

Sevenhill Retreat

From 22nd to 28th April twenty-one retreatants, together with four team members, joined the Josephites Journeying Together Retreat at Sevenhill, South Australia. On the first day Marie Foale rsj of Adelaide, our respected historian, led us from Kensington to Port Adelaide, to Franklin Street, to Morphett Vale, to Norwood and ultimately to Sevenhill in the beautiful Clare valley. The retreat directors were Srs Jen Ryan, Carmel Moore and Mary Ryan assisted by an associate Kaye Kennedy.

Half of the group was accommodated in the Jesuit College, where our co-founder Father Julian Tenison Woods lived and studied prior to his ordination in 1857. The other half had upmarket rooms in Thorn Park, an area sold by the priests in 1851 because of financial problems and bought back last year. Our wonderful country style meals were served in 'the barn', an area renovated for the Conference/Retreat Centre on the new property. While we pondered in silence the stories of pain, separation and heroism, we were saturated in history – also in rain! Eighty mls fell in six days, breaking the long drought. We shared wonderfully about our struggles and our gifts in the journey of our religious lives, only to be confirmed in the fact that we really do share the same spirit. See [photos](#)

Kincumber Retreat

From 8th May to 15th May thirty Retreatants , came together with the four Team Leaders at the beautiful Brisbane Waters venue of the Kincumber Retreat Centre. Here we were conscious of the history of this place and its association with Mary MacKillop and orphaned boys she set up a home for in early times. No longer an orphanage, it provided a tranquil setting for the "Seasons of our Josephite Life" Retreat we entered into there.

As for the other Josephite Retreats, the participants were drawn from Central and Federation Josephite Communities from Australia and New Zealand. Because of the number we were divided into two groups – one led by Sr Therese McGarry and Pat Duffy and the other by Lyn Young and Therese Quinn. Using quotes, hymns, reflective power-points, history and prayer the Team lead us through the Seasons of Mary and Julian's lives and allowed us to ponder, in silence, the seasons of our own lives and the lessons they can teach us in dealing with the pain and shadow; the joys and blessings. During the sharing we came to understand better the history of and hardships endured by our Founders and the early days of the Order. We realized how close our links are. We shared a symbolic Reconciliation inspired by this deeper understanding and thanked God for the opportunity afforded by the Retreat to get to know our story and each other more.