

Companions News

Welcome to the **JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS QUEENSLAND** Quarterly Newsletter
December 2021

Editorial

What Does it Mean to be a Josephite Companion?

"As Josephite Companions we respond to the call to live the charism of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods in our daily lives in our own unique way. We support one another by Friendship, Prayer and Service to make a difference in our local area and to further the Reign of God in our world."

Josephite Companions Discovery Program, pg 4

Our Movement, beginning as Associates and evolving into Companions, has grown over the years. In line with this continuing development and understanding of our role in the Josephite family we now have a standardised program for those who wish to enquire and decide if becoming a Josephite Companion is a path they will choose to follow.

Those of you who have been able to attend local Group Meetings will have become familiar with the *Josephite Companions Discovery Program*. The program has provided an opportunity for all of us to enrich our understanding of what it is to be a Josephite Companion and to renew our commitment to live out the charism we have inherited from Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods in our daily lives.

*Local groups form the heart of our Companions Movement
(Josephite Companions Administration Handbook, pg 9)*



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**FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
QUARTERLY NEWS PLEASE EMAIL:**

qld.companions@sosj.org.au

While it is not always possible for members to be active participants in local groups, these groups do provide the setting and structure within which Companions are supported to live out the Josephite charism through Friendship, Prayer and Service.

Friendship is the building up of community where both the gifts and needs of others are acknowledged and respected. Members are able to support and nurture each other as they endeavour to live out their Baptismal call.

Prayer, our means of deepening our relationship with God, plays a part in group meetings as well as a Companion's daily life. St Teresa of Avila wrote that *"Prayer is conversation with God."* Conversation implies listening as well as speaking. By listening and being attentive to the voice of God in quiet time we gain the strength to do His will for us.

Service is our response to ways in which we can follow Mary MacKillop's example and be people of action in our families, local areas and the wider Church and world communities either as individuals or as a group.

"Coming together is an important part of being Companions as this enables communication and building of relationships. It also enables people to be nurtured in the spirit of Mary and Julian and to share life experiences. Friendship is a key element of being a Companion and this can be developed through the sharing of life and faith experiences."

Josephite Companions Administration Handbook, pg 11

Carolyn Grimward



Prayer Request

Please remember in your prayers those Companions who are not in good health and also remember Betty West from Rockhampton who was a long time member of the Companions. RIP

We farewell **Anne Child** who has been a member of the Queensland Leadership Team since 2020. Unfortunately circumstances do not allow Anne is to continue on the Team. We thank her for her dedication and sharing her wisdom.

The Queensland Leadership Team is investigating the feasibility of setting up an **Internet Group through Zoom** to cater for members who for one reason or another are unable to attend Companion Group meetings. If you would be interested in being part of such a group please contact the Team through the addresses on the back page.

Go to
www.sosj.org.au
for all sorts of
inspiration
and also the eShop.

AROUND THE STATE

The Queensland Leadership Team will be holding our annual Face to Face Meeting at Villa Maria 18-20 March 2021. If you have any suggestions or questions we would be grateful if you could forward them either by email or post to the addresses on the back page.

Brisbane Southside: First meeting for the year will be at St Fabian's Parish Church, Yeerongpilly at 10.00am on **Monday 21 March**. Contact Judy Harris 0407 028 796.

Brisbane Northside: First meeting for the year will be at St Joseph's Convent, 67 Bage Street,

Nundah on **Saturday 26 February**. Companions have been invited to join with the Sisters for morning tea at 10.00am before their meeting. Contact Marie Sellin 0421 323 063.

Contact details for other local groups:

Cairns: Carol Leary 0412 493 197

Townsville: Pauline McGuire 0406 739 757

Rockhampton: Janette Dobson 0428 224 99

Allora: Robyn Phelan 0400 317 875

Joyce Gibson 4666 4694

Gold Coast: Bernadette Roche 0411 306 907

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the
darkness, send your Holy Spirit
upon our preparations for
Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek
quiet spaces to hear your voice
each day,

We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming
among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of your
kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

- Henri J M Nouwen



Graphic from: <https://healthyspirituality.org/advent-prayer-quote-of-the-week-henri-nouwen/>

JEREMY'S COMMITMENT CEREMONY

The 8th of October saw members of the Queensland Josephite Companions Leadership Team attend my induction commitment ceremony. The ceremony also marked the formation of a Josephite Companions 'group', a welcomed addition to the branch on the Gold Coast.

Due to covid-19 restrictions the commitment ceremony was held online with participants attending remotely via Zoom. While Zoom has been used as a way for members to meet remotely in a covid-safe way, this ceremony was the first time the Companions have inducted a member virtually.

The Gold Coast group met for the first time early this year to undertake the formation process outlined in the Discovery Handbook. The journey explored what it means to be a Josephite Companion while establishing the branch's way of serving God and the Gold Coast community, through prayer, service and friendship.

The Josephite Companions seek to respond to

the call to God's Mission by the way they *"proclaim and witness God's love and presence in the world and by the way they live their lives"* and to make a difference in our local area. St Mary MacKillop said *"never see a need without doing something about it"* and this advice from her is a perfect way to further the reign of God on Earth and live each day as a Companion.

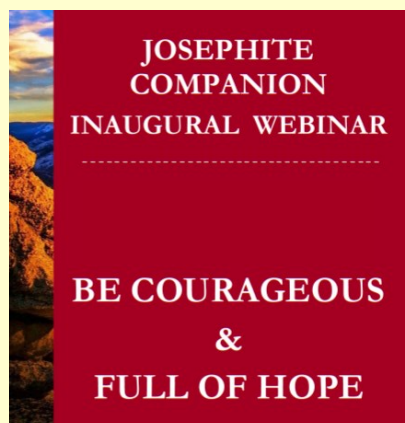
Branches of the Companions can be found throughout Australia, New Zealand, East Timor, Scotland and Peru, and they work together with the Sisters of St Joseph to help and benefit those in need in a way

that is unique.

I wish to thank all those who made my Commitment Ceremony possible and for the beautiful gifts and support from the Queensland Leadership Team who made me feel so welcomed into the "family" and who truly celebrated the occasion.

Jeremy Fraser

Gold Coast Branch - Josephite Companions



For those of you who were unable to take part in the webinar in September, or those who wish to see it again, it is available to view on **YouTube: Josephite Companions Conference**.

Sr Monica's address was on the theme of *"Be courageous and Full of Hope"*. In the address, Sr Monica expanded on the attributes of courage and how St Joseph lived them out in his life, and how we as Companions are called to live out the

charism, imbued with Josephite spirituality with that same courage.

*We can all meet together in spirit at the crib of our loving infant and pray for one another.
I wish you every grace and blessing of this holy time with fondest love.*

Mary MacKillop 1881





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

EMAIL: qld.companions@sosj.org.au

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OR PAID BY DIRECT DEPOSIT:

COMMONWEALTH BANK
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BSB: 064163
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 10429581
REFERENCE: SURNAME AND INITIAL (E.G. CAMPBELL M)

Thank you for your donation!

