

ANZ Josephite Companions Prayer Sheet March 2025



GATHERING:

'I am not disturbed or uneasy about the future' Mary MacKillop 1871

Context: This year the Josephite Congregation is on a pilgrimage towards their 28th Chapter with the theme **Daring to Be Transformed**. Let us journey together in solidarity in this Jubilee year as **Pilgrims of Hope**.

LISTENING: Pope Francis writes:

"Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often, we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness...For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope. "

St Paul reminds us:

"...And endurance builds character, which gives us a hope that will never disappoint us. All of this happens because God has given us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with love." (Romans 5:4-5)

"Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind".
(Romans 12:2)

RESPONDING:

As you reflect on these readings, what stays with you? What challenges you? How are you called to be transformed and to be a sign of hope in our world?



LISTENING: Listen to the following song by Kathy Sherman csj with the message to be hope-filled, knowing that God accompanies us always.

I am with you on the journey and I will never leave you
I am with you on the journey always with you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty9pupKlyR4>



PERSONAL REFLECTION: Take a moment to allow the words of this song to speak to your inner being.



For many, a favourite quote of Mary MacKillop's is
Be calm and full of hope 1871

A well-known quote attributed to Julian Tenison Woods regarding hope is: "Every rock, every leaf, every insect has something beautiful, nay, wonderful to tell... a perfect fairyland of beauty will open to the gaze at every step," 1880 which highlights the idea of finding beauty and wonder in all creation, thus inspiring a sense of hope and appreciation for the world around us.

RESPONDING: Perhaps you may like to write in your journal or diary what brings you hope in your life right now...



Let us offer a personal prayer for all the places and people in our world in need of a hope-filled vision.

We pray... God of the Pilgrim, Mary MacKillop trusted your guidance in her journey of life and deepened her confidence in your will. May we renew our trust in your Providence to lead us in hope. May we relish the sacred in the ordinariness of our lives. May we grow in the fullness of your love and the depth of your mystery. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life. Amen.

Prayer from SOSJ Website

And as we soon celebrate our Patronal feast day,
Mary MacKillop reassures us:

"In every difficulty apply to St Joseph with confidence and you will never be disappointed." 1906

