



Josephite Companions Aotearoa

Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa

Friendship # Prayer # Service

March 2024

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2024. As you will read, a lot has happened in these last couple of months already!

Lent has arrived early this year. The Lenten Season calls us to pause a while; to allow ourselves to experience more fully, the abiding, grace-filled, mercy-laden LOVE that is found in our God through Jesus. As Companions let us respond by sharing that LOVE with all of creation.

Early St Joseph feast day greetings to each of you. Celebrate well!

SISTER LOUISE'S UNVEILING 26.01.24



At last we were able to celebrate the life of a wonderful friend, auntie and Sister. A woman who loved life and lived it fully in service to her family and the people of the many places she went in her life as a Sister of Saint Joseph. The COVID pandemic prevented a Celebration for her 100th Birthday and reduced the amount of visiting one could do. Two months later there were restrictions on the numbers who could attend her funeral. A Vigil Mass and a requiem Mass were held at Mission Bay in the Mary MacKillop Chapel and she returned to her beloved Panguru for a night in Ngatimanawa Marae before her funeral and burial at Hato Petera, Panguru.

Two years from her death on the 25th January 2022 Josephite Sisters, her nieces and nephews, and her Panguru and wider Whanau came to Ngatimanawa Marae to celebrate Sister Louise's

life of dedicated service. We were warmly welcomed onto the Marae, shared a delicious meal and had evening prayers led by Rev Christina Morunga and Katekita Dougie Te Wake, discussing the relevance and practice of an unveiling service along with prayers and hymns.

On the 26th, Bishop Steve Lowe, with Father Maliu and Katekita Henare Te Wake lead the service with Rev Christina Morunga sharing the story of Sister Louise's life with her parents and older brother and sister leading to the call on her to join the Sisters of St Joseph at age 15, and her faithful 82 years' Service from her life vows to the Order; an outstanding achievement!

Sister Louise is buried in front of Hato Petera Church. Bishop Steve blessed the grave and Sister Moya and niece, Maureen Murray, Josephite Companions Maria Larkins and Mina Pomare unveiled the stone and Great niece Emma Houghton read the inscription. Many past pupils, teachers, and whanau paid tributes.

After being welcomed back onto the Marae we enjoyed the Hakari, Celebration Feast. Louis Blair, Sister Louise's name-sake, and her youngest great niece and nephew cut the 100th Birthday Cake and her great nephew who shares her birthday, with his siblings blew out the candles. It was a special day of gathering Sister Louise's three families together; Her birth family, her Sisters of Saint Joseph and her very wide whanau of Panguru and the places throughout New Zealand where she shared her love of Christ in service. May she rest in peace.

C. M. Morunga
Panguru



HIBISCUS COAST GROUP

The Hibiscus Coast group had a very joyful gathering recently as you can see from this selfie that our clever photographer Jo managed to take. We had lots to share as it had been some time since we last met. We spent some time in prayer using the Lenten prayer sheet with the lovely sung meditation Lead me, Guide me by Monica Brown.

We are all very involved in working in our parish in different areas according to the gifts we have. These include organising the groups of people who take communion to the sick; the youth group; working in the sacristy; the liturgy committee, the meditation group and children's liturgy organisation. Friendship, prayer and service certainly play a big part in all our lives as Josephite Companions.

USED STAMPS



Sister Helen Saunders from Sydney wrote with thanks to those who have continued to send in used stamps. She said "We have had another wonderful year, raising approximately \$33,600. From 2001 until now the total raised has been \$519,650."

The funds raised go to support projects in Timor Leste and Peru that are organized by Mary MacKillop today. You can see some of these on their website.

<https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/>.

Please keep sending any used stamps you have to either Tui Motu P.O. Box 6404 Dunedin North 9059 or to Sisters of St Joseph (Stamps) 30 Holgate Road Kohimarama 1071 Auckland

OPENING OF THE NEW MARIAN COLLEGE CHRISTCHURCH

It is 12 years since the 2011 earthquake forced Marian College from their original school. They have “camped,” sharing facilities with others in various premises since then but have this year finally moved into a new purpose-built school in Papanui and what a school!! The purchase of the old Foodstuffs warehouse and the building of an innovative and environmentally friendly school within it, is amazing.

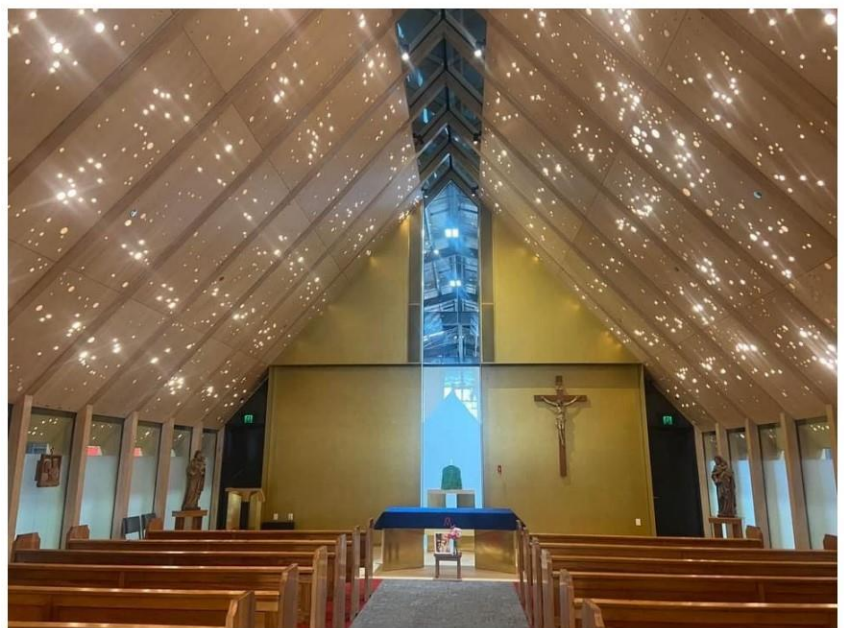
<https://www.mariancollege.school.nz/newschool2023>

Use this link from the school website and take a guided walk on YouTube around the building with its 26 classrooms, gymnasium and chapel. The warehouse has been treated as a big covered canopy and the school is sitting inside it.

At the heart of the school is the Chapel of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop a place of quiet contemplation that students can come to.

At the recent official opening of the school some Josephite Sisters delighted in the opening of the chapel which uses some timber grown and milled in the South Island. The Sisters have had connections with the school since 1982 when the former MacKillop College merged with St Mary’s and became Marian College.

It is an amazing concept and one in which one of the big drivers is sustainability – an example of reusing a building which would otherwise have been destroyed. A choice to care for our earth.



Interior showing the exposed rafters of the warehouse



Sisters of St Joseph at the opening

Photos Sister Colette Forde



RIP

Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Beverley Simpkins of Rotorua who passed away in November 2023.

Bev was a very active member of the Rotorua group. I recall her sharing in 2022 of the wonderful pilgrimage that she and Mihi Morehu went on including the Passion Play at Oberammagau.



James Nyssen, much admired Josephite Companion of Dargaville and Northland died in December; He served as the Director of Religious Education for St. Joseph's School, Dargaville and was a great supporter of both school and Parish.

JCA ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2024

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 2024

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)

Our relationship with God is all about awareness. We need to understand that God comes to us disguised as our life.

Jo Broad

“Be not a whisper that is lost in the wind: Be a voice that is heard above the storms of life” Maimonides

We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. **Laudato Si #49**

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