



# Josephite Companions

## Spring 2022 Newsletter

### Victoria -Tasmania

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Dear Companions, I love this time of year with the daylight getting longer and a few warmer days as well. And of course the arrival of some colour in the gardens especially the Daffodils and the Blossom trees. You will notice

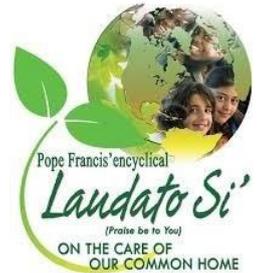


as you read through the Newsletter that we have welcomed some new Companions and that Groups are starting to meet again. Our biggest news is that, along with the Josephite Sisters, and in the Spirit of St Francis of Assisi, Fr Julian Tenison Woods and Pope Francis' Encyclical, Laudato Si, we are concentrating on, what we can do to build our relationship with one another and Care for, the Earth, our Common Home.

*Noreen McLeish*

#### Commitment to Laudato Si Action Plan

As many of you are aware, the Sisters of Saint Joseph launched a plan in March of this year to implement, in a practical way, the vision of that wonderful document Laudato Si <https://www.sosj.org.au/our-commitment-to-the-laudato-si-action-platform/> the goals of the Josephite Action Plan are:



#### A call to renewal, eco-conversion and sustainable living among the Sisters, Companions, Staff and Affiliates

There is an emphasis on simple, sustainable lifestyles, care for each other and our world and a prioritising of the needs of the most vulnerable, when we think about eco-justice.

***Let's face the crises affecting people, other species and Earth itself at this time and with compassion and urgency, collaborate locally and globally to influence governments, companies and others to halt the damage, protect life, restore habitats and settle the homeless.*** *Diane Corro* *Continued on P 2*

**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 each other by friendship, prayer and service to make a difference in our local area and so further the reign of God.**

**Companions Mission Statement**

**FRIENDSHIP**

**PRAYER**

**SERVICE**

Josephites have a long tradition of environmental and social awareness grounded in, and inspired by, the insights of our founders, St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods, and have found deep resonances in Pope Francis' letter, Laudate Si.

Many of you will have visited St Joseph's By The Sea in Williamstown and marvelled at the gardens the community have established there.

As part of their response to the Laudato Si Action Plan, the Sisters have decided to set up Wicking Beds in order to grow their own vegetables and to educate people who visit the Centre about this sustainable way of growing food. I had no idea what a Wicking Bed was! Sr Carmel has explained how they work in our newsletter. (Page 8)

In order to help support this initiative, the core team, on your behalf, have donated the money for the initial cost of these beds (\$570). In the coming newsletters we'll provide you with some updates about how they are going. Thank you to all of you who were able to pay subscriptions this year and especially for those generous donations. We were able to use some of these for the Wicking Bed Project. *Diane Corro, Core Team*



## Navigating the Sisters of Saint Joseph Website

If you're, like me, having trouble finding a past and/or recent Newsletter then go online and Click on the following:

- 1 [sosj.org.au](http://sosj.org.au)
- 2 Become Involved
- 3 Josephite Companions
- 4 Become Involved
- 5 Companion Newsletters
- 6 Then scroll down to find the Newsletter you want

## Significant Dates During October

- 4th Oct Feast of St Francis of Assisi
- 7th Oct Julian Tenison Woods Anniversary
- 17th Oct Canonisation of Mary MacKillop



# Pilgrims visit Alexander MacKillop's Grave in Hamilton



Twenty Pilgrims from Melbourne Diocesan schools, visited Alexander MacKillop's grave, in the Hamilton Cemetery, on a very wet Monday in August.

The Pilgrims were lead by Sr Rita Malavisi rsj and Ted Javernik from the Heritage Centre. They were on their way to Portland then on to Penola.

No matter what our views are about Alexander there is no denying that he provided his children with a sound education, a love of God and an appreciation of their Faith.

After all " **WITHOUT ALEXANDER WE WOULD NOT HAVE HAD MARY.**"

**Bendigo Judi Bowden  
Special Mass at 12:10 pm  
on Monday 8th August**

**Celebrations for St Mary MacKillop Feast Day  
8th August 2022**

**Bacchus Marsh and  
Woodend met Thursday  
11th August. Carmel Shea**



**Jenny Coutts. We had  
Afternoon Tea at the  
Parish House**



**Mass at St Patrick's Pakenham  
Bernadette Barker**

**Sisters Mary, Jose and Therese chatted  
over Vanilla Slice and a Cup of Tea**



**Enrolment Ceremony then  
Lunch at the Leongatha RSL  
Mary P & Julie de Bondt**

**Fr James joined our Group  
for Lunch at the Morwell Club  
Monica Lappin**

## Four New Josephite Companions Enrolled at Leongatha 7th Aug

### WELCOME TO:

Pat Allaway  
Angelena Polato  
Nadia Stefani  
and Ann Briner

our newest Companions  
Congratulations to you all!



On Sunday, August 7th, the eve of Saint Mary-MacKillop's Feast Day, four new Companions were enrolled during the 11am Mass at St Laurance O'Toole Church Leongatha. Mass was celebrated by Fr Peter Bickley. Anne Marie Wilkinson, our Victorian Core Team Leader, attended from Bittern. Companions and Parishioners gathered at the local RSL Leongatha for lunch to conclude the celebrations. *Mary Patterson*

### Leongatha Commitment Ceremony

It was an absolute joy for me to be able to join the Leongatha/Wonthaggi Companions to conduct the ceremony for four new Josephite Companions. This was done during the regular Sunday mass and Fr Peter Bickley made it even more special by sharing stories of his growing up with the Sisters of Saint Joseph and his participation in the ceremony, blessing their badges and the whole Companion group.

I also very much enjoyed being able to gather with the Companions of that area when we went out to lunch afterwards. With it being so long since I have had the chance to join any of our Companion groups it was so wonderful to see the vitality of our Josephite Companions and hear of their happenings as they live out the Josephite Charism. *Anne-Marie Wilkinson (Core Team)*



**PRAYER**

**FRIENDSHIP**

**SERVICE**

These newly enrolled Companions are among the first Victorian Companions to have completed the new Discovery Program. They each had a Mentor and worked through the discernment process over the last twelve months with the help of their Mentors and their group, at their own pace and in their own way.



# Reflection - Fr Julian Tenison Woods

## Anniversary of Death 7th October 1889

**Father Julian Tenison Woods** as a young English born priest was sent to a Parish with an area of 22,000 square miles encasing the districts of Penola and Mt Gambier. He spent much of his time travelling on horseback ministering to his flock. In 1860 he met Mary MacKillop, who was working as a Governess at her uncle's sheep station just out of Penola.

**Julian Tenison Woods** was a man filled with the fire of his love for God. This God he found, not only in the Church and the people he served, but in the very rocks, trees, plants, and animals of our world .... The whole of creation.

The sacred essence at the heart of all life fascinated Julian. He spent many hours exploring, examining and explaining the wondrous, newly-discovered Australian world which he had made his own. As well as his scientific, musical, and academic pursuits, Julian shared a passion to provide a Catholic Education for the children of the poor. And together with Mary, in 1866, at Penola, they founded the Sisters of Saint Joseph, dedicated to providing a Catholic education for the children of the poor.

Together Julian and Mary developed an organized system of Catholic education with schools staffed by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Following the Co Founding of the Federation Sisters of St Joseph with Mary MacKillop, Julian founded the St Joseph Federation Sisters and the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

Father Julian Tenison Woods remained Mary's Spiritual Director, Friend and Confidante for many years,



### Litany of Julian Tenison Woods

**Leader:** Julian, immigrant priest, educationalist, geologist and environmentalist, man of the people, co-founder of the Josephite Congregations, founder of the Perpetual Adoration Sisters, inspirer of many.

Let us lift our hearts in thanksgiving for the life of Julian Tenison Woods.

**All:** We remember his founding action in the Josephite story and close collaboration with Mary MacKillop in bringing the Sisters of Saint Joseph to birth. We remember his gifts as pastor, his passion for mission, his reverence of earth, his respect for Indigenous peoples and his love of God. We give thanks for his influence in our Josephite Lives.

Julian, you inspired the dispirited to live faith-filled lives.	Pray for us.
Julian, your influence and ministry have continued to these days.	Pray for us.
Julian, you opened eyes to interest in, and care of the Environment.	Pray for us.
When we feel lost, or in need of direction.	Pray for us.
When we feel overwhelmed by the challenges in our lives.	Pray for us.
When we feel the cross weighing on us.	Pray for us.
When we are struggling with issues of justice:	Encourage us
When we are making the cause of the poor our cause:	Encourage us
When we take responsibility for the care of our environment:	Encourage us

As Josephite Companions, help us to  
foster **FRIENDSHIP**, live lives of **SERVICE** and grow in **PRAYERFULNESS**

## St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and St Francis of Assisi

According to the website of St Francis Church, Melbourne, Mary MacKillop, as she was then, was Baptised in the church. She also made her First Communion there and was Confirmed. St. Francis church was the Catholic Cathedral of Melbourne before St Patrick's Cathedral was built. From the evidence of the records, it was also Mary's parish Church.

Like St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, St Francis of Assisi was a practical person. He was a Deacon of the church, not a priest, and was what is known as a Mendicant (wandering) friar who preached to the poor. A quote often attributed to Francis, which is questioned by many scholars, is "Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words." In other words, preach by your actions. From what is known of St Francis, it would be wrong to suggest that he did not verbally preach and teach. For this reason, the scholars previously mentioned usually say the quote comes from the



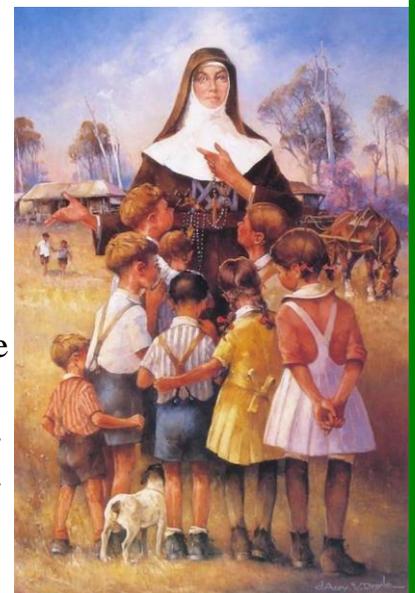
Franciscan Rule itself.

*All the brothers, however, should preach by their deeds." (The Earlier Rule: Chap XVII, 3) And: I also admonish and exhort these brothers that, in their preaching, their words be well chosen and chaste... in a discourse that is brief, because it was in few words that the Lord preached while on earth." (The Later Rule: Chapter IX, 3)*

In these examples of the rule, the spirit of St Francis's attitude toward evangelization is clear. We evangelize not only in what we say, but through the fullness of the Gospel in our lives.

Fellow Companions, you may be wondering why I am writing about St Francis in the Josephite newsletter. It is because I think that St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and St Francis have much in common. Mary put these same sentiments into action within the Josephite Order. When Mary said, "Never see a need without doing something about it," she was doing what St Francis had advocated six centuries earlier: preaching with her actions.

Mary's schools were places of verbal evangelisation and places of academic learning. They were also places of action. There are many stories of Mary and her Sisters acting out their Christian faith with the poor. The children of the poor were not only educated but they were often fed, clothed, and housed. Another example is the "MacKillop Walk", in Melbourne, which highlights several buildings where Mary cared for the impoverished of the city.



**"Let us give thanks for the generosity of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the inspiration provided by St Francis of Assisi"**

*Greg Nelson, Josephite Companion*

How Blessed we are to have our Pope Francis, who chose to choose St Francis as his role model and inspiration in the way that he lives out his Vocation. Especially in the way that he cares for those most in need and for our fragile Planet. *Noreen*

# Wicking Beds for St Joseph's By The Sea

A Wicking Bed is an agricultural irrigation system devised by Australian inventor, Colin Austin.

In the gardens at our Centre in Williamstown, we have wicking beds and because they work well and grow wonderful produce we have decided to add to them,

We are immensely grateful for the support of you, the Josephite Companions, in obtaining some new containers.



## Why use Wicking Beds?

For us: this agricultural irrigation system

- 1 Saves water
- 2 Utilises the garden where it is perfect for growing veggies, but we have found it difficult because of the trees and bushes spreading around and needing the nutrients from the soil.
- 3 We didn't want to remove the trees and bushes as they become companions that supports bees and other beneficial insects and birds.
- 4 Helps bring diversity to the garden.
- 5 Increases our capacity to grow more home-grown food for use in our centre.
- 6 Plan is to use these as a teaching program to encourage others.

## How does a Wicking Bed work?



They are basically containers with water reservoirs at the base - like a giant self-watering pot. **Moisture is drawn up through the soil via a process called capillary action or wicking.** This allows moisture to be more evenly distributed through the soil, creating better growing conditions for the plants

*Sr Carmel Crameri rsj,*

*Sr Marianne Zeinstra rsj &*

*Sr Therese Quinn rsj*



# Josephite Companions Invitation to END OF YEAR MASS

At Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, East Melb  
Saturday 12th November at 1:30pm



As there is limited seating capacity at the Heritage Centre, for just 32, you will need to let me know **ASAP** if you wish to come. Shop will be opened and Afternoon Tea available.

Noreen McLeish

Phone: **0438 531 651** OR Email [noreen.mcleish@gmail.com](mailto:noreen.mcleish@gmail.com)

## R.I.P

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in Peace.

George (Podge) Valance husband of Marge,  
Bacchus Marsh  
Betty McClafferty of Yarraville Group

We remember all our Josephite Family who have died or are ill at this time.

We keep the Josephite Sisters who are unwell and for all those who care for them.

Please pray for a speedy recovery for Chris Van Order, Woodend

## USED STAMPS for the MISSIONS

Please leave a border of about 3cm around stamps

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## BOOK REVIEW

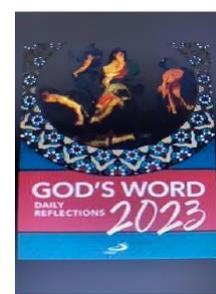
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Sr Mary Fermio

## JOSEPHITE COMPANION'S PRAYER

Companioning Spirit Intensify our living of the Josephite Charism now as you inspired St Joseph, St Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. Grace us with Friendship and Hospitality,

**As we make community in the ordinariness of our lives. Grace us with Prayerful Hearts that listen to your voice and contemplate your presence in creation.**

Grace us with Service, Promoting human dignity and love of neighbour  
Strengthen our commitment to live justly, love tenderly and walk humbly,  
Conscious that we are participating in your mission.

Companion, encourage and enfold us in the fullness of Divine Love. **Amen**

