport to return home. He'd always been surrounded by the children of the tribe, so to help pass the time before he left, he proposed a game for the children to play.

He'd bought lots of candy and sweets in the city, so he put everything in a basket with a beautiful ribbon attached. He placed it under a solitary tree, and then he called the children together. He drew a

line on the ground and explained that they should wait behind the line for his signal. When he said 'Go' they should rush over to the basket, and the first to arrive there would win all the sweets.

When he said 'Go' they all unexpectedly held each other's hand and ran off towards the tree as a group. Once there, they simply shared the sweets with each other and happily ate them.

The Anthropologist was very surprised. He asked them why they had all gone together, especially if the first to arrive at the tree could have won everything in the basket – all the sweets.

A young girl simply replied, 'How can one of us be happy if all the others are sad?'

The Anthropologist was dumbfounded! For months and months he'd been studying the tribe, yet it was only now that he really understood their true essence.



FROM THE JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES COORDINATOR

I have been appointed to support the Associates to become a sustainable and autonomous organisation over the next few years. This means that there will be changes in how the Associates organise themselves. This is an opportunity to re-focus the Associates on Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods and to see how Mary and Julian can continue to be the inspiration for the Associates. This requires that I visit the Regions to see how each is organised and to listen to how the Associates see their organisation progressing into the future. So far arrangements have been made to spend time in the following Regions:

- ◆ Victoria – 13-15 April
- ◆ Adelaide – 30 April to 4 May
- ◆ Perth – 4-12 May
- ◆ Sydney – 18-25 June, also Perthville, Goulburn and Canberra
- ◆ New Zealand – 4-11 July



As you all are aware Joan Gilbert and I visited some of the Associate groups in Queensland last year so we know something of the situation in Queensland. Peru and East Timor also have vibrant groups of Associates working with the Sisters there so it will be good to tap into their experiences as well.

*God will provide
for the future*

Mary MacKillop 1873

I look forward to this challenge and like all ministries, prayer is needed so this is a request for you to be part of the way forward by prayer to discern where the Spirit and Mary and Julian are calling us.

Moya Campbell rsj

CONFERENCE UPDATE

Our Queensland Associates Conference is not too far away:
Friday 25 May – Sunday 27 May 2018

Each of you should have received a brochure and registration details in the mail a few weeks ago. If you did not receive a copy and you would like to receive a copy please email me and I will forward one to you.

Exploring the theme for the conference “**Step Forward with Mary MacKillop – Find our Path in the World Today**” will provide opportunities for new insights and greater understanding of Mary’s Charism as seen through the eyes of our guest speakers and workshop presenters.

Registrations are open and can be completed by

Registering on line at www.sosj.org.au/get-involved/josephite-associates/conference-2018/
or if you prefer, mail your registration form to: e-Kiddna Event Management, PO Box 1144,
Wynnum Qld 4178

Email: infor@e-kiddna.com.au

Registrations close 1 April 2018

The Planning Committee look forward to welcoming you and your friends to this Conference as together we strengthen our knowledge and understanding of St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods and share this passion with others.

Joan Gilbert



FROM QUEENSLAND

Life continues here and like the Summer Season at present, things are changing. We've had beautiful rain and the dams are overflowing. Joan and Moya, like the weather that is so changeable but such a blessing, feel blessed that Associate life continues in Queensland.

Our Conference preparation is shaping up for 25-27 May 2018. This is an exciting and challenging time for us. Speakers at the Conference include Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj (Congregational Leader), Ms Mary Hemmings (Chair of IJALT), Ms Joan Gilbert (Chair of Queensland Planning Committee), and Ms Pam Betts (Executive Director of Catholic Education Brisbane) and, of course, all those who attend will be able to share and have a 'say'.

Workshops on the following are being offered:

- Workshop 1** Ms Janette Dobson and Sr Moya Campbell rsj
Growing our Local Associate Group
- Workshop 2** Sr Jan Tranter rsj
Explore the Relationship between Julian Tenison Woods and Mary MacKillop
- Workshop 3** Sr Jenny Scari rsj and Sr Anne McGuire rsj
Finding our Individual Spiritual Pathway

*As Josephite Associates
we respond to the call
to live the charism of Mary
MacKillop in our daily lives
in our own unique way.
We support one another by
friendship, prayer and service
to make a difference in our
local area and so further
the reign of God.*

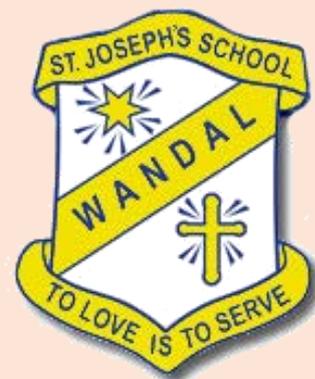
Associates Mission Statement

Mini Vinnies' Partnership

Once again the Rockhampton Gate Ministry has been absolutely astounded by the support received from the Mini Vinnies at St Joseph's School, Wandal. By making lots, and lots, and lots of ice-blocks and selling them during lunch break, these amazing students have again made an extraordinary donation to our Associate Group, which will enable us to purchase many of the more expensive



items we require to include in our Blue Bags such as our phone cards and food vouchers. As you know, these bags are a valuable link back into the community for those who are most at risk on their release from prison. However, not only do these amazing students assist our ministry, but they have also been engaged in lunchtime classes learning to knit squares for knee rugs for residents in a local aged care facility.



You rock St Joseph's Wandal!



Photo strip from: www.sjwrok.catholic.edu.au/documents/religiouscharacter.html

Josephite Associate Group – Townsville

The Townsville group has started the year with a bang! We held our first prayer session which focused on new pathways forward and included discussions on starting a prayer group during the day, these would be held several times a year, which will help us to assess the need. We are all looking forward to the conference in May and hope to have quite a few attendees.

2018 looks to be an exciting year for Townsville with the Blue Bag Ministry expanding into the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. The Centre has provided us with a large challenge as the demand for the bags is very high. The bags themselves are slightly different to the original bags and include inspirational quotes and also access to clothing at St Vincent de Paul shops. We have also obtained Bibles for the Centre, these were kindly donated by Combined Churches – Townsville.



*“Never see a need
without doing
something about it”*

Mary MacKillop

We have also instigated a joint project with the youth detention centre to produce a bookmark with a Mary MacKillop Quote. The children at the centre will produce art work to go on one side of the card and they will be produced to be placed into the bags.

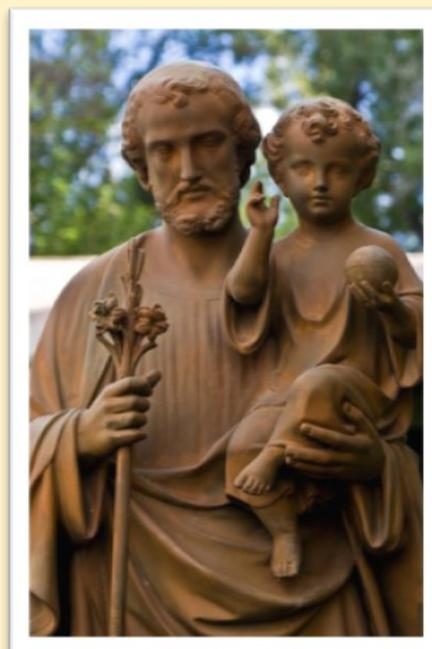
The Townsville Associates are looking forward to being inspired by the Conference in May and hopefully expanding into other centres within the diocese in 2018.

FEAST of ST JOSEPH

As we celebrate the Feast Day of St Joseph, we reflect on the words of Mary MacKillop in 1893...

*We see in St Joseph
a perfect mirror of confidence in God –
a wonderful, unbounded confidence
in our Good God.*

*May each of you receive many blessings
from our Good God on this feast of Joseph.*



DONATION TO THE QUEENSLAND ASSOCIATE MOVEMENT

Thank you to those who have made a contribution in 2018.

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER/S:

AMOUNT GIVEN: (PLEASE CIRCLE)

\$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 OTHER \$.....

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE FORWARDED TO:

ASSOCIATES PLANNING COMMITTEE
123 WARREN STREET
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006
PHONE: 0488 216 580
EMAIL: qldassociates@sosj.org.au



CHEQUES AND MONEY ORDERS MADE PAYABLE TO JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES QLD

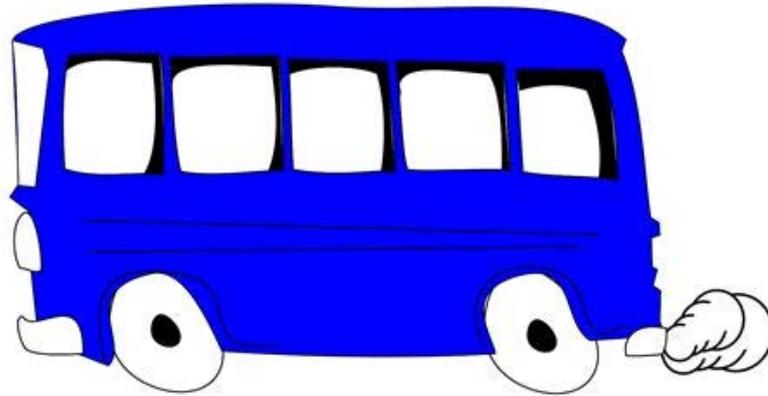
OR PAID BY DIRECT DEPOSIT:

COMMONWEALTH BANK
ACCOUNT NAME: JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES QLD
BSB No.: 064163
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 10429581
REFERENCE: SURNAME AND INITIAL (E.G. CAMPBELL M)

Thank you for your donation!



"Remember we are but travellers here" Mary Mackillop 1867



The annual National Pilgrimage, 'In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop', goes to many places associated with Mary's life and ministry. This is a unique opportunity to absorb some of the aspects of her life and appreciate anew her role as our Australian Saint.

The pilgrimage starts on 23 October in Melbourne, continues by coach to Portland, Penola and Adelaide and then by air to North Sydney concluding on Saturday 3 November. The cost ex Brisbane is \$3360 twin share. A single supplement is \$700. These costs include flights to Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, motel and meal costs and all entry fees.

A full description of the pilgrimage will be available shortly on the Josephite website, www.sosj.org.au under Resources – Pilgrimages – National Pilgrimage...If you would like a brochure or further information, contact Sr Genevieve Carroll on 0457 978 683.