



# WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES Newsletter



Friendship ~ Prayer ~ Service

*Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,*

Welcome to our Advent and Christmas newsletter.

The waiting of Advent is almost over as we prepare now for the birth of Jesus. This time brings new possibilities and opportunities to create hospitable spaces for the greatest gift of Christmas.

May the peace and joy of the Christ-Child gladden your days and herald a blessed and prosperous New Year.

*"I wish you every grace and blessing of this holy time with fondest love."*

MMK 1881

*Dot Savage for the Dardanup, Metro, Esperance & Geraldton Groups*



## Advent Prayer

Come Advent with me Lord, Jesus.

Advent deep within my soul.

Renew my faith in Advent time,

In love, in prayer, in waiting for you...

Let others find Advent in my song, Lord...

Being open to whatever peace is mine to give.

Whatever light is mine to shine,

Whatever hope is mine to share.

Come, Lord Jesus.

## UPDATE FROM THE DARDANUP ASSOCIATES

As the kaleidoscope of spring colour turns to magnificent purple and gold in early summer, it seems a fitting time to reminisce on shared experiences of warmth, vitality and compassion.

After almost 25 years of gathering at the Prayer House in Dardanup with associates from all over the South West we have had to find a new home for our group. The Parish Meeting Centre at St Patrick's Cathedral in Bunbury will

accommodate future meetings. On the Feast of St Mary of the Cross we celebrated Mass with students and staff of Our Lady of Lourdes in thanksgiving for those many years of sharing the legacy of friendship,



*Sr Denise, Associates and students of OLL process into Mass for the feast of Mary of the Cross*



*Angela Hegney and students unwrap painting of Mary MacKillop*



*A captive audience*

prayer and service. We remembered in a special way Sr Rita Mary, Sr Carla and Sr Denise who all mentored our group in their own

unique styles. It was a bittersweet day - the end of an era and we could not be more grateful than to have seen our group flourish in such a spiritually up-lifting home. Many thanks to Fr Wayne Bendotti, the Parish, staff and students of Our Lady of Lourdes. We expressed our gratitude in a small presentation made to the Principal, Angela Hegney and students.

(PTO)



*Sr Pauline presenting memories of her Camino Walk, Spain*

Sr Pauline Dundon entertained and encouraged us with her slide presentation about her pilgrimage to Spain; walking El Camino de Santiago - The Way of St James. The beauty of the Spanish landscape and the spirituality of her experience enriched our gathering

and question time was lively and full of interest. Many thanks to Sr Pauline for all that she contributes to our group.

In following up Mary Hemmings' visit in June, our October meeting looked again at how we are carrying out our mission, "To enable others to live the Gospel with a Josephite heart". We looked at the meaning of charism under the title "One Spirit-Many Interpretations". In particular we reflected on the Josephite charism and its underpinning of the way we attempt to further God's Kingdom in our world.

We congratulate our current inductees from Pinjarra - Kerry, Yvonne, Anna and Margaret as we look forward to our November meeting when they will be formally received into the Josephite family. We will also renew our commitment with them on 27 November.

Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas.

*Warmest Wishes, Dot Savage and the Dardanup Associates*



## Old MacDonald's Farm Comes to South Perth!



The sisters at South Perth were well aware that there was going to be an 'August birthdays' afternoon tea celebration on 28 August but I don't think anyone of them could have foreseen this Furry Fiesta!

I was sitting in my office on a lovely sunny 28 degree day when I heard a 'honk honk honk' coming from the front garden. I stepped out onto the veranda to see 'Mrs Percival, the Goose' (the boss of the operation) directing Farmer MacDonald and team as they set up the petting zoo.

In no time a corral was erected and many creatures great and small (led by Mrs Percival) came trotting, hopping and waddling across the front lawn in a (dis)orderly fashion! What a sight!

And what a time was had by all as you can see from the photos. Special birthday guest and animal lover Sr Edith Prince made a special visit from Margaret Hubery House and was absolutely delighted, as were all sisters (and staff). Cuddling, petting and feeding (and laughter) was the order of the day, what fun!



A HUGE THANK YOU to the wonderful Sr Mary McNamara (South Perth Community Leader) who put the whole thing together and made a lot of people very happy!

*- Laura McCarthy (WA Administration)*



# A LETTER FROM THE METRO CORE GROUP

## REFLECTING ON 2019

As a dedicated prayer group, the Metropolitan associates have had a successful year even though the numbers have been down at our quarterly gatherings. The Core Group has worked closely with IJALT through this pivotal year. Two of our core group are committed to going to Adelaide next July for the IJALT conference.

We have moved into a "Friendship and Prayer" group - with the "Service" component not mentioned as we no longer have anyone available to do visitations or organise volunteer work.



We wish our much loved sisters a very **Happy and Holy Festive Season**; we have loved sharing time and memories with you this year. We would also like to thank Laura for all her hard work and the magic that she works enabling us to get this Newsletter out each quarter. Lastly, but not least, thank you to the wonderful core group - Meg Phelan, Maureen Lanigan, Margaret Jones for all their hard work - and to those that came and helped us get the newsletter out on meeting days. **A huge thank you and to Our Saviours. Blessings this Christmas season!**

*- Louisa Moore JA - for the MCG*

## CHRISTMAS GATHERING!

Come and share in St Mary's Charism amongst Friendship and Prayer!

To all those associates who are able to come to South Perth, please join us on our Gathering Day on **8 December**.

**ALL WELCOME!**

Through our small and much enjoyed **RAFFLE** and 'BRING AND BUY' traditions



on Gathering Days, we hope to be able to give a small donation to a charity group over Christmas.

See back page for more details.

## The Camino from Sarria to Santiago Spain



This ancient walk became a metaphor for my life. How we walk the Camino and the challenges we face along the way reflects how we deal with things in life. There was the challenge of pushing through pain and tiredness almost every day. Another challenge was to remain positive even though the road was often steep... The challenge not to give way to thinking about things I couldn't change there and then. To try and remain in the present moment.

Lessons on trust, faith, love, relationships and surrender were all present on the Camino. For me it became a solitary walk in many ways. Even though I had times walked and

conversed with people often total strangers, there were times I walked in solitude even when people were passing by and there were other conversations going on. The Camino takes on a life of its own. One tends to get caught up into this phenomena that has captured the hearts of many over the centuries.

As I walked I got into a rhythm of steps which then helped me keep up with others on the road and helped me to pray and think as the kms ticked by. Whenever I hear the phrase "communing with nature" now I have a real sense of what that means. We were serenaded by so many beautiful bird songs every step of the way. The rain didn't seem to deter them at all. They were a constant on the journey. Hearing the sound of the cuckoo for the first time was special. The beauty that surrounded me in the trees, the flowers the countryside, the little simple villages and the people in them was all gift. Making way for the farmers as they drove their stock along the same road that we walked gave me a

glimpse into how we can all exist on this planet if we just move over a little so all can take their place.

I was constantly reminded that I was walking the same road as hundred of other pilgrims had done for centuries. Now and again I afforded myself the time and space in my thoughts just to wonder about some of those people and their stories, their hopes and their fears as they walked. I wondered what their motivation was way back then when the journey would have been tough. There was for me a feeling of being part of something bigger, something that continues to go on long after the walking has finished.

To summarise I guess I could put it this way. We must all walk our own journey. No one can do it for us. One can be carried at times when it is too hard to walk. Ultimately however one has to take each step to get to where one must go in life. At times we do it alone, other times we are surrounded by companions on the journey. Sometimes we are called on to lend a helping hand to someone

in need, sometimes it is



ourselves who call for help. There is room for everyone in this wonderful world. It takes everyone to be aware of others and the need to make room for all as we walk together.

We only have to be aware of the beauty and the free gifts we are given each day as we breathe in the air that keeps us alive.

*- Sr Pauline Durdon*



# WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES GATHERINGS, NEWS & EVENTS



## 2019 - 2020 SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS

ENQUIRIES: **Louisa Moore** - 0438 616 228, email [wa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:wa.associates@sosj.org.au)



### ADVENT/CHRISTMAS GATHERING~ SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER

- ✚ 2.00pm ~ Time for greeting one another, 'Bring & Buy' and Raffle
- ✚ 2.30pm ~ Prayer in Chapel, followed by afternoon tea and drawing of the raffle in the Function Room
- ✚ Where: St Joseph's Convent, 16 York Street, South Perth
- ✚ Bring: **A plate of food to share | Kris Kringle to the value of \$10  
A friend | Bring & Buy item | Raffle item**

### SAVE THE DATE!

2020 South Perth Gatherings

8 March

14 June

13 September

13 December

*All Welcome!*

## 2019 - 2020 DARDANUP GATHERINGS

ENQUIRIES: **Dot Savage:** (08) 9791 4008 or email Dot: [helenbrown.hb@gmail.com](mailto:helenbrown.hb@gmail.com)  
**Irene Rodgers:** 0423 488 018 or email Irene: [irenerodgers1@bigpond.com](mailto:irenerodgers1@bigpond.com)



Our (ADVENT/CHRISTMAS) gathering is on **WED 27 NOVEMBER 2019** @ 9.30am

Theme: *'Journeying with Joseph'*

PLEASE BRING:

- ✚ A plate of food for a shared lunch
- ✚ A gift, value of \$10
- ✚ Food item for St Vinnies Christmas Hamper

*All very welcome!*

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE - Parish Meeting House Centre, St Patrick's Cathedral Bunbury**

### MEETING DATES FOR 2020

**12 February, 8 April, 10 June, 12 August, 8 October, 25 November**



### Gone to God

Sr Anne Kavanagh

Andrée Fox-Slater

Fr Peter Toohey

*'Remember, we are all but travellers here'* MMK

Dear Associates, if you are aware of any associate/relative/friend who has passed away, can you please email or ring the office:

[wa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:wa.associates@sosj.org.au) or [08] 9334 0999



### In Loving Memory of Sr Anne Kavanagh rsj

*Entered Life* ~ 5 December 1941

*Entered Religious Life* ~ 20 January 1957

*Professed* ~ 6 January 1960

*Entered Eternal Life* ~ 13 October 2019

*'Our dear Sister Anne, you left us so unexpectedly.*

*What lingers in our hearts and memories are your loyal friendships, your courageous spirit, your sense of adventure and your concern for the under privileged.*

*Gentle woman, we will miss your warmth, your companionship and your wisdom.*

*Journey now into the Great Adventure of the Divine'.*





# *WA Josephite Associates*

## **A Summer Journey**

### *A Summer Gloria*

**Glory be to God...  
for clear blue skies and sunny days  
for fresh green grass and leafy trees  
for vivid Jacaranda and Christmas Bush  
for fluffy white clouds and gentle breezes  
for thirsty summer gardens.**

**Glory be to God...  
for people stepping out with sandaled feet  
for children playing games with delighted squeals  
for picnics and street parties  
for Christmas gift shopping  
for long days and short nights  
for open spaces and bright swim wear**

**Glory be to God...**

(Adapted from a Prayer by Bob Hostetler)

**Advent ~ Christmas ~ Summer 2019/2020**



## *Advent Prayer*

Gathered together,  
we wait for the light.

Standing together,  
we trust in the light.

Praying together,  
we hope for the light.

Seeking together,  
we step out with the light.

Singing together,  
we are blessed by the light.

Amen

(Watts, Lord 2005)

## *A Christmas Blessing*

Whenever we gaze into a crib this Christmas season

May new hope and joy flood our spirit

Whenever we watch babies and young children playing

May a new energy delight our hearts

Whenever we are tantalized by the aroma of a BBQ

May we unwind, relax and enjoy time off

Whenever the crush of family and friends overwhelms us

May the hospitality of our hearts expand

Whenever we provide a meal or bed over the holidays

May we experience love and appreciation

Whenever we spy our reflection in the mirror or pool

May we find ourselves to be images of God

Whenever we put our feet up for leisure

May the humble presence of the Incarnate One companion us

Whenever we feel our distance from each other around the world

May the Christ child draw us into unity. Amen

(ACT LOVE WALK-Praying in the Josephite Spirit)

# *Reflection on Tenderness and Trust*

The Christmas season allows us to be playful and buoyant.

It reminds us that our relationship with God can also be  
child-like and intimate.

The artist Pablo Picasso once shared an insight  
in the Christmas season of the Spirit.

He declared, “it takes a long time for one to become young.”

Sometimes it is important to allow ourselves to be  
re-juvenated by journeying back through the years to  
remember how we were as a child,

as a young version of the adult we now present to the world.

The Christmas season of our spirit invite us to return to our original innocence.

We have all at some time or other been caught in the wide-eyed,  
candied gaze of an infant-held for a moment in its wordless security.

In spite of the squirming discomfort that might arise in us,  
this encounter is also an invitation to remove our masks,  
to clear away the fog  
and seek the essential goodness in ourselves.

(“Season of Grace-Praying with Mary MacKillop” Genevieve Ryan rsj)



*“We can all meet together in spirit at the crib  
of our loving Infant and pray for one another.  
I wish you every grace and blessing of this holy time  
with fondest love.”*

Mary MacKillop, 1881



## *Epiphany*

For Mary MacKillop and for each one of us there  
are Epiphany seasons in our lives.

These are the times when we experience God-with-us in a new  
and wondrous way.

We have an awakening and we enjoy a sense of  
God's presence in our ordinary human reality of our lives.

In these moments we realize that we are called to  
live our lives in a normal way and yet to seek ideals  
which soar above the powers of our mind and sweep  
even beyond our dreams.

These are times when life's journey is full of purpose and we  
go beyond familiar territory in our search for God.

Our lives are enlarged, our horizon shift.

New demands are made of us but new resources may also  
become unexpectedly available to us.

(Seasons of Grace - Genevieve Ryan rsj)