



NEWSLETTER

24 August 2020

Hello to Everyone,

I hope and pray that you are safe and are coping with the stresses and pressures caused by the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Please reach out to others if you need help or support.

My last Newsletter, less than a month ago, broke the drought in relation to Newsletters from Joseph's Corner. In these difficult times it is more important than ever to keep you informed about Joseph's Corner.

Keeping in Touch

There are two items of news I would like to share with you.

Firstly, I am deeply saddened by the death on Monday 17 August of **Sue Sherman** from Laverton Parish. Sue was a most effective Parish Secretary for many years and she had been a strong supporter of Joseph's Corner since its inception.

Sue will be sadly missed by the Laverton Parish and by Joseph's Corner.

My prayers are with her family at this time.

Secondly, **Sr Helen Reed, rsj**, who has been in hospital and in care for a time due to a leg injury has been deemed well enough to leave care and to move to the Josephite Community at Camberwell. Helen has been a constant supporter of Joseph's Corner over the years and especially during her time at Mount St Joseph Girl's College in Altona. It was a worrying time for all when Helen was in hospital and in care during the COVID 19 Pandemic. We are thankful for Helen's recovery and look forward to seeing her at future fundraising events – whenever they occur.

A Thank You

Without a paid administrative assistant at Joseph's Corner the job of keeping Joseph's Corner ticking over has been undertaken by volunteers.

I want to express my sincerest gratitude to **Mary Vella** and **Franca Tamburro** for their generous efforts to keep Joseph's Corner going.

My last Newsletter resulted in many undelivered emails and Mary has worked tirelessly to get our mailing list updated. Franca has been invaluable in sorting out what needs to be done with requests from various bodies for information or annual returns from Joseph's Corner.



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Counselling Continues at Joseph's Corner

The COVID19 Pandemic is continuing to have a significant impact on Joseph's Corner but we are trying to continue operating. The sad reality is that Government and community responses to the COVID 19 Pandemic have not diminished or lessened the harm done to families through substance abuse by a family member.

Throughout the COVID 19 Pandemic people have continued to approach Joseph's Corner for assistance. Our Counsellors, including the Counsellors on placement from the Universities, have to date been able to take on new clients as well as continuing to assist existing clients.

When the first set of restrictions were imposed by Governments as a result of the COVID 19 Pandemic it was clear that our fundraising would suffer a dramatic decline this year. The Board of Joseph's Corner made the decision to reduce expenditure where necessary so as to ensure the ongoing viability of Joseph's Corner.

One of the items of expenditure which was cut was the engagement as a contractor of a Supervisor for the Counsellors. As the Counsellors have continued to see clients it has become imperative that we provide the professional Supervision that they need. Whilst the Counsellors are receiving Jobkeeper payments we are able to have the Counsellors continue working and assisting clients. However, the Supervisor position was not covered by Jobkeeper and in order to again engage a Supervisor for the Counsellors then Joseph's Corner will have to pay for that work.

Our current financial position is such that we need assistance to ensure that we can pay the Supervisor for the Counsellors. As with everyone who does paid work for Joseph's Corner the Supervisor for the Counsellors has done so at a modest rate.

We have been paying \$528 per month to the Supervisor for the Counsellors. This amount provides us with a fortnightly supervision session where the Supervisor has a 1 hour one on one meeting with each Counsellor. It is clear that this is an ongoing need that will need to be funded for quite some time.

Therein lies the nobility of the faith: that we have the heart to dare something.

Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman

Your help is sought to fund \$528.00 per month needed to ensure the provision of Supervision for the Counsellors.

Can you make a once only donation for this or can you commit to regular donations for this? Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made through the website or if you want to transfer money directly to Joseph's Corner please contact me.



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A General Call for Assistance

In my last Newsletter I set out a number of areas where Joseph's Corner needed ongoing assistance and I repeat that same message here.

Even in a COVID 19 Pandemic time much can be achieved by people willing to try. Joseph's Corner needs people who understand and would like to act on the message given by St Mary of the Cross McKillop:

"Never see a need without trying to do something about it."

What do we need?

Donations and Grants

Even in the midst of the COVID 19 Pandemic I have been amazed and extremely grateful for the continued donations made to Joseph's Corner either through cheques in the mail or through online donations through our website or through organisations including Lions Clubs, Rotary, Freemasons and Soroptomists and a number of other long term donors. I am also extremely grateful to the efforts of a few individual supporters of Joseph's Corner who make regular and substantial donations to Joseph's Corner.

We do need to try to get more regular donations or grants from organisations and businesses.

Do you have both the time and the skills to put together grant applications and to contact businesses and organisations about making donations to Joseph's Corner? If so we need your help!

Fundraising

The financial position of Joseph's Corner is quite poor at the moment given that our traditional fundraising events have had to be cancelled. There are clearly ways to fundraise in the current environment and most of them are completely new to me. But I have been assured that these new ways of fundraising can work. All that is needed is someone to take on the role of getting the new fundraiser to work.

Online Selling

Joseph's Corner has been blessed to have some young women take on a job of selling on the internet the knitwear and homemade quilts donated to Joseph's Corner.

Joseph's Corner would greatly benefit if we could actively run an online shop and sell off some of the goods we have in storage from when we closed our shop.

Can you do this?

Online Trivia

Trivia Nights have been fun events which have raised important funds for Joseph's Corner. Joseph's Corner has had an excellent Trivia Quizmaster for many years but we need to take



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this to a new level. It has been suggested that Joseph's Corner should consider running an online Trivia night.

[Could you do this?](#)

A New Shop

Joseph's Corner would very much like to open a new shop but it is a time consuming and difficult task to find a shop that is both suitable to our needs and within our proposed budget.

[Could you find us a shop to rent and get all of the information about the actual cost of such a shop?](#)

Helping at Joseph's Corner

When St Augustine's Primary School has been operating the Principal and Staff of St Augustine's have always been prepared to help Joseph's Corner in practical ways including with making minor repairs needed at Joseph's Corner and in giving IT support to us when we have had problems with the internet or problems with a computer or printer. Much of that assistance is unavailable at the moment given the restrictions on schools.

[We could use a volunteer handyperson to do clean up jobs and tidy up jobs at Joseph's Corner venues.](#)

[We could use a person who would manage our Facebook page on a daily basis.](#)

[We could use a person who could volunteer one day a week to assist doing the administrative work at Joseph's Corner.](#)

Want to help.

Joseph's Corner would love to hear from anyone who is prepared to take on any of the jobs that need to be done.

Please contact Joseph's Corner by email with an indication of what you would like to help with and your availability and we will then be able to chat with you about what needs to be done.

I need to finish this newsletter with a bit of light relief.

God Bless You All in these trying times,

Sr. Jeanne Dwyer, rsj

At the bank, I told the cashier,
"I'd like to open a joint account please."
"OK, with whom?"
"Whoever has lots of money."