

# Companions News

Welcome to the JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS QUEENSLAND Quarterly Newsletter

June 2021

## Editorial

**B**ring Me What You Have – the title of the Chapter document from the Sisters of Saint Joseph 26th General Chapter. A very powerful statement which will often be in contrast to the talk that goes on in our own minds – is what I have enough – am I enough? These questions are often uppermost in our minds as we contemplate problems and look for solutions.

The problems that face the church and our movement often seem overwhelming and without answers; however, it is the very belief that we will be enough that will empower us and allow us to make decisions that will show us the way forward.

I imagine Mary MacKillop pondered these very same questions; especially as a young girl in her twenties she would have questioned her ability to do what was being asked of her. As a woman in the late 1800s she was certainly not in a position of power, women could not own land (1884) and certainly it was a long time until women obtained the vote (1902). However, Mary's faith and trust in God gave her the strength to believe that she would be enough.

*Courage, courage, trust in God who helps you in all things.* MMK

God has given us all, the gifts we need to do what is necessary, it is our challenge to find the courage to allow ourselves the time and space to recognise those gifts and the strength to use them. As we pray the companion's prayer each day remember we bring our own unique gifts together as one strong voice.

*Pauline McGuire*



### PLANNING GROUP

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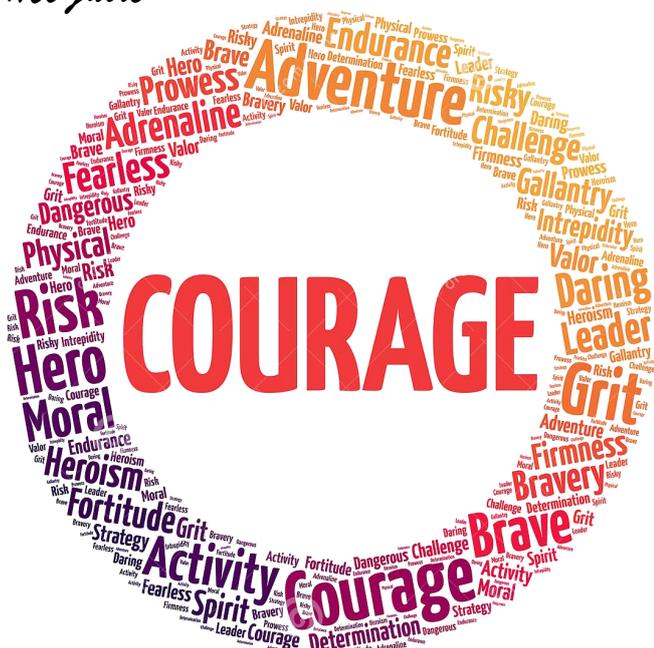
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**FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE QUARTERLY NEWS PLEASE EMAIL:**

qld.companions@sosj.org.au



## Qld Josephite Companions Leadership Team 2021 ANNUAL FACE-TO-FACE

**W**odda mooli, from Wulgurukaba country, North Queensland. The weather has moved into those short days where the air is dry and crisp and the sky is a deep blue that enfolds us like a soft blanket. Since our last newsletter the leadership team in Queensland gathered for our annual face to face meeting in Brisbane. The team was lucky enough to be in Brisbane for the Feast of Saint Joseph and were invited to attend the celebrations at Nundah with the Sisters. The morning began with a beautiful liturgy and concluded with an impressive morning tea, showcasing the spirit of hospitality that is well known in the Josephite Family.

As part of the new structure of the Companions we welcomed Sr Jenny Scari rsj (our RLT contact) to participate in some of the weekend. Sr Jenny along with Sr Annie McGuire rsj assisted us in facilitating a contemplative dialogue centred on our new Companions Prayer. This was exceptionally helpful in breaking open the prayer for us, allowing our new prayer to guide us through the decisions that needed to be looked at over the weekend. We are looking forward to developing our relationship with Sr Jenny and Sr Annie as well as the RLT throughout the next two years.

Over the course of the weekend the leadership team discussed important issues facing the Companions in Queensland in 2021 and beyond. The team has identified several areas of focus which will be our priorities in the coming two years. Growth and resources are two main priorities which we will be working on—watch this space for updates in these areas.

Compliance and Finances are always an ongoing discussion; while not always exciting they are essential in our world today. Included in this report is a breakdown of the Queensland finances for 2020/2021. Queensland has been fortunate to become somewhat financial; we are however by no means fully sustainable but are edging our way towards financial sustainability. Our donation system will continue as our main source of income and I thank you all for your ongoing support and encourage you to contribute when you can.



### FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN Oct 2020—Feb 2021

#### Income

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Donations Total</b> | <b>\$2,685.00</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------|

#### Expenses

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Phone           | 79.00  |
| Stationary      | 81.37  |
| Thank You Gifts | 120.00 |
| Postage         | 822.80 |
| Flights         | 288.00 |
| Zoom License    | 230.89 |

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Expenses Total</b> | <b>1,622.06</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Opening Balance | 5,130.06 |
|-----------------|----------|

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Plus Income | 2,685.00 |
|-------------|----------|

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Less Expenses | 1,622.06 |
|---------------|----------|

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Closing Balance</b> | <b>6,193.00</b> |
|------------------------|-----------------|

(Continued on page 3)

## Qld Josephite Companions Leadership Team 2021 ANNUAL FACE-TO-FACE (cont'd)

The Josephite Companion Movement in Queensland has now received the new handbooks from JCoLT. These books have been gifted to the movement through JCoLT and the regional leadership teams:

1. The **Administration Handbook** is to assist our groups with all aspects of compliance and safeguarding. This book is kept with each group and will be fundamental in assisting leaders in compliance and administration.
2. The **Discovery Program** is the resource that new members will journey with as they explore their spiritual journey. This program can also be used in a group setting to refresh the groups. The books are designed to be given to new members with some copies being kept as a resource for each group.

*(These books can also be accessed online through the links given to each group, and they can be printed from the online version. Long term we may be able to investigate the purchase of the Discovery Program for each member.)*

I would like to bring your attention to the new subscription that JCoLT has initiated. The subscription is vital to the work of JCoLT, facilitating resources and working with the sisters in areas such as safeguarding and administration. The yearly subscription of \$10 from each member is not meant to hinder or exclude any members. This is the only form of income that JCoLT has access to. Please consider making a contribution; details on how to contribute are in the newsletter.

Moving forward—we are looking forward to a Webinar on 4 September 2021 which will have Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj as the keynote speaker. This webinar is in place of a conference and its theme will be '**Be Courageous & Full of Hope**'. Look out for further information.

I leave you in the protection of St Joseph and I encourage you to spend some time with our new Companions Prayer, get to know it and pray it in your own unique way. The prayer reminds us each day of our choice to live our lives as Companions, supporting each other by friendship, prayer and service.

Blessings

*Pauline McQuire*

Chair Qld Josephite Companions Leadership Team



## Queensland Josephite Companions LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Pauline McGuire – Chair

I am a parish secretary at the Mary MacKillop Parish in Townsville, and I have two adult children and a brand new granddaughter named Josephine. I came to know Mary MacKillop through my work in the parish and through Mary I found the Josephite Companions in 2007. Being part of the Josephite family has been a gift and helps to sustain me in my everyday life.



### Erin Jones

I have been a Josephite Associate/Companion for approximately 13 years now and a member of the Leadership Team since 2013. I am married with 3 adult daughters and have 2 beautiful granddaughters (Darcee who is 2 years old and Hazel who is 9 months old). I am retired and enjoy spending time with my granddaughters and at Magnetic Island which is my "happy place".

Mary MacKillop has been a constant in my life and has been my spiritual inspiration during some trying times over the last few years. I am loving the new directions the Companions are now taking and I am blessed that I was part of the initial push towards where we are now and where we are headed in the future. I look forward to seeing the Companions continue to grow.

### Carolyn Grimward

I have been associated with the Sisters of St Joseph since I began school so Mary MacKillop has been a guiding influence for most of my life. I was with the Associates in the early days and was co-opted onto the Leadership Team in October 2018. My role is Office Coordinator. I update databases, buy the stationery, write receipts, do the banking and organise the printing and distribution of our quarterly Newsletter. When not involved with the Companions I enjoy researching family history and time spent with my grandchildren.



### Ken Theodore

I have been an Associate/Companion for the past 10 years. As a teacher in a low socio-economic area of Townsville, like Saint Mary of the Cross, I could see the need to provide relevant schooling for the unschooled. My first contact with Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart was as a student, regularly visited by the sisters, as part of the 'Motor Mission'.

### Bernadette Roche

I was born in Toowoomba and have two beautiful children and a wonderful granddaughter. I have worked in a Leadership capacity as an APRE in a Secondary school and I have been teaching for 44 years in both Primary and Secondary educational settings.

I commenced my journey as a Josephite Associate in 1992 in Scarborough and I now live on the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast Companions Group has only recently formed and I am currently involved in facilitating and participating in the Josephite Companions Discovery Program online, via Zoom and email, with one other member. We have also scheduled face to face meetings in the coming months and look forward to welcoming others who are experiencing a call to the Josephite charism, to join us.



### Anne Child

I have been associated with the Josephite Sisters since 1971 by teaching in three schools run by the sisters as well as entering the Josephite Order for a period of time. Since the early 1990s I have participated in various liturgies, prayers, celebrations and meetings run by or for the Associates/Companions. The spirit of St Joseph and the example of St Mary MacKillop continue to walk my journey with me.

# AROUND THE STATE

## Gold Coast Companions Group

Members (2 members):

- Bernadette Roche, mobile: 0411 306 907
- One other member currently engaged in the *Discovery Book* journey as a result of his expression of interest. (Jeremy Fraser)

Venue for Group meetings: Online via Zoom and via email with informal monthly catch up in person (after Mass on Sunday morning)

Times: Zoom meeting 7.00pm 13 June and the 13th of each month thereafter

Monthly catch up in person when possible

## Rockhampton Companions Group

We met and prayed together as a group on the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, 1 May. Due to uncertainty etc, we have only set two more dates for the rest of the year. They are:

- Saturday 7 August commencing at 2.00pm to celebrate Saint Mary MacKillop's Feastday
- Saturday 9 October commemorating Fr Julian Tenison Woods

Our usual venue is 260 Ford Street, Berserker 4701, which is the home of Carmel and Ron Fitzpatrick. They may be away in August so please ring Janette Dobson on 0428 224 979 to check.

The manuals have arrived and we will be eagerly using them, so thank you. We plan to work through them firstly as a group and then we can use them for any new members as they emerge.

## Townsville Companions Group

Townsville Companions meet on the 1st Monday of each month, February to November inclusive, at 5pm in the Mary MacKillop Parish Meeting Room, Ross River Road, Mundingburra.

Contact Pauline McGuire: 0406 739 7577

## Allora Companions Group

This group meets at MacKillop House in Allora. Their next planned meeting is 10 August. Please contact Robyn Phelan on 0400 317 875.

Our group began the year reflecting on the highlights and blessings amid the difficulties and challenges of 2020. We prayed that God would accompany our journey into the New Year. Our second meeting focused on Saint Joseph, in this special Year of Joseph.

We were saddened at the recent passing of our parishioner Phene Cantwell. Phene served her family and community with faithfulness and love. She was a special friend of our Josephites and several of our members were able to support Phene's family at this sad time.

Our Toowoomba Diocese's publication of *Horizons* magazine recently published the following article on the two Josephite Companions groups, namely Pittsworth and Allora, in our Diocese:

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## Companions with a Josephite Heart

Josephite Companions is a group open to people from all walks of life who share the values and spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. The common thread that links Companions and the Sisters of Saint Joseph is the centrality of the Josephite charism. For Josephite Companions this is expressed through the commitment to Friendship, Prayer and Service.

The original Josephite Associates movement was formed nearly 40 years ago. The new revitalised and re-imaged Josephite Companions was launched online in October last year by Sr Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart. The launch was in conjunction with the celebrations for the tenth anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop.

There are two Josephite Companions groups in our Diocese, namely Allora and Pittsworth. Both of these parishes have schools that were established by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in 1916 and, whilst they are no longer staffed by the Sisters, their legacy lives on. Companions meet regularly for friendship and prayerful reflection. Our connectedness is extended to the wider community through friendship and supporting the needs of others. Like Mary MacKillop and with Josephite hearts, we believe that God is active in our lives and calls us to the service of others.

Pittsworth Companions give support to Sr Christine Symonds with the MacKillop Gate Ministry, which provides a mercy pack of essential items to help those released from correctional centres. Allora Companions hold an annual luncheon in aid of the Josephite Mission in Peru. Along with other Sisters, Sr Christine attends bringing along lovely quality hand-crafted products made by the Peruvian women. Branded as *Ethica Accessories*, the project provides employment and fair income for women living in impoverished parts of Peru.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph Peruvian Mission was chosen as the 2020 recipient of half of the Diocesan Christmas Collection. Well known in our Diocese and hailing from Allora, Sr Monica was very appreciative of the support for the Mission. She encourages us in these days of COVID-19, to look to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's life which continues to speak to the realities of our lives and to "Take Fresh Courage" (Mary MacKillop 21 May 1877) as we endeavour to live with hope in a chaotic world.

### Brisbane Northside Companions Group

The next meeting will be at 10.30am on Saturday 26 June in the Carolan Room at St Joseph's Convent, 677 Bage Street, Nundah. One of the members will meet you at the door to conduct you up to the third floor.

Contact Marie Sellin: 0421 323 063

### Brisbane Southside – Moorooka – Companions Group

The next meeting will be at 10.00am on Monday 14 June at St Fabian's Parish meeting room.

Contact Judy Harris: 0407 028 796

### Pittsworth Companions Group

This small but dedicated group meet on the second Tuesday of each month and attend Mass at 9.00am before spending time together to pray and share morning tea. The December meeting concludes with a Christmas lunch.

The group supports the MacKillop Gate Ministry.

Contact Laurel Hearn: (07) 4693 1262

## Other Bits and Pieces

### JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS LEADERSHIP TEAM (JCoLT)

Thank you to those who have already contributed to the work of JCoLT. An explanation was included in the March JCoLT Newsflash. In Queensland it was decided that individual members should pay the suggested \$10 donation directly into the JCoLT account (still operating as International Josephite Associate Leadership Team).

Account name:

Trustees of the Sisters of Saint Joseph – acting as  
International Josephite Associates Leadership Team

BSB number: 062-217

Acc number: 1090 3270



### THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

A reminder that you can access some very good resources to help celebrate the Year of St Joseph at the following websites: [www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph](http://www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph) and [www.sosj.org.au/yearofstjoseph/](http://www.sosj.org.au/yearofstjoseph/). At these websites you will find prayers and meditations.

### NEW BADGES

We hope to have the new badges available for distribution in the near future.

## Retreat for the Josephite Companions Townsville

On Saturday 1 May the Josephite Companions in Townsville held a Retreat in honour of St Joseph the Worker.

The retreat was led by Mary Mudge, APRE coordinator at the CEO in Townsville, and Ken Theodore, a retired teacher. It is a special experience to be part of and experience a growing depth of prayer among us. Sr Lyn Stabler had sent a hymn to St Joseph which was played several times during the day.

We reflected on many aspects of Joseph's life. The one that I enjoyed was looking at Social Justice in Joseph's life. I had never reflected on that aspect before.

One of the prayer experiences was to cut up the vegetables which were made into a soup for our lunch. In the afternoon we packed about 30 backpack bags for a new Ministry called "Bob's Mates" (named after Mary MacKillop's dog). This ministry is to assist the homeless and youth at risk with essential items. The Companions are also very active in the Gate Ministry for prisons.

To end the day we attended the evening Mass and then had a meal together at the Parish Centre.

*Sr Carmel Street rsj* (Townsville)



# SAVE THE DATE

## JOSEPHITE COMPANION INAUGURAL WEBINAR

4 SEPTEMBER 2021

11.30AM TO 1.30PM AEST

## BE COURAGEOUS & FULL OF HOPE

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*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.*

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*Break Out Rooms*

*Open Discussions*

***More details to follow!***

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***Key Note Speaker  
Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj***

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**DONATION TO THE QUEENSLAND COMPANIONS MOVEMENT**

**NAME:** .....

**PHONE NUMBER/S:** .....

**AMOUNT GIVEN: (PLEASE CIRCLE)**

\$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 OTHER \$.....

**ALL DONATIONS CAN BE FORWARDED TO:**

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS QUEENSLAND LEADERSHIP TEAM  
VILLA MARIA CONVENT  
123 WARREN STREET  
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006

**PHONE:** 0474 947 296

**EMAIL:** qld.companions@sosj.org.au

*CHEQUES AND MONEY ORDERS MADE PAYABLE TO JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS QLD*

**OR PAID BY DIRECT DEPOSIT:**

COMMONWEALTH BANK

**ACCOUNT NAME:** JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS QLD

**BSB:** 064163

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 10429581

**REFERENCE:** SURNAME AND INITIAL (E.G. CAMPBELL M)

*Thank you for your donation!*

