



MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2025 VOL. 76 NO. 1

MARIST MISSION CENTRE (MMC)

Managing both:

The Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)

ABN 91 030 510 250

The Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)

ABN 87 382 823 140

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a Holy Year and has invited us to be Pilgrims of Hope. A Holy Year is celebrated every 25 years and it is an invitation to all of us to reflect, renew and celebrate our faith and call to mission.

The symbol for the Holy Year has four characters in four different colours representing all people on earth travelling in a small boat on a journey in solidarity and fraternity with each other. They have the cross for a sail and are held gently by the anchor of hope.

Hope enables us to dream of a future. The gift of hope opens our hearts and minds to see beyond our present challenges and enables us to work towards creating a new heaven and a new earth.

The motto of the Marist Mission Centre is 'Sustaining Hope' - this motto continues to inspire the programs and activities of MMC.

In Thailand, our Marist Mission Mission at Ranong has established education and health programs for refugees from Myanmar. These refugees are escaping the violence of war in their home country only to experience discrimination and exclusion all levels of society in Thailand. This tension places the families and especially the young at a significant disadvantage.

Education and health are the foundations of a life with hope. This is especially true for refugees. The MAF Health programs provide basic health care as well as assistance with medication, support and translation services for HIV patients, networking with Thai and Social Security Services, Palliative and Pastoral care.

Also, in the Solomon Islands, the parishioners at St. Mary's Parish Church Tanagai have celebrated the blessing of their new parish church. This was a remarkable effort by the local community in supporting the project with both workers and funding. MMC was a generous supporter of this project.

The Marist Fathers welcomes Fr. Tony Kennedy as our new District Leader in Australia. We thank Fr. Tony Corcoran sm for his support of MMC and leadership of our Marist District over the last seven years.

With our thanks for your generous and kind hearted support.

Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer



Above: Holy Year Jubilee
2025 Symbol



Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer

To Donate visit MMC Website:
www.maristmissions.com



THAILAND — REFUGEES — EDUCATION — A GIFT OF HOPE

MARIST ASIA FOUNDATION — RANONG

The on-going war and violence in Myanmar is a daily threat to the lives and safety of the people. They live in fear for their lives and their children. They have escaped the war in their country only to live as refugees in Thailand where they experience discrimination and disadvantage due to their status as refugees.

Student Education: The Marist Asia Foundation (MAF) in Ranong Thailand provides accredited and non-formal education programs. The accredited curriculum includes learning English, Thai and Burmese languages, Social Studies, Science, Computer and Mathematics. These education pathways programs open the doors to employment, higher education opportunities and a future with hope.



Above: Learning; a gift of life



Above: MAF Staff—Fr Arnold Gaferio sm MAF Leader, is in the second row on the right at the end.

Staff Development: Staff Development and Continuing Teaching Skills Training of staff and Volunteers is a key feature of the program. These seminars include topics such as: Teacher Professional Development, Teaching & Learning, Child Safety, School Leadership, Internet Safety etc.

Home Visits: Home visits to talk with students and their parents or guardians is a much valued feature of the education program. Special care is given to students experiencing challenges at school including poor attendance or school results, disruptive behavior in class or not engaging socially with other students.



Above: Supporting each other

THAILAND — REFUGEES — HEALTH — A GIFT OF LIFE

MARIST ASIA FOUNDATION — RANONG

Poverty and Health are daily issues experienced by refugees in Ranong. Refugees are extremely vulnerable to both discrimination and exploitation as they do not have the correct 'permits' to be in the country.

Refugees are working in high risk and low paid jobs and are often exploited by employers with no right of reply. Some of the men work in the off-shore fishing industry where they spend weeks at sea working in demanding situations.

To cope with this situation, they are at risk of taking drugs, sharing needs, catching HIV/Aids and then infecting their partners when they return to shore.



Left: HIV blood testing in collaboration with other NGO's and Ranong Hospital

Home & Family Visits: Home & Family visits are a key feature of the program as families do not have access to government health and welfare support services. Family visits enable the staff to provide care and support in dealing with very personal and family issues and to ensure that medication is used correctly and referrals are made to other services.



Above: Home visits with medical checks

A COMMUNITY AT WORK AND PRAYER

SOLOMON ISLANDS - ST MARY'S PARISH TANAGAI - NEW CHURCH

On the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Archbishop Chris Cardone OP blessed and opened the newly built church of the Holy Name of Mary at Tanagai, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Tanagai is a parish on the northern outskirts of Honiara and also includes people from surrounding villages and rural communities. The building of the church was an extraordinary example of local leadership and community participation.



Above: Celebrating with Hope

The project was under the leadership of the Parish priest Fr. Jacob Abu, the Parish President, Parish Council and the one employed builder. The local villagers all took turns to provide the labour for the church on different days of the week. Most of the funds were raised by the local community with the generous support of the Marist Mission Centre, benefactors and friends.

The blessing and opening of the church was a wonderful parish community celebration as it was also First Holy Communion day for the children. The church is located right next to the ocean and captures the image of a ship with a statue of Mary at the entrance and a painting of Jesus around the tabernacle.



Above: Archbishop Cardone and Fr Jacob Abu SM on his right



Above: Mary—Mother of Hope



'Gift in your Will'
Supporting the Marist
Mission Centre

Postal: Locked Bag 5002, GLADESVILLE NSW 1675

Office: 3 Mary St, Hunters Hill NSW 2110, Australia

P: +61 2 9844 2275 **F:** 02 9816 1737

E: admin@maristmissions.com

Visit MMC website for more information: www.maristmissions.com