



Josephite Companions Aotearoa
Nga hoa puman o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa
Friendship # Prayer # Service

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER - May 2016

Dear Companions

Welcome to our 2nd Newsletter for 2016, our Autumn edition. Although we have experienced a wonderful Autumn, no doubt you are wrapping up as we feel the wind, rain and chill of approaching Winter!

Thank You – Thank You!!



To: **Jill McLoughlin** for 15 Years on our Leadership Team. Jill has been an amazing contributor to this group, her presence, her music, her sense of fun, will be sorely missed.

To: **Patty Dudson**, over the years has kept us financially viable! We thank you Patty, and you too will be missed, not just for your calculations alone! It will be your presence we will miss.

Thank you both for being vital, life-giving members of the Companions Leadership Team

SESQUI CENTENNIAL: 150 YEARS SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH IN PENOLA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 19TH MARCH 1816.



Marie Skidmore attended the celebrations were held in Penola to mark this significant event. Mass was held at the Stable School Park where pupils of Mary MacKillop College Adelaide re-enacted the founding story. Among those attending were relatives of Mary MacKillop and Julian Woods, school pupils, parishioners, dignitaries, Associates and Covenant Josephites, Clergy and Sisters of St Joseph. Other events were held to showcase restorations, sculptures and art works made to honour the occasion.

**Little did either of us then dream of what was to spring from so small a beginning
Mary Mackillop 1891-**

ST JOSEPH'S DAY AT MISSION BAY

2pm on the 19th March saw a crowd of children from Auckland schools with a Josephite history, Companions, Covenant Josephites, friends and Sisters coming together at Mission Bay for a Mass to honour Saint Joseph and the Sesquicentenary of the Order's founding.

The children processed in with their school banners and Bishop Pat Dunn and Gerard Whiteford SM celebrated the Eucharist with some of the readings and prayers done by the children.



Photo: Sr Sian Owen rsj

Together we watched the Video clip from Sister Monica Cavanagh uniting us with all the others in the Josephite family who were also celebrating this momentous occasion. Afterwards the children enjoyed a sausage sizzle while the adults were having afternoon tea. The Companions group organised some raffles which raised \$400 for the House of Bethany. Bishop Pat had fun kindly buying a lot of tickets which he gave to the children! This was a happy occasion where we were all able to give thanks for the years of service the Sisters have spent in our country as well as thinking back to the founding days with Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods

REPORT FROM WHANGANUI

We are still basking in the delight of our **Sesquicentenary celebrations** which began on Saturday morning with Pat Gillard's 'Listening to the Heartbeat of the World'. The gathering included Sisters, the 'Companions' Leadership Team which had been part of our local Whanganui Gathering, and local lay people associated with us over the years.

'Pat's interpretation of the sesquicentenary logo was both simple and profound. Her session was unhurried and interspersed with sharing.

We came away nourished and enthused.'



Saturday afternoon saw us gathered at the Jane Winstone Village Chapel, (once our Chapel) where a liturgy of thanksgiving and remembrance was celebrated. Following the liturgy we processed outside where Bishop Charles blessed the memorial stone and plaque which acknowledged the presence of the Sisters of St Joseph and their guardianship of that land for so many years. The Saturday night Eucharist at Holy Family church reflected our Josephite history and charism so well.

'The Mass at Saint Mary's on Sunday celebrated by Bishop Owen, (long-time friend of the Sisters) was a wonderful ending to the weekend. Patricia in her homily, deepened, and at the same time simplified the message of the emblem which calls us to "Listen to the Heart Beat of the World" showing this call is not just for Josephites but for everyone. Judging from some comments during the morning tea the message had been heard.

TOKOROA COMPANIONS

We held a Lenten Reflection meeting at which members of the groups received wonderful certificates of their membership of the Josephite family. We were lucky to have Sister Therese with us again as she was visiting the northern groups and providing us with lots of material which we could use for future gatherings.

With St Joseph's feast also falling on Palm Sunday for those of us in parishes where there is a Saturday night Mass AND the Diocesan Youth Festival 'Set Free' happening in Tokoroa at the same time, our celebrations consisted of being able to help with the parish. As Autumn is arriving with speed, we will concentrate on harvesting the remains of summer's bounty in the gardens. **Margaret Brownsey**

GISBORNE



It is with sadness that I tell you of the death of Breda Bernstein who has been leading the Companions group in Gisborne. You will all know her name as she has always sent a report for every newsletter about what their group has been up to. She has suffered with ill health over the last few years but has let nothing deter her from following the way of Mary MacKillop in friendship, prayer and service. She has a wonderful family who have been gathered around her tightly in the last few weeks and especially her husband Richard who has cared for her so lovingly. Our love and sympathy go out to her family. Rest in peace Breda.

Catherine Birt

ST JOSEPH'S DAY MASS AT HIBISCUS COAST

At 9.30 on 19th March a congregation of about 100 people gathered to celebrate both the feast of St Joseph and the sesquicentenary of the Sisters. Father Pat Brady who had been taught by the Sisters as a child asked who else had been taught by them and many people present indicated they had been. We felt privileged in that we were probably one of the first groups to celebrate the feast and this important occasion as our time zone is ahead of Australia!! Some of the thoughts from Sr Monica Cavanagh were shared by Catherine Birt as part of the homily. Afterwards we continued the celebration over morning tea in the Parish Centre.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF POMPALLIER DISCOVERING OUR NZ CATHOLIC ROOTS



On the 5th of April twelve school Principals, Emeritus Bishop Denis Browne and two diocesan staff from the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton set off on a pilgrimage to the far north in the 'Footsteps of Pompallier'. We celebrated, what Bishop informed us, was the first ever Mass said on the Treaty of Waitangi grounds. Later, our group toured the Pompallier Mission in Russell where the Marist Brothers set up a printing press to print prayers in Maori. Our pilgrimage took us to the Hokianga to the significant site of the first ever offering of the Mass in our land – at a place called Te Totara Point.

Our final night of Pilgrimage took us to Motuti Marae where Pa Henare Tate is based. The interior carvings and weavings represent many symbols of our faith; the Eucharist, Mother Mary and of course Bishop Pompallier himself. At the conclusion of our pilgrimage, in the footsteps of Pompallier, the wairua of our group had been strengthened and our knowledge of the historical roots of Catholicism enlightened.

Note: As an aside to the Pilgrimage we popped in to visit Pangu School in the Hokianga. Despite not being a Catholic school this state school is rich in Catholic history and the memory of the Josephites and their presence in their community is very much treasured and valued ☺

-Helen McGuigan -Josephite Companion -Principal Bishop Edward Gaines Catholic School Tokoroa-



Many thanks to the Thames Companions who had a raffle recently and raised \$400 for the house of Bethany.



DEATHS

Eileen Fleming, a loved and valued Josephite Companion from Whanganui died on 16th March. She had served on the Josephite Companions Leadership group for several years. Eileen was a volunteer at Nazareth Rest Home, the Hospice and with the Mt St Joseph Library. She also planned and led liturgies at the Josephite Retreat Centre. As well as being an avid reader, Eileen was a keen sportswoman.

Jain Glen of the Rotorua Companions group passed away on 2nd March 2016 Rest in Peace, Eileen and Jain.

21st May 2016 marks the 25th Anniversary of Sr Irene McCormack rsj who was murdered in Peru in 1991. We remember her courageous dedication to the poor of Peru.

Whangarei Josephite Companions of Aotearoa

The final gathering for our Whangarei Josephites for 2015, was a Christmas lunch held at the home of Jane and Mike Gunson. It was also an opportunity to farewell two of our Josephite Companions, who would be moving on to new parishes in the New Year. Both Fr. Thige O'Leary SM and Fr. Damian Caccioppoli, SM, formerly of our St. Francis Xavier Parish Whangarei, have been regular attendees at our JCA reflection evenings and day visits with the Dargaville Josephite Companions. We have enjoyed their company and learnt from their insight into how St. Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St. Joseph have contributed to their lives.

Father Thige, our Parish Priest, has moved to Auckland and Fr. Damian has moved back to his home region of the Hawkes Bay. We wish them both blessings for their new endeavours.

Jane Gunson
JCA



The Josephite Companions Aotearoa Leadership Team met in Whanganui 28 – 30th April.

Pictured here with new member Perky (Helen McGuigan)
Back row: Therese McConway, Marie Skidmore, Rita Cahill, Patricia Daws, Catherine Birt, Peta Lindstrom, Jane Gunson and Perky McGuigan. Front row: Liz Hickey and Helen Dougherty.



At the recent leadership meeting it was decided to send a donation from our funds to the Associates group in Peru who are working on setting up a school in Cajabamba where there is a school outside the village catering for very poor children who do not even have basic services such as water or toilets. Some money had been gifted to them from an Australian Associates group and with our gift as well the project should be able to proceed.

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS ARE NOW ONE OF THE FORMAL WAYS OF JOSEPHITE COMMITMENT:

- ❖ Membership of the congregations of the Sisters of St Joseph
- ❖ Two pathways of Affiliation with the Congregation
 - affiliation with Private Vows
 - affiliation as a Covenant Josephite
- ❖ Association
 - Josephite Companions/Associates



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: Patty Dudson has kindly offered to continue to collect these

The \$10.00 subscription fee is to cover the costs for producing the quarterly newsletter.

Payment may be made by INTERNET: Bank Account details are –

Westpac – St Heliers Branch Account No – 03 0263 0109542 00 Name of account - St Joseph's Associateship.

Alternatively,

MAIL DIRECT to Patty Dudson 126 Laurie St, Te Awamutu 3800 (***please note new address**) If you have any queries regarding 'subscriptions' please phone: 027 6647180.

Many thanks to Trish Daws for the prayer sheet this month.