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# NSW JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

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Phone 02 8741 2335

NEWSLETTER • March 2025

## Reflection for NSW Josephite Companions

### Hope

Welcome to 2025! I hope you had a lovely Christmas surrounded by family and friends and the New Year which is not so new anymore has been good to you so far.

Last Monday my Josephite Companion Group had our first meeting for the year. Our prayer focus was 'Hope' being the year of the Jubilee of Hope. We had a very reflective discussion.

We said that our world today with all that's going on in it, doesn't give us much courage to hope yet it is hope that keeps us going and doing the best we can wherever we are to make this world a better place.

Hope is not something for the future but something that happens every second of the day. Hope keeps us positive. Every night before we sleep, we hope to wake up in the morning and as we wake up, we hope that our day goes well. We hope that our children and grandchildren are safe. We hope that the outcome of a medical procedure turns out to be good. We hope that what we do gives meaning and purpose to our life and makes it worthwhile.

Pope Francis in his Lenten message invites us to journey together in hope and to ask ourselves whether we are truly willing to heed God's call to change our lives. As we journey together, we are pilgrims of hope.

As the people who journeyed from Egypt to the Promised Land, we too are on a journey that is directed to God. Pope Francis writes, "Journeying together means consolidating the unity grounded in our common dignity as children of God without letting anyone be left behind or excluded."

As we trust in God's loving mercy, our hope becomes alive and active. We become witnesses of hope to all those we encounter, at work, at our parish communities, with our friends and mostly in our families. Being witnesses of hope, we can change lives.

May this year be a year of hope for us as we journey together in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods.

I would like to thank you all for your generosity in providing articles for this Newsletter. I was truly touched by your generosity and I feel blessed that I have such a wonderful group of Companions to count on. May God bless you all.

- Antoinette Mangion

*Finding Hope  
Retreat,  
Reflect,  
Renew*



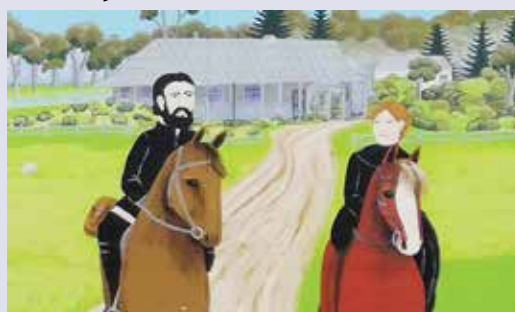
### Farewell Bev



The Leadership Team bids farewell to one of our own. Beverley Badcock who has been a part of the NSW Companions Leadership Team has retired. Bev, as she is affectionately called, has been part of this team since we started in 2019. In many ways she was the backbone of this team as she showed us through her former experience the knowledge of how to operate as a leadership team and the importance of communicating with our Companions. She made sure that all our Companions received a Newsletter and we could always count on her. She will be greatly missed.

We wish Bev a very happy retirement and all the best for the next chapter of her life. May Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods continue to be her inspiration.

### Quotes from Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods



'God is so good  
we ought to cling to Him with love and hope.'  
Mary MacKillop 28.04.1873

'It is our lot and destiny to walk under all circumstances  
under the sheltering protections of hope.'  
Fr Julian Tenison Woods 20.05.1881

We would like to remind all Josephite Companions that contribution to the membership are now due. Membership contribution is from January to December. Thank you for your generosity.

**NSW Josephite Companions Leadership Team**  
Antoinette Mangion, Geoff Barrett, Lyn Griffiths.

# Perthville – a reflection by Mary Comer rsj

I received the news of the closure of the ministry at St Joseph's Perthville and the marketing of the site with deep sadness, although with some awareness of the inevitability of this happening. On reflection, I was filled with appreciation and deep gratitude to the people of the Diocese of Bathurst and beyond who have supported and partnered with the Sisters over the 152 years that they have been here.

Perthville is the first foundation made by Fr Julian Woods and St Mary MacKillop in NSW. The Sisters are mindful of the importance of this site as a founding Josephite community and the place from which the Diocesan Josephites of Whanganui, Goulburn, Lochinvar and Tasmania were founded. Both Saint Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods stayed at Perthville on separate occasions in its early times.

The site has been significant not only for the Sisters, but also to the women who were boarders here. It has been an important hub for those whose parishes were served by the Sisters, those who enjoyed retreat and conference experiences, for parishioners, staff, volunteers, friends and families of the Sisters – all of whom have been part of its life and culture for decades.

For the many boarders over the years, Perthville was a place of varying experiences. For some it was a home, for some a place of solace and belonging, for some a source of loneliness. For many it has been a place of companionship,

and a flourishing of lifelong friendships, of a growth of independence and an absorption of a value system that has inspired them throughout their lives and across generations.

For approximately the first 90 years of the Sisters of Saint Joseph Congregation's existence, when the Sisters were present to provide education and to serve the people in small communities, they depended largely on the generosity and support of the very people they served. They depended on them for food, transport, maintenance of buildings, advice... and many of their daily needs. The Sisters shared in the joys and sorrows of communities, at the same time providing hospitality and support to the many priests alongside whom they served. What resulted was the growth of a 'diocesan family' for which we were/and are forever grateful.

The arrival of Bishop Thomas in the mid-sixties brought changes to the Sisters' living conditions. Stipends for the Sisters' living expenses were introduced and cars became available for transport. There were more opportunities for further education and lay teachers were introduced into the school system. At the same time changes in education introduced by the Wyndham Report brought about the need to 'let go' the educational component of St Joseph's College at Perthville as well as some of the smaller secondary schools. This led to greater cooperation with the Sisters of Mercy to develop the Diocesan Catholic Girls' High School, now MacKillop College, Bathurst.

More lay teachers in the schools enabled the Sisters from Perthville to expand their ministries to adult faith education, youth ministry, catechetics in state schools, prison ministry, parish ministry, counselling, family support, and university lecturing.

Over the last few decades, many societal changes have resulted in fewer religious vocations being taken up, at least in local congregations... and so we are faced with ever decreasing numbers of Sisters.

On reading sections of Church history there are many examples of the birth of religious congregations which began and conducted specific ministries, flourished and eventually died out because the need for that time was met or passed on to others to continue the work.

It is somewhat sad and confronting to be part of a similar moment in history, but with the numbers of Sisters progressively declining this is what must be faced.



At the same time we have an appreciation of being part of this era, of the history of the Bathurst Diocese where Sisters came, ministered in harsh circumstances and lived in a manner that religious in this country hadn't lived before. They chose to be close to the people in isolated places to educate and sow seeds of faith, as well as modelling the possibility of rural religious life.

Many of us were given amazing opportunities... and given others a similar experience. Many have been able to move out of a poverty trap, empowered by education that would have been denied them.

Amidst the reflection on many memories and the facing of current realities we are starkly reminded of Mary MacKillop's words "We are but travellers here..." along with some of the wise statements in The Oscar Romero Prayer...

"We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work...we plant the seeds that one day will grow."

And we are acutely aware of the words of Pope Francis – that we are not dealing with an era of change, but rather "a change of era" when more than ever, evangelisation and lived faith is the mission of us all – lay people as well as the few remaining local religious and clergy.

It is hoped that whoever purchases the Perthville site will continue a goal of helping others and hold precious the history and heritage contained in it.



The Perthville Chapel

## Stamps Wanted



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**Josephite Mission in Peru**

*Please send to:*

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Phone 02 8741 2335

*Thank you for all stamps received.*



# What is a Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church?

For many, the understanding of a Jubilee Year is not always clear, so I thought to highlight some key points about what a Jubilee Year is and what it means for the Catholic faithful.

A Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church occurs every 25 years. It represents a year of celebration, renewal, and special graces for all the faithful. People are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all creation.

The Jubilee Year begins with the opening of the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, Rome. The last time this occurred was in 2000. This year, the Holy Door will be open from 24 December 2024 to 6 January 2026, after which it will remain closed for another 25 years.

During a Jubilee Year, the Pope may grant Catholics indulgences. This is the act of receiving forgiveness from God for breaking commandments and starting over.

The Vatican in Rome will host numerous events for pilgrims seeking to deepen their faith and start afresh, providing opportunities for grace through prayer, pilgrimage, conversion, sacramental repentance, spiritual renewal, and the forgiveness of sins.

**Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life.**

Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*

*Here are some ways one can obtain indulgences during the 2025 Jubilee Year:*

## **Make a pilgrimage**

Catholics who make a pilgrimage to Rome during the 2025 Jubilee Year can obtain a plenary indulgence by visiting at least one of the four major papal basilicas: St. Peter's Basilica, the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, or St. Paul Outside the Walls.

For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world can designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith.

## **Saint Mary MacKillop Chapel and Tomb**

If you're looking to make a pilgrimage during this Jubilee year, close to home, our very own Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel and tomb at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney has been officially designated as a shrine and place of pilgrimage by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. You can view other Saint Mary MacKillop pilgrimages here: [www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/various-pilgrimages/](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/various-pilgrimages/)

## **Perform works of Mercy**

Visit prisoners, spend time with the lonely, elderly and sick, Feed the hungry, give hope to others, comforting the sorrowful.

For volunteering opportunities with the Sisters of Saint Joseph, visit [www.sosj.org.au/become-involved/working-with-us/](http://www.sosj.org.au/become-involved/working-with-us/) and for other volunteering opportunities in Australia, visit the Volunteering Australia website [www.volunteeringaustralia.org/#/](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/#/)

## **Eucharistic Adoration**

A devotional practice where the faithful worship the Blessed Sacrament, or consecrated bread, outside of Mass. A great starting point for finding hope. You may choose to spend time in prayer, meditate on scripture or read the life of a saint, or ask for forgiveness. Conclude with a prayer such as the Our Father.



*Aerial View of Vatican City by Aliona & Pasha.*

## **Jubilee Calendar**

Throughout the year, the Holy See will observe celebrations for various groups and ministries, including those in communications, the armed forces, police and security, artists, deacons, teenagers, young people, even marching bands.

A calendar of events in Rome can be observed here: [www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/pellegrinaggio/calendario-giubileo.html](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/pellegrinaggio/calendario-giubileo.html)

We frequently encounter individuals who feel disheartened and doubtful about the future, believing that happiness is out of reach. Let this Jubilee Year be a chance to renew our hope. God's word provides us with the strength and reasons to hold on to that hope.

As Mary MacKillop once said, "Be full of forgiveness, hope, and love." (26.11.1873)

Embracing these qualities allows us to live with greater compassion, resilience, and faith, offering hope to one another as we continue our journey on this earth, leaving behind meaningful contributions that reflect God's grace.

Happy Jubilee 2025!

**To learn more about Jubilee 2025, you can visit the official website [www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html)**

*- Renate Cassis*

*Graphic and Digital Designer, Congregational Administration Services*

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# Let's Call a Spade a Spade

Truth serves peace – World Day of Social Justice (20 February)

The current Social Justice Statement issued by the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference is entitled Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World. It is a fine addition to the grand array of social justice statements that the bishops have issued in this country since 1940. It is indeed encouraging that the annual Social Justice Statement is the only Statement given to the nation by the bishops on a regular yearly basis.

The issues dealt with in the Statement are many and varied, and they are all relevant to the state of the world at present. At 16 pages in large print with illustrations, the document is not beyond any of us to read. It is a fine basis for prayer and reflection over months. The issues it deals with, while not exhaustive, are deeply concerning to anyone claiming allegiance to Jesus Christ.

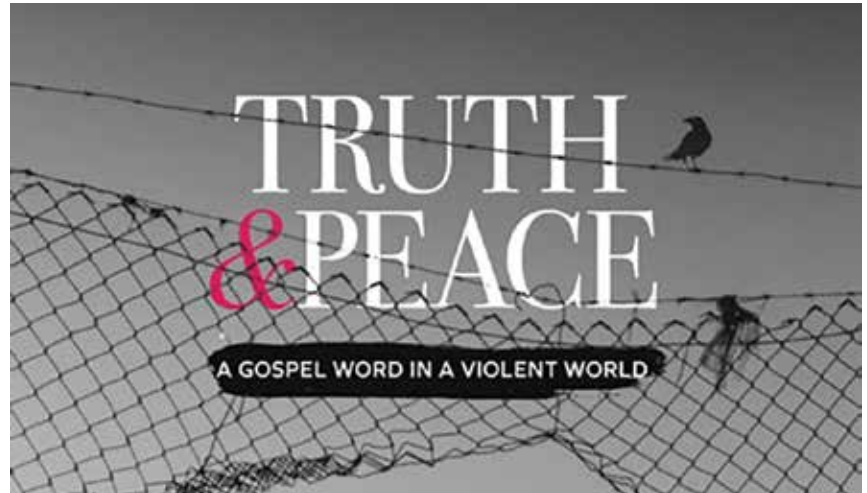
One of the important matters considered is the growth of 'misinformation' and 'disinformation' in the public arena, globally and in Australia. These matters are discussed widely elsewhere, in articles and on social media. What is concerning is why we have two five-syllable words for the realities of 'mistakes' (misinformation) and 'lies' (disinformation). The Statement does not deal with this, limiting itself to the danger of both realities in public discussions. But the distinction between the two is well worth thinking about. The words misinformation and disinformation are so similar! Only one letter in each word is different, and yet their meanings are poles apart.

People can make mistakes, and many do – we all do. We can easily 'get the bull by the tail'. There are people who believe what they read and see regardless of its worth, and some pass that onto others. If it is done without malice it is unfortunate, but with consequences nevertheless. There is an obligation on all of us to be wary, as the tidal waves of misinformation that engulf social media verge on the ridiculous. The advent of AI (artificial intelligence) makes us sitting ducks for all sorts of wrong-headed claims that are presented vividly in word and pictures.

However, it is 'disinformation' that is most concerning. This is so far apart from 'misinformation' that it certainly needs a better, truer word to describe it. Disinformation means lies. Untruths. False witness. A piece of disinformation is a lie. A lie is a statement, an assertion, an image that is untrue, and is known to be untrue by the person who says it or promotes it. It is against the 8th commandment: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour". Jesus told us that he was the truth (John 14:6) and that everyone on the side of truth listens to him (John 18:37). Pontius Pilate, the man who sentenced him to death, had a problem with the truth, even asking what it was (John 18:38).

Fake news, alternative facts and partisan news sources are on the increase and they generate mistrust. People can get confused when they are enticed by attractively presented hyped-up claims despite their questionable basis. Recently I saw a Facebook image of our Foreign Minister Penny Wong with a black eye. The articles presented with the image had nothing to do with a physical assault on her so it was just an eye catcher (pardon the pun). Perhaps a shock and horror suggestion of domestic violence to entice engagement with gossipy social media garbage bin?

The prevalence and reasons for the sharing of false information is the subject of current investigations. Many of us have first-hand knowledge of questionable material and its effects. During



Cover of the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement

the lead-up to the Voice referendum in 2023 a woman came to me in a church and said that if the Indigenous people had a Voice in Parliament they would turn off the hot water. I had not read or heard this claim anywhere, but that is what she told me. The following week I questioned her about where she heard it and she dismissed it as something that maybe wasn't right. Her response could well have been a result of my amazement, but the facts are that she said it to me, she got it from somewhere, and she initially believed it. The lawyers Gilbert & Tobin have shown the inaccuracies in the official Australian Electoral Commission's booklet regarding the Voice referendum (The AEC printed the cases made available to it by politicians in the referendum.)

In their statement, the Australian Bishops draw the obvious conclusion about the links between lies and conflict, truth and peace: "What is increasingly clear is that the more disinformation and misinformation proliferate, the greater the risk of conflict. The connection is unmistakable" (p.4). The reason is clear: one cannot trust a liar. Put more positively, truth generates trust. So without trust, real peace is beyond us.

Echoing Pope Francis and previous Popes who anguished for the world, the Statement inspires us all to work for peace and for truth, whoever and wherever we are. The suggestions at the end of the document are practical and achievable, all working with our primary duty of prayer.

This current Social Justice Statement by the Bishops is essential reading for every Catholic, every Christian, every person. It is a proclamation of hope, as truth brings trust and trust undergirds peace, the heartfelt hope of any good person. We need not be daunted by lies, liars and the suffering they generate. The evil of lies appears to surround us, but as throughout all of history, when lies are unmasked we see them for what they are: fancy-dress, poppycock, rubbish, weakness. The antidote is plain old dependable truth, glorious in its nature as essential to peace and to humanity.

The tribulations that accompany current global lies call for perseverance in the truth, and as Paul writes, perseverance produces character, and character hope: hope which does not disappoint (Romans 5: 3-5). We celebrate this hope, our hope, in this Jubilee Year.

We are fortunate to have the 2024-2025 Bishops' Statement on Truth and Peace. Well worth reading and pondering!

- Susan Connelly rsj



Come and

# Walk in the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop

“Walk in the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop” is a pilgrimage journey that takes you from the birthplace of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop to her final resting place.



There were many times that the experience of standing in the place that Mary actually walked would touch my heart, through the reflections presented to us, it gave me a sense of closeness to her, to realise and understand somewhat the sacrifices and the difficulties she had to endure- but her faith in her ‘Good God’ carried her through.

Fr Julian Tension Woods, well what an educated priest he was! I didn’t know that much about him before this pilgrimage, but I had much to learn, he was a great inspiration to Mary in starting the Josephite community, also a musician and a horticulturist.

Mary not only was an educator, establishing schools in various places around Australia for the poor, regardless of their religion or colour but also supported desperate women and their children in refuge centres, Mary set up homes for boys and girls who had no one to care for them.

Prepared by the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, “Walk in the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop” and Fr Julian Tension Woods through prayer and reflection is a pilgrimage journey I recommend you seriously consider.

- Irene Gibson, Josephite Companion Blacktown



## Sawtell Josephite Companions Christmas Market



Our Parish Christmas Market gives us a perfect opportunity to raise funds to support the continuing work started by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Temor Leste. We have been raising these funds in various ways for many years but for the last 3 years we have used the markets as our major source. We work towards it all year by preparing articles that sell for Christmas gifts. Knitted dolls and toys, crochet decorations, book and shopping bags made from bright fabric, all sell very well. Plants and “home cooking” go like hot cakes!

Our biggest money raiser is our raffle. We have been fortunate to have a beautiful hand created rug as one of our items each year. Other items on offer in the raffle have been diamond point art works, an original painting and a whale watching trip. All these gifts have been donated so that makes a big difference.

We used Mary MacKillop Today to direct our funds this year to the areas of need and they were very grateful. We hope to have Jane Woolford come to talk to us during the year.

- Lorraine Kirkaldy

## Sawtell Josephite Companions Retreat 2025

I am delighted to announce that we have arranged a Silent Retreat for later this year. After the wonderful experiences these last few years we have, once again, booked the Josephite Spirituality Centre in Baulkham Hills from Friday, 24th October - Friday, 31st October 2025 and we are so pleased to advise that Fr David King will again lead us as Spiritual Director during the Retreat and, of course, our special friend, Sr Fidelis, will be there to join with us for the week. For more information / cost etc in regard to the Retreat please send me an email [marrymcnamara@bigpond.com](mailto:marrymcnamara@bigpond.com)

Those who previously attended the Retreat last year will receive an information letter later this month.

- Mary McNamara





## Canberra 2 Companions

“God does not call the perfect; rather He perfects the called”  
(from *Living the Gospel- hearing the call*, by Greg Sunter)

Our Companion Group meets on the first Monday of each month. Our members come from various Parishes across Canberra, both North and South. We enjoy Prayer, reading and discussion of Scripture and mostly draw from the ‘Act Love Walk’ book for our themes.

We are continuing our support and caring for some of the homeless women, children and men in our region.

Through our Spiritual Leader, Sr Colleen, we have contact with the people who provide this direct care and who can advise us of their current needs. We as a group are then able to make regular donations of personal hygiene products, pantry and laundry items.

The need is there, and we are happy in our small way, to do something to help these people with basic necessities.

The Josephite presence has been part of our Archdiocese for over 140 years. The Sisters have provided education and pastoral care in many Parishes beyond these too.



Our very own Sr Colleen Howe celebrates 60 years of service as a Sister of St Joseph this year. During an interview with Veronica Cox, Sr Colleen said that numerous religious had played an integral part in the life of the Archdiocese. “While not dwelling on the past, it is always good and appropriate to remember from whence we have come,” Sr Colleen said.

The convent at Goulburn NSW opened in 1883 and the Sisters have made their homes in many of the western NSW Parishes as well as the cities in the Region. They join with other Sisters who form part of the wonderful tradition which includes Sydney, Perthville, Hobart, New Zealand and many more.

Encouraged by the Holy Father’s Jubilee year, ‘Pilgrims of HOPE’, we look for the coming of God’s kingdom. May we transform our lives through the awareness of those in need and in the sure hope of the Resurrection.

- Pauline Hally-Burton.



## News from Quirindi Group 2024

Our Parish of St Brigid’s celebrated Grandparents Week with a special morning tea in the Fr Stan Campbell Hall. A large and happy group attended, giving thanks and appreciation for our Seniors. A beautiful cake was donated by Marie Lawson and was cut by Grandparents. The youngest in attendance, Chantelle, daughter of Josephite Companion Michelle Cortis, assisted by blowing out the candles to much applause.



Our Josephite Companions Group has continued sharing the Charism of Friendship, Prayer and Service. A special effort is made in welcome new Parishioners to our community. Our Group continues in Prayer together and through weekly programs during Lent and Advent, plus having Spiritual Reflection mornings led by Sr Carmel Drew RSJ at least twice a year. Service to our Parish includes visiting the sick, taking Holy Communion to the house bound, helping with all rosters, organising by-monthly Mass with Anointing at our local Care Facility “Eloura”, and assisting with Parish Ministry. We enjoy our involvement wherever possible as it keeps us connected, especially in this Jubilee Year of Hope.

Our Group has also raised funds for our Parish needs by having raffles 2 or 3 time a year. These are always very successful and well supported.

We wish all Josephite Companions a blessed and peaceful 2025.

- Pat Perkins. Quirindi Group



# Sharing my Josephite heart

Steve Todd

*Recently received Josephite Companion, Steve Todd shares his gratefulness for having a Josephite Heart.*



Steve born at St. Margaret's Hospital at Darlinghurst in 1955 under the care of the Sisters of St. Joseph was destined to embrace his Josephite connection. Steve was the second of eleven children and was educated by the Christian Bros at Strathfield. Steve was a member of the first intake of student teachers at Mount St. Mary's Teachers College, Strathfield in 1974 (now ACU). Steve's teaching journey eventually led him to spending 29 wonderful

years as a Catholic School Principal of three Josephite schools. Steve was also a founding and enthusiastic member of the AJASS group (Association of Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools) and his many artworks that continue today celebrate his deep affection for Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods with a sincere connection to both Institute and Federation SOSJ. Steve and his wife Lyn were proud to be present in Rome in October 2010 for the canonisation of Mary MacKillop. From this experience Steve reignited his painting career to discover many insights into his Josephite heart that he still enjoys sharing with the broader Catholic community.

At both MacKillop College, Bathurst NSW (2003-20010) and MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale NSW (2011-2021), Steve set about deepening the Catholic culture of the schools with house systems, annual celebrations of feast days with artistic expressions, songs, dance with a deep respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 'Dreaming'.

During his first attempt of retirement former AJASS colleague and now Director of Catholic Schools in NT, Paul Greaves thought it might be a good idea for Steve to meet the then Director of Schools in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese, Gerard Mowbray. Steve then spent the following two years as one of the

Assistant Directors and now works privately alongside Gerard Mowbray offering Catholic Schools consultancy and support.

Steve proudly has illustrated for former Sydney and Tasmanian Catholic Schools Director, Dr Dan White for his eight books and counts Dan as one of his closest family friends.

Life has its many twists and turns and in 2024 Steve was diagnosed with bladder cancer. For Steve the beauty of this time with his loving family of his wife Lyn, their three children Katie, Joshua and Daniel along with their partners and his five grandchildren, Steve needed their loving support, specialist medical treatment and prayerful support from his many friends especially from the Josephite community. A novena was arranged by Sr. Marea Ross rsj and Steve was just overwhelmed by so many messages with exceptional prayerful support. Steve carried with him a Mary MacKillop relic and his Rosary beads from the canonisation during the months of treatment, biopsies and procedures. In January 2025, Steve was cleared of any bladder cancer and now undergoes a maintenance program to support him back to full health. This was such a blessing of which Steve is so grateful to everyone who prayed for his recovery.

Steve's latest work is for the Josephite Primary School, St. Patrick at Swansea NSW where his grandson Luca attends. This painting is to celebrate their patron saint on 17th March 2025. The painting is titled 'Patrick Returns'.



We join the Sisters of St Joseph in prayer as they prepare for their 28th General Chapter  
*'Daring to be Transformed'*

**Chapter Prayer**  
**God of Life**

*You breathe your breath in us,  
calling us to LIVE.*

*We immerse ourselves in our Chapter  
journey together, listening deeply to the  
stirrings within us.*

*May our Spirit fill us with hope that  
transforms and awakens us to possibilities  
for this time in our history.*

*May we be hospitable to what comes,  
recognising the seeds of new life  
springing forth.*

*We pray for wisdom, understanding and  
patience as we listen to each other, and  
our Cosmic reality.*

*We dare to dream and trust that our way  
forward will surely emerge.*

*With gratitude for all that is, and for all  
that is yet to come.*

**Amen**

**CHAPTER SCRIPTURE**

Thus says the Living God;  
Come from the four winds O breath, and  
breathe that all may live.

God commanded and the breath came into them ...

I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live,  
and I will place you on your own soil;  
I, the Living God, have spoken and will act.

Ezekiel 37:9-10, 13-14 (adapted)

## Lidcombe Josephite Companions

### The passing of two original members.

Over the last two months, the Lidcombe Josephite Companions Group has lost two of its founding members. Mrs Dawn Fitzpatrick and Mrs Kath Shaw. The Lidcombe group was started in November 1992, with the enrolment of 52 men and women of Lidcombe's St Joachim's parish.



Dawn Marie Fitzpatrick was born in the parish in 1929 and passed away in December 2024. She served as the Lidcombe group leader for over 25 years. As group leader, Dawn was actively involved in the NSW RSJ Association in Mission's transition leading to it's gaining independence. In September 2012 the Sisters of St Joseph and the RSJ Associates celebrated a Ritual into Self Governance of the Associates.

Dawn worked at a local nursing home and provided voluntary support at the SVPD Centre at Lidcombe. As a member of the Society, she also helped out at the Multiple Sclerosis Centre one day a week where she fed breakfast to residents and undertook other tasks, such as bed making.

Kathleen (Kath) Shaw (nee Guilfoyle) was born in 1927 and passed away in February 2025. Kath was the daughter of Michael Guilfoyle (served as Parish Secretary) and Elizabeth Keating. Elizabeth was the granddaughter of Edmund and Joanna Keating who had arrived in Sydney in 1842. Edmund was given the land, where our church now stands, by Father John Therry. Here they built their first home, and this is where the first Masses for the parish were said. When they were able to move to a better home, this land was returned to the priests.



Kath and her husband Ray were involved in work with St Vincent de Paul Society for over 40 years. From 1988 through to 1996, Kath attended to the needs of inmates of the Multiple Sclerosis Centre, Lidcombe. Tasks included letter writing and the general comforting and caring for patients with limited mobility. She recalled these activities as "a pleasurable visit to friends".

Other church groups Kath was involved with included – Children of Mary, Theresians, Altar Society, Choir, C.Y.O. and the School P&C. A very active lady.

While these ladies both remained as Companions, declining health did not allow them to continue attending the monthly meetings of the Lidcombe Group. They are both very much missed by our members.

Condolences to the Fitzpatrick and Shaw families

- Geoff Barrett, Lidcombe Josephite Companions

### Companions' Office

PO Box 184 Croydon NSW 2132 (Letters only)  
5 Alexandra Avenue, Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)  
**(02) 8741 2335**  
nsw.companions@sosj.org.au

*We pray for the souls of our departed  
Companion brothers and sisters*

Barbara Caruthers	Sawtell
Dawn Fitzpatrick	Lidcombe
Chris Hall	Prayer Member
Erin Hansen	Tamworth
Dorothy Law	Prayer Member
Brenda Rainbow	Sawtell
Kath Shaw	Lidcombe
John Webster	Quirindi
Clive Yeaman	Tamworth

*Please let us know if anyone from your group passes away or leaves. We can include them in our prayers.*

*Thank you*



### A message from Pope Francis: Missionaries of Hope Among All People

**In the footsteps of Christ our hope:**

Hope is not just a virtue; it is a person: Jesus Christ. He is the first and greatest missionary, bringing healing, love and renewal to humanity through His incarnation, death and resurrection.

Christians, bearers and builders of hope among all people: The Church exists to evangelise – to proclaim the Gospel, serve the poor, and accompany those in need. In every Eucharistic celebration, we are reminded that we are sent forth ('Ite, missa est') to be Christ's witnesses.

**Renewing the mission of hope:**

Mission is not just for priest and religious. Each of us, by virtue of our baptism, is called to be a bearer of hope, whether in our families, workplaces, or through missionary service in far-off lands.

**Let us keep Pope Francis in our prayers.**

### Email Address

Please let us know if you changed your email address.  
If yes, please contact us with your new details at:  
nsw.companions@sosj.org.au