

Companions News

Welcome to the **JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS QUEENSLAND** Quarterly Newsletter

Celebrating **Autumn** — March 2021

JOSEPHITE CHARISM

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Justice for all
Openness to the Word
Self-giving
Embracing all
Prayerful
Hospitable
Indwelling Spirit
Thankful
Enduring faith

Contemplative
Hard working
Available
Risk taking
Intuitive
Sincere
Mission-oriented

C
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M



Sr Mary Jo Wells rsj (RIP) *Beauty is in The Eye of the Beholder*, Sisters of St Joseph WA (Used with permission)

Let's realise the potential of charism for connecting us with others in God's mission and engage with the opportunities this offers.

"Bring Me What You Have" 27th General Chapter – October 2019

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Charism is a gift. Mary McKillop's gift of being aware of the needs of those around her, be it for her family, the children she taught and their parents, or the Sisters who came to join her, and her determination to do something to alleviate an existing situation was shared and nurtured by Fr Julian Tenison Woods. Their enthusiasm and desire to serve others and make known the Word of God through practical action has been passed on through the Sisters to us as Companions. Our shared love of St Joseph and our passion for the Josephite Charism is what connects us together in the Josephite family.

*Friendship
Prayer
Service*

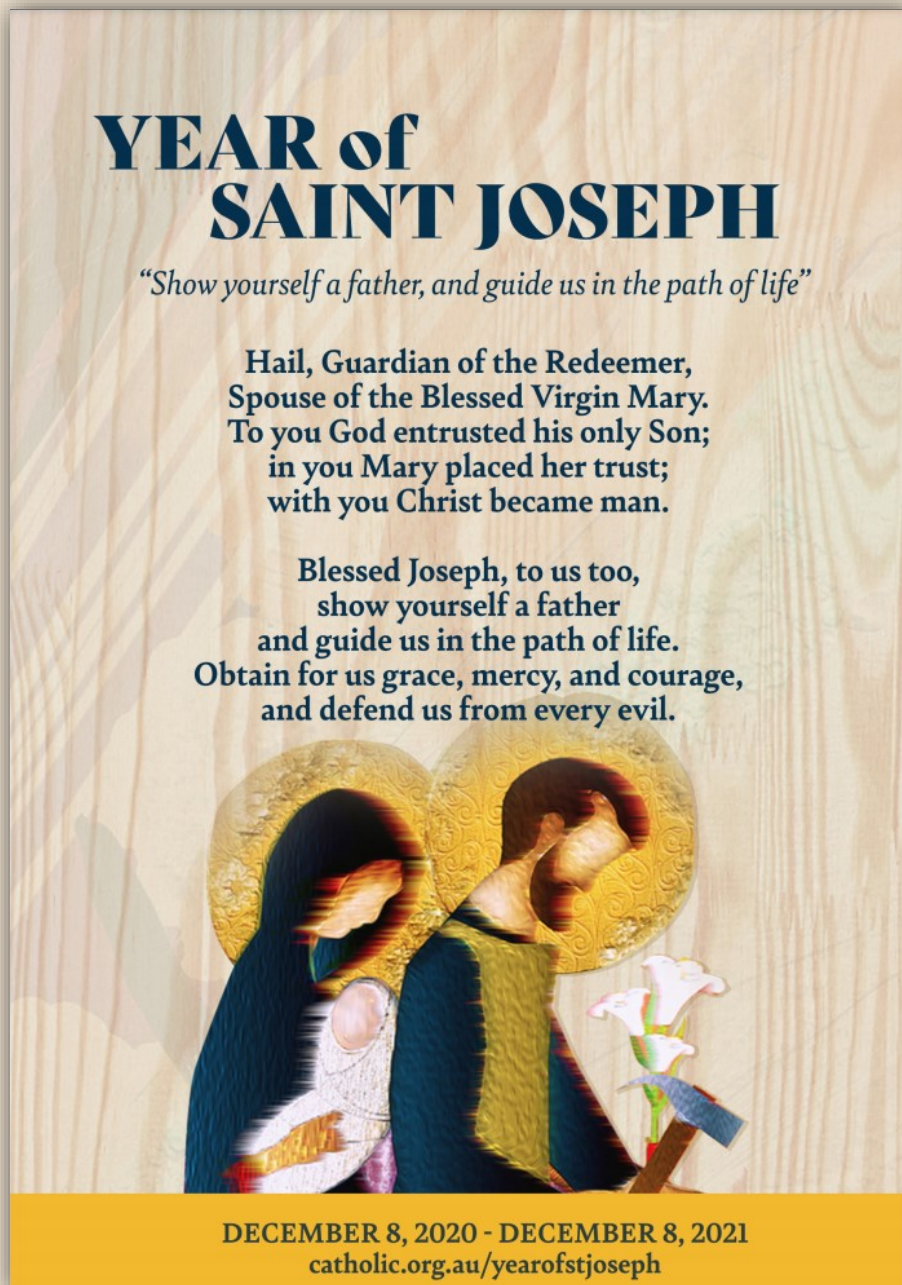
By following Mary's example as she lived out her Gospel calling, we can ensure that her spirit and charism lives on. Our motto "Friendship, Prayer, Service" encapsulates the means by which we can use the charism of living with a Josephite Heart to be part of God's mission. How we achieve that may differ from person to person but continued prayer and reflection can guide us as to whether we achieve this through community action, individual activity or by being a prayer support for all in the Josephite family.

Year of St Joseph

In his Apostolic Letter “*Patris Corde*” (With a Father’s Heart) Pope Francis recalls that 150 years ago St Joseph was declared to be the patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion the Holy Father has proclaimed a Year of St Joseph from **December 2020 to December 2021**.

As Josephite Companions the following quote from the Apostolic Letter is particularly relevant:

Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discrete and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and guide in times of trouble. St Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and gratitude is due to them all.



(Used with permission)

The Catholic Church Australia website has resources prepared for the Year of St Joseph which are available for all to use (including the prayer above). The Monthly Reflections could form part of any group meetings. They can be found at <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

*Let us pray our Companions' prayer each day for all of us
that we may be blessed to grow in the spirit and charism of St Mary McKillop.*

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS PRAYER

Companioning Spirit

intensify our living of the Josephite charism now
as you inspired St Joseph, St Mary McKillop and Julian Tenison Woods.

Grace us with **friendship** and hospitality
as we make community in the ordinariness of our lives.

Grace us with **prayerful hearts** that listen to your voice
and contemplate your presence in creation.

Grace us with **service**, promoting human dignity and love of neighbour.
Strengthen our commitment to live justly, love tenderly and walk humbly
conscious that we are participating in your mission.

Companion, encourage and enfold us in the fullness of Divine Love.

Amen.



Wishing each and everyone a very happy St Joseph's Day on 19 March.

*Please pray for the Queensland Leadership Group
who will be at Villa Maria 19–21 March for our annual face-to-face meeting.*

*We see in St Joseph a perfect mirror of confidence in God—
a wonderful, unbounded confidence in our good God.*

Mary MacKillop 1893



YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

“Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life”

DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021

SPOTLIGHT ON A COMPANION

Judy Harris from Brisbane

Hello from Brisbane to all our Companions and Sisters of St Joseph.

My name is Judy Harris and I've been asked to introduce myself and let you know about the Companions who meet on the Southside of Brisbane. I am a relative newcomer to the group which has been in existence, and living out the charism of Mary McKillop - our Saint Mary of the Cross - for many years under the leadership of two remarkable women, Claire Irwin and Jay Tobin. The years and declining health finally caught up with this Dynamic Duo and they asked me, ill-equipped and reluctant, to take over the leadership. Of course, the pair of them still continue to beaver away in the background and provide me with invaluable support.

As a group, we have not met for the past 12 months because of COVID restrictions and because so many of our Companions are elderly and vulnerable. I am hoping that we will be able to resume meeting at least twice this year, preferably after members have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. I'm hoping that our first meeting will be able to honour St Joseph in this his special year - not in March, but for his feast of St Joseph the Worker in May - or failing this, a June meeting to honour the Sacred Heart - both special feasts in the Josephite tradition.



My association with the Sisters of St Joseph dates back to the middle fifties when our family moved to the Southside of Brisbane and I joined a Grade 3 class at Mary Immaculate, Annerley. We were baby-boomer kids and our classes were much bigger than today's standard class sizes. Most of the lower grade classes had 35-40 children each, sometimes more, until some of the boys left to go to the Christian Brothers. I remember about 16-18 boys in my scholarship class, with girls outnumbering them (we girls didn't all have boy partners for dancing classes), so maybe the classes were even larger than I remember. How on earth did the nuns cope?! Sr James, who came into some fame when she featured in Hugh Lunn's "Over the Top with Jim" was my Grade 5 teacher, though Hugh Lunn was about 10 years ahead of me, so our memories are a bit different.

I was thinking about financial implications for the Sisters. My parents used to send us with 2/6 (50 cents) each for school money each week, which was collected and scrupulously recorded on Mondays by the class teacher. My parents were on the generous side of the ledger - 2 shillings was more like the average - but many paid less, and some didn't pay at all. Their mums may have sent eggs or a cake instead. I looked up what the average wage for a teacher was in the fifties and it was £4/14/- or \$9.80 in our current money. Our class would not have provided anywhere near that, despite the size of the class, so the income for the convent would definitely have fitted the constraints of the vow of poverty! The nuns were wonderful life models for us, and prepared us well both scholastically and in our religious education. They didn't tell us much about Mary McKillop but they certainly showed us how her life was lived. My friendship with the Sisters was renewed much later in my life when I saw first-hand the work they continued to do in our parish of Annerley after their teaching years were over - particularly Sisters Genevieve, Brenda, Margaret McKenna and Margaret MacNamara. To them and all their predecessors, I, like many of you I'm sure, owe an enormous debt of gratitude. Thank you to all our wonderful Sisters of St Joseph.



DONATION TO THE QUEENSLAND COMPANIONS MOVEMENT

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER/S:

AMOUNT GIVEN: (PLEASE CIRCLE)

\$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 OTHER \$.....

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE FORWARDED TO:

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS QUEENSLAND LEADERSHIP TEAM
VILLA MARIA CONVENT
123 WARREN STREET
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006

PHONE: 0474 947 296

EMAIL: qld.companions@sosj.org.au

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OR PAID BY DIRECT DEPOSIT:

COMMONWEALTH BANK

ACCOUNT NAME: JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS QLD

BSB: 064163

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 10429581

REFERENCE: SURNAME AND INITIAL (E.G. CAMPBELL M)

Thank you for your donation!

