



Our Cross

Since 1969 the Lochinvar Sisters have been wearing the Federation Cross as the symbol of their identity as religious women consecrated and committed to the mission of Jesus.

The decision for this cross to be our official emblem came as a result of the establishment of the Australian-New Zealand Federation of the Sisters of St Joseph on 28th July 1967. The Lochinvar congregation was one of the five congregations that came together to form the [Federation](#).

To maintain continuity with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the early Sisters, the Federation Council decided to incorporate a cross into the design as the first Sisters had always worn a crucifix as well the [monogram](#) of Our Lady, the traditional sign of the Josephite Sisters.

In the Rule that Fr Julian Tenison Woods wrote for the first Sisters in 1867 in Adelaide he said:

The professed Sisters shall wear upon their breasts a large blue monogram of the Blessed Virgin between three letters 'J' in honour of Jesus, Joseph and John the Baptist, thus, typifying the Holy Family.

The monogram was well known to Catholics of the nineteenth century, with the A over the M meaning *Ave Maria*.

With Fr Woods' great devotion to Our Lady, it was no surprise that he would have wanted her honoured in the new congregation's identity.

The small silver cross that was given to the Sisters in 1969, carried the story and spirit of the Sisters of St Joseph which according to Fr Woods *is a spirit of prayer, poverty and humility. It is meant as a remedy for the luxury and pride of the world and a protest against both.* (September 1887)