

Josephite Companions of South Australia

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Friendship Prayer Service

Spring 2022

October 2022 Newsletter

Annual Report June 2021 – June 2022

“Take Fresh Courage” (MMK 1877), was the theme during 2020 for celebrating the 10th anniversary of Mary MacKillop’s canonisation. How can and does Mary continue to inspire us today to be people of courage and hope? On **26th June 2021**, Majella O’Sullivan rsj explored the theme of courage at a gathering of Josephite Companions and friends in the Bethany Centre in Kensington.

We learnt that from its Latin roots, the word courage is linked to the heart as the seat of all feelings. Courage originally meant ‘to speak one’s mind by telling all one’s heart.’ Majella then explored further the theme of courage via many historical and present-day prophets – all ordinary people of their day, with their heart set on making the world a place of justice and compassion. Their lives became a beacon of hope for all who were suffering injustice, pain and darkness.

Our next event was the Josephite Companions’ Webinar, held on **4th September 2021**. This online presentation was zoomed across the world to over 110 Companions. It was presented in lieu of our planned Josephite Companions’ Conference, which was cancelled due to Covid. The webinar provided a wonderful opportunity for us to become more aware of our international links as Josephite Companions across vast distances. The feedback from the chat rooms, and the

lingering of Companions at the conclusion of the webinar, suggested that all greatly appreciated the opportunity to ‘gather’ as we did. Mary MacKillop, who was so good at keeping in touch through travel and letters, would be impressed that we have ‘seen a need and done something about it’ by adapting to our circumstances today to keep the Josephite spirit alive!

On **6th November 2021**, Mary Hemmings presented parts of the Webinar to those who were unable to be involved previously. The theme of the Webinar was ‘Be Courageous and Full of Hope.’ Monica Cavanagh rsj, Congregational Leader of the Sisters, was the keynote speaker. Monica captured our interest and reaffirmed our role as Josephite Companions from the very first, when she identified Companions as being “an authentic pathway for living the Gospel with a Josephite Heart.”

There were opportunities for reflection and discussion. Some of the comments, insights and inspirations by those present were:

We, as Companions, are challenged and called to do the same as Joseph – walk humbly with our God. ~ The way we look at life is Josephite inspired. ~ Joseph didn’t speak one word in the Bible; his actions were his words. ~ Speak less, listen better, see more with the heart.



*“Gratitude is the
memory of the heart.”
MMK 1907*

cont on page 6

Celebrating 150 Years of St Joseph's Convent, Kensington

Our Hearth and Home

This reflection was given by Josie Huppatz rsj during the Mass of Thanksgiving. It followed these scripture readings – Deut 8:7-18, 1Cor 3:9-11; 16-17, 2Cor 9:6-15, John 15:5-12 (see pg 8).

The hearth of stone held the fire around which families gathered, where food was prepared, support was found and values nurtured. Our hearth goes far beyond the meeting of physical needs. The fire we gather around is the fire of love, the fire of God's love expressed in the warmth and welcoming and witness of those with whom we share our lives.

Mary knew the greatness of this love; it permeated her life and she desired that others would experience the compassionate love of God and express it to others.

This is the essential hearth: where neighbour, colleague, friend, the Sister whose love is unconditional, who by her very presence as well as action helps the weak become strong, who stands with us in times of anxiety, in times of uncertainty, in times of inadequacy, who is with us when we are fragile and overwhelmed by our own limitations. The one who has the capacity to laugh with us, who mourns with us – that faithful presence when we are in grief and illness, the one who celebrates with us – the small and significant achievements in life.

The one who by generous giving of her skill and time complements our limitations.

Above all, are those
who sustain us by their faith and daily prayer when we are in doubt;
who sustain us by their hope when ours is faltering;
who sustain us by their love when ours is fragile.

In the midst of humanity is the Sacred.

The hearth is not a place to escape to; it is the space in which to find the courage, the heart-strength to engage with daily life in all its gifts and challenges. The call to take the love of God, to those who doubt it most, continues. These are people in all walks of life and circumstances. The call to respond to systems and processes which are not built on God's ways is challenge indeed.

We truly celebrate the 150 years when we go beyond recalling to remembering – doing in our time and context what Mary did in hers. We commit with confidence; it is God's work.





'Listening to the whisperings of your heart' with Mary MacKillop

Sunday 16th October 2022
11am

Church of the Most Holy Redeemer
17 Ind St, Murray Bridge

As we gather in Murray Bridge, there will be time for reflection, prayer and companionship as we focus on the life and legacy of Mary MacKillop and the Josephite charism.

We will start at 11am in Murray Bridge with Mass in the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer and then move to the Parish hall next door for the presentation by Lucia Ciocca and Patsy Sandretti.

For those coming from Adelaide, there will be a bus available which will depart Kensington at 9.30am. For further details please make contact.

Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided. There will also be a raffle.

Cost: A donation supporting the Josephite Mission in Peru.

For catering and transport, please RSVP: 0417 871 904 or SA.Companions@sosj.org.au

*** Sponsored by the Josephite Companions ***
Come along ... Bring a friend ... All are welcome!

A very 'berry' Christmas

Friday 9th December 2022
7pm

Bethany Centre
4 High St, Kensington



Majella O'Sullivan rsj will be our *very berry merry* chorister leading us in an evening of fun and frivolity *a la Majella*.

Sing along to Christmas carols from traditional to contemporary and everything in between.

Join the celebrations; you might come along dressed in any red colour. Bring along a Christmas tree decoration to exchange.

Supper will be provided.

There will be a raffle supporting the Josephite Mission in Peru.

For catering, please RSVP: 0417 871 904 or SA.Companions@sosj.org.au

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Celebrating Mary's Feast Day

On Saturday the 6th of August, we celebrated the feast day of Mary MacKillop with a presentation by Mary Hemmings who began with two questions:

*Are Companions a viable force
in our church today?
Or are we a group with a promise
but going nowhere?*

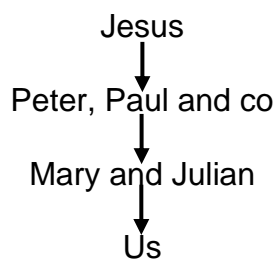
This generated an immediate buzz in the room, and thus began our journey of the Companions, exploring our purpose, legitimacy, identity, mission and meaning. The following are extracts from Mary's PowerPoint:

Purpose – Why do we exist?

“To give new life, wider space, new depth and stretch to the charism of Mary MacKillop to create one great flame so the rest of Australia/the world can feel it and see it lived and so themselves imagine another way to be alive.” (Adapted from Joan Chittister osb)

Charism is a living passion, a continuing force which compels us to participate in the mission of Jesus by addressing contemporary issues.

Legitimacy – Where do we come from?



Jesus' mission was in carrying out God's plan. Much of his time was in doing the ordinary. For the bulk of his life, Jesus earned his living as a tradesman. He shared his story through partaking in many meals and visited the sick. Jesus acknowledged and affirmed people; encouraged people in their efforts to find meaning and purpose, invited people 'into his

story' and went on his own to pray and spend time with God.

The disciples continued Jesus' mission. In his letter to the Corinthians, St Paul writes about wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, power and prophecy: “All these are the work of one and the same Spirit and given to each one as the Spirit determines for the sake of the body, the whole.”

Mary and Julian too continued Jesus' mission. What was their vision? What would they have talked about in Penola in 1865/66? What were the challenges of that time to which they responded?

Josephites – Sisters, Companions, Covenants and Affiliates – are all carriers of the Spirit's dream to participate in the mission of Jesus. We are all a part of that vision of Mary and Julian. We find 'new' expressions of Jesus' story, through the lens of Mary MacKillop, for today's world.

Identity – Who are we?

People of many countries and cultures: Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Timor Leste, Scotland. Sharing in the charism of Mary MacKillop, a charism made visible by her confident trust in God, respect for the dignity of all, inclusive hospitality, support for the poor and powerless, adaptability and flexibility, etc

Mission and Meaning – What must we do?

How do we make a difference in our world today? How do we be a part of renewing our Church? How do we listen to the heartbeat of the world?

Our mission for the future, as we live the charism, is to lend support through friendship, prayer and service. We go forth to further the reign of God, doing so creatively, taking risks, and being bold and in community!



RSJ Companions SA

Income and Expenditure for 2021/2022

INCOME	
Opening Balance from the Spring 2021 Newsletter	2,788.09
Subscriptions	1,325.00
Raffles & Donations	737.00
Bank Interest	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	4,850.09
EXPENDITURE	
Posting newsletters	407.00
Donation to Peru via Sr Katrina	1,000.00
Name change in the MMK Museum	599.50
Hall hire & Presenter costs	150.00
Special gifts for 11 Jubilarians	110.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,266.50
LEAVING A 30/6/22 BALANCE OF ...	2,583.59

Julie Langman, Treasurer 9/9/2022

✂----- **Companions: Subscriptions for 2022 – 2023**

The Leadership Team sincerely thanks you for paying your subscription, which enables us to remain in contact with you and support those in need. 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: ☐ \$30.00 – this includes \$10.00 to support our International JCoLT
 or ☐ 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

“God loves those best who help the weak become whole.” MMK 1906

With Covid still about, our planned Christmas Carols on **3rd December 2021** unfortunately were cancelled. This meant waiting until December 2022 to sing along with Majella – the ever creative, comical and consummate conductor of classical and contemporary Christmas Carols.

At the commencement of 2022, the SA Josephite Companions Leadership Team spent time reviewing the events and activities of the previous 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. Our Mission Statement 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." We adopted this phrase as our theme for 2022.

Katrina van Ruth rsj, who has lived and worked in Peru for 12 years, returned to Adelaide for a holiday after a 3-year absence. It was while she was in Adelaide that an opportunity arose for Katrina to share her story. And so, on **5th February 2022**, Sisters, Companions, Covenants and friends gathered in Bethany Centre for a presentation by Katrina.

Katrina spoke about the Peruvian Josephite mission, the effects of Covid, Companions and the support of *Mary MacKillop Today*, which is the fundraising arm of the Josephites. Covid had a big impact on poverty in Peru. Katrina related many heart-breaking stories, but also about how the Sisters and the communities worked together to bring hope in difficult times.

At the conclusion of the gathering, Katrina was presented with \$1,000 from the Companions, as well as a further \$1,000 received on the day from individuals and a raffle. Katrina will use this money to support the work of *The Centre for Children and Youth with Disabilities and Special Needs*.

As this year's theme is 'Making a Difference,' our presenter on **26th February 2022**, Kateri Duke rsj, provided us with a thought-provoking look at our home, Planet Earth. We were led on a journey of Earth's evolution from its beginning. We learnt 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 – Earth.

Mary MacKillop was inclusive of people of all faiths. Two of her well-known supporters were Joanna Barr Smith, a Presbyterian, and Emanuel Solomon of the Jewish faith. This inspired us to visit the Adelaide Holocaust Museum on **22nd May 2022**. The Museum is dedicated to preserving the stories and voices of Holocaust survivors, and the Museum's education programs, exhibitions and collections try to motivate visitors to stand up for a more compassionate world, develop ethical values and encourage action against prejudice and intolerance towards others.

Our **5th June 2022** event was a practical presentation to share and learn ways to make a difference creating an eco-friendly lifestyle in our homes, our parishes and beyond, and to minimise our impact on the environment. Recycle – Reuse – Re-purpose, our motto for the day, was presented by Lucia Ciocca and Pauline Gear.

Two **discussion groups**, Hectorville and Prospect/Fulham, have also gathered throughout the year to reflect and share faith and life. Our **quarterly newsletter** is a source of news, comments and prayer. It is hoped that it gives encouragement and enlightenment to continue to live the Josephite Spirit in daily life. For Companions who are unable to come together, the newsletter is one way of being in touch, even at a distance. Can we challenge you to use the prayer page in the newsletters to gather to discuss or pray with other Companions?

We are grateful to all who have gathered at our events over this past year and to those who have contributed financially to enable these activities to occur, and to support others in need. We are very aware that most of our activities happen at Kensington, so we welcome any ideas, or needs, being shared with us. Please make contact on 0417 871 904 or email SA.Companions@sosj.org.au with your thoughts and suggestions.

Julie and Majella on behalf of Mary, Bridgette, Carla, Lucia, Pauline, Patsy and Helen.

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 one hundred years.

We are already planning two events in 2023 – a Fashion Parade and a Luncheon. Stay tuned for more details next year.

- **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.

Everyone is very welcome to the **Annual Reunion Dinner**

Friday 28th October 2022, 6.30pm

Venue – Maylands Hotel, 67 Phillis St, Maylands

A tour of Mary MacKillop College is available before the dinner – places are limited

Bookings: trybooking.com

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 Mary's 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!

Order online through www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au

For phone orders or other information call 8130 5910.

- 2023 Josephite Calendar

Orders through the Gift Shop, by phone or online.

Cost: \$9.50 each + p&h

- St Joseph's Chapel

Now open to the public every day from 10am to 4pm.

- Bethany Centre

Check out the *2022 Events Programme* which offers workshops, reflection and retreat days. Details online through www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au or collect a copy when visiting the Museum.

- Spotlight on Mary MacKillop: Monthly Morning Cuppa

Continues every month on the 8th from 10am to 12pm. Join us in Bethany for opportunities to enrich our appreciation of Mary's story and legacy. There will be storytelling, songs, reflection as well as a cuppa, cake and chat – the 3C's. All are welcome!

No registration and no cost!

Enquiries: phone 8130 5900 or email infos@sosj.org.au



"Let all that you do be done with love."

1 Cor 16:14

Gospel: John 15:5-12

I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me, and I in them, will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. Those who don't live in me, are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned. If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Abba will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus prove to be my disciples. As my Abba has loved me, so have I loved you. Live on in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I live on in Abba God's love and have kept God's commandments. I tell you all that this joy may be yours and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

From the Pen of our Co-founders

"God expects that we love one another." MMK 1874

"Be very considerate of others." JTW 1870



Josephite Companions' Mission Prayer

Loving God,
we give you thanks that we,
Josephite Companions, can be involved,
like Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods,
in your vision for love and unity in our land and world.

Through our friendship
may we spread community and hospitality
in our families and neighbourhoods.

Through our prayer
may we live more deeply in your presence.
Loving God, may we live simply, love with kindness
and walk humbly with you.

Through our service
may we promote human dignity, justice,
a 'fair go' for all
and care and healing for our Earth.

Saint Mary MacKillop – pray with us.
Saint Joseph – pray with us.
All those who have gone before us
in the Josephite way – pray with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ
and the Spirit of the Charism.
Amen.

