

Queensland Josephite Companions News

Companioning each other with a Josephite Heart

April 2025

Editorial...

Pilgrims of Hope

It was the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, as the women went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. This was no joyful journey. As they awoke from the slumber that had given them some form of numbness, they remembered the terrible events of that Friday. Jesus had been executed in a most terrible manner, and their hopes that he might be the redeemer who would set them free had been extinguished. Now their hearts and steps were incredibly heavy as they faced again the reality of his death. Still, they had one more task to do for him. They needed to better prepare his body for

burial, a task that had been interrupted by the Jewish Sabbath rituals and must now be completed as their final act of love and respect for Jesus.

Imagine their surprise and confusion when they found the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. On the way, they had been discussing how they would be able to do this. Suddenly, they came to realise that Jesus was no longer in the tomb. How was this possible? As they recalled the time they had spent with him, they began to understand that he had told them that he would die and that, after three days, he would rise from the dead. Gradually their feelings of sadness and fear changed. Jesus had been preparing them for this very event. They felt the first stirrings of hope fill their hearts. Jesus was no longer present with them, but his promise that he would still be with them grew in certainty and they recognised the truth of what he had told them.

In this special Year of Jubilee, we have an amazing opportunity to cultivate and nourish the seeds of faith implanted in each of us through our Baptism. Through the action of that sacrament, we entered into the tomb with Jesus, dying to sin and our former self so that we could rise again to attain the life promised to us. That event may have been decades ago or even more recently, but nevertheless, those seeds of faith don't have an anticipated expiry date. There is no timeline on God's mercy, forgiveness, and healing. The gift was freely given. It is our response through grace that can trigger it into life and allow it to flourish and bloom. We have the capacity to change the landscape of our world for the better. In current times, pessimism is rife, hope is stifled, and enthusiasm is in short supply. These are not the values Jesus intended when he surrendered his life for us. He came to bring hope, and courage, and

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fruitfulness. We have the responsibility to change the landscape of our Earth so that it may become again a place of sanctuary, love, and peace built in the image of our God.

That sounds like a very tall order; and it is. But God's grace knows no limits and absolutely intends that all peoples should come to know of his love. Pope Francis recognises only too well that our Earth and its peoples are in desperate need of hope and love. Giving us the gift of this Jubilee Year is the perfect antidote to pessimism and despair. We have to make God's love known with a new intensity during this time. We know this is what God is asking of us. It is what he requires us to do. We have to go out into our world with new enthusiasm as Pilgrims of Hope, pilgrims who will determine to make his love known to our world. Our actions have to mirror God's love to people. They may not encounter his presence unless they can see it or feel it in us. That's an incredible responsibility, but one that is absolutely necessary.

Saint Mary MacKillop of the Cross understood this necessity in her life. She was so very attuned to God's love that she knew she had to show that love to everyone she could, whether that be orphans or widows, prisoners or destitute, male or female. As a Pilgrim of Hope, Mary made no distinctions. In 1899 she wrote "God wants us by every means in our power to lead others to life". Isn't that the task of a pilgrim, the task entrusted to you and I as fellow pilgrims, and even more so as Josephite Companions following in Mary MacKillop's footsteps?

In this Jubilee Year, may we embody the spirit of Jesus as encouraged by Pope Francis in the closing words of the Jubilee Prayer:

"May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the Earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen."

Janette Dobson

Rockhampton Josephite Companion

The Jubilee Prayer

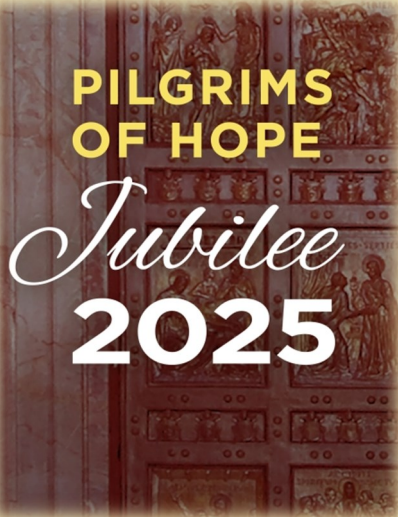
Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May the grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and
the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new Earth,
when, with the powers of evil vanguished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the Earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

Franciscans



Around the Grounds...

TOWNSVILLE—24 Hours with the Lord

On the weekend of the 4th Sunday of Lent, Townsville Josephite Companions participated in the Pope Francis-inspired event, *24 Hours for the Lord*. For the Townsville Diocese, it was to be the main Cathedral event for this Jubilee Year.

We were allocated 1 hour, and the last hour before the 24 hours concluded with Benediction.

Beginning with an active prayer, based around our pillars of Friendship, Prayer and Service, all in attendance joined in. Originally, this active prayer was going to be a part of our St Joseph's Feast Day liturgy. Unfortunately, that was cancelled due to rain.

With a focus on Hope, the companions followed the active prayer with the praying of the Lenten Responsorial Psalms and ending each Psalm with the St Mary of the Cross MacKillop inspirational saying:

*God is so good – we ought to cling to Him
with love and hope.*

(28.04.1873)

At the completion of the liturgy, we gathered for a Companions' lunch. During the lunch, we shared positive feedback that we were given about the liturgy. We have already put our hand up to participate in a similar event next year.

Ken Theodore, Townsville

NORTH SIDE GROUP—BRISBANE

We had a Companion's meeting on Saturday 15 March. Three new people have indicated they would be interested in attending. Hopefully they can join the next meeting which will be **14 June**. The dates for the remainder of the year are **6 September** and **15 November**. If you are interested in attending the North Side Group please email qld.companions@sosj.org.au.

Carolyn Grimward, North Side

eCOMPANION GROUP

Met on 14 April and will meet again in May. At our last meeting we looked at the Stations of the Cross. The group is getting bigger but we are always looking to welcome new Companions. The group meets via zoom each month. If you are interested in joining please email qld.companions@sosj.org.au

Bernadette Roche, eCompanion

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TO THE QUEENSLAND COMPANIONS MOVEMENT

SUBSCRIPTION: \$30

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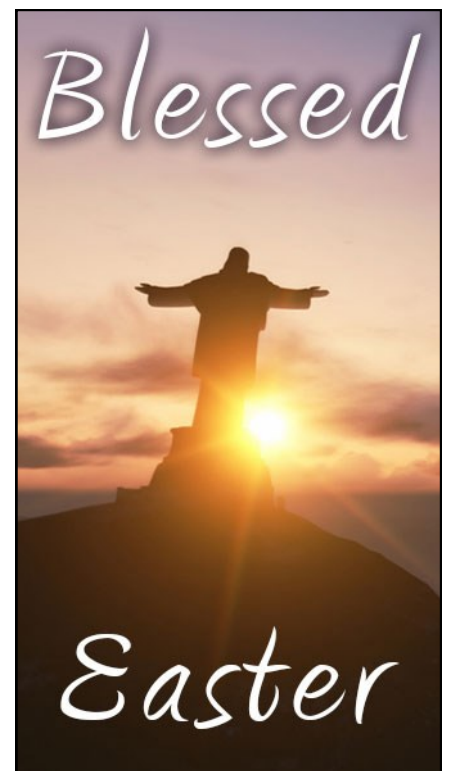
NEW BANK DETAILS:

Account Name: Trustees of the Sisters of St Joseph Control Account
BSB: 062217

Account Number: 10903270

REFERENCE: QLD — YOUR SURNAME AND INITIAL (E.G. CAMPBELL M)

COMPANIONS ADDRESS: 55 NEWTON STREET, WULGURU QLD 4811



Action Prayer

Pauline McQuire, Townsville

FRIENDSHIP

We look around to see friends we already know, and friends we are yet to meet. Inspired by Saint Joseph, a righteous man, who protected those he loved, his friends, his family and all those he met – we embrace our hearts filled with friendship and love.

(Arms crossed over our hearts)

ALL: WE THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE.

PRAYER

We see the wonder of God's creation; we find Hope in the beauty that surrounds us. With faith-filled hearts we centre our lives with prayer, giving us strength to face our crosses.

(Hands together in prayer over our heart)

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYERS AS WE JOURNEY TOGETHER.

SERVICE

We are pilgrims of action, providing care and support wherever the need leads us. We reach out in service.

(Reaching our hands outward)

ALL: WE SERVE WITH A JOSEPHITE HEART.

Dates for your Calendar

DATES TO
REMEMBER



MAY

- 1 Feast of St Joseph the Worker
- 11 Mother's Day
- 26 National Sorry Day

JUNE

- 1 The Ascension of the Lord
- 8 Pentecost Sunday
- 24 Nativity of St John the Baptist
- 27 Feast of the Sacred Heart

JULY

- 6-13 NAIDOC Week

AUGUST

- 8 Feastday of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
- 15 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 30 Companions Webinar

Companion's Prayer

*Companioning Spirit, intensify our living of the Josephite charism
Now as you inspired St Joseph, St Mary MacKillop and Julian
Tenison Woods.*

*Grace us with friendship and hospitality,
As we make community in the ordinariness of our lives.
Grace us with prayerful hearts that listen to your voice
And contemplate your presence in creation.*

*Grace us with service, promoting human dignity and love of
neighbour.*

*Strengthen our commitment to live justly, love tenderly,
Conscious that we are participating in your mission.
Companion, encourage and enfold us in the fullness of divine love.
Amen.*