



## District of the Pacific Update

### *Champagnat Marist*

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



#### District Dates

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May: Marist Anniversary in 1876 – Champagnat Marist Apostolate began in Wellington.

Tuesday 18th May: The Spiritual Testament of Father Champagnat was read by Brother Louis-Marie to the Brothers assembled around Marcellin's bedside.

Thursday 20th May: College Companies Directors meet.

Tuesday 25th May: NZMBTB Meeting



#### **Attached Reports**

Marist News from Rome 676

[Download Marist News—PDF](#)



#### **Champagnat Marist Centre celebrates Director of Business Services Birthday - Citizen.**



**Friday May 14th 2021**

#### **Marist Alternative Centre conquers Rangitoto.**

Last week the students at Marist set Rangitoto in their sights and by early afternoon had reached the summit. Cherie, the Centre Leader, was ecstatic about the venture and was well rewarded for her effort of shepherding her charges to reach the top and to enjoy the outstanding view to be experienced. School outings like this will never be forgotten.

Rangitoto stands sentry to the Auckland harbour dominating the northern sky line to a height of 370 m with a circular spread of volcanic rock reaching to the shores of the surrounding Gulf.

Somewhere on one of the walls of our community homes you will find Romuald's painting of Rangitoto in its formation some 700 years ago. If you have not been to the top of our Maunga you can hardly claim to be an Aucklander.

When Cherie shared the venture of the trip to Rangitoto on Facebook, there was an immediate flood of people who responded offering backpacks, water flasks, footwear and food for the journey. At least twenty offers were made wanting to help and as many who would love to be able to join the party.

## Father Michael Borjon and Brother Deodat Villemagne awaiting Departure at Whitianga



Fr Michel Borjon & Br Deodat Villemagne awaiting departure at Whitianga

Headstones unveiled for two early French Marist Missionaries Members of the Marist family along with representatives of the Archdiocese of Wellington and the Friends of the Mount Street Cemetery joined the Archbishop of Wellington, John Dew, at the Mount Street Cemetery, Wellington, to unveil headstones for two early French Marist Missionaries, who died at sea while setting out from Auckland to found the Catholic Church in Wellington.

Michael Borjon and Jean Villemagne, (Brother Deodat) arrived in New Zealand in 1841 along with well-known Marist names, Jean Forest, Euloge, Regnier, Jerome Grange and Jean Lampila, and after settling in Auckland for a while, Deodat went further north to the Bay of Islands and Borjon south to Rotorua. Life was tough. Deodat was stunned by the gauntness of his Marist confreres in the north, their worn and mended clothing and the wretchedness of their accommodation.

After a short while Deodat and Borjon were called back to the Marist base in Auckland only to be told they were shifting to start the mission in Wellington. Borjon was to be the Wellington's first resident priest. Travelling by ship, their vessel was last sighted at Mercury Bay on 12th August 1842, and not seen again until wreckage was picked up on the East Coast of the North Island. Both Borjon and Villemagne along with their fellow travellers were presumed drowned at sea. There were no survivors.

Above is the painting of Borjon and Deodat by Brother Romuald (Original in colour).



## Brother Christopher Reporting from Samoa

A recent event in Samoa. Afaese celebrates his birthday at the community house at Alafua. The Brothers join him for prayer and refreshment.

Other news—a political stalemate.

Best regards hope you and all are well, safe, happy and healthy.

Brother Chris



## Marist Charism Formation Workshop



Photos of a Formation Workshop for Proprietor Company Directors as well as Education Board of Trustees and College Principals from St Paul's College, Sacred Heart College, Marcellin College and the Marist Alternative Education Limited Auckland last week at St Paul's College. Dan Dungey led the group through a new curriculum based on the wonderful work of Marist Partnership Australia.

## St Francis by the Sea Church

The Brothers living at Manly on the Hibiscus Coast are very privileged to live not far from St Francis Church which has Mass celebrated there every morning of the week. The congregation is made up of very friendly people who have made the Brothers very welcome. In the opposite direction, only five minutes' walk away from their home, there is Manly Beach which is a very safe place to walk, go fishing or just sit and admire the marvellous view.



St Francis by the Sea Church

