



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

Kia ora tatou.

Greetings to you all now that winter is upon us. There is beauty in the wild sea out my window and no doubt some of you will be experiencing snow decorating the hills near you or sheeting rain pouring down.

I encourage you to look again at the online flipping book (link here) A Laudato Sí Action Plan for the Josephite Community <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/963412458/6/>

Josephites everywhere are invited to **EXPLORE EMBRACE EMBODY** this plan as our response to the cry of the earth and its peoples.

This month we have reports in from Gisborne and Whanganui Companions groups. If you have news to share, we always love to receive it.

## JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS IN GISBORNE

The group met for the first time this year in March at Sr Meg Hill's new home. It was a wonderful opportunity to check out her new 'digs' and gather in prayer to bless her home

As part of the prayer, the group shared special aspects of their own homes, which generated much discussion and laughter and reminded us of how blessed we are to have, not only a roof over our heads, but love within our homes with families and friends.

We concluded the house blessing with a special blessing for Meg and her ministry in the Gisborne community.

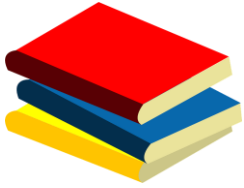
We have subsequently met for a second prayer gathering at the end of May, again in Meg's house, this time taking more time to look at the life of Mary MacKillop. Several of those present were inspired by the practical compassion Mary MacKillop showed in her interactions with those she met and worked with.

The group hopes to meet every two months to build companionship and prayer support to keep Mary's spirit alive and well in Gisborne.

**Tracy Robinson**



Pictured from the March meeting Left to right:  
Back: Sister Meg Hills, Chris Crow, Cushla Liddell  
Front: Tracy Robinson, Erin Small, Vicki Swider



## NEWS FROM THE WHANGANUI COMPANIONS

Whanganui Companions decided this year to select books from the library at Mt St Joseph's as inspiration. At our January gathering we all selected one to take home and read. At our second gathering, which was St Joseph's Day in March, we each reviewed what we had read. There was a wide variety of ideas shared and so many more books that we are now all keen to read. Certainly if any of you are in Whanganui for a time the library is a place to find inspiration. After our meeting, we joined with our local sisters in a beautiful liturgy focused on St Joseph and ecology. To finish we all enjoyed catching up over afternoon tea.

**Helen Dougherty**

## CONGRATULATIONS SISTER NOELENE!!



Noelene Landrigan rsj celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in Whanganui on 22 April 2023.

Noelene's celebration was planned for those able to attend in person or through the 'Livestream' (family members, Sisters and other friends). Noelene's presentation reflected the influences in religious life, the church and society during her life to the present time. She included many of those who shared in her life journey and ministry during this time. This was inspiring for all of us. There were summaries, songs, slides and reminiscences of all kinds shared both informatively and creatively.

Maree Hickey rsj provided wonderful catering assisted by her helpers.

**Liz Hickey rsj-**

## JOSEPHITE SPIRITUALITY, WHERE TO FROM HERE?

I was privileged to be invited to a symposium at Mary MacKillop Place in Sydney in April. The title was "Josephite Spirituality, where to from here". Dr Michael Bezzina guided discernment sessions as we looked at how Josephite Spirituality is now and where it could be in the future.

Sister Ann Gilroy explored with us how aspects of Mary MacKillop's spirituality continue to influence our spirituality.

There was a full day of deep discussion impossible to summarise briefly here but for me the most important thing I took away was a strong sense of reaching out to the margins – maybe partly to those whom the institutional church has treated badly. We can base what we are doing on a plan that includes deep listening and is driven by need in a church that is seeking to become something other than it currently is.

When we thought of who will do the work in the future included were of course the Sisters, workers in Josephite ministries and schools and all of us who hold the charism and live it every day. Our attachment to Josephite spirituality continues to be nourished by our connections through our Companions groups and by the many other opportunities we have for nourishment. **Catherine Birt**



# 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



## **JCA ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2023**

*Thank you to those who sent in subscriptions after our last newsletter. If you would still like to contribute the information is here again.*

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 2023

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)

The next newsletter and prayer sheet will be distributed at the beginning of September. 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 027 294 785

## SOME SNIPPETS BY & ABOUT JULIAN TENISON WOODS

In this newsletter we've gathered together six little gems by/about Julian. Although most likely you already know or have heard of them, they still provide inspiration. For those of you involved in schools, these are helpful to use as examples or teaching points. We are never too old to learn or to recall / refresh/ re-apply these ideas!

- **ON SUFFERING**

Julian wanted Mary to understand that all pain, physical, mental and spiritual is accepted not merely because it cannot be avoided, but because no one can live and love without following the way of the cross.

(‘No Ordinary Man’, by Isobel Hepburn page 85)i.



- **FINDING GOD IN CREATION**

‘God, who created me,  
bestow on me the grace to discover you in your creation’.

(Julian Tenison Woods, 1887)

- **GENTLENESS**

Julian’s gentleness ensured that he was consistently non-aggressive

(‘Julian Tenison Woods’, by Margaret Press page 222) ii.

- **WALKING THE TALK**

Julian learned from his parents: James Dominick and Henrietta not only preached charity, they also lived it. (‘No Ordinary Man’, by Isobel Hepburn page 21) iii.

- **SCIENCE BRINGS AWARENESS OF WONDER OF CREATION**

Beneath the soil, carpeted by various flowers  
which herald forth the beauty of the world to come,  
are secrets which are only known to us in part.

Julian Tenison Woods from ‘Observations in South Australia 1882’



- **TRUSTING IN PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH**

What St Teresa said about St Joseph took possession of Julian....’ I do not remember ever having asked anything of St Joseph that he did not grant me... I know by experience that St Joseph helps us in every need.’

(‘No Ordinary Man’ by Isobel Hepburn page 39) iv.

i - iv of the quotations were included in the ‘Tenison Woods Calendar’ compiled by Fr Gerard Mahony CP.

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### RIP

Sister Mary Anna Baird op from Dunedin

We also remember all our friends and family whose anniversaries occur around this time.