

# WA JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

*Newsletter*  
**Spring 2021**



*There is a time  
for everything,  
And a season  
for every  
activity under  
the heavens.*

*Ecclesiastes 3*

*God be praised, for  
indeed God's ways  
are wonderful.*

*Mary MacKillop 1898*

Welcome Josephite Companions to the Spring edition of the Newsletter. Spring is here! The bleak days of winter are fading into the past and Ecclesiastes reminds us, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every purpose under heaven." The seasonal cycle occurs in due time and we embrace the plan of our wonderful God in creating our world with unfathomable tenderness and skill. As the seasons follow each other, as blossoms burst forth, as wildflowers cover the soil and baby animals venture out, we are constantly reminded that God orchestrates his plan for creation. He opens our eyes to the wonderful regeneration and hope of springtime.

This plan created by God can also be seen in our daily lives as we reach out with renewed energy, with joy and gladness. Mary opened her heart and soul to God by responding to His plan for her and the world. Our spring prayer, inspired by Sr Genevieve Ryan rsj, focuses on Mary the mother of God and her acceptance of God's vision for her. As Josephite Companions we thank God for the gift of new life and the opportunity to renew lives through commitment to Friendship, Prayer and Service.

May you be strengthened by the warm breeze, colourful blossoms, and all other gifts of springtime.

Best wishes, Dot Savage for Dardanup, Metro & Esperance Groups

WA JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS, PO BOX 593, SOUTH PERTH WA 6951  
Phone: (08) 9334 0999 Email: [wa.companions@sosj.org.au](mailto:wa.companions@sosj.org.au)  
*A Ministry of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart*

## METROPOLITAN COMPANIONS

Greetings to all our Josephite Companions and Sisters.

Metropolitan Josephites met as a social group, enjoying afternoon tea and a chat. We relished this opportunity to share a prayerful reflection on Mary MacKillop and to peruse the recently arrived Discovery Program. Prayers were offered for close relatives and friends who were dealing with illness and death at this time. We will stay connected through prayer and remain 'present' to them. We attended the reflection day—Gratitude is the memory of the heart at Safety Bay and found that it was a wonderful experience.

Josephite Companions gathered with the Sisters at South Perth on the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Sisters Frances and Emily took them on a virtual pilgrimage of places lived in by Mary MacKillop. Mass was



## ESPERANCE COMPANIONS

Esperance Josephite Companions continue to meet regularly to celebrate Mass and recite the Rosary. On the Feast of St Mary of the Cross we celebrated with morning tea with the parish, enjoying a decorated cake for the occasion. We appreciate our new badges and the candle that was gifted to our group.



## DARDANUP COMPANIONS

The Dardanup Josephite Companions organised a prayer focus for the Year of St Joseph at St Patrick's Cathedral. The masses held over the weekend of 1st May (Feast of St Joseph the Worker) acknowledged Pope Francis' request to highlight the role of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church and of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Companions. At the request of the parish, the focus will remain until the end of the Year of St Joseph.



St Mary MacKillop's Feast Day was celebrated with Mass offered by Fr Tony Chiera on 4 August. Many people gathered from far and wide to honour Australia's first saint. After Mass, Dardanup Josephite Companions recommitted themselves to the charism. Sister Pauline and Dot Savage presented the badges blessed by Father. Mass was followed by a luncheon where Companions and friends gathered to share stories and a few laughs.

At the invitation of the Pinjarra Parish, members attended a Mass of remembrance for Sr Maureen Therese O'Connor rsj. It was fitting that this Mass honoured St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and her place as Australia's First Saint. Thanks to Father Marcelo for his homily that connected the charism, God's Word and the life of Sr Maureen as a Josephite sister. Her life of service, dedication and hard work was highlighted and her profound trust in God was presented as a quality to which we all can aspire.





# REFLECTION DAY AT PENOLA BY THE SEA

## 'Gratitude is the memory of the heart'

A delighted group of Josephite Companions attended the reflection day at Penola by the Sea. Members from the Dardanup Josephite Companions were joined by representatives from the Metropolitan group. Our gratitude goes to Sr Kathleen Dawe, Sr Bernadette, Sr Pauline, Sr Dianne and Sr Margaret Culhane for hosting our event. We felt very special.

Sr Kath explained the French proverb "Gratitude is the memory of the heart"; how this became the pattern of the life of Mary MacKillop and became part of the Josephite Charism.

Beautiful thoughts gleaned from Sr Kath's reflection —  
'Regardless of what we are in the world, God is grateful for having made us because the memory of us is imprinted upon His heart..'

'Perfect or imperfect, we are still loved by God.'

'We are loved relentlessly and continuously by our Creator.'

'Irene McCormack connected in her life to Mary MacKillop, according to the charism by living life well.'

'We are wonderful in our imperfection and we need to forgive ourselves as we strive to become perfect.'

'Gratitude comes straight from the heart and the smallest act of kindness is an act of courtesy towards one another.'

'The simple act of being grateful implies a sense of personal liberation; it means acting with humility.'

Why is it that so many people find it challenging to say thank you?

We shared lunch which the Sisters prepared.

This time together was a perfect example of the charism being enacted.



# WA JOSEPHITE COMPANION GATHERINGS, NEWS & EVENTS

## SOUTH PERTH

**ENQUIRIES:** Louisa Moore - 0438 616 228  
Email: [louisa.moore1@bigpond.com](mailto:louisa.moore1@bigpond.com)  
Margaret Jones - 0437336245  
9370 3260  
Meg Phelan - 9295 1682  
0400 599 438

## DARDANUP

**ENQUIRIES:** Dot Savage (08) 9791 4008  
Helen Brown: 0478 783 990  
Email: [helenbrown.hb@gmail.com](mailto:helenbrown.hb@gmail.com)



## ESPERANCE

**ENQUIRIES:** Helen Johnston - (08) 9071 1256  
Email: [donaldjohnston@bigpond.com](mailto:donaldjohnston@bigpond.com)

## SOUTH PERTH NEXT GATHERING ~

### SUNDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

- ✚ 1.30pm ~ Time for greeting one another
- 2.00pm ~ Prayer in Chapel, followed by afternoon tea and drawing of the raffle in the Function Room
- ✚ **Where:** St Joseph's Convent, 16 York Street, South Perth
- ✚ **Bring:** A small plate of food to share, a friend, and a 'bring & buy' item

## DARDANUP NEXT GATHERINGS

Wednesday 6th October @ 9.30am

"Two Way in Country"

**Guest Speaker:** Sr Theresa Morellini rsj  
Parish Meeting Centre, Brend Tor Street Bunbury  
Please bring a plate of finger food for a shared lunch.

Wednesday 24th November @ 9.30am

**AGM and Christmas Gathering**

Parish Meeting Centre, Brend Tor Street Bunbury  
Please bring a plate of finger food for a shared lunch and a gift (\$15 value) for Secret Santa

## ESPERANCE NEXT GATHERING

Third Thursday of each month—Mass, Rosary and sharing.

## GONE TO GOD



✚ Sr Maureen O'Connor (rsj)  
✚ Pam Hemmings (Mary Hemmings' Mother)  
✚ John Lowry Brother of Colleen and Pat



*'Rest in Peace'*

Dear Companions if you are aware of any companion/relative who has passed away, can you please email or ring the office:  
[wa.companions@sosj.org.au](mailto:wa.companions@sosj.org.au) or [08] 9334 0999

## SAVE THE DATE Inaugural Webinar

**'Be Courageous and Full of Hope' -  
4 September 11.30—1.30 (AEST)**

**Keynote Speaker: Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj  
Congregational Leader**

**Contact Louisa (Metro), Dot (Dardanup),  
Helen (Esperance) for further details  
about venues.**

To be involved in the webinar, participants will need to book in via trybooking:  
[www.trybooking.com/BRTBI](http://www.trybooking.com/BRTBI)

**REMINDER:** Order your 2022 Josephite Calendars through Sr Maree Riddler rsj