

Companions News

Welcome to the **JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS QUEENSLAND** Quarterly Newsletter
March 2023

Editorial

Hope for the Journey

In 2023 our newsletter editorials will focus on the four promises of Jesus:

Hope, Love, Peace and Joy.

These are four wonderful gifts that come from a lively relationship with Jesus.

'I know the plans I have in my mind for you... it is God who speaks... plans for peace, not disaster, reserving a future full of hope for you.' Jeremiah 29:11-13



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FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE QUARTERLY NEWS PLEASE EMAIL:
qld.companions@sosj.org.au

Jeremiah's message is clear, God wants us to be a hopeful people. Humanity clings to hope like a life raft, we look for hope in every event in our lives; when a child is born, we say they are the hope for the future; when someone dies, we hope that they find the Kingdom. So, what is Hope?

I think of Hope as a protective shield that nourishes and protects us. During our journey we have many moments that are filled with Hope and Joy. Births, graduations, marriages, all these special events allow us to feel the tangible glow of HOPE. It is these times that allows us to fill our cup to overflowing, making certain we have Hope in reserve for those times when Hope is hard to see.

It is in the times of grief or turmoil that we need Hope the most. It is easy to slip into despair when all we can see is the trouble in front of us, but if we can also see the light of Hope in the distance it allows us to keep moving until such time as we can move forward.

Hope wraps us in a blanket that warms our hearts allowing us to deal with what is necessary while we pray for what may be possible. In the darkness of despair, Hope shines a light on the path that lights our way towards peace and joy.

'God is so good, we ought to cling to him with love and hope'
MMK 1873

*Pauline
McGuire
Townsville
Companion*



NOTICE

Sr Mary Cresp rsj launched her book *Evolution of a Movement: Josephite Associates to Josephite Companions*. Below is her reflection on the launch. She may be heading to Queensland later in the year. Each group will be sent a copy of the book and we will be able to purchase the book, details to follow.

Pauline McGuire, Chair



Photo source: thesoutherncross.org.au/people/2023/02/01/another-chapter-in-the-josephite-story/



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 2022, 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.

Sr Mary Cresp rsj

Around the Ridges...



...to **Mary Wallace**, a Townsville Companion, who welcomed her second granddaughter in December, Amelia Patricia – wishing you all a lifetime of love, health, laughter and happiness.

...to **Lyn and Len Horner**, Brisbane Northside Companions, who saw their eldest grandchild have her first day at school – congratulations Maddy, may school be a place of wonder and fulfilment.

Townsville

Townsville Companions met for the first time in 2023 in February. It was a small meeting but the decision was made to continue monthly meetings with every second month focusing on friendship. Our March meeting will be held at the local coffee shop on **5 March** – Coffee, cake and conversation will be the order of the day. We will also share prayers for the Feast of St Joseph.

Cairns

Cairns Companions do not meet in person but are kept linked by **Carol Leary** who sends and delivers companions sheets to all the Companions that are still able to participate. Carol is a wonder and produces lovely prayers for her group. She is a perfect example of the Companion mantra: Friendship, Prayer and Service.

Rockhampton

Rockhampton Companions are still meeting once a month after 9.00am Sunday Mass and enjoying reflection and morning tea with **Janet Dobson**. This group is still going strong and enjoying Josephite Companionship.

Allora

Allora Companions first meeting for 2023 coincided with the School's Opening Mass and Year 6 Leaders Induction. It was a pleasure for our Companions to be present as the school's Josephite history was portrayed and the children were encouraged to lead the school with the spirit of Jesus and Mary MacKillop in their hearts.

Our meeting looked at how St Mary MacKillop responded to God's invitation to use her gifts to meet the needs of the most isolated and disadvantaged of her society. She knew first-hand what it was to be an "Aussie Battler" and her story continues to resonate with the lives of many people today.

Prayer time gave us an opportunity to give thanks for the faithful service of **Sr Monica Cavanagh** as she celebrated her Golden Jubilee and **Sr Margaret Gillespie** as she celebrates her 90th birthday this month. Both of these Sisters have been a guiding influence to our group with their support and friendship.

We also enjoyed a cuppa and cake to celebrate the 80th birthday of one of our long-time members, **Daph Whatley**. Daph seems to have had a birthday that went on and on.

Brisbane Northside

The next meeting of Companions on the Northside of Brisbane will be at St Joseph's Convent, Nundah on Saturday **13 May**. Companions are invited to share morning tea with the community before meeting for prayer and discussion. All welcome. Please contact **Marie Sellin** 0421 323 063.



COFFEE, CAKE, & CONVERSATION

Prayer

Almighty God,
Nourish our hearts with times of stillness, silence, companionship and love.
May the clarity of our simple living help us to walk in your light.
Grant us the courage to be people of faith and hope.
Grant us the wisdom to accept the gifts Jesus promises:
Hope, Joy, Peace and **Love**.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Saviour and Companion. Amen.

Companions News

Please remember that **our Newsletter is for all Companions** and input from all groups helps us to bond and build up personal connections. Two or three sentences are sufficient and it would be appreciated if contributions for the next newsletter were sent to gld.companions@sosj.org.au by **20 May**.

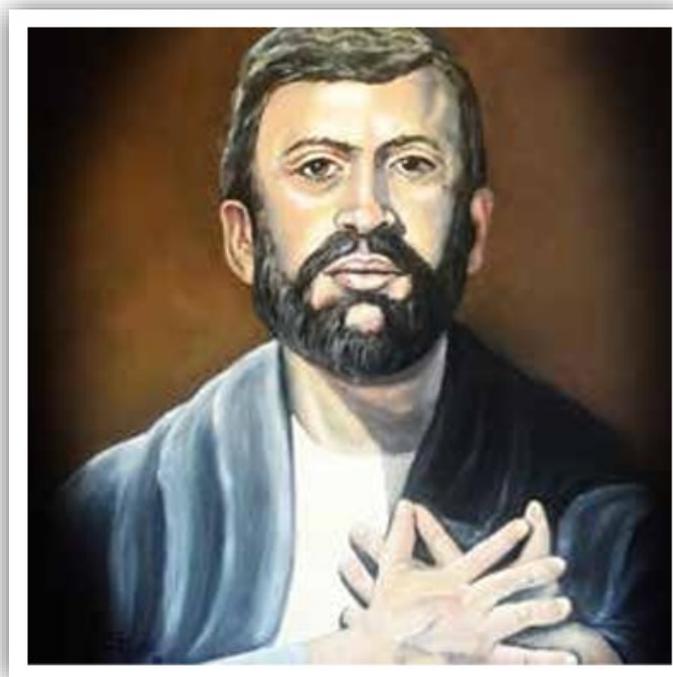
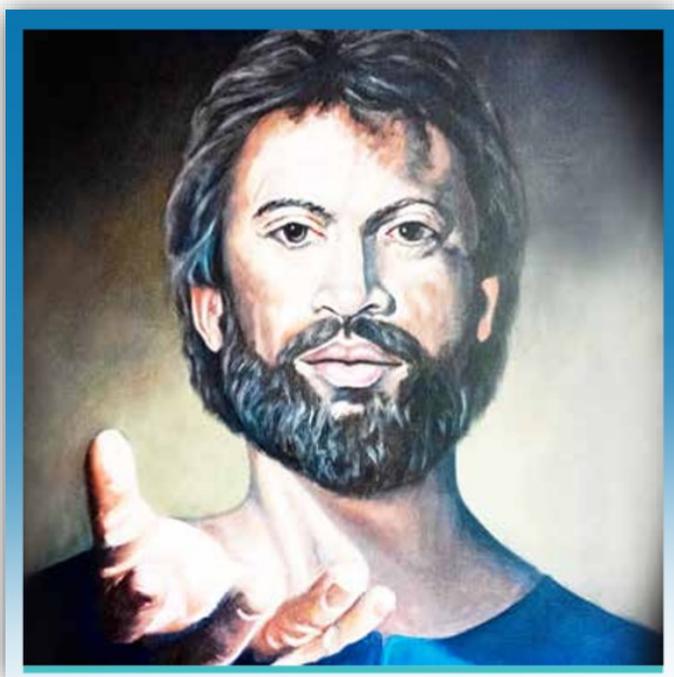
REMINDER...

Please remember, if you can, to print a copy of the newsletter for any Companions who don't receive one, or anyone you think may enjoy it.

Website Resources

With the Feast Day of Saint Joseph approaching, take advantage of the resources available to us on the Sisters of St Joseph website. Click on the link below to discover 'A Month with St Joseph':

www.sosj.org.au/resource/a-month-with-st-joseph/



St Joseph images from: *A Month With St Joseph Prayer Booklet* (pdf)—www.sosj.org.au/resource/a-month-with-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

EMAIL: qld.companions@sosj.org.au

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Thank you for your donation!

