

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2025



Welcome Sisters, Companions and Friends, in this year, which has been set aside by Pope Francis to be the Jubilee Year of Hope. Many of our parishes have already begun with the traditional opening of the church doors at Christmas.

In biblical times, a Jubilee year was proclaimed every 50 years. It was a year for the community to start again. It was a kind of 'reset' when the land and the people would rest. This was a year of releasing people from their debts, releasing all the slaves and returning property to its owners.

Why every 50 years? The Bible places a special emphasis on the number 7. It's all about numbers! There are seven days in a week, and the seventh day (the Sabbath) is a day dedicated to rest and worship. That's when we can take time off from our commitments to bring our lives back into balance. Turn weeks into years and $7 \times 7 = 49$ years. So, the 50th year is marked as a whole year of rest and restoration.

Jubilee is God's way of waking us up to improve and nurture the relationships between humanity, creation and God. In our world today, many innocent people are suffering ... and our earth is suffering too. People are working so hard that they cannot take time to rest. Children in many parts of the world endure heartache, hunger and neglect. Jubilee is an expression of God's desire for us and for all of creation to flourish. When we reset our lives by trusting in God's great love and fanning the flame of hope, we can become pilgrims of hope for people all around us. This is how we can shine a light to the rest of the world.

Our prayer focus this autumn season is on the Jubilee Year and is mainly a reflection on how we, as pilgrims of hope, can be the 'heart of Christ, His eyes of compassion and His hands of hope in our world.

It is with deep sadness that we bid farewell to Sr Mary Engelbrecht and Sr Leonie Mayne who were called to God early in 2025. Josephite Companions extend their heartfelt condolences to the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart and to their families. May perpetual light shine upon them and may the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Best wishes and love, Dot Savage and Helen Brown

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

Appointment of 5th Bishop of Bunbury



We celebrate with the Diocese of Bunbury as it welcomes the 5th Bishop of Bunbury, Father George Kolodziej SDS. Bishop George knows Western Australia very well in his role as Superior of the Salvatorian Order, Director of the Salvatorian Spirituality Centre in Perth and is currently Chaplain for Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA). He was instrumental in organising World Youth Day pilgrimages, serving on the committee and being active in youth ministry, pastoral care, drug addiction rehabilitation and parish ministry. We rejoice with the Esperance Parish as we welcome another Salvatorian to carry out the Lord's work in the Diocese of Bunbury.

JCoLT Gathering 2025

The Josephite Companion Leadership Team met in Sydney 13-16 January. During this time several decisions were reached to ensure that the Josephite Companion Movement remains 'in the tent' of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart. These will allow the Josephite Companion Movement to exist within the incorporated body under the leadership of the Trustees of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

Going forward financially, there will be one control account across the Josephite Companion Movement—it is already operational. This account will be monitored by the financial management team at SOSJ and will be audited with their accounts.

A secondary account will be created as a working account. The purpose of this account is to transfer monies for expenses. All regions will be allocated a debit card which will allow them to pay for local Josephite Companion related expenses: e.g. publication of newsletters. Essentially, these people holding the card will be the people on JCoLT but we can develop this as needed. All expenses will need to be approved by JCoLT with an email. JCoLT is in the process of developing finance policies and procedures to ensure the movement is compliant with SOSJ requirements. Small, local groups are able to keep 'petty cash' and we do not require them to do anything regarding this. The account is to be no more than \$500.

The instigation of an across the board subscription fee \$30 per annum will come into practice by June 30 2025. This will be communicated with the statement that not being able to pay will not exclude you from being a Josephite Companion. This subscription will go directly into the control bank account. As of the 30 June, no further monies should be directed to any regional bank accounts.

An Auspice Agreement document will be signed by Congregational Leadership Team and JCoLT leadership by 19 March this year. This document clearly sets out the expectations of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart and the Josephite Companion Movement into the future regarding the relationship between both parties. More details will be communicated from JCoLT in the Newsflash.

Josephite Companion Service in Action

The Bunbury Community Christmas Lunch was another wonderful success in 2024 largely due to the generosity of Josephite Companions who provided gifts for those who attended. Over 140 gifts were distributed and the contributions of members were received with a grateful smile. Thank you for seeing a need and doing something about it, to bring joy and assistance to the needy of our community.

Vale Sr Mary Engelbrecht RSJ 1927—2025



Mary Antonette Engelbrecht was born on 23 March 1927 in Victoria Park, WA, the second daughter of Joseph Engelbrecht and Carmel Marie King. She had three sisters: Thea, Jude, and Margaret. At age six, Mary felt called to Religious Life, supported by her strong Catholic family. At 18, she entered the Order on 10 March 1945, and was Professed on 6 January 1949 as Sr Mary Thaddeus. Mary earned an Arts degree from the University of Sydney and began her teaching ministry in the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Dioceses of Wollongong and Armidale. In 1970, she became Assistant Novice Director at Baulkham Hills, and later, Postulant Director. She returned to teaching in 1975, serving in Bankstown, Kalgoorlie, Manjimup, and Midland.

After a time of renewal, she ministered at the Institute of Human Development in Jarrahdale and Tom Price. In 1992, she spent time in South Perth before moving to Esperance to support the Motor Mission Sisters. Mary returned to South Perth in 2000 until December 2024, when she moved to Margaret Hubery House in Rossmoyne.

Sr Mary passed away peacefully on 15 January 2025, in the 98th year of her life and 80th year of Religious Life. We farewell her with love and gratitude.... She has journeyed with us over many years and gifted us with her vision and love. Go in peace.

Vale Sr Leonie Mayne RSJ 1937—2025



Kathleen Leonie Mayne, known as Leonie, was born on 12 March 1937 in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, to Charles Thomas Mayne and Kathleen Mary Lindley. She was the second daughter, following Noreen (dec) and ahead of Laurie and Teresa. Leonie spent her early years in Westonia, where she developed a love for the Australian bush, inspired by Banjo Paterson's poetry.

Leonie entered the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart on 24 May 1953, receiving the Habit in 1955 and being professed as Sr Gregory in 1957. She began her teaching ministry in Busselton and later served in schools across the Archdiocese of Perth and the Diocese of Bunbury.

In 1988, Leonie became a consultant with the Catholic Education Office in Perth, before transitioning into Adult Education. She also served as Provincial of Victoria and later worked in the Catholic Education Office in Geraldton. In 2000, she moved to Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney.

On returning to Western Australia, Leonie helped establish the Rural Network and continued her ministry of Prayer and Hospitality in the metropolitan area until her passing on 21 January 2025 at Margaret Hubery House. She leaves behind many fond memories and will be dearly missed.

Lenten Retreat—Accompanied by Love April 5-6

Kilmolee, Safety Bay

The journey of Lent draws us into the deepest mysteries of life and into the suffering heart of love. It shelters our deepest questions: Who am I for God? Where is God in the anguish of our world and our lives? You will get to engage in personal reflection through the content offered, guided prayer and meditation, music, poetry, silence and conversation. You will also dip into Pope Francis' encyclical *Dilexit Nos* (He Loved Us) and other writings.

Facilitator: Dr Pina Ford **Cost:** \$250 excl. GST | \$275 incl. GST

Earthly Life May 16—18

Kilmolee, Safety Bay

Across this two-day experience, we will consider our personal relationship with Earth. The layers of our planet and the ongoing geological processes which form the Earth will act as a metaphor. We will draw inspiration from Teilhard de Chardin's description of being a terrestrial and child of Earth, and from Julian Tenison Woods' love of rocks and Earth. Time will be given to personal reflection, group conversation, through writing, photography, collage and other forms of creative expression.

Facilitator: Sr Mary-Ann Casanova RSJ

Cost: \$300 excl. GST | \$330 incl. GST

DONATIONS

Thank you very much to those Companions who contribute to the fund that covers costs for the production of the W.A Newsletter and distribution of the JCoLT Newsflash.

EXPLORE—EMBRACE— EMBODY

There are four goals of Explore-Embrace-Embody

1. Nurturing ecological consciousness.
2. Living simply.
3. Ecological economics.
4. Increasing community engagement and advocacy.

For more information watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60P3SFR1YIM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6nQTffWIZ0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hoezec3Vuk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apriFfvszD0&t=1s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smGBvhDtbU8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAu8bLp5iH4>

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

Sr Mary Engelbrecht rsj

Sr Leonie Mayne rsj

Jacinta Reimers (Niece of Dot Savage and Maud Morrison, cousin of Helen Brown)



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

DARDANUP

16 April

18 June

8 August Friday MMK Feast Day Mass

30 August Annie's Day Webinar

8 October

26 November

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

