

OCEANIA NEWS BULLETIN

One Heart and Mind for life and mission



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Covid-19 Pandemic in Fiji (as of 29 June 2021)



With a total of 3726 covid cases since the April 2021 outbreak, 15 deaths, a 7-day daily average of 250 cases, and a 7.9% test positivity rate and rising which now exceeds the WHO's 5% threshold, it means that the outbreak has become uncontrollable.

An underlying cause of this situation has been identified by Permanent Secretary of Health as a lack of public compliance. A total 24-hour lockdown over 28 days is therefore out of the question. Furthermore, thousand of Fijians living in communities most vulnerable to the virus including the overcrowded settlements would face socioeconomic catastrophe if there is total lockdown and the virus would continue to circulate within these communities.



A mitigating strategy is the vaccination drive. At this stage there is about 46% of adults who have received one dose and about 7% fully vaccinated. A fully vaccinated population is the only medically proven way towards the Fijians experiencing freedom in a new normal. The accelerated vaccination drive is greatly enhanced by the assistance of the Australian and New Zealand governments.



On the same token, the Archdiocese of Suva and Caritas Fiji have begun Covid-19 appeal and are now distributing food rations and wash kits worth FJD 100 to at least 500 families and are continuing. Other Catholic relief services, individuals, families, Catholic groups, religious congregations and parishes are generously donating. Currently, the Fiji's poverty rate is at 30%.

Pictures show the Vicar General of the Archdiocese, Rev Fr Sulio Turagakavici (top) helping in the distribution of food rations and cash to vulnerable families

Partnership in mission



Perhaps this is an expression of the 2017 General Chapter Statements and Decisions, #9.d "Seek 'partners in mission', most obviously from within the Marist Family...". Seminarian Leonard Amora sm, in the past 6 months, have been living in community with the Marist Sisters and fulfilling his Marist Mission Experience (MME) year. This is a first for the seminarians in formation and hopefully, not be the last. There are 3 other MME students, one in the Tutu Rural Training Center's community, one in the Holy Eucharist parish community, Laucala Bay, and one in the school community of St John's Cawaci, Levuka.

Council of the Province

The Provincial has called a virtual Council of the Province for 2021 which will begin on 10th of July. There will be 6 sittings fortnightly until 18th of September.



Remember our sick
Fr Seluini 'Akau'ola
Fr Emeliano Lasaqa
Fr James Mokela
Fr Jean Rodet



Queen of the Martyrs Parish—Wainoni Bay—Solomon Islands



A group of the parishioners of the Queen of Martyrs Parish, Wainoni Bay with their parish priest, Fr Richard Harui sm, joined to continue promoting the Year of the Laity which was declared by the Conference of Bishops for Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

The Year of the Laity is on its third year running with the theme, "Lay people sent for Service / Mission." Promoting the mission and service of the laity is to take the Paschal Candle which represents Christ the Light to every family in the parish. The Year of the Laity will end on the Feast of Christ the King in 2021.

Six new classrooms

The parish school is deeply indebted to the Australian Marist Solidarity and Marist Mission Centre for further project grants to build six new classrooms in the newly established Queen of Martyrs Secondary School. The school was established through the initiative of the previous parish priest, Fr Patelisio Taufa sm and the parish community as a response to the educational needs of their children. The children showed their appreciation by eagerly helping with the work.

AROB DAY FOR TURIBOIRU CHURCH, BUIN



Fr Dylan Hatobu sm with the Bougainville community in Brisbane celebrated the Bougainville Day on 15th June. Funds raised in the celebration was donated towards the building of the new church of the Turiboiru parish, Buin, Bougainville.



Cardinal Mafi & Fr Anaua Finau sm with the confirmed of the St Ann & Joachim parish, Tonga.



The new church of St Theresa parish, Lepea in Samoa. Three years later with hard work by Fr Patolo Matiasi sm and parishioners have finally come close to completion