



## *Josephite Companions Aotearoa*

Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa

Friendship ♦ Prayer ♦ Service

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# *Autumn Newsletter*

***Dear Josephite Companions of Aotearoa,***

This newsletter comes to you at a very beautiful time both in the Church's year and our natural year. The beauty which surrounds us in this wonderful time of autumn lifts our spirits. Let's remember too and note the signs of the Risen presence of our God in ordinary daily life.

You will notice that we now have a Maori Translation of our title 'Josephite Companions Aotearoa' Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa, which in English reads, 'Friends of St Joseph in Aotearoa.' The word 'pumau' translated is constant, reliable, permanent and loyal!

At our October meeting last year, our Josephite Companions Vision/Mission Statement was confirmed. We include this Vision Statement for each, as it reminds us all of what it is to be 'Josephite.



### JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS AOTEAROA

As we walk in the footsteps of Julian and Mary, we Josephite Companions Aotearoa respond to the Gospel by reverencing the Sacred in ourselves, others and our environment.

We do this in the ordinariness of our everyday lives by:

- Living simply and prayerfully
- Acting justly with integrity
- Responding to the needs of our time
- Being thankful for God's love
- Providing inclusive hospitality and down-to-earth practicality in the spirit of Aroha.



Leadership Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> March Auckland

Our leadership team met at Mission Bay . We welcomed Catherine Birt to the team. She is recently from Gisborne, where for many years she led the Gisborne Associates. She comes to us with a wealth of experience and enthusiasm. Saturday morning was spent dealing with general business.



After lunch we welcomed Sr. Katrina, who spoke of Josephite charism as not just belonging to the sisters but a gift of the Spirit to the wider church. "This charism CAN be recognised. Charism is not for ourselves - but for the service of mission." Katrina spoke also of different forms of Josephite commitment , other than the vowed life. Many of these had been in existence in the early church. We refer to these various forms of Commitment as "Spiritual Pathways."

At this same meeting representatives of our group were elected to attend an international Josephite Leaders meeting in Sydney later in the year. The aim of the meeting is to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Josephite Associates and to plan for the future. Our delegates include: Helen, Jane, Catherine and Peta.



## **Sisters of Saint Joseph to Merge**      adapted from Wel-Com. April 2013

In the last newsletter we mentioned that the Sisters of St Joseph of Whanganui had applied to Rome for permission to merge with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Though started as one congregation by Mary MacKillop and Father Tenison Woods, 140 years ago, a 'separation' occurred early on, which resulted in two congregations.



For the last 60 years, the sisters of both groups have steadily re-ignited their connections through sharing their founding stories; through retreats, pilgrimages, publications, ministries, gatherings and endeavours of many kinds, but especially through a passion for God's mission as it has come to be expressed today in the spirit of the co-founders.

Now, authorisation has been received from the Congregation of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (in Rome) that the 'fusion' or merger can proceed.

This is a giant step for everyone. Courage, trust in God, preparedness to let go, as well as great sensitivity and attentiveness of welcome, show that the Holy Spirit is indeed at work in both groups soon to be united as one.

*If you have had anything to do with either group of Sisters please thank God for this unity and pray that His mission be spread because of it.*

## News From Around the Country

Jill (**Christchurch**) writes, "In browsing the internet I discovered that our newsletter and those of other regions, are printed on the Josephite website, and can be accessed at [www.sosj.org.au](http://www.sosj.org.au) . Click on News and Events to find newsletters and other interesting bits and pieces.

There is also a lovely piece about the upcoming 'fusion' with our Whanganui Sisters, which you may like to read."

### Josephite Associates, **Dunedin**

Holy Name school ex-pupils in Dunedin were asked to represent the school, along with others from all the secondary schools that have closed over the years, amalgamating to become Kavanagh College , the only Catholic College in Dunedin . It was the opening mass of



the school year and as many of us are Josephites it was a privilege to carry the banner of St Mary Mckillop into the hall along with the banners of the Christian Brothers (Blsd Edmund Rice), The Dominicans - (St Dominic ) and the Mercy Sisters (Catherine Mc Cauley). Kavanagh College is on the original site of the Christian Brothers and St Dominic's schools behind the Cathedral in Rattray St. and has 900 pupils

The Josephites down here are planning a celebration of St Joseph 's day at Trish Clark's home on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March with a luncheon and a catch up with Sr Jennifer from Balclutha  
*Denise Mitchell and Trish Clark*

### St Joseph's Feast Day Celebrations

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March the Josephite Associates celebrated the Feast day with a shared lunch at the home of Trish Clark . Guest of honour was Sr Jennifer, the only Sister of "St Joseph of the Sacred Heart" in the Otago diocese.

She is also with the Catholic Social Services in the Balclutha parish. Our devotion to St Joseph was discussed, and prayers given to us by sister were handed around and read by members in turn. Then a discussion was held on the second miracle that brought Mary McKillop to the realms of sainthood. We finished with the hymn "A cross of stars". We then joined hands and prayed the age old prayer to St Joseph to intercede for us, "*Now and at the hour*



*of our death*" Afternoon tea was then shared, with raffles being run and the proceeds going to the Mother House in Mission Bay , Auckland . It was time to say goodbye, with thanks to Sr. Jennifer for her support and input, making our meeting a happy occasion. We all left with our spirits on a high until we meet again.  
*Denise Mitchell*

### Centenarian Celebrates - Te Awamutu



Olive Sklenars, a long- time Associate of Te Awamutu, recently celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, with her three children, five or six grandchildren and many friends.

*Congratulations Olive.*

She was pictured in the Te Awamutu Courier with her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday cake, balloons *AND her beautiful tatting* which she still does. What a wonderful lady.

### Gisborne. 100 Years of Service by the Sisters of St. Joseph to the People and Children of the Gisborne Parish. February 1913- 2013.

On Saturday afternoon February 9th in the Parish Centre, the Gisborne Josephite Companions Aotearoa led a Liturgy of Thanksgiving. We heard a reading from the prophet Micah. "Live justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God." A candle dated for each decade was lit and the names of the sisters working at that time were read out, followed by the history over each ten year period. And what names! Sr. Rupert Grey, Sr. Mechtildus Dwyer and Sr. Ferdinand Flood to name a few. As you can imagine we stumbled over some! We sang songs and gave thanks! Ten Sisters of St Joseph attended and two Cenacle Sisters as well as 70 plus parishioners and past pupils. A collection was taken on the day and presented to Sister Colleen, the Provincial Leader of the sisters. This was to assist with the running of the House of Bethany, a house for families under stress. The parishioners were most generous which was a reflection of the love and appreciation they feel for the sisters.

Memories continued to be shared over afternoon tea. On their way home the sisters and some ex-pupils and boarders took the opportunity of an arranged visit to the old Convent in Roebuck Road which is now the Flying Nun Back Packers. Many memories were recounted!

On Sunday Morning the 8.30 am Mass was attended by a large number of parishioners and pupils of St Mary's and Campion. The young folk welcomed us to Mass, participated in the liturgy and had made a



display in the foyer for the sisters as a thank you. After the homily Father Yvan called all the sisters forward and gave them a special blessing. The parish applauded the sisters loudly!!! St Mary's School hosted morning tea, and a beautiful Centenary Cake was cut by Sr Benedict Tolich and Sr Marie Hogan. Sr Marie was a former pupil as well as a teacher whose teaching spread over 5 decades in Gisborne.

The sisters and parishioners then went over to visit the new school. The pupils and teachers had made numerous displays about the history of their school and the sisters. The library holds a great archive of treasures and photos.

The sisters said they all enjoyed their weekend together and felt affirmed and appreciated by the Gisborne parish.

**The Photo (previous page)** *by Alexia English*

**Back Row:** Sisters Michelle Hughey, Jill McLoughlin, Joan Anderson, Colleen Keeble, Katrina Brill, Meg Hills.

**Front row:** Sisters Benedict Tolich, Helen Winter, Marianne Smith, Marie Hogan.

## Prayer Requests

Our prayers are asked for a very faithful and wonderful associate, Carmel Storey who is terminally ill. Carmel has lived in Waihi for many years with her husband Lionel who is also a very sick man.

Prayers are asked for Lorna Bargh, a Levin Associate, who died on 3.10.12.

Also please pray for Roland Jenkins the husband of Joan Jenkins. Joan is a long time Lower Hutt Associate.

**By the time you receive this Autumn Newsletter, not only will our trees be many hues, but the Easter cycle will be close to completion with the celebration of coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost**

***MAY YOUR SPIRIT BRING LIGHT TO OUR DARKNESS;***

- ***TURN HATRED TO LOVE;***
- ***SORROW TO JOY;***
- ***AND DOUBT TO HOPE.***

**May the Spirit of our God breathe on each of you the fullness of life.**



Rita Cahill and Trish Daws  
On behalf of JCA Leadership Team