



WA JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

Newsletter



Summer | Advent | Christmas 2020 - 2021

Dear Sisters, Companions and Friends,

***Joy to the World!** and to all of you all as this Advent comes around again and we get ready for this special time of the year.*

*Christmas can be brought back to our **Dear Saviour's Birth;** brought back to our families and children as St Mary MacKillop and Julian Tennison Woods' life work was to teach and give to children as well as those in need.*



*The launch of the new name of “**Josephite Companions**” went well and has been enjoyed by many.*

We all move forward with the changes that have been coming for a few years now as they come into place. We will go through it more fully at our gathering meeting.

*May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children lead you to a renewed awareness and appreciation of all you take for granted. May the coming year be one of good health for you. **May you experience the peace which only CHRIST can give.***

A very Happy and Holy Christmas from us all,



Louisa Moore for Metro, Dardanup & Esperance Groups

Advent Prayer

by Margaret Jones ...



My Loving Jesus, I choose you this Advent, as my King and my Saviour. Draw me close to you and help me change what needs

to be changed in my heart.

Mother Mary, pray for me this Advent.

You said YES to all that GOD asked of you, carrying his son - to his birth to be the Light of our World.

We pray, we share, we do our part to welcome JESUS to our hearts, AMEN.

I count the days to Christmas



I count the days to Christmas and I watch the evening sky.

I want to see the angels as to Bethlehem they fly.

I'm watching for the wise men and the royal shining star.

Please may I travel with them? Is the stable very far?

I count the days to Christmas as we shop and bake and clean.

The lights and tinsel sparkle, and yet deep inside I dream.

That as we tell the story of Lord Jesus and his birth, the things of every day will fade as heaven comes to earth.

(author unknown)

10th Anniversary of St Mary's Canonisation Celebrations



SOUTH PERTH

The sisters had two joyous gatherings to celebrate the 10th anniversary of St Mary's Canonisation.

On Saturday 17 October the sisters had a small - social distanced - but memorable celebration on the front verandah at South Perth.

On Tuesday 20 October, a great time



was had by all at the "Bring a Priest to Afternoon Tea" event. Many of the sisters' priest friends turned up; people we have worked with in the past, and others who have a heart for Mary MacKillop and were delighted to be invited. A few with pressing engagements had to leave early but the others stayed on, indicating their pleasure with meeting up with the sisters and their priest friends.

So many people had a hand in the preparation and the cleaning up in true Josephite style, as we honoured Mary MacKillop and remembered her love for priests in this time of the 10th Anniversary of her Canonisation.

DARDANUP

While the Dardanup Companions have been unable to meet, the core group has been busy. The celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop was foremost in our discussions and planning. The group organised for a special intention to be one of the general intercessions at Masses across the weekend of the 17th. The Bunbury Parish honoured Mary of the Cross (whose relic is in the St Patricks Cathedral Altar Stone) in praying for courage and hope for the future. The Mary of the Cross sculpture was adorned with flowers symbolising Mary's strong connection to the country. A prayer focus greeted

parishioners and many asked questions about Mary's life and the work of the Josephite Sisters and Companions.

Plans are also underway for a day of reflection in February 2021. The Dardanup Companions extend blessings for a joyous and Christ-filled Christmas Season. *Dot Savage, for the Dardanup Companions*

METROPOLITAN CELEBRATION UPDATES

Louisa, Marg, Meg and Maureen, decided to go ahead and purchase 1200 mixed bookmarks and "COURAGE" cards with the Posters to match. We then proceeded to add these into the newsletter mail out and also gifted these to the sisters from the companions. Some were also given to Sr Maree Riddler who was also able to get some distributed to schools. We also posted down to our other areas. They were placed at the Cathedral in Bunbury (the Dardanup Companions contributed to the cost of these) and handed out down there. Helen was also able to distribute them in Esperance. We are so proud that we were able to spread St Mary MacKillop's Charism over the state with the wonderful help of Sr Jane Maisey in Sydney who helped us to get them in time despite the slow mail in these times.

We also worked closely with Mary Hemming to make sure we spread information to our groups for the Launching ceremony on the 17th October. It was a wonderful feeling of SERVICE by the four of us.



On the 1st October Margret Jones and Meg Phelan came to my home here on "Honey Hill" and together with my husband Bill, and Marg's husband Nev, we managed to achieve getting all five of the items with the book mark and courage card folded and into the envelopes. The envelopes were then stamped, addressed and posted. It was a wonderful group effort with many laughs and stories around the table during the morning. Laura at South Perth was amazing with her wonderful help getting the newsletter put together with the content coming from Dot Savage. There will be a few book marks and Courage cards at the gathering Day on 13 December for those who did not get them because they received their newsletter by email.

I have received many phone calls and notes of thanks with donations saying how everyone was enjoying the newsletter and loved their little gifts. We are so happy that this action was taken and passed onto our Companions to enjoy. *Louisa for the Metro Companions*

SNAPSHOTS FROM ESPERANCE CELEBRATIONS



Pictured right is Mrs Shena Kendall - a faithful MacKillop Associate - now Companion!

She is Esperance's most senior parishioner and seldom misses a gathering.

She so looks forward to Friendship-Prayer-Service offered every month.



CONDINGUP CONFIRMATION & CELEBRATIONS

I've attached a photo we took at Mass today in Condingup. Helen Johnston very kindly joined us today and brought us the beautiful commemorative prayer book for St Mary MacKillop's 10th anniversary and other little prayer cards.

We have Mass in Condingup once a month and enjoy the opportunity to gather and pray together. The Church of

the Good Shepherd was built in the 1960's and provided a place of worship not only for the Catholic community but also the Anglican and Uniting communities for many years. Unfortunately numbers have dwindled and there are only a few families who now attend Mass each month but we enjoy our little church family.

We are very thankful that Helen has included us in the commemoration of St Mary MacKillop.

Best wishes, Marie Fowler

Pictured right: Four candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Condingup community church: Church of the Good Shepherds.

Feeling is that St Mary MacKillop had a hand in this event for the Bishop of Bunbury to come out to their little town to confirm them!



Bits and Pieces ...

✝ **Some JOSEPHITE CALENDARS are still available** - Please order your copy ASAP by contacting Laura on 9334 0999 or wa.companions@sosj.org.au (a big thank you to those that have already ordered!)

✝ **Thank you!** - A big thank you to all those who continue to send donations for the production of the Newsletter. Donations are all very much appreciated.

✝ **Email Addresses** - This is a request made to all members to update their email addresses so that Newsletters can be sent electronically and so, save on postage costs etc.

WA JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS GATHERINGS, NEWS & EVENTS



SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS



ENQUIRIES: Louisa Moore - 0438 616 228, email wa.companions@sosj.org.au

THE SUMMER GATHERING IS GOING AHEAD! SUNDAY 13 December

- ✦ 1.30pm ~ Time for greeting one another, 'Bring & Buy' and Raffle
(Please note time change to 1.30pm start)
- ✦ 2.00pm ~ Prayer in Chapel, followed by afternoon tea and drawing of the raffle and Kris Kringle gift giving in the Function Room
- ✦ Where: St Joseph's Convent, 16 York Street, South Perth
- ✦ Bring: A plate of food to share | Kris Kringle gift to the value of \$10 and any Bring & Buy items



**SOCIAL DISTANCING
TO TAKE PLACE AT ALL
TIMES PLEASE!**

**Remember, no shaking
hands or hugging.**

Tentative Dates for 2021: 21 March | 13 June | 12 September | 12 December

****Please ring Louisa or the South Perth office closer to each date to check gathering can go ahead****

DARDANUP GATHERINGS



ENQUIRIES: Dot Savage: (08) 9791 4008 or email Dot: helenbrown.hb@gmail.com
Irene Rodgers: 0423 488 018 or email Irene: irenerodgers1@bigpond.com

VENUE - Parish Meeting House Centre, St Patrick's Cathedral Bunbury

TENTATIVE 'DAY OF REFLECTION' MEETING ON 10 FEBRUARY 2021

Please check with Dot or Irene closer to the date

ESPERANCE GATHERINGS



ENQUIRIES: Helen Johnston: (08) 9071 1256 or email: donaldjohnston@bigpond.com

3rd Thursday of each month: Mass, Rosary, sharing...



**We Give Thanks
and Remember**



Please pray for all the front line service people and their families. May they get the time together and the strength from St Mary MacKillop to carry out their services to us all and may they find happiness and love in their hearts at this time of the year.



WA Josephite Companions



Let us travel to Christmas

*Let us travel to Christmas
By the light of a star.
Let us go to the hillside
Right where the shepherds are,
Let us see the shining angels
Singing from haven above.
Let us all see Mary cradling
God's holy child with love*

Author unknown

Advent ~ Christmas ~ Summer 2020 | 2021

Mary's Song



*Sleep, King Jesus,
Your royal bed is made of hay
In a cattle-shed.*

*Sleep, King Jesus,
Do not fear,
Joseph is watching
And waiting near.*



Warm in the wintry air

You lie,

The ox and the donkey

Standing by,

With summer eyes

They seem to say:

Welcome, Jesus,

On Christmas Day!

Sleep, King Jesus:

Your diamond crown

High in the sky

Where the stars look down.

Let your reign

Of love begin,

That all the world

May enter in.



Charles Causley

The Prayer of St Francis

Lord make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love:

Where there is injury, pardon:

Where there is discord, union:

Where there is doubt, Faith:

Where there is despair, hope:

Where there is darkness, light:

Where there is sadness, Joy:

For your mercy and your truth's sake'

Attributed to St Frances of Assisi (1181-1226)

