



MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER
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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

SETTING HEARTS AND LIVES FREE

At the beginning of the ministry of Jesus, people were wondering who he was and so Jesus said: 'tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.'

We see the practical expression of the good news in the Solomon Islands, Philippines, and Bangladesh where the lives of young people are radically changed and set free. They are changed from isolation, discrimination, disadvantage, and poverty into young people who can now live with their hearts set free.

Br. Charlie Randle sm has retired from by his bike riding after covering thousands of kilometres to support our Cycling for Children Appeal. We thank Br Charlie for his tireless and generous support of our missions.

Fr. Paul Glynn sm, missionary to Japan, prolific writer and good friend and counsellor to many died peacefully on 23rd of January and was farewelled by a large congregation from Holy Name of Mary Church Hunters Hill. We acknowledge his friendship and support of MMC.

MMC takes this opportunity to welcome, Fr. Gavin Foster sm as the Leader of the Marist Fathers District of Australia. Fr. Gavin spent many years working in the prison ministry in the Philippines.

MMC invites donors to have the Newsletter sent by email rather than post, please let us know if you would like to take up this option

With our thanks and prayers for your kind hearted generosity and support.

Fr Paul Sullivan sm

BANGLADESH: ANONDO NEER

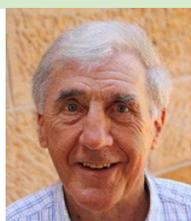
Anondo Neer is a centre of care, dignity and hope for children and young adults with disabilities, as well as for their families. People with a disability experience disadvantage and discrimination within the culture and their mothers are often blamed for the disability.

Families are closely supported and are actively involved in their children's development, strengthening care within their homes. Sister Suporna SMSM writes in her annual program report that 52 participants were provided with direct support and more than 200 with indirect support.



Young girl happy to receive her walker for the first time

AMCOA PROJECT



Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer

To Donate visit MMC Website:
www.maristmissions.com



SOLOMON ISLANDS :

'OUT OF SILENCE INTO SELF RELIANCE'

Eight students at the San Isidro Centre, Solomon Islands for young people with hearing impairment, have reached a milestone worth celebrating. Their graduation last November marks their transformation into confident, skilled, and resilient individuals ready to take on new challenges.

Deafness is a significant problem in the Solomon Islands and young people with hearing impairment experience discrimination and exclusion especially in the remote villages. Dorothy Mackellar once said: 'that blindness cuts you off from seeing – but deafness cuts you off from people'.

These young people have gained practical living skills such as agriculture, farming, sewing, cooking and selling their produce at local markets. They are now able to reclaim their dignity and participate in the daily activities of their local communities. The Centre with the support of MMC is now developing a Solomon Island sign language. This will be a major achievement for the whole nation.



Above: Eight Happy Graduates and Parish Council members

PHILIPPINES: BALAY PASILUNGAN

Balay Pasilungan is a Centre for young boys who, due to poverty and family challenges such as alcohol and violence, have been living on the streets where they are at risk of further exploitation and abuse. The centre's program reports that they supported 59 boys at their live-in program and 14 at their family integration and independent living program.

Fr. Gil Casio writes: Marco is an eleven year old boy whose mother and brother were homeless and moved frequently from one place to another. As a way to survive he was forced to beg for food and money. He is slowly gaining confidence and showing remarkable improvement in his overall development.



Above: All smile with a 'thumbs up'



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Mission Centre**

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