



Josephite Companions Aotearoa

FRIENDSHIP ♦ PRAYER ♦ SERVICE

Winter Newsletter 2015

Dear Companions, Sisters and Friends

2016 will be a significant year in the lives of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the Companions, Associates and all who are connected to the Josephite movement. It will be 150 years since Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods began the first Josephite school in a stable in Penola, South Australia.

All of you reading this have been touched in some way by the spirit of Mary MacKillop and her desire to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Mary continues to be an inspiration for us all as we strive to make this world a better place.

It is hoped to hold some significant events during the year and we are looking for ideas from right throughout the country. It may be you could host a small event or liturgy in your area to acknowledge and celebrate 150 years of Josephite spirit in our lives.

A few events will also be held nationally. The Eco spirituality team hope to have an Art competition focusing around Julian and science.

It is proposed to hold an open day at Mary MacKillop Centre Mission Bay. There is hope of establishing a N.Z. Josephite Schools Network and of liaison with schools in NZ, Peru and Australia.

If you have ideas you would like to put forward about how we could celebrate this tremendous milestone please contact Catherine Birt or Peta Lindstrom. Contact details are at the bottom of this newsletter.

THANKS

You will remember we requested special novena prayers for Gayle Dodunski who is a member of the Josephite Companions leadership team. Gayle had previously battled breast cancer and was recently diagnosed with a brain tumour. We are pleased to report that following her surgery she has improved and is back at home. Many thanks to all of you for the prayers.



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Josephite Groups News

News from GISBORNE/ TE TAIRA WHITI.

Local Companions gathered on March 14th in the Parish Meeting Room. This was our first gathering of 2015, prayer focused around St. Joseph, one of our patrons; his feast day was on March 19th. We discussed how we know very little detail of his life; we read the account of the angel appearing to reassure him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. We closed with prayer “that the spirit of Joseph touch us, that the deep listening of Joseph influence us, that Joseph’s sense of responsibility move us, that the risk-taking of Joseph urge us on and that Joseph’s confidence in Divine Providence encourage us”. Some members brought pictures and statues precious to them to share with the group. We closed our time together with afternoon tea. Our next meeting will be during winter.

Easter and Pentecost Blessings to our fellow Companions!

Breda Bernstein JCA



ST JOSEPH'S DAY CELEBRATIONS 19 MARCH 2015

Saint Joseph's day saw a number of companions join with the Sisters at Mission Bay and also with the family of Liz George a Covenant Josephite as she renewed her Covenant of Affiliation. The beautiful prayers were inspiring and it was a privilege to be present with Liz and her family as she renewed her covenant before Sister Annette Arnold

A delightful supper followed with much talk and laughter and the renewing of friendships.



Rest in Peace: We remember them with love and send our prayers and sympathy to their families.

May they rest in peace.

Mary KEDZLIE passed away very suddenly at Thames Hospital on Tuesday 28 April 2015.

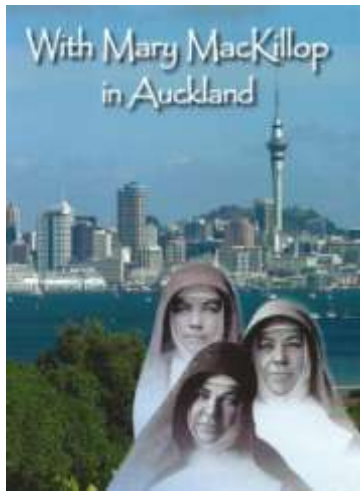
Tonny Neunzerling who died in Thames on 25th April. Tonny was the loved mother of Sister Christina Neunzerling, Jackie Armstrong and their extended family.

Sister Denise Fitzgerald rsj who died last week at Mission Bay.

Malcom Boyd a Companion for many years, who died in Gisborne recently.

Peg Holt from Tararu Home in Thames who died on 21st May.

Maurice Churchill, husband of Mary Churchill Kohimarama



SELF DIRECTED PILGRIMAGES

We have available some booklets produced by Sister Ann Neven rsj which tell of Mary MacKillop's journeys in Auckland, Rotorua and the South Island. If you are having a holiday in these areas and would like to visit places of significance contact one of us and we can supply the booklets for you. Sister Rita in Whanganui, Jane Gunson in Whangarei, Sister Therese McConway in Wellington and Catherine Birt in Auckland. All addresses are included at the bottom of this newsletter.

Junior Joeys in New Zealand New Beginnings

Junior Joeys is a children's service programme, currently working in Australian primary schools, which have a Josephite heritage. In Northern Tasmania, over 100 children have been commissioned this year to become Junior Joeys from across four different Catholic primary schools.

Children meet in their lunchtimes to plan and work in different ways of service for the school and its community. Josephite teachers and companions guide them. The children commit to being people of joy and integrity, doing what is right, noticing the needs of their community and helping where they can. They are willing to learn about their Josephite heritage and share their knowledge with their school community.

The JCA leadership team would like to encourage Josephite schools in New Zealand to establish Junior Joey programmes.



St. Francis Xavier Junior Joeys

This is an active way that the children can learn about and experience the Charism of their Josephite heritage. They will then influence the future shape of the Charism, through their acts of service.

The Junior Joey programme will be promoted at the Triennial Catholic Education Convention, held in Wellington, this June. It will be a part of the Josephite Companions Aotearoa Leadership team presentation about establishing a New Zealand Josephite Schools' Network.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, in Whangarei, has begun a Junior Joey programme, with a small group of committed students. St. Francis Xavier School has Josephite heritage, as it is the amalgamated school of the former St. Mary's and St. Joseph's primary schools, established by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Other New Zealand Josephite primary schools have shown interest in Junior Joeys.

We ask for your blessings for the establishment of Junior Joeys in schools.

Jane Gunson, JCA Leadership Team

Josephite Companions at the Catholic Education Convention!



NZ Catholic Education Convention
10 - 12 June 2015

The triennial NZ Catholic Education Convention will be held in Wellington this June. Many Principals, teachers, Board of Trustees members and Parish members gather from all across New Zealand to spend time together in faith formation, spirituality and in celebration. It is truly an uplifting experience to be part of!

This year the Josephite Companions Leadership Team has taken the opportunity to present a workshop focussing on the establishment of a NZ Josephite Schools Network. With the "fusion" of the Federation and Central Josephite Orders this is a great time for all our schools to connect and work together as one Josephite family.

We will be sharing all the good work that is currently happening in schools and exploring ways of further sharing in the Josephite charism. Hopefully in the next Josephite Companions newsletter we can report on the positive outcomes from this presentation and share with you the different ways that schools are living out God's mission through the wonderful example of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tension Woods!

Please pray for the success of this venture.



There are a number of retreats and reflection days on offer at Mary MacKillop Centre, Mission Bay during the next two months. Check your flyer or Parish newsletter for more information

Our thanks to Jill McLoughlin rsj for preparation of our June prayer/reflection sheet!

With warmest regards and blessings from the Josephite Companions Leadership Team

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