

Sr Laretta - Book Launch 31 May 2026

The journey bringing Jan to this day and the launch of *"JTW: The Human Journey – Priest, Founder, Friend"* has been a long one and an incredibly rich one.

Julian Tenison Woods' life, his struggles and challenges, his courage and yearnings, and his almost mystical spirituality have been the subject of Jan's fascination, interest and curiosity for decades.

We were lucky enough to have come to Religious life (late 1960s) in the years immediately after Vatican II when Pope John XXIII was encouraging Religious to return to our original charism and the initial vision of our Founder(s). Over the intervening 60 years, Jan has done just that, and through her writings has helped us, her Josephite Sisters, get to know in detail, come to appreciate and be awed by our Founder, JTW. She is and continues to be the leading authority on our Lochinvar Josephite history.

Jan's Masters Thesis, entitled *"Foundations: The Forces at Work in the Foundation of the SSJL, 1883 – 1913"*, was awarded in 1988, and in parts, highlights the collaboration between Bishop James Murray and JTW as Murray was forming the church in this diocese.

Mid 2025, Jan's friend and erstwhile collaborator, Fr Roderick O'Brien encouraged her to gather together, in one volume, the major articles she had written over the years and had had published in a variety of Australian journals. Fr. Roderick is a retired priest from the Archdiocese of Adelaide and through ATF Press, early in 2025, had published some of his own articles in the volume entitled, *"JTW: A Pioneering Journey in Science and Faith"*.

Never one to decide quickly nor without a measure of quiet reflection, Jan floated the idea with a couple of us, her friends and Sisters, and upon receiving a resounding and enthusiastic "Go for it, Girl", Jan approached the leaders of our Congregation for their views and decision. Their glad assent and total support were given immediately. The editing and refining work began. And that brings us to today.

This book is a treasure for us, Lochinvar Josephites, for the time we have left to us as a Congregation. Our past is rich and long in this diocese – 143 years; our future is relatively short! The contents of this book can be a source of nourishment for us, as we take time to reflect even more deeply on the spirit that comes to us from JTW and MMK and, guided and inspired by that spirit, on the road that lies ahead of us.

Jan, congratulations and thank you!