



**Josephite Companions Aotearoa**

**Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa**

**Friendship # Prayer # Service**

**December 2022**

Greeting everyone,

Many thanks for all your support throughout the past year, especially your response to the needs of your local parishes and to our Josephite Companions as you live in friendship prayer and service that is such a part of our lives.

This newsletter will arrive in your mailboxes at the start of Advent as we watch the beauty of the pohutukawa as they begin to blossom signalling the arrival of God's presence among us once again. An Advent and Christmas prayer sheet from Sister Marie Skidmore is also included this time.

The November Newsflash from the Josephite Companions leadership team is attached. It has lots of information about what has happened this year and looks forward to what is planned for 2023. An Advent prayer from JCoLT is included too.

### **Annual Face-to-Face meeting of the Josephite Companions Leadership Team 2022.**

This year this group met at Mission Bay on 10-12 October.

We welcomed to the group Tracy Robinson from Gisborne who is well known to a number of the Sisters. We met to plan ahead – reviewing our strategic plan and sharing with the Sisters Regional Leadership Team where things are at. We realized that we need to provide a greater understanding of Julian Tenison Woods who is certainly a man of these times.

We enjoyed meeting with Sisters Moya and Christina to share our Strategic Plan and to discuss how our work is progressing. We are grateful for their enthusiastic support for the Josephite Companions here in Aotearoa New Zealand.



#### **JCA Leadership Team with Aotearoa NZ Regional Leadership Team**

Left Back Row: Jane Gunson, Moya Campbell rsj, Christina Neunzerling rsj, Jill McLoughlin rsj, Peta Lindstrom.

Front Row: Rita Cahill rsj, Tracy Robinson, Liz Hickey rsj, Catherine Birt, Marie Skidmore rsj.

Absent Yvonne Munroe rsj and Helen Dougherty



**RIP**

Please pray for Mary Anngow a faithful Josephite Companion from Christchurch who died recently. May she rest in peace

## There's something for everyone.....9 Simple Ways to Live Laudato Si'



Article in full : <https://slmedia.org/blog/9-simple-ways-to-live-laudato-si>

We are featuring something on Laudato Si' in each of our newsletters – and in this short piece is from Marie Anne Torres. She introduces Laudato Si' as Pope Francis' message to all the world to care deeply for our common home, to recognise our treatment of nature is interconnected with all of creation and should be nurturing and not destructive.

**How can we make Laudato Si' part of our lives? Marie Anne Torres suggests:**

1. Buy from a thrift Shop
2. Donate to a thrift shop
3. Instead of takeaways, eat at home
4. Ask yourself 'Do I really need it?'
5. Plant a vegetable garden
6. Consider zero-waste versions of commonly purchased products
7. Go for a walk, run, bike ride or sit outside
8. Encourage a friend to join in or try for themselves, one of these ideas
9. Pray for the planet

Whether you do one, several or all of these actions or something similar, you're on the journey and living out the call to all people expressed in Laudato Si' by Pope Francis.

## ROTORUA AND TOKOROA GROUP

Rotorua Companions with three from Tokoroa as guests, met recently at the Home of Sr Marie Williams' home to pray the Spring prayer sheet together.

We were all challenged to "Take Off Our Shoes" and members related their special Conservation and climate changing activities.

Highlight of this particular meeting was that Bev Simpkins and Mihi Morehu shared with the others their wonderful pilgrimage that had its climax in attending the Passion Play at Oberammagau

They had had to wait an extra two years to accomplish being present at the Passion Play as it normally only is performed once every decade on the change of the decade. It had been postponed for 2 years because of the problem of Covid pandemic. They had patiently waited all that time but told us it was a truly great experience and there was a Chaplain along with the group. Oberammagau was the climax but before going into Germany, they spent time in the Mediterranean, generally following the routes of St Paul including Thessalonika. Bev had kept a diary and they had books on display to give us a glimpse of some of the monasteries built on rocky outcrops. They mentioned that Santorini is just as beautiful as any photo shows it, with the pure white domes. They were fortunate enough to be in these holy and historical places and in many, celebrated Mass.

The Passion Play was sung totally in German and the choir ( from Bev's phone) sounded rich and strong. Booklets of the English translation were available and used but.....for the evening parts the audience could not see those words !! It was like the old way of going to an opera. Three parts were performed during the afternoon, there was a break for a meal and the last acts were in the late evening.

We all felt privileged that they shared so much with us and our own afternoon concluded with a sumptuous tea and cookies in the best china and planning began for a December time together.

**Margaret Brownsey**



Bev and Mihi