



Summer 2021

December 2021 Newsletter

Making a Difference in 2022

By Mary Hemmings

As Josephite Companions we respond to the call to live the charism of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods in our daily lives in our own unique way.

*We support one another by Friendship, Prayer and Service **to make a difference** in our local area and so further the reign of God in our world. (Josephite Companions Mission Statement)*

Recently our SA Josephite Companions Leadership Team spent time reviewing the events and activities of this year and pondered on how we could move into the year ahead. The words 'making a difference,' struck a chord with us, as we reflected that as people of the gospel, we are all called by Jesus to make a difference in our world.



"You are the light of the world. ... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Mt 5:14a,16)



*"I am full of hope in God who has been so good to us all."
MMK 1898*

Our Mission Statement (at left) reminds us that as Josephite Companions we are called to make a difference "in our local area and so further the reign of God in our world."

Each of us who is drawn into the Josephite story is touched by the spirit (charism) and story of Mary MacKillop, by the courage and creativity of her and Julian to respond to God's call in 1866 to embark on a distinctively Australian venture. Their response to this call continues to make a difference in Australia and beyond, as Sisters and Companions and others who share in this spirit seek ways to reach out and to touch the lives of others. This unique charism inspires and prods us to look for ways through which we can bring the 'good news' to others.

Benedictine Sister, Joan Chittister, has written much about charism. *"A charism is a continuing force which compels us to participate in the mission of Jesus by addressing contemporary issues. It is a living passion ... it can only live when it is continually nurtured, energised, renewed and developed in us."*

In 2022 we hope to 'nurture and energise' our understanding of this charism and explore new ways that we as individuals and as Josephite

cont next page

Companions in the 21st century can share in Jesus' mission and shine a torch in places where greater light can bring new life and energy. Together we will look to how we can engage with the challenges of our Church and the world today to answer the call to mission in our times.

We look forward to gathering with many of you at our first gathering on the 26th of February next year as we learn with Sr Kateri Duke of

how we can enhance our understanding of and delight in God's creation and make a difference in how we take care of this amazing gift.

In this Year of St Joseph as we move towards the celebration of Christmas, we give thanks for Joseph's love and commitment to Mary and Jesus, and for the difference that his faithfulness has made to our Christian story.

Life Commitment

On the 28th of November, Sr Denise MacKay made her Life Commitment as a Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Sisters, family and friends joined Denise in St Joseph's Chapel, Kensington for a Mass concelebrated by Fr Michael Brennan and Fr Maurice Shinnick.

Sr Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph, and Sr Brigette Sipa, CentreWest Regional Leader, were present to offer their support and to assist Denise in making her life commitment.

On behalf of the SA Companions, we congratulate Denise and wish her well as she continues her ministry with migrants and refugees.



Photos courtesy of Sue McGovern rsj



RIP Josephites



We remember with love and gratitude **Sr Pauline Schutze** (left) who entered eternal life on the 19th of October 2021. Sr Pauline was formerly known as Sr Anthony. She was in her 87th year of her age and in her 65th year of Religious Life.

We also remember with love and gratitude **Sr Marlene Henningsen** (right) who entered eternal life on the 25th of November 2021. Sr Marlene was formerly known as Sr Mary Agnes. She was in her 80th year of her age and in her 60th year of Religious Life.



✧ *Making a Difference* ✧

Looking After Our Home – Planet Earth

Saturday 26th February 2022

11am – 4pm

6 Harold St, Largs Bay

Presented by Kateri Duke rsj



Kateri will guide us in prayer and reflection as we learn how we can enhance our understanding of and delight in God's creation and make a difference in how we take care of this amazing gift.

Lunch and afternoon tea are both provided.

Cost per person: donation to cover the costs of venue and catering.

Bookings essential due to available space.

Please RSVP Mary on 0417 871 904 or SA.Companions@sosj.org.au

Come and explore the possibilities of how we can MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



"All of us can co-operate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents."
Pope Francis, Laudato si'

✧ *Making a Difference* ✧

Recycle ⇄ Reuse ⇄ Re-purpose

Saturday 9th April 2022

2pm

Bethany Centre

4 High St Kensington

Come, share and learn ways to make a difference creating an eco-friendly lifestyle in our homes, our parishes and beyond to minimise our impact on the environment.

Bring along clean, good quality items, surplus to your needs, and enable them to find new homes with other Companions or Op Shops.

Share your ideas of ways to reuse and re-purpose household items to lessen our footprint on Earth.

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Please RSVP Mary on 0417 871 904 or SA.Companions@sosj.org.au

Date Claimer: Visit to the Holocaust Museum, Sunday 22nd May 2022 – more details to come

December Event

Unfortunately, the decision was made to cancel our Christmas Carols at the last minute due to concerns over a Covid cluster in Norwood. Apologies to all those who had registered for this event, as it would have been an entertaining evening. We will try again next year.

September Webinar – an Encore

On Saturday the 6th of November, Companions and friends gathered in Bethany for a chance to view part of the September Webinar given by Sr Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph.

The theme was *Be Courageous and Full of Hope* and the main topics included: Josephite Companions, Josephite spirituality, Joseph, charism and Micah's *act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God*.

There were opportunities for reflection and discussion. Some of the comments, insights and inspirations by those present are given below to be shared with readers:



Joseph was a God-centred person.
Joseph walked humbly with his God. We, as
Companions, are challenged and called to do the same.

Speak less, listen better, see more with the heart.

The way we look at life is Josephite inspired.
Joseph didn't speak one word in the Bible; his actions
were his words.

To walk the 'Jesus Way' is what sustains me when I face
hardship in my life.
To love tenderly is to build a culture of encounter.

Our world needs courage and hope.

Friendship, prayer and service – Companions for one
another and the Sisters.



Mary MacKillop sought Joseph's guidance.
Mary MacKillop followed her heart.
We can all make a difference by the way we live our lives.

Who will comfort my people? Who will
wipe away their tears? It is up to us now!

These two attributes of courage spoke to me as a
challenge on which to work:

- Feeling fear yet choosing to act
- Expanding our horizons by letting go of the familiar

Each one of us is the beloved of God.
Josephite spirituality is incarnational – "The God
in me meets the God in you."

Joseph was brave and courageous, and his quiet
demeanour was the ideal figure for Mary
MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods to choose
as the name and image of their Order.



My Trip to the Canonisation in 2010 - abridged by Nicole Coote

After a marathon flight, the plane touched down in Roma, Italia. I was so excited to be in this wonderful city that had so much to offer. Our first stop was at St Paul's Basilica, then other sights including the Circus Maximus, the Palatine Hill where Rome was founded, and Santa Maria Basilica, which is the third largest basilica in Rome. Finally, we approached St Peter's and what an imposing sight it was! Everything in Rome is so big and St Peter's is no different. It was built in the 17th Century and is the biggest church in the world.

The evening before the canonisation we joined thousands of others for a Vigil Celebration of the life of Mary MacKillop. As we heard prayers featuring Mary's own words, I started to realise the magnitude of my trip to Rome and that Mary was a woman for all. Her life and attributes had, and have, touched many people.

After much anticipation the day finally arrived. Here was I participating in this great day in the history of our church as Australia was to receive the blessing of its first saint. During the ceremony, Mary MacKillop's life history was read aloud and then Pope Benedict chanted in Latin which effectively enrolled Mary in the Catalogue of Saints. Even though the majority of the Mass and celebration was in Latin, it was easy to follow. We received a booklet, where some parts were in English, but once again mainly in Latin. However, as I joined in the celebration it reinforced to me how Christianity is a universal language. How we, as Australian Catholics, responded wasn't any different to how the German couple who sat next to me responded. It was the unification of so many Catholics in one space as we received communion that really struck me. The moment when Mary MacKillop was recognised as a saint was amazing and I got goosebumps and teary as fellow Australians cheered and clapped for Australia's First Saint. I couldn't believe that I had witnessed such an inspirational event in Australia's history. Such an opportunity is an honour!

The morning after the canonisation, I attended the official Mass of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Basilica, the second largest church displaying a gothic style altar. Gathered together for this

Mass were the many pilgrims from Australia and New Zealand. The pilgrims were joined by the Sisters of St Joseph, Cardinals, bishops, priests and other Australian dignitaries. During the Mass the indigenous Australians were also recognised. It was a great occasion of thanksgiving and holiness, and yet another grace-filled moment.

Following the Mass of Thanksgiving we were lucky enough to be joined by at least five Sisters for a tour of Rome. This tour was specifically planned to see the places that were of significance to Mary, some of the places that she would have visited when she too came to Rome. Sights included the Termini Station, where Mary would have arrived after 6 weeks at sea from Adelaide, and the Santa Sacramenta Chapel, which Mary faithfully visited most evenings for Benediction.

I will look back on my time in Rome as a unique opportunity that was made possible to me. The places that I have seen, the people that I have met, the experiences that I've had, have all, in some way, shaped and changed me in the way I now see myself. Am I a spiritual person? I thought not, but maybe yes, I now think I am. I appreciate my life and the wonderful people in it. I thank God for being blessed with so many things that make me happy – like family and friends. From this experience, I will continue to endeavour to emulate the qualities of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and try to reach out to those in need. I feel truly blessed to have been able to have such a life-changing journey to such an amazing place.



Kath Ryan – Nicole's mother – proudly pointing to a display about Mary MacKillop, which includes her daughter's trip to the Canonisation.

Wordsearch - Towards Christmas

W Q J E T I H W S Y L L M W D
 E S K O V B J V K R H I A A P
 H G L F H L E K E A V K R I J
 T S V E K N S W E M J A Y T P
 T Z S R P J U B W L R R A I F
 A Q A A U S S V R I P O N N R
 M M A N M C O R U A U K D G I
 A D V E N T A G O H R Q J S E
 S U N D A Y S N F H P Q O Y N
 Y L I M A F P T D J L Q S A D
 R E Y A R P W A F L E L E D S
 Y A W E H T E R A P E R P I H
 W O U R F A T H E R D S H L I
 S P I R I T U A L I T Y L O P
 L U K E C I V R E S A G V H Y

ADVENT
 CANDLES
 FAMILY
 FOUR WEEKS
 FRIENDSHIP
 GOSPELS
 HAIL MARY
 HOLIDAYS
 JESUS
 JOHN
 LUKE
 MARK
 MARY AND JOSEPH
 MASS
 MATTHEW
 OUR FATHER
 PINK
 PRAYER
 PREPARE THE WAY
 PURPLE
 SERVICE
 SPIRITUALITY
 SUNDAYS
 WAITING
 WHITE

✂-----

Companions: Subscriptions for 2021 – 2022

The subscription form is included again for your convenience. Many thanks to all those who have already paid. To make a payment over the internet, our **BankSA** account details are:

BSB Number: 105-087
 Account Number: 039066240
 Account Name: RSJ Associates SA (our Account Name remains unchanged)

We are keeping our postage expenditure down as more Companions provide email addresses.

Payment Amount: ☐ \$20.00 ☐ \$30.00 ☐ Other _____
 Payment Method: ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ BankSA deposit/transfer
 (payable to RSJ Associates SA)

Title: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Would you prefer the newsletter sent to you via email? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Telephone Number: _____

Please post this form to: Julie Langman, 16 Greenwood Cres, Glenalta, 5052

Our Josephite Partners

Living in the Spirit of Mary MacKillop

- **St Joseph's Old Scholars Association**

An Old Scholar is anyone (female or male) who has ever been connected to a Josephite school or college in Australia, as a student or teacher. Our Association has been in existence for over 100 years.

We had just over 100 people at our October Luncheon at the Lockleys Hotel. Majella O'Sullivan rsj was the Guest Speaker. A raffle was held and the proceeds of \$650 were presented to Majella to support her work with the Catholic Deaf Community.

Also, we have purchased one brick which has been placed, along with many others, on the pavement adjacent to the Mary MacKillop Museum in High Street. The inscription reads:

ST JOSEPH'S OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION SA – ESTABLISHED 1916

Look for it next time you visit the Museum or Bethany.

- **Mary MacKillop Old Scholars Association**

The Association continues the friendships and encourages the building of life-long networks amongst past students and staff. It also fosters justice and compassion, hospitality and concern for those in need and has a special relationship with the Sisters of St Joseph.

We usually have an Annual Reunion Dinner which is held on the last Friday in October. Everyone is always very welcome to join in and connect with other Old Scholars.

Our popular Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179768134304>) keeps people in touch with each other. Make contact and share your news.

- **Mary MacKillop Precinct – Bethany, Museum and Chapel**

- Museum and Gift Shop – open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm

The Museum has a display of some of the South Australian story including the early companions, and the history and legacy of the Josephites.

The Gift Shop has many products available for sale including the monthly *Southern Cross* magazine, books, cards, Ethica products and much more!

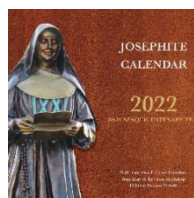
The online store is operational, and orders can be through www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au

For phone orders or other information call 8130 5910.

- Josephite Calendar 2022

Still available in the Gift Shop, by phone or online.

Cost: \$9 each + p&h



- St Joseph's Chapel – open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm

Due to Covid-safe requirements, some conditions will apply including the wearing of masks and social distancing. Visitors are asked **not** to enter the roped-off area.

**"Love one another and
help one another."
MMK 1873**

Towards Christmas

Introduction

God sent a present into the world, the gift of a loving presence named Jesus. The gospel stories indicate that Jesus gave few material things to people. What he gave most was his personal presence, gifts that were treasures of the heart: belief in self, inner healing, peace of mind, compassion, forgiveness, dignity, and justice. This loving presence lives on in us and is the central focus of Christmas gift-giving.

Scripture: Malachi 4:2

My saving power will rise on you like the sun and bring healing like the sun's rays.

Pause for Reflection

Jesus, our Saviour, has come into our world like a brilliant sunrise, changing darkness into light, bringing healing, love, peace and joy into our lives.

Think about the changes Jesus has brought into your life.

From the Pen Of Mary MacKillop

"May our good God grant you all a holy and truly happy Christmas. We can all meet together in spirit at the Crib of our loving Infant and can recommend our several wants and pray for one another. I wish you every grace and blessing of this holy time with fondest love." 1881

Prayers for Our Community

God of Love, open our minds and hearts to welcome you in the stranger, in the lonely, in our families and friends and in all we meet.

God of Peace, may this Christmas be a time of reconciliation and peace in families, in neighbourhoods and in our world.

God of Joy, may Christians throughout the world be the bearers of much joy this Christmas as we reach out to others, especially those most in need of a helping hand and a caring heart.

God of Hope, you sent your Son to be a sign of hope for all peoples. May we learn to accept one another, regardless of race, culture, religion or colour and so create a better world.

God of Light, fill our hearts with the fire of your love and compassion so that we may bring love and hope to all in our community.

God of Everlasting Love, comfort those who have lost loved ones and give your eternal peace to those who have died.



*Wishing you and your family
many blessings
this Christmas
and in the year ahead*

