



THE SISTERS OF CHARITY  
OF AUSTRALIA

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Keep in touch

# Jubilate Deo

Congratulations and gratitude, Sisters Mary, Patricia and Judith, for your years of commitment and service as Sisters of Charity!



This year, during August, the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity was pleased to announce Platinum, Diamond and Golden Jubilees of our Sisters. We begin with the Platinum and Diamond Jubilees:

## 26th August 1941:

Sister Mary Goss who would be celebrating 70 years as a Sister of Charity.

and

## 28th August 1951:

Sisters Patricia Heenan and Judith Clark – 60 years.

## Sister Mary and Patricia's Celebration

As Srs Mary and Patricia lived in the same community at Mt Olivet, Kangaroo Point in Brisbane, they decided to have a small celebration on 27th August, just with the Sisters in their community.

They prepared the liturgy together and wanted a picture of a rainbow on the cover of the booklet. They decided that the first reading would be from the *Letter to the Ephesians*, which speaks of 'coming to know God's love'. The Gospel reading of *The Widow's Mite* and the hymn 'I Found the Treasure in the Field', were especially requested by Sr Mary.

Unfortunately, shortly after the Sisters prepared this celebration, Sr Mary received news that she was suffering from a terminal illness. Everyone was hoping that she would be well enough to attend the Mass on the 27th, but that was not to be. Mary died on 30th August. In the wording of the final hymn, we know that Sr Mary now knows 'the fullness of God'.

*May God's love for Sr Patricia also be revealed more deeply each day, that she will know 'how high and long, how deep and wide is the fullness of God'.*

## Sister Judith's Celebration

On Sunday, 28 August 2011, Sr Judith Clark celebrated her Diamond Jubilee with the celebration of the Eucharist at St Ambrose Church, Concord West, where Sr Judith now ministers.

The Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Father Brian Egan PP and Sr Judith was joined by her Sisters of Charity Community and many devoted parishioners.

Sr Laureen Dixon presented Sr Judith with the Papal Blessing to honour her devotion, not only in the many Parishes where she has ministered, but also in her involvement with the CCD and the RCIA programmes, during her 60 years as a Sister of Charity.

Many children have benefited from Sr Judith's untiring work both in the classroom and in after school contact.

The parish bulletin reads: 'We thank you Sister Judith for all the work you do and have done for our Parish Community here at St Ambrose over many years'.



Left to right: Sr Judith Clark, Sr Laureen Dixon, Sr Marina Ward and Sr Enid Doherty.

# Golden Jubilarians

## Sr Karan Varker rsc



Karan Varker rsc

Karan Varker rsc celebrated her Golden Jubilee on 30th July in Giovanni Chapel, Brisbane. The theme for the Eucharist was that of the Rainbow, the symbol of joy, faithfulness and promise. The celebrants were Frs Colin Reinhard and John Worthington.

The Chapel had been beautifully prepared by the community with magnificent flowers and rainbow colours. This theme was also evident in the lovely Mass booklet. Its symbols linked Karan's Irish and Australian heritage.

Karan's nieces and nephews, who represented each of her sisters' families, led the Entrance procession, Readings, Prayers of the Faithful and Offertory procession.

In the Homily, Fr Colin spoke of the importance of relationships, as well as

of religious women and the spirituality of presence which they offer today among the people of God. Karan, Dorothy Bayliss and Maureen Delaney then renewed their vows together.

As a way of thanking the sisters, her family and friends, Karan danced a liturgical movement to 'Dreaming Free' – a song written for the Sisters of Charity 150th celebration.

After Mass, the celebration continued in Lilian's Café where beautiful refreshments had been prepared. There, the speeches and fun brought laughter and tears to the eyes of many, who expressed great joy in being present at this delightful celebration.

Karan was deeply grateful to all who had so generously and joyously participated in her Golden Jubilee.

# Sr Jean Marie Brennan rsc

The Eucharist to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession of Sr Jean Marie Brennan was celebrated in St John of God Church, Auburn NSW at 2.00pm on Saturday, 6th August 2011 by Fr Ray Farrell, PP.

Many Sisters of Charity, including fellow-Jubilarians Sr Dorothy Bayliss and Sr Karan Varker, gathered to share the celebration. Sr Jean Marie's family was well represented by her three sisters and their families and her aunt Kath, her mother's youngest sister.

Many ex-students, friends and colleagues also attended. Fr Ray spoke of Sr Jean's commitment to those in most need throughout her years of ministry in education. He also spoke of the importance of Sr Jean's presence to others in St Joseph's Village.

Two young parishioners provided the music, including a specially written hymn of thanks that was accompanied by photos of Jean and her family.

The Eucharist was followed by a relaxed afternoon tea in the Jack Lang Assembly Room at St Joseph's Hospital. Sr Judith Clark provided a beautiful cake for the occasion.



Left to right: Sr Jean Marie with her sisters Margot, Helen and Fay.

# Sr Catherine Meese rsc

The Eucharist to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession of Sr Catherine Meese was celebrated in the beautiful Church of St Francis Xavier Church, Montmorency, Victoria at 2.00pm on Sunday, 7th August by Archbishop Adrian Doyle AM and Fr Terry Kean PP.

Many Sisters of Charity, including fellow-Jubilarians Sr Karan Varker and Sr Maureen Delaney, gathered to share the celebration. Sr Cathy's family was well represented and included her sister and family and the families of her deceased brothers.

Both family and Sisters of Charity participated in the Mass. Many friends and colleagues from Victoria, Tasmania and other parts of Australia also attended.



Catherine Meese rsc

Archbishop Adrian spoke of the need for Jesus presence in everything we do, as reflected in the Gospel of the day. He also spoke of the importance of the core Christian virtue of love that Sr Cathy embodies in all she is and does.

The Eucharist was followed by a relaxed afternoon tea in the hall. The local community and parish had prepared the hall and the food. Two of her nieces spoke beautifully of Sr Cathy, her importance to each as family member and her commitment to her ministry and to those she serves, always remaining strongly committed to Christian values and those of the Sisters of Charity.

# Sr Maureen Delaney rsc

The Eucharist of Gratitude and Rejoicing of Maureen Delaney's Golden Jubilee was celebrated in the Nazareth Centre of St Joseph's School Mernda, on Sunday afternoon 14th August by Fr Maurie Cooney PP and Fr Steele Hartmann OCSO with members of Maureen's family, friends, Sisters of Charity and parishioners. (An account of the occasion is described on our website – [www.sistersofcharity.org.au](http://www.sistersofcharity.org.au) under Mission now – Latest News.)

In his homily Fr Maurie affirmed the place of Religious Women in our Church, ourselves as Sisters of Charity, and Maureen in her ministry. He used two quotes to illustrate something of how her ministry is experienced in the local Church.

The first were words of Hugh Mackay at the time of the death of Judith Wright (refer *The Age* 07/07/2000):

*'Judith Wright's death has come at a time when we need to be reminded of the poetic possibilities of life. Wright once said that "the saddest thing in the world was that people didn't live poetically, that they lived mundane, prosaic lives". So what might "living poetically" mean?*



Maureen Delaney rsc

*Living, perhaps, with a heightened appreciation of the natural world, with faith in ourselves and each other, with an enlarged capacity for forgiveness and forbearance, and with generous dollops of courage, vision, romance, whimsy, intensity tinged by humour, grace under pressure.'*

The second was from Carolyn Jones in her book *An Authentic Life: Finding Meaning and Spirituality in Everyday Life*:

*'Listening is an act of generosity. While I listen to you, I have to set aside my hard-won precious framework of meaning, and run the risk of exposing myself to your framework, which will be different. And listening takes time, that commodity which seems constantly to be in short supply.'*

*But listening has its rewards. It is a pathway to greater closeness and understanding – in friendship, in marriage, in parenting, in the workplace. When I listen I am giving something of value, something which is life-enhancing and likely to add to a person's peace of mind and spirit. Quite often, a person comes to see a solution, simply by being heard.'*

*When you listen, you provide the benefit of attentive silence in which a person may be truthful. When you listen, it may seem that you are not really doing anything. And that's hard because we want to be able to do something. No, you are just being with someone.'*

*And 'being with' is compassion, and when you act with compassion you act with love. And that is when you are indeed creating sacred time and contributing to a more meaningful and peaceful world.'*

# The Annals of the Sisters of Charity in Australia

by M. John Baptist De Lacy

*This is the fifth instalment of De Lacy's annals. Part four was published in KIT, June 2011.*

On the 23rd of the same month, the Archbishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 100 women in the Factory, and on the 22nd of April imparted his apostolic benediction to the Catholic inmates of that Institution, by which they gained a Plenary Indulgence. on the same day he confirmed 50 women.

On the 6th of May 1843 – His Grace the Archbishop of Sydney admitted to Holy Profession, Miss Gibbons, Miss O'Brien, and Miss Fisher. The ceremony took place in the Chapel of the Convent, it was quite private.

Miss Catharine [sic] Marum entered the Noviciate May 20th 1843. A few weeks after Doctor Polding's return to the Colony, he went to Moreton Bay to open the Mission there for the conversion of the Aborigines to christianity, he remained with them two months and on leaving it left with them four Priests of the order of Passionists, who in a special manner devote themselves to the instruction of Infidels and Pagans. His Grace had so completely won the confidence of these poor people that they confided in his care three of their children to be instructed and educated, two boys of about 9 years old, one the son of a Chief, the other an Orphan, and a little girl 10 years, who was also of royal extraction, the latter the Archbishop placed under the care of the SS of Charity, she was a child of a quick and lively character, possessing a most affectionate disposition, after a few weeks residence she became as a dear child to each of the Community, and they were looking forward to the happenings of having her sufficiently instructed to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, when they were suddenly deprived of their Favourite, late one evening when little Black Mary was fast asleep, after the fatigues of a day spent in playful Gambols of Childhood,<sup>36</sup> a letter was received by the Revd Mother [M. De Sales O'Brien] from the Archbishop requiring that the dear child should be sent early next morning to Sydney as it was found necessary to send the children back to their parents.



*Female penitentiary or factory, Parramatta. Augustus Earle, New South Wales, 1826. National Library of Australia.*

*“the Archbishop ... imparted his apostolic benediction to the Catholic inmates ... by which they gained a Plenary Indulgence.”*

A man of depraved habits, who was Pilot at Moreton Bay had infused into the minds of the people that the Europeans only wanted the children to destroy them. But the immediate return of the little Folks refuted the calumny. It was motives of revenge which actuated this wicked man to invent so base a falsehood as The Archbishop found it was necessary to represent to the Governor the disorderly life he had led for some time.

Mrs Fisher, in Religion Sr Mary Francis,<sup>37</sup> departed this life January 12th 1844 – aged 23 years and professed 8 months. She was the youngest of those lately professed. Her mortal remains were deposited in a small cemetery, which is enclosed within the grounds of St Mary's Convent [Parramatta].<sup>38</sup>

Miss Marum received the Holy Habit November 21st 1843. Miss [Eliza] Walsh entered the Noviciate December 21st.<sup>39</sup>

Three Professed Sisters left Paramatta for Sydney May 17th 1844 to resume their Mission in that city, their residence was a small house rented for their use in No.2 Burdekins [sic] Terrace<sup>40</sup>, Sr Mary Baptist De Lacy was appointed Rectress, she was accompanied by Sr Mary Augustine Marum & Sr Mary Ignatius Gibbons.

The Catholic Orphan School have been removed from Waverley to Paramatta, the superintendance [sic] of it was placed by the Archbishop under the care of the SS of Charity, the Head Superior [M. De Sales O'Brien] gave the general arrangement of it into the hand of Sr Magdalen Chantal Cater.

[Continued next edition.](#)

<sup>36</sup> The Benedictine Journal records that one day she hid under a hedge and thought the adults very stupid when they spent all day looking for her unsuccessfully.

<sup>37</sup> Everyone else calls her Sr Mary Teresa. Polding was affected by her death and referred to it more than once.

<sup>38</sup> Any buried in the convent garden at Parramatta have been re-interred at Rookwood.

<sup>39</sup> She was a half-sister to Rev John McEncroe (1795-1868) who had arrived in Sydney in June 1832 as personal chaplain to John Hubert Plunkett (1802-1869) and his family but received an official posting soon after arrival.

<sup>40</sup> This was in College Street.

# A new site discovered

## To honour our early Sisters

by Denise Corrigan, Archives Manager

The Norfolk House Establishment for Young Ladies, run by a Mrs Davis, commenced at Parramatta in the early 1840s. Described as 'an excellent boarding school for young ladies' by Parramatta's Rev. Michael Brennan, it transpires that the Sisters of Charity were regular visitors to the establishment from 1841 providing religious instruction to the girls.

I came across an article in the Australian Chronicle which stated that two young women, Margaret O'Brien and Mary Gibbons, entered the Sisters of Charity Congregation at Parramatta in 1840 with a special service where the hymns were sung by the pupils of the convent and Mrs Davis's excellent seminary – of whom the Parramatta choir was principally composed. This would have been a happy meeting of voices as singing was very much part of the Sisters' routine. During this period they were also teaching singing at the Female Factory.

Later articles reveal that the Superioress of the Convent of the Sisters of Charity as well as Archbishop Polding were present at the 'usual yearly examinations' of the young ladies at Mrs Davis establishment, Norfolk House, in 1843. The Superioress of the Convent was indeed the Margaret O'Brien who entered the Congregation in 1840.

*This would have been a happy meeting of voices as singing was very much part of the Sisters' routine.*

Does Norfolk House still exist? I could only find one other mention of 'Norfolk House' in the early newspapers beyond 1845, when the name appears again in 1850 as being an educational establishment run by a Mr and Mrs Underwood.

Using research notes provided to me by the Parramatta Historical Society and information from the Australian Heritage Database listing ([http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/heritage/photodb/imagesearch.pl?proc=detail;barcode\\_no=rt10007](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/heritage/photodb/imagesearch.pl?proc=detail;barcode_no=rt10007)), it seems that the Norfolk House that exists today in Parramatta was not the Norfolk House where Mrs Davis conducted her boarding school.

The house still surviving was built by John Tunks in the early 1840s and kept in his family until the death of his wife in 1888. It was later purchased by the Methodist Church.

You can keep up with the story of our early pioneers by regularly visiting the blog at <http://pioneersites.wordpress.com>



## Sr Judith Christy rsc

### Hospital 'Grandparent'

by Gaye Reynolds rsc

Sr Judith always loved working with children as a teacher, then childcare worker. When she retired, she became a volunteer for the elderly, but missed being with children. She saw an advertisement for volunteer 'grandparents' at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne and applied. That was in 2003 and since that time, Sr Judith or 'Judy' as the children call her, has been a 'grandparent' for a number of little children.

Like all grandparents, she is able to be with children, read them a story, take them for a walk or push them in their pram, hold their hands especially when they have to have

a procedure, cuddle them, make them smile. Judy does get attached to the children but she is very happy when they are well enough to leave hospital.

Judy is also a great support to parents and the Staff. They know that their children will be in good company and comforted when they have to attend to other family matters or to other children in the wards.

Recently, the Staff made a presentation to Judy – a large photo frame with photos of four of the children to whom Judy had been a 'grandparent'.

It had this accompanying message:

*Dear Judy, On behalf of our families and patients, "Thank You" so very much for being such a wonderful ward grandmother to our precious 'Short Guts'.*

*You are a priceless gift and we cannot tell you how much we appreciate your time, your beautiful nature and the endless compassion you have. Please accept this (very late) 2010 Christmas gift! (It took a little while to organise!)*

*With much love, the staff from the 4th Floor Royal Children's Hospital.*

# A piece of nostalgia

## CLC 1965 Re-union

by Helen Malone rsc

This is just a small piece of nostalgia for Sisters who remember CLC when it stood opposite St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne, and for anyone who may remember the Matriculation Class of 1965 – Karen Ward, Anne Hannahan, Barbara Potger, Mary Rainsbury, Anne O'Loughlin and others.

These girls and a dozen more, met recently at the Park Hyatt Hotel, on the site of the old CLC in Cathedral Place. Guest of honour was Anne O'Loughlin, home on a brief visit from Fountain Hills, Arizona, where she lived for many years after graduating as a nurse at St Vincent's Melbourne and marrying Dr Charles Mullany. So to the pleasure of a class reunion was added the joy of seeing an old friend again after so many years.

To use an old hackneyed phrase, 'a very, very good time was had by all', what with cameras clicking, old school photos and old copies of CARITAS of the 70's being passed around, as all enjoyed a first-class afternoon tea and exchanged memories and funny stories.

Someone was heard to remark – "Wonder what bit of our old school we're sitting on right now?" Suggestions were offered: – the Science Room, the Office, Hall, Foyer, Blue Pillars, Chapel steps, Aikenhead House, and so on, ad lib.

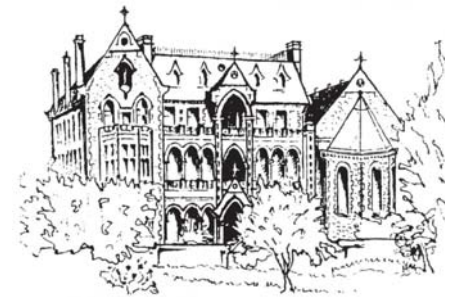


The 'girls' of the Matriculation Class of 1965 with Sr Helen Malone, at the Park Hyatt Hotel, on the site of the old CLC in Cathedral Place, East Melbourne.

The 'girls' remembered fondly – with anecdotes – great teachers such as Sr Marie Joan and Sr Una and many others besides.

Sr Austin (later Jose) was mentioned. She was responsible for the CLC commemorative plaque on the footpath just outside this afternoon's venue.

At the end of the afternoon, there was just one regret, namely that some invited ex-Staff members had not been able to come. But of course, there's always next time, isn't there?



CLC East Melbourne 1902-1971.  
Helen Malone rsc



A photograph from the Archives of Catholic Ladies College, which is now at Eltham, Victoria.

# Sister Margaret Fitzgerald's Ministry extends to a new venture – Chisholm Cottage, Westmead

by Margaret Guy rsc

This year, Sisters of Charity Outreach, which is now under Mary Aikenhead Ministries, has linked back to the Sisters' beginnings in Parramatta in 1839, by responding to a request to take over the management of Chisholm Cottage at Westmead in the Parramatta Diocese. This service has been run by the Catholic Women's League Committee, Parramatta diocese along with a number of other volunteers for 15 years.

Mrs Bernice Bouffler, the first Chairperson of CWL was the driving force behind naming the Cottage after Caroline Chisholm. So the link between Outreach and CWL continues with Caroline Chisholm who worked for the disadvantaged and the first five Sisters of Charity whose first mission was at the Female Factory, Parramatta.

Caroline Chisholm later accompanied Sr Laurence Cator when she returned to Ireland. It is also interesting to note that the daughter in law of Caroline, after the death of her husband, entered the Sisters of Charity. Mother Mary Joseph Chisholm was the first Religious Superior in charge of K-6 Boys and Girls Primary School at Parramatta in 1882. The school was renamed St Mary's in 1885.

Chisholm Cottage offers low-cost, short-term accommodation for country people who need to attend Westmead hospital and surrounding medical facilities

The mission of Outreach in 'supporting the vulnerable in our society,' could easily be identified with that of Catholic Women's League as Outreach's Country Care Link is a service to country people, as is Chisholm Cottage. Both organisations are volunteer based.

On the 27th May a simple but formal 'Welcoming/Handover' Ceremony was held at Chisholm Cottage to which the members of the Catholic Women's League and the Cottage Volunteers were invited.

It was an opportunity for the Sisters of Charity Outreach Staff and supporters to meet the Volunteers as well as honour the past 15 years of management by the Catholic Women's League Committee.

Mrs Gladys Meaney-Budd, the outgoing Chairperson of the Management Committee shared the story of the Cottage's origin and history:



Chisholm Cottage, Westmead.

*"From the beginning we had women with vision who wanted to serve the community and to work in close co-operation with those in the immediate surroundings. We wanted a project that would serve this community in the spirit of Catholic Women's League to follow in the footsteps of our founder, Margaret Fletcher."*



Top: Gladys Meaney-Budd CWL, Chairperson of the Cottage Committee presents Sr Margaret with the key of the Cottage.

Above: Outreach staff and CWL Committee members attended the opening.

As Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, Sr Linda Ferrington rsc, responded to Gladys' story. Following this was a short liturgy during which members of CWL, Volunteers and Outreach Staff participated. At the conclusion of the ceremony Gladys symbolically handed over the management of the Cottage to Sr Margaret Fitzgerald rsc, Executive Director of the Sisters of Charity Outreach, by handing her a key.

Over the past few years the Chisholm Cottage CWL Committee has been gradually shrinking in numbers which has made it increasingly difficult to continue managing the Cottage. As a result they looked for a solution which would allow their special project to continue. Whilst continuing to own the Cottage the Catholic Women's League asked the Sisters of Charity Outreach to take over its management, which occurred on 1st March this year.

# The Sisters of Charity

## Remote and Rural Group

by Sr Maree Henderson rsc

### Beginnings

The Sisters of Charity Remote and Rural Group began in late 2007 as a discussion between Sister St Jude Doyle rsc and Sister Maree Henderson rsc, seeking a means to assist rural people in NSW suffering the effects of drought. They sought advice from several women well known to them in order to test the idea. It was decided by this group to run a raffle and stall in late 2007 to arouse local interest and gather some 'starter money' for the venture. Later it was decided to apply to the Sisters of Charity Foundation for funding and the Foundation became the main and most generous supporter from the beginning.

### The two St Vincent's Hospitals

The Group was very fortunate in obtaining permission from St Vincent's General and Private Hospitals of NSW to run a one day stall twice a year and to sell Raffle Tickets for one week before each stall opened. Money from this source is used for day to day requirements and emergency rural expenses, freeing all the Foundation money for rural families in need.

### Congregational Apostolate

The Sisters of Charity Remote and Rural Group really began officially on 14th February, 2008 when it was made a Congregational Apostolate by Sister Elizabeth Dodds rsc, Congregational Leader, on that date.

### Aim of the R&R Group

The aim of the Sisters of Charity Remote and Rural Group, a volunteer organisation, is to support rural families in New South Wales affected by drought and other adverse climatic conditions and circumstances arising from these conditions.



### How is all this organised?

Over the time of operation, the R&R Group has built up a number of Contact Persons and R&R Advisors, all well known to the Group and mostly resident in townships throughout NSW. Through these Contact Persons, small amounts of money are sent to needy families for essentials such as groceries, electricity, medicines and warm clothing.

In addition to this town assistance, Principals in Catholic and Public Primary Schools are also sent small amounts in a further attempt to touch base with families in need, particularly in more isolated areas. Remote & Rural School Visitors call in to see the Principal in small local schools and explain about the Group and its work. This makes any follow up telephone contact from the treasurer much easier.

Because of the great distance, the Principals and Contact Persons and the volunteers are kept in the loop through telephone and email contact and also via cards and letters which arrive to give us assurance that cheques have arrived. Often these communications tell in general terms how someone has been helped.

Over time and with some fine tuning this method, warmed with a personal touch, works well at delivering assistance where it is needed.



# Carrying forward the spirit of Mary Aikenhead – All Saints Primary School Liverpool

## How is all this evaluated?

- Recording books are on file in which cards and letters, emails and phone messages are retained.
- Sr Jude and several volunteers contact Rural Advisors and School Visitors about Catholic and Public Primary Schools in greatest need and Sr Maree has contact, mostly by telephone and email, with about 35 Contact Persons throughout the State.
- Srs Jude and Maree have made trips together to several areas for several days each time, met many of the contact persons, visited Public and Catholic Schools and spoken to principals, staff, parents and children and driven around areas to talk with people in the streets and shops. These personal visits are well worth while.
- In addition, Sisters Jude and Maree participated in the Sisters of St Joseph's Rural School of Faith Leadership for women from rural and remote areas who have little access to formative experiences. This program, run by Father David Ranson and others, is to continue in Dubbo for 2011 and beyond this date. The Sisters of Charity Remote & Rural Group supports attendance of several women from remote areas to attend this Rural School of Faith Leadership.
- The R&R visits and assistance to areas and schools have been recorded on the map shown in the photographs. The townships are shown in red and the primary schools in green and blue. Because of the closeness of the townships and also the Catholic and Public Schools, some of the pins are seen to overlap on the photograph.

## Conclusion

The Sisters of Charity Remote & Rural Group believes that the effort made by volunteers to contact and assist people through known town or school Contact Persons has assured the safe delivery of help to those most in need of it.

by Anne Taylor rsc



Students of All Saints Primary School, Liverpool, present their artwork which illustrates the life of Mary Aikenhead.

*Sr Anne Taylor rsc has been very impressed with the way that former Sisters of Charity schools are carrying forward the spirit of Mary Aikenhead. Sr Anne would like to share that with us.*

*Today we will hear about All Saints Primary School Liverpool and look forward to hearing about other schools in future editions of KIT.*

*Mary Aikenhead's spirit lives on...*

On the Feast of Mary Aikenhead 22 July, which was a cold and wet day, spirits were high at All Saints Primary School, Liverpool. I had been invited to speak to their three year 6 classes about the Sisters of Charity, especially how we live the charism and mission today. I was impressed with the knowledge the students already had of Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity. We talked about all belonging to the story which began with Mary and we revisited the Irish and Australian part of the story and moved to the work of the Sisters at Liverpool which began in 1878.

The students were amazed at the different and broad works which the sisters now undertake after many moved away from traditional ministries in Health, Education and Community Care. They were delighted to see a picture, of their former principal, Sr Genny, engaged in her ministry at St John's Auburn as part of the pastoral care team, working particularly in settling-in refugee students.

One year 6 student remarked that Mary Aikenhead's passion to help the poor was similar to Mary MacKillop's idea of 'Never see a need without trying to do something about it'. Bookmarks of Mary Aikenhead were distributed to celebrate her feast day.

An assembly for years 3 to 6 was held in the afternoon and began with prayer. This was followed by students telling and pictorially showing part of Mary Aikenhead's life, the work of the sisters in Ireland and Australia in schools, hospitals and prisons.

The final section of the assembly talked about the charism of the Sisters of Charity and how through Project Compassion, Vinnies and other activities students continue the work of helping those in need. All Saints Liverpool is proud to say that each day they strive to carry out the mission of Jesus and the work of Mary Aikenhead.

I think Mary Aikenhead would be very pleased to be part of All Saints School, Liverpool and to hear them say they wish to continue in her ways. All Saints School certainly cherishes its links to the Sisters of Charity and hopes to maintain a strong understanding of the role of the congregation in providing Catholic Education in the Liverpool area.

# Obituaries

## We remember each deceased Sister with love and pray for her.

Over the last ten weeks, five of our much loved Sisters of Charity have died – Srs Eileen Kean, Joyce Mary Buckman, Anne Louise Hemingway, Mary Goss and Justine Doherty (whose Obituary will be in the next KIT).

They were all over 90 years of age and what tremendous contributions they have made to our congregation, the Church and our world! We pay tribute to them in these pages of KIT and give thanks to God for their lives of dedication.



### Sr Eileen Kean rsc

Sr Eileen died on 9th July, 2011

Sr Eileen (Sr M. Gervase) was a loved member of her family, the congregation and her community group who cared for her with much love during her years of retirement. Eileen had celebrated her 94th birthday in June.

Throughout her religious life, the greater part of Eileen's ministry was in education. She is still fondly remembered by students and staff, especially at St John's School Auburn NSW and Mt Carmel College Sandy Bay Tasmania, as Eileen spent a long time in both schools.

After her teaching ministry, Sr Eileen became the Congregational Bursar in 1983 and this was followed by further finance work at St Vincent's Hospital Darlinghurst. From 1997 until she fully retired in 2003, Eileen did part time secretarial work for the NSW Professional Standards Office.

A moving Vigil service was held the evening before her funeral. This allowed her family, friends and Sisters to share many stories and memories of this feisty woman.

Her Mass of Christian Burial was held at St John of God Church, Auburn. Family members, Sisters of Charity, past pupils and staff as well as Eileen's friends, gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist. Representatives from the current staff and students of Mt Carmel College travelled from Tasmania to attend.

A prayer that Eileen would have endorsed in the Prayers of Intercession was:

*We pray for all who have journeyed with Eileen – all those who have ministered with her and all to whom she has ministered – her friends, ex-students and colleagues.*

In the Eulogy spoken on behalf of her family, Eileen's nephew, Paul said:

*"Eileen was our patriarch, confidant, confessor and a conduit for family information. The marriage of Eileen's integrity, steadfastness, devotion to work, family, friends and especially her lifelong allegiance to her cause, merited her to be called a 'bride of Christ'."*

### Sr Joyce Mary Buckman rsc

Sr Joyce Mary died on 22nd July, 2011

Sr Joyce Mary (Sr M. Columba) was the eldest of three daughters of Bernard and Mary Theresa Buckman. Joyce had a great love for her family. She spoke with great pride of her sisters, Agnes and Kathleen and their families.

Joyce Mary was a loved member of the congregation and died on the anniversary of Mary Aikenhead's death at St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn.

Throughout her years as a Sister of Charity, Joyce Mary ministered as a teacher in schools, often as Principal and Superior of the community. Joyce also served as

Regional Superior in NSW from 1973-1980 and then as a volunteer with Sisters of Charity Outreach at Darlinghurst. One of Joyce Mary's duties as a volunteer was to send out 'Thank You' notes for donations received. These were always hand written and greatly appreciated by the recipients.

At the Vigil celebration of her life, stories were recalled of Joyce Mary's practical approach to life. There was to be 'no fuss' where Joyce was concerned! She was straightforward but approachable and kind. Many stated that she was a woman of faith and integrity, someone who would go 'all out' to support the 'little ones'. Others' needs always came before her own.



In her roles of leadership, Joyce Mary had a wonderful influence for good in the lives of the young sisters in the congregation at those times. Students, their parents and members of staff, admired and appreciated the constant and selfless ways Sr Joyce reached out to them.

She truly lived her motto:

*"Omnia pro te cor Jesus" –  
"Heart of Jesus, all for Thee".*

In the Mass booklet that was prepared for Joyce, this quote had special meaning:

*"When through one woman  
a little more love and goodness,  
a little more light and truth  
comes into the world,  
then that woman's life  
has had meaning."*



### Sr Anne Louise Hemingway rsc

*Sr Anne Louise died on 18th August, 2011*

Sr Anne Louise (Sr M. Laurentia) was a loved member of the congregation, of her family, a loving colleague, and a friend of residents and staff at St Joseph's Village, Auburn. Anne Louise and her sister, Olive, were the only children of Frank and Julia Hemingway.

Most of Anne Louise's years of ministry were in NSW, except for a short term at Mt St Michael's, Ashgrove. Her ministry began as a Music teacher and then from 1960, Anne Louise was a classroom teacher at various schools. She was Principal at St Ambrose's School Concord West and the final years in this ministry were as Principal at St Joseph the Worker School at South Auburn. She endeared herself to Staff, parents and students through the pastoral care and love she showed to all.

After concluding her ministry in schools, Anne Louise began a new ministry as Staff Supervisor at the Carmelite priests' Retreat Centre at Minto for four years.

The Sisters of Charity Outreach at Liverpool was grateful for the support that Anne Louise offered through her ministry with the volunteers.

Anne Louise's qualities were acclaimed at her Vigil and Mass. People saw her as a woman of prayer, a tireless worker for the disadvantaged, a thoughtful and generous person. When, in response to a request from the congregation for volunteers to go to an Aboriginal ministry at Cherbourg, Anne Louise generously responded and together with another generous volunteer and friend, Sr Josephine Hodges, began an RSC ministry in Cherbourg, Queensland, her courage shone through.

Finally, after her years of service and commitment in ministry, Sr Anne Louise retired and went to live at St Joseph's Village Auburn, where her kindness and thoughtfulness continued.

Throughout her life, Sr Anne Louise lived her motto very faithfully:

*"With Christ in God."*

May her life of goodness be an inspiration for us.

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### Sr Mary Goss rsc

*Sr Mary died on 30th August, 2011*

Sr Mary (Sr M. Declan) was the seventh of fifteen children born to John and Fanny Goss. The family lived in Essendon and Mary with her brothers and sisters were educated in the schools where our Sisters taught.

After Mary was professed on 26th August, 1941, she began her primary teaching ministry at Edgecliff and other places in NSW until 1950. She taught at Strathmore, Essendon, Moonee Ponds and finally. Mary loved her Primary School children and enjoyed her interaction with them but in 1970, she took a different direction in ministry – Pastoral Care at St Vincent's, Darlinghurst for a year.

St Vincent's Launceston was Mary's next appointment and then, Mary began her ministries of Office Assistant at Mt Olivet, then Supervisor and Pastoral Carer at Marycrest until she retired in 1990. Mary was greatly regarded by staff and residents and remained an important presence. Her gentle manner, readiness to listen and welcoming smile, made it easy for others to approach her. Mary was an example to all about keeping fit! She went for brisk walks daily, always with hat and long sleeved shirt for protection from the hot Brisbane sun.



Mary was to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee (70 years of Religious Profession), on 26th August, but a short time before that date, she received news that she had a terminal illness. Her community, family members and hospital staff gave constant support to Mary, until she died peacefully four days after her Jubilee.

In the Eulogy, her brother Richard thanked all those who had cared for Mary – from school days until her recent death:

*"The Goss family has had a lifetime association with the Sisters of Charity. I spent some time with Mary at the hospital a few weeks ago and I was very impressed by the solicitude and love shown to her."*

# Introducing our new look

A redesign for the *Keep in touch* newsletter



Sisters of Charity *Keep in touch* (June 2011)

You may have noticed the new design for *Keep in touch*, introduced in our June edition. For this fresh and contemporary presentation, we thank Iain McAulay and Paul Littrich from Jenssen Design Associates (JDA).

Iain and Paul continue to work closely with our editorial team to manage design, artwork and production of this quarterly publication. They bring to the process extensive experience in planning, content management, print liaison and quality control, to ensure production runs on-time, within budget and to a high standard.

JDA's creative partnership with the Sisters of Charity of Australia is long standing. They have served the Congregation, its Ministries and facilities, on a variety of branding and communications projects since 2000.

This invaluable experience, has familiarised them with the Gospel Values, Mission and Ministries across which the Sisters of Charity of Australia operate, and has resulted in delivery of a broad range of effective communications.

In 2001, JDA worked with Sr Jennifer Fahey to design and produce the Sisters of Charity of Australia Education Ministry Governance Manual and St Vincent's Private Pre-admission and Directory Services brochure. More recently, they designed and produced the Sisters of Charity of Australia Obituaries Book, which honours the lives of departed Sisters through text and image. JDA continues to assist us in the update and production of this important document.

In 2008, JDA were approached to develop an identity for Mary Aikenhead Ministries (MAM) to signify the change in operational structure to a Public Juridic Person. The new identity sought to demonstrate connection to the heritage of the Sisters of Charity, to present a contemporary and progressive visual identity for the entity, and to communicate the core Gospel Values of the order. The identity was expressed in applications ranging from Ministry communications to the Congregation, through to internal and external signage, multimedia and online.

We look forward to building on our long creative partnership with Jenssen Design Associates and maintain delivery of this enjoyable and informative newsletter to our valued readership.

Your continued feedback on editorial content and presentation is always appreciated.



Sisters of Charity Obituaries Book



*Keep In touch* is a quarterly newsletter for Sisters of Charity, their families, friends and supporters.



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