

Josephite Companions of South Australia

PO Box 57
Kent Town, SA 5071
SA.Companions@sosi.org.au



Friendship Prayer Service

Winter 2025

May 2025 Newsletter

Companions Alive in 2025!

By Mary Hemmings

On the 15th of February this year, Josephite Companions gathered to explore what we might do to foster development of our Companions as we looked to the future. Sr Pauline Morgan graciously led us in our discernment.

Pauline invited us to think about the future, in 10 years and 20 years' time:

- ✳️ Who will we be?
- ✳️ How will we continue to foster the Josephite spirit?
- ✳️ How will Companions be connected to others?
- ✳️ What different expressions of those sharing the Josephite spirit may there be?

Those present named that coming together as 'like-minded' people is a gift that we offer to each other, and this is important to continue. We explored ideas that could enable us to enrich our lives and that of others, especially being inspired in this **Jubilee Year** by its theme of **Hope**. Some suggested ideas included:

- ✳️ Coming together with like-minded people, to share and reflect on life, as a means of nurturing our faith.
- ✳️ Being inspired by others, such as the women who presented to us at the International Women's Day gatherings in 2023/24 and students from our Josephite schools.
- ✳️ Having a Retreat or Reflection Day.

- ✳️ Continue to gather to share friendship (and food) and prayer with others.
- ✳️ Outreach to enable others to connect into this story. For example, gather in the Western suburbs where many Josephite schools have existed or take our story to a country location to 're-ignite the Josephite spirit.'
- ✳️ Keep the Carols Night in December!

With our theme this year being **Pilgrims of Hope in the Year of Jubilee** we are planning the following hope-filled activities for 2025:

- Adelaide Pilgrimage: In the Footsteps of Mary
Saturday 31st May
- On Pilgrimage with Julian: Mary-Ann Casanova rsj
Saturday 12th July
- Pilgrimage through the Mid-North of SA
Saturday 6th September
- On Pilgrimage at the Mitcham Cemetery
Saturday 25th October
- On Pilgrimage with Christmas Carols
Friday 12th December

As you can see, we are on the move and look forward to being **Companions Alive in 2025!**

Our invitation is to come and be with us in the year ahead.

Details will evolve in coming months but mark these dates in your diaries!



"God is good and has brought light and help when all was very dark."
MMK 1899

In Loving Memory compiled by the Sisters of St Joseph



Patricia Elaine Sealey was born on the 6th of June 1931 in Adelaide, SA. Pat entered the Sisters of St Joseph in 1950, and in 1953 was professed taking the name Sr Marie Anna of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Pat was a gifted educator, teaching in Josephite schools across SA and as Principal at Caritas College from 1972-1975. Whilst teaching, Pat completed her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Adelaide in 1971.

Travel to the USA awakened Pat to the 'social

justice analysis process' that she shared with her Sisters in Peru before returning to Australia and applying her learning in "seeking first the poorest and most neglected in God's vineyard." (Mary MacKillop 1900)

Pat's ministry among the Aboriginal people enabled her to learn from their lives as she ministered with them to seek justice. Pat undertook studies, becoming a Migration Agent working tirelessly to relieve suffering.

Pat moved to Calvary Flora McDonald in April 2020 and passed peacefully away on the 17th of February 2025. May Pat rest in the eternal love of her God.



Moira Teresa Byrnes was born on the 29th of April 1942 in Burra, SA. Moira entered the Sisters of St Joseph in 1979 and was professed in 1982.

In 1990, Moira moved to NSW where she did clinical pastoral studies. For the next nine years, Moira was Chaplain at a hospital where her work was challenging at times and always life-giving. She was a member of the inter-denominational team of chaplains, and was involved in education and support programmes for students and volunteers.

Moira became a volunteer at the Southern

Cross Aged Care Hostel in Pennington between 2003-2018. Moira then moved to Kensington where her ministry of support and prayer continued in her gentle and unassuming way.



Moira moved to Calvary Flora McDonald shortly before her death. Here she continued to reach out to others. In turn she was surrounded with love by the Sisters of St Joseph, her family and by the staff. Moira died peacefully on the 26th of March 2025.



Maryanne Welsh was born in Ireland on the 26th of July 1928. She was professed as a Sister of St Joseph in 1951 and made her Final Profession in 1957.

Maryanne's first 20 years of ministry were in primary education in city and country schools. In 1972 Maryanne began her nursing studies, and her nursing ministry over the next 22 years spanned 3 states, WA, NSW and SA.

In 1994 Maryanne's area of ministry centred on pastoral care where her teaching and

nursing experience held her in good stead. In August 2023 Maryanne joined the Kensington community where she continued her ministry of prayer. The Sisters in the community were inspired by her and treasured the last few months with her as she heroically lived with fast moving cancer and its accompanying discomfort, pain and treatments.

Maryanne moved to Mary Potter Hospice on Easter Sunday morning and moved to her eternal home on the 24th of April 2025, only 4 days later. She was surrounded with love and prayer by the Sisters ever at her side and by those at home praying with her and for her.



Port Adelaide
St Mary's Church and School Hall



Adelaide
West Terrace Cemetery

PILGRIMAGE

In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop

Port Adelaide – Kensington

Saturday 31st May

Mary MacKillop's courageous spirit brought her to Adelaide from Penola in 1867.
Come journey to significant places in the early story of Mary and that of her Sisters.
Visiting: Pt Adelaide – Brompton – Adelaide Gaol – St Mary's College – West Tce Cemetery – Kensington.

Travel by minibus (limited numbers) or car (self-drive or share).

Meet at Kensington at 9am or Pt Adelaide at 10am.

Concluding mid-afternoon at Kensington with afternoon tea.



RSVP ESSENTIAL by Wednesday 21st May – Further details to be provided on booking.
0417 871 904 (Mary) or SA.Companions@sosj.org.au
Cost \$15 per person and BYO LUNCH.

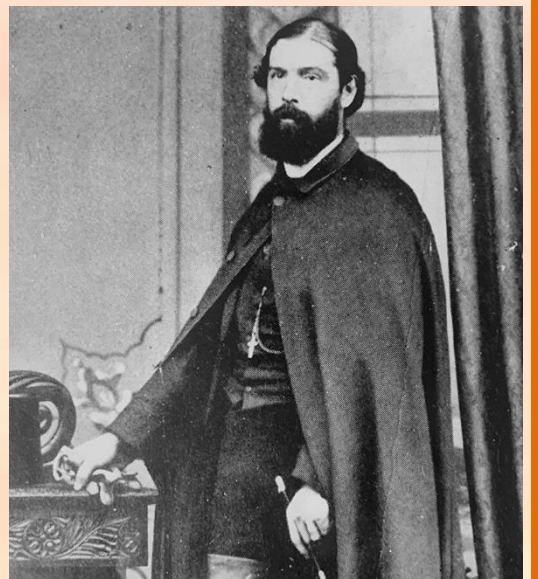
Julian Tenison Woods

» *The man with an alphabet after his name* «

Saturday 12th July
2pm

Rose Lounge (behind Bethany)
4 High St, Kensington

Presenter: Mary-Ann Casanova rsj PhD



Julian told Mary MacKillop that he had an alphabet after his name. And he certainly did have a string of letters after his name – signposts of the Societies of which he was a Fellow and member.

We'll use the regular alphabet in this session as a way of getting to know a little more fully this remarkable priest-scientist. "M for marriage proposals" might be almost as interesting as "S for seahorse" and "T for teetotaller".

RSVP appreciated by Friday 4th July
0417 871 904 (Mary) or SA.Companions@sosj.org.au

Afternoon tea will be available – please bring a small plate to share.
There will also be a raffle. Donations and proceeds of the raffle will go toward Josephite ministries.

Mary and the Jesuits – Part 2

by Marianne Shaw – Retired Catholic School Teacher and Leader

Australians are proud to acknowledge Mary MacKillop as an important Australian even if they do not honour her as a Saint of the Catholic Church. Lesley O'Brien, in *Mary MacKillop Unveiled*, used these words, amongst others, to describe Mary: heroine, courage, determination, outspoken, commitment, dedication, and there is a danger that for many, these are the qualities most highly regarded.¹ However, whilst Mary does indeed exemplify characteristics now considered to be typical of a true 'Aussie' in that she was a courageous fighter, an egalitarian committed to her fellow humans, and a rebel, to view her only in that secularised way endangers our ability to see her saintly qualities.² One such quality, important yet often overlooked, is humility.

Mary saw humility not as a self-deprecating denial of one's good qualities and actions, but as a virtue which helps individuals to reflect on themselves and what they have done, to consider how they may become more charitable and follow the Will of God more closely³. To this end, Mary was not averse to listening to the advice of others and, after reflection and prayer, accepting what she saw as good and wise. In reviewing the connections between St Mary of the Cross and the Jesuit fathers, it is clear that Mary was willing to accept their help and advice in many ways. What follows is a very brief overview of the important connections between Mary and the Jesuits.

Fr Tappeiner was appointed Acting Director of the Sisters of St Joseph in August 1871, after Fr Woods left South Australia, being confirmed in that position in 1873.⁴ Mary frequently mentions him in her letters, writing about him fondly and with gratitude for his support. In a letter to Fr Woods written in 1872, she wrote,

*Fr Tappeiner has a wonderful influence over me. He soothes, calms and comforts me, and in a few quiet words leads my soul back to God's dear holy Will. No other priest has ever helped me like him, except yourself.*⁵

Another Jesuit priest, Fr Joseph Polk, replaced Fr Tappeiner as Spiritual Director of the Sisters after his death in 1882.⁶ Fr Polk, a man whom Fr Woods described as "one of the most holy and interior men I have ever met", was already known to the Sisters, having given an eight-day Retreat for them in 1868.⁷

As well as spiritual direction, the Sisters received practical support and encouragement from the Jesuits. The two orders were closely associated in Norwood, where Fr John Hinteroecker built the parish church of St Ignatius and was the first Parish Priest, and where in the same street, from 1872, the Sisters located a convent and their Refuge for women in distress.⁸ Fr Hinteroecker was outspoken in his support of the Sisters. When he died, Mary lamented, "We have received a sad shock in the death of our good and much-loved pastor."⁹

The Jesuits understood the Josephite 'mission' since they too were founded to be a "body of apostles dedicated to 'service at the frontiers', to the care of those whose needs are not met by existing structures."¹⁰ They invited the Sisters to set up schools adjacent to or even within the churches they founded in various part of rural South Australia, north of Adelaide, as their own focus was educating men for the priesthood and older boys requiring a Catholic secondary education.¹¹

Throughout the period of her excommunication, the Jesuits stood by Mary and the Sisters who chose to remain loyal to their vows. The excommunication, they considered, was invalid as due process hadn't

cont next page

"True humility seems to me to be unreal unless accompanied by a sweet and thoughtful charity."

MMK 1870

been followed, and the evidence against Mary was unsound.¹² They therefore encouraged her not to lose heart and even permitted her to stay close to the Blessed Sacrament in a “little room above the vestry” of their church in Norwood whence she could attend Mass and receive Communion.¹³ After her excommunication had been lifted, Mary wrote,

*May our good God ever bless and protect the loved Society of Jesus, for indeed we all owe much to it. The same beautiful spirit of charity breathes through all its children. It is the spirit of St Ignatius.*¹⁴

When Mary went to Rome to seek papal support for the Sisters’ Rule, Fr Anton Anderledy sj instructed her in church law concerning religious life and helped her to develop a sound theological understanding of Church authority.¹⁵ Bishop Greg O’Kelly sj suggests Fr Tappeiner must either have given

Mary a letter of introduction or written directly to Fr Anderledy about Mary because as Assistant to the Jesuit Superior-General, Fr Anderledy would not ordinarily have granted an audience to an unknown colonial woman.¹⁶ Mary must have thought highly of Fr Anderledy, for she visited him twenty-six times during her ten weeks in Rome, and commented to her mother that he “is so kind I feel myself almost back again with dear Father Tappeiner.”¹⁷

Many view Mary MacKillop as a hero, and perhaps rightly so, but she was far more than that. She was a person who endeavoured to follow God’s Will for her life and had the humility to accept the help she needed to accomplish what she felt called to do. The question for us today is whether we try to ‘go it alone’ or have the humility to reflect when and from whom we need support.

¹ Lesley O’Brien, *Mary MacKillop Unveiled*, (North Blackburn, Vic: Collins Dove, 1994), 7, 17, 116.

² Katie Pickles, “Colonial Sainthood in Australasia,” *National Identities* 7 (2005): 391, accessed April 14, 2021. <https://www.tandfonline-com.ezproxy2.acu.edu.au/doi/pdf/10.1080/14608940500334457?needAccess=true>.

³ Sheila McCreanor, rsj, ed, *Mary MacKillop and a Nest of Crosses: Correspondence with Fr Julian Tenison Woods 1869-1872*, (Sydney: Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, 2011), 348. *Letter to Fr Woods, June 3, 1870*.

⁴ Gardiner, *Mary MacKillop*, 152; Pauline Wicks rsj, *Father Joseph Tappeiner sj – Director of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart 1871 – 1882* (Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart: 2020), 2, accessed August 4, 2021, <https://www.sosj.org.au/friend-and-wise-counsel/>.

⁵ McCreanor, ed, *Mary MacKillop and a Nest of Crosses: Correspondence with Fr Julian Tenison Woods 1869-1872*, (Sydney: Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, 2011), 348. *Letter to Fr Woods, January 22, 1872*.

⁶ Foale, *The Josephite Story*, 166.

⁷ McCreanor, ed, *Mary MacKillop and her Early Companions*, 86. *Letter from Fr Woods to Miss Phillips, February 7, 1868*.

⁸ O’Kelly, Private Conversation; Foale, *Think of the Ravens*, 10.

⁹ McCreanor, ed, *Mary MacKillop and Flora*, 75. *Letter from Mary to Flora. October 16, 1872*.

¹⁰ Edean, “The Concept of Ignatian Mysticism,” 86.

¹¹ Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies Boston College, “The Society of Jesus in Australia 1828-1948,” *Woodstock Letters*, Volume LXXVIII Number 3 (Boston: The Portal to Jesuit Studies, 1949), 244-245, 247, accessed August 4, 2021. [¹² Gardiner, *Mary MacKillop*, 106; According to O’Kelly, Private Conversation, Fr Kranewitter, who in 1870 had moved to Melbourne, even went so far as to comment in a letter inquiring about the affairs unfolding in Adelaide, that the poor Bishop must be out of his mind! It is also possible that the Jesuits reflected how their own founder had been falsely accused by civic authorities and the Inquisition on at least sixteen occasions. See J Carlos Coupeau, “Five Personae of Ignatius of Loyola,” in *The Cambridge Companion to the Jesuits*, ed, Thomas Worcester, Cambridge Companions to Religion, \(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008\): 41, accessed December 17, 2021, doi:10.1017/CCOL9780521857314.003.](https://jesuitonlinelibrary.bc.edu/?a=is&oid=wlet19490701-01&type=staticpdf&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN-----;Dalton, “The Work of the Austrian Jesuits of Sevenhill,” 3-4.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

¹³ McCreanor, ed, *Mary MacKillop and a Nest of Crosses*, 315. *Letter from Mary to Fr Woods, November 21, 1871*.

¹⁴ McCreanor, ed, *Mary MacKillop and Flora*, 97. *June 3, 1873*.

¹⁵ Cresp, *In the Spirit of Joseph*, 24-25.

¹⁶ O’Kelly, Private Conversation.

¹⁷ McCreanor, ed, *Mary MacKillop and Flora*, 99. *June 3, 1873*.

Vale Pope Francis



Together with the Sisters and others across the globe, we, Josephite Companions mourn the death of Pope Francis. We give thanks for his deep faith, his strong leadership, his compassionate heart and his advocacy for justice.

Pope Francis cared for the poor and those on the edge. He also had a willingness to meet with world leaders and was not afraid to speak his truth.

As Sisters of St Joseph, we always felt a special connection to Pope Francis. The Pope chose to begin his pontificate on the Feast of St Joseph (19 March 2013) and declared the Year of Joseph to be honoured and celebrated from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021. A highlight of this year for us as a Congregation was to receive a special greeting from Pope Francis.

In 2023, Pope Francis held a General Audience, focusing on the life and example of St Mary MacKillop (1842-1909). Pope Francis said Mary MacKillop believed she was sent “to spread the Good News and invite others to encounter the living Christ.” She read the signs of her times, he said, and felt drawn to found several schools to spread the Gospel through Catholic education.

“One essential characteristic of her zeal for the Gospel,” said Pope Francis, “was her desire to care for the poor and marginalised. This pushed her to go where others refused or were unable to go.”

“May her efforts to form young people inspire us today,” he prayed, “and may her intercession sustain the daily work of parents, teachers, catechists, and all educators, carried out for the good of young people and a future that is more humane and full of hope.”

Monica Cavanagh rsj Congregational Leader
22nd April 2025

May we who share the Josephite charism, continue to make a difference in the world, as did Pope Francis, through living the Gospel with a Josephite heart, through a focus on Friendship, Prayer and Service.

Use of Bethany – changes are afoot!

From the beginning of this year changes have been made to the running of the Mary MacKillop Precinct. Together with similar Spirituality and Heritage Centres in other Josephite places, all now come under the *Josephite Spirituality Ministry*. As there are now less Sisters involved in this ministry, the Sisters have needed to make decisions to ensure the financial sustainability of these special places into the future.

This means that costs such as power, insurance, maintenance, cleaning and staff, which have been previously absorbed by the Sisters, now need to be accounted for, and, moving forward, the Spirituality Ministry will need to charge a fee for the use of Bethany. We have been blessed to have access to such high-quality resources for many years, and

during 2025 we hope to be able to cover these costs from our present finances. In times ahead, however, we will need to include a minimal charge to enable us to support this ministry.

In our March edition of the JCoLT Newsletter *Newsflash*, you will also have read or read about new arrangements regarding finances and governance. Most of these will be relevant to JCoLT and our local Companions' Leadership Teams. A major change is that finances will be centralised, with processes being put in place for Regions to access funds appropriately. In the immediate future, continue subscription payments as usual. Further details will be provided as the year progresses. Please speak to Julie or another Team member for any clarification.

Our Josephite Partners

Living in the Spirit of Mary MacKillop

- **St Joseph's Old Scholars Association**

An Old Scholar is anyone (female or male) who has ever been connected to a Josephite school or college in Australia, as a student or teacher. Our Association has been in existence for over one hundred years.

There will only be ONE luncheon this year, returning to the Lockleys Hotel. Mark the 15th of October in your diary. Pricing, menu and further details will be in our August/September newsletter.

- **Mary MacKillop College Alumnae**

This new direction reflects our shared legacy and embraces everyone in our community, including past students and staff of St Joseph's Higher Primary, St Joseph's High School, Mary MacKillop College and the Sisters of St Joseph, whose spirit has been at the heart of our journey.

Together we celebrate the past, connect in the present and inspire for the future.

Let's continue building lifelong memories and friendships!

Follow us on Instagram @mmcalumnae

Join our Facebook group <https://www.marymackillop.sa.edu.au/alumnae>

- **Mary MacKillop Precinct**

- Museum and Gift Shop – open Tuesday to Friday, 10am – 4pm and Saturday 10am – 1pm

The Museum tells the South Australian stories of some of the early companions of Mary MacKillop, and the history and legacy of the Josephites.

The Gift Shop has many products available for sale including the monthly *Southern Cross* magazine, books, cards, sacramental gifts and much more!

Orders and enquiries: www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au/shop or 08 8130 5910

- St Joseph's Chapel – open every day, 10am – 4pm

A place for quiet reflection and prayer. A place where Mary MacKillop herself prayed!

- Bethany

Offers workshops, reflection and retreat days.

Details online through www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au

- Spotlight on Mary MacKillop

Currently not scheduled. Soon we will be providing details of a new and exciting way forward.

- High Tea with Paddington

Sunday 29th June, 2pm in Bethany

Cost \$50 or \$25 for a Virtual Seat

Proceeds going to the Josephite Mission in Peru and *Mary MacKillop Today*.

Bookings closer to the event through TryBooking.

Enquiries: Bridgette (0438 805 579) or
Gabrielle (0433 327 624)



Proudly supporting

MARY MACKILLOP
today



In the Jubilee Year of Hope

Introduction

Mary MacKillop is a woman ...
Who dared to believe in her dream
Who dared to trust in her God
Who dared to take the risk to break boundaries
And travel down roads
That could lead to who knows where!
She is a woman who dares us
For the sake of God's Mission.

*"Little did either of us
then dream of what was
to spring from so small
a beginning."
MMK 1891*

In the Year of Jubilee, Pope Francis invited Christians to allow God to fill our lives with hope, so that we may become gifts of hope for everyone around us. He said:

"We have to hold onto the rope of hope – hold on tight. Let us help each other discover this encounter with Christ who gives us life and let us set out on a journey as pilgrims of hope to celebrate that life."

As members of the Church, we are all carriers of the Spirit's dream to participate in the mission of Jesus and so, may we bring hope and make a difference in our world.

Reflection

Come cross the river with me as a sojourner in faith.
Bring along a sense of expectancy, a vision of high hopes,
a glimpse of future possibility, a vivid imagination,
for God is not finished with us, yet.

We are called to pioneer a future yet unnamed.
As we venture into the river of life,
we leave behind our desires for a no-risk life,
the comfort of material possessions, old dependencies and patterns.
Let us travel light, for the river is rough and uncharted,
wrought with twists and turns, full of surprises.

Come into the river with me,
in the spirit of faith and expectation
toward the God of our hopes and dreams.

Across this planet we are crossing together,
companions in spirit and truth,
secure in the knowledge that we travel together toward
God's future breaking in.

Crossing the River – Daily Meditations for Women
Carol Gura – Commission for Australian Catholic Women 2003



The Presence You Are

It's not what you do but how you do it
It's not what you see but how you see
It's not what you say, what you know or achieve
But it's the presence, the presence you are.

Jan Novotka

Listen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3W6zo7OVBG0I>