



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

June 2020

Greetings everyone.

It seems a long time since we sent out the newsletter for St Joseph's day. We just got it posted before the lock down started. Since then it has been a time unlike any other we have ever known. Communities have responded to helping each other, caring for those older people who have been more in danger from the virus, or who have compromised health. The words "Kia Kaha" and "be kind" have been used and practised a lot. Let's pray that this mindset may continue as we aid those who are rebuilding their lives and businesses.

140th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTERS ARRIVAL IN WHANGANUI

Adapted from a letter to the Sisters of 20/4/20 from Sr Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader:



Left back Hyacinth Quinlan, Teresa Schmidt, Clare Rubie (seated in front) and Joseph Kinsella.

"We mark a significant moment in the history of the Congregation as the Sisters in Aotearoa/New Zealand celebrate the 140 years since the first Sisters of Saint Joseph arrived there on 24 April 1880.

Four Sisters left Perthville in mid April-Sisters Hyacinth Quinlan, Clare Rubie, Joseph Kinsella and Teresa Schmitt. They arrived in Wellington and then accompanied by Fr Yardin, SM, they set out on a boisterous sea journey to Whanganui arriving there at 6 am on 24 April.

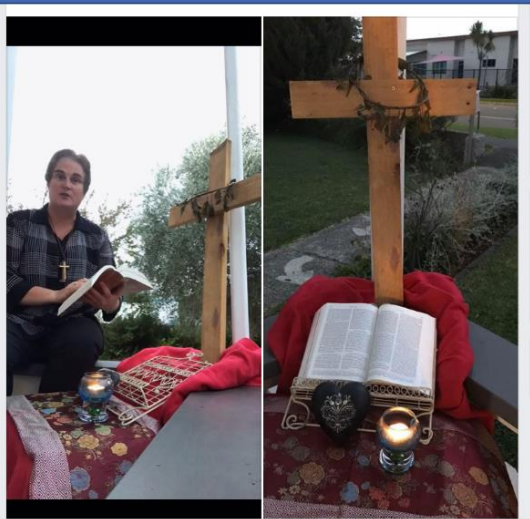
Hyacinth was the eldest at 27 and the only finally professed Sister. The others were relatively new to Religious Life – Joseph was 21 and professed for five months while Clare and Teresa had only been professed a week before their departure.

Like many of the Josephite foundations this new foundation was not without its difficulties and challenges. Let us rejoice and give thanks for the gift that this part of our story has brought to our Josephite story. We express our deep appreciation for the women who have served over all these

years in this part of our world.

Celebrations were to be held on the due date, but have been postponed until October because of the current pandemic."

It's Not School as We Know It



Greetings from sunny Gisborne during this time of Level 4 lockdown. Daily life has changed dramatically and thanks be to God, from an educational perspective, St. Mary's Catholic School in Gisborne was ready for it. Much work in the previous two years has gone into upskilling the confidence and capability of teachers in their digital fluency. In a school of nine classrooms we'd moved to six of them being 1:1 devices (ipad or chromebook) and the other classes 1:2. Our senior classes in particular (Years 4-6 / Standard 2 -4) were already thriving working within a digital platform.

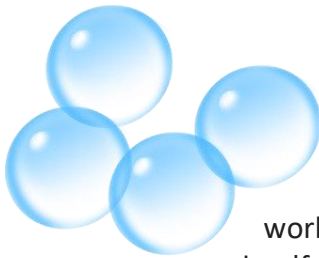
Once school closed down our staff were still wanting to give life some normality & routine. Our first contribution to this was utilising our school's closed (meaning private) Facebook page to share daily prayer. Each staff member, starting with me as the 'Big Kahuna' (that's the nickname my staff have for me) took a turn to lead daily morning prayer from our own homes. These were so well received by our school community, & the members of our parish whanau, who are also Facebook 'friends' with our school. People would look forward to the morning prayer & to the different ways each presenter shared their faith, message or spirituality.

School has started again. We now communicate through Google Meet video conferences & share teaching & learning through class websites. We've since run two live stream prayer assemblies to start off our school weeks. We have found that in these times of lockdown we, as a school community, have still been able to connect & communicate with our school whanau & most importantly, to continue to share the love of Jesus (our school mission) in the work we do.

Nga mihi,

Helen McGuigan

Principal of St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Gisborne & Josephite Companion



Bubble snippets from the Companions

Well, I have jumped or been catapulted into full online teaching and learning. It is a great way to learn new skills when there is no alternative. Full immersion. And I am enjoying it. I can respond to the children's questions and work, individually, which is difficult to achieve daily in a classroom setting. I read that 'feedback is the breakfast of champions'.

once I am learning many new e-skills and not to be self-conscious about filming welcome messages to the children each morning. We start each 'welcome' with a prayer and I am able to share some of the wonderful resources that the different dioceses are making available through their religious education advisors.

It is good to discover silver linings to our very challenging time. I hope that the new ways we are learning about connecting with each other and working will be taken into the future to reduce our pressure on our planet.

Margaret Cook, one of our Whangarei Josephite Companions, is writing an account of her primary school years when she and all New Zealand school children had to stay home from school because of the polio epidemic. Margaret had explained to our Josephite Companions group at our last lunch together that children stayed home from December through to May and worked by Correspondence. She had no contact with her teachers during that time. Margaret is sharing her memories with her own grandchild and is generously sharing them with my class too.'

From Jane Gunson in Whangarei:



Lockdown has certainly put a different emphasis on the way we learn and one of the wonderful outcomes of this, is that we have created the opportunity to raise the profile of "learning being everywhere"! What the children do at home and the experiences they have learning and doing things together as a family, is just as valuable as the learning that takes place at school! Our school has developed a wonderful Learning google site with learning tasks and activities geared for home learning - with activities that have the children outside exploring, imaginative play, baking and cooking family meals, creating posters for letterboxes to "thank our health care workers and essential services people", creating school liturgies videos for our learning site, playing cards and board games, redesigning bedrooms, leading Christian meditation with the whole family etc.

We are loving seeing what our families are sharing about "learning together" in their lockdown bubbles. We have been able to do Zoom calls to participate in "school family" rosary prayer times and Stations of the Cross portrayals in the backyard! Although a very different and somewhat challenging time for us all, it has led to opportunities to connect in a variety of ways with our whanau, our children and our staff. The goal of being united in kotahitanga with a

sense of purpose, resilience and compassion has only strengthened our school community bonds. Long may it continue!

Sending warm greetings and much love from one Josephite Companion "bubble" to all our other Josephite Companion "bubbles"!

From Peta Lindstrom Holy Trinity School in Takanini South Auckland

LIFE ON THE HIBISCUS COAST

Week 1: This time has caused a massive flowering in our Parish on the Hibiscus Coast. Our leadership group from our little Church on the peninsula has divided up the 500 names on the Parish roll between us and rung or tried to ring each of them. Lots of numbers were wrong and we have emailed most of those we had addresses for. Many people have been extremely glad of the contact as we have lots of older people here living alone. It has been a worthwhile exercise for us and brought us closer together as a community. Church will never be the same again. We have formed tight bonds between us.

Week 2: Zoom liturgies have started – just our core group today and we struggled a little to get everyone on. Used the outline from Act, Love, Walk which they all enjoyed.

Week 3: Now we are feeling bolder and extended our Zoom meeting – 23 people from 16 locations. We had a practice for the new people yesterday so they would be relatively competent today. Hard to get them to mute their microphones so we don't hear any off key singing though!



Catherine Birt



RIP Our deepest sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Sister Marianne Smith who died recently.

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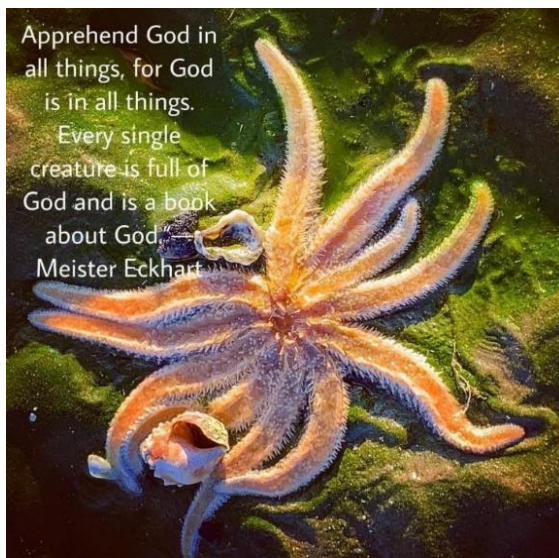


A WARM WELCOME to Sister Moya Campbell who has come as the regional leader for the Sisters of St Joseph in NZ. Previously Moya worked as vicar for religious in the Brisbane Archdiocese. Many Companions have met Moya when she came to NZ while working as a support person for the IJALT committee in 2018

Joanne Wilson a Josephite Companion from Hibiscus Coast Parish has been taking a photo daily to go with one of the readings. On this day she got a shot of an oyster catcher flying over Orewa beach. You can see the Whangaparaoa Peninsula in the background.



LAUDATO SI FIFTH ANNIVERSARY



In May 2015 Pope Francis launched his encyclical with the subtitle “On Care for our Common Home” and the title “Laudato Si” which are the opening words for a hymn composed by St Francis of Assisi in the 1200s. Sister Mary Cresp explores some of the parallels between the work of Pope Francis and Julian Tenison Woods in this series of webinars on the SOSJ website Here is a link to Part I.

<https://www.sosj.org.au/laudato-si-part-1/>