



Josephite Companions Aotearoa

Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa

Friendship # Prayer # Service

December 2021

## Tena Koutou katoa

Greetings from us here in Auckland still under lockdown and unable to meet face to face. Hopefully some of you in other parts of the country have managed to gather and share some friendship and prayer. We have had lots of opportunities for service with many around us in need of food and company in these difficult times. As we move into Advent and Christmas, we pray that everyone will be safe and able to connect with family and friends again.

## ST MARY'S SCHOOL GISBORNE.

St Mary's School in Gisborne, Aotearoa New Zealand, is a wonderful example of how Fr Julian's life and work can move us to live in harmony with the natural world. The children and teachers from St Mary's have produced this video about their 'green-gold enviro school'.

Click on this link to see their video.

[ST MARY'S SCHOOL GISBORNE](#)



## WHANGANUI GATHERING

On Sunday November 6 Whanganui Companions gathered to celebrate Julian Tenison Woods. This was our first face to face gathering since August's lockdown and it was lovely to reconnect. We listened to a narrative on Julian by Mary-Ann Casanova (rsj) who is currently doing a doctorate on Julian and Teilhard de Chardin. We shared what we had learnt about Julian that was new or had inspired us. As it was such a lovely afternoon, we spent time outside appreciating the gardens and environment of Mt St Joseph's before reflecting on what we had noticed as we wandered in light of Julian's words. The afternoon concluded with a shared afternoon tea. The group is eager to explore the Josephite Discovery book and has set dates for 2022 to commence this.

Helen Dougherty





## CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY FOR GREATER GOOD IS INSPIRING AKONGA AT TE KURA TAUMATA O PANGURU

Recently Te Kura Taumata O Panguru, was a Winner in the Prime Ministers Education Awards. They won for Excellence in Engaging.

The judges said: Engagement with different organisations led to extensive and transformative change for Te Kura Taumata O Panguru. Everything was underpinned by te ao Māori and mātauranga Māori. There was a significant focus on science and their forest, Te Warawara, with students being involved in kōrero with the Department of Conservation.

There is a strong Josephite presence in the school stemming from the years the Sisters of St Joseph taught in the school there.

Link to the video they have on the website

[Te Kura Taumata O Panguru](#)



## HAPPY 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY!

Congratulations to Sr Louise O'Kane on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Louise spent many years working in the school in Panguru and has many memories and stories to tell of her time there.

## WEBINAR FEEDBACK



This link takes you to the videos that were made before the webinar including two made by NZ Companions.

[Josephite Companions videos](#)

This link takes you to the written form of Sr Monica's talk

[Sister Monica's talk at the webinar](#)



## RIP

Rosemarie Bezar from the Wellington Companions group.

Mary Parker of Christchurch.

Sister Marie McGreevy of Mission Bay.

Bev Handisides of Auckland

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



## THE SYNOD

### COMMUNION - PARTICIPATION - MISSION

Perhaps your parish is beginning work on responding to the journeying and listening process involved with the Synod. Maybe as Josephite Companions we could meet in our groups and respond to one of the Synod themes that touches us.

Here are links to the synod process called the spiritual conversation method and to the 10 questions to spark our responses. Each Diocese has processes in place for feedback on their websites.



[Synod process](#)

[Questions leaflet](#)

**Synodality is the way of being the Church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit.” Pope Francis**



## JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS AOTEAROA

As we walk in the footsteps of Julian and Mary, we Josephite Companions Aotearoa respond to the Gospel by reverencing the Sacred in ourselves, others and our environment.

We do this in the ordinariness of our everyday lives by:

- Living simply and prayerfully
- Acting justly with integrity
- Responding to the needs of our time
- Being thankful for God's love
- Providing inclusive hospitality and down-to-earth practicality in the spirit of Aroha.





# LAUDATO SI' GOALS



*In the spirit of integral ecology, hope for the Earth and the Poor.*

***Let's face the crises affecting people, other species and Earth itself at this time and with compassion and urgency collaborate locally and globally to influence governments, companies and others to halt the damage, protect life, restore habitats and settle the homeless.***

Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, 27<sup>th</sup> General Chapter 2019

## The [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#)

is an action-oriented seven-year ecological conversion journey intended to support and empower families, communities, and institutions to achieve total sustainability. Its aim is to listen and respond to the cry of the Earth, the cry of the poor and the cry of our children and future generations. LSAP employs a synodal process to build 'a people's movement from below' that can really bring about the radical change needed given the urgency of the crisis of our common home.



**Laudato Si' calls us toward sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology. With profound care for each other, our Creator, and all creation, we are building a better future together.**

The implementation of the [Laudato Si' Action Goals](#) will provide new impetus in responding to the call to renewal, to eco-conversion and sustainable living among the Sisters, affiliates, associates, companions and staff. There will be more about the Action Plan and how we can respond.



**Thanks to Sr Liz Hickey for the Christmas prayer sheet.**

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL.**

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 P.O. Box 830 Whangaparaoa 0949 or [crbirt@gmail.com](mailto:crbirt@gmail.com) or phone 027 294 7855