

# JCoLT newsflash

May 2022



**Dear Josephite Companions,**

We are very mindful that these past two years have caused considerable disruption to people's lives in many ways. Some of you will have lost loved ones, others will have families whose livelihoods have been seriously impacted or homes that have been destroyed through floods. For some, it will have been not being able to be with family or friends because of restricted travel or not being able to visit sick family or attend funerals of loved ones.

As we learn to live with Covid in our different places, many of us have also developed a greater sense of gratitude for some of what we may have, in the past, taken for granted. We have come to appreciate what is in 'our own backyard', in terms of discovering the beauty in our own states/countries when travel is limited. We recognize the 'gift of giving', as denoted by our health workers and also those who understand the science of disease and medicine who have worked tirelessly to enable us to move through this time. In the words of Mary MacKillop - **"Gratitude is the memory of the heart"** (MM 1907).

As reflected in the article written by Carolyn Grimward, a Josephite Companion from Queensland, (p3) the opportunity for Leaders of Josephite Companions to gather online in April provided us with the gift of a valuable occasion for all to be enthused through input from Sr Clare and also through the interaction with other Companion Leaders. This illustrated the value of connection and learning from one another, something which we have had less of through this time of Covid.

Covid, though, has also given us the 'gift of online sharing' and so, we will make use of this medium again in September with a further opportunity for leaders to gather online. This will be on **September 17th**. We will have a prayer and focus time on the theme of 'Hope', followed by a time of working through some points of Administration regarding our groups. Further details to Leaders of groups will be provided in the coming weeks. Any suggestions of what you would like included would be very welcome. (Email [mary.hemmings@sosj.org.au](mailto:mary.hemmings@sosj.org.au) or phone 0417 871 904)

Included in this newsflash is information about the **National Pilgrimage** that is planned for October this year...the first one for a few years! Quoted costs are available until June 30th. Please let others who may be interested in this experience know about it.

**Wishing you many blessings**

**Josephite Companions Leadership Team (JCoLT)**

**Mary Hemmings, Beverley Badcock, Pauline McGuire, Helen Dougherty, Anne-Marie Wilkinson, Moya Campbell rsj, Clare Conaglen rsj**



# Sacred Heart Reflection

*'The heart of Christianity is the Heart of Jesus, a passionate devotedness to the well-being of humanity.'* <sup>1</sup>

Photo by Hernan Pauccara: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/frozen-wave-against-sunlight-1210273/>

The Feast of the Sacred Heart calls us to reflect on the Heart of Jesus, the heart of the One who showed us through words and actions how we can contribute to the well-being of our world. He who touched the eyes of the blind, reached out to those who were on the fringe and accepted those who were ostracized by wider society, offers hope and a pathway forward for humanity providing the inspiration for us to find ways to continue his mission in our world today, just as Mary MacKillop did in her time.

In 2016 when Josephites celebrated 150 years of mission and service, the phrase 'Listening to the Heartbeat of the World' was adopted as the theme for that year of celebration. This theme continues to be named and reflected today in the Mary MacKillop Museum in Adelaide, in the gallery that highlights the many ways that Jesus' mission is continued by those with a Josephite heart today, through ministries such as Mary MacKillop Today, schools, aged care, support of those in need, walking with others, be they in Timor Leste or Peru, Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand. Listening to the heartbeat of our world requires us to be tuned into the evolving needs of our communities. These may be in our local spheres as well as our worldwide community.

There are many cries that we hear, from those caught up in war and communities struggling with floods and other disasters, to families facing poverty and people just needing a listening ear. We can become overwhelmed by the needs that we see and read about at times. Our Companions' Mission statement calls us to '...respond to the call to live the Josephite charism of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods in our daily lives...to make a difference in our local area and so further the Reign of God in our world'.

Fr Claude Mostowick msc reminds us that

*'God's reign has no boundaries. It is present wherever people love one another or share one another's burdens, advocate for justice and peace and work to build up a just and peaceful community. Being inside this reign is largely determined by how we respond to the other, especially the one in need: the hungry, the naked, stranger, those in prison, and the sick.'* <sup>2</sup>

Thus, each of us is invited to be God's heart on earth. Each of us will do this differently because of our circumstances and capacity and the needs we see. Opening our hearts to others will, in turn, enable us to be touched by them. May the Heart of Jesus which reflected the unconditional love and tenderness and mercy of our Creator God bring about renewed hope in our world.

1. David Richo, *The Sacred Heart of the World: Restoring Mystical Devotion to Our Spiritual Life* (Paulist Press: 2007), 5–6 in Centre for Contemplation Dec 17th, 2021

2. Fr Claude Mostowick Edmund Rice Centre Nov 12 2021

[https://www.erc.org.au/justice\\_reflections\\_from\\_fr\\_claude\\_mostowick\\_121121#:~:text=Justice%20Reflections%20From-,Fr.%20Claude%20Mostowick,-posted%20by%20Erc](https://www.erc.org.au/justice_reflections_from_fr_claude_mostowick_121121#:~:text=Justice%20Reflections%20From-,Fr.%20Claude%20Mostowick,-posted%20by%20Erc)

# 'Leadership 2022 and Beyond'

Josephite Companions Webinar April 2022

A Companion Reflects



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On 2 April Josephite Companions who are involved in Regional Leadership Groups throughout Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand came together via Zoom to explore the theme "Leadership 2022 and Beyond".

Sr Clare Conaglen lead us in reviewing our purpose as Josephite Companions – to continue God's mission with a Josephite heart – and looking at how we can achieve this through our Leadership roles. After encouraging us to think about leadership qualities Sr Clare identified the characteristics of a good leader and went on to list the different types of leadership seen in organisations.

Sr Clare expanded on the concept of Servant Leadership. Both Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods exemplified this type of leadership. Both were courageous visionaries, passionate and inspirational people who saw the potential in their followers and enabled them to achieve that potential.

There was so much of value in Sr Clare's presentation that I was pleased to receive a link to it so I could view it again.

Breaking into small groups after the presentation gave us the opportunity to interact with leaders from other regions. Here we were able to share the challenges faced in each region and what steps have been taken to meet these challenges. This discussion brought up possibilities for each of us to adapt in our own regions.

Mary MacKillop used whatever means available to her to respond to the needs and situations of her time and continue God's mission. For us as well as maintaining personal contact with local leaders in our role as Regional Josephite Companion Leaders we need to follow her example and employ all the resources of our modern digital world to continue God's mission with a Josephite heart and support one another through Friendship, Prayer and Service.

**Carolyn Grimward, a Josephite Companion from Queensland**

# Australian National Pilgrimage

'In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop' is an Australian National Pilgrimage lead by a Sister of Saint Joseph and the inaugural Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, East Melbourne.

The Australian National Pilgrimage goes to many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. This is a unique opportunity for participants to absorb aspects of Mary's life and appreciate her role as our Australian Saint.

The notion of going on a pilgrimage and being a pilgrim is a very ancient one that belongs to the spiritual tradition of all great faiths. Places of pilgrimage beckon people to get caught up in the atmosphere and spiritual realities that belong to their origins. However, it is not only the site that takes people deep into the heart of their faith, but the journey itself.

A pilgrimage is a very personal experience but it is usually a journey with others: seeking, listening, reflecting and seeing the hand of God at work in our own lives.

The 2022 pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on Tuesday 18 October 2022. Many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry in Victoria and South Australia will be visited and it will conclude at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on Saturday 29 October 2022.

Costs are inclusive of airfares, accommodation, coach travel, admission fees and all meals (but not drinks). Ex Brisbane \$4050, Ex Melbourne \$3870, Ex Sydney \$3870, Ex Adelaide \$4050, Ex Perth \$4380, Ex Tasmania \$4070, Ex Canberra \$4050, Ex Cairns \$4240, Single Supplement all areas \$970

These prices are fixed until **30 June 2022**. After this date prices may need to be negotiated dependent on oil and fuel costs. <https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage/>

For further information <https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage/> or contact the Australian Pilgrimage Co-Ordinator:

- Email: [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au)
- Telephone: (02) 8912 4818

