

Josephite Companions of South Australia



Friendship Prayer Service

PO Box 57
Kent Town, SA 5071
SA.Companions@sosj.org.au



Autumn 2021

April 2021 Newsletter

Companions and Companioning

The following is part of the presentation given by
Sr Maryellen Thomas at our February Launch.

(Presently on the Regional Leadership Team; formerly the Congregational Team)



I am so thrilled to see this day finally come as I was privileged enough to be walking with the International Josephite Associate Leadership Team (IJALT) – as it was known then – as they journeyed to the point of adopting the name **Josephite Companions**.

A change of name **was not** an easy place to come to, as it required much sensitivity about:

- what it meant to so many to be an Associate,
- the history of adopting the name Associate,
- being able to name and articulate who this group is **now**,
- and their relationship with the Sisters and the world.

I am very aware of the deep discernment, extensive conversations and ongoing communication involved in deciding to rename who you are, and therefore expressing your identity in the 21st Century.

I commend IJALT for leading this process and applaud Josephite Companions everywhere for taking the brave step to look at themselves anew and then be able to say, “We have grown to a new place.”

This is the beginning of the “new” and what it means to be a Companion will gradually unfold and change. As you grow in your new reality, I invite each of the Companions to **live** fully into your name.

As a Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, I am heartened that you are there to companion me and my Sisters. You are a great witness to us of fidelity, loyalty and love.

Your new symbol is a wonderful representation of who you are today:

- The flame indicates to me the fire of your commitment and the zeal in which you take up all that is involved in being a Josephite Companion.
- The water illustrates your baptismal call to live the Gospel message of love.
- The cross represents your Christian faith and belief in the resurrection, which brings hope to the world.

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“Have courage, trust in God, St Joseph and our Blessed Mother, and you need have no fear.”
MMK 1905

I am sure that I speak for the Sisters when I say that we look forward to companioning you as you companion us into the future. As we too live into our name as Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart may we, together, bring a tenderness to the world so desired by Jesus in living out God's mission, which is unconditional, universal love.

A few years ago, Mary Hemmings, as Leader

of IJALT, invited all Associates to reflect on the Emmaus story. In this story, we heard about the coming together of hearts and the burning desire to share their story as Jesus and the disciples walked the road to Emmaus together.

What a wonderful image of Companioning. I leave you with this image, and may it be the inspiration for you always in living out your commitment as Josephite Companions.



Our 2021 Jubilarians

70 Years Professed

Srs Margaret Kenny and Maryanne Welsh

60 Years Professed

Srs Carmel Clarke, Margaret Nicholas, Genevieve Ryan and Veronica Slattery

50 Years Professed

Srs Shiela McCreanor and Susan Pollard



∞ *A Day in Kapunda with* ∞ *St Mary of the Cross and St Joseph the Worker*



Saturday 1st May 2021

11am

**Church of St Rose of Lima
27 Mary St Kapunda**

Led by Monsignor John Swann

Since 1955 the *Feast of St Joseph the Worker* has been celebrated on 1st May. Mary MacKillop always turned to Joseph and recognised his hidden work and his faithfulness to God's mission.

From country or city, come and join us in Kapunda to share the day and reflect on Mary's history and legacy in this area.

Morning tea will be provided. BYO lunch. It is recommended that you wear comfortable shoes as the day may include a tour of local sites.

Although there is no cost for the day a donation would be appreciated. Transport from Adelaide by bus or car is available for \$15 pp but seats are limited, and departure from Kensington will be at 9am. Telephone for details.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. Please RSVP Mary on 0417 871 904 or SA.Companions@sosi.org.au by 27th April 2021



"Take Fresh Courage"

(MMK 1877)

Saturday 26th June 2021

2pm

Bethany

4 High St Kensington



The words for the title of our June gathering, "Take Fresh Courage," were last year's theme for celebrating the 10th anniversary of Mary MacKillop's canonisation.

How can and does Mary continue to inspire us today to be people of *courage and hope*?

Come ... Listen ... Share

Afternoon tea will be provided and there will also be a raffle.

Please RSVP Mary on 0417 871 904 or SA.Companions@sosi.org.au by 18th June 2021

Year of St Joseph

“With a father’s heart – that is how Joseph loved Jesus”.

This is Pope Francis’ inspiring opening to the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde (With a Father’s Heart)* of 8th December 2020, marking the beginning of the Year of St Joseph which, in turn, marked the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St Joseph as the “Patron of the Catholic Church” by Blessed Pius IX on 8th December 1870.

Pope Francis’ hope is that during this Year of St Joseph, each believer has the opportunity to discover again the Patron of the Catholic Church, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence, an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. St Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

In his letter, Pope Francis uses the following seven particular features to describe St Joseph:

A BELOVED FATHER: The greatness of St Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. In this way, he placed himself, “at the service of the entire plan of salvation.” Joseph has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people.

A TENDER AND LOVING FATHER: Pope Francis points us to St Joseph watching Jesus grow every day, while Jesus saw in Joseph the tender love of God. “Joseph ... teaches us that faith in God includes believing that we can work through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses.”

AN OBEDIENT FATHER: Pope Francis reminds us that “God revealed his saving plan to Joseph by using dreams which were considered by the Bible and ancient people as a way for God to make his will known.” Joseph did not hesitate to obey, regardless of the hardship which would undoubtedly be involved. “St Joseph was called by God to serve the person and the mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood.”

AN ACCEPTING FATHER: Pope Francis writes that “the spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that explains but accepts. Only God can give us the strength

needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.” The Pope inspires believers to adopt St Joseph’s attitude to “accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and show special concern for the weak.”

A CREATIVELY COURAGEOUS FATHER:

Pope Francis reminds us that creative courage emerges in the way we deal with difficulties: we either give up or somehow engage with the difficulty. God chooses to act through events and people. Because of Joseph, God saved the child Jesus and Mary, first by making the stable a welcoming home for Jesus and then escaping from the threat of Herod. These scenes proclaim to us that God always finds a way to save us. Both God and Mary trusted Joseph, who both protected and provided for Jesus and Mary. It is these qualities which make St Joseph the Guardian of the Church and the patron of the most vulnerable in society; a consequence is that the Church is to show concern for the weakest in our midst.

A WORKING FATHER: Joseph teaches us the value, dignity and the joy of what it means to earn an honest living in order to provide for our family. Through his work Joseph can be seen as ‘co-creating with God.’ We need to rediscover the value and importance of work, so that no one is excluded. In this time of pandemic, we are called to a renewed concern for those who have been made redundant.

A FATHER IN THE SHADOWS: Pope Francis refers to Joseph as the “earthly shadow of the heavenly Father.” In Joseph we do not see frustration, but only trust. Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He focused instead on the life of Mary and Jesus. Indeed, Joseph is an exemplary figure for our times.

*“We see in St Joseph, a perfect mirror of confidence in God – a wonderful, unbounded confidence in our good God.”
Mary MacKillop (1893)*

Excerpts from Patris Corde December 8th 2020

Our Josephite Partners

Living in the Spirit of Mary MacKillop

- **St Joseph's Old Scholars Association**

An Old Scholar is anyone (female or male) who has ever been connected to a Josephite school or college in Australia, as a student or teacher.

Our Association has been in existence for over 100 years. Our two functions for this year are:

- Autumn Luncheon

Wednesday 26th May – 11.45am for a 12noon start

Hampstead Hotel, corner North East and Hampstead Roads, Collinswood

A Seniors' Menu is available for \$15.00

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL by 21st May. Contact Josie (8295 3667) or Joyleen (8337 9500)

Seating WILL NOT be allocated. All welcome.

- Spring Luncheon

Wednesday 13th October at the Lockleys Hotel

- **Mary MacKillop Old Scholars Association**

The Association continues the friendships and encourages the building of life-long networks amongst past students and staff. It also fosters justice and compassion, hospitality and concern for those in need and has a special relationship with the Sisters of St Joseph.

Everyone is very welcome to the ... **Annual Reunion Dinner**

Friday 29th October 2021, 6.30pm – 10.00pm

Venue – yet to be determined

An especial welcome to the '1' classes: 2011, 2001, 1991, 1981, 1971 and 1961

Bookings: MaryMacKillopOSA@outlook.com

Our popular Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179768134304>) keeps people in touch with each other. Make contact and share your news.

- **Mary MacKillop Precinct – Bethany, Museum and Chapel**

- Museum and Gift Shop – open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm

The Museum tells some of the South Australian story including the early companions, and the history and legacy of the Josephites from the very beginnings.

The Gift Shop has many products available for sale including the monthly *Southern Cross* magazine, a jigsaw puzzle (in 3 sizes) of *The Vision* (the portrait you'll find in the foyer of the Museum), gift vouchers, greeting cards (most of which are made on-site) and much more!

The on-line store will soon be ready. Orders will be through www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au

For phone orders or other information call 8130 5910

- St Joseph's Chapel

Currently closed to the public due to Covid. Hopefully to re-open later this year. Watch this space!

- 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 is being launched in April.

- **Josephite Companions' Conference**

Unfortunately, the Josephite Companions' Conference for 2021 here in Adelaide has been cancelled due to the uncertainty surrounding Covid. In lieu of the Conference, we are exploring the concept of a webinar day on Saturday 4th September 2021. Watch out for further details!



St Mary of the Cross and St Joseph the Worker



Introduction

We know little more about the historical Joseph than his name and that he was a *teknon*, one who worked with his hands. While having no detailed knowledge, we can glean from the Gospels something of Joseph's character. We know he was an observant Jew. He would have seen to Jesus' education in the faith of Israel. He would have taken Jesus to Jerusalem to celebrate the great festivals of the Jewish people and taught Jesus the prayers of his people. This is what a Jewish father would do for his son. When Jesus emerges as an adult, his faith has, to some extent, been shaped within his home and the village life of Nazareth. (Dr Mary Coloe pbvm)

Mary MacKillop spent her early years working to support her family. At age 16 she was sent to work for a stationer in Melbourne and at 18 Mary started work as a governess in Penola where she met Fr Woods. Mary knew the importance of work in providing for one's family.

Mary MacKillop devoted her life to the poor, working hard and for long hours to educate children and care for the homeless and elderly. She, along with her Sisters, travelled far to be with those in need, the marginalised and the sick.

Scripture – Matthew 13:55

"Is not this the carpenter's son?"

Pause for Reflection

Jesus comes into our history, he comes among us by being born of Mary by the power of God, but with the presence of Joseph. Jesus learns the carpenter's craft from Joseph in his workshop in Nazareth, sharing with him the commitment, effort, satisfaction and also the difficulties of every day.

This reminds us of the dignity and importance of work. Work is part of God's loving plan; work is fundamental to the dignity of a person. Work, to use a metaphor, "anoints" us with dignity, fills us with dignity, makes us similar to God, who has worked and still works, who always acts. Work gives one the ability to maintain oneself and one's family, and to contribute to the growth of one's own nation.

From the Pen of Mary MacKillop

May St Joseph shower many special graces upon each and every one of you. 1900

Prayer

God, give us work so that we may share our talents with others and know the dignity and satisfaction that you give us through our efforts. Give us patience while you open doors and wisdom to see your will. Never let stress diminish our love for each other nor our work as part of your healing ministry. Amen.

Action

As we think about our own working life (past or present) let us consider those who are unable to find meaningful work. Let us, by our words and actions, show our respect, dignity, and understanding in their efforts to support themselves and their family.

**EASTER
GREETINGS**

*May the Risen Christ be
a sign of renewed faith*

