



**Kia Ora, Greetings, Ni sa bula vinaka, Kam na mauri, Talofa Lava**

## **Greetings to our Marist Community of Aotearoa and Pacific Isles**

Dear Friends,

Across the world there has been a host of Bi-centenary celebrations and here in the Pacific we have honoured the living spirit of Marcellin Champagnat in many creative ways. Let me share with you some of these recent celebrations and give notice of gatherings to be held before the end of this year.

In Fiji Archbishop Peter Loy Chong (white) joins hands with the line of Pacifica Brothers dressed in distinctive blue shirts to cut the Bi-centenary cake following the Jubilee Mass in the Suva Cathedral. You may recognise Brothers Sam Eathorne (Greymouth), Kees van der Weert



(Christchurch) and Peter Horide (Henderson) among the youthful Brothers of the Pacific.

During June the Brothers of Lower Hutt hosted Cardinal Dew and Marist friends from our schools and sporting clubs to an evening meal at the Angus Inn. Brother Douglas addressed the gathering thanking them for promoting our

Marist ideals while Cardinal John paid tribute to the Brothers for their search for alternate pathways in following Marcellin's dream in the changing world of today.

Before the year is over there are a number of celebrations to take place. They will be listed at the end of this Newsletter.

### **Marist Alternative Learning Centre**

Let me introduce you to Ms Kim Fraser. For the past seventeen year's our Marist Brothers have managed an Alternate Learning Centre in the industrial area of Glenfield on the North Shore of Auckland. This is a special centre for secondary aged students who have special needs. Our Centre Leader is Kim Fraser who has three assistants for the fourteen pupils currently in attendance. There is a waiting list, for Marist offers to each student, individual attention in a warm and secure family atmosphere. Many desperate parents have seen how effective Marist has been for their children as it offers them some reassurances for a brighter future.

Just to give you an example or two. There is Alex with Autism Spectrum Disorder who has been excluded from mainstream schools and for eighteen months just sat at home frustrated. Our whanau-style centre welcomed him and today he wakes up looking forward to the day's learning activities.

And there is Jane with severe social anxieties. Marist has been ideal for her and she is out of bed at six a.m. begging to be dropped off at the centre early.

Thanks to Charitable grants and your financial support our Centre is challenged to match the Ministries allocation of \$100,000 which is necessary to operate our Marist Centre each year. Marcellin, I'm sure, would be delighted as his dream lives on for those who struggle today.

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July Dr J Coleman, Minister of Health and Recreation attended the Centre's prize giving; from the left; Brother Colin, Dr Colman, Sam and Kim the Centre's Leader.



## **Kiwi Visitors to the L'Hermitage, France**

Dennis Reilly (St John's College, Hamilton, 1964) who is a member of our Marist Trust Board made sure to visit our Marist founding territory in France.

Here is Dennis with wife Trish, daughter Rohan and Son-in-law Matthew seated at the table which Marcellin made for his first Brothers two hundred years ago. The



first dreams of Marcellin and his followers were exchanged across this kitchen table. Little did they know what a global impact was to follow.

Dennis and family were welcomed by Brother Dion from Rwanda who gave them a guided tour of the cradle of the Marist institute, L'Hermitage, La Valla and other interesting Marist sites.

## **Marist Personality of the Month**

Mr Terence Horne from Invercargill taught as a Brother for several years and is now lecturing in Sports Science at AUT University. In the past five years Terry has led groups of volunteer senior lecturers to work alongside our young Marist Brothers in the Philippines, Samoa and Fiji. Terry being a lover of sport has drawn his inspiration from "The Men in Black" as he recalls the Brothers who taught him back in his Invercargill school days. He recognises how they wanted to make him aware of the character forming qualities when participating in a team environment. They were humble, uncluttered men and student focused and for many it developed strong Christian and human values.



This bi-centenary year gives him the opportunity to say thanks for what they have meant for him and many others. Terry is currently planning his next mission to assist our Asian students.

### **Featuring Brother Kieran Fenn**

As a young Brother, some forty years ago, Brother Kieran may have taught you at St John's in Hamilton or St Bernard's in Lower Hutt. However, Kieran's attraction to the Scriptures has led him, as a resourceful educator, to all parts of New Zealand, the Pacific Islands and in recent times, to China. Most of NZ Catholic papers and magazines carry articles of Kieran's Biblical research especially his insights into Mary's role as the mother of Christ and his earthly mission. Kieran is also a member



of the NZ Bible Society which he finds very enriching, as it opens up a host of ecumenical avenues well beyond his own faith experience. God's written word, Kieran would remind us, has great significance for our lives if we allow the time and space to dwell within its pages. You can see that Kieran is a busy man. He currently resides in community at Lower Hutt.

### **Volunteer to support Marist Brothers Champagnat Trust administration, communication and fundraising activities**



An invitation is to be emailed out to supporters seeking expressions of interest in the above position. Given the Marist Brothers' Head Office is based in Auckland it would be an advantage to reside in Auckland. However, if you are

interested please put your name forward.

### **Events in the Bi Centenary Calendar**

<https://maristbrothers.org.nz/news-blog/>

August

13<sup>th</sup> Cathedral Bi-centenary Mass in Wellington

!5<sup>th</sup> August Combined Marist Schools Mass at Showgrounds Auckland.

September

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Marist / Xavier weekend.

8 - 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Timaru gathering of Friends.

13<sup>th</sup> Former Brothers and Aspirants. Horse & Trap, Mt Eden 5.30p.m.

16<sup>th</sup> Religious and Clergy gather for lunch at Sacred Heart College.

November

Pilgrimage to Tuakau.

December

2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Greymouth reunion for Bi-centenary.

### **Contacts**

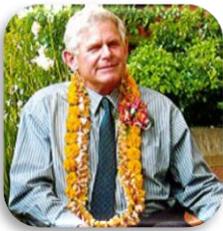
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With Thanks,

*John Metherell*

Chairman of Marist Brothers Champagnat Trust

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