



FRIENDSHIP
PRAYER
SERVICE

NSW JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

NSW Josephite Companions PO Box 184, Croydon NSW 2132 (Letters only) • 5 Alexandra Avenue, Croydon NSW 2132, (Parcels)

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NEWSLETTER • March 2021

NSW Josephite Companions Leadership Team

Dear Josephite Companions

The NSW Leadership Team welcomes you to 2021 with our Companions Newsletter. This year has been a challenging one for all of us and we look forward with the hope that 2021 would be a much better year than the past one and opens for us the opportunity for new beginnings.

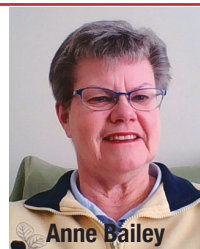
At the moment we are preparing for the Easter season. By the time you receive this Newsletter we might have already celebrated Holy Week and perhaps even Easter. The season of Easter encourages us to look at the Resurrection of Christ, to look with hope for a new and fresh start. Just as Christ conquered darkness and light shone forth for all to see so we look at our future with enthusiasm and courage to move forward in ways that God is calling us to do so.

As a team we look forward to working with each one of you whether individually or as a group. We hope that we get to know you in person and will be able to assist you in your needs to keep on moving forward in the spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods.

As Mary MacKillop said, 'Never see a need without doing anything about it'.

We hope that together we bring back to life our Companion Groups. As the name suggests we are companions, meaning we journey together, for each other and for those we encounter in our daily life. Mary also said, 'Listen to the whisperings of God in your own heart'. This is the time for us to listen attentively to what God is asking of us especially this year while we are all preparing for the Plenary Council. It is a time of listening and acting according to what the Spirit and Mary MacKillop are asking us to do. We might need to look with fresh eyes at our groups and act accordingly.

Pope Francis dedicated this year to St Joseph. Sometimes we seem to ignore that Joseph said an unreserved 'yes to God' just as Mary did. Joseph allowed God to work in his life through his dreams. He was the one who rescued the Child Jesus from the hands of those who wanted to harm him and, it was Joseph who helped the child to grow in compassion and love for those around him. He is the one who together with Mary shows us the way to God. Let us ask Joseph to be bold and courageous as he was, to dream big and allow God to guide us in the future of our Josephite Companions.



Anne Bailey



Lyn Griffiths



Geoff Barrett



Antoinette Mangion



Aileen Young



Beverley Badcock

Saint Joseph

Saint Joseph, you are that just man,
that wise and loyal servant,
whom God called to lead the holy family.

With a husband's love you cherished Mary,
and with fatherly care you loved and
educated Jesus.

May we also experience your loving and
watchful care in our lives as
Josephite Companions.

Amen.

'No words can describe the restfulness of the place.'
Mary MacKillop - 1902

'There is an echo in the harmonies of nature
which penetrate the soul.'
Rev. Julian Tension Woods - 1879



St Joseph

one who chooses

In the early days of this COVID 19 pandemic a word that was often used was unprecedented. I think people of every era would possibly describe their time also as unprecedented. It is a word that describes an environment that has never before been experienced. The combination of events on such a global scale at the beginning of 2020 was certainly unprecedented.

The historical Joseph was also born into times that could have been called unprecedented by those living in them. It was a period of apparent peace but was in reality a period of oppression and cruelty. The Roman empire ruled almost everywhere and affected the entire known world.

Joseph, as a Jew, was affected by this oppressive ruler in his everyday life. Judea was an outpost of the Roman empire and the Jews, through their high priests, used every tactic to keep themselves in control of their religion and their sacred city. But the reality was the Romans ruled with great cruelty. People at the grass roots level were forced to pay taxes and of course to take part in the census. They had little choice but to obey the Roman rule, there was safety. Rebellion happened throughout the Roman Empire, of course, but the rebels were rarely victorious.

Before his trip to Bethlehem the scriptural Joseph had already been forced to make significant choices. When Mary became pregnant for example he had to choose between life, death or some form of exile for her. He had to choose in believing her story of the Annunciation or refusing to accept its truth.

He made the wise choice and the brave choice of marrying her and thus giving her life and ensuring the life of her child. There were consequences to this choice. Because of it the ministry of Jesus was made possible. Because of it we, in 2021, still learn the way of love and vulnerability. The establishment of Christianity was also a later consequence of this choice. As a result of this choice also the Universal Christ invites us deeper into God.

The editor of the Scriptures revealed that the Joseph of scripture was also a

symbolic figure as well as a real person. In paying attention to his dreams and choosing to respond by taking Mary and Jesus to Egypt, the editors allowed the connection between the Prophet Joseph of the Old Testament and Joseph of the New Testament to be made. In this way also Jesus' ancestry was validated. The scripture ensures Joseph and Mary's connection to the House of David to be seen. The Messiah was to be of David's lineage as were Mary and Joseph.

The story of the journey to Egypt, and return again to Jerusalem later, linked Joseph's family to the Exodus story. Out of Egypt would come the Messiah who had been born in Bethlehem and who now returned to Nazareth to live with his foster father and his mother.

This Joseph, who speaks no words in the gospel, carries the powerful Word of God with him wherever he goes.

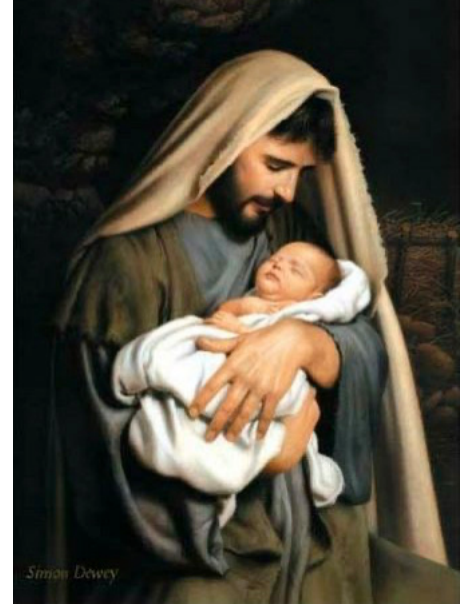
Joseph chooses to listen to his inner voice, to his dreams. He chooses to listen to the world around him and the dangers that are evident. He acts immediately when he realizes what is required of him. He consistently chooses life, love and action. In doing so he helps make real the Messianic future promised in the First Testament. He offers us a pattern of behaviour around the way we listen and choose.

Perhaps in our unprecedented times Joseph can show us how to make choices that lead to life and wholeness for ourselves and for those with whom we come in contact. We listen to what is within us, to what is happening around us, to the call to life, love and action!

As Joseph's feast day approaches let us celebrate this man of history, of Scripture, of silence and action.

- Colleen O'Sullivan rsj

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Prayer to St Joseph

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With a husband's love you cherished
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and with fatherly care you loved and
educated Jesus.
May we also experience your loving and
watchful care in our lives as
Josephite Companions.

Amen

Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the
Josephite Mission in Peru

Please send to:

Boxes of Stamps

5 Alexandra Avenue
Croydon NSW 2132

Envelopes and packets to

Stamps, Locked Bag 3031

Burwood NSW 1805

Phone 02 8741 2300

Thank you for all stamps received.

Request from Bathurst

Used stamps for the
Josephite Mission in Timor Leste
Sister Jean Cain rsj Perthville requests that
stamps continue to be sent to:-
Unit 1, St Johns,
Tension Woods Avenue,
Perthville NSW 2795



Josephite Companions: Companions on the Journey

By Lisa Bright and Antoinette Mangion, 5 November 2020

Do you know what the JJJ stands for on the Josephite Sisters logo?

Have you a desire to learn more about the life of Mary MacKillop and the charism of the Josephite sisters? Would you enjoy engaging in conversation about these things?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you may be interested to learn about the Josephite Companions.

The Companions, formerly known as the Josephite Associates, launched their new look on Saturday 17 October 2020. This was the culmination of a three-year process, engaging members of the Josephite Associates as to how to strengthen the foundations of this lay movement to continue the legacy of the of charism of the Sisters of St Joseph.

Antoinette Mangion, coordinator of the Blacktown Josephite Companions group and a member of the NSW leadership team for the companions, explains why she is so passionate about the Josephite companions. "The companions are a group of men and women, meeting regularly in prayer, service and friendship in the spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods.

"Our gatherings consist of a reflective time of praying and sharing scripture. We then listen to the news of the community – not only our parish community but beyond – to see the needs and how we can best minister to those needs. After all, Mary MacKillop did say, 'Never see a need without doing something about it'.

"We also focus on the life and times of Mary MacKillop and relate her story to today. Believe it or not, we find when we read the story of Mary, what happened in the 1800s is very similar to what we hear today. There is so much to learn from Mary's responses and so we glean her wisdom and apply that to our present-day context."

"I have been part of the Josephite community for 15 years," shares Antoinette. "I am really passionate about the Josephite community because I love the spirit of Mary MacKillop. I love Mary MacKillop and how she walked with people in their need. She sat and listened to their stories. I resonate with Mary as I did this and continue to do this in my work and ministry.

"If we want to reach out to people and show them who Christ is, we need to reach out to people, walk with them and not judge them. Christ helped people most in need. This is what my baptism calls me to do. I see this in Mary so am very drawn to her and her story."

Antoinette continues, "Mary MacKillop wanted the church to be inclusive. That is how she lived. The people who supported Mary and the sisters during her ex-communication were people of other faiths. She was welcoming, accepting and grateful of

their hospitality and support, as they were of her. Mary lived inclusiveness.

"In all her work, Mary was missionary – both in the physical sense of travelling with a horse and cart to wherever the need was as well as living to the full her baptismal calling. Mary MacKillop evangelised in everything she did. Her passion was providing education for those who could not afford it. Mary would give of what she had to people in need. She went to the margins, as Bishop Vincent and Pope Francis are calling us to do. She was not afraid to take risks – to live what she knew was asked of her by God."

In connecting St Mary MacKillop's story to our world today, Antoinette offers her reflections. "I think of the Plenary Council that we are going through as a Church in Australia and I have seen the themes for discernment. Mary MacKillop brought to life these themes in her work.

"She was missionary and evangelising. She was inclusive. She was humble, and steadfast, in the work she did. She was prayerful and Eucharistic. She brought people together in thanksgiving. She called the 'Will of God' her 'Book of Life'. And she lived that story as true as she could.

"Again, Mary lived hundreds of years ago, but her story and the Plenary Council themes for discernment speak to each other so much. I can see that the themes we have been offered through Plenary are not new, but like Mary did, brought them to life as she responded to the world in which she lived."

Antoinette extends the invitation to find out more.

"The Josephite Companions aim to live in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop. Through the conversations at the meetings, we explore the ways in which we can do this, responding to the signs of the times in which we live.

"I invite people to find out more about the companions. Share with others the inspiration that Mary MacKillop offers. It is a wonderful opportunity – a companion – to live life to the full.

"Jesus said, 'Come and see'. Come and see what the Josephite Companions are about and how we can make the will of God our book of life – together as community."

To find out more about the Josephite Companions, contact:

Antoinette on 0414 735 943, Office on 02 8741 2335

email nsw.companions@sosj.org.au or visit

<https://www.sosj.org.au/get-involved/josephite-companions/>.

You can also send your interest by post to:

NSW Josephite Companions

PO BOX 184

CROYDON NSW 2132

Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph”

Late last year, Pope Francis recalled the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021.

Apart from being patron of the Universal Church, St Joseph is also known as patron of unborn children, fathers, immigrants, workers, employment, explorers, pilgrims, travellers, carpenters, engineers, realtors, against doubt and hesitation, and of a happy death.

Of course, Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods chose St Joseph to be patron of the congregation they founded on 19 March, 1866 – the Solemnity of St Joseph, spouse of Mary and foster-father of Jesus.



Pope Francis encourages all of us to pray together daily:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

- Anne Bailey, *Josephite Companion*, Woy Woy

Thoughts of a Josephite Companion

Belonging to the Josephite Companions fills me with gratitude for the many blessings I receive as a companion of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Mary had a generous heart and she freely shared with others all she had and was in her work with the poor and marginalized.

Reflecting on the life of Mary MacKillop has encouraged me to embrace the spirit of the Josephite Companions to live the charism of Mary MacKillop through Friendship, Prayer and Service in my daily life.

Participating in the Eucharist the Lord satisfies the deepest longings of our hearts and strengthens us with His Body as food for our journey. Mary MacKillop centered her prayer life on the Eucharist.

As part of the Josephite Companion family I enjoy the opportunity to belong to a community. The companionship of sharing with others gives me great joy as I join with others who are committed to keeping the work and spirit of Mary MacKillop known in our world today.

- Zulma Gonzalez, *Josephite Companion*.

We pray for the souls of our departed Companion brothers and sisters

Barbara Anderson	Carcoar
Geoffrey Avar	Blayney
Ivanka Bradizza	Blacktown
Patricia Buckley	Mudgee
Patricia Burke	Trunkey Creek
Dawn Chapman	Blayney
Bernadette Clark	Bathurst
Veronica Coughlan	Leeton
Dawn Court	Dunedoo
Maureen Cowls	Woy Woy
Catherine Coyne	Lidcombe
Don Crossman	Quirindi
Ray Farrell	Auburn
John Gale	Gilgandra
Catherine Galloway	Tamworth
Una Galvin	Penrith
Hazel Glasheen	Wentworth Falls
Lynette Herbert	Carramar
Norma Jamieson	Leeton
Maureen Lillis	South Camden
Margaret O'Meara	Bangalow
Marie Owen	Sutherland
Joy Makepeace	Tamworth
Daphnie Porter	Temora
Marion Roberts	Murwillumbah
Frank Roles	Lidcombe
Brian Ryan	Coonabarabran
Alexandria Wellenberger	Warilla
Patricia Wilson	Strathfield
Ann Whotfield	Run-O-Waters

Email Address

Please let us know if you changed your email address.
If yes, please contact us with your new details at:
nsw.companions@sosj.org.au

A Covid Poem

I won't arise and go out now and go to Inverleigh.
I'll sanitise the doorknobs and make a cup of tea.
I won't go down to the sea again, I won't go there at all,
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.
There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Uluru
But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think will you.
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Byron Bay,
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off the tray.
I shall not speed my 'Tinnie' boat across the sea to Burnie
Or take the rolling country road from Willoughby to Fernleigh.
About the Scrubland, just right now, I'm not free to go
To see the 'KEEP OUT' posters or Grey Gums covered in snow.
And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold
Or get me to Mile End South; All that's been put on hold.
Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are good friends
Nor come within a mile of you, until this Covid ends.

- Barbara McCann *Josephite Companion Blacktown*