



Winter Newsletter

VICTORIA
June 2021



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Josephite Companions

8th Dec '20 - 8th Dec '21 - YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Dear Josephite Companions

Winter time again, warm fires, early nights, soup and warming casseroles. And walking in the rain!

We have just celebrated Pentecost Sunday, it is one of my favourite liturgies of the year. Not just because we get to flood our church with red. Lots of red cloths and candles and large flames, but because Pentecost is a reminder to us all that God's love for us is unconditional and unending. We find it easy to love our family and friends and those we admire, but what about those we don't respect or even like.

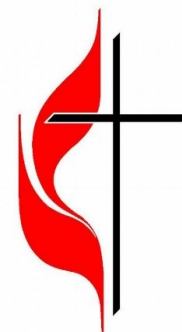
The good news is, God loves us all, unconditionally. **No Matter What!** Nothing we can do will make God love us more than God already does. God loves us, not because we are good, but because God is good. (Fr Brendan Byrne sj)

The **Plenary Council** meets in October and the opportunities are many. We pray that the Laity, the Religious, the Clergy and the Bishops, take this opportunity to listen to the voices of those Australians who have sent in more than 17,000 responses about what they identified as the real needs of the Church in 2021. This is a "once in a lifetime" opportunity for all participants to listen with respect to the whole Church and to work together to rebuild a Church where the life and message of Jesus is central.

The Murchison Regional Meeting, 29th May, has been cancelled, to be rescheduled when we can. Keep safe during our Lockdown, Pray that the Covid 19 Virus will be under control very soon.

God Bless

Noreen McLeish



We all smiled and even laughed outright when the Litany was said for George's horse. MM 1870

"The good German's horse has been so ill that he could not work. I thought it just that we should pray to St Joseph that his horse get well, and we all smiled and even laughed out loud when the litany was said for George's horse. He told us today with such joy that his horse was almost well again."

Here we see Mary and her Sisters laughing together ... at prayer!! They are very much at home, enjoying their "good God", who is always very much at home with them. Teresa of Avila sums it up so well:

"Just these two words God spoke changed my life."

"Enjoy Me" from June 1st

A Daily Cuppa with Mary and Julian. Sue & Leo Kane

Inside this Winter Newsletter

- ◆ Book Reviews on Plenary Council
- ◆ Mary MacKillop Trail
- ◆ Morwell Regional Day Report
- ◆ Regional Days, Death Notices
- ◆ St Joseph - Pray for Us
- ◆ Message from ICoLT

I asked my Doctor today how long she thinks this COVID thing will last. She responded with: "how should I know? I'm a doctor, not a politician."

God Bless our Doctors and Medics
And Politicians!

FRIENDSHIP PRAYER SERVICE



BOOK of the MONTH

NEW FROM

JOHN WARHURST

WRESTLING WITH THE CHURCH HIERARCHY

Engaging with the Plenary Council & Beyond

WRESTLING WITH THE CHURCH HIERARCHY Engaging with the Plenary Council and Beyond

John Warhurst considers the Plenary Council 2021-2022 a crucial, once in a generation opportunity to advance the reforms of the Catholic Church. Warhurst's unique perspective as a Church insider-outsider means that he walks a fine line. As an insider, he works within the Church in many leadership and governance roles; as an outsider he leads ginger groups (*lobbyists*) and lobbies for change through both Church and mainstream media.

Wrestling with the Church Hierarchy includes previously published articles, unpublished correspondence and speeches written by Warhurst, as well as a new introduction and new introductory text to each chapter.

Wrestling with the Church Hierarchy is an insightful must-read for anyone interested in Church reform, and the

We too: The Laity Speaks

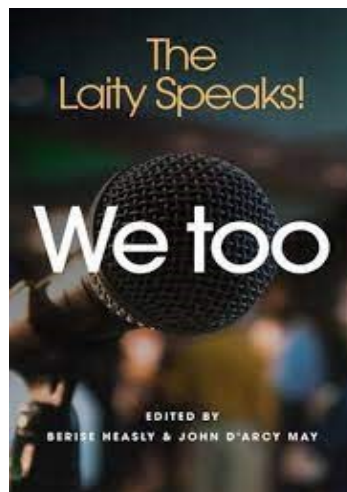
Peter Johnstone reflects.

We too: The Laity Speaks! Berise Heasley & John D'Arcy May. Coventry Press, Bayswater Vic, 2020 focuses on the most critical aspect of Church reform, the involvement of the laity and particularly the shameful exclusion of women from the governance of the Church.

The book is about the failure of the Church to draw adequately on the talents and wisdom of the Church's people in the work of the Church. This book is the work of truly committed Catholic Christians who recognize that faith has no room for hypocrisy.

The book's theme is, is for the laity to 'wake up' and to 'speak up'. We the Laity, the 'People in the Pews', must accept our responsibilities, 'we must fuse secular and sacred elements of life into a balanced and evolving experience of faith.....'

the entire article can be found in the 2021 Autumn Edition of THE SWAG . Pages 8 & 9



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Advice from a Singer Sewing Machine Manual from 1949.

Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do. Never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference dominates. Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or beds unmade. When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first, so that your mind is free to enjoy your sewing. When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals.

Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on. If you are constantly fearful that a visitor might drop in or your husband will come home, and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing.

Ahh The Good old Bad Days!

Thank God "We too" can now all voice our opinion and take action.



The Mullers' Self-Guided tour of The Mary MacKillop Trail - 19th April, 2021.

As a Josephite Companion living in Melton, I was excited to be setting out with my husband, Wayne, to visit the Mary MacKillop sites in Western Victoria and Penola.

Our first stop was Lara where we found the blue stone house where Mary's siblings, Annie, Maggie and Peter had lived with their uncle Peter MacKillop and aunt during their lives.

Hamilton was our next stop where I contacted my friend Fr John McKinnon. We went to 10am Mass and stayed for lunch. St Mary's Church, Hamilton, is so rich in information about Mary MacKillop and her family, provided by Ted Oliver. I was so blessed to be taken into St Mary of the Cross' Chapel, where I held her relic. We were guided to Alexander's grave where we learnt much from Ted about Alexander's life and those who visited his grave. Next stop was Portland, to see where Mary was governess, opened her Academy for Young Ladies, now Bayview College. She accepted her first teaching position at All Saints School which ended in disappointment. We also visited All Saints Church, Portland, where she was sacristan; the well which still stands on the site where her mother took in lodgers, and we walked through 'MacKillop Lane'.

We drove through Port MacDonnell to Mt Gambier where I bought, 'Annie's Story' which told of the First Nation people of the area, the Boandik people, and contained references to Mary MacKillop and where she was governess at her Uncle's in Penola, and cared for some of the Aboriginal children as well. In Penola it was truly awesome to be immersed in so much of Mary and Julian's life: the timber from the stable school, the park that offered audio, quotes, plaques, The Interpretive Centre so rich in resources, the first permanent school Julian built for the Sisters of St Joseph, the convent, church and Cameron house. It was all so awesome, to walk where Mary had walked, prayed and worshipped.

We attended mass at St Joseph's, Penola on Anzac Day. My heritage being Maltese, I was very proud to see a sculpture of a bust of Mary by a Maltese sculptor, donated to the centre in Penola by the Maltese community of SA. And I'll never forget my joy in locating the Tenison Wood's tree by the road opposite the Tenison Wood's park on the road to Narracoorte.

Back in Hamilton we saw the plaque at the Anglican Church that states "this church is the first in the world to have a representation of Mary within it as, The Saint for all Australians, honouring Mary's approach to a life embracing everyone of whatever race or creed equally."

Before we left home, I wondered if this was going to be a trip or a pilgrimage. It most certainly was the pilgrimage I desired. I feel blessed and nourished in my life as a Josephite Companion aspiring to continue living in the charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods.



1st Class Relic at St Mary's Church Hamilton

I will finish with my favourite quote of Mary's,
"There where you are you will find God", 1871.

Marian Muller Melton 2021



Plaque Of Tourist Drive in the Green Triangle Region

MORWELL REGIONAL DAY – April 17th

What a joy it was to finally get in the car and venture up the highway to meet up with some Josephite Companions for our first Regional Day in far too long! Whilst we may have been small in number there was plenty of quality. It was also lovely to have a couple of new people joining us to find out more about the Companion movement.

The group had to endure a solo me as unfortunately at the last minute Noreen was unable to join me on the visit. However she had prepared a wonderful session on St Joseph and I hope I delivered it with some of the enthusiasm that she would have.

Apart from the spiritual input, the day was also an opportunity to share the new Josephite Companions' Administration handbook and the new Discovery Program with everyone. Lots of positive feedback regarding these two handbooks and interest in their content. Companions were also happy to be able to purchase items from the Heritage Centre 'Road Shop' that I am very happy to be able to bring out to you again. The highlight for me came in the final ritual when I presented the members with their Josephite Companion badges.

I am very much looking forward to seeing many more of you over the year and am very hopeful that you will be able to get to a Regional Day that is nearest to you so that you too can receive your new badge as well as celebrate this new chapter in our Josephite movement as Companions.

Checkout the dates and locations for the upcoming days in this newsletter and please note that we have shortened the day so all the sessions happen before we finish at 1pm. This is when we then have lunch for those who are able to stay for a while longer and chat and shop!

Anne-Marie Wilkinson Vic Core Team

Winter in Our Lives—Prayer



There is a Winter in all of our lives,
a chill and darkness that makes us yearn
for days that have gone
or to put our hope in days yet to be.
Loving God, you created the seasons for a purpose.

Spring, full of expectation, an awakening of creation.
Summer to enjoy sunlight & the beauty of new life.
Autumn gives nature space as the earth prepares
Then winter, cold and bare as nature takes stock
rests, unwinds, sleeps until the time is right.
An endless cycle, and yet a perfect model.

We need a winter in our lives
a time of rest, a time to stand still
a time to reacquaint ourselves
with the faith in which we live.
It is only then that we draw
strength
from the One in whom we believe.

Thank you Loving God
for the seasons of our lives.

Author Unknown



Monica Lappin and Rose Micallef enjoying a cup of tea at the Morwell Regional Day.



Lyn Reid , Cathy Noy and Dianne Bau
'Josephite Hospitality.'

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 have 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:

Murchison	May 29 th	Catholic Church
MURCHISON TO BE RESCHEDULED		
Pakenham	June 26 th	Parish Centre
Bacchus Marsh	August 7 th	Parish Centre
Lakes Entrance	Sept 18 th	Parish Centre



R.I.P.

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

Moya Therese Hall Ballarat East 28th Dec 2019

John Holmquest husband of Helen, Bacchus Marsh

Mary Foley of Sunshine former SOSJ. May 2021

Marise Kalka Mother of Fr Michael Kalka 16th May

We remember **all** relatives and Friends of our Josephite Family who have died.

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Thank You Diane Corro

"A BIG THANKYOU TO ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE VIC JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS"

St Joseph, Husband of Mary, Earthly Father of Jesus

We know that Joseph was Mary's husband and the earthly father of Jesus, in reality we have very little historical information about him. Traditionally he is known for being a carpenter (tekton) and as St. Joseph the Worker.

We know more about Joseph from what he did rather than what he said. In the gospels he is a man of few, if any, words. Clearly his actions speak louder than his words. Joseph is a quiet man of action, not an action man! He is not presented to us as 'heroic' in the traditional sense. Perhaps because of this, he is considered as a silent and even invisible member of The Holy Family. Joseph is a man of courage, conviction and commitment. He is a man of hope and faith who trusted in God who called him personally by his name. He didn't simply react; he responded faithfully to situations as they arose and faced them courageously out of concern for Mary and Jesus.

In Matthew's gospel, Joseph is depicted as a good and decent man who *always did the right thing*. He is a righteous man. He is concerned about Mary according to the Jewish Law. On discovering that Mary was pregnant before they were publicly married, Joseph decides to divorce her privately to save her embarrassment and shame. He is a good man, but also very human. His response and reaction are very normal. Imagine his confusion, fear and even disappointment. But God has a plan for him. In a dream, an angel appears to him with the message, '*Joseph, do not be afraid, Mary is to have child through the Holy Spirit.*' I wonder like Mary, was Joseph deeply disturbed by these words and wondered what they meant? On waking he agrees to marry Mary and accept Jesus as his son. This is an act of strong and radical faith. Having endured fear and anxiety while Jesus was being born, Joseph again in a dream hears another message from God. He is reassured with the words, '*Do not be afraid.*' And in the midst of fear, anticipating the plight of being refugees and exiles, Joseph, in response, wakes, acts and does what is asked of him; he takes his family to safety in Egypt. Through several more dreams, God speaks to Joseph and each time he responds with courage, faith and hope.

This shows us that Joseph is not mild mannered nor simply a silent partner. He is a man of radical and courageous faith. He was called by God just as Mary was and he said 'yes' as Mary did. He said 'yes' not out of certainty, but in faith, trusting that God who called him would continue to encourage and guide him.

What can we learn from Joseph today? He teaches us how to be present in the joys and sorrows of life, to be steadfast, to live with integrity trusting in God who still calls and sustains each of us, regardless of what we are experiencing. Faced with what seemed like the impossible, Joseph didn't walk away or give in – he trusted God and said yes. Given what we are all living with in our world, can we look to Joseph and follow his example of trusting that God is truly with us today and every day?

Joseph responded faithfully and courageously to the call of God and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. He responded out of concern for both Mary and Jesus. Our 'calls' may not come to us through dreams but more directly through others asking us for help and support.

How do I respond when I am asked to help someone in my family, a friend or a neighbour?

Can I respond with care, concern and courage as Joseph did?



Use for a Meeting Reflection

Saint Joseph Pray for Us

A Meeting Prayer

Saint Joseph, who answered God's call:
Saint Joseph, who said 'Yes' in Faith:
Saint Joseph, who cared for Mary and Jesus:
Saint Joseph, Man of Courage and Commitment:
Saint Joseph, Man of Hope and Humility:
Saint Joseph, Man of Conviction and Trust:
Saint Joseph, Man of Faith and Prayer:
Saint Joseph, Skilled Worker.
Saint Joseph, Our Companion.
Saint Joseph

Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us

Prayer:

Loving God, you give us
St. Joseph whom
we look to as an example,
a model of courageous and radical faith.
Inspired by his confidence in you
and in his love for Mary and Jesus.
May we too respond faithfully
when you call us by our name each day.
When we feel afraid and anxious,
may we hear the words that you spoke
to both Mary and Joseph when you told them;
Do not be afraid.



We offer these and all our prayers through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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**





What does it mean to be courageous in the church and world in 2021?

Explore how Joseph and Mary MacKillop would be courageous in 2021.



*Break Out Rooms
Open Discussion*

More details to follow!



*Key Note Speaker
Sr Monica Cavanagh sjc*

Dear Companions,

In this Year of Joseph may you be finding ways to reflect on the life of this significant figure in our Christian story. He who touched the hearts of Mary and Julian has inspired people throughout the ages with his trust, faith and patience.

As named in our March JCoLT newsletter we have chosen to have a webinar in lieu of a face to face Conference for our Josephite Companions this year. Attached to this sheet is a "Save the Date" flyer for this Webinar, providing the date and time of this event. Following further JCoLT meetings we will provide more information as details and logistics are finalised.

This is an exciting venture for us as we try to reach out to many through this online process. We hope that those who have access to technology may be able to organise others to gather with you on the day to allow many to be involved in this presentation. Be assured we will try our best to provide you with the necessary details to make this work for you all.

What a different world we live in today...being connected across the globe is indeed a wonderful gift of this era! Looking forward to 'seeing' many of you in September!

In this time of Pentecost may God's spirit enliven and inspire us to keep the Josephite story and spirit alive wherever we are.

Mary Hemmings

Josephite Companions Leadership Team