

# District of the Pacific Update



Friday 01<sup>st</sup> July  
2022

## NEW ZEALAND NEWS

### Celebrating the Appearance of the Star Matariki by Br David



**Matariki is a star cluster that appears in the early morning sky in New Zealand during the mid-winter months. It is known also as Pleiades or the Seven Sisters. Its appearance in the early morning sky brings the past year to a close and marks the beginning of the new year.**

**Traditionally, the stars of Matariki were also closely tied to planting, harvesting and hunting.**

**Friday 24 June 2022 was the first public celebration of Matariki as a national holiday. Most of our current observances originated in other parts of the world. This is our first 'homegrown' celebration as is a time for:**

- **Remembrance – Honouring those we have lost since the last rising of Matariki**
- **Celebrating the present – Gathering together to give thanks for what we have**
- **Looking to the future – Looking forward to the promise of a new year**

**Matariki is not political in its origins and has no conflict associated with it. It is about celebration and being respectful of the world that we live in.**

<https://www.facebook.com/Breakfaston1/videos/1115542382360991>

## Tabatinga Reflection by Br Luke

Living in a mix community of Brothers and Lay here in Tabatinga is something very important to the local Church and to the local people. It gave us the opportunity to serve the most needy by giving ourselves in their service. The new mixed way of life involving Brothers and Lay Marists forming a community and working together, contributing to the continuation of the Marist charism, is something very important in our community living.

Lavalla200, in Tabatinga, has been a space of very rich experience for us, (Brothers and Lay). We have open hearts to build fraternal community, founded on a spiritual life well nourished by prayer, the Eucharist and participation in the local Church. It is to build together a mission project that combines the Marist charism with local needs. We always keep in mind that the work belongs to God, it is for Him and through Him that we are here. This is certainly what will differentiate us from being members of an NGO.

Without a spirituality based on the Word of God, it would be very difficult to have a fruitful experience. It would be difficult to be happy, to form a happy community, let alone to give an authentic witness.



Community visiting Santa Rosa, Peru



Celebrating the Feast day of St Marcellin

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, we organized the feast of St Marcellin Champagnat. This was a fantastic moment with the participation of so many children and young people. We had the opening mass, a football tournament with prizes, an afternoon presentation of Drama and Music by our English students, theater by the reinforcement students, and some choreographed ballet. At the end, issued certificates of participation to our students.



Preparing for our soccer match

It was a great joy for us to organize our first festival which was a great success and we had many congratulations and thanks from the parents. It was very gratifying to see so many happy children. We are motivated to organize more events like these. It was well worth all the work. Thank you to the communities of Brothers in NZ that contributed to our request for the tee shirts of our students here in Tabatinga. Muito Obrigado



English students performing a short play



Br Luke with his 2 English Students



Students and volunteers with their tee shirts sponsored by NZ



Organising team

Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/torchmygpacific>



*Our District Marist Youth will have their session this coming Sunday, and we kindly invite all the youth to participate in it. You may invite any youth you know to join. We extend to you a welcome to our Zoom meeting. The link will be circulated. Thank you and see you there.*

**Speaker**  
**Br Chris, FMS**

**Date**  
**July 3rd , 2022**

**Time**  
**Samoa: 8:00 pm, NZ: 7:00 pm, Fiji: 7:00 pm,**  
**Kiiribati: 7:00 pm, Philippines: 3:00 pm**