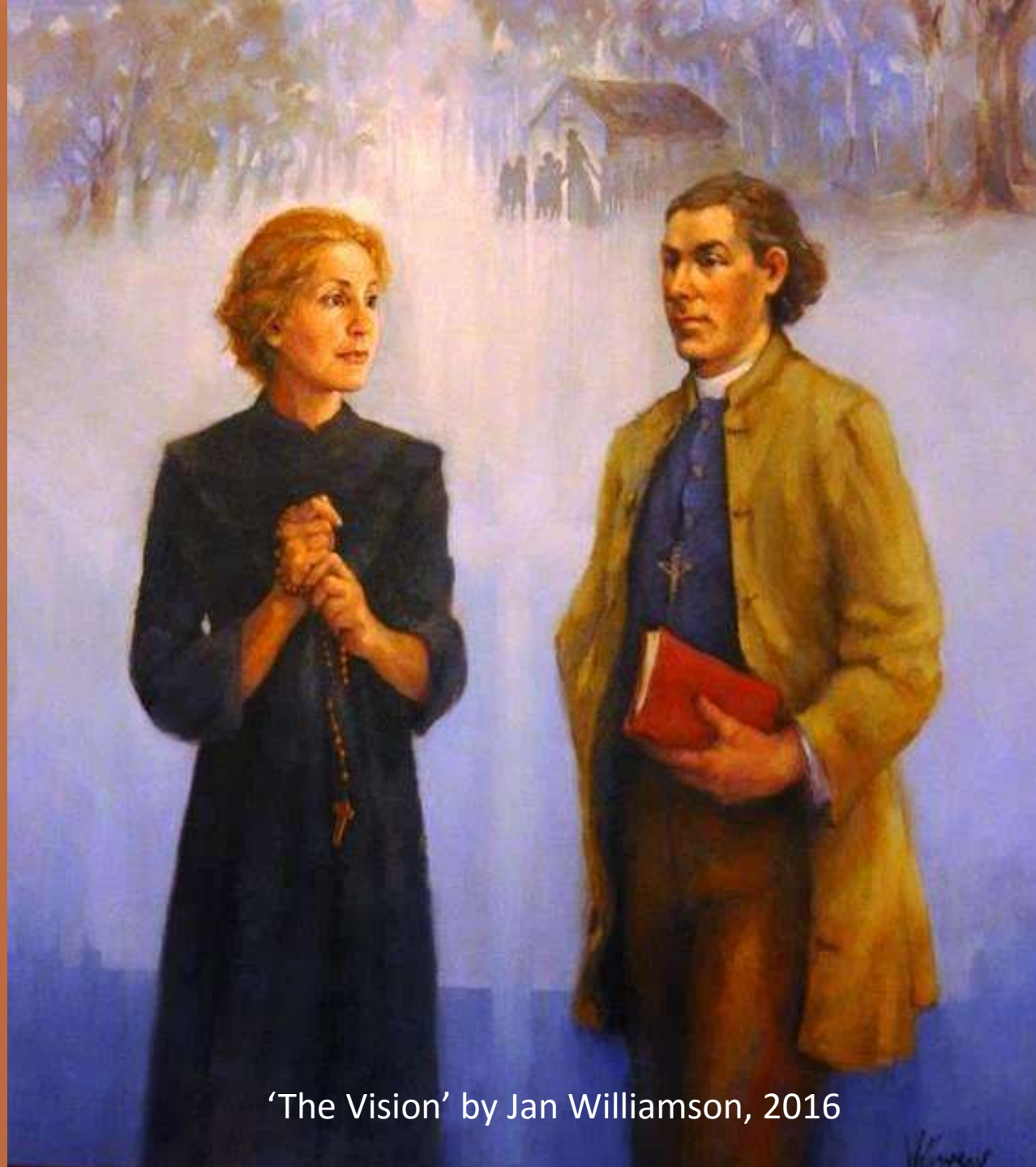


Our early Josephite History



'The Vision' by Jan Williamson, 2016

We were founded with vision and courage precisely to undertake a new experiment: to live as religious had not lived before, and to work under conditions they had not experienced before. The first Sisters of St Joseph sensed the spirit of a new world in a way that has left its mark on the history of Australia and New Zealand.

Our Constitutions A Future and A Hope





*Fr Julian
Tenison Woods*

Parish Priest of Penola

**‘A man of remarkable and creative mind’
gifted preacher, missionary, scientist, educator,
writer, public speaker, artist, musician ...
founder of religious orders.**



■ ADELAIDE

1857

Murray Bridge

SOUTH

AUSTRALIA

Bordertown

Parish of Penola

22,000 sq miles

VIC

Robe

Naracoorte

Penola

Mt Gambier

As Fr Woods travelled his vast parish
on horseback, he dreamt of having
Religious Sisters *“who would live
poorly and would go into remote
parts of the colony and give proper
religious instruction to poor
scattered children”*

J T Woods, Memoirs



A scenic view of Le Puy-en-Velay, France. In the foreground, a tall, dark, rocky spire rises from a forested hillside, topped by a large, reddish-brown statue of a standing figure. To the right, a town with numerous buildings featuring red-tiled roofs is nestled on a hillside. A prominent church with a tall, dark spire and a dome is visible among the buildings. The background shows rolling green hills under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

**While he was a student in L'Auvergne, France
he met the Sisters of St Joseph of Le Puy.**

Le Puy-en-Velay, France

*“The daughters of farmers and humble people,
they were not highly educated, nor probably
very refined, but they lived a life of great
edification, in poverty and humility*

*... and there was no fine
ladyism about them”*

J T Woods, Memoirs



Mary MacKillop

**was born in Melbourne
in 1842**



**At 18 she moved to Penola to be governess
for her uncle's children.**

**There she met Fr Tenison Woods and shared
with him her dream of being a religious**



*“I have such an earnest longing
for the Order of St Joseph ...
none other is so fitted for the
wants of this Colony*

*but unless Sisters come from France,
it will be long before there are enough of us
for the work that is to be done”.*

Letter to her mother 1865

1866

Inspired and encouraged
by Fr Tenison Woods
Mary opened the first
Josephite School

in a disused stable in Penola SA
on 19 March, the feast of St Joseph



Also in 1866, three new dioceses were created in NSW





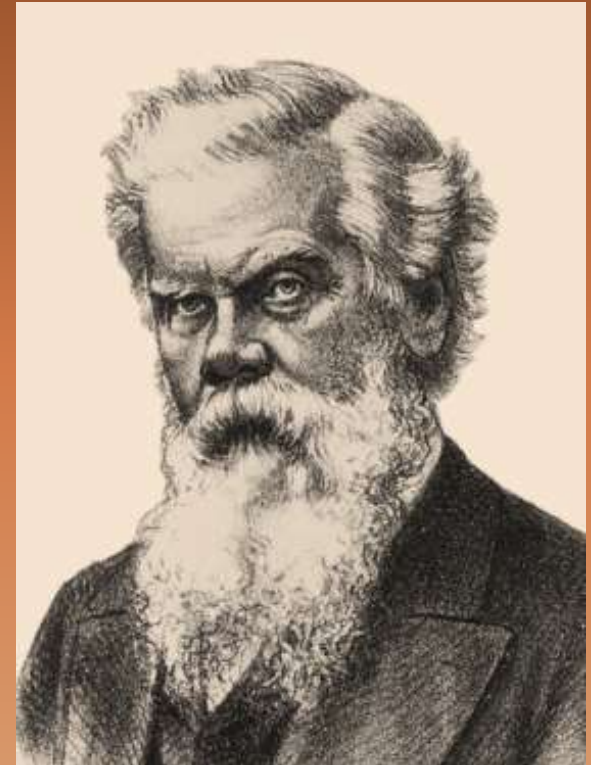
Bishop Matthew Quinn

***“The cares of my weighty position press on me.
The thought of the length and breadth, the
roughness and toughness of this diocese
often overwhelm me”***

Written to his sister in Ireland 1867

**In 1866 also, under the leadership of Henry Parkes
the NSW Public Schools Act was passed.**

**This was the first step towards
free, compulsory,
secular education in NSW
- and withdrawal of State Aid
for church schools**



Henry Parkes

1880 Public Instruction Bill

Henry Parkes,
Colonial Secretary for NSW



FREE
COMPULSORY
SECULAR
EDUCATION



Government aid was
withdrawn from all
denominational schools
by end of 1882.



**The most far-reaching solution
to the education dilemma ...
came not from the bishops,
but from the pastoral ranks,
where Father Tenison Woods'
inspiration had given direction
to Mary McKillop's gifts.**

Sr Margaret Press rsj





“The Sisters must be ready to go wherever they are sent ... they must be prepared to take charge of schools in any district, no matter how poor, and they may live in any house they may get, no matter how small, bare or dilapidated”

Fr JT Woods, Book of Instructions 1870



*“Give us children to educate
and instruct
and if we have to live in a shed
and sleep on the ground
such inconveniences should
make our courage rise”*

Fr JT Woods, Book of Instructions 1870



**Many young women joined Mary
and by 1871, 120 Sisters
were ministering in schools,
orphanages, refuges for women,
visiting the sick, visiting gaols**

*... never seeing a need without trying
to do something about it.*



Opposition grew to the new, different religious order in Adelaide.

During a crisis in Adelaide in 1871 Mary was excommunicated.

She appealed to Rome in 1873 and returned with the Rule confirming central government.



**In 1872
at the request of
Bishop Matthew Quinn**



**Mary had sent a community of Sisters
to Perthville near Bathurst NSW**





In 1876

as a result of conflict between

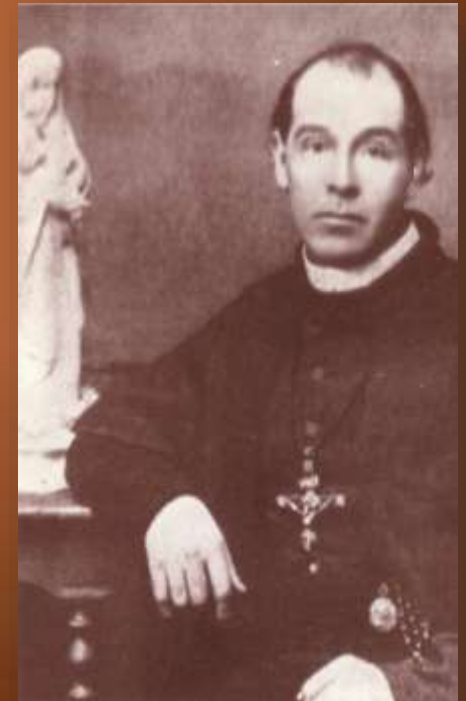


**Mother Mary and Bishop Matthew Quinn
concerning central government of the Order,
all but two sisters and a group of postulants
returned to Adelaide.**



Sr Hyacinth Quinlan remained in Perthville, took responsibility for the formation of the young Irish women brought to Perthville by the bishop, and provided leadership to this diocesan group.

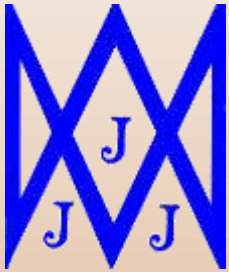
When Fr Woods returned to NSW in January 1877 from missionary work in Tasmania he assisted her.



Those who remained in Perthville
formed the first group of
diocesan Josephites.



From there foundations were made in
Wanganui (NZ) in 1880,
Goulburn in 1882,
Lochinvar in 1883
and Westbury, Tas in 1887



**Four young Sisters led by Sr Ambrose
Joseph Dirkin arrived at Lochinvar in
September 1883**



First home of the Sisters at Lochinvar

*We who have taken up their task must press on
into each age as it unfolds in a like spirit of daring,
strong in our commitment to love.*

*Drawing on the past we will never take refuge in the past
but in partnership with the Holy Spirit,
we will confront the world of the future fearlessly
and bend that future to the dynamic purpose of the Creator.*

Constitutions of the Australian New Zealand Federation of Sisters of St Joseph

