

You are invited to the launch of

Letters from the Marist Missionaries in Oceania (1836-1854)

by Charles Girard SM

and

Thinking about Political Things: An Aristotelian Approach to Pacific Life

by Andrew Murray SM

Friday 11 March 2016, 6.30 pm

at the dining room Villa Maria,

1 Mary Street, Hunters Hill, NSW 2110

Parking is available on Mary St and in the parish carpark

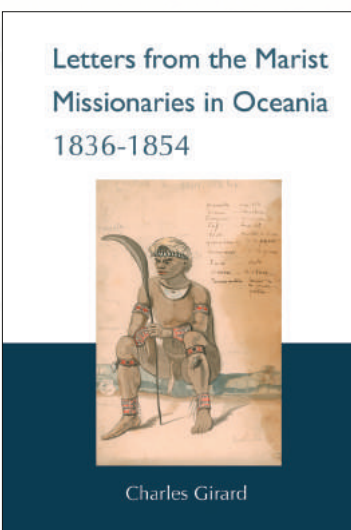
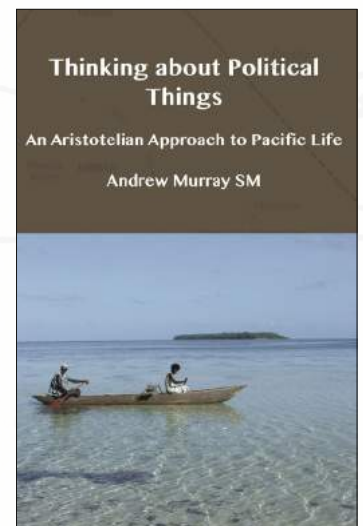
RSVP: by 2 March (02) 9844 2222; vicarprovincial@maristfathers.org.au

'Andrew Murray offers extensive research, reflection, and deep thought on the political life of Pacific island states and applies Aristotelian political philosophy to Pacific experiences. The book is successful in its aim to explain the political philosophy of Aristotle in a way that is simple yet clear so as to enable Pacific islanders to apply Aristotle's thought to their own issues.

Concerns of the three main races of the Pacific namely the Polynesians, Melanesians and Micronesians are well represented in excursions from the main text. While the situations in Fiji and Tonga remain difficult and will need further research, it is worth noting that the thought of democracy in Tonga was initiated by Professor Futa Helu of 'Atenisi, who followed the Greek thinkers.

The attempt to understand the political life of the Pacific islands under the light of Aristotle's thought is a huge task. This book is a great contribution to political thinking in the Pacific islands.'

+Soane Patita P Cardinal Mafi, Bishop of Tonga & Niue



In 1836, the newly created Society of Mary receives from the Holy See the responsibility of evangelizing Oceania. Jean-Claude Colin, freshly elected Superior General, will eventually send 117 missionaries there. These men record what they observe, they keep their logbooks, they say how they are received, they state the difficulties they meet, they record the works they undertake ... in short, they write.

"The publishing of this anthology ... is truly an event. ... It will be found, that these letters talk a lot about gifts, conversions, missionary instructions, the navy, or the Protestants. But one shall also discover, which is less obvious, that they are often about language and customs, death and marriage, and very little about martyrdom."

Claude Prudhomme, Professor of contemporary history, Lyon, France



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