

# Josephite Companions of South Australia



## Friendship Prayer Service

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*"All will be right  
with time and a  
little patience."  
MMK 1873*

## Summer 2020

December 2020 Newsletter

### Launching into 2021 and Beyond!

This year on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, our new **Josephite Companion** name was launched online. This was a new and an exciting way of 'responding to the need to launch our name' in our Covid times.

Companions spend time together, walk with, listen and accompany one another. As Josephite Companions we do this with the Sisters and with our fellow Companions, as we live the Gospel with Josephite hearts.

Here in SA, we are enthusiastic to launch this new name and we will do so formally on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February next year in Bethany. It will be a time to look to the future with fresh eyes and enlivened hearts. Come and help celebrate!

For those who have walked together as Associates over the years, we invite you now,

as Josephite Companions, to re-ignite your passion for this story to see how each of us, through friendship, prayer and service, can continue to make a difference in our world. *Is there someone else who has been touched by the spirit of Mary MacKillop that you could offer an invitation to come and share in this story on that day?*

Moving from this year that has challenged us all, hopefully 2021 heralds greater movement after a year of little travel. Members of our SA Leadership Team are hoping to 'hit the road' and visit many of our country Companions. We also have a **Discovery Program** which will enable others who wish to explore the significance of the Josephite Companion story to do so, with the support of fellow Companions.

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**Wishing you and your families many blessings of peace and hope and joy as we celebrate Christmas in these different times. May the year ahead be one of renewed life for us all.**

## Josephite Companion Emblem

Together with our new name, a new emblem has been designed for our Josephite Companions:

- The **Cross** is a key part of our Christian faith. Mary MacKillop is known as **St Mary of the Cross** and the cross links us to others connected to the Josephite charism.
- The **blue** represents **water**, a key symbol of our baptism, calling us to live the gospel in our lives.
- The **three Js** stand for **Jesus, Joseph and**

**John the Baptist** which have been part of the Josephite monogram since 1866.

- The **flame**, made by the three Js, represents the **Holy Spirit**, encouraging us to participate in the mission of the Church through our words and actions as Josephite Companions.

This emblem, and our new Discovery and Administration Handbooks, will be presented at our February launch.



## SA Josephite Companions Leadership Team

Bridgette Barrett, Lucia Ciocca, Pauline Grear, Mary Hemmings, Julie Langman, Carla Mastrangelo, Majella O'Sullivan rsj, Helen Smith, Amanda Taverna.



## 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration by Margaret Emery



Sr Teresa Cooper was the 'star' at our October gathering of the Hectorville Companions. We rarely have the occasion to celebrate a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and it was very special for all of us to share this time together.

The line-up of cameras to take photos of and with Sr Teresa had to be seen to be believed! Why not of a very treasured friend who has been such an important part of our Group for such a long time. Sr Teresa chatted about some of her life's journey which also

encouraged us to share some of ours. This was done over a cuppa although it didn't start off too well with the green tea not being the favourable choice for the Guest of Honour! This was quickly rectified. We all brought a 'small' plate of food to share, along with some biscuits baked by the kitchen staff at the Kensington Convent.

Then it was time for the Birthday Cake – and what a cake it was! Sr Teresa only wanted one candle – and chose a yellow one. After a rousing "Happy Birthday" it was time to cut the cake and distribute a supposedly sliver of a piece, not, to everyone!

Flowers and cards were presented to Sr Teresa from us and we finished this special time together with a beautiful and meaningful prayer befitting the occasion. Sr Teresa said one of the most important things that has sustained her throughout her life is **listening** to what Jesus is saying to her.

In the words of Mary MacKillop "Gratitude is the memory of the heart." 1907

## Mary MacKillop Precinct Database

To keep up with Mary MacKillop Precinct events and plans, Josephite Companions with an email address are invited to send a brief email to Sr Mary Ryan via [mary.ryan@sosj.org.au](mailto:mary.ryan@sosj.org.au) and ask to be added to the database. She will then keep you in touch with what is happening (and overcome ever-increasing postal costs.)



# SA Launch of the ... Josephite Companions

In the year of St Joseph\*

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
2pm

Bethany Centre  
4 High St Kensington

Mary MacKillop was a woman with a heart that could encompass the love of many. She enthused others to be courageous to live the Gospel in new ways and places.

Today, women and men who share in this spirit live the Gospel with a 'Josephite Heart' as Josephite Companions.

Come and gather with others who share a love of Mary MacKillop as we launch this new name. Discover what is possible when we share in God's mission through a Josephite lens.

RSVP Mary on 0417 871 904 or [SA.Companions@sosj.org.au](mailto:SA.Companions@sosj.org.au) by 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

\* *Pope Francis has recently declared 2021 the "Year of St Joseph".*

*We will be delighted throughout the coming year to celebrate our gentle and faithful patron.*



## Companions Subscriptions for 2020 – 2021

The Leadership Team sincerely thanks you for paying your subscription, which enables us to remain in contact with you. To make it easier for you to pay your subs, our banking details are included to enable a direct payment over the internet or to make a payment at any BankSA branch.

**BankSA**    BSB Number:    105-087  
Account Number:    039066240  
Account Name:    RSJ Associates SA

**At this stage, our Account Name remains unchanged.**

We are keeping our postage expenditure down as more Associates provide email addresses.

Payment Amount:     \$20.00                     \$30.00                     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:     Cash                             Cheque                     BankSA deposit/transfer  
(payable to RSJ Associates SA)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer the newsletter sent via email?                     Yes                     No

Telephone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please post this form to:** Julie Langman, 16 Greenwood Cres, Glenalta, 5052  
(Especially if you are paying by bank deposit/transfer as you may not be able to include all your details)



# Tenth Anniversary of the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop

By Bridgette Barrett

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October this year, I was privileged to be able to attend a Liturgy of the Word for the tenth anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral. This special occasion was celebrated by Archbishop Patrick O' Regan and was followed by the unveiling and blessing of a new statue of Mary MacKillop. Many of the Josephite Community, including Sr Brigette Sipa (CentreWest Regional Leader), and friends also attended.

The celebration began with a 'Welcome to Country' by John Lochowiak, a long-time friend of the Sisters of St Joseph. Students from Mary MacKillop College and Mount Carmel College reflected on the spirit of Mary MacKillop based on her writings. Many of the sayings they quoted we, as Josephite Companions, know, such as:

- "Try always to be generous with God."***
- "God is good and has brought light and help when all was very dark."***
- "If we have love in our hearts, we shall have God with us."***

This was interspersed with singing by the cantors. During the celebration various members of the San Pellegrino community placed symbols of the prayer focus in front of the altar.

The first reading by Pat Terminello was followed by Sr Mary Ryan with the Prayers of Intercession. We were all waiting anxiously for the statue, covered in a red cloth throughout the ceremony, to be unveiled. The statue was unveiled by Archbishop O'Regan and the President of the San Pellegrino Community who sponsored the statue and its installation in the Cathedral. The statue, by local artist Judith Rolevink, was blessed by the Archbishop using both water and incense.

There was great excitement with the unveiling as everyone was eager to see another wonderful sculpture of Mary MacKillop. As usual, Judith Rolevink did not let us down and everyone was very complimentary and wanted to be photographed alongside the statue. I for one certainly left with an upraised heart.



## Diary Dates

### Josephite Companions gather in Kapunda

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021

More details in our next newsletter



### Josephite Companions Conference

In July next year we hope to re-schedule our Josephite Companions Conference here in Adelaide (cancelled last July). The Conference will be based at the Mary MacKillop Precinct over the weekend Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Wait eagerly for further details in our JCoLT Newsletter in March 2021!

***Other events are being planned and more details will be available in our next newsletter.***

## Introducing JCoLT

JCoLT is the new acronym for the **Josephite Companions Leadership Team** which was previously called IJALT. This group is made up of 5 – 7 Companions from across different regions and is determined by nominations and discernment.

JCoLT provides mutual support within and between the regions. They focus on the overall unity of the Companion movement whilst allowing for individual and cultural differences of all the regions where Josephite Companions are located.

JCoLT has a focus on the ongoing formation and growth of the Josephite Companions movement, especially for its leaders, and assisting them in their work with all Companions so as to live out the Josephite Charism in an enriching way. Responsibilities of this team include developing resources, policies and procedures, communicating with the Sisters of St Joseph at all levels and organising a major Companion Leaders' gathering every three years.

## Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer

Have you seen this delightful prayer book produced for the tenth anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop? Click on this link to see it in flip book format: 'Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer' <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/372439/>



## Mary MacKillop Precinct

### Museum and Gift Shop

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Last day for 2020 is Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and re-opening Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Many products are available for sale including the monthly *Southern Cross* magazine, a new jigsaw puzzle (in 3 sizes) of *The Vision* (the portrait you'll find in the foyer of the Museum), the annual Josephite calendars, gift vouchers and much more. It's well worth a visit!

The on-line store will soon be ready. Orders will be through [www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au](http://www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au)  
For phone orders or other information call 8130 5910

### St Joseph's Chapel

Currently closed to the public. Hopefully to re-open early 2021.

### Kensington-Norwood Mary MacKillop Walk

Thanks to grants from the SA History Trust and the support of the Norwood, Payneham and St Peters Council the Mary MacKillop Walk will be officially launched in early 2021. Stay tuned!

# Mary MacKillop

## *From Advent to Christmas*



### Introduction

Advent is a time when we wait, watch and wonder.

- It is a time of reflection about the importance of what family and friends mean to us.
- It is a time to reflect on our own journey of faith and challenge ourselves about how we respond to the activity of God in our lives.
- It is a time when we draw upon all our experiences and resources in an attempt to create a better world for all.

There were times, many times, in the life of Mary MacKillop when she waited, watched and wondered. Such as when Mary was waiting for Rome's approval of the Institute or watching – and witnessing – the spread of the Josephite movement in Australia and New Zealand or wondering how best to serve God. For Mary's faith in God was constant, and every difficulty and every obstacle she encountered only made her faith in God grow stronger.

### Scripture – Isaiah 9:1

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.”

### Pause for Reflection

During Advent we read the prophet Isaiah who challenges his listeners to see the light that shines in their midst. From the beginning of Advent, hours of daylight lengthen, and lifestyles change as we bask in the emerging light and warmth. What are the signs of God's light and hope in the midst of our own personal lives and in our world?

### Christmas Prayer



God has called us out of darkness and into a wonderful light. May we experience God's kindness and blessings, and be strong in faith, hope and love.

Because we are followers of Christ, who appeared to us on Christmas day as a light shining in darkness, may God make us a light to all whom we encounter.

The wise men followed the star and found Christ who is light from light.

May we too find God in those we meet along our journey.



### From the Pen of Mary MacKillop

May our good God grant you all a holy and truly happy Christmas. We can all meet together in spirit at the Crib of our loving Infant and can recommend our several wants and pray for one another. I wish you every grace and blessing of this holy time with fondest love. 1881

### Action

In our lives we need to find a balance between work and rest – to create 'Sabbath' time. Perhaps this Advent we can take some time to accept God's invitation to stop looking outwards and start looking inwards and be loving and gentle with ourselves, finding 'heart rest' in God being with us.