



# VICTORIA - TASMANIA

## Josephite Companions Winter 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the Winter Newsletter. I am still getting my head around mailing lists and I apologize if newsletters have been sent to Companions who have gone to their eternal rest. I have tried to up-grade the contact information that I have, but sometimes the email address is a nom de plume and I cannot make the connection with the person and address. Please continue to let me know if you know of someone who does can no longer receive a newsletter. My contact details are on the side panel.

Thank you to those Companions who responded to my call for news of your activities. Once again, as I am still to get to know some of you, would you please let me know the name of your group when you send in your news.

In this edition of the newsletter, I have tried to offer some reflections for you all.

There is a short reflection on the Ascension and Pentecost. As a past World Youth Day Pilgrim (a mentor leader), I have included a piece on WYD Lisbon and reflected on WYD08, Sydney. I hope that you find them interesting and helpful.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,  
Pray for Us.

May God bless you all.

Greg Nelson

### Fr JULIAN TENISON WOODS QUOTE

“When you are in any doubt invoke the Holy Spirit and then do what you think is best. Let nothing disturb your peace.” JTW 1887.

### ST MARY MACKILLOP QUOTE

“Near the Sacred Heart we are strong and without fear.” MM (21.2.1870)

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# FRIENDSHIP

# PRAYER

# SERVICE

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Tony Barber (Pakenham)

Elsbeth Dwyer (Seymour)

Joan Knight

**Eternal rest grant to them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.**

We keep the Josephite Sisters who are unwell and for all those in our prayers.

We also pray for all those who care for them. Please pray for all our Josephite Companions who are finding life difficult because of illness and other stresses.

Used postage stamps have raised significant funds for the Peruvian Mission.

Please leave a border of about **3cm** around the stamps.

**Please take note of border to be left.**

**Please forward stamps to: STAMPS  
Locked Bag 3031  
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**Boxes of Stamps to:  
5 Alexander Avenue  
CROYDON NSW 2132  
Thank you.**



**As postage has increased members of the group may like to contribute to the cost.**

## **Subscriptions - A Gentle Reminder**

Subscriptions are now due and please note that they are now \$30, this includes the Levy for the IJALT team. So, in effect our Associate levy has not changed.

The bulk of our costs go to producing and sending out the Newsletter and a small amount for gifts for Guest Speakers etc.

Postage and Printing costs are heavy. But many of our Associates have no other way to access the Newsletter and it is our most effective way of keeping everyone in contact.

About one third of Associates support these costs and thank you to the many very generous Associates who pay a little extra for those who are unable to pay at all, a very Josephite spirit.

The subscription form is enclosed with this Newsletter. (The Subscription form is on the last page.)

**The Team**

## WHAT DOES PENTECOST MEAN AND WHAT DETERMINES THE TIMING OF THE SEASON?

By the time most Companions read this newsletter, Pentecost will have been celebrated (May 28<sup>th</sup>) However, a reflection of the day would be helpful.

The word “Pentecost” is from the Greek. The Greek word “Πεντηκοστή” (Pentēkostē), “fiftieth.” It refers to the Jewish celebration held on the 50th day following First Fruits (also known as Feast of Weeks) and the rabbinic tradition of the Feast of 50 days. Another name for Pentecost is Shavout. In Judaism it is the second of three pilgrim festivals. It was originally an agricultural festival marking the beginning of the wheat harvest.



Pentecost was already a recognized feast in New Testament times. This explains why the apostles were in Jerusalem. “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.” Acts 2:1. St. Luke already knew the name of the feast when he wrote Acts. As for the timing of Pentecost, it was dependent on the timing of Passover (Pesach). Like the Christian Easter, Passover is determined by the moon. The Jewish calendar is a lunar one and Passover takes place in the Hebrew month of Nissan. So, if Pesach is a movable feast, so is Pentecost.



It is the same in our Christian tradition. Easter moves, so does Christian Pentecost. Both celebrations of Pentecost are fifty days after Easter/Passover.



For Christians, Pentecost means the coming of the Holy Spirit and the ‘birthday’ of the Christian Church. This could not have happened without the Ascension which takes place forty days after Easter. Acts 1 says that the disciples were to remain in Jerusalem and the Holy Spirit would be sent to them.

This is what we celebrate on the Feast of Pentecost.



## WORLD YOUTH DAY REFLECTION



With World Youth Day, Lisbon (August 01 to August 06), I am prompted to reflect upon Australia's only World Youth Day in 2008. The group from the Diocese of Sale was housed at the Sydney Showgrounds. Our sleeping bags were laid on the asphalt floor of one of the show pavilions at Sydney's Olympic Park. There would be Catechetics in the Olympic Basketball Stadium in the morning and then a train trip into Sydney's CBD. Pilgrims walked the streets of Sydney, anxiously waiting for His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI. The pilgrims visited many sites of spiritual importance. Perhaps the most interesting site for Josephite Companions is the site of Mary MacKillop's grave in North Sydney. This was prior to Mother Mary's canonization and thousands of pilgrims passed her final resting place, praying for her canonization. Their prayers, as were the prayers of many of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and various supporters, were answered on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

It was a very happy and spiritual time for all the pilgrims which culminated at the Papal Mass, Royal Randwick Racetrack. That was the first and only time that I slept outside overnight to go to Mass. By the way, Sydney outside and overnight is not the warmest place in the world in July. Lisbon should be a lot warmer!

St Mother Mary of the Cross MacKillop, together with her religious Sisters worked tirelessly to benefit the young of her time. May her inspiration help those who assist the youth of today to also work tirelessly to form young people in the image of Christ.



**PRAYER**  
**World Youth Day  
Lisbon 2023**

Our Lady of the Visitation,  
you who arose and went with haste  
towards the mountain to meet Elizabeth,  
lead us also to meet  
all those who await us  
to deliver them the living Gospel:  
Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord!

We will go in a hurry,  
with no distraction or delay,  
but with readiness and joy.



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Members of the Lakes Entrance group gathered together for the Feast of St Joseph on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Six Josephite Companions attended and there were five apologies. The meeting opened with the Josephite Companion Prayer.

As it was still the season of Lent, an adult discussion program was used which covered the 4<sup>th</sup>. Sunday of Lent gospel reading and a reflection on the gospel.

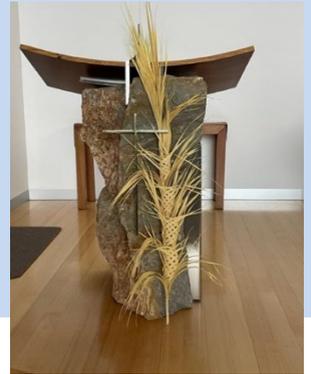
The group discussed how we understood the meaning of spiritual blindness and shared some experiences of light and darkness in our faith journey.

This was followed by several minutes of meditation.

Like Mary MacKillop we strive to live as people of the light.

A beautiful cake adorned the table in honour of Margaret East's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Louise Anketell



## RUSHWORTH REPORT

Josephite Companions recently farewelled Sr Nellie and penned this short tribute to her.

*Dear Sr Nellie,*

*Your presence among us will be greatly missed. You've grown to be very much part of our parish community. In particular, we are grateful for the work you undertook, reaching out across Rushworth, Murchison, Stanhope, Cornella and beyond.*

*There have been many 'shut-ins' who've looked forward to your visits and you've been a great comfort for the families of those who've lost loved ones, helping them to prepare their final farewells and funeral liturgies.*

*And we'll miss the friendship, the popping in to just say 'hello', your attendance at our parish events.*

*Yes, we'll miss you.*

*It's sad for us also to be saying a final farewell to the Josephite Sisters who arrived in Rushworth and opened our school in 1954.*

*That's seventy years of care and service by the Sisters who've lived and worked among us.*

*Thank you and God bless you, Nellie.*

*Go gently.*

*St Mary's Parishioners and friends*



## Visit to Murchison – Rushworth Group.

Whilst it may have rained for all of the 3-hour trip north there was much joy when I arrived at St Brigid's Church in Murchison to join the Rushworth Companions who live in and around that area. The church was filled with young families for the baptism of three children. I have been to Murchison for a couple of our region days and have always marvelled at the baptismal font made from the 'burl' of a Red Gum, so it was lovely to see it in use on this Pentecost Sunday.

After the mass it was time for a cuppa and shared morning tea/lunch where I got to chat with ten Companions who had travelled from Rushworth, Kyabram, Colbinabbin, Stanhope, Creightons Creek and two from Murchison itself. As I hadn't seen this group since before Covid it was an opportunity to have a short meeting with them and I also had the travelling shop from the Heritage Centre with me and a few little purchases were made.

It was lovely to catchup with this group again and I'm looking forward to visiting more of our Companion groups over the coming months.

Anne-Marie



St. Brigid's  
Baptismal Font



Group photo

Back row: Maree, Sue, Ron, Vin, Jenny  
Front row: Nan, Noelle, Pat, Marion, Judy

## SOME DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

**Sat 29 July – MMHC Open Day - Open House Melbourne**

Theme: 'Collective City' - Exhibition #2 (July – September)

**Sat 28 October – MMHC Open Day - Victorian Senior's Festival**

Theme: Exhibition #3 (October – Jan 2024)

Please Note

The March JCoLT Newsletter was emailed to Companions some time ago. For those companions who do not receive the newsletter via email, the JCoLT NewsFlash be included in the Winter Newsletter.

## MEETING DATES FOR JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

Due to a number of circumstances some dates for 2023 are yet to be confirmed. However, please note the following: Anne-Marie Wilkinson will be visiting groups, April through October.

### Liturgical Dates for Winter

June 16	Feast Day of the Sacred Heart
June 24	The Nativity of John the Baptist
July 6	St Maria Goretti
August 8	St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
August 15	Feast of the Assumption

## AN AUSPICIOUS DATE

'Twas Friday, 7th May 2009, the Removal van had arrived on time,

Mary was waiting to direct the place where things would go with elegant grace. There was a bed, a table, and some chairs. Thank God, we thought there are no stairs, My sister, her husband and cousins two put together my desk in my office new Three roses, which from Maffra did travel, planted, and thrived in soil not gravel.

Pots of succulents went around the back to fill up the spaces where plants did lack Finally to bed she was able to go. Woke Saturday morning and heard the phone,

Fr Glasheen here, sorry could not come. Please come out for tea after Mass. My welcome.

Boxes of china, vases etc. awaiting their place, stood around the loungeroom space. of Sunbury rang to say "We're coming to visit tomorrow, Sunday!"

So, Mary had to scuttle around to empty these boxes so we could sit down, A favourite place on the way home from Mass was the presbytery kitchen for coffee with class Senior Masses helped me to meet friends new, though my visits were often just a few. As Associates Co-ordinator I travelled by car, meeting men and women from near and far introducing Mary MacKillop, a Saint indeed, to those who wanted to plant her seed.

At Swan Hill the knitters enjoyed home-made soup while knitting squares for the group Lakes Entrance and Orbost were keen to know all about Mary, Associates to grow.

Wonthaggi's large group inspired me to drive there bi-monthly to help them thrive.

To Hamilton to lead a MacKillop retreat for all denominations who wanted to meet. Woodend was where two coats I took, as the weather never went by the book.

Every second month to Eaglehawk I went, sharing prayer and lunch with ladies and gents. Sebastopol was another regular trip, so keen people Mary's charism could grip.

Was invited to Beechworth to enroll an eager troop of junior MacKillops, Brigid-Mary group To Tassie I flew across Bass Straits blue to Hobart, Launceston enrolling Associates new. Mondays and some Fridays I braved city cops to volunteer at the Heritage Centre shop.

So many friends I now have in town. Can recall many changes in streets around. Meet so many strangers who open doors for an old lady who has her wheels four. So now I am just a presence here, but hope I bring some happy cheer.

Doing what I can as a Josephite should, bringing people closer to God. So dear friends I thank you for sharing this day and hope you can say "We are glad Sr Mary you came to the Marsh, on 7th May, 14 years past.

**Sr Mary Fermio rsj**



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JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2023

**To make a payment at any Bendigo Branch or online.** BSB Number: 633 000

Account Number: 171 035 447

Account Name: Josephite Associates Victoria

# Please include your name on all Bank Deposits #

**Subscription:** \$30.00 (Includes \$20.00 for JC's & \$10 JCoLT Levy) Other Amount

**Mail Payment Method: Cheque** made payable to **Josephite Companions VIC** with this form included.

**Direct Payment** handed to Core Team Member **IN ENVELOPE WITH FORM FILLED IN INCLUDED PLEASE**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You

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Postal address: Josephite Companions c/- Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre,  
362 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Vic. 3002

**MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**

I am grateful that some Companions have sent in news of their activities to be included in the newsletter.

I continue to encourage companions to send me news of your group's activities or personal insights that could be used in the newsletter to:

[gne@stpeters.vic.edu.au](mailto:gne@stpeters.vic.edu.au)



**JOSEPHITE COMPANION'S PRAYER**

Companioning Spirit Intensify our living of the Josephite Charism now as you inspired St Joseph, St Mary MacKillop, and Fr 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**