



Autumn Newsletter VIC - TAS 2021



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Josephite Companions

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Let us enjoy 2021 as we rediscover the Josephite way as Josephite Companions. Especially in this 'Year of St Joseph', as announced by Pope Francis. From Dec 8th '20 to Dec 8th '21.



Dear Josephite Companions

Autumn, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Long Weekends, Vaccinations and Australia slowly returning to some kind of Normal. All Good News. Thank you, Thank you, to the group leaders who have returned their Data Base updates. I have received more than half already. We really want to reach all our

Companions. Please let me know if someone is not receiving their Newsletter.

I know that many of you are meeting in Lenten Groups to reflect on the Gospels. This is a great

opportunity to Invite parishioners to join you.

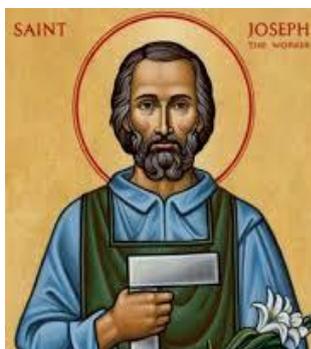
At the Leaders Meeting we said farewell and thanked Garry McLean who is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Heritage Centre. Gary has always gone out of his way to make us welcome. We wish him well in his retirement.

2021 YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter, "With a Fathers Heart" Feb 8th 2021, describes St Joseph as "a beloved father, a tender and loving father an obedient father, an accepting father, a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows."

Happy Easter to you all as we look forward to a world free of Covid.

Thank you *Noreen McLeish*



**Year of St Joseph Dec
20 to Dec 8th21. St
Joseph's Feast Day
19th March.**

Inside this Autumn Newsletter:

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FRIENDSHIP PRAYER SERVICE

Leaders Meeting Heritage Centre 27th Feb

Sr Sue McGuinness rsj and Sr Rita Malavisi rsj, joined eleven Companions at the Heritage Centre for our Leaders Meeting on the 27th Feb. We received Apologies from Judi Bowden, Dorothy Rowlands and Maurine Phelan. In this the Year of St Joseph we began with a session with Sr Rita. She was her usual vibrant self and she certainly gave us food for thought about our gentle St Joseph. (More about the Year of St Joseph, at our Regional Meetings.

We began our day with Sr Rita & St Joseph



Sr Sue McGuinness, Regional Leader, and Maureen Ellis from Mornington. (Hamilton Group)



Mary Helen Richardson from Rye.

Maureen Maartensz and Julie de Bondt from Wonthaggi Group



Prayer setting. St Joseph, Husband, Father, Worker, Faithful man and great example to us all.



Diane C and Marian Muller. The Sisters have given each group two beautiful Prayer Books. Great for Meetings.

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS DAY AT THE HERITAGE CENTRE '21



Anne-Marie filled us in on the new Resources, the Discovery and the Administration Booklets from JCoLT. Soon to be Published. Also new Badges arriving ASAP.



Jenny Coutts from Sunbury and Sr Rita Malavisi rsj. Always time for a Cuppa at a Josephite Gathering!



Margaret McDonald from West Brunswick



The Victorian Core Team Members. L to R Noreen McLeish, Diane Corro, Chris Van Order and Anne-Marie Wilkinson.



Farewell to Josephite Sisters at Wonthaggi

After 108 years of dedicated service to the Wonthaggi Parish of St. Joseph by the Josephite Order, the Parishioners said a final Farewell at the 10.30 Mass on the 17th January, concelebrated by our newly enrolled Bishop of the Sale Diocese, Greg Bennett and our Parish Priest, Darren Howie.

Seventeen nuns came to celebrate the occasion. We also welcomed three Companions from Leongatha and nine from Wonthaggi. We were privileged to have the company of Anne-Marie.

Our last residing nun, Sr. Helen Barnes, left Wonthaggi in December to take up new residence at Yarraville. Helen was a wonderful presence in Wonthaggi and Inverloch and made many friends and acquaintances in the four years she was here.

Helen was a talented artist who transformed many of her life experiences into paintings, sketches, sculptures, collages and writings, some of which were published into books.

Following the Mass, there was an exhibition of Helen's creations in the Parish Hall, where people were invited to come along to farewell Helen (which included some of her ex-students from various states).

The day concluded with a sumptuous afternoon tea.

This is a true example of the Mary MacKillop charism being carried forward by the Josephite Companions. We look forward to new beginnings in our Parish.

Maureen Maartensz, and Julie de Brondt, Wonthaggi.



Faye Donohue Broadmeadows. Six months ago I was visiting my friend Michael, and he asked me if I would make a Novena to St Mary MacKillop for his friend, who, five years ago was struck down with a very rare illness that doctors knew very little about. He was no longer able to walk, he had almost lost his eyesight, he had difficulty breathing and his whole body was wracked with pain. He spent most days in bed he was so sick and sadly he could not even interact with his young family. He was deteriorating fast and Michael was very concerned for him. It is six months since I completed the Novena to St Mary MacKillop. Today Michael phoned and he was jumping out of his skin with excitement. His friend has returned to work and he is almost back to normal. The best thing is, he can enjoy his young family again.

Remember St Mary MacKillop said, "never see a need without doing something about it." Michael saw the need and asked me to make the Novena. He feels that it was through Mary's intervention that his friend is so much better now and back at work.

Helen Dean - Swan Hill

According to Helen, the Swan Hill Companions are a "not very active, aging group." However they manage to, send used Stamps for the Josephite Mission in Peru, have Knitting Days and make lots of rugs for "Wrap with Love" organisations. Helen says they have a great band of knitters from all denominations. I'm sure St Mary MacKillop would be very proud of all their endeavours. They have much appreciation for the Josephite Sisters in Swan Hill especially 'their Sr Kathleen', who she describes as always having been "a very good hands on" nun. **Helen** (*Keep up the good work*)

Pat Frewan - Creightons Creek,

Pat has enjoyed reading about what other Associates were doing during the Pandemic last year so she put pen to paper. Pat and her husband Vin, both in their early 80's were fully occupied with beef farm duties, worked in with a long morning walk, and watching daily live Mass streamed on their iPad. They kept strictly to Covid regulations and they felt blessed to have their family nearby. Pat is looking forward to getting back to meetings with her Rushworth group when life returns to normal. **Pat Frewan**

Sr Madeliene White rsj – Orbost

Our members range from in their nineties downwards. I meet most of them weekly and visit them frequently. Ella who is 96 was one of the first pupils at St Joseph's School. She has a brilliant memory, Iris is also 96, came to live on a farm here when she was married and can tell you vivid stories of the Sisters who were in the School when her children went there. Jill, who is 89 knows so much about the history of the Parish and School. In 2023 we will be celebrating 100 years since the arrival of the Sisters and the opening of the School in 1923. Three of the sisters came to Orbost When the gold ran out in Omeo. Our own Anne-Marie went to school in Omeo.



Josephite Companions Launch in Victoria 2021

In 2020, on the 17th of October, Josephite Associates were renamed as Josephite Companions, with an online launch. In Victoria we launched this new name at our Leaders' Meeting at the Heritage Centre, East Melbourne on the 27th February.

You are now invited, as Josephite Companions, to re look at the Josephite story and to see how each of us, through

FRIENDSHIP, PRAYER and SERVICE,

can continue to make a difference in our world.

The new **Discovery Program and Administration Handbooks**, were explored at our Leaders Meeting.

Each Companion group will receive copies soon.

The Companion Emblem – Our new Josephite Companion Badges. Coming soon.

The Cross Mary MacKillop is known as St Mary of the Cross and links us to all 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 as Josephite Companions.



UPDATE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS LEADERSHIP TEAM – JCoLT

Our JCoLT Conference was initially re-scheduled from last July to this July. Sadly, due to ongoing challenges regarding Covid 19, we recognise that this is still not the time for us to gather and share. We are exploring the possibility of offering some online sessions later in 2021, to provide opportunities to share insights and learn from others. We will keep, leaders especially, informed of any further details regarding this in the months ahead. The Sisters have in the past supported us financially it is time that we supported ourselves. As Victorian Companions we include \$10 in our Annual Subscription. Form is attached to this Newsletter. *Anne-Marie Wilkinson*

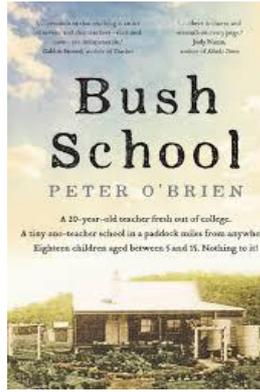
Two BOOK REVIEWS from Sr Mary Fermio

BUSH SCHOOL by Peter O'Brien

A 20-year-old teacher fresh out of college sent to a tiny one-teacher school in a paddock miles from anywhere, with 18 children aged between 5 and 15. Nothing to it!

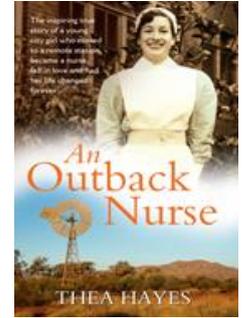
His accommodation offered in this tiny village, east of Tamworth, is a bed on a verandah, the outer wall tar covered paper. No chair, table etc. His meals rabbit and squash! Did he persist?

Read and find out. A really enjoyable book especially if you are a teacher, past or present. Sr Mary



AN OUTBACK NURSE by Thea Hayes

The inspiring true story of a young city girl who moved to a remote station became a nurse, fell in love and had her life changed forever. A beautiful story of love, resilience, respect and hard work. Set at Wave Hill Station, of four million acres, in the Northern Territory, it was completely new territory for this Sydney lass. Good large print as well. Sr Mary

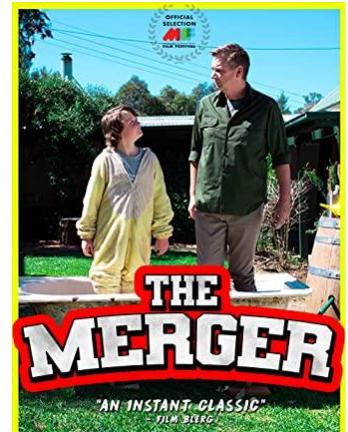


The Merger. Australian Film – Now on DVD and Netflix

This film is an entertaining Australian Movie with a message. It shows a great sense of community and deals with some of the issues that often arise in a small country town. It is set in the fictional town of Bodgy Creek in central NSW. The Merger highlights the need for communities to work together to overcome attitudes and challenges.

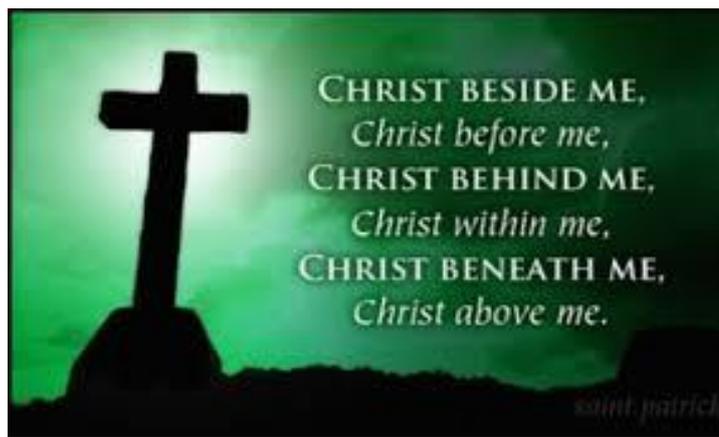
My 12 YO grandson asked me to watch it with him saying, "its funny Nan, and there's some rough language, but nothing you haven't heard before!" We both thoroughly enjoyed watching it together.

Noreen McLeish



March 17th Feast of St Patrick

March 19th Feast of St Joseph the Worker



Josephite Companion Meeting Suggestions

There are no set rules for how often, or when, we meet. Just that we meet if possible when and how it suits your group. Some Meet: Every Month **OR** four times a Year when the Newsletter comes out **OR** Around special Josephite Feast Days ie 19th March St Joseph, June Feast of the Sacred Heart, 8th Aug St Mary MacKillop's Feast Day, Oct 17th Canonisation. **OR Whenever.**

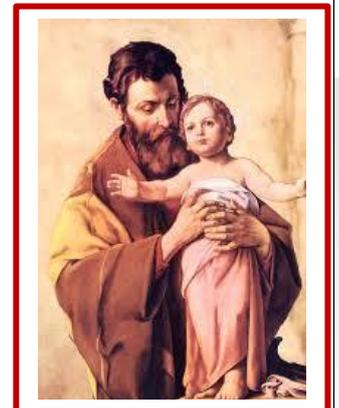
BLESSING PRAYER

May the blessings of Joseph be among us. attuning us to God's will each day' Attuning us with humility to those around us attuning us to God's transformative dream for Josephite Companions. May the blessings of Joseph be among us. Living obediently Living as Companions in our communities Living hospitably even in challenging times.

May the blessings of Joseph be among us. Still opening us to the future

Still cooperating in discerning mission
Still keeping us alive
with love from day to day.

May the blessings of Joseph flood our souls and give us boundless joy.
Amen.



Josephite Companions Regional Days for 2021

Theme: Companions In - Friendship Prayer and Service

Arrive 9:30 for a 10am start. We will have three 45min sessions and finish with BYO Lunch and a catch up at 1pm, with those who are able to stay.

Items from the Heritage Centre Shop will be available for sale.

Venues and Dates:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Morwell | April 17 th | Tennis Club Room |
| 2. Murchison | May 29 th | Catholic Church |
| 3. Pakenham | June 26 th | Parish Centre |
| 4. Bacchus Marsh | August 7 th | Parish Centre |
| 5. Lakes Entrance | Sept 18 th | Parish Centre |



Eternal rest grant to them O Lord,
and may perpetual light shine upon
them. May they rest in Peace.

R.I.P.

Mona Kelly Long time Associate from Numurkah

We remember all relatives and Friends of our
Josephite Family who have died.. May they Rest In
Peace.

USED STAMPS

Used postage stamps have raised \$312,000 for the Peruvian Mission.

Please leave a border of about 3cm around stamps.

Please forward stamps to:

STAMPS

Locked Bag 3031

BURWOOD NSW 1805

BOXES OF STAMPS TO:

5 Alexander Avenue,

Croydon NSW 2132

Used Stamps are a great source of funds for
Josephite missions.



JOSEPHITE COMPANION'S PRAYER

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



A LENTEN MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

"Every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping, and Loving.

The call to experience **Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods**, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the **faith** that comes from the

living Christ, the **hope** inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the **love** flowing from the merciful heart of the Father." *From Pope Francis' message for Lent. Vatican News Feb 20 21*

Greetings to all of our Josephite Companions!

We hope that many of you have been able to celebrate the change of our name over recent months, either in local groups or regional groups or through the information provided on the website in October last year. This has been a significant 'moment' in our Josephite story.

We are delighted that in December last year Pope Francis declared 2021 to be the **Year of St Joseph**. This marks the 150th anniversary of Joseph being named as Patron of the Universal Church.



Pope Francis wrote the document *Patris corde* (With a Father's Heart) against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "**ordinary**" **people** who, though far from the limelight, exercise **patience** and offer **hope** every day. We recognize that those who have been in 'the front line' dealing with Covid, be they nurses or doctors, supermarket workers or transport drivers, have exercised patience and offered hope to others through their roles and commitment...as did Joseph in his life.

Year of Saint Joseph:

December 8th 2020 – December 8th 2021

Pope Francis names Joseph's acceptance of '**the will of God**' as a defining characteristic: he accepted Mary unconditionally, he took up the challenge to take his family into a foreign country. Through the events in his life, Joseph discerned God's will and made life decisions, at all times, **placing his trust in God**. He trusted in **divine providence** and was prepared to act with **courage** for the sake of others.

The qualities named above give us some valuable insights as to why Julian and Mary saw in St Joseph a model for those who would gather to continue God's mission through this new venture.

As Josephite Companions we can take a renewed interest and inspiration from Joseph. We can feel especially privileged during this year to share in the Josephite name and to be walking with others who value the qualities and example provided by this unassuming yet instrumental figure in our Christian story.

Further reflections and insights can be gained through the links below. There will be a prayer for the days leading up to the Joseph's Feast on March 19th. This link will be on the sosj webpage. Reflections about Joseph are also being published each month.

<https://www.sosj.org.au/>

<https://www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

May we, like Joseph, listen to God in our lives so that we may have the trust and wisdom to step out courageously to continue our part in God's mission.

Mary Hemmings

On behalf of our Josephite Companions Leadership Team (JCoLT)

Beverley Badcock, Anne-Marie Wilkinson, Helen Dougherty, Pauline McGuire, Sr Moya Campbell and Sr Clare Conaglen



Cut along line and post to: Josephite Companions
Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert Centre
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Josephite Companions Subscriptions for 2021

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 Associates Vic** With this form included.
(Name change has not been finalised yet so still Associates)

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

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Thank You