



Josephite Companions Aotearoa
Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa
Friendship # Prayer # Service
March 2023

Tena koutou katoa

It is with extreme sadness that we send this out to you not knowing if some people have homes and letter boxes to even receive this newsletter. Cyclone Gabrielle and continuing rain has brought such unbelievable havoc to our country. We feel helpless to do anything except pray and give money as requested. Know that everyone is in our thoughts. We think again about the importance of care for our common home and reducing carbon emissions.

JCOLT NEWS

In January JCOLT met face to face in Sydney for the first time in three years. Monica Cavanagh rsj provided inspirational input entitled 'To Stand for us' to begin our gathering.

She posed challenging questions for us to reflect on as you can see. She also shared some essential elements of being Josephite. Which of these speak most to you?

Perhaps these can be the starting point for discussion in our groups over the next few months.

Helen Dougherty

Bringing our best wisdom to conversation around the future ...

Two important questions we need to reflect upon:

- **How willing and ready are you as Josephite Companions to 'stand for us' – to be the Josephite voice in our world and church today?**
- **What do we need to be doing so that you our Companions are able to 'stand for us' in the future ... 10, 20, 30, 50 years from now?**
- **What will guide and assist us in this journey?**

Essential elements of being josephite – this is what matters to us

LIVING INTO OUR NAME

- **Live from the Heart – *Loving Tenderly with compassion and kindness***
- **Live with the Sacred – *Acting Justly as we honour the Sacred Beat in all with reverence and dignity, caring for Earth, all are carriers of the Sacred***
- **Live like Joseph – *Walking Humbly knowing that it is God's work and we are participants – taking risks, attentive listening, educating and protecting***
- **Live as Sisters – *Living the culture of encounter, being neighbour to one another, being in communion with one another – where one is we all are***
- **Live – *Flourishment of Earth and Its people – living life to the full***

Guided by the inspiration, vision and values entrusted to us by our Founders Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods





WHANGANUI COMPANIONS

Whanganui Companions gathered at the end of January. It was wonderful to hear what everyone had been up to over the holiday break. We spent time perusing the books in the library and selected one each to read over the next few weeks. At our March gathering we will share what we have read.

HIBISCUS COAST JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

Our Christmas get together this year was held at the home of Joanne and Chris Wilson. We invited some other members of our parish who had shown interest in what we were doing as Josephites. We shared a little about the Discovery book and used the lovely Advent prayer sheet. Jo had got her friend to make a magnificent cake with the Companions logo on it. We almost didn't want to cut it! We appreciated having an enjoyable time together which we hadn't been able to do for some time. We farewelled Maria da Sousa and her family as they left for a new home in Malta. We will miss them all as they were very good at "seeing a need and doing something about it."



FOCUS ON JULIAN

The newsletters this year will all feature a short article on Julian Tenison Woods designed to give us a taste of him as a person. This one was written for us by Sister Rita Cahill.

This is a link to a wonderful website for children about Julian called Living in our World.

https://www.sosj.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/170318-JTW-Anniv_Activity-Book-FINAL.pdf



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Julian Tenison Woods 1832 – 1889

Julian Tenison Woods was born in London on 15 November 1832. The son of an ambivalent Catholic father, James Dominic Woods, *Parliamentary Reporter for The Times London*, and an Anglican Irish mother, Henrietta Maria Saint-Eloy, nee Tenison. Julian was the sixth son in a family of eleven children, (eight of whom survived infancy). From his family Julian developed a love of learning, of nature and of the outdoors. Formal schooling for Julian was spasmodic to say the least. When he did attend school, Julian listed Latin, French, arithmetic and History, as well as reading, spelling and writing being subjects taught. In between times, he was taught by his father at home, on walks to public sites, cemeteries etc. when topics would be far-reaching.

In 1847 Henrietta died aged only 46 leaving Julian and the younger boys devastated. About this time Julian was turning from vague religious ideas to decidedly Catholic principles. A family friend *Father Frederick Oakley* introduced him to the Passionist Missioner *Father Ignatius Spencer*. This led to Julian's desire to join the Passionist Order. Recurring poor health got in the way; he was not suited to their way of life. Another good friend, Father Faber, connected Julian with the Marists at Spitafields, who sent Julian to their Marist Novitiate in Lyon. It was hoped that time prior to Novitiate entry would enable Julian's health to improve. Julian was fortunate in being invited to spend a few weeks travelling through Auvergne. Always interested in natural science, Julian loved its rich geological features and discovered a real passion for geology. Time at the Marist Seminary for Julian was short-lived – despite the ideal climate, his happiness in his surroundings, his health began to decline. His exam results had been highly satisfactory, and it was suggested he continue his studies for the priesthood, while teaching English at La-Seyne-Sur-Mer, the Marist Naval College near Marseille. Here, Julian's teaching schedule, was light; he had freedom to organise his studies, participate in classes offered at the college and to explore. Here too, he was fortunate in having Fr (Saint) Peter Julian Eymard as his spiritual director.

In the long vacation of 1854, Father Eymard arranged for Julian to take an extensive tour through Italy, including a visit to Fr John Vianney, the Cure of Ars. It sounded great! Just prior to departure, whilst out walking with another student, Julian was shocked by the sudden collapse and death of his companion. He did however, get the opportunity to meet with the saintly Cure of Ars. The Cure had founded La Providence, a sort of orphanage for destitute girls. Years later three institutions were established in Adelaide – an **orphanage**, a **refuge** and what was termed a **providence**, the latter deriving its name from what he had seen. It was in Le Puy that Julian first met the Sisters of St Joseph of Le Puy. What impressed him greatly was the fact that they lived in small groups, were not highly educated, being the daughters of farmers and humble people, and they lived in great poverty. They were very different from the highly educated nuns of the day. In later years, Julian would call upon the memories of these women, as he and Mary Mackillop set about starting a new religious order in Adelaide.

Julian's foray into Religious Life, and ultimate desire to become a priest, first with the Passionist Fathers, then later in France with the Marist, were both aborted because of ill health. After nearly four years spent in community living, study, travel, rich in new relationships with men of great holiness and a variety of talents, Julian returned to London, to live with the few members of his family who were still together. Little signs of Julian's time with both the Passionists and the Marists, were later seen reflected in the early Rule written for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

JCA ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2023

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)




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.



RIP

Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of these Sisters who died recently.

Sister Colleen Story
Sr Catherine Ryan
Sr Veronica Witton

Sandra Mews passed away on 26th February. She has been a faithful Josephite Companion for a long time. She was responsible for folding and sending out the newsletters and prayer sheets for many years. She was often present at Josephite celebrations at Mission Bay and was a friend to many of us. We send our deepest sympathy to her family and to her friend John Strange who lovingly cared for her in her final days.

