



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

JUNE 2019

Kia ora everyone. Lots of news this month and a lovely reflection from Sister Rita. The prayer sheet this time focuses on the Sacred Heart. Keep warm as the weather gets colder!!

## REFLECTION

By Sister Rita Cahill



Many years ago, I remember reading a book titled JOY. I have never forgotten this book, as it opened up for me a pattern current in our church, that of remembering with faithfulness the sufferings of Jesus, in the format of the 'Stations of the Cross,' especially during the time of Lent, arriving at Easter, celebrating the occasion, then promptly (seemingly so) forgetting the amazing mystery which has just been celebrated - *which if understood correctly* then informs our total pattern of living, suffusing us with energy, enthusiasm, hope and joy to live our Christian lives, *knowing that our Risen Lord* walks this path of life with us, that we do not face the difficulties, the challenges of the journey on our own, that we are supported and accompanied on this journey of life. It's rather like walking with someone through a dark patch, then when solutions are found, the pain is subdued, the sun shines again – we say ta-ta, goodbye! the celebration of renewed life and living is special, and we forget to celebrate with them! Now of course, I do

realise that there are Six weeks of Easter, when each Sunday, a different story of Jesus' Resurrection is recounted *but .....*

This rather lengthy introduction brings me to the reason for this reflection – 'The Stations of the Resurrection!' I was privileged to be part of a celebration a couple of years ago, using this format. I had never actually seen this done, and these beautiful stations blew me away! Their message of hope, of joy, of challenge, of Presence, and of journey, I immediately embraced.

The opportunity to present these Stations of the Resurrection came this year. Here at Mount St. Joseph, we have a wonderful Conference Centre, and with help we set up these Stations depicting this Easter Mystery – not 14 as in the traditional Stations of the Cross, but 16 amazing moments of the Risen Presence, from Resurrection through to Pentecost.



We didn't turn away huge crowds, but we did have a small group of women who really loved the experience, of journeying through the Easter mysteries reflectively in prayer and song.

Hopefully from the simple act of celebrating the 'Stations of the Resurrection' some will find themselves with new hearts, deeper insights, a greater awareness of the spiritual pulse of life, a peace and joy that permeates, and the ability to see Resurrection everywhere. As Ron Rolheiser said "We don't notice Resurrection because, outside of our heartaches and headaches, we hardly see anything at all. The earth is ablaze with the fire of God, with sights, sounds, smells, touches and tastes that are enough to make anyone want to take one's shoes off.!"

## **NEWS FROM GISBORNE**



Gisborne Josephite Companions (from left) Helen McGuigan (Perky), Chris Crowe and Phyllis McGann get stuck in to plant a wee kowhai during a ceremony held in response to a call from the Global Catholic Climate Movement. The movement called for Catholics around the world to join in solidarity with the Amazon peoples, in particular, who are in danger of losing their homes and livelihood to encroaching cattle ranching. The Amazon Rainforest is a vital lifeline for

our common home, Earth, and so its health is ultimately in our interest as well. Pope Francis is calling for a global synod on the Amazon in October this year.

Chris Crowe

## **WHANGAREI JCANZ REPORT**

Our group meets in the St. Francis Xavier School Staffroom each school term. We support each other in our individual ministries within the Parish Community, through prayer and hospitality. Our group also provides morning tea once a month after the 10:00 am Mass and supports St. Francis Xavier School through the Junior Joeys Programme. The Junior Joeys have been busy weeding the prayer gardens at school and laying new bark mulch.

We had a small attendance to our first gathering for 2019. However, it was made rich through the contribution of Josephite friend and parishioner Liz Beazley. Liz shared with us about her retreat experience at Mary MacKillop Centre, Mission Bay in February 2019. Liz and her husband Mike attended the seminar on the Josephite Charism led by Sr Jill McLoughlin and Sr Lyndall Brown. The seminar provided Liz and Mike with their first in-depth knowledge of the stories of St. Mary MacKillop of the Cross and Fr. Tenison-Woods. Liz's mother, Dorothy Campbell, was a long-time Josephite Associate in the Whangarei Parish.

We ask prayers for our Josephite Companion Dot Palmer who is very unwell. We pray that she recovers to enjoy life.

Jane Gunson



## **SOUTH ISLAND VISITS**

A family visit to the South Island last month left me time over for a visit to some of the Companions groups. The Pleasant Point group came over to Temuka and enjoyed meeting up with friends there and sharing a lovely lunch. We talked over the issues raised by the IJALT team around the name of our groups. We discussed the need to be financially viable, to spread the word in our parishes and invite in those who want to share the charism. Sister Francis Gaffney came and enjoyed some wonderful Josephite hospitality. After this Lorna Double took me for a visit to the Mary MacKillop Chapel and Heritage Centre next to the school. Lorna cares for the building and the artefacts it houses. Many thanks to Valerie Wright for organising a delightful gathering.



Temuka and Pleasant Point groups



Sister Francis Gaffney



Valerie Wright, Temuka group  
leader with Catherine Birt



Christchurch meeting at Judy and  
Michael Cooper's house

In Christchurch I visited a group of 6 members who came for afternoon tea to Judy and Michael Cooper's house. Again, the issues facing us were discussed. This group has not been meeting since Mary Parker ceased running it which she had faithfully done for 15 years until her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday! Jill O'Callaghan bravely offered to take it up the challenge and hold the meetings from here on in. Many thanks Jill. Thanks also to Judy and Michael for hosting our enjoyable meeting. It was great to put faces to the names I knew.

Catherine Birt.

## **WHANGAPARAOA**

A group of 12 gathered to talk about St Joseph and share our special devotion to this saint who was so important to Mary MacKillop. We used the prayer sheet from last time and thanks to Sandy the technical whizz amongst us we enjoyed listening to "Joseph's Song" by Michael Card. Although we are not yet an official Companions group we have been meeting over the last year and some people have indicated they would like to become Companions. We hope to use the draft induction booklet being written by the IJALT team when it is ready.

## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The subscription fee is to cover the costs for newsletters and for the running of the organisation

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 Josephite Companions c/- Catherine Birt P.O. Box 830. Whangaparaoa 0943.

## **IJALT VISIT IN NOVEMBER**

IJALT committee members are undertaking a series of visits to groups around Australia and New Zealand. Pauline McGuire from Queensland is planning to come here in early November. We are looking at a possible itinerary for her to visit as many Companions groups as possible in the time she has.

The issues being raised for discussion are around rejuvenation of the groups, financial sustainability fulfilling our baptismal call in the light of the charism; our relationship with the Sisters, our logo and the name of the Associate Movement.

## **ASSOCIATES AND COMPANIONS CONFERENCE 2020**

From July 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 an Associates and Companions conference is planned in Sydney. If you are thinking of going for a trip why not incorporate this as part of it. The venue is not yet confirmed but we will keep you updated as information comes to hand. Mark the dates in your diary.



**RIP** Our deepest sympathies and prayers to the families of these people who died recently.

George Booker, Christchurch

Rosanna Munroe, Temuka 7/1/19

Sister Elizabeth Ward (formerly Sister John Berchmans)

Sister Stephanie Kelly

Judith Goddard, Mission Bay

Patricia Murphy, Temuka March 2019

Rhonda Wright, Gisborne