

# JCoLT

## newsflash

March 2023



Dear Josephite Companions,

### Josephite Companions Leadership Team (JCoLT) Meeting: January 2023

In January our international JCoLT team met in person for the first time in three years. It was wonderful to reconnect in face to face, reflect on what we had been able to achieve in the intervening three years and consider where to next. Moya Campbell rsj has been accompanying the team for several years but was unable to join us so the mantle was passed to Jan Barnett rsj who ensured we kept productively busy. Special thanks to Lorraine Kirkaldy from Boambee NSW and Helen Brown from Bunbury WA who joined us as supporters, bringing wonderful ideas and energy to our gathering.

Monica Cavanagh rsj provided inspiring input, challenging us to reflect on how prepared and willing we are to stand as the Josephite voice in our world today and to consider what we need to be doing to stand as that voice into the future. She reminded us that within our Friendship, Prayer and Service we are collaborating in relationship with others, sharing our spirituality and following our call to serve God's mission in a unique way.

We discussed challenges we have as Josephite Companions in attracting new members, strengthening our sense of community, how to be a visible presence within our communities, ensuring the charism flourishes, finding others willing and able to step into leadership. You will hear more about possible responses to these as the year progresses.

Finally, we would like to offer our sincere thanks to Beverley Badcock, a foundation member of JCoLT, formerly IJALT, for her service and dedication to the Josephite Companions movement. When we have met in Sydney, Beverley has always ensured our accommodation was booked, our meals were sorted, and our sacred space areas beautifully set up. Beverley has stepped down from her role on JCoLT, but she will continue to live with a Josephite heart. We are also very grateful to Sr Moya for her amazing commitment and support over several years, enabling JCoLT to be in the strong position we are today.

Wishing you many blessings

Josephite Companions Leadership Team (JCoLT)

Mary Hemmings, Pauline McGuire, Helen Dougherty, Anne-Marie Wilkinson, Clare Conaglen  
rsj

## LAUNCH OF THE BOOK ABOUT US!

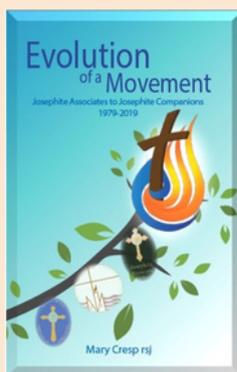
### Evolution of a Movement: Josephite Associates to Josephite Companions 1979-2019

Mary Cresp RSJ

In her Foreword to *Evolution of a Movement*, Mary Hemmings, Chair of the Josephite Companions Leadership Team, muses on the opportunity reading the book gave her to 're-live' the story, to 'relish' it and to 'view it in its broader context'. As the book's author, I can identify with those feelings. I must say when I was asked to write the history, I was apprehensive – in the main, its beginnings were familiar to me, but I had little idea of what had had happened during the years of this century. Getting to know this part of the story has been a privilege. I have 'met' you all and feel I now know you as true companions on the journey.

I was thrilled that in her reflection on the book, Anne Benjamin picked up that the story of the Josephite Companions is one of relationships. If what I have written does no more than remind readers of this fact, then it is enough. We have been graced with a precious gift of the Spirit, demonstrated in the lives of Mary MacKillop and Julian Woods, and re-interpreted over the years by hundreds of men and women in their own context. I hope that as you recall your local and personal stories, you will be inspired once again to nurture the gift and to develop it even more.

At the book-launch that took place at Kensington on Thursday 1 December, Professor David Hilliard gave a succinct yet informative and lively talk on the history of lay movements in the Church. Archbishop Patrick O'Regan then launched the book, speaking as a Companion himself about the relationships he has formed with Sisters and others who share the charism. Let us pray for one another during this Christmas-tide that we, who have been graced with the companionship of a Joseph who in his parent-hood nurtured in Jesus an understanding of what God's 'fatherhood' is like; of a Mary MacKillop and Julian Woods who handed on to us their understanding of God's compassionate love; and of all our forebears who likewise have incarnated God's presence to us in the ordinary – may we show to others today that same Great Love that embraces us all and calls us to be joy and hope in a world longing for both.



### Social Media:

Is your Josephite Companions group doing something interesting that may provide an inspirational spark for others? If so, please send through some information and a photo to our Companions email address so we can share it on the website. The Sisters of St Joseph are now on Instagram and you may wish to follow them. We have a #JosephiteCompanions handle as well that you might like to tag with any activities your group is doing. Let's keep connected.

# The Feast of St Joseph



Joseph was many things, father, husband, worker, refugee. Pope Francis has specifically reminded us that Joseph is 'the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.'

Joseph the Refugee – As long as you did it to one of these, the least of my sisters and brothers, you did it to me. Matthew 25

## Reflection

We light a candle for those who have been forced to flee the violence of their own countries, and who have experienced rejection in this land.

**We sit in Silence.**

We light a candle for our desire for solidarity with our sisters and brothers.

**We sit in Silence.**

## Reading from Matthew 2:13-15

When the Magi had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt.

Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.'

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod.

**Where do we encounter Joseph? On TV, on the boat, in the street, at church....**

**How do we greet Joseph? With fear, distrust, a smile or above all compassion....**

## Let us pray.

We pray that we hear the desperation of families that fight to stay together as they escape war, torture and sexual violence.

**God of Compassion, may we stand with those who are suffering.**

We pray that the world's leaders and media look upon our brothers and sisters with compassion.

**God of compassion, may they show justice.**

We pray that we hear loud voices ringing out from our communities, churches and workplaces.

**God of compassion, may we speak.**

We pray that our hearts may be open, our hands ready and our words welcoming to those who have lost much and need to start again.

**God of compassion, may we be strong.**

Compassionate God, in your love and solidarity you call us to stand with those who are most vulnerable. Hear our prayer and the unuttered cries of our hearts offered in the name of Joseph and your son, Jesus. **Amen.**



"Banner: Welcome refugees to Australia - refugee protest march" by John Englart (Takver) is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

## Josephite Student Leaders



The Josephite charism is well and truly alive in our young people if **JJAMM 2023** (Joseph, Julian and Mary MacKillop) is anything to go by. School captains from twenty two schools throughout Australia and New Zealand gathered at Mary MacKillop Place and Kincumber to learn more about leading in a Josephite way. Jan Barnett rsj and her team facilitated the gathering. Students learned more about Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison-Woods. They listened to the stories of those working in Josephite ministries today. Students reflected on their own passions with many sharing these on their 'soapbox'. There was a strong focus throughout on Social Justice and students realised they do have a voice and they can take practical action. We hope to share something of their actions later this year.



## Josephite Companion Day

During our discussions in Sydney, the idea of having a Companions' Day arose. It was recalled that Mary's sister, Annie MacKillop, was a great companion to Mary, and to many of the Sisters, over the years. She supported Mary so often throughout her life, including in her times of illness. In many ways Annie also walked the journey with the Sisters, supporting them and, in essence, sharing in the charism. There are even photos of groups of Sisters in which Annie is included. In today's world, we would consider that she was a Josephite Companion!

In light of this, we have decided to recognize her as a fellow Josephite Companion. We will acknowledge and celebrate this on September 5th with an online webinar to which all Companions are welcome. We will share Annie's story and draw some parallels between her story and that in which we find ourselves some 100+ years later. More details will be in next JCoLT Newsletter.