



JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024

*For everything there is a season, and
a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born... a time to build...
a time for peace... a time to laugh...
a time to dance... a time to love...*

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2

Dear Sisters, Companions and friends,

Welcome to the springtime edition of our Newsletter. We are in the Noongar season of Djilba, when the landscape transforms as wildflowers like yellow acacias, banksias, wattles, kangaroo paws, and everlastings bloom, marking the renewal of life. The weather warms, and native animals such as kangaroos and emus give birth, while food sources like roots and bush potatoes become abundant.

Thank you to all those who contribute to the production of our seasonal newsletter—without your generosity, we would not be able to continue to put our charism into action, reaching those who are unable to meet in person and sharing *Friendship, Prayer and Service*. Special thanks to Sr Kathleen Hitchcock and Sharon Cheah and to the Sisters who have volunteered to fold and prepare the Newsletter for posting.

It is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge the passing of Sr Carla Curran on 6 September 2024. Sr Carla lovingly dedicated her life to guiding and supporting the Josephite Associates later to become Companions. She travelled widely to further the cause and she was an exemplar of the charism of *Friendship, Prayer and Service*. Our deepest condolences to her family, friends and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart who will truly miss this faithful servant of God. Rest in peace Sr Carla and sleep peacefully in the arms of Jesus..

The prayer for this spring season focuses on God as the master creator—He is the Potter, we are the clay. It explores our unfathomable bond with God our masterful designer, creator and moulder. We pray that we are humble and co-operative in appreciating that we are wonderfully made.

Wishing you many blessings. May you be enlivened by the warm sunshine, colourful blossoms and all other gifts of springtime.

Yours in Friendship, Prayer and Service,
Dot Savage and Helen Brown for WA Josephite Companions.



WALKING WITH THE PEOPLE OF WARMUN

I was privileged to be invited with Sister Clare Ahern, by the Elders of Warmun to come and be part of their lives. We were invited to live in the newly formed Warmun Community, to share in their joys and sorrows, hopes and disappointments, their anxieties and challenges in life.

We were accepted as members of the community, given a skin name to help us to understand our relationship with people, sharing their connection with Country, culture stories, creation and Aboriginal Spirituality. This was their way of welcoming us as part of their community.

Over the years we were accepted as fellow human beings, journeying life together, working together, helping one another with respect and a sense of responsibility.

We were taken out and shown Country, told stories which gave us an understanding of what Country meant to them. Their love of Country filled me with a new appreciation and love for the land of the Kimberley.

Education has allowed the younger generation to take on new responsibilities, to run their own community and to develop their own business skills, sporting activities and art. Women are developing healing programs that are meaningful for them and they are strong leaders of their community. The Elders women are strong in handing down culture and language to their children, and this is present in many challenges in the modern world. The gift that Aboriginal People bring to us is through their art, story telling and Community culture, opening us to the mystery of Creation. It takes us to the Gospel of St John where he says: "In the beginning was the Word".

By working in partnership with the people we were included in all aspects of daily life and activities. We companioned them with Liturgies and Funerals, taking emergency action needed when saving lives of those attempting self-harm. We took time to listen and shared our resources such as driving, assisting with the clinic and we facilitated access to medication. We visited the sick in the hospital, gave respite to women who needed support and we supported outside agencies when they came into the community. My greatest satisfaction was being a key component of the Warmun Intervention and Drug and Alcohol Program. It was a privilege for me to work as a Sister of Saint Joseph in Warmun. Even in retirement my thoughts are with the Warmun community as I serve as a liaison when they visit the city for medical reasons.



Sr Theresa Morellini rsj



EXPLORE—EMBRACE—EMBODY SEASON OF CREATION—CALL TO ACTION



Saturday 21 September 2024 is designated as a Global Day of Action and an integral part of the Season of Creation program. The day is in support of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT). Everyone can be involved, even without leaving your chair – please consider signing the letter and ask your friends and networks to do likewise. You can view the online letter here -

<https://fossilfuel treaty.org/faith-letter> climate crisis and the Christian virtue of hope.

DATE CLAIMER FOR AN URGENT HOPE WEBINAR

Date: 8 October 2024

Time: EAST 11am

Format: ZOOM

Hosts: Laudato Si Action Plan Team

CONNECTION TO BUNBURY PARISH

Josephite Companions were invited to present their charism at the recent 'Formation Pillar' Seminar facilitated by the Bunbury Parish Pastoral Council. It was interesting to share the charism with other groups in our area. The 'Discovery Book' which we follow for those wishing to join us and for renewal was an invaluable tool for this purpose.

FEAST OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS 2024

Dardanup Josephite Companions gathered to attend Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on 8 August to celebrate the Feast of St Mary of the Cross. We were joined by students from Bunbury Catholic College and Leschenault Catholic Primary. Several other schools also joined in the celebrations with Mass in their own areas. We thank all those kind people who contributed to the collection of 'winter woolies' to be made available to those in need. The response was overwhelming!

Thank you to Father Pierre Repuyan for offering Mass with us and for his wonderful homily on Mary's legacy as Australia's saint. He reminded us to continue to walk with Mary of the Cross because in doing so, we walk with God. Parish members, school representatives and Companions shared a feast—a Ploughman's lunch, a celebratory cake and many goodies. A great day was had by all as we endeavoured to make a difference in our local area through *Friendship, Prayer and Service*.



ANNIE'S DAY CELEBRATION – 31 AUGUST

Josephite Companions across Australia, New Zealand, Peru and Timor-Leste gathered recently to celebrate Annie's Day. Annie MacKillop, sister of St Mary of the Cross, is lauded as the model companion, a constant and loving role model for all Josephite Companions.

Antionette Mangion prepared our minds to receive and meditate on the story of Ruth and Naomi as they exemplified the notion of friendship and companionship—"Where you go, I shall go, Wherever you live, I shall live, Your people will be my people and your God shall be my God." We pondered on how this story resonates with Annie and Mary and indeed, with our willingness to companion one another.

We thank Anne Marie Wilkinson for her skillful presentation of the life of Annie MacKillop, which was presented as a great example of companioning and grace. In summary, Annie acted as a humble, energetic messenger between the earthly and spiritual worlds of her day. She acted as Mary's assistant, and support from the outset and supported her and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart in every aspect of their calling to serve God.

Annie was a talented musician who taught both teachers and students how to develop their musical attributes. She readily acknowledged musical gifts in others and was widely accepted in the social climate of the day as an entertainer of note. She was inspirational in her loyalty, her devotion to family, her charm, keen eye and quick sense of humour. Annie was a practical joker and communicator. Annie was humble; she knew that her vocation in life was to companion Mary, to be her confidante, friend and support and she was resolute in her opinion that she could do this as a lay person. She chose to make a difference through the charism of *Friendship, Prayer and Service* and invited others to learn about and live the charism in their daily lives. She chose to live a faith-filled life in a secular, social world.

Annie was a problem solver who put her talents to good use as she travelled widely. Her empathy, and sense of acceptance of God's will helped her to deal with seemingly overpowering problems.

In essence, Annie MacKillop is a REAL ROLE MODEL for Companions and others. A recent tribute to her, pointed out that not enough has been said or written about her influence in the Catholic life of our country.



JCOLT NEWS

JCOLT continues to work closely with the Congregational Leadership Team to plan for the future. One task that has been assigned JCOLT members is to gather information on active members. What is an active member? The following definition will be used to determine this:

Friendship

Attends meetings—once a quarter
Reaches out for webinars, eCompanioning...

Prayer

Attends meetings—once a quarter
Reaches out for webinars, eCompanioning...
Receives newsletters

Service

Active in ministry with a Josephite heart—specific ministry—visiting the sick, volunteers etc.

If you are unable to contribute in these ways, you will remain a Josephite Companion under another definition.

Information requested:

1. Date of commitment to Josephite Companions.
2. Date/s of Renewal of commitment if applicable.
3. Completion of safeguarding compliance.

Many thanks to those Josephite Companions who have responded to Helen Brown's email or phone request. This is a daunting task and progress is slow and steady. We are required to have this information to CLT by October 25. If you have not and wish to update your details, email Helen at wa.companions@sosj.org.au

Fundraising for Mary MacKillop Today

WA Containers for Change

10c per bottle

Includes

Glass & plastic bottles
Aluminium cans
Cardboard drink cartons

With 10c printed label on them

Code for Mary MacKillop Today
C10473265



Funds raised so far \$2000

GONE TO GOD REST IN PEACE



Sr Carla Curran rsj
Evelyn Brand
Brian Wells (husband of Gwen)
John Carr
John Serafini (brother of Rose Hart)
Shirley Dawe (sister-in-law of Sr Kathleen Dawe rsj)
Marie Lanigan
Betty Richardson
Diana Morris
Margaret Dolin

Dear Companions if you are aware of any companion/relative who has passed away, can you please email or ring the office:
wa.companions@sosj.org.au or [08] 9334 0999

WA JOSEPHITE COMPANION GATHERINGS

DARDANUP

2nd October, 9.30am
4th December, 9.30am

ENQUIRIES:

Dot Savage: (08) 9791 4008
Helen Brown: 0478 783 990
Email: helenbrown.hb@gmail.com

ESPERANCE

Third Thursday of each month
Mass, Rosary and sharing.

ENQUIRIES:

Helen Johnston: (08) 9071 1256
Email: donaldjohnston@bigpond.com

