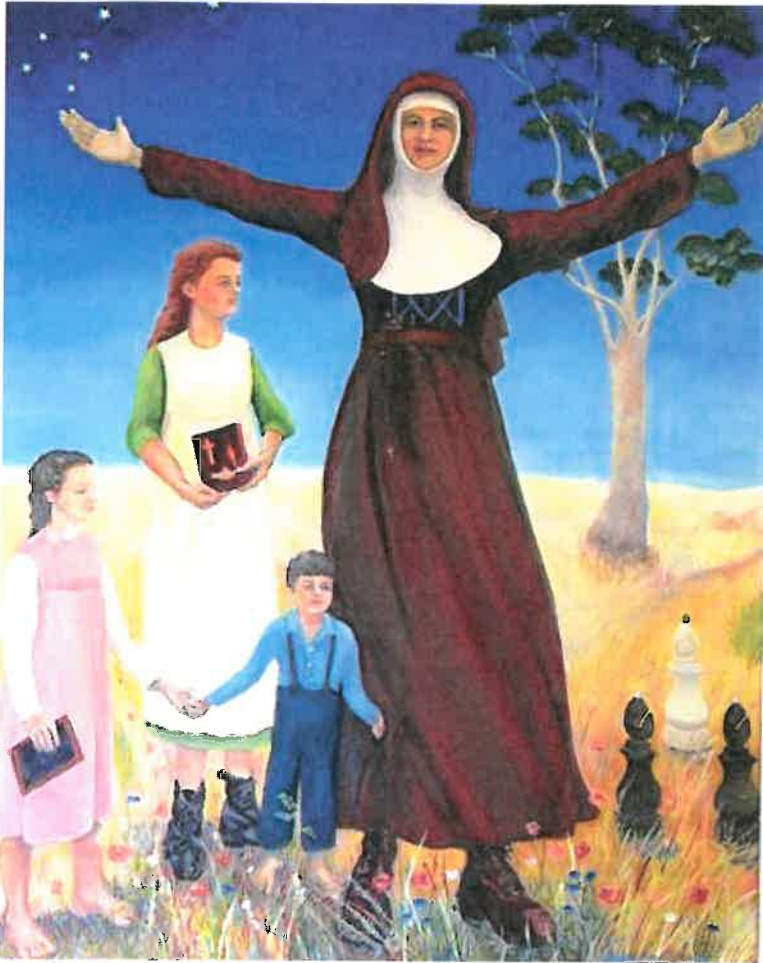


## Living into Mystery: Communion with All



### **Gathering:**

*Sit quietly and allow the Divine Presence to settle around you. Gaze at the image and the words and allow them to resonate in you. Breathe in the life of the universe ...*

**“Love is a consciousness of being in relationship to the other and of being part of a whole”**

Our Saint of the Outback:  
Sourced from The Wild Reed. Susie O'Brien

### **CONTEXT**

The Josephite vision at this time:

### **LIVING INTO MYSTERY**

*“One with creation we are drawn into the new communion creating a dynamic, life-giving movement.” (Srs of St Joseph 26th General Chapter)*

To love  
is to be on the way to-  
ward integral whole-  
ness.

to live with an openness  
of mind and heart  
to encounter the other  
not as stranger but part  
of oneself.

*Brian Swimme writes ...*

*Everyone is part of this and  
everything is part of this and we  
discover as well a profound kinship no  
matter what being we are talking about  
on this planet - we are related.*

*We are related in terms of energy, we  
are related in terms of genetics, we are  
all in one way or another like a form of  
kin.*

### A story of Mary MacKillop: School in the Garden

Mary MacKillop saw God in everything. Even the flowers in the garden reminded her of the wonder and beauty of God. She loved little children and she thought of them as being like Jesus when he was a child. When she got old and couldn't visit the schools any more she would sit in her wheelchair and listen to the voices of the children playing in the schoolyard nearby. One day, Mary was sitting on the veranda in her wheelchair when she saw Sister Augustine leading a group of little children into the garden. Mary watched and listened. Then she said to a Sister who had come to visit her, "Would you wheel me down to the children please, Sister?" When Mary was close enough, she asked the Sister to stop. Together they listened to the children learning about Jesus with Sister Augustine. Then Mary said, "Excuse me, Sister Augustine. May I talk to the children?" "Of course you can, Mary. Children, listen to what Mary tells you." Excitedly, the children turned to face Mary. Then, in a gentle, kind way, she told them how much God loved them. "God loves you very much and speaks to you in many different ways. Look around you at the lovely flowers in the garden. God made those. Listen to the birds in the trees. Their songs praise God." Just then, Donna, one of the children, called out, "I can't hear any words!" "You are right, Donna. Each creature has its own language that we don't understand," answered Mary. "We need to sit very quietly and listen. If we do, we might hear God's voice through the creatures and the plants. Then, perhaps, we will hear God's call to love each other."

## **BREAKING OPEN THE READINGS:**

*What challenges me in understanding my part in communion of all creation?*

*How do I recognise and respond to a new consciousness in my life?*

*What reminds me of my relationship with God, with one another and with all creation?*

*How will I live with a new consciousness of being in communion with all?*

## **RESPONDING:** - prayers / own prayers/ music

Creator God, awaken us more and more to our interconnection and interdependence with the life of our universe

**May we all be one**

Light of Wisdom, enable us to be in relationship with all people and creation

**May we all be one**

Spirit of Communion, develop in us an appreciation and promotion of community

**May we all be one**

Divine Presence/Source of Life, nurture in us all an awareness of a new consciousness, being attentive to all

**May we all be one**

*Invitation to include other prayers ...*

Divine Presence/Source of Life, beckoned by your love, enable us with gentle urging, to be always attentive and wholly embracing, drawing all creation into your communion,

We ask this prayer in union with our Living God, Jesus, Light of the World, and the Spirit who connects us all.

Amen

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS TODAY?**

*Looking at PRAYER, FRIENDSHIP and SERVICE with new eyes...*

Sharing and living Josephite charism in communion with one another in a dynamic way

Through new consciousness of our relationship with God, we become attentive and open to all, inclusive of all AND our eyes are opened to the wonder and mystery of all.

We are consciously aware of being in communion with all of creation

**Ask each person** to share the hopes they have around being aware of the Divine Presence in the world:

- For family and friends
- For our country
- For the world

**BLESSING:**

**May we be aware of an awakening to a new reverence for life,  
a firm resolve to achieve communion with all,  
and a joyful celebration of life that invites life**

**That calls to others:**

**‘Come walk with me, come sing with me.’**

**Song:** ‘Spirit of the Land’ (CD ‘Josephite Dreaming’ M.A.C. Copyright 2006 MacKillop Foundation. Australia.)

**Mantra:** ‘I am the Spirit of Love Eternal’ (CD ‘Josephite Dreaming’)



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“Help one another and bear with one another as God does with each of us.” (St. Mary MacKillop)

“In our unity lies our strength.” (St. Mary MacKillop)

“There must be gentleness towards the erring of others.” (St. Mary MacKillop)

“I see God in the flowers, in the insects in the birds as they fly and I can only turn sadly away and think of all the beauty I have never seen.” (Fr. Julian Tenison-Woods)

“Every rock, every leaf, every insect has something wonderful to tell... a perfect fairyland of beauty will open to the gaze at every step.” (Fr. Julian Tenison-Woods)



### JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS AOTEAROA

As we walk in the footsteps of Julian and Mary, we Josephite Companions Aotearoa respond to the Gospel by reverencing the Sacred in ourselves, others and our environment.

We do this in the ordinariness of our everyday lives by:

- Living simply and prayerfully
- Acting justly with integrity
- Responding to the needs of our time
- Being thankful for God's love
- Providing inclusive hospitality and down-to-earth practicality in the spirit of Aroha.

