



## Josephite Companions Aotearoa

Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa

Friendship # Prayer # Service

March 2022

*Greetings to you all. This month we have a letter From Mary Hemmings who is the Chairperson of the Josephite Leadership team in Australia telling us of plans for the year from the JCoLT team.*

*We also hope to continue with some zoom sessions ourselves between our NZ Companions to at least share some friendship and prayer among us even if we can't gather in person.*

*By the time you get this it will be almost St Joseph's day. Thanks to Helen Dougherty for the prayer sheet this time with thoughts about Joseph as its focus.*

### From the Josephite Companions Leadership Team

March 2022

Dear Josephite Companions,

Greetings to you all, wherever you are across our many countries. We recognise that these times are providing challenges for us all in different ways, including many not being able to gather with fellow Companions. Perhaps the words for February in this year's Josephite calendar provide us with a word of hope from Mary MacKillop at this time: *What may seem a great misfortune in one sense is generally...a hidden blessing.*

Following our successful Josephite Companions' Webinar last September we are planning an online gathering for Companion Leaders from each Region on April 2nd. This will be an opportunity to have input and discussion with other Companion leaders about leadership as we all continue to share God's mission with Josephite hearts, in our different circumstances. Sr Clare Conaglen, the Congregational Leadership team member who is part of JCoLT, will lead us in this process, inviting us into conversation across our leadership groups as we learn from each other.

Further information will be provided to Leadership Teams shortly, with starting times ranging from WA commencing at 9am to Aotearoa New Zealand at 2pm.

Later in 2022 JCoLT hopes to host another webinar for all Companions who wish to be involved: a time to reconnect and continue nurturing each other as, through Friendship, Prayer and Service, we try to make a difference.

For the past few years, we have produced a newsletter in March. This year we are sharing this letter at this time through your Regional newsletter instead, and hope to provide a JCoLT newsletter following our April gathering. This will provide feedback from our Leaders' gathering and information about our proposed Companions' Webinar in September/October.

May God's Spirit be with us in all of our endeavours and may we be alert for the 'hidden blessings' that Mary MacKillop alluded to in the opening quote.

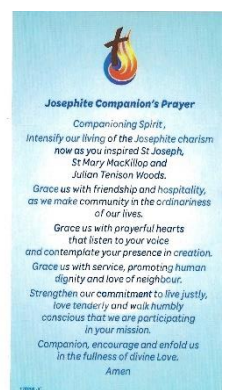
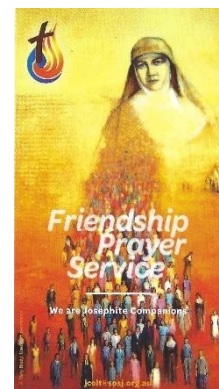
Blessings to all

Mary Hemmings

Chairperson: Josephite Companions Leadership Team

### PRAYER CARDS

Another batch of prayer cards have been printed so now we will send out more to each of the groups.



## HIBISCUS COAST JOSEPHITES

Lockdowns have been such for us in Auckland that we had not managed to meet since August 2021. So on 30<sup>th</sup> November when we were still at the stage of only being able to meet outside those who could come had morning tea together on the deck of Joanne Wilson's house. Her obliging husband went and bought us all a coffee from the café over the road and as is usual for Josephites we all bought something to eat which meant we had miles too much food. We welcomed Maria da Sousa who has joined our group. Outdoors looking over Orewa Beach was the ideal place for us to share some prayer and friendship. We are all involved with our Parish doing whatever we can, seeing needs and trying to do something about them.



Anne Murphy, Catherine Birt, Pam Marlow, Cathy Ellery, Joanne Wilson, Maria do Sousa

## BADGES

The new badges have recently been sent to us from the JCoLT team. There are two types. One has a brooch clip and the other is a pin badge. The pin type have a yellow rubber plug as a alternative clasp but also comes supplied with a metal butterfly clasp so that people can use whichever is the easiest and have the other as a spare. Our beautiful emblem is on the front of the badge and the edge is ringed in silver.



## RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT

One of the ideas from the administration handbook is that as Josephite Companions we should renew our commitment every three years. Where possible this renewal of commitment should take place within a liturgy in the presence of other Companions. The presentation of the new badges may be a part of such a renewal when groups are able to gather. It would be good for us as a group to take the opportunity to bring our membership lists up to date too. Group leaders may be able to facilitate this by filling in the form they have been emailed

## WHANGANUI MEETING REPORT

The Whanganui Josephite Companions met at the end of January to begin to explore the Discovery Book. Many had seen it at our gathering before Christmas and were eager to dive into its contents. There were several new people present who were interested in further exploring this pathway. The afternoon was a wonderful time of open sharing and discussion before enjoying a shared afternoon tea. We are looking forward to our next meeting in March.



## DEATHS OF TWO SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH

### Sister Louise O'Kane

Following a vigil and funeral at Mission Bay Sister Louise was buried with great love, gratitude and respect in Panguru. She is buried next to the obelisk / plinth for the soldiers that never returned home to Panguru.

She loved Panguru and its people so much and had lots of stories to tell about her time there. It is indeed a fitting resting place for this 100 year old woman who lived, loved and worked in this beautiful place.

### CATHERINE SHELTON

Catherine died on 23 January 2022, 59 years to the day from when she professed her first vows in religious life in 1963. Catherine was eldest of nine children of Bill and Teresa Shelton. She joined the Sisters of St Joseph Whanganui on 19 March 1960. She was a much loved teacher and Principal. She served as Director of the National Centre of Religious Studies and oversaw the "Walk By Faith" Programme. In the 1980's she gained qualifications in Pastoral Psychotherapy and Pastoral Counselling in St Louis, USA. She returned to New Zealand and for over 15 years she ministered psychotherapy and counselling in support of priests and religious from throughout New Zealand. Catherine later developed her skills as both an archivist and as a facilitator. She served in leadership in a variety of forms with the Sisters of St Joseph Whanganui, the Federation of Diocesan Sisters of St Joseph (NZ and Australia) in the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart on the NZ Regional Leadership Team and the Central Leadership Team in Sydney 2013 - 19. Catherine returned to Mt St Joseph in Whanganui in late 2020 where she soon became involved in the archives, preparing presentations and on project groups.



**RIP**



Catherine Shelton rsj

Louise O'Kane rsj

Moir Taylor Whangarei Group member

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

## **JCA ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2022**

The subscription fee is to cover the costs for newsletters and for the running of the organisation both our own group in New Zealand and for our leadership team JCoLT.

The work of our Josephite Companions Leadership Team (JCoLT) has been generously supported by the Sisters for several years and for this we are very grateful. We hope to gradually take on the responsibility of becoming more self-sufficient as a movement as we recognize that we have a significant part to play in our local communities and in our wider Church community.

### **Subscription/Donation to the Aotearoa NZ Josephite Companions Movement 2022**

Name: .....

Phone Number/s: .....

Amount Given:

\$10 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 Other \$.....

Pay by Direct Deposit:

INTERNET: Bank Account details are –

Westpac – St Heliers Branch Account No – 03 0263 0109542 00

Account Name: Josephite Associateship

Reference: Surname and initial(e.g. Campbell M)

### **A reflection from Fr Gerard Whiteford at the funeral of Sister Louise, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022**

Readings.

Letter of John: 4:7-11

Gospel John: 15 12-17

My morning began as all my mornings do. The alarm wakes me at 6am. I lie in bed and listen to the news. Then I get out of bed and proceed to wash. I turn the shower on. I get into the shower and guess what? I get wet. You may have done the same. Of course you would. Water is wet.

Did you hear that line from the first reading? It simply says “God is love”. As water is wet, God is love. Nothing I did bought about the wetness in the water. It is of its nature to be wet. If you dare wander into it, you will get wet.

Nothing I do can bring about God’s love. Not being good, not behaving Mum and dad; not attending Mass regularly; not looking after my neighbour. God is love. What I am asked to do is to dare to walk into that love. God’s nature is love. Nothing I do can initiate that. Nothing I do can change it. As water is wet. God is love. Even if I am not aware of it, God is still love.

The poet Hone Tuwhare had a very simple but profound poem called “Rain.” The last stanzas of the poem read like this

“But if I  
should not hear  
smell or feel or see  
you

you  
would still  
define me  
disperse me  
wash over me  
RAIN”.

#### **But what if we change one word**

But if I  
should not hear  
smell or feel or see  
you

you would still  
define me  
disperse me  
wash over me  
GOD

