



# Josephite Companions Aotearoa Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa

## Friendship # Prayer # Service

September 2024

Greetings everyone,

There is lots of news from Gisborne this month together with a beautiful springtime prayer sheet and a Laudato si' prayer to lead us into the Season of Creation which starts on Sunday 1st September.

There was a bit of space left so I included a few words about Suzanne Aubert as we are near to her celebration day. She had many connections with the Josephites especially in the Whanganui area. It would be great to see her recognized as a saint.



### JCANZ FACE-TO-FACE MEETING

Our ANZ Josephite Companions Leadership team met at Mission Bay to plan for the 2025 year for three days in early July.

*Liz Hickey, Helen Dougherty (Whanganui), Jane Gunson (Whangarei), Jill McLoughlin (Hamilton), Tracy Robinson (Gisborne) Marie Skidmore (Whanganui) and Catherine Birt (Whangaparoroa)*

Peta Lindstrom was unable to attend because of family commitments.

Our usual formation session began with Ann Gilroy's excellent workshop on *Exploring Josephite Spirituality* What an inspirational beginning!!

After considering what is going well in the Companions movement around the country, we then went on to identify where some gaps are.

Throughout the weekend we:

- Prayed together
- Planned for Zoom Meetings with E-Companions who don't have the opportunity for face-to-face groups
- Looked at the challenge of succession planning
- Simplified our Strategic Plan
- Refreshed the Database
- Received group reports from around ANZ
- Considered a report from JCOLT (International Team)



Ann Gilroy

Roles were distributed to sustain our Companions in ANZ for 2025 and beyond.

We enjoyed each other's company and were happy to host our RLT (regional leadership team) for dinner one night. Our team leaves refreshed and energized with our 'cups overflowing'.

Many thanks for the hospitality at Mission Bay.

Josephite Companions Leadership Team



# Remembering Mary MacKillop in Gisborne

4 August 2024

Mary MacKillops' feast day is officially the 8<sup>th</sup> August but the Josephite Companions invited the parishioners to join with them for a morning tea after Mass on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August. As they enjoyed their morning tea, those who stayed were able to browse through the archives from the Josephite Companions group in Gisborne as well as watch a visual presentation of the women from Gisborne and district who had entered the Josephite order, researched and assembled by Meg Hills. This was followed by highlights from various events celebrating the Sisters in our parish. It was an opportunity to reminisce for some while others saw for the first time something of the heritage of the Sisters of St Joseph and the Companions group.



There was a display of books and other resources in the foyer, many items were available for parishioners to takeaway with them.



Meg Hills rsj and Frances Bauman reminisce over the visual presentation.



A large number of parishioners stayed after Mass to take time to look at the resources and display items while enjoying their morning tea.



Josephite Companions (left to right) Perky McGuigan, Vicki Swiders, Chris Crowe and Erin

## NEW FILM

A new film on the life and legacy of Mary Mackillop was launched on Mary's feast day 8<sup>th</sup> August. As part of their Glorious Lives series, Shalom World have launched this new docu-film. It can be viewed on line on the SOSJ Website. Use the link copied below to take you to it. It provides about an hour's viewing.

<https://www.sosj.org.au/glorious-lives-mary-mackillop-docu-film/#more-198928>





# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Gisborne

Mission Statement: *"Sharing the love of Jesus"*

*Greetings to the Josephite Companions of Aotearoa with whom we share the Josephite Charism*

Towards the end of 2023, our school began the process of consultation, design and construction of a carved entranceway - known in Te Reo Māori as a 'waharoa'. We wanted to have an entranceway that represented our school as both a Catholic school and a school in Aotearoa New Zealand. Over the last few years, our staff and students have learnt a lot more about local history and mana whenua (hapu and iwi). These local stories and history have become important to us, as too our charism and special Catholic character history.

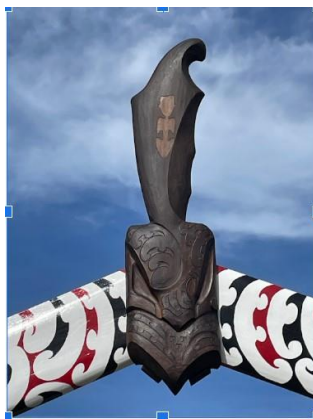


Master carver Simon Lardelli, who also completed the Campion College waharoa, supplied the totara wood and carved our waharoa. This culturally significant piece of work represents both our Catholic special character and acknowledges our place's Māori history.

The two side posts (amo) represent the original ancestors (tipuna) of Tūranganui-a-Kiwa, Paoa and Kiwa. The cross bars at the top (maihi) are shaped to represent the two waka that landed here, Horouta and Takitimu. The design on the maihi is called kakano which represents the seeds of future generations. It also refers to the gaining of knowledge students get when they come to our school. The lower part of the tekoteko represents all of us coming together as a whānau, as one, and has the three J's of our Josephite charism engraved in it. The top of the tekoteko is for God. Mother Mary, who is the patron of our school, is in the centre and she is cloaked in Te Wairua Tapu, the Holy Spirit. This aptly resembles the shape of a dove.



**Father Mark blessing the waharoa at dawn**



**The carved tekoteko**

If you're visiting Gisborne, do drive by both St. Mary's Catholic Primary School and Campion College and check out the two school's waharoa. You will see that our founding charism of the Josephites is still alive and well in our schools.

Yours in Christ  
**Helen (Perky) McGuigan**  
Principal & Josephite Companion



**J J J engraved in the tekoteko**

## MARY MACKILLOP'S FEASTDAY AT MISSION BAY

Quite a number of Sisters, Companions and friends gathered for an evening ritual on Mary Mackillop's feast day at Mission Bay. We thought about the way Mary displayed courage and the way she had the ability to lift people's spirits, helping them to find meaning and purpose in their lives.

Our world is in need of much courage at the moment with many wars, famine, devastation and pain. We lit candles as we thought of those who have also been inspirations of courage for us today – Suzanne Aubert, Whina Cooper, Irene McCormack and Pope Francis as well as Julian and Mary.

Our time together ended with wonderful Josephite hospitality – delicious soup and hot rolls. Just right for a winter's night. Many thanks to all who helped.



Chris Wilson and Cathy Allen from Hibiscus Coast with Rosa from Christ the King school.



**RIP** Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Pat Lythe who died recently. Pat told me that although she wasn't actually a Josephite Companion she loved getting our prayer sheets. We give thanks for all the work she did unstintingly for the Church

## Venerable Suzanne Aubert Meri Hōhepa

Suzanne Aubert (1835–1926) lived a life of heroic service and compassion. The Sisters of Compassion and the Bishops of New Zealand ask us to pray for the beatification of Suzanne Aubert

The celebration day for Suzanne Aubert is the 6th October. We remember that she was very much involved with the Josephite Sisters in the early days in Whanganui

### From the History of Suzanne Aubert

**"In 1883 a new chapter began in Suzanne's life when the opportunity came to revive the Catholic Mission on the Whanganui River. Together with Father Soulas, and three Sisters of St Joseph of Nazareth, she set up base at the isolated Māori village of Hiruhārama, 80 kilometres up the Whanganui River. The Sisters remained there with Suzanne for a year before returning to Whanganui."**



The next newsletter and prayer sheet will be distributed at the beginning of December. If you have a change of address or any copy for the next issue, please contact Catherine Birt at P.O. Box 830 Whangaparaoa 0949 or [crbirt@gmail.com](mailto:crbirt@gmail.com) or phone 027 294 785