



Josephite Companions Aotearoa

Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa

Friendship # Prayer # Service

SPRING NEWSLETTER –September 2017

Greetings to you all as we hopefully begin to enjoy some better spring weather!

The feast of Mary MacKillop was celebrated with style around the country as you will see from the reports sent in this month. It is good to see young people being connected. We have news of the Junior Joeys group in Whangarei and a student from Cullinane once again sending in a report of the happenings in Whanganui.

Josephite Companions Whanganui

This year has seen a rejuvenation of Josephite Companions in Whanganui. Around twenty people gathered in March where our focus was St Joseph. We discussed his numerous qualities and reflected on how they relate to us today. The group suggested many ideas that we could be involved in such as sharing spirituality, outreach, hospitality and connecting with the community and schools.

We agreed to gather each season and in July St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was our focus as we watched a video about her life and discussed her qualities before sharing a wonderful afternoon tea. We look forward to our next meeting in September. *Helen Dougherty*

On Friday 28th July St Anne's School in Wanganui celebrated its 75th Jubilee.

The day began , gathering at the site of the original school, where the story of how Sr Benigna 'planted' a medal of St Anne in the ground and prayed that they would be able to have a school there was shared. Shortly after, the house across the road came up for sale, was bought and altered, becoming St Anne's school. Bishop Charles blessed some medals of St Anne there as a link to the school's beginning.

We then processed around to the current site, in Raine Street, where current pupils lined the footpath forming a guard of honour for the procession. Following this we celebrated with a Jubilee Mass. We were fortunate to be blessed with the presence of some of the Srs of St Joseph, including Sr Francesca who was the first principal in 1942. After a couple of speeches we cut the Jubilee cake with Sr Francesca and our youngest pupil Elizabeth

Jo Gichard



Mary MacKillop's Feast Day Celebration in Whanganui

On the 8th of August a group of students volunteered to represent our school at the feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. I was one of the ten students and the mass was interesting to say the least. It started with a talk from the priest and during the mass some the Sisters of St Joseph talked about St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and some scriptures from the Bible. At the end of the mass all of the students took a photo with the Sisters. Being able to celebrate with the Sisters of Saint Joseph was fantastic.

Hamish Russell Gilmore Jenkins



Greetings from Tairāwhiti Gisborne.

Our group of associates and Sister Meg gathered and shared our thoughts and prayers on the subject of God's covenant with us and every living creature. The sign of this covenant is the rainbow - something we all delight in.

During the winter Joy Cowley held a day of reflection in Gisborne which was attended by some of our group. It was an enriching experience bringing people together (mainly women) from differing faiths. Joy is such a jewel in our community. Sadly, we said farewell to Gaye Hollamby who had been part of our group for some time. Gaye had a beautiful Requiem Mass attended by her loving family and many, many friends. We do miss her.



St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was honoured on her feast day by the students of Campion College in a moving liturgy which featured some inspiring singing. The church only just managed to fit in the whole college - phew! With the last month of winter upon us - we look forward to spring.

-Chris Crowe-

Hibiscus Coast News

20 people gathered at St John's in Orewa to watch a DVD of Mary MacKillop's life, to share a short liturgy and enjoy afternoon tea together. Welcomed were visitors from Takapuna who had seen it advertised on Facebook. Oh the joys of the communications age! On Mary MacKillop's feast day we had a focus at Mass and heard about the 4 values that we use when talking to children - Listen for God's call, Do your bit; Have an attitude of gratitude and Make room in your heart for all. We will meet again and see if there is interest in forming a more permanent group.

Catherine Birt

Mission Bay August 8th

Sisters, Trust Board members, Companions and friends gathered at Mission Bay for a liturgy followed by tea. Three people were asked to prepare a short talk on what Mary MacKillop meant to them. This formed part of the ritual. We listened to the readings and enjoyed the singing of the litany of Mary MacKillop. There was much talk and laughter over tea and the Companions provided two raffle prizes. These were won by Sr Doreen and Sr Joan and in true Josephite spirit the baskets were opened and the goods shared among the Sisters so many people were the winners!! The money raised will go to the House of Bethany.



Eco Corner



Every rock, every leaf, every insect, has something beautiful, nay wonderful to tell.

Julian Tenison Woods 1880.

Celebrating St. Mary MacKillop's Feast Day in Whangarei.

This week Josephites have been busy in Whangarei.

On Tuesday the 8th of August, our primary school St. Francis Xavier, celebrated St. Mary MacKillop's Feast day with a school liturgy held in the Parish Church. The liturgy was combined with a Powhiri (welcome) to new pupils and their families to our school. Teachers were chosen to share aspects of St. Mary's life story, while the children offered prayers on behalf of St. Mary and sang songs dedicated to her work.

At lunchtime the Junior Joeys were seen 'rolling their sleeves up' by helping out with school chores in the flower and vegetable gardens and tidying the Physical Education Shed.



**St Francis Xavier
School Teachers**

On Saturday the 12th of August, our Parish Josephite Companions of Aotearoa (JCAs) shared in an afternoon reflection time starting with a delicious afternoon tea. We learnt a little more about Fr. Julian Tenison-Woods and prayed for the needs of our families and parish, acknowledging the service we each give to the community. Our St. Mary MacKillop week was finished off with JCAs hosting tea and coffee for the Parish community after the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday.



Jane Gunson Leader.

Whangarei JCA's.

Margaret Cook, Moira Taylor, Dot Palmer, Elizabeth Farge.

Aotearoa NZ Josephite Colloquium 2017

A Josephite Colloquium is being held at Mary MacKillop Centre, Mission Bay Auckland from 4pm Sunday 24th September to 3.30pm Tuesday 26th September and there are still a limited number of places available.

Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods responded to the call of the Gospel with justice and compassion, the Colloquium is a time to reflect, to share and to respond to God's call in our time to live the Gospel with a Josephite heart.

There is accommodation for 20 people at the centre. If you are interested in attending contact Catherine Birt at crbirt@gmail.com or on phone 09 424 0134

HOPE CAN NEVER BE STOLEN

Reading: Ameen Mokdad is “the violinist of Mosul who defied Isis”. He says: “I will never forget June 10 (2014). It was the day music died.” What had once provided a much needed escape from the violence and war wracking his country, overnight became a pastime punishable by death.....

He found escape by playing his violin in the innermost room of the house, putting blankets over the windows to muffle the sound. He spent his days composing concertos, imagining himself performing them with a world-class orchestra.



“I felt by doing this, I was, in my own way, fighting Daesh’s ideology”, he said. They could take away my freedom but not my self-expression.”

“My experience living under Isis was profound. I learned many harsh lessons but I developed intellectually and came out stronger”, he said. “I never stopped playing music and writing, to give myself and others hope. My message to Daesh through my music is that hope can never be stolen.”

WOOD HATH HOPE – written by John Foley SJ, (as a memorial to a member of the St. Louis Jesuit music group.)

Wood hath hope. When it’s cut, it grows green again,
And its boughs sprout clean again
Wood hath hope.

Root and stock although old and withered up,
and all sunk in earth corrupt, will revive.
Leaves return. Water pure brings life to them,
and the tree lives young again.
Wood hath hope.

But ah, strange thought: if we could rise again,
Called home to a loving land,
We could have hope.



We would have hope. Like a tree we’d grow green again,
and our boughs sprout clean again;
We would have hope.

Wood Hath Hope’ captures for us the deep truths of *death and Life....* As St. Paul says ‘Life is changed, not ended.’ To listen to this music – go to **Google:** Wood Hath Hope – John Foley SJ.

May we be brave and steadfast as we walk into the mystery of each day. May we trust even when we are disheartened. May we delight in your gifts, and use them in the service of others. *Amen.*

“Once you choose hope,
Anything’s possible.”

Christopher Reeve

“The Lord is my light and my
salvation; I will fear no one.

The Lord protects me from all
danger: I will never be afraid.

Psalms 27:1

“Trust the wait. Embrace the
uncertainty. Enjoy the beauty
of becoming. When nothing
is certain, anything is
possible”.

(Mindsetofgreatness)

“We must accept finite
disappointment, but never
lose infinite hope.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Blessing

Living God, bless us...

Breathe in us, the colour and music and

Companionship of hope.

“Hope is the thing with
feathers that perches in
the soul and sings the
tunes without the words
and never stops at all”.

Emily Dickinson

HOPE....

Sometimes that’s all you
have when you have nothing
else.

If you have it, you have
everything.

“A man begins to die when
he ceases to expect
anything from Tomorrow”.

Abraham Miller

Hope is being able to
see that there is light
despite all of the
darkness.

Desmond Tutu

Life always offers you a
second chance. It’s
called tomorrow.