

# NINE DAYS OF THANKSGIVING

The Sisters of St Joseph  
give thanks for  
150 years  
1866 - 2016



Listening to the  
Heartbeat of the World

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Recently I was reading Mary MacKillop's letter to the Sisters on 19 March, 1891. In this letter Mary reflects, twenty-five years ago St Joseph's Day was celebrated for the first time as the special feast of the proposed Institute. It was on this day that the work of the Sisters of St Joseph was placed under St Joseph's care. Mary MacKillop always wrote to the Sisters for St Joseph's feast each year. It became a tradition for the Sisters to participate in a Novena dedicated to St Joseph for the nine days prior to the feast day.

In this our Sesquicentenary year we invite you to join the Sisters of St Joseph in praying this novena as we the Sisters look forward to celebrating our 150 years. In one of her later letters she encouraged the Sisters to let no obstacle prevent us from proceeding with courage as Joseph had done. May this novena enable you to act with courage as you live into the challenge that the Year of Mercy and our Sesquicentenary holds for each one.

May you have a wonderful day of celebration as we give thanks for the faithfulness of our good God over these 150 years.

Sr Monica Cavanagh  
Congregational Leader.

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Joseph's first and primary call came at birth when he responded to life and thus became a word of God in his person.

This word continued to be "spoken" throughout his life, as, at each stage of his development, he became more deeply who he was made to be.

Through the words of scripture and its interpretation by community leaders, he would have remained in tune with the word of God, allowing it to influence life decisions and to give shape to the truth of God within him.

*In The Spirit of Joseph. Mary Cresp rsj*

It was through listening to God in his dreams that Joseph learnt his vocation.

This word continued to be "spoken" throughout his life, as, at each stage of his development, he became more deeply who he was made to be.

Through attending to the dream, Joseph learnt that he, along with Mary, was to play an active part in the coming of the Messiah. In bringing the gift of himself and allowing the Holy Spirit to work through him, Joseph enabled God's story to take shape.

*In The Spirit of Joseph. Mary Cresp rsj*

Following in the footsteps of Joseph we are called to be attentive to the promptings of Spirit in our hearts and continue to carry out the mission of God in our world.

In the coming days let us, with grateful hearts, walk with Joseph, our Patron.

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# DAY ONE

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JOSEPH

THE

FAITHFUL

ONE

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WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

Today we give thanks  
for those in partnership  
with the  
Sisters of St Joseph

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We are mindful of  
St Joseph the Faithful One  
who opened his heart  
to the unfolding mystery of  
God's mission in the world.

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Forever O God your word  
is firmly fixed in the heavens.  
Your faithfulness endures  
to all generations.

*Psalm 119:89-90*

Do all you can with the means at your  
disposal, and calmly leave the rest to God.

*Mary MacKillop 1891*

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As you ponder the words from

Psalm 119

& the writings of Mary MacKillop 1891

what touches your heart?

*click to continue when ready*



*(Your name)*

*God's faithful love  
endures to all generations.*

*Click to continue when ready*



How is the mystery  
of God's mission in the world  
unfolding in your life?

*(take as much time as you can to reflect on this.)*

*Click to continue when ready*



To what does this call me today?

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United with those  
who are in partnership  
with the Sisters of St Joseph  
we pray:

We give thanks for God's generosity  
in calling the Sisters of St Joseph into being.

For Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods  
the first Sisters, the children in schools,  
the families around them,  
the friends supporting them.  
For the vision, energy and legacy they left.

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We give thanks for the Josephite spirit in God's mission  
for the women who heeded,  
the people who supported the mission,  
the families who welcomed the Sisters,  
For the love and healing in our parishes.

Join with us, all who have gone before  
walking the Josephite way  
supporting the Josephite vision  
drawn into Josephite communion.  
Join us in praise God's abounding kindness.

Amen

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Thank you for praying in solidarity  
with the Sisters of St Joseph  
and people from across the world.

Let us remain mindful of St Joseph  
who opened his heart  
to the unfolding mystery  
of God's mission in the world.

We look forward to praying together tomorrow.



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