

# District of the Pacific Update



Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April  
2022

## KIRIBATI NEWS

### COME AND SEE WEEKEND

*from Br Amberoti*

Breakfast with the young men



From Friday to Sunday (1-3 April), the Kiribati local Marist Brothers hosted their first Come & See program in La Valla community. It was a good sign to see the Brothers trying to revitalise the interest of local men in our Marist Brothers' vocation. There were 3 young men who came to join the program: James, Aree & Kanoa. Both James & Aree have already finished their Form 7 Secondary school and James is currently attending KPI, as a first year student. Kanoa is much younger than the other two. During the program, as

usual, the Brothers were fully involved in all aspects of the program with the 3 young men; sessions, prayers, sharing meals and socializing on the last night. Since we still had the lockdown and the curfew hours with no Masses anywhere, we did our Communion service on Sunday morning with them to mark the end of the 'Come & See' program. That was followed by our last breakfast with them. Hopefully, these 3 young men have digested enough of seeing and experiencing the Brothers' life so far. We acknowledge the local Brothers for their efforts, realising the extent of each Brother's commitment to the community and to his own ministry and study. Let's continue to keep alive the vocation of our young men. Join us in prayer to Jesus, Mary and St Marcellin that they will send more young men to join us in our mission.



Session

Sunday Communion Service

# LA VALLA COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK PREPARATION

Two weeks before Holy Week, we planned together as a community how to celebrate the Easter season. We agreed that the Triduum days would be our recollection days. Tim, the Australian High Commissioner, asked to join us for the recollection. He is Catholic, an ex-student of the de la Salle Brothers in Australia. We were surprised, but it's all part of expecting the unexpected.

The preparation for Easter, and maintenance of the buildings including a huge clean up around the property went on before Holy Week. We thank our Lay Marist groups, the families of both Itua and Tioera and our St Marcellin's Preschool teachers and friends for supporting us for this big work. The program of the three days' recollection gave us full days for contemplative prayer. We began our recollection on Maundy Thursday afternoon with a quiet time and later after supper we had Exposition led by Ambi. On Good Friday we began with the morning prayer led by Tainga and later in the morning did our Stations of the Cross around the property, prepared by Tabunga. In doing it, each of us, including Tim, took turns to lead each station. Then at 3pm we had the Veneration of the Cross followed by Holy Communion, as no Mass was possible. At 4:30pm we did our sharing in the maneaba with some guiding questions prepared by Tabunga and given to each one earlier in the morning. After that, we had a meal together on the veranda of the two storied building. On Saturday night there was a different atmosphere, and we had our social on the veranda of the double storied building (facing the lagoon where a smooth high tide was coming in) to accommodate our visitor as he would go back to his residence in Bairiki the following day. It was a beautiful night to share our own stories and the mission of the Marist Brothers here in Kiribati with Tim. In his sharing, he told the story of how he knew our place from seeing the Marist poster by the road while driving along. In visiting different local Government departments, he happened to meet with Michael Anterea, a former student of St Louis working as an engineer at the Ministry of Education office, and inquired about our place. He also shared his own stories regarding his responsibilities while working as a diplomat in different countries before becoming the High Commissioner here in Kiribati. Interestingly, Tim knows most of the liturgical songs we sing because singing and music are his hobbies and he is also in the sector choir in his parish in Canberra when he is home from his postings overseas. It's been a great time for us Brothers to hear his beautiful stories, and he finds our place refreshing and quiet, especially so for him to have a few days away from his office to spend in prayer with the Brothers. On Sunday, we had our last prayer in the morning to mark the end of our recollection. The rest of the day we Brothers used for our quiet time. Tim gave us a generous donation when he left.



What a good time to socialise with the Australian High Commissioner



The backyard background - the maneaba and the lagoon side (sea)



## KAIKOHE COMMUNITY from Br Samisoni

Kia ora koutou katoa and greetings to you all, Brothers and Champagnat Marists. It's a long time since you heard from us and our ministries in the Mid-North. We are involved in different activities here in the North. Martin has recently begun helping one day a week at MIND. This work is alongside adults who have mental disabilities, and could increase to 2-3 times a week if there is need. Martin also works with Te Kura Correspondence School, with students who are home-schooled or not attending mainstream education for various reasons. I was helping with Eucharistic Liturgy at the Aged Care facility but because of the Covid-19 lockdown the place is still closed to any visitors from outside. Meantime, I continue helping with Meals on Wheels and Te Kura Correspondence School Camp.

### Correspondence Camping at Waipoua Forest

This year we started late because of the Covid-19 lockdown. Our first Camp for this year, from April 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, involved learning to use Fencing Tools and Equipment.



D'Vontae and Samisoni.



Doing the written work



Checking that the fence is alive

### COMMUNITY HOLIDAY OUTING



We were very happy to have Damien with us in our Community. It was a long weekend because of the ANZAC day holiday. *(Damian, Donald, and Martin at the waterfront in Whangarei Town.)*



The new Bishop of the Diocese of Auckland, Bishop Steve, visited our parish in the North.