

This week we are invited to pray for the two Sisters of St. Joseph ministering in **Australia** and for the people of that country. The two Sisters belong to Congregation of the [Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange](#) in the United States (California).

The first ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange were in education and health care. In the 1940s the Sisters extended their work in health, education and religious instruction to the people of Papua New Guinea and Australia. Specifically, the Sisters ran a number of children's homes and Catholic schools throughout New South Wales. They also ministered to Catholic children in migrant camps and settlements, conducted missions at state schools, and trained Catholic teachers. This is the Sisters [Facebook page](#) and the book linked below, entitled *Trapped in Paradise: Catholic Nuns in the South Pacific 1940-1943*, offers an insight into the ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange in the North Solomon Islands:

<http://csjorange.org/resources/books>.

In addition to the two CSJ Sisters from the Orange Congregation, 723 Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart also minister in Australia. Their works include: health care, education, pastoral work, family support, spiritual direction, formation, social work, legal aid, justice work, work with Aboriginals, refugees and asylum seekers, ecology, empowerment of women, anti-trafficking, homelessness and housing. We include the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart in our prayer calendar because the prayer list is initiated by our UN-NGO staff and, while these Sisters were not founded through the Le Puy family tree, they support our CSJ-UN staff in their work. To read about their history click this link: <https://www.sosj.org.au/>



Country Background: Australia is an island continent and the world's sixth largest country, with a population just under 26million. The capital, Canberra, has a population of 400,000 as the country's eighth largest city. Australia has a federal form of government, with a national government for the Commonwealth of Australia and individual state governments (of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania). Each state has a constitution, and its government exercises a limited degree of sovereignty. There are also two internal territories: Northern Territory, established as a self-governing

territory in 1978, and the Australian Capital Territory (including the city of Canberra), which attained self-governing status in 1988. Australia enjoys a high standard of living and, in 2015, was ranked by the UN as the second-best country in the world for its quality of life. Despite this, over the past decade Australia has faced several increasing challenges including global warming, severe drought, homelessness, the COVID pandemic, and the plight of refugees and asylum seekers.



United in prayer, the Global Joseph Family, 7850 Sisters, 5700 Associates, 34 Agrégées in 44 countries, listening to the heart of the world.