



JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2023

As the season of Lent unfolds, you call us to return again and again.



Dear Sisters, Companions and friends,

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to the Autumn edition of the WA Newsletter. As we approach the season of Lent, we are reminded that this is a time of praying, fasting and sharing. An opportunity presents itself to renew our faith and turn back to God. We encourage Companions to be actively involved in their Parish Lenten Programs in preparation for Easter.

We congratulate those sisters who celebrated Jubilees in Sydney and in Perth. We admire greatly their faithful service and dedication as they follow in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. With St Mary of the Cross we pray for God's blessing for you, keeping you in his love and strengthening the spirit of charity in your hearts.

Sr Mary Cresp rsj launched her book "The Evolution of a Movement' in South Australia and is planning to visit WA throughout the year to promote the story of the Josephite Companions throughout the world. We look forward to her visit and will keep you informed of the confirmed date.

Early in January, JCoLT held their first face to face meeting for three years. Helen Brown was invited to attend as an observer along with other delegates from Australia and New Zealand. It was a time of formation, deep spiritual connection and learning. One of the issues raised during the conference was that of sustaining and growing the Josephite Companions today and into the future. This requires Josephite Companion groups to be creative and courageous in their efforts, praying and placing their trust in God who will always provide.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have produced the Explore — Embrace — Embody Laudato Si Action Plan for the Josephite community which embraces all Josephite women and men including Sisters, Affiliates, Boards, Staff, Companions and those involved in Josephite ministries. You are encouraged to visit the SOSJ website and explore what is there. You may find worthwhile information on how you can become part of the Josephite Justice Network, participate in care for the earth initiatives with the Congregational Eco Spirituality Team or read through past Josephite Companion Newsletters to see what other Josephite Companions are doing in their place of influence.

Wishing you joy and Easter blessings.

Dot Savage for Metropolitan, Dardanup and Esperance Groups.

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A Ministry of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart

METROPOLITAN COMPANIONS

Metropolitan Group wish everyone a Happy New Year and pray that this year finds you healthy and happy.

Our meeting on 12 March at South Perth at 1.30pm will be an important one. Louisa Moore and Margaret Jones are stepping down from their roles as Core Leader and Treasurer of the Metropolitan Group. We pray for one or two people willing to lead the group in regular prayer meetings and gatherings to come forward. Margaret and Louisa will continue to fold and post the Newsletter quarterly and receive and receipt donations from Companions throughout the state. Please join in Friendship, Prayer, and Service with a Josephite heart. Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Louisa Moore, Core Group Leader Metropolitan Group

ESPERANCE COMPANIONS

Esperance Josephite Companions quietly go about seeing a need and doing something about it. We have been supporting members of our group who are dealing with health issues and struggling with personal challenges. We have extended this care to parishioners who are also in need. We had the privilege of attending Fr Tony Chiera's Summer School, inspired by Pope Francis' vision for the Church. Fr Tony presented this in the light of Vatican Council II, highlighting Jesus' message of care for the poor and marginalised. He gave examples within our Diocese where the people of God have taken to heart the message of living with "the smell of the sheep". Josephite Companions thank Fr Tony for his words of wisdom and encouragement and wish him well as he takes a well deserved rest.

We welcomed Fr Paul to the parish and have been greatly moved by his dedication and commitment to our cause. We will commence the Lenten Program on Ash Wednesday and welcome anyone who would like to join us. We wish everyone a happy Easter.

Helen Johnston, Esperance Josephite Companions

DARDANUP COMPANIONS

Dardanup Josephite Companions met in February for a time of friendship, prayer and reflection. We counted our blessings for 2022 and discerned the direction for our group for 2023. We shared a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion, led by Sr Pauline Dundon, with the blessing given by Sr Bernadette Hynes.

Participants expressed a desire to further the group's understanding and action towards caring for our earth. The Explore—Embrace—Embody action plan will be used to motivate involvement in our response to Pope Francis' Laudato Si. The core group will focus on the cry of the earth for future meetings in 2023.

Helen Brown presented her reflection on her recent visit to Sydney to participate in the JCoLT Conference. Helen spoke of the unique hospitality that is Josephite, and the deep recognition of Josephite hearts—an embrace of familiarity between women from places thousands of kilometres apart. She spoke about how inspirational it was to be a part of this vibrant group who shared a passion for walking together with Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. JCoLT articulated their support for all Josephite Companion Groups and committed to strengthening the connection between groups in Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Timor-Leste and Brazil.

Sr Bernadette Hynes was congratulated on her 60 Years as a Josephite Sister. The group presented her with flowers in gratitude for her ongoing commitment to Saint Mary of the Cross. Everyone enjoyed the shared luncheon which exemplified the hospitality and friendship of Josephite Companions. We have all committed to bring along a friend to the next gathering in an effort to spread the charism and grow our group.

Wishing you every blessing this Easter Season.

Dot Savage, Dardanup Josephite Companion

OUR 2023 JUBILARIANS

PLATINUM —70 YEARS

Sr Dora Maguire
Sr Joan Luff (dec)
Sr Mary Jo Wells (dec)

DIAMOND — 60 YEARS

Sr Margaret Culhane
Sr Bernadette Hynes
Sr Frances Maguire
Sr Eileen Lenihan

GOLDEN – 50 YEARS

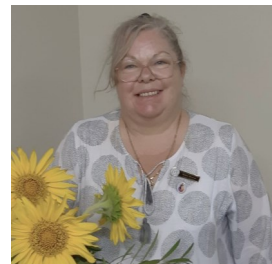
Sr Kathleen Hitchcock

RUBY — 40 YEARS

Sr Christine McGinty (dec)



REFLECTIONS ON THE JCOLT CONFERENCE SYDNEY 2023

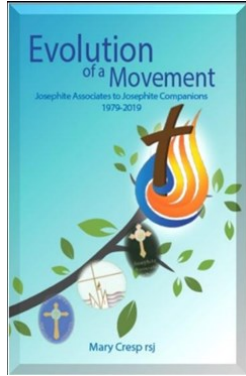


- What an absolute privilege it was to represent the Metropolitan, Esperance and Dardanup Josephite Companions in Sydney.
- I felt an instant connection and affinity with each member of JCoLT, Sr Monica, Sr Jan and Sr Clare.
- I experienced a profound heart connection and instant familiarity.
- Josephite Companions want to be viable and relevant.
- We are the storytellers! We need to know the story! We need to live the story! We need to share the story!
- Friendship, Prayer and Service —How can we focus on the service aspect of the Josephite Companion charism?
- We need to continue and cherish our relationship with the Sisters of Saint Joseph.
- JCoLT is a group of like-minded women who see a need and have acted on behalf of other Josephite Companions for the greater good.
- As Josephite Companions we have a responsibility to comply with procedures and protocols as set out in the Administration and Discovery Books.
- Subscriptions were never meant to create angst or hardship, rather, giving with a generous heart what you can.
- Communication is key to developing solidarity with one another.
- We need to be creative and courageous in our efforts to expand membership and to care for those already a part of the group.
- We need to be visible in our church and community—Wear your badge. Use the logo to advantage, Use the charism as a talking point for what we do and who we are.

Yours in Friendship, Prayer and Service
Helen Brown

SR MARY CRESP rsj

In her Foreword to *Evolution of a Movement*, Mary Hemmings, Chair of the Josephite Companions Leadership Team, muses on the opportunity reading the book gave her to 're-live' the story, to 'relish' it and to 'view it in its broader context'. As the book's author, I can identify with those feelings. I must say when I was asked to write the history, I was apprehensive – in the main, its beginnings were familiar to me, but I had little idea of what had happened during the years of this century.



Getting to know this part of the story has been a privilege. I have 'met' you all and feel I now know you as true companions on the journey. I was thrilled that in her reflection on the book, Anne Benjamin picked up that the story of the Josephite Companions is one of relationships. If what I have written does no more than remind readers of this fact, then it is enough. We have been graced with a precious gift of the Spirit, demonstrated in the lives of Mary MacKillop and Julian Woods, and re-interpreted over the years by hundreds of men and women in their own context. I hope that as you recall your local and personal stories, you will be inspired once again to nurture the gift and to develop it even more.

At the book launch that took place at Kensington on Thursday 1 December, Professor David Hilliard gave a succinct yet informative and lively talk on the history of lay movements in the Church. Archbishop Patrick O'Regan then launched the book, speaking as a Companion himself about the relationships he has formed with Sisters and others who share the charism.

Let us pray for one another during this Christmas-tide that we, who have been graced with the companionship of a Joseph who in his parent-hood nurtured in Jesus an understanding of what God's 'fatherhood' is like; of a Mary MacKillop and Julian Woods who handed on to us their understanding of God's compassionate love; and of all our forebears who likewise have incarnated God's presence to us in the ordinary – may we show to others today that same Great Love that embraces us all and calls us to be joy and hope in a world longing for both.



GONE TO GOD REST IN PEACE

Sr Joan Luff

Dear Companions,
if you are aware of any companion/relative who has passed away, can you please email or ring the office:
wa.companions@sosj.org.au or [08] 9334 0999



WA JOSEPHITE COMPANION GATHERINGS

SOUTH PERTH

12 March, 1.30pm

**PLEASE TRY AND MAKE AN
EFFORT TO ATTEND.**

ENQUIRIES:

Louisa Moore—0438 616 228

Email: louisa.moore1@bigpond.com

Margaret Jones—0437 336 245
(08) 9370 3260

Meg Phelan—(08) 9295 1682
0400 599 438

DARDANUP

19 April, 9.30am

21 June, 9.30am

9 August, 9.30am

4 October, 9.30am

29 November, 9.30am

ENQUIRIES:

Dot Savage—(08) 9791 4008

Helen Brown—0478 783 990

Email: helenbrown.hb@gmail.com

ESPERANCE

Third Thursday of each month
Mass, Rosary and sharing.

ENQUIRIES:

Helen Johnston—(08) 9071 1256

Email: donaldjohnston@bigpond.com