



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

HEALING WITH HOPE - IN GOD'S LOVE

Pope Leo XIV at his Inauguration Mass said: "the heart of Christianity is God's love, which makes us all brothers and sisters." He encouraged everyone to build a Church that is open, welcoming, and full of love for the world: "This is the hour for love."

Healing with hope involves more than offering a 'hand out' to those in need. It requires addressing the underlying causes of poverty. Addressing the causes of injustice and poverty is a critical component of the mission statement of MMC.

The building of a new classroom block in the southern part of Bougainville implies more than just replacing classrooms built with bush materials. Over the last 100 years the Autonomous Region of Bougainville has experienced many challenges; including occupation, WWII, invasive mining for resources; especially gold, political and tribal conflicts and civil war. The primary school building opens the way for their children to further education and employment. The school serves as a centre for families to meet, gather and to share in a common project. It becomes a place of healing and hope in the local community.

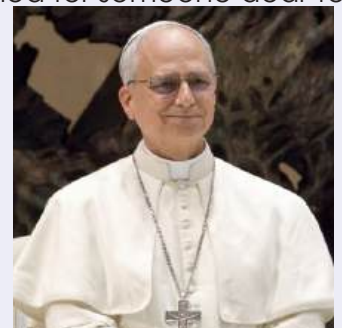
The Centre for 'girls at risk' at Balay Banaag has a well-developed program. It is much more than a safe place for girls to live. The program includes attending the local high school, basic life skills training and a therapeutic program including play, story and art therapy. The Spiritual program invites the girls to 'recognise God's light and love in their lives.'

At the Marist Parish on the edge of Port Moresby, migrants from remote villages are now living in a safe and welcoming community with the opportunity to build a future for their families. At the Nazareth Retreat Centre in Suva, parish groups and individuals have the opportunity to deepen their lives in God's love.

In November we traditionally remember our dearly departed family members and friends. You are most welcome to have a Mass offered by a Marist missionary during that period for someone dear to you.

MMC is most grateful for your on-going and kind-hearted generous support of our Marist Missions in these challenging times.

Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer



Above: Pope Leo XIV



Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer

To Donate visit MMC Website:
www.maristmissions.com



THE OLD AND THE NEW

BOUGAINVILLE - ST PETER TURUTAI PRIMARY SCHOOL

This project has the support of the Cycling for Children Appeal 2024. Parish Priest, Fr. Robert Taria sm is pleased to report on the progress of the new school building at St Peter Turutai Primary School. This village is located at Buin in the southern end of the island of Buka in Bougainville. Progress on the building is slow due to the remoteness of the community, access to the supplies and materials and the challenging conditions of the roads.



Above: New Classroom under construction



There are 180 students at the school and the new building will cater for students in year 7 & 8. The new double story classroom building will transform the school and be a beacon of hope for the surrounding villages. Many of the students walk long distances from their villages to school.

Left: Students outside one of the original classrooms

A commitment to education fosters a new sense of life in the community and is a way of addressing the underlying causes of poverty and disadvantage especially in a country that has experienced internal conflicts and civil war. The Marist community in Bougainville is most grateful for your support.



Above: Fr Robert Taria sm

HEALING WITH HOPE

PHILIPPINES - BALAY BANAAG

Balay Banaag is a Centre conducted by the Marist Sisters for young girls who are at a significant disadvantage due to the 'at risk' situation of their families background. Their mothers are also the victims of poverty and exploitation.

The Centre provides a safe place for the young girls to live and learn and to break the cycle of poverty, exploitation and abuse. A significant component of the program is the on-going connection with family. This includes family visits to the Centre and a re-integration program with family members where possible.

The Centre is like a home for these young girls where they can live, learn and grow. Over the years, the Centre has developed excellent programs to enhance the skills and confidence of the girls.

All the girls participate in a social integration program and attend the local high school for their formal education. Some of the girls have achieved high marks at school and are now attending tertiary education programs. Education and social integration are foundational to breaking the cycle of poverty.

A special feature at the Centre is the Basic Skills and Therapeutic Program. There is a well-established program for learning the basic skills of self-care, house cleaning, group living, landscaping, gardening and social outings. The girls also participate in personal awareness and development programs via activities such as play therapy and story-telling.



Above: A safe place to live and learn



Above: High School



Above: Play Therapy



Above: Story of my life

ON THE EDGE OF PORT MORESBY

The Marist Fathers conduct the Sacred Heart Parish on the edge of Port Moresby. The parish, established to serve internal migrants, has quickly grown into a parish of two to three thousand people. The parish continues to receive a large percentage of displaced people and all are made welcome. The parish is like a new village for the people – it has become a safe community.

This MFIM project is for the building of a parish hall. The Hall will serve parishioners for a variety of activities including seminars, youth and adult programs, Sunday school, meetings, sacramental programs, social gatherings, choir practices and as an extension during Sunday masses. The project will be supported by local parish funding.



Right: The blessing of the building site

NAZARETH PRAYER CENTRE - FIJI

Sr Marlene Giblin sm writes: "For nearly three decades, the Nazareth Prayer Centre at Wailekutu, Fiji has provided a place of prayer where all who come have the opportunity to deepen and grow in their relationship with God in a serene and peaceful environment." The Centre also has an outreach program and conducts prayer and meditation groups in the local schools.



Right: The relaxing gardens of the centre

NOVEMBER MASS REQUESTS

In a few months' time, we enter the month of November when we traditionally remember our dearly departed family members and friends. You are most welcome to have a Mass offered by a Marist Missionary during that period for a special departed family member or friend.



**Gifts in Your Will
Supporting the Marist
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