



Josephite Companions Aotearoa
Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa
Friendship # Prayer # Service
March 2021

Greetings everyone. Sorry this newsletter will be in black and white for some people who receive printed copies. Now we have moved into Level 3 in Auckland I am not able to use my usual copying facilities.

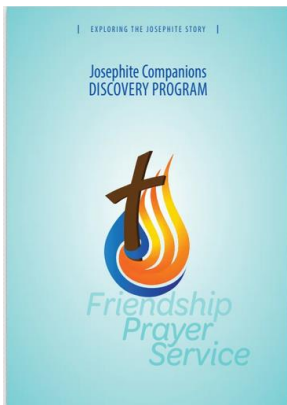
Enjoy the beautiful St Josephs' Day prayer sheet prepared by Sister Marie Skidmore. It is good to use in a group or by yourself if you live in Auckland!!

NEW HANDBOOKS

These two beautiful new handbooks that have been produced for us as Josephite Companions are available on line for groups to use. Here are the on line links to them.

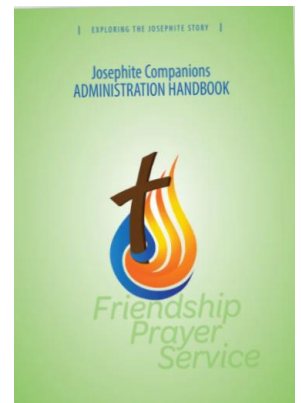
<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/398008/>

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/435360/>



Shortly they will be printed and each group will be sent one copy of the Administration handbook and several copies of the Discovery handbook. They are not available on the SOSJ website as they are for use by the Companions so click on the link to find them online.

New badges with our new logo are also being produced and will be posted out as soon as they are ready.



AUCKLAND HAPPENING FOR ST JOSEPHS DAY

If you live in Auckland you are invited to St Joseph's day prayer at

Mary Mackillop Centre Mission Bay on Friday 19th March at 5.30pm.

All are welcome and there will be a finger food supper afterwards. Please let Sr Julian Langton know if you are coming for catering purposes.

ph 09 528 1801 or email: marymackillopcentre@sosj.org.au



A new picture of Saint Joseph by Jane Maisy

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RETREAT CENTRE PROGRAMMES [click on the links to see these brochures](#)

WHANGANUI: <https://www.marymackillop.org.nz/whanganui/programmes/>

Instructions: to obtain the 2021 Josephite Retreat Centre programme go to the bottom of the page provided by the link and download the pdf.

Auckland (also attached)

[Auckland Retreat Programme](#)



RIP

Sister Carina Cobb and Sister Joan Tuite both died recently.

Deepest sympathy to all their families. May they rest in peace.

COMPANIONS CONNECTED BY EMAIL

Shortly we are going to begin bringing our email list up to date. Over time emails get out of date so we will be asking you if your details are correct and if you are wanting to stay connected to us as a Josephite Companion. The Companions group is becoming more formalised as it is now one of the 4 official pathways of belonging to the Josephites. Because of this we are trying to make sure we have all our members correctly connected.

We will also soon be starting a series of zoom sessions connecting Companions around the country. If there is one thing the lockdown has taught us its how to get connected from our homes – something which we had probably never thought of doing before.

The handbook states that “being connected to a group is a key component of being a Josephite Companion. The groups provide a forum for sharing and supporting one another. Because of distance , being part of a group for some Companions may involve being linked by telephone or social media in a way that enables them to have a sense of belonging to a cluster that provides support and companionship.” This is essentially what we are trying to provide in the Zoom groups.

School Staff Retreat: news from Gisborne

“God’s presence seems to follow me everywhere and makes everything I do or wish to do a prayer.”
(Mary MacKillop, 1873)



St. Mary’s Catholic Primary School in Gisborne is proudly a Josephite school. Over the past two years, the school staff and students have had a focus on *‘Experiences to help us encounter Christ’*. At the end of January, our staff travelled to Anaura Bay on the East Coast to have an overnight retreat at a DOC campsite. The retreat included an outdoor celebration of the Mass followed by a time of spiritual retreat in the great outdoors.

This year at the retreat, Sr Meg Hills rsj led our staff in prayerful retreat. Meg guided us through the retreat time using reflection and prayer journaling. She prompted us to identify with our inner child and adopted a contemplative prayer form using the senses. We also took the time to be at one with nature. It was a very special prayer experience which nurtured not only the teachers’ faith but also gave them ideas that they could take back to the classroom to help their students encounter Christ.

Helen McGuiganM
Josephite Companion & Principal of St. Mary’s Catholic School Gisborne

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

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

P.O. Box 830, Whangaparaoa 0943 or

crblrt@gmail.com

or phone 027 294 7855