



# Josephite Companions Newsletter Winter 2024 Victoria - Tasmania

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,  
Thou art not so unkind  
As man's ingratitude;

*(Shakespeare, As You Like It, Act 11 Scene VII)*

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Dear Fellow Companions,

Welcome to the Winter Newsletter. Time has flown. The Easter Season has come and gone for 2024 and we have entered into the lengthy liturgical period of Ordinary Time. This liturgical season is, I think, often considered less important to our faith observance when compared to the Easter season and Christmastide. Perhaps it is because of the name.

The *ordinary* in Ordinary Time does not refer to a season full of dull routine but rather the listing of ordinal, or sequential numbers. This is what is meant by the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Third Sunday in Ordinary time, etc. There is no First Sunday in Ordinary Time because it is replaced by the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Rather than making a statement about degrees of importance, the term 'Ordinary Time' refers to the order of Sundays in the church year that do not fall into the major liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter.

[What is Ordinary Time? - U.S. Catholic \(uscatholic.org\)](http://uscatholic.org)

While the above explanation explains where the name came from, the length of Ordinary Time would also tend to suggest that it is an important part of our faith life. It is during Ordinary Time that we listen to the Gospels of the particular year: Year A, Year B and Year C. Each Gospel brings with it its own perspective of the Teachings of Christ. Without the readings that we listen to during Ordinary Time, we would not hear the beautiful words and teachings of Jesus. For example, it is only in the Gospel of Luke that we find the stories of the Good Samaritan and the Forgiving Father as we listen to them in the Year C readings.

*St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Pray for Us.*

Greg

Words of Wisdom from Mother Mary and Fr Julian

***May God grant you courage and true wisdom in all you do and say.***  
(Mary MacKillop 12.06.1875)

***"Keep courage whatever you do.  
The best and strongest trees you know are the slowest growing."***  
(Fr JTW 1875)



**FRIENDSHIP PRAYER SERVICE**

# JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS DAY

Josephite Companions Day  
5 September 2024

Webinar 31 August 2024  
Companions Supporting Companions?  
A Josephite life? Connecting Companions?

Breakout Rooms - Open Discussions  
To book your free ticket - Use QR Code or go to  
<https://www.trybooking.com/CJRTC>  
Or email JCoLT@sosj.org.au  
Bookings Close 26 August 2024

AEST 11.00AM TO 1.00PM - SA 10.30AM TO 12.30PM - WA 9.00AM TO 11.00AM  
NZ 1.00PM TO 3.00PM - TIMOR-LESTE 10.00AM TO 12.00PM  
PERU 30/8/2024 8.00PM TO 10.00PM

We apologize for the delay in getting the Winter Newsletter out to you however we have been waiting for this flyer to come through to share with you the news of our 2024 Companions Day Webinar (*and there won't be another Newsletter before it, so we needed to hold printing*)

As you may remember from last year, with encouragement from the Sisters, the Josephite Companion Leadership Team (JCoLT) introduced a day for the Josephite community to celebrate the Companions and our sharing of the Josephite charism. As our inspiration we chose the birth date of St Mary MacKillop's greatest companion – her sister Annie, as the date for this event.

This year the 5<sup>th</sup> of September is a Thursday and so I do hope that in your local groups you might have the opportunity to plan a get together – it might be an afternoon tea, or meeting somewhere for a lunch etc. - a time of companionship.

As part of the celebrations JCoLT is organizing a webinar providing an opportunity for all our Josephite Companions across Australia & the world to come together and connect.

This gathering will take place on **Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup> of August at 11am** for us in Victoria.

You might like to gather with others or just sit in the comfort of your own home on your own computer or device. There is no charge however you do need to book as stated on the poster so that we can send you the 'zoom link' a couple of days before the event to click on which will give you access to the live zoom presentation on the day.

If you hold your smart phone to the QR code in the picture on this page it will open up the trybooking event page which I've just checked and bookings are being taken from the 18<sup>th</sup> July. Or here is the internet link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CJRTC> which will take you to the booking page.

If you're not confident with computers, then book a grandchild to drop in and help you or join with someone else who is 'tech savvy'. At the last JCoLT leaders webinar I attended in May in my breakout group I was with someone from Peru, NZ QLD and SA and it was so lovely to chat and listen to what everyone was doing and share our experiences.

I really encourage as many of you as possible to join us for this gathering and do so hope to see many of your faces on the screen on this day. May you remain in St Joseph's care.  
Anne-Marie

## DATES TO REMEMBER

August 8<sup>th</sup> St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day  
August 31<sup>st</sup> Companions Day Webinar - 11am  
Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> Annie MacKillop's Birthday and Companions Day



# St MARY OF THE CROSS PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITY

*Sr Mary Fermio has forwarded this information.*

Hello all, just in case you are interested in doing this pilgrimage by yourself or with a friend. An experience worth the time etc. before you get TOO old! To get a copy of brochure contact [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or phone 02 8912 4818. It is in October when it is warmer, and the country usually looks beautiful.

Lots of love  
Mary of Yarraville

*(This pilgrimage lasts for twelve days and takes in Melbourne, Hamilton, Portland, Penola, Adelaide and North Sydney)*

*Greg*



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## Stamps may be sent to:

Josephite Companions  
P O Box 184  
CROYDON NSW 2132  
**OR**  
5 Alexandra Avenue  
CROYDON NSW 2132



Please label the package **STAMPS** and leave a border.

These stamps are used by the Sisters to raise funds for projects in areas such as Peru, The Kimberley Region and Timor Leste.

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There have been several requests for access to past newsletters. They can be found at the following website. Newsletters from other areas are also archived in this area and are available to read.

[Vic-Tas-Josephite-Companions-Spring-2023-Newsletter.pdf \(sosj.org.au\)](https://www.sosj.org.au/Vic-Tas-Josephite-Companions-Spring-2023-Newsletter.pdf)

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## **We continue to pray for deceased Companions and their families.**

**Pat Nunn** from Koo Wee Rup has gone to her heavenly reward.  
Pat Nunn's sister-in-law is Sr Agnes Nunn who lives in Yarraville.

**Mrs. Rita Heinemann** has also gone to her heavenly reward.  
As Monica Lappin from Morwell reported, Rita was a longtime Companion.

*May the souls of the faithful departed Rest in Peace.*



If companion groups would like to create a Prayer List for the dearly departed and the sick, I would be pleased to include requests in the Newsletter.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

*Louise Anketell has sent the following report from Lakes Entrance.*

We met on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2024 to revisit the occasion of that day in 1867 when Fr Julian Woods, sent to Mary MacKillop the first Rule of the Sisters of St Joseph, which became the founding document, encapsulating the vision for the order and providing the Sisters with important guidelines for their ministry.

We discussed what the Rule entailed and recalled our own memories of the Sisters in our Parishes as far back as 1950s lived their religious vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, relied on the charity of the faithful, fully trusting in God's Providence.

Presently, we Josephite Companions, use our gifts of service by catering for funerals, when they arise, as altar linen washers, proclaimers of the Word, taking Communion to the aged and frail, as CWL members, Op Shop workers and the list goes on. In these ways we endeavor to live the commitment we made to journey in our faith, living the Charism of St Mary MacKillop of the Cross as Josephite Companions.

Country hospitality was again enjoyed with delicious biscuits and goodies provided by our Companions.

The photo is of the Lakes Entrance Josephite Companions and our guest, our Parish Priest Fr Hiep.



Blessings always.  
Louise Anketell

## BOOK REVIEWS

### *STRUGGLING TO BELIEVE?*

A priest in Sydney for sixty years, Fr Tony Doherty finds that new language is needed to speak of God.

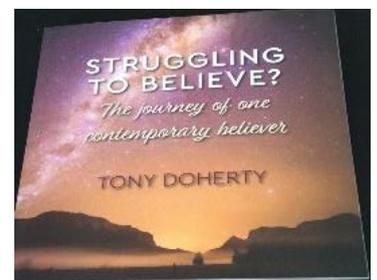
Using stories from his own experience, he offers a perspective on how to speak of God today, in a way that makes sense and brings nourishment in this restless, stormy but beautiful world.

Titles of Chapters include:

Touched by the sick and dying / Imagination – the engine of prayer  
Language changes. Does belief? / Daring to trust.

A beautifully illustrated book, easy to read.

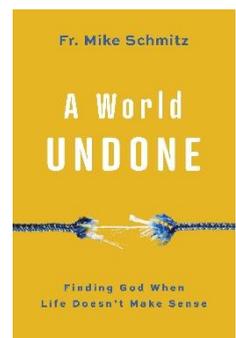
All royalties go to Brigidine Asylum Seekers Centre, Melbourne [www.basp.org.au](http://www.basp.org.au) for more information.



Available from Pauline Books and Media Hawthorn East, Phone 9882 3424, at \$29.95

Discover the One Thing That Changes Everything. In this booklet, *A World Undone*, beloved speaker, Fr. Mike Schmitz unfolds the mystery of brokenness. He reminds us that we have been fought for by a God who wants us as we are, not as we should be or hope to be. The Lord's will for us is to find our identity in him and to thrive, living the life he has given us.

Word Among Us Press, 2020.  
Amazon \$ 7.95





# NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK CONFERENCE REPORT.

Thank you, Sisters, Affiliates, Companions, staff and friends for your participation in the

Vic Tas National Reconciliation Week gatherings and activities.

Twenty-three of us gathered in the Conference Room at Mackillop House. Joan (pictured left) introduced the video “Freedom for Our Lifetime Vic. 1860-1880”. It was watched by an enthralled audience (pictured right)

“I learned about the early history of Melbourne’s Aboriginal people and Stolen Generation.” Veronica.



Sherry, through sharing her story and knowledge made the film real and personal. She highlighted the ongoing legacy of colonization for Victorian Aboriginals.



It was good to learn that saying sorry is an act of empathy, not an acceptance of personal blame. Audrey



Louise Lee (new Engagement Officer at the ACM) and her son, Romero

Across Bass Strait, Tasmania also got into the act. Some attendees are pictured.

CatholicCare Tasmania has been raising awareness of National Reconciliation Week through a series of events around the state. CatholicCare Tasmania’s newly appointed Principal Aboriginal Consultant, Alarna Page, presented sessions, with support from the Sisters of St. Joseph at the Launceston and Hobart events. During the events Alarna explained: ‘At its heart Reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples, for the benefit of all Australians.



## MEMORIES - MUM'S COOKING

Mum, not a chef, but an experienced cook,  
Whose mind seemed like a recipe book.  
She had cooked in pubs and private homes  
In boarding houses, where there were groans:

"Never touch sago, dreadful stuff!"  
But she served up dessert, sago plum duff  
And when this boarder had asked for more  
She told him, delighted, "Sago was at the core!"



Roasts cooked in fat, probably bad for the waist  
But they and the vegies, had a better taste.  
Sunday High tea was a weekly treat  
Left over vegies made into bubble and squeak.  
Browned in the iron pan over the fire.  
Dad stirred it well, until browned to desire.  
Always a sponge or big cream puffs  
Date loaf or scones until we were stuffed.



Whenever I returned home for a stay  
Baked rice pudding, slow cooked during the day.  
Or Baked lemon dessert, a favourite of mine.  
One would appear, all ready to dine.

Date scones turned out without turning a hair  
Though I used her recipe, could never compare  
The grandkids would hope for their favourite dream  
Golden syrup dumplings, with lashings of cream.



Good healthy food we were served each day.  
No trouble in eating the plate placed our way.  
Meat and three veg our usual fare  
No one complained, who would dare!  
When her turn came around, you would always know  
A basket of cakes to the Sisters would go.

So, thanks to you Mum we have healthy bones  
No breakages from falls, no crutches and groans.  
Fresh veges from the garden you tended with love  
Watch over us now from your home above.

# CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY



Jenny Steiner Used with permission

## EXCOMMUNICATION

After approximately five months, when the Bishop was dying, some good priests encouraged him to correct mistakes he had made, both with Mary MacKillop and some priests. A priest was sent to meet Mary at Morphett Vale and lifted the excommunication. Mary never spoke of what was said, but to say they were comforting words.

Mary wrote to her mother 26th Feb 1872 from Gawler:

*The Bishop has acknowledge the injustice of his conduct to all, for priests, as well as Sisters, have been wronged, but God wisely permitted it for a hidden and mysterious end. I hope that our common sorrows have done us all good and that Adelaide will once more have holy and exemplary priests doing the work of God in her midst.*

*The Sisters whom you have so often been told would never be re-established will indeed, and more firmly than ever...*

She writes further:

*I feel that the events of the last few months have made me much older in many things. They have strengthened me for still weightier cares than I have yet had. At least I trust in God's mercy and love that they have done me this good which indeed I needed. Some unfaithful ones have also been removed from amongst us. We have all learned good lessons which I trust will not be lost on us.*

The Cross is my portion—it is also my sweet rest and support. I could not be happy without my cross. I could not lay it down for all the world could give. With the cross I am happy, without it would be lost. The only way I have of trying to show my gratitude to God for all that He has done for those I love, and for us all in general is in the cross.

But I often fail in bearing it as I ought—and will do so still unless I am wonderfully aided by the prayers of others. Then won't you pray for me. 26th February 1872

**In The Little Brown Book 1, Sue and Leo Kane write:**

***Life brings us all sorts of unpleasant experiences. They are the downside of life and hit us without warning at one time or another. We can, however be like the ostrich and try to ignore them. Mary was not like that. She faced reality no matter how intimidating or difficult it was for her. She lived the truth of her experience. It meant facing the cross in all its forms, but that is where she found and responded in love to a God she would do anything for.'***



In silence reflect on the above extracts?

Did any words strike you as relevant to your life?

How have your difficulties made you a better person?

Do you know someone who is currently challenged by the cross in their life? Pray to Mary MacKillop for them.

**YOU TOOK ME THROUGH** from More Australian Prayers by Bruce Prewer

Used with permission Aust Lutheran Church

I rejoice in resurrection now, In a God who lifts me up.  
Fallen I cry out for help and you are there for me.  
You heal my ebbing spirit and raise me up from decay.  
*Come! All people of the Lord give thanks ,  
To the wonderful Name, whose rebuke is keen as a Scalpel,  
whose healing lasts for a lifetime.  
Tonight you may be weeping, but there will be joy in the morning.*  
When life went well for me I was very pleased with myself  
But when things fell apart I blamed God for leaving me.  
I collapsed into self-pity like a house of straw.  
*What a great fuss I made, noisy with panicky prayers:  
"if you let me die, God, how can I serve you then?  
Can lifeless dust praise you? Pity me and save me, Lord!*  
Quietly you took me through grief  
And taught me how to dance again  
You stripped away the rags of sorrow and clothed me with joy.  
Now I cannot stop singing a song that lasts forever!



**INTERCESSORY PRAYERS:**

- ◆ On those days when life seems too demanding with all its cares, burdens and concerns
- ◆ **RESPONSE: *Jesus, grant us strength to carry our cross.***
- ◆ When I experience great loneliness deep inside and the pain of separation fills me R
- ◆ When I feel the pain of our world and feel the suffering of others R
- ◆ When I visit others who are ill and suffering and experience illness myself. R
- ◆ When I feel discouraged, desolate and depressed and want to withdraw from others R
- ◆ When I carry old wounds and grudges and are called to offer forgiveness R
- ◆ When I struggle with decisions and making good choices in my life R

**PRAYER:**

Jesus, help me to take up my cross day by day. Like Saint Mary MacKillop, may they draw me closer to you accepting them as gift, knowing you are always with me, walking beside me, even carrying me when the cross becomes too heavy. May I always trust in your presence and find strength in it. May I always keep my vision focused on life and growth. Amen.



**TAIZE SONGS IN THE LORD** (Find music in Google)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

In the Lord I will rejoice

Look to God, do not be afraid!

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near...