



Josephite Companions Aotearoa
Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa
Friendship # Prayer # Service
March 2025

Kia ora koutou

Dear Josephite Companions

As you receive this the season of Lent will be starting. We are also all aware that this year is the Jubilee year where Pope Francis has called us to journey together in the Jubilee as Pilgrims of Hope. Sister Jill McLoughlin has prepared us a lovely prayer sheet on this theme. Listen if you can to the hymn from Kathy Sherman which Jill has included which says "I am with you on the journey and I will never leave you." May our Lenten journey and this Jubilee Year pilgrimage be full of hope.

JJAMM (Joseph, Julian And Mary MacKillop)

An article from Alani Veikoso student of Cullinane College Whanganui telling us of her time at JJAMM

JJAMM is a gathering of student leaders from Josephite secondary schools around Australia and New Zealand.

JJAMM was a wonderful experience. I learned a lot about the Josephites and especially Mary McKillop. We stayed at Mary McKillop place for the first few nights and it was wonderful going around the galleries, learning more and more about her. We even saw the bed where she took her last breath. The room felt heavy and we could see her letters that despite being painful to write, she still wrote. The leaders were lovely people and Sister Jan was a lovely and humorous person to be around. The atmosphere was full of excitement and many people were nervous, but in the end, many people were happy to say that they had experienced JJAMM.



Students in the chapel at Mary MacKillop place in Sydney



Students from Australian and NZ Secondary Schools

The last few nights we stayed at Baulkham Hills which was about an hour away from St Mary McKillop place. There, I learned more about social justice than I think I have ever learned in my life. I hope and will implement it more into our school as service is one of our most important S.O.U.L values so we are to always see a need and do something about it. We were taught a lot on the issues of the world and that despite not being able to end that issue, we can always be someone to contribute to help lessen it.

JCoLT NEWS

In January I travelled to Sydney for The Josephite Companion Leadership Team's (JCoLT) annual face to face gathering. We looked at what it means to be Companions moving into the future. There are exciting moves ahead with a Charter, outlining who we are as Companions and an Auspice Agreement outlining our relationship with the Sisters both due to be signed on March 19, St Joseph's Day. We will share more details about this in our next newsletter. **Helen Dougherty**

Whanganui group

Whanganui Companions gathered for the first time in 2025 earlier this month. Conversation was animated as we shared what we had been up to since our last meeting. One of our Companions, Pam Hopper, has played an invaluable role of booking and preparing our meeting space each time as she co-ordinated the Retreat Centre at Mt St Joseph's. She has now left this role so we included a blessing for her as our prayer. She has not left Whanganui though so will remain part of our group. It's hard to believe that it has been three years since some of us made our commitment to the Companion Movement. At our next meeting in March we will renew our commitment and new members will make their first formal commitment. **Helen Dougherty**



Hibiscus Coast



On 30th November our Hibiscus Coast group met at Brew and Bake Café for a high tea for our Christmas meeting. We were delighted that our Parish Priest Father Rahael Lobo was able to join us particularly as he is about to leave to move to Meadowbank Parish. We had a room to ourselves so we were able to talk and pray as well as sharing some delicious food. We welcomed Nadine Trethowen to our group and had a happy time together. **Catherine Birt**

Whangarei

Obituary Elizabeth Farge

Our much loved Josephite Companion Elizabeth Farge died peacefully on January 9th this year, aged 84. Elizabeth had been suffering from dementia which belies her life of travel, adventure, courage and generous service to others. Elizabeth has been a Whangarei Josephite Companion for more than twenty years. She fully lived the gifts of prayer, hospitality and service. Skilled teacher, wife to her late husband Paul, stepmother and grandmother, Elizabeth made a positive difference to the lives of everyone she met. God speed, Elizabeth. **Jane Gunson**





RIP

Deepest sympathy to the families of these people who were all part of our Josephite family.

Elizabeth Farge Whangarei Father Merv McGettigan Dunedin

John Hickey New Plymouth, brother of Sister Liz Hickey



A PILGRIM'S PRAYER

As Pilgrims of Hope in the
Jubilee Year 2025
may we walk with
Faith, Hope, and Love.
Illuminate our path,
inspire our hearts
and strengthen our resolve to
spread your compassion
and kindness.
Help us to take each step
as we journey towards
a brighter tomorrow.
Christ be with us.

Amen

JCA ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2025

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.

Subscription/Donation to the Aotearoa NZ Josephite Companions Movement 2025

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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

Our E Companions group starts again on Thursday 27th March at 7.30. Email to Catherine if you would like to join in. We spend an hour on zoom sharing and praying together. All welcome crbirt@gmail.com

Jubilee Year 2025

Pilgrims of Hope

A Jubilee Year is traditionally proclaimed by the Universal Church every 25 years. It is a particular year set aside to encourage the faithful to embark on pilgrimages, to repent of their sins and forgive the sins of others, and to renew a focus on the spiritual life. In the Hebrew tradition, as recorded in Leviticus, a Jubilee was celebrated every 50 years with the freeing of slaves and the forgiveness of debts. In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII instituted the first Christian Jubilee, and since then the Church has designated each new Jubilee as a special year of grace and forgiveness, offering the faithful an opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence.

The Jubilee Year began with the traditional opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024 by Pope Francis and continues until the closing of the Holy Door on January 6, 2026, the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

The 2025 Jubilee is centred on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." As Pope Francis expressed it:

"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."

During the Jubilee Year, the Pope invites every one of us to embark on a pilgrimage of hope.

