



# CELEBRATION SUNDAY

United in compassionate love - Kua kotahi i roto i te Pūaroha

‘Let us have nothing so much as to work for the good of all’  
‘Kia haere rawa kore ana tātou, koia, ka manaakihia te katoa’

Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert

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# INTRODUCTION

**Kia whakapaingia koutou e Meri Hōhepa.**  
**May you be blessed by Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert.**

Welcome to the resource pack from the Sisters of Compassion for Celebration Sunday 2023!

Celebration Sunday is a day when parishes and communities in Aotearoa New Zealand are invited to pause, reflect, pray and remember Venerable Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert. We especially remember on this day, her spirituality, good works and compassionate love for those in need.

The Sisters of Compassion are once again grateful that the National Day celebrating the spirituality and good works of Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert, has become part of the National Liturgy Calendar. This enables people to learn about this amazing women of our time, and why we continue to pray for her beatification.

The theme of **'United in compassionate love - Kua kotahi i roto i te Pūaroa'**, has been chosen based on the readings for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time year A. This year also marks the 100-Year Anniversary of the founding of the Nurses Training School by Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert. The missal readings for Sunday 1st October speak of the 'holiness' of the disadvantaged, of the need for discipleship, and in trusting God to show the way. These ideas relate well to Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert's life, work and the compassionate love shown by the Sisters of Compassion.

This year too we are guided by Suzanne's own words:

**"Let us have nothing so much as to work for the good of all"**  
**Kia haere rawa kore ana tātou, koia, ka manaakihia te katoa**

Parishes are invited to mark the day of celebration for Venerable Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert, on Sunday 1st October by including a special Prayer of the Faithful at Masses, publishing a notice in their newsletters and making resources and prayer materials available to their community.

Included in this pack are resources we hope you will find useful. The links below can be used to access the material online. If you wish to receive physical copies of the content, please email our Communications team at: [communications@compassion.org.nz](mailto:communications@compassion.org.nz) by 11 September 2023.

Prayer of the Faithful, Prayer for Beatification, Closing Prayer  
Newsletter notice  
Intercessory prayer card  
Historical story with photo of Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert with her nursing staff

#### **Additional resources:**

The Lord's Prayer for Everyone Ta inoi A Te Ariki Mā Te Katoa  
For nurses  
For the medical profession  
A short video from the Sisters will be made available on our website soon.

The Sisters of Compassion are grateful for your ongoing support.  
On behalf of Sister Margaret Anne Mills, Congregational Leader, and the Sisters of Compassion.



**Felicity Giltrap**  
Kaiāwhina Administration and Pastoral Support

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### **E te Atua o te Pūaroha - God of Compassion**

As we unite in prayer across Aotearoa New Zealand on this Celebration Day, we pray in thanksgiving for the life of Venerable Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert. We pray that her faith, her courage, and compassionate love will live on in us all.

**E te Ariki: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

## PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF SUZANNE AUBERT

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us that as often as we show compassion to the least of your brothers and sisters, we show it to you. Hear our prayers that Venerable Suzanne Aubert, who loved the Māori people and devoted her life to the poor, the sick and the underprivileged, and whom the Church has declared to be one of your true and humble followers, may soon be recognised as a saint.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING PRAYER

**Kia ĭnoi tatou, Let us pray:**

God of Compassion, may we be lead by you, and the example of the life of Venerable Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert,  
Take us to the ones who hurt,  
May we see you in every face,  
May we hear you in every voice,  
May we welcome you in each relationship,  
May we give freely with true generosity,  
May we look upon ourselves with love and with a belief that we too need tending and care.  
Loving God, move through us, that we may know the strength that comes from living united in your compassionate love.  
We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord,

**Amen.**

## NEWSLETTER NOTICE

### Short form:

Celebration Sunday, 1 October 2023, is celebrated in parishes and communities across Aotearoa New Zealand this weekend. It is a day to remember the life, spirituality and good works of Venerable Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert. While we wait and pray for Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert to be beatified, we continue to unite to promote her message of compassion and love throughout Aotearoa New Zealand and the world.

[www.compassion.org.nz/celebration-sunday](http://www.compassion.org.nz/celebration-sunday)

### Longer form:

Celebration Sunday, 1 October 2023, is celebrated in parishes and communities across Aotearoa New Zealand this weekend. It is a day to remember the life, spirituality and good works of Venerable Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert. The theme of **'United in compassionate love - Kua kotahi i roto i te Pūaroha'**, has been chosen for this year's Celebration Sunday. While we wait and pray for Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert to be beatified, we continue to unite to promote her message of compassion and love throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

This year the Sisters of Compassion highlight the 100-Year Anniversary of Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert setting up a Nurses Training School at Our Lady's Home of Compassion, Island Bay, Wellington. In doing so, they highlight Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert's great love and care of Māori and all people, especially the most vulnerable and those on the peripheries of society. Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert gathered people into her arms and homes and loved them. She loved them back to health and into life, she accompanied them and saw Christ in each one.

This Sunday, let us be encouraged by her example as we pray for courage to act as she did. To sit by the bedside of the infirmed and dying, to include in our lives and families those who need our love, and to celebrate each person for who they are. As we celebrate her good works and life today, we hold in our own hearts her words **'Let us have nothing so much as to work for the good of all'**. The Sisters of Compassion thank you for your support and prayer. Kia whakapaingia koutou e Meri Hōhepa. May you be blessed by Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert.

[www.compassion.org.nz/celebration-sunday](http://www.compassion.org.nz/celebration-sunday)



## HISTORICAL STORY

In 1923, in the last years of her life, Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert established a Nurses Training School at Our Lady's Home of Compassion, Island Bay, Wellington. Prior to this Suzanne and the sisters had completed a course with the newly formed St John Ambulance Association. Suzanne was determined that her sisters receive the best possible training to care for those in need. It was important to her that the training was recognised by the State. In that year, 12 sisters passed, two with honours. This year we celebrate the 100-Year Anniversary of the first nurses training class.

**The following are excerpts from 'The Story of Suzanne Aubert' by Jesse Munro:**

**From Chapter 20, page 385:**

"She had the backing of lay and medical officialdom. On 11 April 1922, Suzanne had written a long letter to the Minister of Health, C.J. Parr, asking for the Home of Compassion to be recognised as a training hospital:

*In order to ensure the efficiency and permanence of the Institution, it is absolutely necessary to train its Sisters for the present and the future. We therefore, humbly beg you, Sir for your benevolent consideration of our petition to be allowed to give our own Sisters only (that is to say, only the members of our Institute) the hospital training without which it is impossible to carry on efficiently or extend our own special work'.<sup>68</sup>*

Footnote 68: 13 April 1921, Hospital Training School Correspondence, 1910-59 HOC A

**And from Chapter 20, page 386:**

"Sister Clotilde as matron began giving regular lectures. Doctors came free of charge to give lectures more formally than before. There was now an 'Honorary Medical Staff': Drs Whyte, Corkill, Lynch, Hardwick-Smith, Shirer, Roche-Kelly, Rhind, and several others. Unofficial exams, similar to the national ones were set and marked on a volunteer basis by Edith Sealy, former matron of Otaki hospital, helped by Cecilia McKenny. Like the working bees, it was once more a case of people wanting something and making it happen.

Dr Thomas Valentine, the Director- General of Health, supported the experiment and helped work out the details."

# ✧ Suzanne Aubert ✧

A Woman of Great Faith



# ✧ Meri Hōhepa ✧

He wahine whakapono nui

# PRAYER

We believe in the power of prayer. Prayer is communication with God. What does praying to Venerable Suzanne Aubert or through her intercession mean?

Intercessory prayer is asking someone, in this case, Venerable Suzanne Aubert, to pray **with us** in petitioning God for a particular need, often a miracle or a special cure.

There is a set formula for intercessory prayer as follows:

1. **Period of Prayer:** Ideally a number of people will agree to pray for the agreed specific intention committing to pray on nine successive days (or for another agreed period of time such as a month).
  2. **Specify Dates:** Make a note here of the commencement date for the intercessory prayer period:
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3. **Agreed Intercessor:** Because we are asking Venerable Suzanne Aubert to join with us and to intercede on our behalf, no other Saint's name must be mentioned during this period of specific prayer.
  4. **Statement of Faith:** The Statement of Faith is to be recited before saying the prayer for Venerable Suzanne Aubert's intercession.
  5. **Prayer for the miracle:** Pray the prayer as outlined.





## STATEMENT OF FAITH

The statement of faith is to be made before saying the prayer for Venerable Suzanne Aubert's intercession.

*We believe in God's everlasting love for all, and that through faith and great confidence in that love our petitions will be granted. Therefore in the desire to promote God's greater honour and glory we gather together to pray through the intercession of Venerable Suzanne Aubert for:*

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## Prayer for the Cure:

*God our creator, the life of Venerable Suzanne Aubert powerfully expressed the compassion of Jesus for the sick.*

*Now we ask you to grant, through her intercession, the complete cure of:*

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In gratitude we pray the prayer of Suzanne Aubert

*Thanks be to God for all He has done and is doing for us.*

*Suzanne Aubert pray for us (3)*



**Suzanne Aubert** (1835–1926) lived a life of heroic service and compassion. The Sisters of Compassion and the Bishops of New Zealand ask you to pray for the beatification of Suzanne Aubert.

### **PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF SUZANNE AUBERT**

*Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us that as often as we show compassion to the least of your brothers and sisters, we show it to you.*

*Hear our prayers that Venerable Suzanne Aubert, who loved the Māori people and devoted her life to the poor, the sick and the underprivileged, and whom the Church has declared to be one of your true and humble followers, may soon be recognised as a saint.*

*Amen.*



### **He Īnoi mō te Hātotanga o te Kahurangi nei a Meri Hōhepa**

E te Ariki e Hēhu Karaiti, nāu mātou i whakaako mēnā ka puaki atu mātou i te pūaroa mō te iti, arā, ngā tēina, ngā tuākana, ngā tuāhine me ngā tungāne, kātahi ka whakaatu mātou i te pūaroa ki ā koe. Whakarongo mai ki ā mātou Īnoinga ki a Meri Hōhepa te Wahine Kahurangi nāna i te aroha te iwi Māori. Nāna i awahi ngā tāngata pōhara, ngā tūroro, me ngā tāngata rawakore. Meatia tēna, kua karanga rawa atu te Hāhi i tētahi tāngata o āu pononga tapu, o āu tāngata māhaki hoki. Ā te wā tonu, mā te katoa e mōhio mai tōna Hātotanga. Āmene.

**SHARE THE JOURNEY**  
**TOHAINA TE HAERENGA**

**Find out more about this remarkable woman**

**[www.suzanneaubert.co.nz](http://www.suzanneaubert.co.nz)**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER FOR EVERYONE TA ĪNOI A TE ARIKI MĀ TE KATOĀ

As we celebrate the 100-year Anniversary of Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert setting up the Nurses Training School, our hearts and minds are drawn to those currently in the nursing and medical professions.

To support nurses and medical professionals in their work, we wish to highlight two prayers from Father James Lyon's new book, 'The Lord's Prayer for Everyone – Ta Īnoi A Te Ariki Mā Te Katoā'.

It is our hope that those currently serving and ministering to the sick, elderly and infirmed in our communities will gain strength from these prayers.

Fr James' publication 'The Lord's Prayer for Everyone – Ta Īnoi A Te Ariki Mā Te Katoā' is available to be ordered from the Sisters of Compassion online store:

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





**The Lord's  
Prayer For  
Everyone**

**Ta Īnoi A  
Te Ariki Mā  
Te Katoa**

**James B Lyons**



*... for the medical  
profession*



**Our Father in heaven –**

Our healing skills, like all skills, are your gifts.

**Hallowed be your name –**

Through your name creation is formed, the broken are made whole and healing made possible. Your name is indeed holy.

**Your kingdom come –**

Jesus tells us your reign is without tears or pain and filled only with joy and gladness. As doctors and surgeons this is our goal – to bring your reign into the lives of all who, in this life, suffer illness and disease, sorrow and loss.

**Your will be done on earth as in heaven –**

As the giver of life, your will is for love to motivate, precede and follow all behaviour; for people to care for one another and the earth that supports them. Strengthen us to be ministers of your healing touch, that life and the dignity of all be our first consideration.

**Give us this day our daily bread –**

In medicine, each day presents new challenges as each patient carries differing needs. Feed us with the daily bread of tenderness, kindness and compassion – food that will empower us to listen carefully, to withhold judgement – food that will empower us to listen carefully, to withhold judgement and to always see the patient as a person.

**Forgive us our sins –**

For the times we have rushed a clinic unnecessarily, misdiagnosed through lack of attention, allowed tiredness to darken our mood – for the many ways we have misused our position and hurt rather than healed – forgive us.

**As we forgive those who sin against us –**

We recognise this condition to being forgiven. It is like denying treatment and the comfort this would bring. Help us to be forgiving, regardless of how we might have been hurt. We know the pain of carrying the burden of guilt.

**Save us from the time of trial –**

We can take advantage of the awe in which our profession is held. We can settle for the least effort and still be thanked and praised. We can belittle, embarrass, and take our social standing for granted. Save us from falling into these traps and others like them.

**Deliver us from evil –**

Our profession equates with life. We are called to serve life, to protect life, to give life every chance. Yet there is much in society that is against life, threatens life, refuses to recognise life. Deliver us from whatever is harmful to life.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.**



**Our Father in heaven –**

You care deeply for your children. As a nurse I feel especially close to you.

**Hallowed be your name –**

I accept those in my care as a sacred trust, gifted by you.

**Your kingdom come –**

Jesus ushered in your kingdom by healing the sick and the lame and binding up broken hearts. This is the beautiful vocation of nursing. I want to be part of enabling your kingdom to embrace the whole world.

**You will be done on earth as in heaven –**

To strengthen weak hands, make firm trembling knees; to bring joy and gladness to replace sorrow and sighing. This, from the prophet Isaiah (35:1-10), is what you want for your people. In my nursing may I help to fulfil your will.

**Give us today our daily bread –**

The bread of understanding, of listening and compassion; the bread of your company to sustain my vision; bread to keep me grounded, making space and time for myself. This is the daily bread I need, dear God,

**Forgive us our sins –**

Long exposure to the sick and suffering can set me up for personal failure. Discontent, resentment, escape into pleasure, self-pity, intolerance, prejudice..., so easily break through my defences. Forgive the harm I have done to myself and to others; for caring for myself at the expense of those in my care.

### **As we forgive those who sin against us –**

I really want this to be a feature of my life. My nursing instincts assure me that forgiving, not holding grudges or seeking revenge, preserve both energy and health. In my work I have come to realise that, as Jesus has shown us, so much of what gives offence comes from people who do not know what they are doing.

### **Save us from the time of trial –**

There are times when I feel like giving up nursing. Frustration with bureaucracy, personality clashes, difficult shifts, exhaustion, obstinate, rude, or ungrateful patients, test my commitment and have me questioning my value or my ability. Yet I know nursing is my calling. Save me from the time of trial.

### **Deliver us from evil –**

As a nurse I am a channel for good but can also be confronted by evil – nursing someone who has destroyed life or who has no moral compass; confronting threatening behaviour or abusive colleagues; having my own values challenged or disrespected... Shelter me lest my love grow cold and my caring skills dissolve.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.**