



# WA JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER 2024

### *A Summer Gloria*

*Glory be to God...*

*For clear, blue skies and sunny days  
For fresh green grass and leafy trees  
For vivid jacaranda and Christmas bush  
For fluffy white clouds and gentle  
breezes  
For thirsty Summer gardens.*



*Glory be to God...*

*For people stepping out with sandaled feet  
For children playing games with delighted squeals  
For picnics and street parties  
For Christmas gift shopping  
For long days and short nights  
For open spaces and bright swimwear*

*Glory be to God!*

**(Adapted from a prayer by Bob Hostetler)**

Dear Sisters, Companions and friends,

Welcome to the Summer 2024 edition of the WA Josephite Companions Newsletter. City and town councils have already begun decorating the streets with a myriad of mostly secular expressions of the season and we are reminded that Christmas is just around the corner. The Christmas crib and images of the Nativity are sadly, difficult to find and one wonders where the true meaning of Christmas has gone. Christmas Carols are creeping into playlists and there is a sense of anticipation filling the air. How are you preparing to welcome Christmas?

The process of updating databases continues and we wish to thank those Companions who have responded to JCoLT's request to update membership details.

Our prayer in this Summer season of 2024/25 offers the opportunity to reflect on the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas and the Epiphany.

May the Christ-child be born again in our hearts and homes this Christmas. Wishing you the peace and joy that this season brings.

Yours in Friendship, Prayer and Service,  
Dot Savage and Helen Brown for WA Josephite Companions

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

# VALE SR CARLA CURRAN

by Dot Savage

Sr Carla Curran was a beloved member of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart. As we reflect on her life, we give thanks for the remarkable woman she was, a woman whose faith, dedication, and love left a deep and lasting impact on all who had the privilege to know her. Sr Carla was born in 1929 and as a young woman worked as a dressmaker before enlisting in the Royal Australian Navy. When her naval service was finished, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and was professed in 1961. She devoted herself to living the charism of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, whose spirit of compassion, service and faithfulness guided her every step. Her life was a testament to the mission of Mary MacKillop and in many ways she embodied the very essence of Josephite spirituality.

Sr Carla had a deep thirst for life — a hunger to explore the unknown and bring the love of God to remote and often lonely places. She carried the Good News to places as far as China and throughout outback Western Australia, as a member of the Motor Missions team, always accepting the life God offered her with an open heart and a willingness to serve. Whether in the hustle of city life or the quiet of the countryside, Sr Carla was always ready to respond to the needs around her, bringing her unique gifts wherever they were most needed.

For 18 years Sr Carla served as the Coordinator of the Josephite Associates (Companions), a role she took on with remarkable passion and dedication. During this time she was praised for her outstanding enthusiasm and tireless energy. Sr Carla fostered an environment where each person could grow in relationship with God and one another.

Even after retiring from this formal leadership role, Sr Carla continued to be a faithful companion to many, remaining an active presence in the lives of those around her and offering mentorship and guidance. Sr Carla's visits to Companion groups, her simple faith, and her genuine interest in others were a source of great strength and encouragement. Her welcoming presence made all who met her feel seen, heard, and valued. She had a remarkable ability to connect with people from all walks of life, and she shared in their joys and struggles with a spirit of generosity and grace.


Her vision was one of hope — a hope that was expressed through her acts of loving service. She was alert to the signs of God's presence in the world and committed herself to sharing that presence with others. Her gentle spirit, her good humour, her reflective nature and her devotion to family were a source of light to all. She had an uncanny ability to listen attentively, to offer words of wisdom, and to gently lead others in their own spiritual journeys.

Sr Carla's life was one of profound faithfulness. She lived each day in service to God and others, and she did so with a joy that was infectious. She brought warmth, kindness, and a quiet strength to all who knew her. In her presence, we were reminded of the power of simplicity, the beauty of faith, and the importance of walking with one another on the journey of life.

As we mourn her passing, we also celebrate her life — a life that has touched us deeply. We are richer for having known Sr Carla. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched, the communities she helped to form, and the example she set of living a faith-filled, joyful, and generous life.


Sr Carla, you have now entered into eternal peace with your God. May you rest in the loving arms of the One you served so faithfully. We thank you for your leadership, for your friendship, and for the many ways you made this world a better place. You will be deeply missed, but we take comfort in the knowledge that you now enjoy the reward of your labour in the presence of your Creator.

*May you rest in peace,  
Sr Carla of the Holy Family.*



**Sr Carla Curran rsj**

Entered Life	18 Aug 1929
Entered Religious Life	12 Dec 1957
Professed	7 Jan 1961
Entered Eternal Life	6 Sep 2024



Sisters of Saint Joseph  
of the  
Sacred Heart

# LAUDATE DEUM—A CALL TO ACTION

At the October Gathering, Josephite Companions participated in a workshop entitled Laudate Deum A Call to Action. Information provided assisted Companions to further develop their understanding of the Sisters of Saint Joseph's *Embrace, Explore, Embody* initiatives. They explored what it means to be true stewards of creation and by extension, the environment. The video clip, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyOb3HikGFg> introduced the topic and underlined the urgency around the climate crisis. A radical shift in our attitudes and in our actions is required. Participants were given the opportunity to express and discuss their responses and it was obvious that climate change and the perceived inaction of those in power are uppermost in the hearts and minds of many.



Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* was revisited, emphasizing that the environmental crisis is a moral and faith based issue. This urgent call for action is supported by scientific data that indicates that human activity is driving global warming and environmental destruction. Companions were reminded that the call for action parallels the broader tradition of Catholic Social Teaching which provides a framework for addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

**Care for God's Creation:** Respect for the environment is central to the Church's moral framework. It is seen as a part of respecting human life and dignity.

**Option for the Poor:** Climate change exacerbates inequality. The Church calls for a preferential option for the poor, whose lives are most affected by environmental destruction.

**Solidarity:** Catholics are called to act in solidarity with all people, especially those affected by climate change, advocating for policies that promote environmental and social justice.

**GLOBAL INITIATIVES** — Prayer, Ecological Restoration Projects, Advocacy in environmental policies, Public Awareness

**COMMUNITY ACTION** — Use energy efficient systems in the Church, Introduce solar power usage, Clean up events, Participate in campaigns

**PERSONAL ACTION** — Reduce waste, Conserve water, Lower Carbon footprint, Support biodiversity.

Following on from this presentation, the group looked closely at the Season of Creation 1 September - 4 October—an ecumenical time of global prayer and action. Churches and communities come together to pray, reflect, and take action on environmental issues. This global movement is rooted in faith, reminding us that creation care is a core responsibility for all believers.

We concluded the workshop by looking at the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart's *Explore—Embrace—Embody* Conversation package—*Laudate Deum* and the *Urgency of the Climate Crisis*.

We will further explore this package in 2025.



# EXPLORE - EMBRACE- EMBODY

*Do not think only of the present,  
But of the great future* MMK 1876

St Mary's words about caring for the future resonate today in the hearts of all who care about our planet. Many of us are concerned about the ways we cause damage to the earth and to the air we breathe. Josephite spirituality calls us to a sense of deep communion with all of life, and our sacred connection to the earth.

Psalm 104: 30

*Send back your breath—fresh life  
begins and you renew the face of  
the earth.* (Sue and Leo Kane)



## 2025 YEAR OF JUBILEE



We are invited to be authentic “pilgrims of hope” walking towards the Lord who opens his merciful and forgiving arms as we search for truth.

## GONE TO GOD REST IN PEACE



Sr June Barrett rsj

Bill Ritchie

John Ivers, husband of Pat (Esperance)

During the month of Holy Souls, we pray for the repose of the souls of departed **Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart** and past Josephite Companions.

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

## WA JOSEPHITE COMPANION GATHERINGS

### DARDANUP

#### Christmas Gathering

Sr Pauline Dundon ‘Lantern of Love’  
27 November 9.30am Meeting Room  
Cathedral Precinct, 11 Money St  
Bunbury

**AGM 12 February 2025**

#### ENQUIRIES:

Dot Savage: (08) 9791 4008

Helen Brown: 0478 783 990

Email: [helenbrown.hb@gmail.com](mailto:helenbrown.hb@gmail.com)

### ESPERANCE

Third Thursday of each month.

Mass, Rosary and sharing.

#### ENQUIRIES:

Helen Johnston: (08) 9071 1256

Email: [donaldjohnston@bigpond.com](mailto:donaldjohnston@bigpond.com)

