

*Join us in marking the 25-year anniversary
of the death of Fr John Corcoran Wallis,
founder of the Missionary Sisters of Service
in Tasmania*

Sunday 2 August 2026



Dear family and friends of Fr John Corcoran Wallis and the MSS,

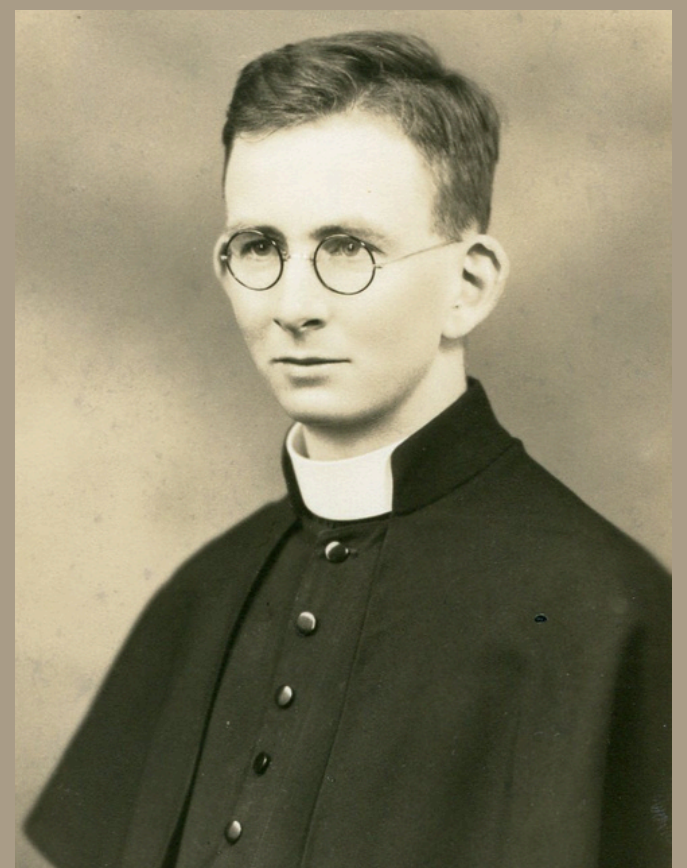
The Missionary Sisters of Service invite you to join us to remember, give thanks and celebrate the life of Fr John Corcoran Wallis on the 25th anniversary of his death in 2001.

All are welcome to attend the 10.30am Mass at St Thomas The Apostle Church, 57 Central Road, Blackburn, Victoria. With celebrant Bishop Mark Freeman (Diocese of Ballarat), formerly a priest of the Archdiocese of Hobart and well-known to Fr John Wallis.

A light luncheon will be held in the school hall from 11.30am.

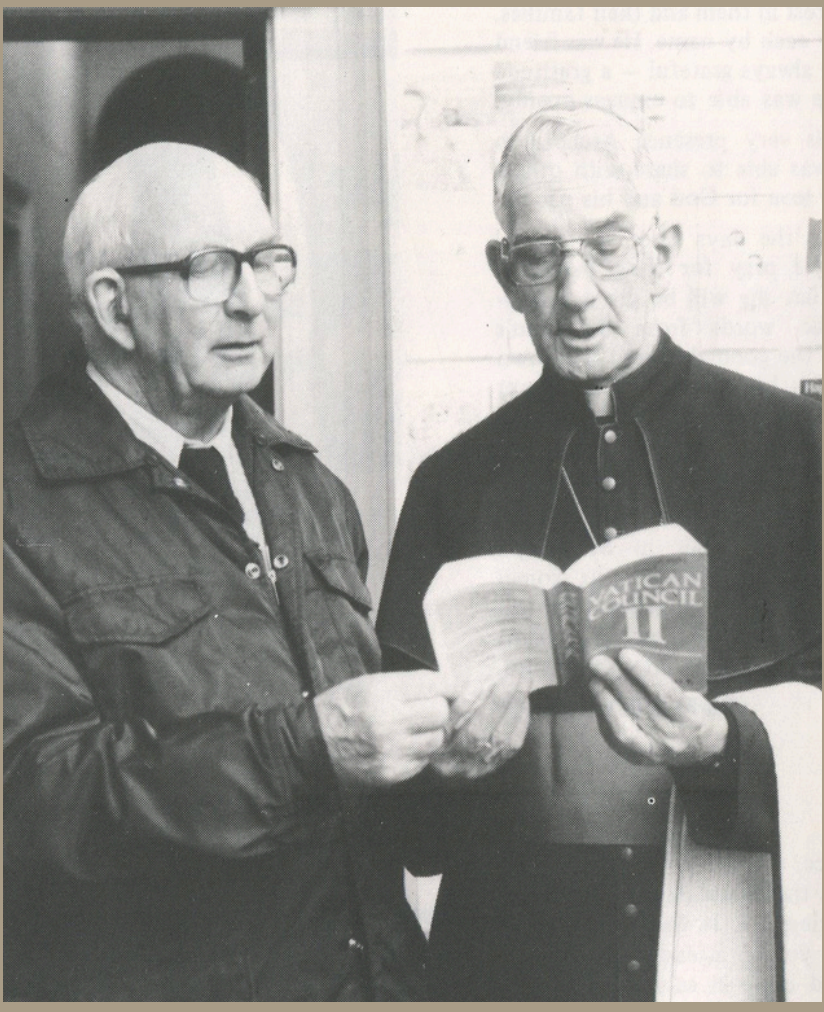
RSVP essential for catering purposes to Catherine Carr:
Email: coordinator@missionarysisters.org.au | 0431 717 769
by Friday 24 July 2026

*Make gratitude an integral part of your life,
gratitude, gratitude, gratitude!
- Fr John Wallis*



A later celebration will be held in Hobart, Tasmania on Tuesday 27 October 2026 at St Mary's Cathedral at 10am. The celebrant will be Archbishop Tony Ireland, Archbishop of Hobart.

Keep up to date at: www.missionarysister.org.au/News



*In the spirit of the Good Shepherd
go to people wherever they are.*

Fr John Corcoran Wallis

1910–2001

Fr John Corcoran Wallis was a pastoral priest of the Archdiocese of Hobart, visionary founder of the Missionary Sisters of Service, and a man deeply committed to bringing hope, friendship and the Gospel to people on the margins.

Born in Homewood, in the parish of Yea, Victoria, he was educated at Homewood State School, Sacred Heart School Yea and Assumption College Kilmore before studying for the priesthood at Springwood and Manly in NSW. He was ordained in 1932 for the Archdiocese of Hobart.

Throughout his priesthood, Fr John served as parish assistant, relieving priest, parish priest and chaplain across Tasmania, including Launceston, Hobart Cathedral Parish and Bruny Island, Burnie, Invermay, Westbury, Glenorchy, Warrane, Lindisfarne, Tarooma and Bellerive. He also served as chaplain at Calvary Hospital Hobart and later resided at Mary's Grange.

He was Vicar for Religious of Tasmania, established the Catholic Provident Fund, and founded a Catholic library and bookshop in Hobart. He helped establish churches at Glenorchy, Claremont, Chigwell and Warrane, and invited the Dominican Sisters from Sydney to assist with the new Catholic school at Glenorchy.

A gifted spiritual director and retreat leader, Fr John guided many religious congregations and lay groups, particularly in the years following the Second Vatican Council. Ahead of his time in pastoral outreach and lay ministry, he was passionate about bringing the Church into the “highways and byways” of Australia.

In 1944, Fr John founded the Missionary Sisters of Service, initially known as the Home Missionary Sisters of Our Lady. He remained a companion, friend and spiritual guide to the Sisters throughout his life, until his death in 2001.

Look at Big Maps – Keep a wide vision.

Photo: Fr John Corcoran Wallis with Archbishop Guildford Young (courtesy MSS Archives).

Quotes attributed to Fr John Corcoran Wallis.