

Queensland Josephite Companions News

Companioning each other with a Josephite Heart



Queensland Companions
Leadership Team

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Editorial – December 2024

HOLY SPIRIT, SPIRIT OF PEACE

Many people in our world are facing extreme living conditions because of drought or flood or the consequences of war and upheaval. They fear for the safety of themselves, their families, their homes, and their livelihoods. Darkness and uncertainty surround them. Where is their hope, their future? Sometimes we too can be fearful or maybe even feel that God is no longer close to us. We may feel surrounded by situations which require more intervention than we can provide or just be disillusioned with the state of our country or the wider world.

Jesus understands that, just as he understood the fears and emotions of the people around him, mimicked also in the lives of his disciples. Belief in Jesus did not necessarily mean lack of fear and that the future would go well. Jesus knew that his own life was in danger and death was imminent, yet he continued to live with purpose until his inevitable sacrifice on Calvary.

Jesus continued to strengthen his followers to adopt a new relationship with God. Coming from a biblical Jewish tradition, he opened their minds and hearts to explore God's love and mercy as freely given for them. He wanted them to be certain that they could always rely on God's presence in their lives, even though he would be leaving them. We can refer to the beautiful, hope-filled words of Jesus that we find in John's Gospel where he reminds us that we will not be alone because "the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all I have said to you." Jesus then goes on to reassure us further "Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid" (John 14:27)

I'm sure you've heard these words many times before, but do you truly believe them? Do you still fret and worry? Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop certainly understood and lived them. Despite huge obstacles e.g. financial uncertainty, an increasing need for additional ministry, managing an expanding and far-flung congregation with little resources, coupled with clerical opposition, she remained resolute. God's spirit of peace was firmly embedded in her. "God will provide"

You and I don't have the power to change world situations, but we do have the ability to be an influence in our little sphere. We can "live justly" so that others might have equal opportunity; "love tenderly" especially when we might feel aggrieved; and "walk humbly" in the sure knowledge that the Spirit walks beside us each and every day. All Jesus asks is that we recognise that spirit within our lives and respond in love. That's the magic secret to living peaceful and purposeful lives! May we imitate St Mary MacKillop's trust in God and never doubt Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit of God will always be alive and working in our world.

'If you can't feed 100 people, then just feed one.' Mother Teresa

Prayer

Spirit of Peace, You recognise the need in our world. You feel the pain of Your people everywhere. There is the devastation caused by war and greed, the failure of crops, the absence of suitable housing or clothing, a lack of empathy, a lack of hope for the future. It can seem overwhelming. Yet, You have not left us alone. You continue to offer hope and consolation through your spirit which remains alive in our world.

Fill my spirit with Yours. Help me to comprehend the depth of Your love that has willed me into being. Give me hope and trust to believe that Your love will remain with me no matter the circumstances. You will never abandon me or take back the love that You continue to freely give me. Fill me with confidence, so that I can be a means to show Your love to others. May my life reflect Your love, so that together we can be a beacon of hope that reminds others that You have not left us alone; that You are still present and active in our world. Holy Spirit, may Your Peace be present and alive in many hearts throughout our world as we prepare to celebrate Christmas with joy, compassion, and love, mindful of our many blessings. Amen



From the Leadership Team

Greetings Everyone,

As 2024 races to a close the leadership team wanted to extend our heartfelt thanks for all you do for Companions in your local areas. It is not always easy as we struggle with busy lives and decreasing numbers, but we all do our best to fulfill our roles with a Josephite Heart. We have had some developments in Queensland with our new eCompanioning group up and running. It is an exciting new way to Companion and support each other as we live our lives through Friendship, Prayer and Service.

Our newsletter this time will be smaller than usual as we have the JCoLT Newsletter to accompany it. JCoLT has much news this time and there will be more correspondence from the team in 2025 as we move towards a sustainable movement. Our financial report will be sent out in early 2025 to ensure you have a full 12-month report.

As leaders we have been working with JCoLT to ensure any changes in 2025 will not be overwhelming for local groups or individuals. While change can be difficult it also comes with excitement and hope for the future.

Wishing you every blessing for a joyous and spirit filled Christmas.

The Queensland Leadership Team

Around the Grounds

TOWNSVILLE

We have had an exciting year in Townsville with St Joseph's School Mundingburra celebrating its 100th Birthday. St Joseph's Mundingburra was the first school the Sisters ran when they returned to Townsville in 1924. The school and parish have enjoyed a long connection and the Companions were invited to several events. The teachers and Companions are developing a relationship, with the group attending two staff meetings to discuss Josephite Spirituality and the story of Mary and Julian. Townsville Companions are looking forward to nurturing this relationship in 2025.



Donations

Donations can be made to the Queensland Josephite Companions by Direct Deposit, details below:

Commonwealth Bank Account Name: Josephite Companions Qld

BSB: 064163

Account Number: 10429581

Reference: Surname and Initial (e.g. Campbell M)

Thanking you in advance for your generosity.