



the Voice of Compassion

 compassion
te pūaroha

*God wishes that we
should hope everything
from His goodness.*

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Supporters and friends news

Issue 47 March 2019



Left to right – Susan Lloyd, Sister Rachel, Sister Margaret-Anne and Monica Bryce

Nau mai

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your messages and cards I received during the Christmas season. I did enjoy hearing from you. I would like to thank you for your generous support to the Sisters of Compassion, as it helps us assist people who are in need. We received many gifts, which we were able to share with others.

After Christmas, I spent time at Hiruhārama/Jerusalem and this year it was warm enough to enjoy swimming in the river. I was fortunate to meet with people on pilgrimage. I valued having time to be with them and learning of their travel adventures.

The River Road has improved 100 percent, making it so much easier for travellers by foot, bike or car. I wondered - how do travellers recycle wisely? To my surprise on travelling through Ranana I saw a Whanagnui River Valley Recycling Trailer. This trailer had six portals for various types of plastic, coloured, clear and milk bottles. It was easy to dispose of plastic products in a sustainable way. This encourages respect for the environment and each other. I affirm this initiative by the Whanganui District Region and the Whanganui Resource and Recovery Centre. Zena Hough, the manager of the Old Convent at Hiruhārama, is optimistic that more containers like this will be placed along the River Road.

In January, I attended an outreach seminar of the World Community for Christian Meditation in Auckland, entitled Contemplative Care: Healthcare and Meditation. Fr Laurence Freeman OSB, a Benedictine monk led it. He said, "Every occupation is contemplative. Occupation requires care and attention or it degenerates. Healing takes place in a timeless moment when we give each other attention." Dr Tony Fernando spoke on the Science of Compassion and the importance of it. "If we live in the present a lot of our worries don't exist." In my mind, I heard Suzanne Aubert's words, "God wishes that we should hope everything from His goodness; but let us also do something, let us forget the past - God will look after it. He will blot out every remembrance of it; and for the present moment - the only one which belongs to us - let us throw ourselves into the arena to gain our end." The seminar reinforced the importance of taking time each day to pause and to understand more deeply that the everyday difficulties need the gaze of compassion.

Thank you for all your prayers and generous support.

Sister Margaret Anne Mills

Congregational Leader



A Reflection from a Compassion Housing Horowhenua tenant

Mervyn Gleeson - In the 1950s when I was 10 years old, I lived in Māorikau Station, Ranana village. I attended the Ranana primary school for four years. I was the only pakeha with a hundred Māori students. The Sisters of Compassion taught at the school and Sr. Philippine was my teacher. Every school day before play time a cup of boiled milk and a tablespoon of olive oil was given to each child. Most students did not like the olive oil and spat it out when sister was not looking. We went to pray in the chapel once a week which I didn't mind. We travelled to town (Pipiriki) twice a year. Our trips once a year to Hawke's Bay and to a sports day were always fun. Unfortunately I was left-handed and Sister had to stand behind me to help me learn how to use the right hand, which was very difficult. But I really liked Sister! May she rest in peace.

Now I am living in a Compassion Housing flat. I am happy with the service and the Sisters' visitations.

Horowhenua Compassion

Last November we celebrated our first anniversary at Compassion Housing Horowhenua. All our tenants from Levin, Foxton and Shannon and others from the community were invited to a celebratory morning tea organised by the Compassion Housing Board.

Among the many tenants and community members were a Catholic priest, a representative from the Uniting Church, a representative from a local newspaper and several Horowhenua Council staff.

We are grateful to the staff, who besides providing the venue at the Council Chambers, also helped serve our guests.

Compassion Housing Board members Francis, Alan, Trudie and Srs Margaret Anne and Sue warmly welcomed the guests. The tenants' singalong enlivened the already cheerful atmosphere.

Gratitude

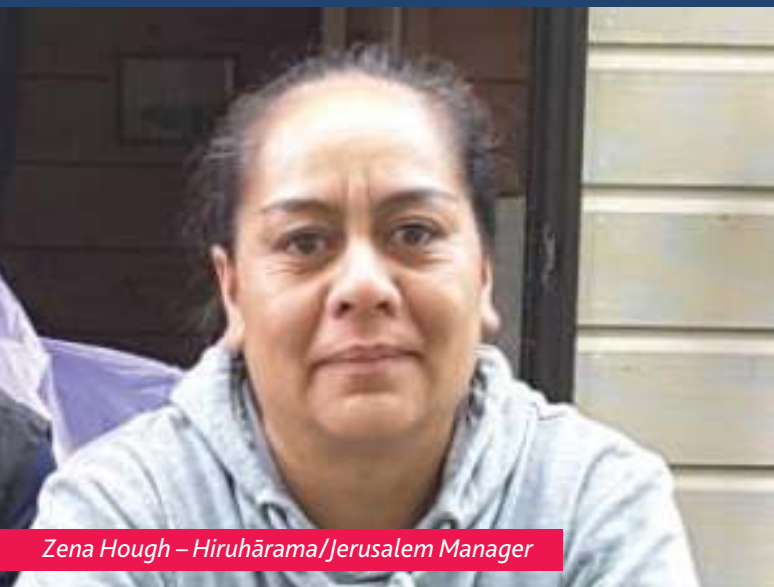
May we express our humble gratitude to Gary, Mary and nurse Janet for the great team relationship we shared since we started serving together in the Compassion Housing Horowhenua mission. To all the many friends and relatives who had visited 682 Queen St. East: please come again! Last but not least to Sr Margaret Anne and our Sisters of Compassion, thank you for your ongoing prayers and loving support. We look forward to continuing our journey together.

Sister Alisi Tu'ipulotu



Zena's whakapapa

Kia Ora Koutou, e mihi atu kia koutou katoa,
Ko Pukihika te Maunga
Ko Whanganui te Awa
Ko Patiarero te Marae
Ko Tamakehu te Rangatira
Ko Zena Ruataupare Hough toku ingoa
No reira tena koutou tena koutou tena koutou kotoa



Zena Hough – Hiruhārama/Jerusalem Manager

Jubilee Celebrations



On 20 October 2018 at Our Lady's Home of Compassion, the Sisters celebrated the silver jubilee of Sister Esther Powell's profession as a Sister of Compassion. One of the highlights for Esther was having her mother and family present to celebrate with her on her big day. The jubilee Mass was especially enhanced by Father Gikoua's choir from Porirua. Sister Evalesi made the jubilee cake.

The Golden jubilees of below Sisters were celebrated on the 18th September 2018. Fifty years is a wonderful commitment. The Jubilee celebrated at Our Lady's Home of Compassion was full of joy and thanksgiving.



Sister
Cabrini Tuipulotu



Sister
Mary McKernan



Sister
Mina Fetu'u

Sister Mary McKernan's reflection

What has the past 50 years as a Sister of Compassion meant to me? Having celebrated my 50th Jubilee as a Sister of Compassion, the verse "The Weaver" is prominent in my memory as it best encapsulates my life over the years.

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me;
I cannot choose the colours,
He works steadily.

Oft-times He weaves sorrow,
And I, in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper,
And I the under side.

THE WEAVER

Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why.

He knows, He loves, He cares –
Nothing this truth can dim;
He gives the very best to those,
Who leave the choice with him.

The dark threads are as needful,
In the Weaver's skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.

A quick look at Lyon

For anyone planning a trip to Europe, a few days in Lyon, arguably the missionary capital of France, is well worth the effort.

Prominent above the old town sits the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière, a place of local prayer and pilgrimage well-known to Suzanne Aubert and many others who would go on to serve as missionaries, teachers, tradesmen and artisans all over the world.

At 25 years of age, Suzanne Aubert left Lyon forever to join Bishop Pompallier's mission in New Zealand. The story of how she worked with Māori families and European settlers, first in Auckland and then Hawke's Bay, learning the language and practicing the skills that would ultimately take her to Hiruhārama/Jerusalem and finally to Wellington, is well documented. Perhaps less well-recognised, is the extent to which her practical skills, love of people and collaborative approach continue to shape our nation's more successful responses to the social needs of today.

As remarkable as it seems, every community in New Zealand can claim a connection to Suzanne Aubert and the practice of compassion she set in motion.

I was fortunate enough to enjoy a few days in Lyon in late 2018 and can recommend it to anyone. There's a lot to be said for being able to walk the streets familiar to her and to ponder the place where it all began.

Suzanne O'Rourke, Mission Animator



In good company: A Suzanne Aubert prayer card awaits modern-day pilgrims in Fourvière



Compassion Soup Kitchen bees

Bees. It would be easy to get carried away in metaphor! Bees represent many of the values we aspire to here at the Compassion Soup Kitchen: community and togetherness, industriousness and endeavour, nature and harmony, to name but some. For this reason we are incredibly excited and grateful to have our own urban beehives in the Soup Kitchen māra (garden).

Soup Kitchen whānau built a home for the hives and the bees were introduced in November 2018. We have watched

the hives grow and thrive and even tasted a little honey! A wonderful talking point for our whānau and visitors from schools, organisations, our community and the many passers-by who stop to admire our wonderful green space. We look forward to a time when we can enjoy the fruit of their labour on our morning bread.

A great thank you to our volunteer beekeeper and provider of the hives, Ginni Murray, who has made all this possible.

Matt Petrie, Compassion Soup Kitchen acting manager

Suzanne Aubert Scholarship Winners

This year initially only three Scholarships were to be awarded however a benefactor's generosity allowed for two more Scholarships to be granted.

Sisters of Compassion congratulate the following students who were awarded a 2019 Suzanne Aubert Tertiary Scholarship.



Isaac Boon is studying at the Yoobee School of Design in the areas of Digital Media, Animation and Film, and Game Art and Development.



Olivia van Woerkom is currently a Bachelor of Performing Arts Dance student at Te Kāhui Auaha/The New Zealand Institute of Creativity, Wellington and is concurrently studying the Certificate in Ballet Teaching Studies with the Royal Academy of Dance, London. She is in

her final year of dancing and studying in 2019. Olivia is passionate about dancing and performing and she looks forward to passing on all she has learned to other dancers in the future.



Sara Metcalf has been accepted into her third year of study at Whitireia and is completing a Bachelor of Nursing degree. She is passionate about working with children and wants to make a difference by being a Plunket nurse and helping to provide children with the best start in life.



George Truebridge is in his third year of study towards a Bachelor of Nursing degree at Massey University.



Peter O'Connor is from Westport. Peter is entering his third year of study towards a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Lincoln University.

E hari ana toku ngakau
I am pleased to be here.

I have come to this spiritual Island Bay site from busy classrooms, where I was helping children with particular learning needs. Planning spiritual "events" and "programmes" is a very different world from the health and disability support services sector. It's also different for me personally - but I was captivated reading Jessie Munro's book *Suzanne* in 1998 and have had a long varied association with the Sisters since.

The Home of Compassion's newly refreshed Island Bay site is a place of prayer and pilgrimage, respite and retreat. The site keeps a precious legacy safe while challenging all of us here in Aotearoa New Zealand to uphold the mana of the tangata whenua and find new ways to live with courage, creativity and compassion.

I am privileged to be able in my role as team leader of spiritual programmes to learn to dig deeper into the land and to reach an ever widening circle of people.

May the Suzanne Aubert story continue to touch the hearts of many.

Christine Kelly, Spiritual Programme Leader



Myreille has been volunteering for Our Lady's Home of Compassion (OLHOC) for about 16 months. She says for her, meeting a variety of people is the best thing about being a volunteer. At the same time, if she tries to think of particular highlights, she can't: every day is a highlight in different ways, she says.

She also likes to guide visitors on their discovery of Suzanne Aubert, the Congregation and the beauty of the place. She also enjoys the serenity of the Island Bay Home of Compassion. It is a welcoming, peaceful place and the Sisters and the Staff makes everyone feel valued.

It's important to Myreille that people should know about OLHOC. "They should know about Suzanne Aubert's contribution and her life and about the current Sisters and the work that they do. Also people should know about the exhibition rooms, and the temporary exhibitions," she says.

Myreille was born and raised in France and has also lived in England, Scotland and Canada. After arriving in New Zealand in 1986 she worked as a lecturer at both Massey University and at Victoria University of Wellington. She runs an Airbnb part time.

Myreille Pawliez, Volunteer

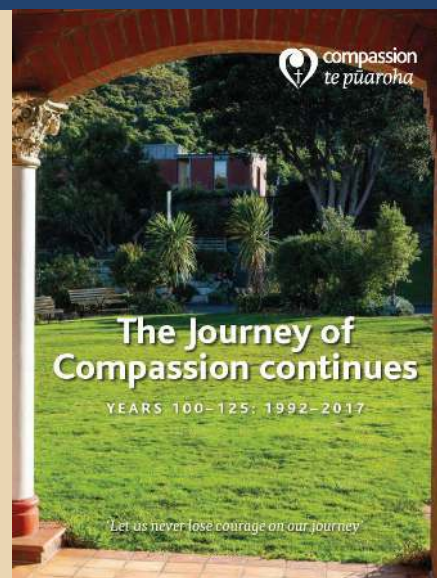
Pre order your book...

We are just about to release a new book!

The Journey of Compassion Continues is an illustrated book about how the Sisters of Compassion have lived the vision of Suzanne Aubert during the past 25 years. It shows that the mission of Compassion is still possible today in our world. The Sisters have let go of some of their more traditional work being done well by others, and have accepted the challenge to move into different ways of extending the charism of Venerable Suzanne Aubert.

Please order via attached order form or online:

<https://compassion.org.nz/shop>



Obituaries

Sister Helena Hart (June 1929 – December 2018)

Joan Hart was born in New Plymouth. Her parents were Catherine and Augustine Hart. She entered the Sisters of Compassion on 14 March 1946, and later received the name Helena.

Following her Religious Profession Sister completed her nursing and maternity training, and afterward applied her nursing skills to surgical nursing in our hospital. She went on to care beautifully for the aged and disadvantaged in the different Homes of Compassion.

Sister Helena's holistic approach to the people she cared for and their extended family has benefited many people. Over the years she gave her time and talents to support many families in practical ways.

When she became unwell, she wanted to be nursed at St John's Hill Health Care by the nurses she had worked with at Whanganui's Aubert Home of Compassion (which closed in 2012). Sister was grateful for the love and nursing care she received from the nurses and was happy to know the spirit and mission of Suzanne Aubert and the early sisters continues.

Sister Helena's life was well lived in the love and service of God and others. She died peacefully on 2 Dec 2018: may she rest in peace.



Sister Thelma Backhurst (May 1940 – November 2018)

Thelma Backhurst was born in Auckland on 6 May 1940. Her parents were George and Gladys Backhurst. John, her brother, was the only other member of the family. Sister Baptist, her father's sister, was also a Sister of Compassion. She was professed as a Sister of Compassion on 19 March 1962.

When Thelma entered the Sisters of Compassion she received the name Agnes. Sister trained as a registered nurse and was well known for her skilful nursing. She was very attentive, kind and gentle.

Sister Agnes suffered from illness for many years, but her strong faith and belief in God's goodness gave her the strength to persevere against all odds. Sister was devoted to the rosary and relied on St Joseph for all her needs.

Since 2002 Sister lived in a Compassion Housing unit at Upper Hutt. There she became well known and loved by the people she met in the parish and by the shopkeepers who came to know her well.

Sister died at the Lower Hutt hospital on 6th November 2018. There was a memorial Mass on 23rd November at St Joseph's Upper Hutt, where she was known and loved. Sister Agnes responded faithfully to God and what He asked her to do. May she rest in peace.