

# The Jaricot Circle in a Catholic workplace:



## 1. Introduction:

**Jaricot Circle Leader:** *The closing years of the French Revolution were some of the most dangerous for people whose daily choices could put their lives at risk. Our world in recent years has seen people scared for the lives of our vulnerable, elderly and sick. The very air we breathe has forced so many into isolation. As we emerge from the loneliness and uncertainties of our time, there are lessons from the past which inspire and guide us to make the care of others our priority, and to celebrate our shared humanity. My reference to the French Revolution seems a strange place to start, but I am inspired by the story of a young Frenchwoman, born in the dying days of the revolution. Her name is Pauline Jaricot, and on May 22 this year the Church celebrated the beatification of this remarkable woman. Pauline changed the way we think about mission and how to support communities in great need. Her story involved creating pathways for people struggling for their livelihoods so that they could enjoy a much fuller life. This fullness of life is something which we all strive for. In her way, a way of listening to each other's stories and working in small groups in the workplace for the good of others, she was able to create a movement which helped people living in poverty across the globe. We have all taken just a little precious time out of our work day, to find some stillness and build harmony together. Let's start by sharing, for those who feel comfortable, the things (good and bad) we have learnt over the recent years of the pandemic. Now that we are back in the workplace, how do we think things can or will change? Why is our own workplace special? What makes it so?*

## 2. Time for sharing amongst Jaricot Circle participants.

## 3. Conclusion:

**Jaricot Circle Leader:** *I mentioned at the beginning that my reading about Pauline Jaricot inspired me to suggest this time of sharing. I also mentioned she created a movement that made enormous change in the world. This was done simply, by asking people to give a penny when they gathered in their small groups. These gathered donations were sent to foreign places to serve the poor of her time. This work continues today, and for 200 continuous years, Pauline's legacy lives on through the organization she founded – called Catholic Mission. If you'd care to, I have a QR code here. The equivalent of a penny in the early 1800's is probably about the cost of a cappuccino today. I'll leave it for you to think about whether you can get involved in the programs of Catholic Mission which proclaim the gospel, act for justice, and serve people in need.*



*In the spirit of listening, sharing and giving let's finish with this prayer and/or the Rosary:*

**Hasten Lord, the day when the Church can celebrate  
The saintliness of your servant Pauline Jaricot,  
Inspired by you to found  
The Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the Living Rosary  
And promote the welfare of the Poor.**

**May Christians everywhere  
Strive to follow her selfless example,  
Dedicating themselves to spreading the Good News of the Gospel,  
So that all peoples may come to know  
The boundless love revealed to the world  
Through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Who lives with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

