



# Josephite Companions Aotearoa

## Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa

### Friendship # Prayer # Service

**SEPTEMBER 2019**

#### **NEWS FROM THE LEADERSHIP MEETING**

The Leadership Team met in Whanganui in the July school holidays.

We established some strategic goals to enable us to move forward.

- 1) To establish, rejuvenate and support Companions groups.
- 2) To identify and develop resources and resource people to support group leaders.
- 3) To strengthen collaboration with the Sisters

We discussed the current financial situation and the request from IJALT which is the governing International Josephite Associates Team, that one third of the money raised should go to them towards the general running of the group. This enables them to do the strategic work they need to do to take us forward. From this work they have developed a new administration handbook and also a formation handbook which is now being trialed.

The latest IJALT newsletter has gone out to those on email and will be sent with this newsletter to all the groups that receive material by post. The 2020 conference has had a change of venue and is now to be held in Adelaide from July 5-7<sup>th</sup> 2020. This is because there is building work going on at the Mount Street site making accommodation unavailable.

Pauline MacGuire an IJALT member from Queensland is visiting NZ beginning on 7th November and hopes to address as many Companions groups as possible. Her itinerary will begin in the North where one of our leadership team will accompany her. She will then visit groups in the South Island if possible. We will advise groups when we have firm dates.

#### **WHANGAPARAOA GROUP**



We gathered in late July and used the Sacred Heart prayer sheet which we all enjoyed. One of our group had bought a rainbow coloured candle with a ring of people holding hands around it typifying love for all which is what we were praying about.

We had also received our copy of the beautiful Josephite prayer book and have started sharing it around among us.



We also met for a celebration lunch in honor of Mary MacKillop's feast day. Here are some of us at Walnut Cottage cafe in Orewa

## MARY MACKILLOP'S FEAST DAY IN GISBORNE



St Mary's Star of the Sea in Gisborne celebrated St Mary of the Cross' (St Mary MacKillop) feast day with a special Mass for the junior school, St Mary's and another for the secondary school, Campion College. The Mass for the junior school was attended by some of our Josephite Companions who really enjoyed the children's singing and participation in the liturgy. Mary Fletcher's "Heartbeat" song was a brilliant way to finish with everyone in high spirits.

Chris Crowe

Students from St Mary's school in Gisborne gather after Mass and are joined by in the back row by Sr Meg, rsj, Principal, Helen McGuigan and Josephite Companions Chris Crowe and Pamela Mathias.



St Mary's school gathered in the Church

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Thank you to those who have donated for this year.**

The subscription fee/donation is to cover the costs of newsletters and for the running of the organization. A small contribution from each member will enable us to continue with this.

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.



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

Sister Teresa Thompson, Auckland

Sister Maria Goretti West, Whanganui

Sister Frances Wallace, Whanganui

Sister Maria Vaughan, Auckland

Ken Hodgson, husband of Whangarei Companion Nancy Hodgson

Please pray for Dot Palmer, a Whangarei Companion who is not well.

## FEASTDAY AT MISSION BAY



The liturgy this year focused on Mary's time spent in New Zealand and included several stories telling about things that had happened to her while she was here. Sisters, Covenant Josephites, Companions and friends came to listen, pray and sing. We were delighted that Catherine and Joseph Thom pictured above with some Companions and Sister Jill McLoughlin, each read one of the stories for us.

The setting had a photo of Mary on the verandah at the convent in Middleton Road Remuera and included a box now kept in the archives at Mission Bay which contains a piece of the wooden coffin in which Mary was originally buried. The inscription says, "This relic was originally gifted to the Maori people of Panguru and was gifted here as this was thought by them to be a more fitting place for it."



### MURAL

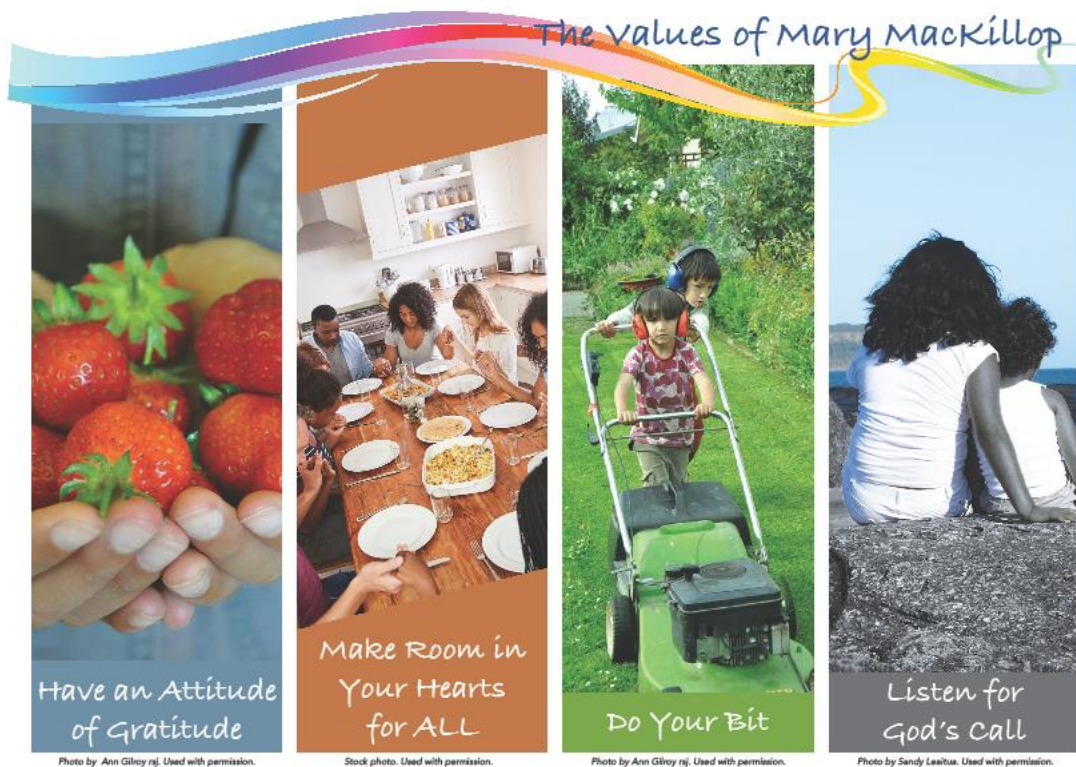
A Mary Mackillop Wall mural created by the children at Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop is one of the schools Whānau patrons ... with the children having a great fondness for always saying "*never see a need without doing something about it!*"

## VALUES POSTER

The values of Mary MacKillop for children were developed some years ago by the Josephite Sisters. Sister Diane Phillips has produced a great resource using these four key ideas and has put them together with Gospel passages, ideas for prayer and stories from Mary MacKillop's life. Some schools have produced their own visual to go with them.

Recently the Companions Leadership team met with Sandy Leaitua and asked her to produce a visual that could be used by anyone who might like it. Below is what she has produced. We all know Sandy from her work on the prayer books as a talented creative artist and photographer and this is another great example of that. It has been designed for the Companions and is free to use. The idea is to distribute it to Josephite schools for them to use as they please along with the stories and prayers.



## GENERAL CHAPTER

We invite you to join us in praying that the Sisters preparation for the Chapter and the Chapter event will raise the powers of love in our world. The Chapter begins on 30th September.

**God, Power of Love, accompany the Sisters in their preparation for the General Chapter.**

**Prompt their generosity and honesty, their trust and openness, their imagination and vision**

**for mission and communion.**

**Help them to listen to one another, to the world around them, to what they have not yet thought of, to the clarifying of truth.**

**Alert them to prophetic voices as they humbly enter into the journey**

**the better to glimpse your presence, the better to appreciate one another,**

**the better to feel the Spirit inviting, prompting, healing, raising the powers of love.**

**Amen**

