

# 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



MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER  
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## With Kind Hearts and a Generous Spirit

Challenging times can bring out the best in people. This is the story of MMC over 72 years and especially over the last twelve months.

We have all witnessed the kind and generous hearts of our fellow Australians over the past year as we faced drought, fires, floods, Covid 19 and their impact on the employment and financial realities of families and the business community.

MMC donors have been especially kind and generous during these challenging times. The Cycling for Children Appeal 2021 for the building of a classroom block at St. Raphael's Elementary School at Tabago, Buin, Bougainville has been very generously supported.

We continue to hear sad stories from the Myanmar refugees in Thailand. MMC funds a hostel program for young refugees and an education and health program in Ranong. Some of these programs have been disrupted due to the uncertain and violent times in their country. The refugees from Myanmar attending our program in Ranong Thailand are directly across the border from Myanmar and these young people are deeply concerned for their families and relatives back in Myanmar.

On the back page of this Newsletter is an overview of the programs and activities supported by your donations in 2020. The AMCOA Audit Financial Statements for 2020 are available on the MMC website.

As always MMC welcomes your feedback and comments.

We celebrated the feast day of St Peter Chanel on April 28th, a Marist priest and first martyr of the South Pacific. His life and commitment to the people of Futuna is an inspiration to all who support our Marist missions.

With my thanks and blessings.

Fr Paul Sullivan sm  
MMC Executive Officer



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To Donate visit MMC Website:

[www.maristmissions.com](http://www.maristmissions.com)

## Bangladesh: Anondo Neer—Dakar

— AMCOA Project —

When Iasmine's daughter Sangita was born she was found to be severely disabled, her husband blamed Iasmine and beat her. To save her life and the life of her daughter, she left her husband and found her way to the safety of Anondo Neer.

Here she was able to watch and learn from a volunteer physiotherapist how to give exercises to her daughter. The Physiotherapist noticed Iasmine's hands on skills with her daughter and other children and encouraged her to develop her gift.

Iasmine has now completed a Certificate of Competence as a Physiotherapist Aide and during Covid times with the Centre closed has been going to the homes of the disabled to continue their therapy.



Above: The gift of transformation

## Philippines: Balay Banaag—Davao City

— AMCOA Project —



Balay Banaag is a Centre conducted by the Marist Sisters for young girls who are at risk of exploitation and abuse because of the poverty and disadvantage of their mother's situation in life.

The girls live in a safe place and learn about self-care, human rights and dignity. This young girl has spent a day session with her class mates and the Social Worker enjoying activities. She is now beginning to trust herself and others.

Left: Learning can be fun

## Rome: Our Marist Future

— MFIM Project —

Our Marist seminarians from various parts of the world now complete their studies for the priesthood in Rome.

This enables them to strengthen their sense of Marist identity for mission.

They are supported by (second row L- R) Fr. Larry Duffy sm, Fr. Ben Mckenna sm, and Fr. Tony Kennedy sm who is in charge of our International Formation program.



Above: Our hope for the future

## Thailand: Marist Asia Foundation - Ranong

The country of Myanmar has experienced many years of tension and conflict and in recent months a military coup. The division and suffering of families in the country and between ethnic groups has caused many families to become refugees in the border city of Ranong in Thailand.

Marist Asia Foundation was established by the Marist Fathers as an outreach to this refugee community in Ranong. There are two sections of this ministry – a HIV/AIDS Health program and an educational program.

Ranong is a major fishing port where international fishing companies exploit Burmese migrants working on fishing boats in harsh conditions over long periods at sea. The men often use drugs and share needles to cope and as a result develop HIV/AIDS. On return to port, they pass the virus onto their wives.



**Above and Left:  
A welcome visit during COVID**

The MAF Health Team conducts family visits to provide HIV Testing & Support, health education, counselling, medical support, nutrition and especially care and compassion.

Last year the team conducted 1017 home visits and trained 4 local leaders as Support Workers.

Glenn & Sue Roff from Australia have just completed 12 months as volunteers at the Centre in Ranong supporting the education of young Burmese refugees.

Both are retired teachers with a wealth of experience in teaching and school leadership.

At the beginning of their time they were faced with the challenges of Covid and at the end of their year they walked with these same students whose people experienced the drama of a coup in their home country.

Glenn & Sue helped students complete courses from Australian Catholic University in a 'Diploma of Liberal Arts' and a 'Certificate in Teaching & Learning'.



**Above: Growing our future**

## Bougainville : Cycling for Children 2021

Thanks to the very generous support of our MMC donors work has already commenced on the building of a classroom block at St. Raphael's Elementary School, Tabago, Buin.

The MMC Flyer for this project was mailed to MMC donors in February and work commenced in April – congratulations to you and to Fr. George.

Fr. George Baruka sm is working with the skills and resources in the local community in preparing the ground work for the new classroom.



**Above: Local community hard at work**

| MMC - Marist International Mission Projects 2020<br>Generous hearts supporting projects |                   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|
| Bangladesh  | \$ 34,678         | Educational Assistance                      |
| Cambodia  | \$ 55,000         | Marist Solidarity - Health and Education    |
| Cameroon  | \$ 9,067          | Educational Assistance                      |
| Fiji  | \$ 26,759         | Community Education                         |
| Japan   | \$ 1,205          | Community Support                           |
| Myanmar   | \$ 20,750         | Educational Assistance                      |
| Ocenia and Rome   | \$ 390,000        | Seminary Support and Educational assistance |
| Philippines   | \$ 83,850         | Balay Pasilungan and Balay Banaag programs  |
| Samoa   | \$ 30,000         | Educational Assistance                      |
| Solomon Islands   | \$ 80,204         | Community Education and Support             |
| Tanzania  | \$ 29,500         | Educational Assistance                      |
| Thailand  | \$ 90,000         | Marist Asia Foundation—Health and Education |
| Vanuatu   | \$ 5,500          | Educational Assistance                      |
| <b>Total Project Funding</b>  | <b>\$ 856,513</b> |   |
| Funding by:   |                   |   |
| Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)                                       |                   | \$ 339,582                                  |
| Marist Fathers Overseas Mission (MFIM)  |                   | \$ 516,931                                  |



**Donations over \$2.00  
to AMCOA  
are tax deductible**

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