

# Josephite Companions of South Australia

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## Friendship Prayer Service

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# Autumn 2023

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March 2023 Newsletter

## Our Common Home: Earth

*And God saw that it was good. (Gen 1:25).*

“God’s gaze, at the beginning of the Bible, rests lovingly on creation. From habitable land to life-giving waters, from fruit-bearing trees to animals that share our common home, everything is dear in the eyes of God, who offers creation to men and women as a precious gift to be preserved.

Tragically, the human response to this gift has been marked by selfishness and a greedy desire to possess and exploit. The environment itself is endangered: something good in God’s eyes has become something to be exploited in human hands. We have caused a climate emergency that gravely threatens nature and life itself, including our own.

In effect, we have forgotten who we are: creatures made *in the image of God* (Gen 1:27) and called to dwell as brothers and sisters in a common home. Now is the time to rediscover our vocation as stewards of creation. We are beloved creatures of God, who calls us to love life and live it in communion with the rest of creation.”

These words are taken from **Pope Francis’ 2019 message for World Day for Care of Creation**. They speak to us so strongly today as we increasingly do damage to God’s gift of creation. Do we see the need for each of us to take steps to change this?



*“Let us be joyful and  
thank God.”  
MMK 1874*

Pope Francis continues, “It is a season to reflect on our lifestyles, and how our daily decisions about food, consumption, transportation, use of water, energy and many other material goods, can often be thoughtless and harmful. Let us make an effort to change and to adopt more simple and respectful lifestyles!

This too is a season for undertaking prophetic actions. Many young people all over the world are making their voices heard and calling for courageous decisions. The young remind us that hope for tomorrow is not a noble sentiment, but a task calling for concrete actions here and now. We owe them real answers, not empty words, actions not illusions.”

Last year in February, Kateri Duke rsj provided a day of reflection about *Looking after our Home – Planet Earth*. Then our June gathering, led by Pauline Grear and Lucia Ciocca, focussed on practical local ways we could look after our Earth.

In 2023 we continue to weave this theme through some of our gatherings. Mary-Ann Casanova rsj has recently returned from study in the US, having completed a thesis that included the scientific work of Julian Tenison Woods and that of Teilhard de Chardin, a Jesuit scientist and theologian. Mary-Ann will

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offer two sessions to deepen our awareness of what Pope Francis is calling us to at this moment in our history.

Pope Francis adds, "Each Christian man and woman, every member of the human family,

can act as a thin yet unique and indispensable thread in weaving a network of life that embraces everyone. May God, *the lover of life* (Wis 11:26), grant us the courage to do good without waiting for someone else to begin, or until it is too late."

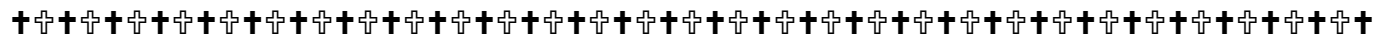
## ***In Loving Memory*** compiled by the Sisters of St Joseph



On the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Joan Evans rsj died peacefully at Calvary Adelaide Hospital. Joan was a beautiful woman, much loved by us all.

Having already completed her teacher training, Joan entered the Josephites a few weeks prior to her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, which she celebrated with the Sisters of St Joseph at Thebarton.

Joan was one of our great educators. She was



Margaret Mary Murphy rsj was born in Streaky Bay SA, on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1930. After completing her secondary education, she left school and worked with her father on the farm at Streaky Bay showing his Clydesdale champions and earning her own prizes as a brilliant horsewoman.

Margaret Mary was professed as a Sister of St Joseph in January 1958. After completing her teacher training, she ministered as class teacher and Principal in primary schools throughout SA, with a one-year interval on the Hectorville Motor Mission.



Carmel Clarke rsj was born in Jamestown SA in March 1941. She grew up in a family where religious faith was central. When the family moved to the city, Carmel attended Mount Carmel Girls School at Rosewater.

Carmel was professed as a Sister of St Joseph in January 1961 and then studied for a Teacher's Certificate at North Sydney. She taught in both city and country schools. The years were interspersed with further study including a year at the National Pastoral

Principal, at various times, of Mary MacKillop College Kensington, Mount Carmel College Rosewater and Caritas College Port Augusta.

Caritas College moved to its new site in Port Augusta West during Joan's time as Principal. She completed her ministry in education in Port Augusta at the end of Term 1, 1995. The new Science Laboratory was opened later that year and named in her honour.

May Joan, who was in her 71<sup>st</sup> year of religious life, rest in peace.

In 1995, Margaret Mary began pastoral ministry at Flora McDonald Lodge, until she herself was admitted as a resident. Even then she drove her 'horse' (a motorised scooter) around to visit other residents, and built strong relationships with staff and volunteers.

Margaret Mary's health deteriorated significantly in the last twelve months. Reception of the Eucharist seemed to give her strength when nothing else could.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January this year, Margaret Mary slipped quietly and peacefully into eternal life where her longing for union with Jesus found its fulfillment.

Institute in Melbourne for a Graduate Diploma in Religious Education. In 1994 she began to minister as a "Motor Missioner" in the Mid-north and on Yorke Peninsula.

Her final ministry was as Pastoral Director of the Kangaroo Island Parish. While there, Carmel developed serious health issues and moved to Flora McDonald Nursing Home where she lived for the final 12 years of her life.

Carmel died peacefully on the 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022. We will miss Carmel, whose friendship was remarkable, and know that she is now with our loving God.

# International Women's Day Inaugural Presentation

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
7pm

Bethany Centre  
4 High St, Kensington



☞ The SA Josephite Companions Leadership Team invite you to our Inaugural Presentation ☞

*In recognition of Mary MacKillop, a Great Australian  
A woman of faith and integrity who brought hope to others*

**Guest Speakers – Leith Mynott and Kenise Neill rsj**

Leith is an Adnyamathanha-Mirning woman and Kenise is a Sister of St Joseph

Sharing insights on the  
*Uluru Statement of the Heart and Voice to Parliament Referendum*

RSVP: 0417 871 904 or [SA.Companions@sosj.org.au](mailto:SA.Companions@sosj.org.au)



## **Environment and Ecology**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023**

**2pm**

**Bethany Centre**

**Presenter: Mary-Ann Casanova rsj**

Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods responded to the cries of those made poor and the cries of Earth. In our time, all Josephite women and men are invited to *explore, embrace and embody* the *Josephite Laudato Si' Action Plan*.

At this gathering, Mary-Ann will share key aspects of the plan, such as the rich heritage which has been part of the Josephite character for more than 150 years, provide an update on the implementation and the vital role which Companions can play in responding to this shared call.

Afternoon tea is provided and there will be a raffle to support Josephite ministries.

RSVP by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2023: 0417 871 904 or [SA.Companions@sosj.org.au](mailto:SA.Companions@sosj.org.au)

### **~ DATE CLAIMERS ~**

- Feast Day Celebrations – 5<sup>th</sup> August
- Webinar – 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- Environment/Ecology Part 2 – 7<sup>th</sup> October
- Reflection Day – TBC

## Our 2023 Jubilarians



### 70 Years Professed

Sr Anne FitzGerald  
Sr Patricia Sealey

### 60 Years Professed

Sr Augusta Bresba  
Sr Ann Leesue  
Sr Elizabeth Murphy

## Towards Easter Find-a-Word



ASH WEDNESDAY  
BLESSINGS  
COMPANIONS  
EASTER  
EUCCHARIST  
FRIENDSHIP

GOOD FRIDAY  
GOSPELS  
HOLY WEEK  
HOSANNA  
JERUSALEM  
JOSEPHITE

JULIAN WOODS  
LAST SUPPER  
LENT  
MARY MACKILLOP  
PALM SUNDAY  
PASSION

PRAYER  
PURPLE  
RESURRECTION  
SERVICE  
ST JOSEPH  
WHITE

## Carols at Bethany by Margaret Daly

Last December, the Josephite Companions hosted an evening of singing Christmas Carols, with loads of fun and frivolity mixed in. We gathered in the beautifully decorated Bethany, attended by many including the Sisters of St Joseph who live at the Convent at Kensington, as well as Josephite Companions and friends.

Those attending were invited to bring along a Christmas tree decoration, which we placed on the table by a small white Christmas tree. This tree was decorated with small round cards and were used by those who went to the *Spotlight on Mary MacKillop* the day before. At that gathering, participants were asked to complete the sentence:

*“Mary MacKillop is a woman of ...”*

and there were some really meaningful responses.

Majella O’Sullivan rsj was our lively entertainer for the evening. Ably assisted by Mary Gill on the piano, she led us in singing Christmas Carols, and also introduced some Australian Carols, which are more fitting for our warm climate. Some of these were funny, and others were really lovely.

We also attempted to sing “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, with each of us given parts to

sing, which was done with not much skill, but a lot of laughter. One person also shared in singing a verse of a German Christmas Carol he learnt as a child.

There were moments of reflection too. During one time, we were asked to recall our first memories of Christmas. After hearing some, Majella remarked that none of the memories were about the birth of Jesus, but more about Santa and presents. Then some did recall the memory of attending midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, for the first time.

We were then invited to choose a decoration from those brought in by most of the people attending. Some of us forgot, but we were able to choose one of the little cards that hung on the Christmas tree. I took one home and hung it on my Christmas tree, and it will be hung on my tree in future too.

After a lot of fun and laughter, and beautiful singing, we enjoyed a delicious supper, supplied by the Companions. When we went on our way, we were filled with the grace of Christmas.

Many thanks to the organisers, for the supper, and a very special thank you to Majella O’Sullivan and Mary Gill.



## Recycle your printed Newsletter!

When you have finished with the newsletter, a good recycling idea is to pass it round for others to read.

## Re-purpose your used Stamps

Stamps for the Missions are still being collected! Those that are donated are then processed, parcelled up and sold. The money raised goes to **Mary MacKillop Today** for the Missions in Brazil, Peru and Timor-Leste. Many thousands of dollars have been raised in this way.

Please send your used stamps, leaving a 1cm border, to:  
*Used Stamps, Locked Bag 3031, Burwood, NSW, 1805*

# Mary MacKillop – A Saint for all Australians

by Therese Myers

On Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the eve of the anniversary of the canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, some Josephite Companions and those committed to extending the spirit of our Australian Saint gathered in **Murray Bridge**, Ngarrindjeri country. It was a beautiful sunny day, and those of us who travelled on the bus were able to see that the level of the river was already on the rise.

Our time in Murray Bridge began with the parish celebration of the Eucharist with delightful musical accompaniment by a Filipino musical group, and the warm welcome was extended to a hearty lunch of homemade soups, sandwiches, slices and fresh fruit.

Mary Hemmings and Patsy Sandretti facilitated our reflections. The first focus was on the sainthood of Mary MacKillop, apparent in her integrity and trust in God. As the eldest of eight, Mary was a significant carer in her family, governess to her uncle's children in Penola and going on to be clerk for Sands and McDougall and then a teacher. Mary's gift of faith in a provident God came from her mother.

Mary MacKillop envisioned that the women who joined her would be women living in and among the people, living locally and intent on being mobile, as needs be. Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, as co-founders, shared this vision, knowing that this was different to other approaches of other orders of the time. Julian did not always get along well with other priests but he did have a clear vision for Catholic education in the Australian setting. Central government by the Sisters themselves, and not by the bishops, meant that decisions about where the Sisters needed to be, could be made.

Being mindful that Mary MacKillop had a stroke around the age of 60, and that being unable to write, she made excellent use of the typewriter. We had the opportunity to consider the challenges people face in life and where people experience 'communities' today, including ageing, reaching out to the young, feelings of guilt, the approaches to abortion, families presenting for Baptism.

Max Harris recognised that Mary MacKillop transcended the ecumenical and embraced all. His daughter Samela found Mary inspirational, courageous, a person of integrity and altruism. Indeed, Mary was a brave feminist who stood up for what she believed in.

Exploring integrity led us to draw on our own inner strength and fortitude such as courage in pain and in adversity, and being gracious, respectful, honest, forgiving and patient. I loved the story of the external school review when Mary was a teacher, and how she was treated by Mr Cusack. Still, Mary respected the dignity of all, and that included the office of priests and bishops. Mary emerged as being concerned for those with no voice in society, hence offering refuge, opening an orphanage, a house of providence and many schools.

Mary's trust in God that "God will provide" is embedded in her prolific sayings that have been handed on to us. We paused to reflect on what may be our key learning from Mary's life. When did we act with integrity? What are the challenges to acting with integrity or being a person of integrity?

Ita Buttrose, we were told, reflected on what it meant to be a saint. It was something that Mary worked at, lived, remained true to what she saw as her given path. Mary's attitude was expressed in what she said in 1876, that "We can feel the cross and love it at the same time." Each day, in our ordinariness, we make decisions of integrity.

We concluded our reflection by sharing the Josephite Companions' Mission Statement.

How do we carry on that legacy of Mary, Julian and the Josephites?

Go out and live the faith as St Mary of the Cross MacKillop did!



# 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 will be having two events this year:

- Fashion Parade: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April, Bethany Centre, 2pm  
\$20 (cash) admission per person at the door  
Bookings with Margaret (8264 0780) or Joyleen (8337 9500) by 11<sup>th</sup> April
- Spring Luncheon: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October, Lockleys Hotel, 12pm  
More information in later newsletters

- **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.

We usually have an Annual Reunion Dinner which is held on the last Friday in October. Everyone is always very welcome to join in and connect with other Old Scholars.

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 – Museum, Chapel and Bethany**

- Museum and Gift Shop – open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm

The Museum tells the South Australian stories of some of the early companions of Mary MacKillop, 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 and much more!

Orders and information: [www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au](http://www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au) or 8130 5910

- St Joseph's Chapel – open every day, 10am to 4pm

A place for quiet reflection and prayer. A place where Mary MacKillop herself prayed!

- Bethany Centre

Check out the *2023 Events Programme* which offers workshops, reflection and retreat days. Details online through [www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au](http://www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au) or collect a copy when visiting the Museum.

- Spotlight on Mary MacKillop

Continues each 8<sup>th</sup> of the month (except April – Easter Saturday) from 10am to 12pm. Join us in Bethany for opportunities to enrich our appreciation of Mary's story and legacy. All are welcome! No registration and no cost. Enquiries: [infos@sosj.org.au](mailto:infos@sosj.org.au) or 8130 5900

*"We have all very much for which to  
thank and love God." MMK 1873*

# FASTING AND FEASTING

***Let us be united in prayer and we shall be strong.***  
(MMK 1884)

*Let us fast from judging others and feast on the Christ that dwells in them.*

*Let us fast from anger and feast on patience.*

*Let us fast from resentment and feast on forgiveness.*

*Let us fast from discouragement and feast on hope.*

*Let us fast from lies and feast on the truth.*

*Let us fast from wasting time and feast on the  
the holiness of work.*

*Let us fast from gossip and feast on  
holy silence.*

*Let us fast from shame and feast  
on the mercy of God.*

*Let us fast from prejudice and feast on  
our kinship in Christ.*

*Let us fast from selfishness and feast on  
generosity.*

*Let us fast from worry and feast on the story of God's care.*

*Let us fast from gloom and feast on the beauty that surrounds*

*us.*

*Let us fast from busyness and feast on cherishing every moment.*

*Reflection offered by Dan Schutte SJ in his Retreat 'From Ashes to Glory'*

*Wishing you  
and your family  
many blessings  
for a very  
**HAPPY EASTER***

