

AOTEAROA – NEW ZEALAND AND SAMOA PROVINCE

TENA KOUTOU KATOA

TALOFA LAVA



Dear Sisters,

Greetings as we gather in Lower Hutt for the PLT meeting. We are thinking of all as we reflect on the life of our province.

Spring is just around the corner and we noticed the first iris opening in the back garden. Included in our prayer this morning was a reflection from Edwina Gateley that we would like to share with you all.

*Often we seek God in all the wrong places.
It would be better if we didn't look at all,
if we would allow ourselves to dare to believe
that it is God's delight to simply gaze upon us;
that God, who birthed us in a great burst of passion
is ever standing by waiting, longing to catch our attention,
endlessly hoping that we might be startled into recognition
as we wander lazily by the radiant daffodil dancing in the grass.*

- *Edwina Gateley*

*"In the season of springtime may we
Take time to get in touch with the breeze,
the texture of the morning,
the sights before our eyes
and the feelings in our hearts."*

- *Jacinta Shailersga*

With much love from

Carmel, Colleen, Margaret, Marie and Christina.



Eleanor Corston RIP

In January this year, Eleanor was told she had cancer and very little hope anything could be done to help her. She took this in her stride and continued to live life to the full. Three weeks before her death she went to the hospice for pain relief. She was never to return home. Her strength diminished very quickly in those last three weeks of life. She died peacefully on Tuesday 23 July.



Eleanor was brought back to the convent chapel at Spencer Street where she lay in a simple coffin (as was her wish) with the sisters praying around her until she was taken to the parish church for the rosary.

About 40 people gathered in the Sacred Heart Church on Thursday afternoon for a time of prayer and sharing as we began our farewell to Eleanor. Christina led our prayer and Clare and Gael read reflections from various writings that

reflected Eleanor's life. Several sisters shared stories and reflections painting a picture of a sister who was pastoral, loyal, a friend of many with a great sense of humour.

On Friday morning over 100 sisters, family and friends were in the same church as we celebrated Eleanor's life in the requiem mass. Anne Marie prepared the beautiful



flowers for the coffin. Eleanor had prepared the readings and hymns for the Eucharist. Fr Peter reflected that the reading from Ephesians (3:15-19) was reality in the way Eleanor lived her life. The gospel (Luke 4:16-19) was not only the picture of Jesus but also the way Eleanor tried to live out her life as a Sister of Our Lady of the Missions. We had entered the church in fog and come out to bright sunlight. The Salve Regina was sung as the hearse door was closed and driven away. Eleanor's wish was to be cremated so we then moved to the parish hall to enjoy a light meal and more sharing.

Jubilee Celebrations

Three sisters celebrated 60 years of profession on August 15. Each of these sisters was honoured for 60 years of faithfulness as Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions.



Amelda Lindsay celebrated with a small gathering of the sisters in Addington on Thursday 15. Fr Peter Head celebrated mass in the chapel and blessed Amelda recognising her 60 years of service, much of this time spent in the Christchurch diocese. Anne Marie and helpers prepared a wonderful jubilee meal with all the trimmings.



Lidwina van Beers and **Colleen Morey** gathered in the St Mary's Convent Chapel on Saturday 17 with about 70 sisters, family and friends. Bishop Denis Brown celebrated the Eucharist marking the 60 years of Consecrated Life lived by Colleen and Lidwina. Margaret Monaghan spoke in thanks to Lidwina while Colleen Edgcombe congratulated Colleen. We all enjoyed a wonderful light lunch with lots of fun and chatter as old friends re-connected and Colleen and Lidwina enjoyed the time with their families.



90th Birthday Celebrations

Sister Martha Szymanski

On Thursday, August 1, a number of our Sisters gathered at Marble's Restaurant in New Plymouth with Mary St Martha to celebrate her 90th birthday. The table was set with two bright green balloons and a green crown on the table for Martha. Fourteen of us sat down at the table to celebrate. During the weeks leading up to this occasion Connie had been working away in the background to organise a smorgasbord meal for the celebration and a lovely birthday cake decorated with small pink and white roses. Margaret presented Martha with a white rose corsage. Connie congratulated Martha on reaching such a grand age and Colleen presented her with a beautiful bouquet of red and white flowers which represented her Polish heritage. We all enjoyed the time together and finished the evening by singing the Hebrew Blessing.



Sister Shelia O'Toole

The Sisters of the Waikato region gathered with Sheila in Unit 3 on Sunday, 11 August to celebrate with her, 90 years of life. While Shelia was still very frail she enjoyed the company and the celebration. Mary Philippa presented a bouquet of flowers from the Province. Everyone enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea and a cake baked by Margaret.



Jubilees in 2020

The following Sisters will celebrate their jubilees in 2020

- Rose Malone, Mary Philippa Reed, Shelia O'Toole and Mary Paul Hodgson will celebrate 70 years of profession on 6 January.
- Rosalene Hoban will celebrate 60 years of profession on 6 January
- Mary Wyss will celebrate 50 years of profession on 17 January
- Elizabeth Beeler will celebrate 25 years of profession on 21 January.
- Muriel Kivell and Linley Trower will celebrate 60 years on 15 August
- Rita Snelgar will celebrate 70 years of profession on 15 August

Celebration dates to note:

Mary Philippa, Shelia and Rose will celebrate on Monday January 6, in Hamilton.

Mary will celebrate on Saturday January 11, in St. Joseph's Church New Plymouth.

Colin McCahon

A Place to Paint: Colin McCahon in Auckland, is an exhibition at the Auckland Art Gallery which considers McCahon's long-time relationship with Auckland and the significance of the physical, spiritual and cultural landscape on his painting.

Maria Josef attended the opening of this exhibition as it featured the artworks commissioned for our Convent Chapel in Remuera. Sisters would enjoy visiting this exhibition and remembering the windows and the stations that adorned our chapel for several years.

A Place to Paint

Colin McCahon in Auckland

The exhibition runs from Saturday, 10 Aug 2019 through to Monday, 27 Jan 2020.

Messages

Diamond Jubilee:

A big "thank you" to Carmel, Colleen and the PLT for your contribution to my Diamond Jubilee celebrations and a big "thank you" to all those Sisters who worked behind the scenes to ensure that the Thanksgiving Mass, the Gerry Sullivan Centre decorations, the catering and the delicious fruit cake were at their best. The jubilee cake was iced by a past piano/organ pupil of mine, Carole Fitzgerald, who is also a great friend. She also played the organ at the Mass. Thanks one and all to those Sisters who were able to be present at the celebrations and also to those who sent a variety of beautiful cards emails and gifts. Your thoughtfulness and love were much appreciated and I ask God to bless you all abundantly. With much love and prayers,

Colleen Morey RNDM

Dear Sisters,

A heartfelt "thank you" to each and every one of you for the wonderful Jubilee Celebration - for your presence, the many greetings and cards, and gifts, and prayers of course. To those who helped in the preparation of the Mass, and the Hall, and the Refreshments, a special "thank you".

I was very blessed to have nine out of eleven of our family together. Sadly, our oldest brother is in Perth, unwell, and our second brother has died. We had a great get-together on the Saturday and again on Sunday My three youngest sisters were thrilled to see the Sisters who taught them in Hamilton. I was also very glad I had invited Marie Chanel's family - they all came, and many of my Dutch friends whom I taught English, and their children whom I had in school. It was truly a time of many graces, and blessings and love. God Bless you all!

Lidwina

We remember:

Our Sisters who are not so well and undergoing treatment or recovering from surgery at this time.

Celine Deane
Shelia O'Toole
Margaret-Mary Hunter
Mary Molloy
Rita Snelgar
Maureen Richardson



Our Dead – May they rest in peace.

John Pearce CP
Mose Aieti (Salota's nephew)
Ana Pusa
Sharon Fitzgerald RGS
Eleanor Corston RNDM
Mr. John Nguyen Van Thuc (father of Anna who lived in Nelson until June this year)
Helen Morris (Margaret Monaghan's sister)
Ron Burgess (Joan Parker's brother-in-law.)
Bruce Wright (Marie Gabrielle's brother)
George Curtain (Roleen's brother)

