



On this 7 October when we remember the anniversary of our Father Founder, Father Julian Tenison Woods let us give thanks for all that he contributed to our Josephite foundational story and for the ways in which his gifts have enhanced the wider church and community. Mary MacKillop in her letter of 1891 recalls 19 March, 1866 and she tells us *'Fr Woods was happy that day, and so was I, but we said little beyond wondering whom God would call to assist us and how our good God would make the way clear'* (1891).

As we come to celebrate his anniversary in our Sesquicentenary year may this novena enable us to spend some time drawing from the wisdom of his spirituality.

Often when we reflect with Julian we are drawn to his rich insights into how God's beauty is revealed in all of creation. These reflections will enable you to know as he did that *'there is no thought into which God does not enter. I see God in the woods and mountains and then their peaceful beauty seems so insipid'* (Letter to Mary MacKillop 1870).

Like Pope Francis in *Laudto Si*, Julian knew *'The entire material universe speaks of God's*

love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God.' (LS 84) In the gifts of creation he discovers God in all things.

Julian's writings reveal much more than his capacity to see the interconnection of all created things. The gift of creation draws him into a deep union with God. Here in the words of Pope Francis he experiences *'The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face.'* (LS 223).

Julian's capacity to walk contemplatively with open eyes called forth in him a dream to respond to the Gospel call to serve the needs of the communities in which he lived and moved.

May these reflections guide you into the heart and mind of Julian, our Father Founder. As you ponder their wisdom and listen to him speaking to you, may you cherish him as Mary MacKillop did as one who loved the work of the Institute and did so much for it.

Monica Cavanagh

Sr Monica Cavanagh
Congregational Leader.



ABOUT THIS NOVENA

“Nine Days of Prayer with Julian Tenison Woods” invites you to sit with Julian and allow his words to touch your heart.



This Novena may be prayed individually or in a group.

The format allows for the Novena to be prayed in a variety of ways.

You might pray each day of the Novena in its entirety or perhaps you might choose to reflect on the image only, Julian’s words, or the words of Scripture.

You might choose to pray the concluding prayer and blessing only.

PLEASE NOTE: the concluding prayer and blessing remain the same for each day of the Novena. They are on the reverse side of this sheet.

Usually the final day of a Novena would be the Feast Day, in this case 7 October. This Novena may also be prayed at any time throughout the year.

We are inviting you to commence this Novena on 30 September and conclude on 7 October.

This novena, “Nine Days of Prayer with Julian Tenison Woods”, will also be available on the Josephite web site www.sosj.org.au

DAILY PRAYER AND BLESSING

We Pray

Creating God,
We give you thanks for the life of
Julian Tenison Woods whose response to your
prompting began our story.

We ask that he continues to influence us
in our commitment to address
the pressing needs of our times in our places.

We make our prayer confident
of your generosity,
in the name of Christ and the Spirit.

Amen

Blessing

May the abiding presence of God encourage us.

May the abundance of God's love enliven us.

May the vision of Julian Tenison Woods
inspire us.

May our love for one another support us.

May God bless us – Provident, Overflowing
Generosity, and Ground of our Hope.

Amen

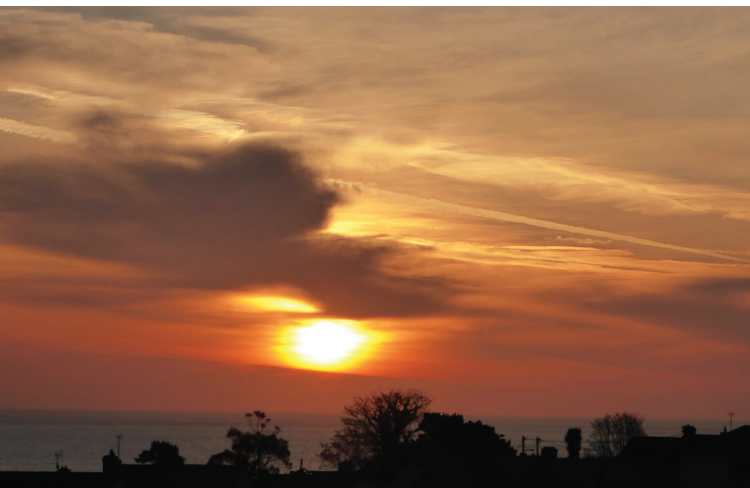


JULIAN TENISON WOODS

Day One

We sit with Julian in silence, and open our hearts to his presence.

We gaze at this photo allowing it to speak to us.



Julian Speaks

And we pausing in our vain endeavour to stretch our mind to the capacity of that which has no bounds, are obliged to rest ourselves from the thought of the Infinite, and to confess that, whether we search in earth, or sky, or sea, we are everywhere met by visions of illimitable.

Julian Tenison Woods – 1862

We Ponder Scripture

Matthew 5: 14-16a

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and covers it; instead they put it on a lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before others.

The New Community Bible Catholic Edition; The Bombay Saint Paul Society 2008

We Reflect

Allow your prayer to rise within you.

We Pray

Blessing

JULIAN TENISON WOODS

Day Two

We sit with Julian in silence, and open our hearts
to his presence.

We gaze at this photo allowing it to speak to us.



Julian Speaks

*I see God in the flowers, in the insects,
in the birds as they fly
and I can only turn sadly away from all and think
of the beauty I have never seen.*

Julian Tenison Woods Letter to Mary 1870

We Ponder Scripture

Matthew 6: 26

Look at the birds in the sky;
they do not sow, they do not harvest nor do
they store food in barns, and yet your Heavenly
(Creator) feeds them.

Are you not worth much more than birds?

The New Community Bible Catholic Edition; The Bombay Saint Paul Society 2008

We Reflect

Allow your prayer to rise within you.

We Pray

Blessing

JULIAN TENISON WOODS

Day Three

We sit with Julian in silence, and open our hearts
to his presence.

We gaze at this photo allowing it to speak to us.



Julian Speaks

The brilliant stars which strew the skies on a still clear night, and look like so many diamonds sets in ebony; the remote clouds of nebulae, whose very distance is as much a marvel to us as their nature and purpose; the universe, such as we know it may all have been unfolding its grand destiny in the mysterious epoch, darkly alluded to in the Hebrew as "the beginning".

Julian Tenison Woods Modern Science and Ancient Records 1867

We Ponder Scripture

Daniel 12:3

Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

New American Standard Bible

We Reflect

Allow your prayer to rise within you.

We Pray

Blessing

JULIAN TENISON WOODS

Day Four

We sit with Julian in silence, and open our hearts to his presence.

We gaze at this photo allowing it to speak to us.



Julian Speaks

All the beauties of this world and the glories of the next world are lost to those whose lives are out of harmony with the design of the Creator.

Julian Tenison Woods Homily 11 June 1881

We Ponder Scripture

Romans 1: 20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—God's eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

New Inclusive Version

We Reflect

Allow your prayer to rise within you.

We Pray

Blessing

JULIAN TENISON WOODS

Day Five

We sit with Julian in silence, and open our hearts to his presence.

We gaze at this photo allowing it to speak to us.



Julian Speaks

You will see by my paper on the Tertiary fossil corals which is illustrated by myself and which I will be able to send you, that I have been able to rectify errors in paleontology.

Julian Tenison Woods Letter to William Archer May 25 1878

We Ponder Scripture

Exodus 35:31

And God has filled humanity with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze.

ESV

We Reflect

Allow your prayer to rise within you.

We Pray

Blessing

JULIAN TENISON WOODS

Day Six

We sit with Julian in silence, and open our hearts
to his presence.

We gaze at this photo allowing it to speak to us.



Julian Speaks

The beauty upon which we look and which we admire is but the echo of something which God has implanted in our souls... the real charm of all that is truly beautiful is the beauty of the Divine. Everything in nature is harmonious. The beauty of nature is its harmony.

Julian Tenison Woods Homily in West Maitland 1886

We Ponder Scripture

Job 12:8a

Speak to the earth, and it will teach you.

We Reflect

Allow your prayer to rise within you.

We Pray

Blessing

JULIAN TENISON WOODS

Day Seven

We sit with Julian in silence, and open our hearts to his presence.

We gaze at this photo allowing it to speak to us.



Julian Speaks

I was gradually acquiring a habit which never left me afterwards of husbanding every moment of my time.

Julian Tenison Woods Memoirs

We Ponder Scripture

Psalm 139: 1-3

O Lord, You have looked through me and have known me. You know when I sit down and when I get up. You understand my thoughts from far away. You look over my path and my lying down. You know all my ways very well.

NLV

We Reflect

Allow your prayer to rise within you.

We Pray

Blessing

JULIAN TENISON WOODS

Day Eight

We sit with Julian in silence, and open our hearts to his presence.

We gaze at this photo allowing it to speak to us.



Julian Speaks

If we only understood the message brought to us by the Word made Flesh.

Julian Tenison Woods Memoirs

We Ponder Scripture

Deuteronomy 32:13

God made them ride on the heights of the land and fed them with the fruit of the fields. God nourished them with honey from the rock, and with oil from the flinty crag.

NIV

We Reflect

Allow your prayer to rise within you.

We Pray

Blessing

JULIAN TENISON WOODS

Day Nine

We sit with Julian in silence, and open our hearts
to his presence.

We gaze at this photo allowing it to speak to us.



Julian Speaks

*In the midst of my tumultuous feelings of joy
and gratitude the doors were opened and I was
received with a warm welcome which made me
feel as if I had not left home.*

Julian Tenison Woods Memoirs

We Ponder Scripture

Psalm 43: 4

Then I will go to the altar of God,
To God my exceeding joy;
And upon the lyre I shall praise You,
O God, my God.

NASB

We Reflect

Allow your prayer to rise within you.

We Pray

Blessing

JULIAN TENISON WOODS

Invitation to pray with the image



Sit with Julian's photo and allow him to speak to your heart.

Your prayer is...

Blessing

May the abiding presence of God encourage us.

May the abundance of God's love enliven us.

May the vision of Julian Tenison Woods inspire us.

May our love for one another support us.

May God bless us –

Provident, Overflowing Generosity,
and Ground of our Hope.

Amen