

JCoLT newsflash March 2025



Josephite Companions - One movement

Dear Companions,

Happy New Year from the JCoLT team. We hope you had a joyful Christmas and were able to celebrate with family and friends. The team met in Sydney in January and had a productive 3 day gathering. We met with the Sisters on the Congregational Leadership Team as well as Luke Stevens the General Manager.

We have been working closely with the sisters and Luke over the past two years to establish the best way forward for the movement. This has been an interesting journey with many bumps along the way. We do however believe we have established the correct structure to assist the movement to move forward as a sustainable vibrant pathway to living the Josephite Charism.

There will be changes, but many of these changes are centred around finance and governance and will not make a huge difference to local groups. They will however strengthen our position and ensure we are a sustainable and responsible organisation. The first major change will be the introduction of a central account with all monies being collected going to this account; ensuring we are transparent and functioning under the guidelines of the Trustees of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. This account will then be accessed through a working account which each region will have access to via debit cards. The regions are working with JCoLT to establish financial policies around access and expenditure. Local groups will continue to operate as they do now.

We are all very aware that we live in a different world today and the need to be financially sustainable is a reality for our movement. We can no longer rely on the sisters to 'prop' up our finances. Many regions already have a subscription in place and other regions operate under donations, we have reached a point where we need to bring all regions under the same policy. To this end we will be implementing a yearly subscription of \$30. While this is not a huge amount, we acknowledge that this may be difficult for some, the Companions will never be a movement that excludes someone who cannot pay the subscription. We do ask however that you contribute what you can afford.

JCoLT Team.

Who are we?



David Cotton has been the Business Manager of Mount Carmel College, Rosewater SA since 1999 and started his association with the Sisters Of St Joseph at that time. Supporting ministries including Ain Karim, St Joseph's Family Care Centre and currently a Trustee representing the Sisters on the Roman Catholic Adelaide Archdiocesan Charitable Trust (RCAACT) and a Director of Mary MacKillop College Kensington SA, David formalised his association with the Sister by becoming a Companion in 2023. On the home front David is a widower, and father & father in law to Tom & Maddie and Lochie & Alex and is very excited to becoming a grandfather in September this year!

Pilgrims of Hope

The 2025 Jubilee Year, declared by Pope Francis, is themed 'Pilgrims of Hope'. As His Holiness Pope Francis so beautifully expressed it:

'We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.'

As we celebrate the Feast of Saint Joseph let us ponder how Joseph was a Pilgrim of Hope. He faced many challenges on his journey, firstly he had to believe that he was being blessed with this gift from God, he then had to find the strength to accept this pathway God had chosen for him. Through his deep faith he faced these challenges gathering comfort and support from those around him, reaching out with an open spirit and trusting heart.

We are all on pilgrimage, travelling our own paths facing our own challenges everyday but like Joseph we can find strength and hope through our faith and through our support networks.

God's Love and the love of our families and fellow Companions will comfort and guide us as we follow God's plan for us, we too must find what gives us strength and comfort. With Friendship, Prayer and Service as our pillars we can like Joseph be a faithful and hopeful pilgrim ready to hear God's words and allow Him to guide us on our own individual Pilgrimages.



Members of JCoLT pictured with Sr Monica at their annual face to face meeting

Resources:

We have set up a small group who will be looking into some existing resources and sharing these with you at relevant times throughout the year. The following pages include a calendar with relevant dates highlighted.

March

2025

Josephite Companions

Companion's Prayer

Companioning Spirit, Intensify our living of the Josephite charism
 Now as you inspired St Joseph, St Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods.
 Grace us with friendship and hospitality,
 As we make community in the ordinariness of our lives.
 Grace us with prayerful hearts that listen to your voice
 And contemplate your presence in creation.
 Grace us with service, promoting human dignity and love of neighbour.
 Strengthen our commitment to live justly, love tenderly
 Conscious that we are participating in your mission.
 Companion, encourage and enfold us in the fullness of divine love. Amen



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Lent Ash Wednesday	6 Lent	7 Lent	8 Lent
9 Lent	10 Lent	11 Lent	12 Lent	13 Lent	14 Lent	15
16 Lent	17 Lent	18 Lent	19 Lent Feast of St Joseph	20 Lent	21 Lent Harmony Day	22 Lent
23 Lent	24 Lent	25 Lent	26 Lent	27 Lent	28 Lent	29 Lent
30 Lent	31 Lent					

April

2025

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		1 Lent	2 Lent	3 Lent	4 Lent	5 Lent
6 Lent	7 Lent	8 Lent	9 Lent	10 Lent	11 Lent	12
13 Lent Palm Sunday	14 Lent	15 Lent	16 Lent	17 Holy Thursday	18 Good Friday	19
20 Easter Sunday	21	22	23	24	25 Anzac Day	26
27	28	29	30			