

# W.A. JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

## NEWSLETTER WINTER 2025



*Holy Spirit,  
sweeping in, unseen, unannounced,  
unexpected, uncompromising,  
pressing through the door  
startling those hovering in fear  
shaking them out of the corners,  
awakening concealed gifts.*

*Holy Spirit,  
relentless loving presence,  
bringing strength to the weak,  
courage to the fearful,  
Determination to the doubtful,  
Joy to the disheartened,  
faith to the disbelieving.*

Welcome to you and yours as we go forward into this season of winter. We are reminded that winter is a celebration of life, a time of drawing close to others and providing warmth and shelter from the cold. Winter is a time too, for reflection and to prepare our hearts for renewal. The prayer reflection for this season is centred around the Sacred Heart of Jesus, encouraging us to trust fully in the love and mercy of the Lord. Recently, the world has welcomed Pope Leo XIV as Pontiff. His first message to the world is echoed in our prayer. "Dear brothers and sisters, these are the first words spoken by the risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for God's flock. I would like this greeting of peace to resound in your hearts, in your families, among all people, wherever they may be, in every nation and throughout the world. Peace be with you! It is the peace of the risen Christ. A peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. A peace that comes from God, the God who loves us all, unconditionally."

May the season of Pentecost bless you with courage and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

*Dot Savage and Helen Brown*

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

## RECONCILIATION WEEK

The dates for National Reconciliation Week remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey – the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

As Josephite Companions we are called to allow Reconciliation to live in our hearts, minds and actions as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We all have a role to play when it comes to Reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures.

This year's theme, "Bridging Now to Next" focuses on the ongoing connection between the past, present and future. Significant events of the past, for example, Corroboree 2000, brought together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous leaders in a historic call for Reconciliation. We continue that work, inviting all Australians to come together as one in *Bridging Now to Next* – building a more united and respectful nation.



*Bree Buttenshaw's artwork for National Reconciliation Week depicted native plants rising after fire – reminding us of our spirit, of how we grow, again and again, of how fire doesn't end us – it transforms us. And of how, in the ash, there is always the chance for new life.*

## CELEBRATING THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI

<https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary-laudato-si/>

Please take the opportunity to view the link above.

Sr Mary-Ann Casanova reflects on the importance of Pope Francis' encyclical and praises him for his insight and challenge to the world. Sister highlights the Pope's sentiment that it takes just one good person to restore hope. She makes this personal by adding the following question - "Will I be that person of hope?" Let us walk together with hope – celebrating what has been and boldly embracing what is to come.



## WINTER WOOLIES APPEAL

The Dardanup Josephite Companions invited members to contribute to the Winter Woolies collection, held during our June Gathering. This initiative supported those in need within our local community by providing warm clothing and essentials during the colder months. We welcomed donations of new or gently used jumpers/jackets, scarves, beanies, gloves, socks, and blankets. Through the generosity of Companions, we were able to bring comfort and warmth to many this winter. We came together in the spirit of compassion and service, continuing the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop.

## **JOSEPHITE COMPANION MOVEMENT CHARTER AND AUSPICE AGREEMENT**

On the Feast of St Joseph, 19 March 2025, a significant milestone was reached for the Josephite Companion Movement with the signing of the Josephite Companion Movement Charter and the Auspice Agreement by the Congregational Leadership Team and the Josephite Companion Leadership Team (JCoLT)

### **What These Documents Represent**

#### 1. The Charter

The Charter articulates the identity, mission, and values of the Josephite Companions. It affirms their commitment to living the charism of Saint Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods through:

**Friendship**

**Prayer**

**Service**

It defines who the Companions are and how they seek to embody the Josephite spirit in their daily lives, both individually and collectively.

#### 2. The Auspice Agreement

This formal agreement outlines the relationship between the Josephite Companion Movement and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart. It sets clear expectations and responsibilities for both parties, ensuring mutual support and accountability as the movement continues to grow and evolve. Specific grievance and code of conduct policies are included.

### **A Step into the Future**

This dual signing marks a transformative step forward for the movement. It provides a codified framework for how the Josephite Companions will operate, collaborate, and sustain their mission. It also ensures that the movement remains aligned with the values and vision of the Sisters of Saint Joseph while maintaining its own unique identity and autonomy.

### **Global Reach and Local Impact**

The Josephite Companion Movement is active not only in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand but also in places like Peru, Timor Leste, and Scotland. The Charter and Agreement will guide all these communities in their shared journey of living the gospel with a Josephite heart

*These documents will be available in full in a special edition of JCoLT Newsflash due early July.*

## **JUNE DARDANUP JOSEPHITE COMPANION GATHERING**

Companions were given the opportunity to discuss the Charter and the Auspice Agreement at the June gathering in Bunbury. The challenge is to embrace the documents in their entirety and plan for the future of our movement as an unincorporated arm of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

## **FINANCIAL CHANGES**

Financial changes will come into full effect on 30 June 2025. Future donations and subscriptions will be made directly to:

**SOSJ for IJALT**

**BSB: 062217**

**ACC NO: 1090 3270**

Please ensure that you clearly include the following information:

**Name**

**State**

**Purpose**

Example: Helen Brown WA Subscription 2025 or Helen Brown WA Newsletter and Postage donation

## MARY MACKILLOP DAY MASS

You are invited to celebrate a Mass in honour of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop at St Patrick's Cathedral Bunbury, 11 Money Street, Bunbury on **Friday August 8** at 10.30am and share in friendship and fellowship with a ploughman's lunch.

## SAVE THE DATE: JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS CONFERENCE

**2026 July 10-12 in Sydney**

Details to come.

## EXPLORE – EMBRACE – EMBODY



Josephite Companions support the Bunbury Parish Pastoral Council in the implementation of their Sustainability Plan. Members participated in the AARC Walk for Environmental Justice held in Bunbury and set up the display for this event. Parishioners had the opportunity to see the display for two weeks after the ecumenical walk from Koombana Bay to St Augustine Uniting Church in South Bunbury.

## GONE TO GOD

Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near, still loved, always missed, and held so dear.

**Jill Ivey**

**Anne O'Donoghue**

*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](mailto:wa.companions@sosj.org.au) or [08] 9334 0999*



## JOSEPHITE CALENDAR 2026

The Josephite Calendar contains many inspirational quotes from Saint Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods and features many beautiful images, major church feasts and Sundays of the Liturgical Year, public holidays and school term dates. A great gift idea to family and friends! Be sure to put in your orders once the [Order Forms](#) are available!

## WA JOSEPHITE COMPANION GATHERINGS

### DARDANUP

8 August Friday MMK Feast Day Mass

30 August Annie's Day Webinar

8 October

26 November

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### ESPERANCE

Third Thursday of each month

Mass, Rosary and sharing.

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