



Josephite Companions Aotearoa

Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa

Friendship # Prayer # Service

SPRING NEWSLETTER –SEPTEMBER 2018

Greetings to you all as Spring begins! A very full newsletter this time. Enjoy!!

THANK YOU TRISH



Patricia Daws from Palmerston North has been a member of our National group for many years. She has been particularly supportive of the Whanganui group where she contributes reflection days and liturgies at the Josephite Retreat Centre there. Trish is noted for her creative approach to whatever she undertakes, and her skill in adult education processes.

She has often lightened up our meetings with a relaxing film night after a hard day's work. Most of all though we thank Trish for her commitment to our Josephite spirituality and her ministry to migrants to our country. We will miss her at our meetings and wish her well for her future... We are sure she will continue her contacts with the local group.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THESE WONDERFUL SISTERS

A celebration of the significant anniversaries or jubilees of vowed commitment by several members of the community of Sisters of St Joseph was held in Whanganui on Saturday, July 14.

The jubilarians are:

- Francesca Bourke 75 years
- John Bosco Kendall 60 years
- Makareta Tawaroa & Mary Mc Cann 50 years
- Siân Owen 25 years

Together they have contributed 260 years of vowed life in the Josephite family!!



WHANGANUI HAPPENINGS

On Friday, July 6, the Whanganui Companions and some local Sisters met with Sr Moya Campbell from Queensland. We had a shared meal of fish and chips with plenty of catching up, before Sr Moya shared with us a little of the history of the Josephite Associate Movement. It made us aware that we are part of a much larger and diverse group. We were given the opportunity to share ideas for the future. Some of the local Companions had been unaware of the process we had undertaken in Aotearoa regarding our name and afterwards they commented that the name is very appropriate for us in New Zealand



WETLANDS PLANTING

On Friday, 29 June, a group of friends and I went to the Sisters of St Joseph's wetlands and planted trees along the bank. Sr Noelene Landrigan showed us how to plant them. It was very cool planting the trees. I enjoyed how they made us lunch, which was hot savoury muffins, juice and some fresh fruit. After we had finished eating, we headed back to planting. Before we could start again, Sr Noelene said that we were planting native trees to stop erosion and help the wetlands. Over all we planted more than 100 trees, had a fun time and helped out the community.

By Rylie Wright Cullinane College

RITUAL FOR THE CLOSING OF THE HOUSE OF BETHANY

On the 22 June Sisters, Associates and supporters of this Ministry gathered in the Chapel at Mission Bay for the ritual of closing. With regret the Sisters had decided that running the House of Bethany was no longer viable.

Sister Paula Cronin reports:

In our ritual we firstly we gave thanks for Anne Holley and for the fruition of her dream to open the house in 1996.

We gave thanks for all those Sisters and laypeople who made such a magnificent contribution to the running of the house over the years.

Other people who had supported the House of Bethany in the past were also prayed for including many

Companions, both groups and individuals who have been active in raising funds . We then gave thanks for all who had managed the House and had welcomed the many families who enjoyed some time there.

We prayed our thanks for all those who had generously opened their homes and hearts to many families in so many different ways.



MARY MACKILLOP'S FEAST DAY AT MISSION BAY

There was an air of excitement in the chapel as Sisters, Companions and friends gathered on the evening of 8th August. Earlier in the day Mass had been celebrated in the Chapel and now we welcomed some students from Sue Bennett's class at St Joseph's school in Orakei to join with us in a ritual.

Firstly Catherine and Joseph Thom told us what they had learned about Mary MacKillop and what it meant to them coming to Mission Bay for a retreat. Then there was a swirl of bagpipes and Mary MacKillop herself (aka Sue Bennett) appeared . Four of the children came forward to ask her questions which they had

prepared and we were treated to a wide ranging account of what Mary thought and did during her life. As was her custom Mary rewarded the children with boiled sweets ,which they were pleased to receive.

We finished with prayers interspersed with Mary's sayings, then the sign of peace, a blessing from Fr Ray and the song A Cross of Stars. After this we shared a delicious finger food tea together renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. Sue Bennett was quite keen by this time to change from the persona she had adopted – not finding the old habit very comfortable!!



RIP Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the families of the following:

- Mike Claydon of Te Awamutu . Mike was bought up by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in the orphanage at Kincumber in Sydney. He had a great affinity with the Sisters all through his life. He was a member of the extended Lindstrom family
- Sisters Therese Devon and Chanel MacNamara in Whanganui
- Sister Leah at Mission Bay
- Pauline McCarthy a Christchurch Companion who died last year.
- Eileen Mary Hickey Whanganui, mother of Sister Liz Hickey



TE AWAMUTU NEWS



Recently, the Te Awamutu Josephite Companions gathered together after Sunday Mass to hear about the latest happenings within the New Zealand Josephite Companions and also to hear about what is happening on the international scene. It was quite the Josephite Family gathering - with myself (Peta) representing the Leadership Team along with my mother Pat, my aunties Teenie and Marie, as well as their first cousin, Bev Gibson who had arrived over from Tokoroa representing the Tokoroa Companions. Patty Dudson, a retired long time member of the Leadership Team hosted the meeting along with her husband Tom, her sister Sue and her husband Gordon plus Patty's sister,

Gail who has recently shifted to Te Awamutu from the North - so it really was a family affair! There were also a number of parishioners who joined the group so a great turnout for the day!

We shared the news of what was happening with the International Josephite Team and the work they were doing behind the scenes to drive the strategic plan and vision of the Associates and Companions for the next 5 years. I explained how Sister Moya Campbell from Australia had recently met with the Leadership Team and some of the Sisters to discuss the issues before us, as we look to reflect on ways the Associate Movement can remain sustainable, growing and self governing into the future. Sr Moya is visiting all the regional Josephite Associate Leadership Teams and will report back her findings once her research is complete.

We also talked about the role of the NZ Leadership Team and the shared leadership model that we have in place with representatives from the Companions and the Sisters working together as a national team. We reflected on the theme of the Sisters' latest Chapter document of "Living into Mystery" and what this meant for us as Companions living out the Josephite charism through Friendship, Prayer and Service. We also looked at the 4 pathways of commitment to a Josephite way of life and recognised the Josephite Companion/Associate as being one of these valued pathways - "Any one drawn to the spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods can become a Josephite Companion".

We finished our time together in prayer using the recent prayer sheet "Communion with All" compiled by the NZ Companions Leadership Team. It had been a wonderful afternoon with lots of stories, laughter, prayer, reflection and thoughtful contributions to discussions. Thank you Patty and Team for hosting us so hospitably in true Josephite spirit!

Peta Lindstrom

JCANZ Leadership Team

CELEBRATING ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP'S FEAST DAY IN WHANGAREI.

This year's feast day for St. Mary of the Cross, MacKillop was a busy day in Whangarei. The children at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School first led a liturgy to honour St. Mary MacKillop. The local JCANZ group were invited to attend and sat with the children in our St. Francis Xavier Parish Church. The prayers and music celebrated the life of St. Mary MacKillop and highlighted the many different cultures who make up our school. After the liturgy, the children, wearing cultural dress, paraded around the school courts. They created a colourful spectacle of New Zealand today.

Then on Saturday 11.8.18 the Whangarei JCANZ group celebrated St. Mary MacKillop's feast day with a day of hospitality, prayer and listening to a wonderful presentation given to us by Fr. John Craddock (photo - back row on the far left). Fr. John showed how the Josephites have influenced his life both directly and indirectly. Twenty years ago Fr. John worked with the



Sisters of St. Joseph in Hastings and in Whanganui. Fr. John shared with us the icon work of Australian Iconographer Michael Galovic. Mr. Galovic has painted an icon of St. Mary MacKillop, which is included in a beautiful book of this artist's icons.

Fr. Tenison Woods aunt also taught the founder of the Marist Brothers, Fr. Champagnat, his catechism. It was Fr. Champagnat who sent Bishop Pompallier and Fr. Epalle to New Zealand. Fr. Epalle lived at Mangonui in sight of the Waitareke settlement. It was later decided that Fr. Epalle would become the Bishop for Melanesia. Unfortunately the naive Bishop was killed in the Solomons in the first days of presiding in Melanesia. Fr./Bishop Epalle worked in New Zealand and Melanesia from 1839 to 1842.

Fr. John worked for nearly ten years in Solomons, before he returned to Christchurch to help with the impacts of the earthquakes.

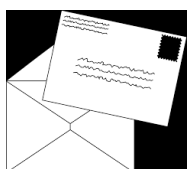
In the Pre-French Revolution time the Sisters of St. Joseph in France served as lay type women among the people rather than being enclosed like other vowed religious. Fr. Tenison Woods thought this model would best suit the Australian rural and outback areas in the mid 1800s.

Fr. John cleverly showed how the links of the Josephite Charism helped shape the origins of the Catholic Church in both Australasia and in Melanesia. We were both impressed and proud.

Jane Gunson

Whangarei

JCANZ Leadership Team



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crbirt@gmail.com**

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS LEADERSHIP MEETING JULY 2018

The July school holidays saw five of us meet at Mission Bay for a couple of days to work on the future directions of the group and to continue to prepare the prayer resources we had begun in April. Unfortunately, because of the death of Sr Chanel in Whanganui, the Sisters on the Companions Leadership team could not be with us on this occasion. Lots of emails and a bit of SKYPE kept us in touch.

Visiting us was Sr Moya Campbell from Brisbane who is the Sister appointed to assist in the forward movement of the International Associate Josephite Leaders team (IJALT). We had several meetings with her and with some Sisters from Auckland. We acknowledged again the four formal ways of Josephite commitment one of which is the Josephite Associates or Companions as we are called here.

Sister Moya has been visiting groups all over Australia and now with us in New Zealand. She told us that she had been asked to support the International Associates Leadership Team as they continue the journey for the Associates to become a sustainable and autonomous organisation. This involves some change for the Associates as they undertake a slightly more formalised approach within the Josephite structure.

In each place she has visited, Moya said there are issues that arise so once she has completed these visits she will write a paper on what has emerged that can be carried forward and used for future planning.

It was good to have the time to spend with her so that she could get a picture of where we fit and how we manage to live the charism of Mary and Julian in our daily lives. Catherine Birt



Perky McGuigan, Catherine Birt, Sr Moya Campbell, Helen Dougherty, Peta Lindstrom, Jane Gunson