



# Charism, Spirituality, Ethos & Culture

*“Charism gives structure, being and action and involves a story to enter, a language to speak, a group to which to belong, a way to pray, a work to undertake, a face of God to see.”*

- Fr Claude Marechal

The Josephite charism is shared by all who live the Gospel with a Josephite heart. Another way of saying this is, charism is a gift of the Spirit given to persons and taken up by a group to carry out the mission of Jesus, with characteristics which mirror a particular experience or aspect of God’s presence in our world.

Living the Gospel with a Josephite heart has a unique quality born out of the founding story of being birthed in a unique and ancient land. It calls each one to respect, honour and celebrate the contribution of First Peoples. It calls each one to be other centred and creation centred.

It means being grounded in the knowledge of who we are with our giftedness and weaknesses, with our feet on the ground and our sleeves rolled up. It means having a practical down to earth approach to people and situations, inviting us to trust in our Provident God and to risk travelling into unknown situations.

Without a doubt the most well-known advice and challenge from Mary and Julian would have to be:

**Never see a need without  
doing something about it.**

These words adorn School and College banners, workplaces, walls, plaques, artwork and souvenirs. They embody the Charism, Spirituality, Ethos and Culture of living with a Josephite Heart – living in relationship, which is a holy give and take.

Our **ethos** is irrevocably tied to our values of courage, inclusivity, respect and compassion ensuring that our call to live differently can enable the lives of others and all of creation, to flourish.

Our **ethos** provides us with a roadmap so that on the journey we embrace the homeless, the poor, the incarcerated – just as Jesus, Mary and Julian did before us.

Our **ethos** reminds us that “loving is not easy,” and “loving is not fancy words,” – Josephites have never been ones for easy or fancy!

Our **culture** of a deep belief in the dignity of every person calls us to do something about the injustices in the world – poverty, discrimination, social and gender inequality, homelessness, human trafficking, child abuse – the list is endless.

Our **culture** calls us to celebrate the key moments in the lives of those with whom we work. To give thanks for their gifts and the daily contributions made selflessly to improve the lives of others and make the working environment a pleasure to be part of.

Our **culture** calls us to celebrate the special days that belong to the Josephite story – key feast days of Joseph, John the Baptist, Jesus, Mary and Julian.

Our **culture** calls us to a sense of justice in decision making and reading the signs of the times so that we can truly “never see a need without doing something about it.”



# FRAMEWORK FOR REFLECTION

Take a moment to engage with the video clips and reflection questions below.  
You are then invited to pray the blessing.

## Individual Reflection

YouTube clip '**Never See a Need**'. (2 min 36 sec) 

- What stirred in you while listening to and watching this clip?
- How can these stirrings find a place in the heart of spirituality, charism, culture and ethos?

## Group Reflection

YouTube clip '**Living into the Josephite Charism Today**'. (9 min 20sec) 

OR

**Sr Geraldine Larkins** (3 min 57secs) 

**Ms Mary Hemmings** (2 min 22 secs) 

**Mr Niall Coburn** (1 min 51secs) 

**Mrs Sandy Leaitua** (1 min 41 secs) 

- What resonates with you of the Josephite charism?
- Where do you see the greatest need for the Josephite charism in the world today?

## Blessing

In our day-to-day,  
may we discover new energy to kindle justice.  
May we have clarity of vision,  
to recognise needs in our midst.  
As we listen to the stirrings of our heart,  
may we be resolute in our desire  
to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God.

*Amen*

