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Josephite Companions Autumn Newsletter

Victoria - Tasmania ~ 2023

Lent

Easter

From the Editor

Dear Josephite Companions

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter. As we continue our Lenten preparations, our prayers go out to our Companions and their families who have experienced bereavement since the last Newsletter. The names of folk who have asked for prayers for their loved ones are included elsewhere in the newsletter.

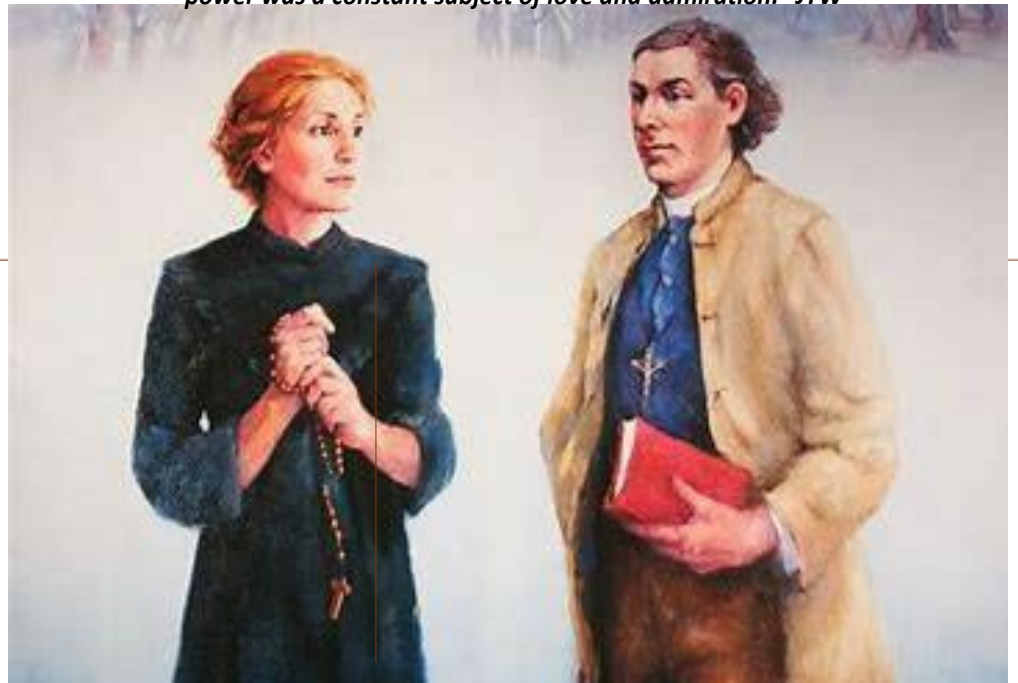
Noreen McLeish has relinquished the Newsletter's Editor's Chair after a number of years of devoted service to the task. I am sure that all Josephite Companions have appreciated Noreen's passion and expertise in the role. She has kept all of us up-to-date with what is going on in the Companion movement. May God bless Noreen for the work that she has done.

I hope to be able to follow in Noreen's footsteps. To that end, please email me any news that you would like your fellow Companions to share. My contact details are on the side panel. I look forward to keeping you all up to date and informed.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,
Pray for Us.
May God bless you all.
Greg Nelson

FR JULIAN TENISON WOODS QUOTE

"Nothing is too wonderful for me to believe about God, the richness of whose creative power was a constant subject of love and admiration." JTW



FRIENDSHIP

PRAYER

SERVICE

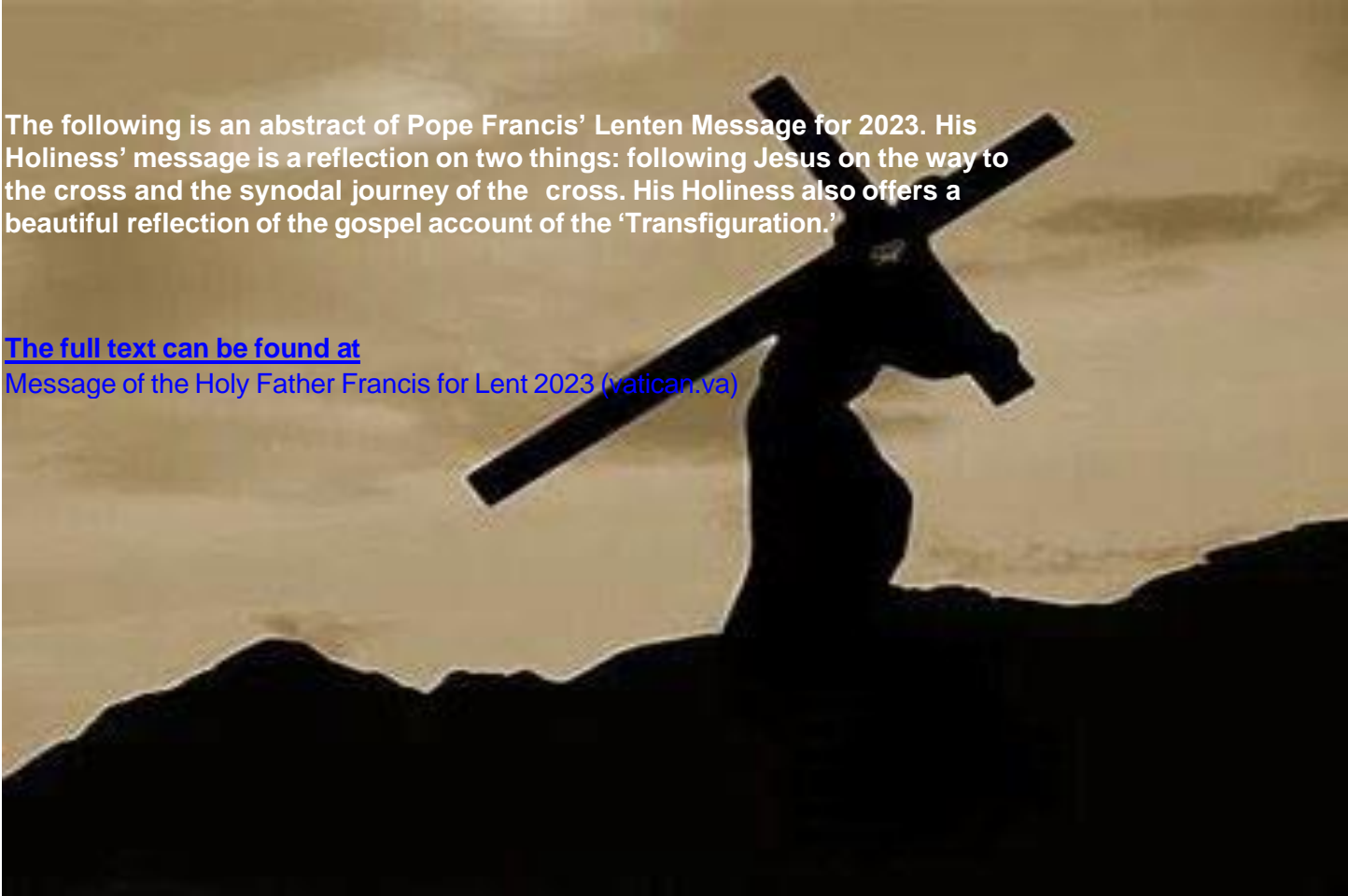
What is the Origin of the term "Lent" (and the timing of the Season)?

The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word 'Lencten' meaning March (or spring). As a Church term, "Lent" is unique to English, in almost all romance languages the name for this season finds its origin in the Latin word Quadragesima (the forty days) which refers to the length of season. Speaking of days, Lent (unlike Christmas) is based upon the lunar calendar. The lunar calendar, you see, is used to determine the date of Easter. It was the calendar used by the people in Israel in the time of Christ. Easter is celebrated in the Catholic Church on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring. In the Northern Hemisphere this corresponds with the Vernal Equinox (March 26th). What does this have to do Lent? Well, when Easter moves, so does start of the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday) – which is "40 days" before Easter.

And the number 40 has a special significance in salvation history -- for instance Christ fasted for 40 days and nights in the desert before beginning his public ministry, and during that time he was tempted by and resisted the temptations by the Devil. We hear that reading from scripture during the First Sunday of Lent.

The English word Easter, which parallels the German word Ostern, is of uncertain origin. One view, expounded by the Venerable Bede in the 8th century, was that it derived from Eostre, or Eostrae, the Anglo- Saxon goddess of spring and fertility. This view presumes—as does the view associating the origin of Christmas on December 25 with pagan celebrations of the winter solstice—that Christians appropriated pagan names and holidays for their highest festivals. Given the determination with which Christians combated all forms of paganism (the belief in multiple deities), this appears a rather dubious presumption. There is now widespread consensus that the word derives from the Christian designation of Easter week as in albis, a Latin phrase that was understood as the plural of alba ("dawn") and became eostarum in Old High German, the precursor of the modern German and English term. The Latin and Greek Pascha ("Passover") provides the root for Pâques, the French word for Easter.





The following is an abstract of Pope Francis' Lenten Message for 2023. His Holiness' message is a reflection on two things: following Jesus on the way to the cross and the synodal journey of the cross. His Holiness also offers a beautiful reflection of the gospel account of the 'Transfiguration.'

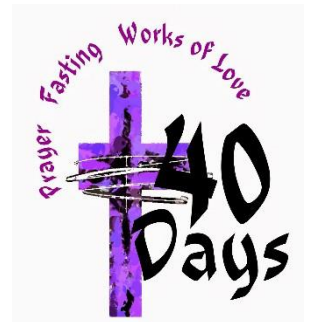
[The full text can be found at](#)

[Message of the Holy Father Francis for Lent 2023 \(vatican.va\)](#)

“Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance Jesus on the way of the cross. This is precisely what Peter and the other disciples needed to do. To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity. We need to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration. These requisites are also important for the synodal journey to which, as a Church, we are committed to making. We can benefit from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience.”

Pope Francis

Easter Greetings
from Ann-Marie, Noreen, Diane, Christine, and Greg





FAMILY

Family is a gift from God A gift of love to help us along.
A link to keep us wrapped in love
To help us know right from wrong.
When family meets stories are shared
Of past events that helped us grow
Of times of ones who have gone before
Of loved ones we got to know.
We share our present hopes and dreams
We recall the past, the things we did
We laugh at many mistakes we made
We listen and learn, our errors to rid.
In family we are accepted as we are
With all our faults and failings clear
But knowing that we share a past
And by all our members are held dear.
So, enjoy the times you get together
There will be times when we look back
To those who have gone from us forever
And recall with love the ones our family lacks.

Thank you to all for your prayers and kind messages when my brother John died. John was 82, and died very peacefully, due I believe, to your prayers for him. I had hoped to see him but feel blessed he suffered no longer.

Sr Mary Fermio rsj



Financial Statement for 2022

The income and expenditure statement gives details of our financial situation in 2022. As you can see, we finished the year with an amount in the bank that is quite close to how we began. Our thanks go to the 66 people who paid subscriptions in 2022, many of whom also gave us generous donations. We are grateful! Our major expense remains the printing costs of the newsletter and postage. It has been so helpful to us that many of you now receive the newsletter electronically. The core team met face to face early in the year at Williamstown for planning purposes (\$446). We also provided support to the Sisters at St Josephs By the Sea Williamstown (\$570) so that they could purchase wicking beds as part of the Josephite commitment to implementing the goals of Laudato Si. You may notice that the contribution we make to JCoLT is missing! As I was preparing the statement, I realized we had overlooked this and so it was actually sent at the beginning of January (\$660), and this will now appear in the 2023 statement.

On behalf of the core team, I thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement of the Josephite Companions and look forward to catching up with some of you in 2023.

Diane

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS VIC Income and Expenditure Statement 2022

INCOME	EXPENSES
Subscriptions: 1980 (66 people)	Newsletter printing: 1373.80
Donations: 1277	Postage: 1158.55
Refund (printing overcharge) 64.50	Core team planning: 446.25
	Gifts: 620
TOTAL: 3321.50	Admin: 25
	Miscellaneous: 50
	Bank fees: 24.75
	TOTAL: 3698.35

Opening balance 5968.48
Income 3321.50

Total Income 9289.98

Expenses 3698.35

BALANCE \$5591.63

BALANCE AT BANK 31/12/22 \$5591.25



Josephite Companions 1979-2019.

Sr Mary Cresp rsj is well-versed on the subject of the Josephite Charism and the movement of the former Josephite Associates to Josephite Companions. She has written nine books over the past two decades and many articles and research papers before that. Her most recent Publication is a timely account of how the 'Associates' moved on to become 'Companions.'



Launched in December by Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, himself a Josephite Companion,
Evolution of a Movement – Josephite Associates to Josephite Companions 1979-2019 is part of a series of Josephite books published by ATF Press.

Sr Mary says she hopes readers will "become more aware that all the baptised are called to be on mission, that they will find encouragement with others who share the Josephite spirit, and that it is in building these relationships that we find life's meaning."

Note:

It is hoped that Sr Mary may be available as guest speaker at the Leaders' Day proposed sometime in May. See the date section of this Newsletter.



Please note the following dates for 'Open Days' at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre

Open Day: Sat 13 May

Australian Heritage Festival – Theme: 'Shared Stories' - Exhibition #1 (April – June)

Open Day: Sat 29 July - Open House Melbourne – Theme: 'Collective City' - Exhibition #2
(July – September)

Open Day: Sat 28 October - Victorian Senior's Festival - Exhibition #3 (October – Jan 2024)

Stamps for the MISSIONS Please leave a border of about 3cm
around stamps. Forward stamp to:

STAMPS

Locked Bag 3031

BURWOOD NSW 1805

Boxes of Stamps to:

5 Alexander Avenue

CROYDON NSW 2132

Thank You

R.I.P

Vale: Doreen Blood

John Fermio

We also pray for the repose of the soul of Noreen McLeish's sister, Elaine.

Please keep Josephite Companion, Noreen and her family in your prayers.

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

Please pray for all our Josephite Companions who are finding life difficult because of illness.

Meeting Dates for Josephite Companions.

Due to a number of circumstances some dates for 2023 are yet to be confirmed. However, please note the following:

Anne-Marie Wilkinson will be visiting groups, April through October.

Due to Anne-Marie being on Long Service Leave, the annual Leaders' Day, usually held in March is deferred.

A possible Leaders' Day at the Heritage Centre in May. (This needs to be confirmed.)

Sr Mary Cresp rsj is being approached as guest speaker. See the details of Sr Mary's new book in this newsletter.



Liturgical Dates for Autumn

March 20th - Feast of St Joseph (Moved from 19th due to Sunday observance)

March 25th - Annunciation (Solemnity)

April 2nd - Palm Sunday

April 6th - Holy Thursday (Triduum Commences)

April 7th - Good Friday

April 9th - Easter Sunday

May 1st - Joseph the Worker

May 18th - The Ascension

May 28th - Pentecost

Keep an eye on your emails for the JCoLT Newsletter. For those companions who do not receive the newsletter via email, the newsletter will be included in the Winter Newsletter



Message from the Editor

I am conscious that there is not a great deal of 'news' in this edition.

I encourage companions to send me news of your group's activities or personal insights that could be used in the newsletter to

gne@stpeters.vic.edu.au

Have a prayerful Lenten preparation and a joyful Easter.

God Bless

Greg

To find a past Newsletter, go online and click on:

sosj.org.au/companions

Become Involved Newsletters

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

