



District of the Pacific Update

Champagnat Marist

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



1st May 2020

Current News Items

Prayer to St Peter Chanel

St Peter Chanel, you left your homeland to proclaim Jesus, Saviour of the world, to the peoples of Oceania. Guided by the Spirit of God, who is the strength of the gentle, you bore witness to love, even laying down your life. Grant that, like you, we may live our daily life in peace, in joy, and in fraternal love. May your prayer and example call forth from our midst many workers for the Gospel so that God's Kingdom may reach to the ends of the earth. Amen



District Dates

- May 1: Religious Brothers Day
- May 9: David McDonald returns to Auckland
- May 19: Renewal of Vows of Brothers Anitelea Fidow, Petero Navuku and Steve Vaea at MAPAC, Philippines
- May 21: Online Meeting of NZ Community Leaders
- May 22: Missioning of Anitelea Fidow from MAPAC, Philippines. Academic graduation at IFRS has been cancelled.
- May 26: NZMBTB Meeting
- May 28: Online Meeting of Marist Leaders of Asia and Oceania
- Extra - Attached Reports:**
- Pope Francis on Marial Devotion for the Month of May 2020
- Marist News From Rome
- Lay Marist Newsletter District of Asia

Brother Osmund Reports from Christchurch



We are all healthy down here with the locals watching over us. Gill, ex Catholic Cathedral College teacher does our shopping on Monday mornings.

Pam, our community member, rings each day. Our BUBBLE IS FIT AND WELL. Personally, I walk between 5 -8 Km each day, or if raining, have 20 classic car books to devour before this BUG CLEARS OFF!!

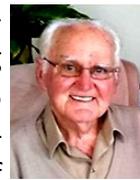
Blessing to you all and those within your Bubble,

On behalf of Pam, Alan, and Joseph,
Os

Brothers Desmond and Bernard report From Lower Hutt



At the present time we are experiencing being in a bubble and not being able to move out of it for at least 5 weeks. Esther Sadana is a Champagnat Marist who does the buying of



supplies. We have a list for the supplies, but we have to be flexible as far as community is concerned. There has to be give and take, as in all communities.

Bernard writes: I arrived in Lower Hutt one month before the start of level 4 lock-down. Doug left for Fiji 4 days later. I visited James twice a week and was getting used to my new parish and meeting parishioners, including some cousins, when Masses were suspended. I saw something of my new surroundings with trips to Eastbourne, Wainuiomata and Upper Hutt before being housebound. Staying safe at home is a good chance to reflect, a sort of Lenten retreat, a good chance to evaluate values and priorities, while trying to make sense of the present and future effects of Covid 19 on people and the economy. Like many people, I have noticed the marked decrease in air pollution and noise pollution. Boredom and stress have not been a problem.

Des and I have a relaxed lifestyle as obedient over 70's! We have enough bubble space, inside and out, with a pleasant exercise yard for autumn sunshine and fresh air, when not in our lockdown cells! It was good to experience a unique Anzac Day commemoration. Des and I both enjoy reading, listening to radio and music, watching TV programmes of interest, keeping in touch with family and friends by phone/email and sharing stories and experiences. Des has an amazing memory for people, places and events. At present we are unable to visit James, Doug is unable to return here, and Des is unable to work at the St Vincent de Paul shop in Petone. So, we look forward, like everyone, to levels 3, 2 and 1. Blessings of the Easter season to you all.



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Tena Koutou and Greeting to you all from Kaikohe—Brother Samisoni Reports

I hope this finds everyone well and safe during the time of lockdown. I am very happy to share a small update from the Mid-North community. It will be the first time this year you will hear from us, but it is good to let you know that we are doing well during the lockdown from COVID-19 virus. Lockdown cannot stop us from our everyday exercises, when the weather is fine. Playing Sudoku after breakfast to start our morning session for the day. Completing Word Wheel before our morning tea with taste homemade cheese scones and chocolate biscuits from our own bakery kitchen. And Word Builder is the last session before lunch time.

A Short Reflection we want to share with you

Mix together all the thoughts that you have heard during our time together. Add the yeast of your own desire-that strong desire to serve the poor. Moisten the mixture so that it will be drawn together in order to get it shaped for the moulding of daily life in the future. Knead the mixture well! Keep working at it until you feel that the lump has been saturated not only with your strong desire but with your determination to serve those in need. The dough will rise in proportion to the strength of your desire and the consistency of the mixture. Then bake your loaf! Have the temperature just right and wait and see what happens. Taste it-has it come up to your expectation? Share it and pass it on! That is your contribution to the society. If each of us bakes and share our loaf; the homemade bread will never run out. (From St Vincent de Paul Society)



The Three members of our Bubble Brothers Samisoni, Bryan and Martin



Bryan baking scones, apple pies and chocolate biscuits also making guava jelly from our guava tree.



“In Praise of Parents - Essential People” from Mr Kieran Fouhy, St Paul’s College

Who would have thought that our cousin Corona could have caused such a debate about the definition of being “Essential “! The supermarket stackers of shelves, the checkout workers, customs officers, truck drivers, marine engineers...all essential other professions we thought ..not so essential. Teachers recently were miffed that they were not regarded as essential...merely glorified child minders!

But in this lockdown the unsung real heroes and essential people are PARENTS. Parents who are cooped up with adolescent boys who need to move, boys who need to contact their friends and boys who crave routine and structure. Parents who are being teachers, workers, cops and guidance counsellors in their own homes. This is a big ask of parents who are also working from home. So my short message is: Parents, you are doing an excellent job of keeping your sons on track amidst all the fear, uncertainty and isolation. Keep going. Not long to go!

