



# NEWS

# BULLETIN

May, 2024

Missionary and synodally in heart and mind

## VISITATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA SECTOR, 29th April—4th May.



Fr. Lutoviko Manu arrived at Port Moresby on the 29th April to begin the visitation of the confreres there and those in Bougainville. Unfortunately, ill health forced him to return to Fiji and

was therefore not able to visit Bougainville. At Hohola Parish, Chris Hifo is the Parish Priest and assisted by Bro. Andrea Naleba. Chris has set up a group of mostly retired civil servants seen here in the photo to teach catechism after Sunday Mass. There is confession every Tuesday, Benediction every Thursday and Rosaries in the evening. It is heartening to see a good turn up of people to these prayer times. Andrea teaches at nearby La Salle Technical School and is very much involved in parish ministries. Both the De la Salle Brothers and members of the parish council are very much appreciative of the work of Chris and Andrea in the parish and in the schools. At Kanosia Parish which belongs to the Diocese of Bereina, Vaioleti Tui'one is the Parish Priest and also Vicar General of the diocese. He is assisted by Fr. Ambrose Kakatai. At the time of the visitation they were both occupied with Parish Council meeting under the trees and also the gathering of the Catholic Women's Group. Vai and Ambrose are very happy that their Poultry Project has been approved and so those in Hohola can place their orders now for eggs and chicken.



## WELCOMING FR. IGNACE TO FIJI SECTOR

The Parish Priest, Fr. Mikaele Marisi and parishioners of Holy Eucharist Parish at Laucala, Suva officially welcomed Fr. Ignace Milie with a Kava ceremony at the parish hall. Ignace is from New Caledonia and has recently been appointed to the Sector of Fiji to assist the parish priest. He resides and part of the community at the Sector House. Ignace has been working in New Caledonia, Vanuatu and in the Solomon Islands. Welcome Ignace to your new mission land.



## INTERIM RECTOR OF PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINARY



The Episcopal Conference of the Pacific has appointed Fr. 'Okusitino 'Ulupano as Interim Rector of the Pacific Regional Seminary of St. Peter Chanel in Suva, Fiji. With the appointment of the Rector, Fr. Simon Mani as Bishop-elect of Tarawa and Nauru, his tenure ends. Since 2012,

Tino has served at PRS as lecturer, moderator, pastoral year coordinator and in 2019 was appointed Vice Rector. Tino takes up this role until a permanent Rector is appointed for PRS. Congratulations Tino!

## ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- ◇ The Provincial have just returned from the ARC Meeting in Rome and a visitation of the International Novitiate in Davao, Philippines.
- ◇ The Council of the Province will meet in Suva from 24th to 28th June.

**MARIST COLLEGE RETREAT—Prayer Centre, Wailekutu, 12th—19th May.**

Marist College seminarians in Suva, Fiji were so blessed to have Fr. Chris Skinner from New Zealand to preach their retreat which was held at the Prayer Centre, Wailekutu. The feedback from the seminarians were very positive and full of praises for Chris for leading them in a very prayerful way to reflect on their life's journey and their Marist calling. The retreat end in the morning of Sunday 19th and in the evening, Chris was farewelled at Marist College before returning to NZ the next day. From Oceania, Vinaka vakalevu Chris.



**VISITATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGATE AND NOVITIATE**

While attending the ARC Meeting in Rome, the Provincial had time to meet our seminarians at the International Theologate. They are Lesley, Hansford, Charles, Peter and Manu. They have just started their four months Summer break. Some of them will head back home while others will engage in pastoral work. In Rome too, Kiade met up with Mika Tuilau and Denis Levi both doing further studies and Mika Misinale who was the Chaplain for the Marist Brothers Renewal at Manziana. From Rome, the Provincial flew to Davao in the Philippines to visit our men in the novitiate.



**GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE CHURCH OF HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH, SUVA. FIJI**

On Holy Trinity Sunday, the parishioners of the Holy Eucharist at Laucala Bay, Suva began a one week celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Church of the Holy Eucharist since its blessing by Archbishop George Pearce on 21st April, 1974. The Guest of Honour and main celebrant on the opening day was Fr. Milikiade, the Marist Provincial of Oceania. The original idea of establishing a new parish in the area was to cater for the Catholic students from Pacific island countries attending the University of the South Pacific. Archbishop George Pearce entrusted the parish to the Marist Fathers and Brothers and in May 1969 Fr. Peter Carde was appointed as the first Parish Priest. The first Mass was celebrated at the School of Education building at USP on the 2nd November, 1969 by Fr. Carde with the help of the Corpus Christi students' choir. In mid-July 1970, Archbishop Pearce acquired the land where the Church, the Marist Regional House and Bethany Hostel are currently located. Fundraising started locally and in New Zealand and in October 1973 the work on the new church started led by eight carpenters from Lakeba where Fr. Carde had worked before. Many families volunteered their time and resources to help in the building of the church. In a survey done by Fr. Michael Bransfield there were 120 Catholic families at the beginning of the parish.



**PREPARATION FOR NEW CLASSROOMS AND STAFF QUARTERS—WAINONI**

Dylan, Lutoviko, Andrew and the community of Queen of Martyr’s parish in the island of Makira, Solomon Islands are overjoyed and grateful to the Marist Mission Centre in Australia for the continuous financial help to build more classrooms and staff quarters for the school in the parish. They wasted no times in hiring heavy machineries to begin clearing and digging. The new school started in 2018 and it’s the second Catholic school in the island since the first school was established in 1912 and closed in 1928.



**FAREWELLING FR. AUSTIN RIP**

Our Marist confreres in Bougainville gathered at Hahela Parish, Buka to farewell Fr. Austin Magra (53) who passed away recently. Here they gathered to pray the Office before the Mass of the Resurrection. The hearse continued from Hahela to Lemanumanu, his parish for burial. May Our Blessed Mother lead you Fr. Austin to eternal joy.



**LAUNCHING YEAR OF THE PARISH**

Responding to Pope Francis calls for a Synodal Church, the Diocese of Bougainville launched the Year of the Parish with a theme: ‘Parish in Communion, Participation and Mission.’ Here the Marist confreres in Buin, Frs. Wesley, Taria and Posirou began the synodal process of journeying with the people through listening, discerning and participation for mission at Turiboiru Parish.



**RECONCILIATION—HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH**

A moving part of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Holy Eucharist Church was the presentation of ‘tabua’ (whale tooth) in the Fijian culture by the parishioners to the Provincial of Oceania seeking forgiveness for any harm done to the Marist confreres who have been working in the parish. In return, the Provincial also presented a ‘tabua’ on behalf of the Marists and ask forgiveness of the parishioners. As Eugene O’Neill aptly puts it: “We are all born broken. We live by mending. The grace of God is the glue.”

