



JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

*God will come to us like the showers,
Like the spring rains that water the earth.
Hosea 6:3*

*Happiness comes to those who delight in the
law of God...
They're like trees planted by flowing water,
They bear fruit in every season.
Psalm 1: 2-3*



Dear Sisters, Companions and friends,

Welcome to the springtime edition of our Newsletter. I came across this delightful description from A Daily Cuppa with Mary and Julian by Sue and Leo Kane and wanted to share it with you —"All at once in Spring, the most delicate feathery yellow of plumes and plumes and plumes and trees and bushes of wattle appear, as if angels had flown right down from the softest gold regions of heaven to settle here, in the Australian bush." Welcome to springtime, the season of glorious rebirth!

Masses for the Feast of St Mary of the Cross were celebrated across the state to honour the contribution made by St Mary of the Cross to education, care for those in need, justice for indigenous peoples and seeking dignity for all. We hope that these celebrations were joyous and inclusive occasions.

Thank you to all those who contribute to the production of our seasonal newsletter—without your generosity, we would not be able to continue to put our charism into action, reaching those who are unable to meet in person and sharing Friendship, Prayer and Service.

The JCoLT Newsflash introduced a new initiative that will celebrate the importance of being a Josephite Companion by acknowledging Annie MacKillop, Mary's beloved sister and faithful supporter. It is hoped that this will become an annual celebration. It will be launched on 2 September during the Webinar. All Josephite Companions are encouraged to participate online as an individual or part of a group. Depending on interest, Dardanup Josephite Companions will host an event. Please contact myself or Helen Brown. Details on the back page of this newsletter.

The prayer for this season focuses on praise and glory to God the Creator. With wonder and respect we acknowledge that all life depends on God and we pray that we are humble and co-operative in appreciating the universe and the strengthening of our relationship with God in this time of creation and rebirth.

Wishing you many blessings. May you be enlivened by the warm sunshine, colourful blossoms and all other gifts of springtime.

Yours in Friendship, Prayer and Service, *Dot Savage for WA Josephite Companions.*

WA JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS, PO BOX 593, SOUTH PERTH WA 6951

Phone: (08) 9334 0999 Email: wa.companions@sosj.org.au

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

DIGNITY AND JUSTICE

This year the proposed referendum will provide an opportunity for all Australians to fundamentally change our story. We are being given the chance to respond in the referendum as to whether First Nations Peoples gain a voice in matters that overwhelmingly affect them. The Sisters of Saint Joseph, in their latest General chapter called us to “...learn from the First Peoples of our countries and wholeheartedly support, as neighbours, their initiatives for recognition, agency and justice”.

Marianne Zeinstra rsj

We urge you to become informed— visit voice.org.au



PARTICIPATION IN BUNBURY PARISH EVENTS

Several members of the Josephite Companions participated in the Bunbury Parish Outreach Gathering. Sr Kerry Willison Liturgical Director of the Perth Archdiocese shared her expertise, guiding the group in what constitutes meaningful Liturgy and how to develop a Liturgy core group. It was a fabulous opportunity to gather with like minded people and develop a deeper understanding of Liturgy.



LEARNING ABOUT LAUDATO SI

Companions were moved by Sr Christine Clarke's explanation of Pope Francis' eloquent Encyclical Letter. In this encyclical, Pope Francis calls nature a “constant source of wonder and awe” and “a continuing revelation of the divine”. Laudato Si is a poem of praise but also a powerful prophetic document calling each and every person to a global ecological conversion. It is a text that should be reflected on and discussed with others in order to deepen awareness of what we are being called to do at this moment in the history of the universe. We thank Sister Christine pbvm for her insightful presentation and her deep conviction that every person has the responsibility to heed the call for environmental change. She emphasised the need to work together to bring about this change. As individuals we cannot hope to succeed, rather, we need to find strength in numbers and organisations that are dedicated and committed to planet health. We can open the doors of communication and expand our circles of concern and influence. Many thanks too, to Sr Pauline and core group members who helped to make this day a success.



Josephite Companions, led by Sr Mary Ann Casanova rsj, Sr Kathleen Hitchcock rsj and Sr Pauline Dundon rsj met in June to consider a meaningful response to Pope Francis' moral call to action on climate change, ecological sustainability and a global human ethic. We participated in a webinar based on the Josephite response to Laudato Si—Explore ~Embrace~ Embody.

Be an advocate for change!

- Join a letter writing group such as the NSW Josephite Writing Rings for Righting Wrongs.
- Add your name to the call for the banning of single-use plastic bags: Petition: Ban Single-Use Plastics in Australia! (marineconservation.org.au)
- Keep up with the progress toward an international treaty on plastics.
- Support the peoples of the Pacific in the fight for climate safety and justice. Information and a petition is available on the Australia Pacific Greenpeace website.
- View the video clip of a contemporary expression of this sentiment – GRATEFUL: A Love Song to the World | Empty Hands Music | [nimo feat. daniel nahmod](#) –YouTube.
- Consider the LONGTERM impacts of industries and individual items – disposable nappies and unrecycled toothbrushes ‘LIVE’ for 500 years.
- Reduce energy consumption by switching off lights, appliances and computers when not in use.
- Use products made from recycled materials such as toilet paper and printer paper.
- Use biodegradable detergent in the kitchen and laundry.
- Be aware of food wastage—make a conscious effort to reduce food waste.
- Avoid buying fruit and vegetables that are pre-packaged in plastic.

Our prayer on the day focused on Fr Julian Tenison Woods, Josephite co-founder with Mary MacKillop. Both Mary and Julian expressed and shared a deep love and appreciation for the beauty and wonder of earth.

Sr Pauline and Sr Kathleen led the session after morning tea where we had the opportunity to write acrostic poems to express our understanding of the document and our response to Laudato Si.

Earth and ecological change.
EXplain the need for urgent action.

Plan to minimise the use of harmful products.

Leadership in caring for the Earth.

Ongoing commitment to saving our earth.

Restore harmony.

Examine ways to stem the destruction of our natural world and encourage everyone to become involved.

Energise.

Manage

Begin today!

Reflect, reorganise home to minimise waste.

Action, awareness— allow people to be who they are.

Commit to change

Engage and educate

Encourage every day awareness and action.

Moral imperative to care for the Earth and its people.

Bond with creation as we care for all.

Ongoing outreach to those who experience diminishment in any form.

Dignity, discussion to develop and strengthen ties to the earth.

Yearning to care for the planet—Yes!



In September we will recognise Annie MacKillop who accompanied Mary and many of the early Sisters. That is, she 'companioned' them and would have shared in many challenges and celebrations along that pathway, sharing in the charism. We hope that many of you will be able to gather online on September 2nd with Companions from many places to learn about Annie's gift to the Josephite story and celebrate her as our inaugural Josephite Companion. *JCoLT Newsflash 2023*

International Companions Day Webinar



2 September 2023

**Walking Together
Honouring our History
Enriching our Future**

Breakout Rooms - Open Discussions
To book your free ticket - Use QR Code or go to
<https://www.trybooking.com/CJRTC>
Bookings Close 28 August 2023

Guest Speaker
Sr Judith Mary Geddes rsj
Author: A Faith Filled Family

AEST 11.30AM TO 1.30PM - SA 11.00AM TO 1.00PM - WA 9.30AM TO 11.30AM
NZ 1.30PM TO 3.30PM - TIMOR-LESTE 10.30AM TO 12.30PM
PERU 1/9/2023 8.30PM TO 10.30PM



Come and discover Annie MacKillop,
our first Josephite Companion!

Fundraising for Mary MacKillop Today

WA Containers for Change

10c per bottle

Includes

**Glass & plastic bottles
Aluminium cans
Cardboard drink cartons**

With 10c printed label on them

**Code for Mary MacKillop Today
C10473265**



GONE TO GOD REST IN PEACE

**Millie Preedy
Anne MacCormac
Roma Barrett
Sr Rita Kelly rsj**



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 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

2nd September, 9.30am
4th October, 9.30am
29th 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



Happy Feast Day 8 August