



*Te Rā Whānau o*  
**SUZANNE AUBERT-MERI HŌHEPA!**



*'Providence is my bank'*

19 June 2021 is Suzanne Aubert's 186th Birthday

**You are invited to join the celebration!**

DECORATE A BIRTHDAY CANDLE ARTWORK FOR SUZANNE  
'GO TO JOSEPH' IN PRAYER

*2021 is the Year of St Joseph.  
St Joseph-Hato Hōhepa was an important person for Suzanne Aubert.*

 **compassion** *te pūaroa*

[www.compassion.org.nz/schools](http://www.compassion.org.nz/schools)



# SUZANNE & ST JOSEPH

## 1 EXPLORE

*What links Suzanne Aubert-Meri Hōhepa, St Joseph-Hato Hōhepa, the Compassion Soup Kitchen, and Divine Providence?*

WHAT'S  
DIVINE PROVIDENCE?

READ THE 'EXPLORE'  
PAGES TO FIND OUT!

## 2 MAKE

*Celebrate Suzanne Aubert-Meri Hōhepa's birthday by decorating a birthday candle artwork and writing a special birthday greeting.*

## 3 PRAY

*'Go to Joseph' with a prayer. Decorate a votive candle artwork for St Joseph.*

## 4 SHARE

*Share the celebration and your artwork with the Sisters of Compassion. Share a birthday celebration with your class, school, church or community group.*

## ST JOSEPH-HATO HŌHEPA

THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH IS 8 DEC 2020-8 DEC 2021



Hato Hōhepa. Photo Credit: Annette Scullion, Welcom

### WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HATO HŌHEPA?

*Brainstorm or mind map things you already know:*

Pope Francis has proclaimed The Year of St Joseph to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

### WHAT CONNECTIONS DO YOU HAVE TO ST JOSEPH?

*Talk to your classmates, friends, whānau and list all the connections you, your school, your family, your community have:*



St Joseph. Photo Credit: Nina Cuccurullo



## IN THE GOSPELS

The Gospels only tell us a little about St Joseph. We know he was descended from King David, Mary's husband, Jesus' legal father, a carpenter who lived in Nazareth.

*What else do we find out about St Joseph in the Gospels?*

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## PATRON SAINT



St Joseph was declared patron saint of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX in 1870. He is also patron saint of families, fathers, expectant mothers (pregnant women), a happy death, the interior life, travellers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general. St Joseph is the patron saint of a number of cities, regions and countries, including the Americas, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, Indonesia, Mexico, Korea, Peru, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Many places and churches all over the world are named after St Joseph, including the Spanish form, San Jose. San Jose is the most commonly named place in the world.

*Is there a school or a church named St Joseph near you?*

## FEAST DAYS

We celebrate two feast days for St Joseph:

**19 March**

From the early 14th century, we have observed this as the traditional day of St Joseph's death.

**1 May**

In 1955 Pope Pius XII established the Feast of St Joseph the Worker.

## ART

In art and in statues, Joseph is often shown with one or more of:

- his staff topped with flowers
- a carpenter's square or tools
- the infant Jesus
- two turtle doves
- lillies
- a spikenard

*Find out why one or more of these symbols is used for St Joseph.*



## PATRIS CORDE, POPE FRANCIS' APOSTOLIC LETTER

**"Patris Corde" means "With a Father's Heart".**

Pope Francis describes St Joseph as a father who is beloved, tender and loving, obedient, accepting; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

Pope Francis also describes St Joseph as living an ordinary life, like most of us. He says St Joseph is important for us in these times of Covid-19 pandemic when "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people".

*"Each of us can discover in Joseph--the man who goes unnoticed... an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble".*



## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SUZANNE AUBERT?



*Brainstorm or mind map things you already know:*

Learn more about Suzanne Aubert at [suzanneaubert.co.nz](http://suzanneaubert.co.nz).  
Where else can you find information about her life and work?

## WHAT CONNECTIONS DO YOU HAVE TO MERI HŌHEPA?

*Talk to your classmates, friends, whānau and list all the connections you, your school, your family, your community have:*



## SUZANNE AND ST JOSEPH

SUZANNE AUBERT HAD A SPECIAL DEVOTION TO ST JOSEPH

### MERI HŌHEPA

Sister Mary Joseph was the name that Suzanne Aubert took when she first became a religious sister in Auckland. Mary and Joseph are special names because they are the names of Jesus' parents. Suzanne had a devotion for all the members of the Holy Family. Māori people knew Suzanne as Meri Hōhepa-- the name she is still known as by many people today.

*Why did women change their names when they became religious sisters? Do they still do this today?*

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Suzanne faced many challenges and difficulties in her life and work. She would pray to Joseph when she needed help, asking him to intercede and provide what was needed. Suzanne's devotion to St Joseph is linked to her trust in Divine Providence. She had great faith that the right things would happen. She knew she needed to do what she could and if she was doing the work God wanted her to do, the people and resources she needed would arrive. There are many examples of Divine Providence and St Joseph providing in the stories of Suzanne and the Sisters of Compassion.

Go to the Compassion Soup Kitchen page for stories of St Joseph and Divine Providence (page 7).

### RECOGNISING JOSEPH



Gerrit van Honthorst | Public Domain

Suzanne thought of men who worked with their hands as being a "St Joseph". She also saw St Joseph in the older men who she and the sisters cared for.

### NAMED FOR ST JOSEPH

Suzanne and the Sisters of Compassion have named many of their places after St Joseph:

Hato Hōhepa-St Joseph is the name of the church Suzanne built at Hiruhārama.

Suzanne set up St Joseph's Home for Incurables when she arrived in Wellington.

For a time the Soup Kitchen was named St Joseph's Relief Centre. Today, St Joseph's Home of Compassion in Upper Hutt provides a family-focused rest home, hospital, and dementia care facility.

*"Incurables" and "Relief Centre" are words from earlier times to describe situations. What words might we use today?*



Hato Hōhepa  
St Joseph's Church

#### "GO TO JOSEPH"

In Catholic tradition people "Go to Joseph" when asking for help. Suzanne Aubert said to her sisters, "Ah! go to Joseph for all you need". Suzanne saw the trust that God put in Joseph and the care he had for Mary and Jesus.



# COMPASSION SOUP KITCHEN

2021 MARKS 120 YEARS OF THE SOUP KITCHEN

## SUPPORTING PEOPLE FROM 1901-2021



Suzanne Aubert and the Sisters of Compassion opened the Soup Kitchen in 1901, soon after arriving in Wellington. They began serving soup to around 80 men each day out of a sliding window in the kitchen of St Joseph's Home for Incurables in Buckle Street. Unemployment was rising as men came to the city in search of work. Across the years, the Soup Kitchen has moved locations and been known by different names, however the work of feeding people has continued. Today the need is as great as ever.



*The Sisters with their iconic 'begging pram' were a regular sight on the cobbled streets of Wellington for many years. Suzanne said that enough food was wasted to feed everyone in Wellington.*



The Soup Kitchen serves breakfast and dinner six days a week. Everyone is welcome and treated with dignity and respect.

The Soup Kitchen was an essential service during the 2020 Lockdown and provided takeaway meals.



To feed people who come for meals and company, the Soup Kitchen relies on the support of the Sisters of Compassion, volunteers, people who donate money and goods, and Divine Providence.

## DIVINE PROVIDENCE & ST JOSEPH

*The Sisters of Compassion have a wealth of stories about asking St Joseph for help and putting a little of what they need by his statue. This has happened in all the places they have lived and worked. The staff and volunteers of the Soup Kitchen continue this tradition today. It's amazing what turns up!*

In 1909 the sisters placed a small potato, all that was left, by St Joseph's statue. A ton of undersize potatoes sent by mistake to Government House turned up. The sisters had to spend a lot of time scraping the tiny potatoes!

In 2021, just after New Year, there was no milk left at the Soup Kitchen. The kitchen manager decided to purchase a small amount of budget milk to last until the food rescue service started work again. If only he had waited a few hours! A large amount of top quality fresh milk was donated by a neighbouring organic shop.

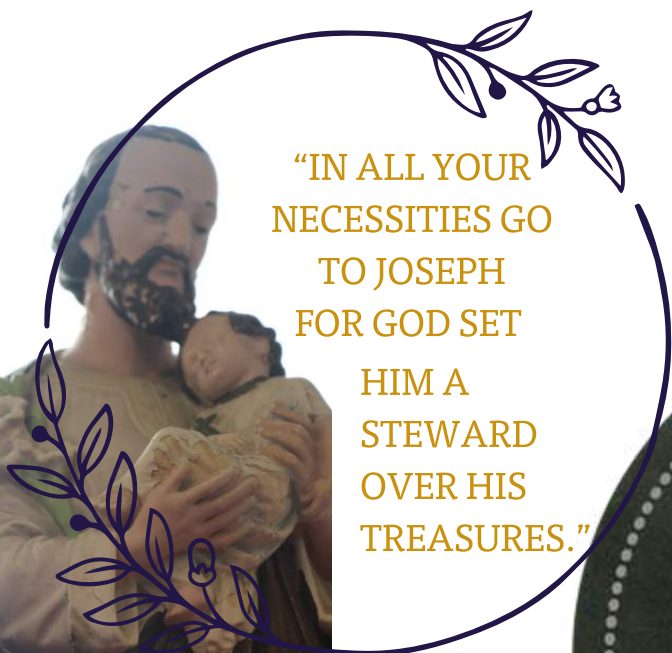
*This is the statue of St Joseph at the Soup Kitchen.*



## SUZANNE'S SAYINGS

ON DIVINE PROVIDENCE

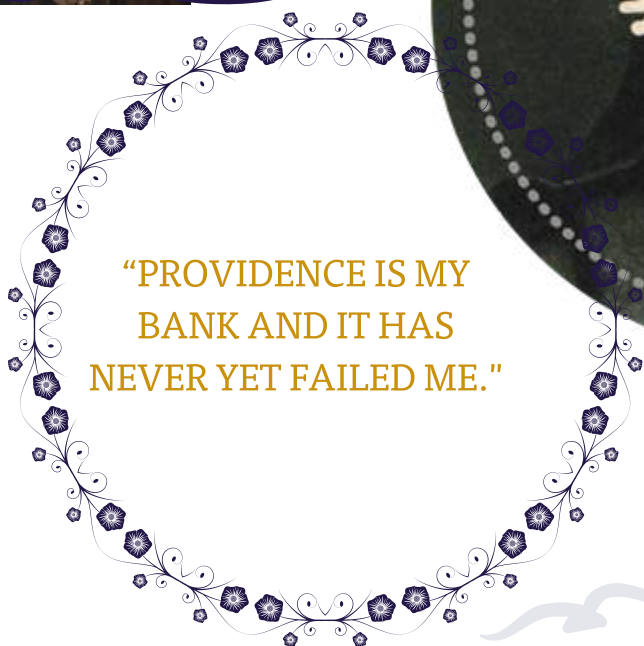
Suzanne had great trust that if she did what she could, the help she needed would be provided. She said:



"IN ALL YOUR  
NECESSITIES GO  
TO JOSEPH  
FOR GOD SET  
HIM A  
STEWARD  
OVER HIS  
TREASURES."



"DO YOUR SHARE AND  
GOD WILL DO HIS,  
AND EVERYTHING WILL GO  
WELL."



"PROVIDENCE IS MY  
BANK AND IT HAS  
NEVER YET FAILED ME."



"WE ARE DOING  
GOD'S WORK. IF HE WISHES US  
TO CONTINUE HE WILL FIND  
THE WAY. WHEN WE ARE IN  
NEED, HELP ALWAYS COMES  
FROM THE MOST UNEXPECTED  
SOURCE."

Read Matthew 6:24-34. This is the Gospel reading for  
19 May 2021 and Suzanne Aubert's Birthday Mass.

What does it say to you about Divine Providence?

"Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest  
and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of  
them!"



When was a time you faced a challenge and got the help you needed?  
Was it the help you were expecting?

In these times of Covid-19 pandemic many people have worries.  
How can doing your part and then trusting in God help people?



2

MAKE

## DECORATE

A BIRTHDAY CANDLE FOR SUZANNE-MERI

*It's Suzanne's*

186<sup>th</sup>

BIRTHDAY

*We need a lot of candles for her cake!*

*Get creative!*

Print out one of the birthday candle templates.

Colour it in or decorate it your way.  
Or draw or create your own candle artwork  
Or decorate a real candle.

Inside the border write  
"Happy Birthday Suzanne Aubert"  
in your chosen language and  
with your favourite name for Suzanne.  
(See the "Happy Birthday" page.)

Now write a birthday greeting for  
Suzanne Aubert-Meri Hōhepa. What would  
you like to say to her?

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CHOOSE A LANGUAGE AND NAME FOR YOUR GREETING

## WHICH LANGUAGE WILL YOU SAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SUZANNE AUBERT IN?

*What is your first language?*

*What are the first languages in your school, parish, local community?*

*What is a language you would like to learn?*

### Joyeux Anniversaire

Say it in French, the country of Suzanne's birth

### Rā Whānau

Say it in Māori--Suzanne spoke Māori fluently

### Happy Birthday

Say it in English

Or say it in your language!



## WHICH NAME WILL YOU GREET SUZANNE WITH?

### Suzanne Aubert

Suzanne's full name was  
Marie Henriette Suzanne Aubert.

### Sister Mary Joseph

Sister Mary Joseph was Suzanne's religious name. Mary and Joseph are special names because they are the names of Jesus' parents.



### Meri Hōhepa

Today, many people know Suzanne as  
Meri Hōhepa--her Māori name.

### Grandma

Suzanne loved children and especially those who had no parents to look after them. Hundreds of children knew Suzanne by the name "Grandma".

### Mother Aubert

When Suzanne began the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion, she was known as Mother Aubert because she was the Mother Superior (the head sister). Many simply called her "Mother".

## **DECORATE**

A BIRTHDAY CANDLE FOR SUZANNE-MERI





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MAKE

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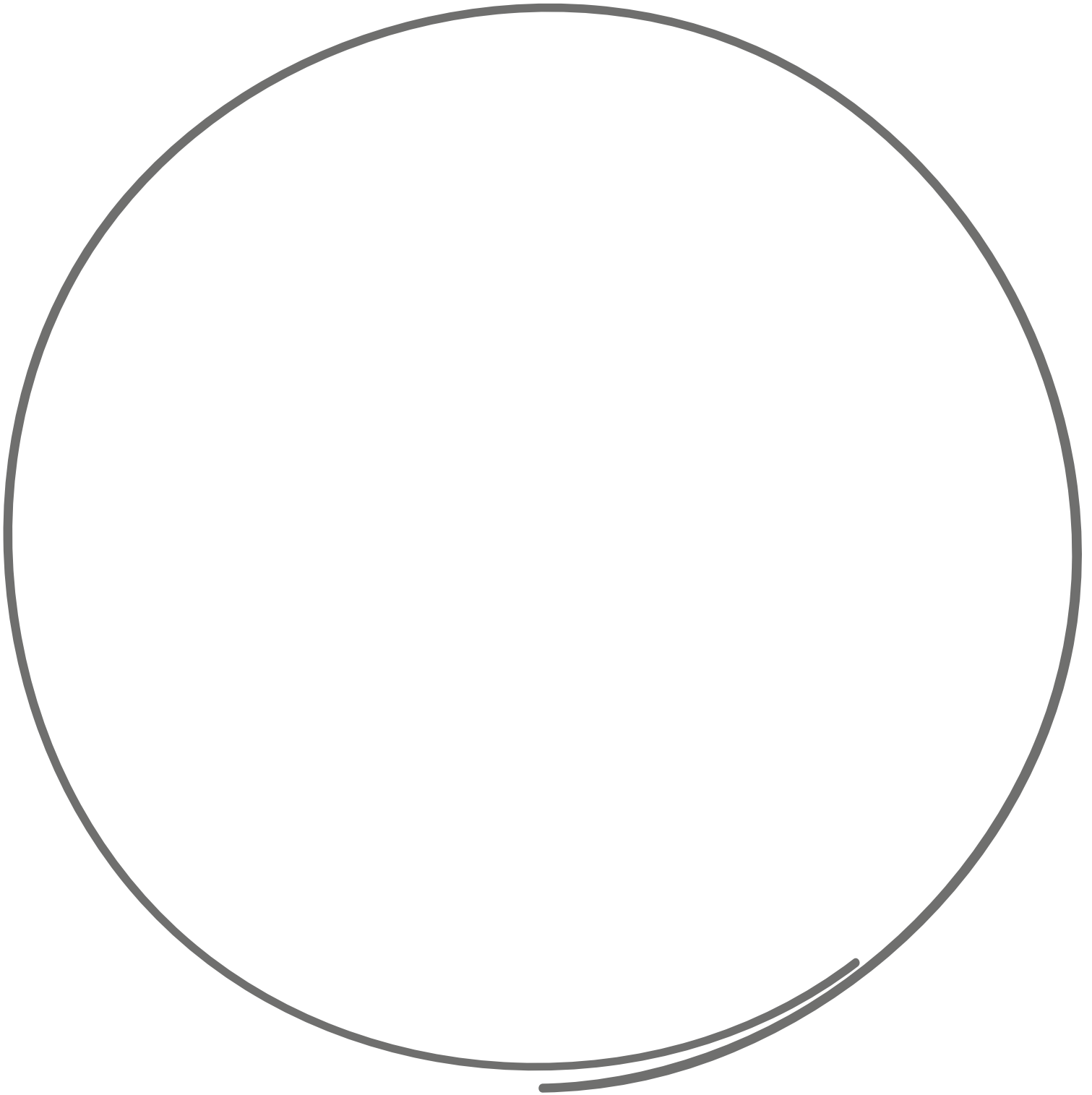


2

MAKE

## DECORATE

A BIRTHDAY CANDLE FOR SUZANNE-MERI



A SPACE FOR YOU TO DRAW AND DECORATE  
YOUR OWN CANDLE ARTWORK

# 'GO TO JOSEPH'

## DECORATE A VOTIVE CANDLE ARTWORK

### VOTIVE CANDLES



The altar of St Joseph, with votive candles burning, at St Mary of the Angels in Wellington. This is the church where Suzanne Aubert's funeral was held in 1926.

"Votive" means "Prayer".

"Votive" comes from the Latin word, votum, meaning promise, dedication or simply "prayer." The light of a candle is a physical reminder that we are placing our prayer before God.

In our churches today, we often light candles before a statue or sacred image of Jesus or a saint. The light represents our prayer, and our prayer continues to burn in the church after we have left.

The light of a candle also represents Christ alive in our world and so it is a symbol of hope and love. Jesus called himself the light of the world.

*"I am the light of the world; Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness."  
(John 8:12)*

*Is there an altar of St Joseph in a church near you?  
Arrange to visit and light a votive candle and make your prayer.*

### GO TO JOSEPH WITH YOUR PRAYER

Our prayers are always made to God. When we go to St Joseph or another saint with our prayers, we are asking them to intercede for us, to take our prayer to God.

We know that Suzanne and the Sisters of Compassion have had many prayers answered when praying to St Joseph.

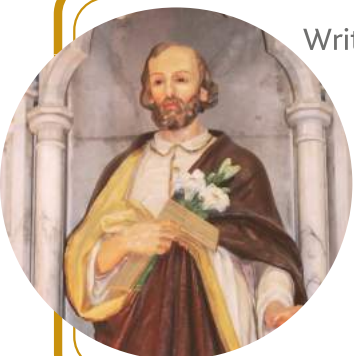
Begin your prayer

**Dear Joseph, O Joseph**

Next, What or who would you like to pray for? Or do you have a prayer of thanks?

End your prayer with **Amen**

Write your prayer here:.



*You can write your prayer on your votive candle artwork.*

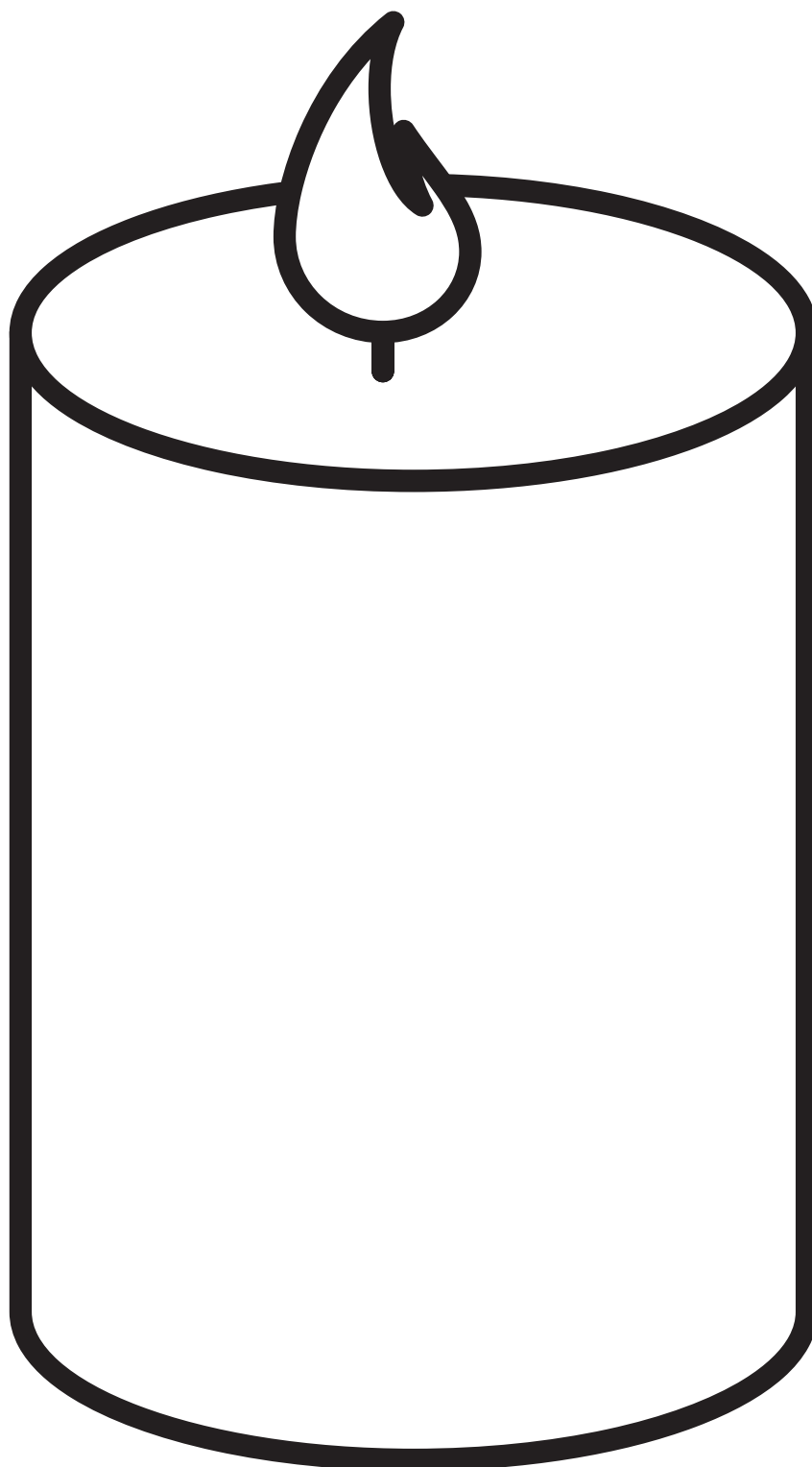


3

PRAY

## 'GO TO JOSEPH'

DECORATE A VOTIVE CANDLE ARTWORK



Write your prayer to St Joseph on your candle.  
You might like to decorate your candle with symbols of St Joseph.

# THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRATE SUZANNE-MERI'S 186TH BIRTHDAY TOGETHER

*Get together with your class, school, church, or community group*



Share some cake or kai.

Share what you have learned about  
Suzanne Aubert- Meri Hōhepa, St Joseph-Hato Hōhepa,  
and Divine Providence.

**SING  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Rā whānau ki a koe  
Rā whānau ki a koe  
Rā whānau ki a Suzanne Meri  
Rā whānau ki a koe!



*Share your artwork and celebrations with the Sisters of Compassion*

## EVERYONE IS INVITED!

The Sisters of Compassion invite everyone to  
Mass at the Home of Compassion in Wellington  
at 2pm on 19 June 2021  
to celebrate Suzanne Aubert-Meri Hōhepa's 186th Birthday

*Hospitality and Birthday Cake to follow!*



The Sisters at the 182nd Birthday celebration

Send a photo, scan, or electronic copy of your birthday candles and votive candles to the  
Sisters of Compassion by 18 June 2021.

We will decorate the Suzanne Aubert Heritage Centre at Our Lady's Home of Compassion in Wellington with  
your artwork.

We will also share your work on our Facebook pages.

Send your work, along with permission to use it, and any details you would like us to credit your artwork with  
(name of artists/class/school, age/year group etc) to:  
Deirdre Meskill, the Visitor Experience Manager at [schools@compassion.org.nz](mailto:schools@compassion.org.nz)

If you are in years 0 to 8, ask your teacher, parent, or guardian to send your work in with their permission.