



Josephite Companions Aotearoa

Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa

Friendship # Prayer # Service

June 2024

Dear Companions and friends,

Here we are in Winter, as the last of the Autumn leaves flutter down making a colourful carpet on the ground. In our Winter newsletter we share news of our Companion Groups, the Sisters in Aotearoa NZ and other happenings. We hope the afterglow of Pentecost and the upcoming celebrations of the Feast Day of the Sacred Heart and of Matariki, bring you spiritual warmth and wellness over these colder days.

NEWS FROM WHANGANUI

On 7th April the Whanganui Companions met and had an inspiring discussion beginning with a person sharing they had seen someone and wanted to help them but then didn't. They were disappointed that they hadn't. The discussion took us from talking about so many different people in need, especially people living on the street, to discerning what God is asking us to do. We decided that between now and the next meeting, we would listen and act on what God is asking us to do.

A couple of days later I was in town and decided to get a mocha from a coffee cart. I thought about paying for two and the next person could get one free. I got marshmallows as well. I walked across the street and hadn't drunk any. I then saw a man who looked so cold and thin. He had bare feet and a thin blanket. I asked him if he would like a Mocha and he said yes. I knew this was a God moment as there had been a couple of things I had thought of doing but didn't. **Michelle Phillips**

NEWS FROM TEMUKA

On Tuesday 2nd April, Sister Francis Gaffney passed away. She will be sadly missed by us all in Temuka. She was a lovely gentle woman.

The Josephite Companions met to farewell Sister Lyndall on the 15th April. We were sad to say goodbye but she will always be cherished for her work in our Parish and schools. We wish her well in her new phase of life in Christchurch. We will miss her but there will always be a place for her to stay here in Temuka.

Margaret Steinmann



Temuka Companions with Sister Lyndall

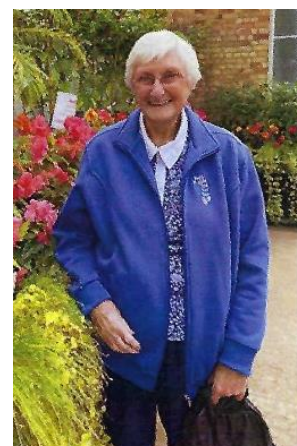
FAREWELL SISTER THERESE

On the 4th April I went to represent the Companions at the funeral of Sister Therese Mc Conway. Therese had worked on the Companions Leadership team with us for quite some years stopping only when her hearing deteriorated making it difficult to participate in Skype and zoom meetings. When she came back from Scotland she shared much with us about her time there and her love for the land and its peoples.

I often spoke to her when I was at Mary MacKillop centre and she always had a witty or cheeky remark and a smile to share.

Thank you for your love and faithfulness all through your life Therese. Rest in peace.

Catherine Birt



WHANGAREI JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Our Whangarei Group met for the first time this year on Saturday 18th of May. We are a small bunch of loyal and dedicated people to the Josephite Charism and the Sisters of St. Joseph. We offer prayer reflections, great hospitality and we serve the Parish Community in various ways. At our gathering, we welcomed a new member Gail Banks.

The date May 18th is close to the anniversary of Sr Irene McCormack. So, we chose to reflect on the life of Sr Irene, in the month of Mary begun by the feast day of St Joseph the Worker. Sr Irene was killed by Shining Path Terrorists in Huasahuasi, Peru on May 21st, 1991

Jane Gunson -

References: Google Images 2024, <https://www.sosj.org.au/irene-mccormack-reflection/>



JOSEPHITE E COMPANIONING

We have many Josephite Companions who for one reason or another because of distance or difficulty of travel aren't able to ever attend a Companions meeting.

We would like to set up an E Companions group where we could meet each other on line providing a means for connecting us all. This would give us an opportunity to pray and reflect together and to share and enjoy ideas on friendship and service.

The focus of the group would be on sharing the values and spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods in the context of our living as Josephite Companions.

We propose to hold the first gathering on Thursday 13 June from 7.30 to 8.30.

A zoom link will be sent out beforehand. At the first meeting there will be time to talk about the suitability of the time we have chosen and any adjustments can be made.

If you are interested in being part of this group please email Catherine Birt crbirt@gmail.com so that the link can be sent to you in time for the first meeting.

Catherine Birt and Helen Dougherty

2024 JUBILEES

The ANZ celebration of the Sisters' Jubilees was on Sunday 26 May at Mission Bay. We had a Jubilee Mass followed by afternoon tea for Sisters, the Jubilarians, families and friends.

Sisters celebrating their jubilees:

Silver	25 Years	Jill McLoughlin
Diamond	60 Years	Katrina Brill & Colleen Woodcock
Platinum	70 Years	Mary Keane, Margaret Louisson (and Marie Hawkins who was unable to attend).

Thank you to the Jubilarians, for your lives of service, cheerfulness and love.



Srs Colleen Woodcock, Margaret Louisson, Mary Keane, Katrina Brill and Jill McLoughlin.

Josephite Schools' Concert in Auckland

The Josephite Companions Leadership team has been looking at ways to grow the Josephite Schools Network in Aotearoa NZ.

It was a lovely experience to be present at a concert where nine Auckland schools with a Josephite history provided wonderful entertainment for everyone. St Michael's Remuera were very hospitable hosts for everyone who came along. The concert took place the day after St Joseph's feast day which was very special.



St Michael's School Remuera

The delightful items all reflected cultural diversity with a variety of songs. It was obvious that the groups had spent time rehearsing. The students were very excited to be there and certainly had a sense of being 'Josephite' schools together. After each item the schools received a set of Sr Jane Maisey's saint cards to gift the children who performed.

A number of Sisters were present at the concert which was much appreciated by the children and staff members. A special moment was acknowledging Sr Eileen Mary's 105th birthday when everyone sang Happy Birthday to her!

We hope our schools will continue to come together to celebrate being Josephite!



St Francis School Pt Chevalier



St Joseph's School Grey Lynn

Important

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS DAY WEBINAR

Important

Keep this date free and try to organise yourself so that you will be able to attend this online event to celebrate Companions Day. A registration email will be sent out closer to the time with a zoom link to enable you to join the meeting. This is a great opportunity for Companions from all across Australia, NZ, Temor Leste and Peru to gather together.

Our NZ time is 1.30pm on Saturday 31st August.

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 or phone 027 294 785

Pope Francis: Quotes from his 2015 Letter to the World: Laudato Si

These are particularly relevant at this time when much of the world is at war and cruelty to other humans is in danger of becoming normalised. Francis links this with our attitude towards all the gifts of creation.

**“Our Common Home is like a sister with whom we share our life,
And a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us..”**

“Each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, boundless affection for us all. Soil, water, mountains; everything is, as it were a caress of God.”

**“Our vocation is to be protectors of God’s handiwork.
Something that’s not an option or secondary. I ask you to be
responsible with the mission God entrusted to humankind with
Creation. To cultivate it and care for the garden in which
God has placed us”**

**“It follows that our indifference or cruelty towards fellow
creatures of this world sooner or later affects the treatment
we mete out to other human beings”**

**“We have only one heart, and the same wretchedness which leads us
to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationship
with other people”**