



Sisters of Charity
of Australia

Keep in Touch

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Inside this month

Welcome to the June 2018 edition of *Keep in Touch*, where the focus is on the Gathering which is coming up at the end of the month.

But there are other stories to tell as we remember two of our Sisters, Patricia Nunan and Joan Jurd, whose lives were dedicated to God and the people of God.

As well, we take a look at a period in which the Sisters of Charity set up school in Bombala in the Snowy Mountains, 80 kms south of Cooma. That would have been a challenge!

The Gathering: Time to rejoice and be glad!

With the Gathering almost upon us now, I have two thoughts occupying my mind ... first, enthusiasm for the work of the Gathering. It will be so good to come together with shared enthusiasm to see the results of the work of our sub-committees and how we will carry the outcomes forward.

And secondly, a positivity that will be catching! Let us take every opportunity that shows itself to us to understand and meet the challenges presented to us today as consecrated religious women.

We are at a critical time which calls for vision, courage, and a combined effort. As Sr Carol Zinn (LCWR Executive Director) says: "The main work of religious life... at this moment, calls for a clarity of vision, a consciousness of transformation, a courage of mind, heart and will and a concerted collaborative effort to embrace these times of transformation of the life we live and love and the mission and charism with which we have been entrusted,

With the help of the Holy Spirit, let us keep walking with joy to what awaits us at our Gathering.

Clare Nolan rsc, *Congregational Leader*

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The Gathering

In the planning for more than a year

Sr Linda Ferrington has been the Chair of the Implementing our Chapter Mandate Steering Committee, which had its inaugural meeting on 30 and 31 March, 2017.

Some considerations on the agenda included:

- Exploring our understanding of the Terms of Reference provided by the Congregational Leader and Council
- Reflecting on how we envision the mandate of the Chapter coming alive within each of us
- Integrating the process across committees
- Engaging with the wider Church and global context to inform our thinking and reflection
- Exploring the various technologies that will enable Sisters to contribute to the journey towards the Gathering

The sub-committees which dedicated themselves to the Gathering at the behest of the Congregational Leader and Council are:

Celebrating life/living as religious women: Srs Teresita Marcelo, Margaret Valentine, Pauline Staunton, Eileen Browne, Regina Millard, Elizabeth Costigan

Ecological Conversion: Srs Colleen Jackson, Kathleen Doohan, Jeannie Johnston, Virginia Mahony, Elizabeth Dodds

Revising Constitutions: Srs Helga Neidhart, Jan O'Grady, Patricia Scully, Maryanne Confoy, Maureen Delaney

Margins Crossing Thresholds: Srs Anne Mayberry, Amanda Nguyen, Leone Wittmack, Anne Taylor, Libbey Byrne, Maureen Walters

Continuing “the weaving...together”

After the May 3 meeting of the Implementing our 2014 Chapter Mandate Steering Committee, the program, process, and agenda for the Congregational Gathering in late June are in their final stages.

Incorporated in these are the five key themes to help guide the process: Refounding our Congregation, Margins/Crossing Thresholds, Ecological Conversion, Celebrating Life/Living as Religious Women, and Revising Our Constitutions.

The Steering Committee has continued to be attentive to the “Together ... Weaving” commitment of the Sisters made through supportive prayers, the symbolic weaving of the fabrics of our life together as Sisters of Charity, and the expressed commitment to support and participate in “the process of considering the 2014 Chapter Mandate.”

Through conversations, contemplative dialogue circles, emails/phone calls, and Sr Kathleen Bryant's presentation – *Drawing Sisters to Celebration of Life and Religious living* – and for some who were able to attend Sr Pat Farrell's seminar *Contemplation and Transformation*, we have endeavoured “to gather ... the wisdom of our Sisters ... weave our hopes and dreams ... towards a transformative visioning as a refounding process.”



We are now in the final stages of the Gathering preparation, and our hope for all of us is that:

We come together to honour and reverence the gift that each of us IS.

And to take time to be present, to listen, to pray, with openness, and where healing and newness may spring.

We invite you, Sisters, to join in praying this prayer which began our April/May 2017 State Meetings:

Together, we are invited in a holy place of leaving and moving forward now.

This threshold holds both gladness and grief, mercy and hope.

May we hold what is dear to us – may we meet them again.

May what is past be moved along, or be finished for us.



Above: The Sisters at Parramatta, with Sr Deirdre Hickey in red coat in foreground (2005) **Above right:** The Sisters visit the Female Factory in Parramatta (2005)

Left: Left to right: Srs Marion Corless, Maryanne Confoy, Val Green, Maureen Parker (1983) **Right:** Srs Virginia Wilkinson, Patricia Carroll, Dawn Bang, Paulina Pilkington (1983)

Celebrating life/ Living as religious women

From the Sub-Committee

*May we look back with
gratitude of heart and notice
places of growth.*

*May we forget and let go
of some places of hurt.*

*May we be ready to move into
the liminal spaces of unknowing
and unfamiliarity with gentleness
and compassion.*

*This will take our time
and space, patience, and
attentiveness, solitude, prayer
and togetherness.*

*May we step across the
threshold with courage.*

*May we tenderly accept that
this is our journey now.*

*We are grateful to you Holy
One, Three in One, Communion
of Love.*

Glory to you forever. Amen.

In the beginning, the Sub-Committee members had a challenge understanding what the topic actually meant. We are such a diverse group and used to living as religious women in quite different ways.

For a couple of meetings, we were all over the place, arriving at our meetings equipped with suitcases of materials and papers. At times, it would be fair to say that it was pretty heavy going and we were getting stuck.

A lot of time was devoted, in the beginning, to our tasks and roles and we were talking about structure. As we persevered and continued to develop the context, with the assistance from our Sisters and other resources, we were able to move forward.

We drew courage and inspiration from Norm 31 of our Constitutions: We are to become a living scripture, a letter from Christ, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on human hearts. We must allow the Holy Spirit to permeate our lives ... for it is through the Spirit that we penetrate the invisible and incomprehensible and encounter God.

We began to sit back, listen more deeply, and let the process happen; having faith that the Spirit would lead us all eventually in the right direction.

It was helpful to look at different ways Sisters lived in communities, and out of that came a different way to look and celebrate our lives. This centred around not just on community, but also around mission, relationship, and a new narrative of communion.

We believe we have found something to present to the Gathering which we are excited about, and we hope our Sisters will be too.

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The Gathering

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Ecological Conversion

chaired by Sr Colleen Jackson

"Ecological conversion was first mentioned by Pope John Paul II in 2001 and is a central theme in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*: *Care for our Common Home*. The term 'Ecological Conversion' embraces the call to an inner spiritual conversion – a transformation of heart – that impels us to concrete action towards care for our 'Common Home.'

"Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'* calls the Church, and the world to hear 'both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.'

"*Laudato Si'* is a binding teaching. It comes at a time when the global community is increasingly aware of the need for us to modify consumption and irresponsible development on many levels, in order that all can live sustainably and justly.

"Our sub-committee has been exploring what ecological conversion might mean for us as individuals, and as a Congregation. We have no intention of proposing any particular view or path forward but want to invite Sisters into greater awareness of the teaching, and to consider what our responses might be.

"There is a myriad of possible responses open to each individual, our Congregation, and the Church – *Laudato Si'* calls for prayer, action and advocacy, and invites us to respond personally and collectively.

"I find the call of *Laudato Si'* both exciting and challenging. Our sub-committee is looking forward tremendously to bringing what we have learned, and the invitation of *Laudato Si'*, to our Sisters at the Gathering."



Revising the Constitutions

chaired by Sr Helga Neidhart

This has been quite a difficult task. Our Constitutions are fundamental to our lives as contemporary consecrated women and call us to a life of holiness.

The Constitutions were approved in 1981 and two years later, a new Code of Canon Law was promulgated. As a result, we were not able to incorporate relevant references. Now another 35 years have passed, bringing significant changes to our world and Church, as well as new theological insights. Much of this newness has been reflected in recent Church documents.

The Papacy of Pope Francis has been instrumental, characterised by his distinctive emphasis on mercy, justice, joy, love, and care of the earth. This emphasis also has a bearing on our lives as religious women.

Thus, the Constitutions need revision to reflect these changes.

At the Gathering we will share our suggestions for amending and editing of text. These suggestions will be proposed to the group for discussion and decision in terms of what is to go forward to the 2020 Chapter.



Above: The Steering Committee (from left): Srs Tess Marcelo, Anne Mayberry, Helga Neidhart, Linda Ferrington (chair), and Colleen Jackson **Left:** Left to right: Sr M Agnes Joseph Mulquiney, Sr M de Paul Dunne.



Margins Crossing Thresholds

chaired by Sr Anne Mayberry

What does the name of the sub-committee mean? Marginalisation is multi-faceted. It concerns people who are living on the boundaries of society. We are surrounded by people every day who are marginalised.

No one can say the margins are here or over there, in that city or that particular place. Many poor people are marginalised and not necessarily of their own volition.

Personally, for me, (being on the sub-committee) has opened my eyes. I look at people with a new vision and have been surprised at my findings. People on the margins are closer than you realise. They are not way outback, although I have met many in remote and rural parts of our State.

It's challenging to have researched areas we are not familiar with – areas such as human trafficking, Indigenous and Torres Strait Islanders, people suffering substance abuse, asylum seekers, the Church (paedophilia), youth and people suffering mental illness. Many of their experiences result from early life disadvantage.

Top left: Left to right: Sr Vianney Farrelly, Sr Liguori Main, unidentified Sister (with head bowed), Sr Imelda Green, Sr Germanus McQuillan, Sr Mary Gabrielle Clarke.

Top right: 2005 Gathering. **Centre:** Congregational Gathering, December 1983. A view into St Vincent's Chapel from the entrance gallery during the Eucharistic celebration. **Centre right:** December 1983 – Sr Canisius Coupe at table, others (left and standing) unidentified. **Bottom left:** Back row, left to right: Srs Mildred Carroll, Casimir Baptist, Tarcisius Donovan. Front row, left to right: Sr Genevieve Campbell, Sr Joyce Mary Buckman. **Bottom right:** Congregational Gathering, September 1999. View of group of participants during Congregational Gathering held in St. Vincent's Chapel Potts Point in September 1999. Participants included Sisters of Charity and about 20 lay people who share in the Congregation's mission. Taken during one of the sessions, with participants involved in a ritual, standing around bowl with burning fire and involved in some movements.

We have been overwhelmed with the scale of the problem – it is enormous. The more you move among people, the more you become aware of it. Statistics are overwhelming.

We are excited to take our learnings and understandings to the Sisters at the Gathering... we are not at this stage promising to give answers but rather will endeavour to engage each other in awareness raising. It's about looking with new eyes.



Where the waters meet

The Sisters of Charity in Bombala, 1885-1887

Bombala River

In the language of the Ngarigo people, *Bombala* means where the waters meet, referring to the confluence of the Bombala and Coolumbooka Rivers near the present town.

The Bombala district was first settled by Europeans in 1833, becoming a township in 1851. It was the time of steamships plying up and down the coast between Sydney and coastal towns and in 1850 a regular mail service by horse and coach ran between Eden and Bombala.

By 1856, Bombala's population was nearly twice that of Cooma and a number of substantial public and commercial buildings had been constructed. The Bombala Times newspaper commenced in 1863 and the Bombala Public School was established as a one-teacher school.

The annual Bombala Show was instituted in 1875 and the Bombala Hospital completed by 1885. In 1887, Bombala Racecourse was established and gold was found.

The Parish of Bombala

The first priest to visit Bombala was Fr McGrath, priest of Bungonia near Goulburn, who visited families at Bombala, Delegate, and Nimmitabel to baptise children in 1841.

From that time, priests stationed in Queanbeyan made regular visitation on horseback via Braidwood, along the coastal road to Eden, up the mountain to Bombala and Cooma.

In 1856, the Monaro parochial district attained its independence, with the first priest, Fr Charles Quinn, stationed at Cooma. St Mary's, the first Catholic church in Bombala, was built in 1867 and replaced in 1942. Father J. J. Carroll, who served at Bombala in the 1870s, was removed in February 1878, despite his opposition to his removal.

He was succeeded by Fr Hayes who subsequently moved to Wollongong. In 1883, Fr James Fleming came from St Mary's Cathedral to Bombala as parish priest. He wanted to set up a school, while at the same time raising funds to build a presbytery.



The former All Saints' Convent, now a museum



Above: Bombala in 1902, taken by E T Luke. Courtesy of the National Library of Australia **Above left:** Bombala taken by John Henry Harvey ca1880-ca1934. Courtesy of the State Library of Victoria **Below right:** Corridor inside the former All Saints' Convent looking towards the front door

Why did the Sisters of Charity go to Bombala?

There is little evidence as to why four Sisters of Charity from St Vincent's Convent, Potts Point, arrived in Bombala on February 11, 1885, but we do know the how – they travelled by special horse coach from Bega.

They would have sailed on a steamship from Sydney probably to the port of Tathra. It is likely that the Sisters would have stayed at the Nazaretto Convent at Bega (where Sisters of Charity arrived in January 1884) prior to travelling from Bega to Bombala by horse and coach.

We do know that the Rectress of Bombala, Sr Mary Vincent Carroll, was the sibling of former parish priest, Fr J. J. Carroll who served Bombala in the 1870s. Sr Mary Vincent had been the first Rectress at St Mary's Convent, Liverpool in 1878 and after service at Bombala, became Rectress at Nazaretto Convent, Bega after her niece, Sr M Aquin Bourke, left Bega in early 1888.

The beginning of Catholic schooling in Bombala: All Saints' School

In 1884, together with a parish committee, Fr Fleming purchased a building for use as a school. It was situated on the corner of Mahratta and Stephen Streets, on the Sydney road coming into Bombala, opposite the Bombala River.

The school building, formerly an old slab timber hotel, was on a corner with three frontages, had an extensive yard and an orchard on an acre of ground. Funds were raised locally so that renovations could be undertaken to convert it for school purposes.

The property was purchased for £500 from Mrs Mary Hughina Chopin, the widow of the late Dr Charles M. Chopin (1824-1871), a general medical practitioner of Bombala. Next to the former slab timber hotel was a brick residence, also purchased from Mrs Chopin, which the Sisters of Charity converted for use as All Saints' Convent.



In a letter to the Archbishop dated 19 February 1885, Sr Mary Vincent Carroll, wrote that the Sisters "are well pleased with our new convent home and we have every reason to be happy here."

Seventy children were enrolled on the first day of school, Monday, February 16, 1885, 61 of whom came from Bombala Public School. Two weeks later, eighty children had been enrolled.

Sr Mary Vincent's niece, Sr Mary Michael Bourke, was one of the other Sisters. She had taken her final vows on January 8, 1885, about a month prior to arriving in Bombala. The names of the other two Sisters who were sent to Bombala are not recorded.

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All Saints' School: the original slab hut



Exterior wall of the slab hut

All Saints' High School

An advertisement in March, 1885 in the local press announced that a high school in connection with the convent school was planned to be opened in a few weeks. The school was planned for "young ladies" as boarders, with French, music and astronomy to be taught.

By March 7, 1885, three boarders had commenced and the Sydney newspapers could report in June 1885 that the school had opened "about a month ago." The next press report described the first annual exhibition and distribution of prizes for All Saints High School, held on December 16, 1885, followed on December 18 by the primary school's annual exhibition and distribution of prizes.

The Sisters also visited the sick in the local community.

Fundraising for the convent and the school proceeded not only in Bombala but also in Nimmitabel, about 60 kilometres north of Bombala, as evidenced by "a Grand Bazaar in aid of All Saints Convent, Bombala" held in Silk's Royal Hotel, Nimmitabel on St Patrick's Day, March 17, 1886. In early 1887, a well-attended "plain and fancy dress ball" was held in Bombala in aid of the convent.

By 1887, the community numbered five Sisters; however, school enrolments had decreased to seven boarders and thirteen day pupils. A newspaper report at the end of 1887 mentions "a few months ago three Sisters of St Joseph came to Bombala and took charge of the convent and school."

By then there were more than 100 students. No further reports of the Sisters of Charity in Bombala were located and we do not know why they left. The convent and school remained until 1918, before moving to new convent and school buildings in Queen Street, Bombala.

Extremes of weather

Bombala had variable and extreme weather during the time the Sisters were in residence there.

Could this have been a factor in the Sisters leaving Bombala? We might never know.

Bombala experienced a hot and dry start in 1885, with dust storms and temperatures reaching 39 deg C (102 deg Fahrenheit) in the shade.

The year that followed was characterised by cold weather, heavy frosts followed by earthquakes and snow, drought, downpours of rain and much sickness in the community.

In the winter of 1886, it was so cold that locals were able to ice skate on the frozen Bombala River. In January 1887, hot days up to 39.5 deg C (103 degrees Fahrenheit) and cold nights with severe frost were experienced and the mail service between Bungendore and Bombala was interrupted by a flood.

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A visit on annual holidays to Bombala in December 2017, writes Congregational Archives Manager, Janet Howse, was precipitated by the lack of information about the Sisters of Bombala in the mid-1880s. The visit and subsequent research resulted in this article.
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Words of remembrance

Sr Patricia Nunan rsc

(11 March 1936 - 25 April 2018)

"In the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost."

What a very sad day it is, saying farewell to our Sister in Christ, Patricia Nunan! We can feel a light has gone out in our world but from all the tributes the Congregation has received since Patricia's death, the impression she has left on so many will see that her light still shines.

In 2016, Patricia celebrated her 80th birthday and her Diamond Jubilee of Profession as a Sister of Charity. Now today we celebrate her going home to the God to whom she gave her life and to be united with all those she loved in this life and who have gone before her. What a celebration there will be.

We give thanks for Patricia and for the unique person she was. She was a faithful and loving Sister of Charity for 61 years. I often heard Patricia endearingly called "a character!" I think this was because she felt at home with people and they with her.

She was a woman of quick wit and humour. At Community celebrations Patricia could always be "the clown" and laughter rang out at her antics. The last two Christmases she was Santa to all present at the Mononia Christmas lunch.

Patricia was never afraid to be herself even though being herself raised a few eyebrows! The odd flutter on the horses! Could debate politics till the cows came home. Patricia loved her golf and all the people she connected with through that and of course her beloved Bombers. All of these things engaged her with people and what people found in Patricia brought them joy.

Patricia's ministries during 61 years were dedicated to being a Sister of Charity in Education. It was in Primary and Secondary up until 1980 when Patricia embarked on bringing her teaching and leadership qualities to the role of Principal of Catholic Ladies College Eltham and later at St Columba's Essendon.

She was innovative and totally committed to preparing young women for both career and life. Patricia was a feminist before the word came into vogue and developed herself as a Principal in order to keep up with the demands of professionalism and reading the signs of the times.

Patricia trialled working with other religious Congregations to offer alternative forms of education. Patricia was very much an ideas woman.

Patricia was a great mentor for other Principals as those who are now Principals can attest.

Sr Marita Sweeney RIP

Sr Marita died on May 21 in Melbourne.

Her words of remembrance will be included in the September edition of *Keep In Touch*.



It is clear that Patricia loved her dear family, nieces, nephews, extended family and Nola her sister. Our hearts go out to you all.

Her leaving her home at Moonee Ponds was done with great dignity. A living example of going in trust to the place prepared for her at St Catherine's Aged Care Balwyn. The words of the Scriptures become a reality:

"I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you like; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands and somebody else will put a belt around you and take you where you would rather not go."

John 21:16

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Words of remembrance

Sr Patricia Nunan rsc

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One of my last conversations with Patricia was around the new Principal at St Columba's – had I met her and what I needed to share with her about the Mary Aikenhead story and the Sisters of Charity story in Catholic Education? Patricia felt she may not meet the new Principal Rita.

Patricia would look at me and say "these places (nursing homes) are funny places don't you think? You never get out of them."

I had no response. I simply left in tears. It was hard for Patricia to accept more care; however, she was gracious in knowing and accepting it was time and she was very grateful for the loving care she received from the Staff at St Catherine's, Sr Mary Gabrielle, Sr Cathy Meese, Liz Reid and the sisters and the doctors who attended Patricia.

On Patricia's Profession Day August 1956 she received her gold ring symbolising her commitment.

The Trinity inspired her on her spiritual journey. Now you are safely with Father, Son and Spirit. Let us join together now and give praise and thanks to God for a life lived to the full for God and God's people.

"Our place is not where we live, or where we work; our place is where we love, where we witness."

(M. Ambrosio).

"Céad Mile fáilte," Patricia.

Clare Nolan rsc

Sr Joan Jurd rsc

(19 August 1915 - 15 February 2018)



Sr Joan Jurd in modified habit, ca 1983

Sr Annette Cunliffe, twice Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity of Australia, paid this tribute to a much-loved aunt at her Requiem Mass.

Joan Lenore Jurd was born on the family property, *Carwee*, about 32 kms out of the town of Moree, on 19 August 1915, in the midst of World War I.

Her mother Agnes May née Hickey had been a teacher, and her father, Ernest James Jurd owned and managed this sheep property.

Joan was the third child and first daughter, her older brothers being Ernest Mervyn, known as Mervyn and Adrian Bertram, known as Bill. Two more brothers followed, Leslie John, known as John and

Desmond Hurley – actually known as Desmond – and finally her sister was born: Julie May, my mother.

Joan's primary school education was undertaken at home supervised by a governess, who lived with the family.

Her early secondary education was as a boarding student at the school conducted by the Sisters of Mercy at Gunnedah, while she boarded at St Vincent's College, Potts Point for her final two years and, inspired by those who taught her, especially the wonderful Mother M. Peter Fennessy, she recognised her vocation to become a Sister of Charity.

After completing her Leaving Certificate at the end of 1932, she entered the Sisters of Charity on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, on June 23, 1933 in the middle of the Depression.

She was then received as a Novice, Sr M Perpetua, on January 13, 1934, taking her first vows in 1936 and her final vows on 20 January 1939 on the verge of World War II.

Her beloved father had died suddenly during her Novitiate, but she firmly declined her brother's efforts to induce her to return home because of this.

Two records for Sr Joan:

- The second oldest Sister of Charity at her time of death was Sr Joan Jurd who was 102 years, 5 months and 27 days old.

- She was the longest-serving Sister of Charity at her time of death; She had been admitted for 84 years, 7 months and 23 days and from her profession date the period was 82 years 0 months and 26 days.



St Mary's Convent community, Hurstville, ca 1975.

Left to right. Front row: Sisters Genevieve Walsh, Edith King, Elizabeth Harper, Margaret Guy.
Second row: Sisters Conleth Cunnane, Joan Jurd, Bernadette Shand, Frances Therese O'Connor.
Back row: Sisters Lucy McNamara, Claudette Palmer, Mary Cooke, Helen Malone, Margaret Scully, Claudia Doyle, Philippine Humphreys, Consilio Ryan

She spent two years at Bethlehem Ashfield, then one year recuperating in the community at St Vincent's Hospital, Lismore, assisting with clerical duties, before returning to teach at Hurstville, before retiring in early 1981.

She then undertook an overseas trip to various places of pilgrimage including both Lord's Cricket Ground and the shrine of Lourdes, her "home base" being the home of an ex-student and ex-colleague whose husband was in the diplomatic service based in London.

Joan remained living in Hurstville/Bexley until she moved to St Joseph's Village, where she settled quickly, appreciating the care she received, the friendship of other Sisters resident there and the freedom to participate in activities or to choose not to.

Joan's great loves were

- her God – she remarked to me years ago that, at her stage of life, if one didn't have a relationship with Jesus one didn't have anything;
- her family so loving her and strongly represented here;
- people, especially children whose presence always caused her to light up with joy, while they, in turn always recognised her love and respect for them
- literature, history, and current affairs – loves that she has passed on to generations of relatives and students,

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Sisters of Charity on staff at St Mary's Star of the Sea High School, Hurstville.

Left to right. Back row: Sisters Joan Jurd, Maria Therese Hess, Dorothy Maher, Elizabeth Harper.
Front row: Sisters M. Consilio Ryan, Helen Malone (Principal).

Those who were professed with her were Sisters Marion Corless, Michael Farrell, Clare O'Donaghoe, Dolores Hamilton, Paula Butler, and Lidwina Hartmann, all of whom have preceded her to eternal life.

She spent most of her remarkable 82 years as a professed Sister of Charity as an inspiring educator, building strong bonds of friendship and respect with her many students. She moved relatively few times, ministering at St Teresa's Essendon, Victoria for four years, then in NSW

at St Vincent's College Potts Point during WWII and beyond before being appointed to Hurstville as Superior and Principal, returning to St Vincent's Potts Point, as Principal for four years, including my last three as a student there.

She was then appointed Superior of the community at Potts Point before returning to Hurstville, again with a dual leadership role which took a huge toll, resulting in several years of illness.

Words of remembrance

Sr Joan Jurd rsc

From page 11



Golden Jubilee of Sr Joan Jurd (Perpetua) (left) and Sr Marion Corless (Reparata) (right) celebrated at St Vincent's Private Hospital with the Sisters, 1986

- cricket and sport in general: The highlight of her 100th birthday was a message from Steve Waugh whose cricketing prowess and charity work she so admired. Her early renunciation of being able to engage in her favourite sport, horse-riding, was replaced with vicarious enjoyment of many sports and great skill in picking winners at the races, though she never placed any actual bets

We remember Joan as an inspiring and passionate teacher, a lover of people especially little children, an authentic and down-to earth leader, and someone who naturally included all.



Sr Joan Jurd's 80th Jubilee of Profession, 20 January 2016. Taken outside St Joseph's Village, Auburn (front door of former RSC Hospital Convent).
Left to Right: Sr Maria Wheeler, Sr Jean Marie Brennan, Sr Genevieve Walsh, Sr Joan Jurd (sitting), Sr Annette Cunliffe, Sr Margaret Beirne, Sr Mark Lehmann and Sr Francis Xavier Purcell

Her insistence on good grammar and spelling and her love of literature and history have been passed down to generations of students and family members alike. She was loyal to friends and family, choosing to love rather than judge and she remained involved and alert to current happenings almost to the end. God was good in allowing her to retain her intellect and memory.

Someone has remarked that Joan could die happy when Australia reclaimed the Ashes and the ALP regained power. At least one of those has come to pass.

Her politics were based on a strong sense of social justice and part of her Vow of Service of the Poor that

she lived in practice through hidden, practical assistance to people in need, wherever she encountered them.

As one of my nephews remarked: May we all live lives as good and true as hers, and love as much, and be as loved.

Joan, though your century plus surpasses even Bradman's average batting score and we knew that you had to leave us some time, your passing leaves a huge hole in our lives but we know that your love of and interest in us all will continue forever.

May God's love enfold you now.



Sisters of Charity
of Australia

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