

Marist Mission Centre (MMC)

Managing both:

The Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)

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MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER

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SUPPORTING OUR NEAR NEIGHBOURS SOLOMON ISLANDS AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Society of Mary as a newly formed Religious Congregation was given approval by the Vatican in Rome in 1836 to come into existence on the understanding that we would become missionaries to Oceania.

Since that time many Marists from Europe, USA, Australia and New Zealand with the support of the Marist Sisters, Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary and lay missionaries have generously volunteered to be missionaries.

Marist missionaries have been present in the Solomon Islands since these early days including several who were martyrs at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Wainoni Bay. WWII saw the Solomon Islands being a significant theatre of war for our Australian soldiers and our Marist missionaries.

The Solomon Islands have been in the news in recent times including the recent commemorative event of the battle of Guadalcanal, as different countries identify the Solomon Islands as being strategically placed in Oceania. Our near neighbours in PNG are also struggling with a health crisis and political challenges.

MMC donors will be pleased to know that MMC continues to actively support the empowerment and community development of our near neighbours. There are special projects for people with Hearing Impairment, an Education & Training Centre for Women and a Refuge Centre for Women. MMC is supporting parishes with the upgrading of church and school buildings.

As we move closer to the month of November we remember our dearly departed family members and friends on All Souls Day. You are most welcome to have a Mass offered by a Marist missionary during the month of November for your departed special family member or friend.

With my thanks and prayers for your generous and kind hearted support.

Fr Paul Sullivan sm

MMC Executive Officer



Above: Port Moresby
Marist Parish



Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer

To Donate visit MMC Website:
www.maristmissions.com



**RURAL TRAINING CENTRE
EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE FOR WOMEN**

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI's) are a local Congregation of Religious Sisters founded in the Solomon Islands with the support of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM Sisters). Sr. Anna Ngosana DMI is the leader of this Centre for women.

Sr. Anna and her Sisters are acutely aware of the needs of the local women. This is a live-in Education & Training Centre for women providing education and skills training with a view to future employment. Young children can stay with their mothers at the Centre.

Skills and Employment offer women a new sense of independence and dignity. Women are empowered to escape the cycle of poverty and at times a cycle of violence.

The Solomon Islands are facing challenging times. Women will play a critical role in the future direction of their country. Education and skills are the foundations for dignity and leadership in the community and country.

MMC is a major funding body in partnership with the local government authority to build a better future for women and the whole community.

Sr Anna is most grateful for the support from MMC and donors.



Above: Sr Anna - a woman with a vision



Above: Education—Building our future

OUT OF THE GREAT SILENCE SAN ISIDRO CARE CENTRE FOR HEARING IMPAIRMENT

Sr Maria Fe Rollo of the Marist Missionary Sisters of the Society said deaf youth were often “the least and the last” in their communities, they are simply “left out” of community life.

Deafness is one of the most common disabilities reported in Solomon Islands, leading to high levels of poverty-related diseases such as malaria, meningitis, rubella and otitis media.

Hearing Impairment can lead to isolation and exclusion from the community and in some cases to on-going blame and shame. Sr. Maria smsm is the Team leader at San Isidro, a Centre for Education and Skills Training for young people and adults with Hearing Impairment.

MMC is funding a Solar Power project at the Centre to enable all the programs and equipment at the live-in Training Centre to work at full strength. Power for lights at nights offers safety from threats of violence.

All participants are taught basic agricultural skills, the men are taught trade skills and the women are taught textile skills. Participants then sell their produce at the local market.

A unique program at the Centre is the development of a local sign language with the help of professional teachers from Australia. Family members now want to learn sign language.



Above: Sr Maria—Hearing the needs of the people.



Above: Recent Graduates - Out of the Great Silence



Above: 12 Solar Panels Installed

BOUGAINVILLE

EDUCATING OUR FUTURE: CHRIST THE KING PARISH—PRIMARY SCHOOL

Fr. Stephen Posirou sm together with the local community at Christ the King Parish, Hantoa, in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are committed to education for the future of their local community and region.

Bougainville is in the process of recovering from the devastation of conflict and fighting as well as health, economic and political challenges. Primary School education is the foundation of a good educational system building a better future for Bougainville.

MMC has funded the building of a double story classroom block - with two classrooms on the ground floor and another two on the upper level. The primary school caters for over 200 students from years 3-8. The students then move on to Secondary School or Vocational Colleges.

Education is a pathway for the future development of Bougainville, as it is the foundation for community development and provides young people with the confidence, skills and opportunity for a future with hope.

Fr. Stephen is most grateful for the generosity of MMC kindhearted supporters.



Above: Fr Stephen sm



Above: Four new classrooms



Above: New classroom
New attitudes



**Gifts in Your Will
Supporting the
Marist Mission Centre**

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