



Josephite Companions Aotearoa

Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa
Friendship # Prayer # Service

DECEMBER 2018

Just a short newsletter this time to go with the prayer sheet for Advent and Christmas.
Best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas and a great holiday season with your families.

WELLINGTON COMPANIONS WINTER GATHERING

On Mary MacKillop's Feast day, our group met together for coffee followed by a film "The Wife". Good storyline, but spoiled a little by bad language. On the following Saturday we held our Winter meeting. In this we focussed on the charism of the Associates, prayer, friendship and service.

Prayer and Reflection Sheets

A special thank you to those who prepared the reflections with wonderful ideas in same. We enjoyed the parts of it we had time to cover.

Therese Anstiss



Sisters of St. Joseph Centenary Mass at Panguru

The Far North community of Panguru held a wonderful celebration on the 15th & 16th September to mark one hundred years since the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart first arrived in their village.

As recorded in the Centenary Mass Programme for the day - "From the earliest years the Josephite Sisters followed Mary MacKillop's motto of 'Never see a need without doing something about it'. This led to the Josephite Sisters ministering in different ways to meet the needs of the people of Panguru. The Josephite Sisters taught at the convent school and had many roles in the community such as educators, nurses, parish ministers, artists, musicians, social and pastoral workers. At the end of 1982, the convent school was closed and the role of the Sisters changed to helping the parish priest and running sacramental programmes and prayer groups."

Sr Louise, at ninety-six years young, made the long journey from Auckland to be at the Celebration Mass, Miha and Hakari.



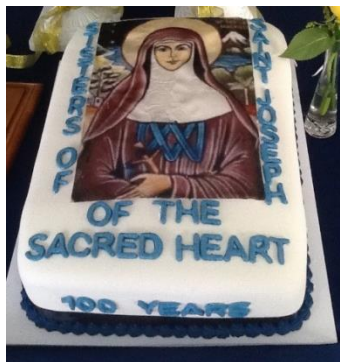
Portraits of Mary MacKillop, Sister Louise and Dame Whena Cooper

Sr Louise has lived in Panguru for a total of thirty-six years. She was accompanied to the celebrations by Sr Colleen and Sr Christina. The Sisters stayed at the home of friend and Josephite Companion Christina Morunga. Sr. Louise and Sr. Christina were the last Sisters to live in Panguru.

Around two hundred people, from the elderly to the very young, were present at the celebrations. People came to Panguru from Motuti, Pawarenga, Whangarei, Auckland and Sydney. The celebrations began on Saturday evening with a Vigil Mass at St. Mary's Church Motiti and a Powhiri at Tamatea Marae.

On Sunday the glorious day began with the Centenary Mass celebrated by Fr. Richard Belano Cortes (MSP) in St. Peter's Church. The church was covered with flowers and new chandeliers lit the aisle to the altar. After Mass we guests, Manuhiri, were welcomed onto Ngati Manawa Marae with a Whakatau. Speakers welcomed the Sisters and the guests and spoke of what the Sisters had done for them and of what they value today.

After a sumptuous morning tea we listened to stories and reflections from the community about the work of the Sisters, the convent school days and how the Josephite Charism continues today in Panguru



Then we were treated to a Hakari (feast) The Wharekai was decorated with more flowers, rows of white tablecloths and a beautifully decorated 'hundred year' celebration cake. The community from Pawarenga made special tribute to Sr. Louise and the Sisters of St. Joseph. Then Sr Christina cut the cake.

The Panguru Community celebrated the Sisters of St. Joseph's presence in their lives in this very special way. Mina Pomare-Peita, one of the key organisers and principal of the Area School,

Te Kura Taumata o Panguru, spoke of what the Sisters meant to the community and of how they can now see the Josephite Charism continuing today in Panguru. We guests were treated to the best experience of tikanga, spirituality and hospitality.

Jane Gunson

Josephite Companion Aotearoa Leadership Team



Back row: Sister Christina, Christina Morunga, Sr Magdalene. Front: Sisters Louise and Colleen, Jane Gunson.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Sister Lee Tan on the occasion of her first profession as a Sister of St Joseph. The ceremony was celebrated in the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel Sydney on 26 August 2018. This step marked for Lee the end of her Emmaus Journey – a time of study, reflection and discernment of her call to Josephite Life. If you would like to read the article and see the photos of this occasion, follow the link here.

<https://www.sosj.org.au/in-search-of-fine-pearls/150914/>



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

Colleen Stalker of Lower Hutt passed away on 11th July, 2018

Sister Barbara Cowan (Sr Borromeo) who passed away in Palmerston North on 23rd September.

May they rest in peace

OUR SAINT'S FEASTDAY, TOKOROA AUGUST 2018

Companions, the parish school pupils and parishioners gathered to celebrate a Mass together. Helen McGuigan Principal. of Bishop Edward Gaines school had prepared a beautiful Mass with great images of Mary MacKillop on the overhead.

Companions wore their scarves and, after Communion, came into the front of the church to pray their prayer together with Father Jones round the altar before a special blessing.

The celebration continued with fruit and drinks for the students and morning tea for the adults, including a birthday cake for Margaret Brownsey who had reached her 80th birthday on that very day

