



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

December 2020

The Josephite Leadership Team wish you all a very happy Christmas and a restful holiday season! Enjoy the Advent prayer sheet prepared for us this month by Helen Dougherty

The last couple of months have been exciting ones for the Josephite Companions. Our new official name has been launched and the tenth anniversary of Mary MacKillop's canonisation been celebrated. As well there has been a NZ celebration of the 140th anniversary of the Sisters arriving in New Zealand. The Covid crisis meant that the planned celebration for this in Whanganui could not go ahead but Zoom provided a platform for people to gather. Even better the 2 wonderful presentations are available on the website now for anyone to enjoy.

Here is the link for these.

<https://www.sosj.org.au/140-yrs-whanganui-josephites-20/>

Listen to

“Associates to Companions – A New Chapter”

The launch of this new name, logo and prayer can be viewed on the following video which is on the SOSJ website.

Link is <https://www.sosj.org.au/associates-to-companions-20/>

In this presentation Sister Monica and Mary Hemmings chairperson of JCoLT talk about the reasons for the name change and our place in the Josephite family.



THE COURAGE HOUR

As part of the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of Mary MacKillop's canonisation a prayer hour was arranged for Friday 16th September at 8 p.m. local time. This reflection was called “Take Fresh Courage” and centred on the difficulties which our world and its peoples currently face. There was invitation to consider a personal aspect also.... being asked to reflect upon people in our lives and in the world who had been beacons of hope for us.

It includes pauses to consider what is touching into our hearts and to hold reverently those for whom we are praying, and the invitation to ask for courage in our own specific situations. A prayer of commitment asks that our pleas for Courage may light a Candle of Hope across the world and empower us to commit ourselves to living with trust into our uncertain future. A period of silent prayer helps to deepen this spirit of commitment.

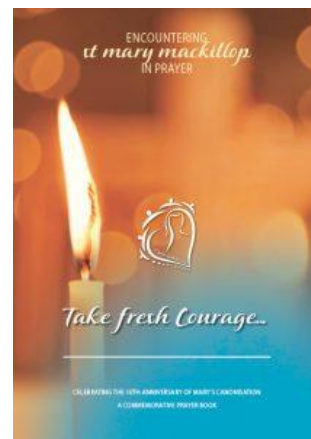
The Courage Hour (with very touching visuals) can be viewed and prayed with at any time ... just access the website: www.sosj.org.au/10-year=anniversary.. Many have found it to be very inspirational and empowering. Marie Skidmore rsj

ENCOUNTERING ST MARY MACKILLOP IN PRAYER

Have you seen this lovely prayer book produced for the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop? Click on this link to see it in flip book format.

Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer'

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/372439/>



INTRODUCING JCoLT

JCoLT is the new acronym for the Josephite Companions Leadership Team which was previously called IJALT. The group is made up of 5-7 Companions from across different regions and is determined by nominations and discernment.

JCoLT provides mutual support within and between the regions.

They focus on the overall unity of the Companion movement whilst allowing for individual and cultural differences of all the regions where Josephite Companions are located.

JCoLT has a focus on the ongoing formation and growth of the Josephite Companion movement, especially for its leaders and assisting them in their work with all Companions so as to better live out the Josephite Charism.

Responsibilities of this team includes developing resources, policies and procedures, communicating with the Sisters of St Joseph at all levels and organising a major Companion Leaders gathering every three years.

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS EMBLEM



JCoLT has, over the last couple of years, been involved in renewing the Josephite Companions. Part of this involved designing a new emblem.

The **Cross** is a key part of our Christian faith, St Mary MacKillop is known as St Mary of the Cross and the cross links us to others connected to the Josephite charism

The blue represents **water**, a key symbol of our baptism, calling us to live the gospel in our lives.

The **three Js** stand for Jesus, Joseph and John the Baptist which have been part of the Josephite monogram since 1866.

The **flame** made by the three Js represents the Holy Spirit, encouraging us participate in the mission of the Church through our words and actions as Josephite Companions.

We are all called to be carriers of the tradition, as individuals and in communion with others. [All] of us - as vowed Sisters and as Associates [Companions] - are in the process of discovering again in new and vibrant ways what it means to hold a charism in trust for the church. Charism, then, must be constantly rediscovered, and constantly re-expressed.'

Joan Chittester OSB

CELEBRATION TIME FOR COMPANIONS

Companions from Rotorua and Tokoroa gathered at the home of Marie Williams rsj to celebrate the launch of the new Companions as another way to live the Josephite charism, prayer and identity as well as the 10th anniversary of canonisation of our beloved St Mary of the Cross.

We were greeted in a room decorated with colourful streamers and a great poster. We listened to the wonderful version of Mother Mary's life which has been in one of our newsletters. The story written by Samela and published in the Southern Cross (SA) newspaper in December 2018. Re-hearing an outsider's commentary on Mary's life gave us all that different perspective and freshness we sometimes need.

This was followed by food, glorious food and singing along with Max Bygraves accompanied by bubbling,sparkling grape juice.

Each person was presented with a new bookmark in the colours of the logo and our afternoon concluded with more singing.....Bishop Pompallier's beautiful hymn. Mo Maria.

Margaret Brownsey



Let's Celebrate 140 Years of Creativity

As part of the 140th anniversary celebrations a number of Sisters kindly contributed photos of their creative works for a powerpoint which has been converted into a video for ease of access. You're sure to enjoy the colour, texture and variety of exhibits provided. some you can almost taste!

To open this assortment of creativity, if you use an ipad click on the link below (or on laptops press control – then click the link) and sit back to enjoy what is to follow!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuOFFsFZ7Ts&feature=youtu.be>



Josephite calendars are still available: email Rita Tuimaseve at nzadmin@sosj.org.au Cost is \$8 including postage

JCANZ Leadership Team October 2020 Report

During beautiful, spring days in early October, the JCANZ Leadership Team gathered at Mt St Joseph's in Whanganui for their first face to face meeting since 2019. Throughout this 2020 year we have regularly met via Zoom meetings and although this is proving a very efficient and cost effective way to meet, it truly was such a joy to be in each other's company for friendship, prayer and service.

Our main focus for this meeting time was to review the Josephite Companions' Leadership Team strategic plan, to reflect on the outcomes and sharing from the gathered 'voice' of our Companion groups and to respond by developing initiatives and tasks for the year ahead. We have set ourselves 3 main goals to work towards achieving across the next 3 years:

- *To continue to establish, rejuvenate and support Companions Groups*
- *To identify and develop resource people (those with Josephite hearts) to support, coach and mentor group leaders*
- *To strengthen collaboration with the Sisters for the Josephite Movement to thrive*

Each time the Leadership Team meets, we also ensure we give time to our own spiritual growth and development. So together, we watched the concluding address from the Leadership for Mission 2019 Conference (Australia). 'Becoming a Church Beyond 2020' certainly provided perspectives, opinions and challenges that got us thinking, talking, discussing, debating and visioning of what this means for us as Josephite Companions.



It was also lovely to spend time in prayer to celebrate Fr Julian Tenison Woods Feast Day on 7th October and to enjoy the wonderful hospitality offered at Mt St Joseph's. We give thanks to Sr Rita Cahill and Sr Margaret Rowley for their warm welcome and generous care of the Leadership Team during our time together.



The Team looks forward to catching up with each other via our regular Zoom meetings, continuing with our key tasks and to sharing with you, our actions towards meeting our goals!

Peta Lindstrom
JCAN Z Leadership Team

Pictured are:

Catherine Birt, Helen Dougherty, Marie Skidmore, Peta Lindstrom, Jan Gunson, Rita Cahill and in front Liz Hickey and Helen McGuigan.



RIP

Please pray for the response of the soul of Eileen Auckram

Deepest sympathy to all her family. May she rest in peace

The next newsletter and prayer sheet will be distributed at the beginning of March.

If you have a change of address or any copy for the next issue please contact Catherine Birt at

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