

# ✧ Suzanne Aubert ✧ ✧ Meri Hōhepa ✧

## Two more Places of Pilgrimage

Both Dunedin and Hamilton dioceses now have a Place of Pilgrimage, adding to the ones developed in Auckland and Palmerston North dioceses.

At Easter 2016, the four Dunedin South Parishes joined together to become one parish in the newly renovated St Patrick's Basilica under the new name of Mercy Parish - Whānau Aroha. When Bishop Colin asked our parish to establish St Patrick's as a shrine to Suzanne Aubert, we were delighted.

During Lent, St Brigid's teacher, Deborah Whitty placed Suzanne Aubert's Stations of the Cross reflections beneath each of the existing Stations. These have remained in the Church and are regularly used for prayer. On Sunday, October 1st we will



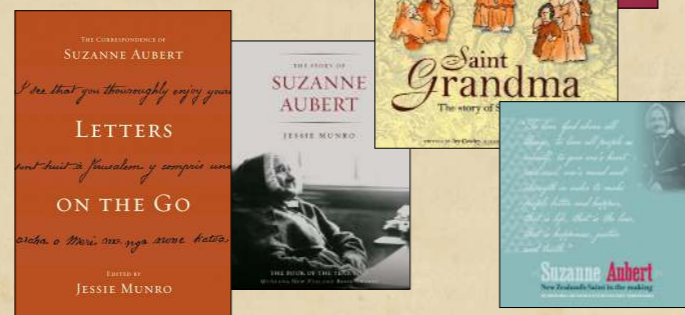
Deborah Whitty showing Roger Bone, a fellow teacher, where the new shrine is to be located.

unveil a shrine to Suzanne as we continue to learn more of Suzanne and be inspired by her compassion and faith.

In the Hamilton diocese, Bishop Steve Lowe has agreed to a special place of pilgrimage being created at St Columba's church in Frankton. Bishop Steve said he chose St Columba's because of its location to the main railway line. "Suzanne was a regular on the train" said Bishop Steve. "She wrote, 'My poor life will be spent chiefly on the Main Trunk Line.' Given Frankton was a major stop on the rail journey between Auckland and Wellington it seems St Columba's would make a suitable pilgrimage place in our Diocese."

### Great resources available

There are some terrific resources that have been produced to help in the promotion of the spirituality and good works of Suzanne. More details on the website: [www.suzanneaubert.co.nz](http://www.suzanneaubert.co.nz)



### Keep in touch

Would you like to receive regular updates and news by email? If so please give us your email address. You can do this by registering on-line or by emailing [kerry@suzanneaubert.co.nz](mailto:kerry@suzanneaubert.co.nz)

- Please keep me informed of progress
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For more information please visit our website: [www.suzanneaubert.co.nz](http://www.suzanneaubert.co.nz)

# SUZANNE AUBERT NEWS

October 2017

Issue 5

## Te Whakapai o te Takotoranga o Te Kahurangi a Meri Hōhepa Final Resting Place of Suzanne Aubert Blessed

The final resting place of the Venerable Suzanne Aubert will be blessed on Saturday 14 October 2017. The day is being prepared by the Sisters of Compassion and Mana Whenua. A Karakia Whakatūwheratanga (opening prayers) at dawn will begin the day.

Everyone is invited to this special day which will mark several other significant events:

- Our Lady's Home of Compassion Chapel and new facilities will be rededicated.
- A Miha (Māori Mass) will celebrate 125 years, to the day, the founding of the Sisters of Compassion.
- The stained glass artwork will be blessed.

Following 14 October, the resting place of this woman of great faith will be open to all as an accessible and peaceful space for the increasing numbers of people wanting to visit and pay their respects.

In January 2017 Suzanne's intact casket was reinterred in the new resting place beside the Chapel of Our Lady of Compassion. The resting place, designed by Tennent Brown Architects, is a tranquil but simple space accompanied by thoughtful design.

Visitors may bless themselves upon entering and leaving the resting place. A sarcophagus of Waitaha stone is at the heart of this space.

Stained glass windows dapple light across Suzanne's resting place across the day. The morning window (designed by Tennent Brown) depicts Mātāriki (or the Pleiades constellation), the Southern Cross and the Whanganui River. The Resurrection window (gifted by the Drawbridge family) depicts the fifteenth Station



of the Cross, completing artist John Drawbridge's Stations of the Cross installed in the Chapel in 1990. A series of tūpuna (ancestral) windows depict and link formative people in the history of Suzanne Aubert. Sister Peata, of Māori descent; Saint Jean Vianney, the French influence; Mother Cecilia Crombie, Superior General after Suzanne Aubert, and Sister Angela Moller, her dedicated secretary; are some of those cast in her beautiful story.

An expansive glass window views out to nature and the hills beyond, with the original Pietà, which Suzanne ordered from Italy, set in the foreground.

The resting place is complemented by the adjacent Suzanne Aubert Exhibition, and the Retreat Centre along with several new spaces in the Heritage Centre and grounds.

When you are in Wellington next, explore and experience this unique urban monastery and visit the final resting place of Suzanne Aubert – or Meri Hōhepa as she was fondly known by the Māori people of Aotearoa.

For more information please visit our website: [www.suzanneaubert.co.nz](http://www.suzanneaubert.co.nz)



## A Word from Sister Margaret Anne

The Sisters of Compassion are grateful that the anniversary of the death of Suzanne Aubert has become a national day to celebrate the spirit and good works of Suzanne Aubert Meri Hōhepa. It is a wonderful opportunity to reflect and rejoice. Today Suzanne's words can encourage and inspire us.

For instance, "Life is a journey by road. On the way we travel the dust is thick and shade is scarce. Let us know how to select the best place to halt to bathe our eyes, to shake off the dust that covers us and to wash our sore feet."



Suzanne is reminding us to pause and rest from time to time.

"How happy would we be if we could accustom ourselves to answer to our hearts, when they are anxious about something, 'Our Lord will see after it.'"

Again Suzanne encourages us to let go of anxiety and to rely on God's Providence.

We are most fortunate to have Suzanne's words. We can learn so much and even say: "Ah that makes so much sense, how practical, how healthy and how uplifting for the spirit."

## Iwi Leader invites Pope Francis to support Cause

While visiting Rome earlier this year, the chairman of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi, Ngahiwi Tomoana, had a private audience with Pope Francis where he was able to ask him personally to support the Cause of Venerable Suzanne Aubert.

During this special meeting, Ngahiwi who happens to speak Italian, seized the opportunity to invite the Pope to visit New Zealand and also to support the Cause of Suzanne. While giving the Pope information about Venerable Suzanne Aubert, Ngahiwi said:

**"Your Holiness I bring greetings from all the tribes of New Zealand. I extend an open invitation for you to come and visit our country, and to support the Cause for Sainthood for**

**Mother Mary Joseph Aubert. May God bless you and sanctify your ministry."**

Afterwards, Ngahiwi who was accompanied by his wife Mere, (pictured) said that it was a wonderful



opportunity for our plea for help to be presented personally to Pope Francis.

Apparently after the presentation the pontiff made a point of asking for some more material to be made available for a number of the cardinals who were at the meeting.

We continue to pray for the Cause

of Venerable Suzanne Aubert – Te Kaupapa o te Kahurangi nei a Meri Hōhepa.

## Who is Suzanne Aubert and why is she a candidate for Sainthood?

**Bishop Pat Dunn  
Bishop of Auckland**

"I see Suzanne very much as a Mother Teresa figure in New Zealand society. Wherever there was a need she recognised it and tried to respond."



**Sister Josephine Gorman**

"She is one of our pioneers. She looked at all people as equals. It didn't matter what religion they were or what country they came from, she saw Christ in everyone."



**Bishop Steve Lowe  
Bishop of Hamilton**

"Suzanne is certainly a great woman of faith who lived out her faith with a practical Christianity, a Christianity that had no boundaries."



**Sister Mary Graham**

"She was just so courageous and so brave and she loved everybody and anybody with any kind of need she never turned away."



**Bishop Colin Campbell  
Bishop of Dunedin**

"I think she had remarkable vision in her life: a vision for compassion of others that went beyond the normal aspect of what we would understand care and compassion."



**Sister Sue Cosgrove**

"She had such great reverence for the people of the land. She knew where the Māori came from and the importance of their place as tangata whenua."



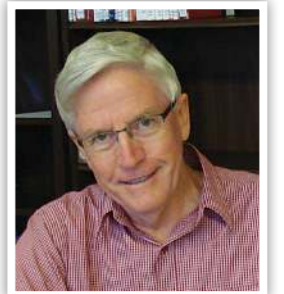
**Cardinal John Dew**

"Suzanne Aubert was driven by the gospel and what she believed was her response to what God had called her to do, to care for orphans, foundlings, the homeless, to feed the poor."



**Fr Maurice Carmody  
Postulator for the Cause**

"Suzanne dedicated herself to the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Māori people wherever she met them. Her care for infants, young children, their mothers and families, and her practical concern for the incurably sick and unemployed was legendary."



**Bishop Charles Drennan  
Bishop of Palmerston North**

"Suzanne Aubert's gutsy life focused solely and relentlessly on the needs of others. It helps us to celebrate a radical life of practical faith. Her life shifts holiness onto our streets and fields. Hers is a 'gumboots and sleeves rolled up' type of saintliness that resonates in this country."



**Janeita Hildalene  
Wheturautau Wilson  
Kaiako Māori (Teacher)**

"She is so revered by us as Māori because she was willing to share with our people, particularly my ancestors and ancestors from different parts of the country. Her faith was remarkable."

