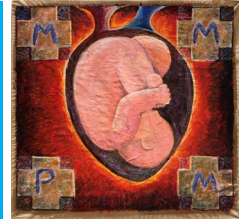




# District of the Pacific Update

## Champagnat Marist

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



### District Dates

Thursday 19th August: College Companies Meeting.

Friday 27th August: 1885—The First Teaching Brothers arrived in Auckland.

1888—The first teaching Brothers arrived in Suva, Fiji.

Tuesday 31st August: New Zealand Marist Brothers Trust Board meeting'



### Attached Reports:

Marist News from Rome 691

[Download Marist News—PDF](#)

### Friday 20th August 2021

#### The Oceania Regional Council – End of an Era!

Last Tuesday the Oceania Regional Council met for the final time as a Council. This was an end to an era of regional co-operation. A brief history prepared by Kevin Wanden follows. We give tribute to the many people whose commitment and work have enabled the council to function so effectively over the last 11 years. The former Administrative Unit leaders since 2010 Brothers Carl Tapp, Jeff Crowe, Julian Casey, David McDonald, Peter Carroll, Jean Marie Batick, John Hazelman. The coordinating roles of Anthony Robison and later Kevin Wanden. The many members of committees, commission, working parties, groups as well as past and current members of the Oceania Council. This process had laid out the initial work towards the formation of the new province that we are now undertaking.



#### - A Brief History

In December 2010, the Provincial Chapters of Melbourne, New Zealand and Sydney and the District Council of Melanesia petitioned the Superior General to restructure to form the Region of Oceania. The following statement was adopted: We, the delegates of our Brothers, in a spirit of mutual respect and concern for the wellbeing of each other and the future of Marist life and mission in Oceania, commit ourselves to the establishment of a new governance and canonical structure.

#### Oceania Council

The first meeting of the Oceania Council (est. 2010) occurred in April 2012. The mandate of the Oceania Council was to promote greater collaboration for “vitality and viability for mission” across Oceania.

To give effect to this new responsibility, the Oceania Council set up a number of Oceania Commissions to develop practical collaboration in the areas of Brotherhood, Ministry, Formation, Finance, and Solidarity. From the outset, committed Lay Marists were appointed to participate as equal members of the various Commissions.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Administrative Units of Australia, Melanesia and the Pacific was approved by the Superior General and his Council on June 17th, 2013.

With the implementation of the New Models project in 2015 discussions were focused on reconfiguring the Oceania Region. Following the meeting of the extended General Council at Mittagong in October 2016 it was agreed that the councils of the three administrative units (Australia, Melanesia and Pacific) would meet together in April and August 2017. These discussions proposed that a single administrative unit be formed in Oceania.

During 2018-19, the College of Leaders engaged a Change Management Consultant, Mr. Peter Cranko, to assist in the process of determining a pathway forward for Oceania. This process resulted in a workshop of representatives from Australia, Melanesia, and the Pacific in March 2020.

At the conclusion of that workshop, it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the respective Councils of the administrative units that one new Province in Oceania be established. The Councils of the Province of Australia and the Districts of Melanesia and the Pacific unanimously accepted this recommendation and petitioned General Council on 20th July 2020 to form a single administrative unit. The General Council on 12th September 2020, approved the request and endorsed the plan to move to a single administrative unit for Oceania by the end of 2022.

# 120 Brothers From the new Province "Star of the Sea" gathered for a Zoom Meeting



## Thank you From Brother Kees

Bula Brothers.

Brother Edward has advised me that he will be transferring NZD2,000 to our account for distribution to families affected by the Covid crisis. A big "vinaka vaka levu" (thank you very much) to the communities who have contributed so generously to this appeal. And thank you in advance from the families we will seek to help. God bless you all.

Sincerely, Kees

## The Plinth at Totara Point

This is the site where Bishop Jean-Baptiste Pompallier  
and the first Marist Priests and Brothers landed in Aotearoa-New Zealand in 1838





## The Church in Aotearoa New Zealand renews Bishop Pompallier's dedication of the country to Our Lady Assumed into Heaven

A special celebration of the Assumption was held on Sunday 15th August, at St Mary of the Angels, Boulcott Street, Wellington. This event took as its historic precedent the dedication that Bishop Pompallier had made in January 1838, when he placed the country under the patronage of Our Lady assumed into heaven.

At the Mass of rededication to Mary's patronage and protection, we expressed our confidence that Mary will always be our truly fruitful sign of hope. She is our protection in difficult times, both now and for generations to come. The Mass was an expression of our thanksgiving that Mary accompanies people on their journey in faith. She accompanies and leads people who seek to follow her Son Jesus, God-with-us. She accompanies us to our ultimate destiny.

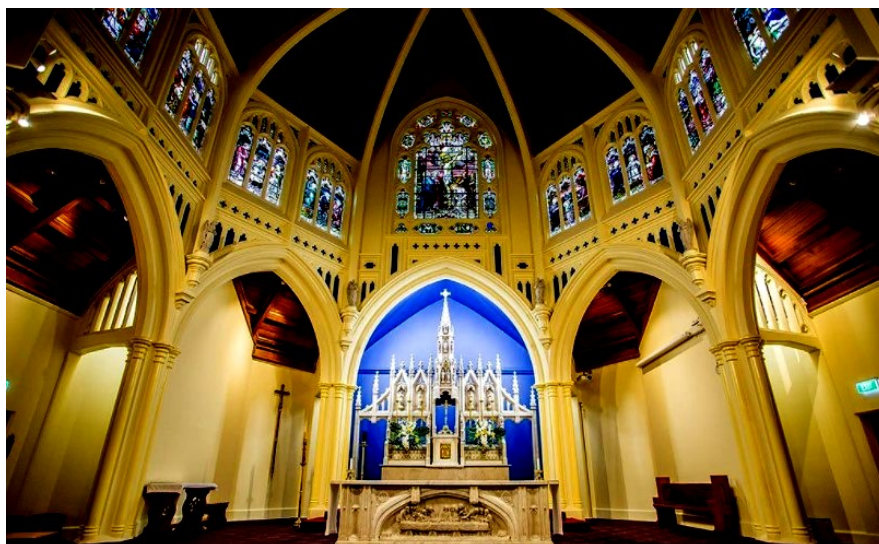
In Cardinal Dew's homily, he reflected on Mary's radical statement in her Magnificat. The Cardinal invited New Zealanders to respond with energy and commitment to the many challenges that we are facing today. He spoke of the need to improve our society's protection of women who are poorly treated, exploited or trafficked.

The prayers and hymns at the Mass were linked to significant current developments, including: The Catholic Church's year-long 'Te Ara a Maria: Mary's Way' celebration has been launched.

### Saint Mary of the Angels, Wellington—Interior and exterior views



At the Mass, a substantial Aotearoa-themed artwork depicting Mary and the child Jesus was unveiled. Created by Rangiora artist Damien Walke, the artwork has left for Invercargill; the start of a [hīkoi around the country](#).





## From the 'Te Ara Maria' website:

How did New Zealand come to be dedicated to Mary Assumed into Heaven?

The original dedication of New Zealand to Mary Assumed into Heaven involved incredible commitment, partnership and endeavor.

Our first Bishop, Jean-Baptiste Pompallier, was a Frenchman born to a well-to-do family with aristocratic connections. He would follow in the footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat and the other Marists who had earlier made their solemn promise to found the Society of Mary at the shrine of Fourvie're.

An attraction to Missionary work would see Pompallier venture to the Southern Hemisphere with a small team of Marist Fathers and catechist Brothers. They departed from the French port of Le Havre on Christmas Eve 1836. Their plans would change throughout their journey south. They faced restrictions in entering Tahiti or Tonga. Some crew members disembarked at both the Wallis and Futuna Islands. Pompallier's ultimate destination would become Sydney arriving there on 9 December 1837.

Thomas Poynton was born in Ireland in 1803, in an era where English Penal Law made it impossible for the Irish to retain their traditions, language and faith. Poynton was educated in France. He would venture into the Antipodes and eventually settle in the Hokianga in 1828. He initially opened a store there but eventually would become involved with farming and timber milling.

Poynton met his wife Mary Kennedy in Sydney, she was the daughter of an Irishman deported to Australia. The couple's faith was central in their lives. They were determined to have their children baptised. This involved their having to voyage to Sydney. While there Thomas would petition the Bishops in New South Wales to send clergy to New Zealand.

With time, Poynton would welcome Pompallier to his home. With the Bishop's arrival a number of locals gathered at Poynton's home in Totara Point to celebrate the first Catholic mass on mainland New Zealand. It was during this heartfelt service that the Bishop felt moved to consecrate his mission in Aotearoa to Mary under the title of Mary assumed into heaven, and his vast Pacific vicariate to Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception.

While in the Hokianga, the missionaries would learn about Māori language, custom and spirituality.

### **Church of St Mary, Motuti. The burial place of Bishop Jean-Baptiste Pompallier**





## Prayer for the Rededication

*E te Atua aroha mā te whakapuaki  
i tō mātou whakapono*

**Loving God in professing this faith  
In which we are united as your people  
we unite ourselves with the yes of your mother  
Mary, the first disciple.**

*E te Atua, te Puna o ngā mea ora katoa,  
te kaihomai o ngā mea pai katoa*

**O God, Source of all life, giver of all that is good  
We, your people of Aotearoa New Zealand  
Meet in the bonds of your love  
Keep us faithful in our response to your love  
with Mary patroness of our land.**

**in relationship with you,  
with one another, and with our land  
We repent the harm we have caused in this holy place  
To our sisters and brothers and to our land.  
In humility we turn to Mary,  
Mother of God, Assumed into Heaven**

*E te Atua, mā roto i te korowai o Maria  
te whāea o tāu tamaiti, tō mātou whāea anō hoki*

**O God, under the patronage of Mary,  
the mother of your son, and our mother  
We join with those gathered in the Hokianga in January 1838  
with the leadership of Jean-Baptiste Pompallier  
first Catholic bishop of this place  
to dedicate our land of Aotearoa New Zealand  
To the care of Mary, Mother of God, Assumed into Heaven.**

*I tenei wā, ka whakahoungia e mātou tēnei oati tapu*

**We now renew this dedication  
Turning to Mary with new fervour  
In union with her Son  
Our Lord Jesus Christ  
Who lives and reigns with you  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit  
God forever and ever  
Amen**





## Sacred Heart College Celebrates Our Lady's Assumption Mass

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August, the whole college assembled in the auditorium for the Assumption Mass. The celebrant was Father Stephen Berezcz and the Catholic Review Team (three of them) was present. About a dozen Y13s received a Leadership Badge from Brother Richard. Brother John led the singing. It was a great occasion with all the boys in formal uniform.

