

# Star MESSENGER

Dear Brothers and Champagnat Marists

You may have heard of Noel Davis, either because of his years as a Marist Brother in the Sydney Province, his work as Principal and Novice Master, or his later life as poet and spiritual writer. He died earlier this year and his final book has just been published posthumously. From 1991, Noel wrote and published eight books of verse and reflections.

A fortnight ago his wife, Trish de Laney, sent me a copy of his last book: **'The Joy of Living Our Heart's Knowing and Imagining'**. It was written in his final year as he faced death. In the accompanying letter she wrote: *"It's a joy to send you this last book of Noel's. His love for the Marists and Mary was very deep and is expressed in most of his books, and definitely this one."*

At the centre of the book, the halfway point, is his *Sub Tuum*:

*We fly to thy patronage  
O Loving mother  
Our ordinary Resource.  
We come to you with Confidence  
In our time of need and quandary  
Knowing you will listen and respond  
To our prayer with a mother's heart.  
Deliver us from all dangers  
And be with us in our time of tempest  
O Glorious and Blessed Mother.*

Noel was a deeply spiritual man and his writings express his profound faith and trust in the Divine spirit that accompanied and directed him.

His poems and reflections are simple, beautiful and hope-filled. One that particularly caught my attention and I found most moving was *"Heart of Life"*.

*It is the journey into wisdom  
The pilgrimage into silence  
And its ever-expanding frontier  
Into the Divine  
Along the way of simplicity.*

*It is growing into the awareness  
Of our heart's deepest desire  
And choosing to live it daily  
In the ordinary and compelling.*

*It is our desire to be one with God  
In being one with each other  
One with the truth and wonder of ourselves  
In the immensity and intimacy of unfolding  
creation.*

*This is the heart and soul of Global Oneness  
One in flesh and blood with Life  
In loving and compassionate living.*

This surely expresses so much of what is central to our earthly pilgrimage – as God seekers, Christ followers and Marists. I'm sure it captured the deepest convictions of Noel's good life.



**Br Peter Carroll FMS**  
Provincial Designate



# This week's 'Star Feature' is: **Fiji**



Students of Champagnat Institute Suva

BELOW: Australian Immersion group visit  
Marist Brothers High School Suva



First Religious Profession in Fijian style. Karolo Ratuyada, our youngest Fijian Brother, in traditional Fijian attire receiving his Habit from Fijian Novice Master, Br Jone Seduadua



Marcellin Primary School Vatuwaqa



ABOVE: Brothers Kees van der Weert, Sam Eathorne, and Fergus Garrett spent many years in Fiji



Fijian Champagnat Marist Youth



Lomeri driveway





## Overview

There are six Brothers presently residing in Fiji. Two of those Brothers are over 70 years of age and are still engaged in part time teaching roles.

Two Brothers are at the Post Novitiate Stage and are currently committed to studies at the University of the South Pacific as well as the Pacific Regional Seminary.

One Brother remains as caretaker of the former Pacific Novitiate, currently being used as a retreat and meeting venue.

## Marist Life and Mission Groups (Lay/Brother)

There are three partnership groups who meet regularly in Lomeri and Suva. One of the Suva groups is a youth group.

## Marist Ministries and Schools

Marist Brothers have had a presence in schools since 1888. They have taught in schools in Suva, Cawaci, Napuka, Wairiki, Naililili and Savarekarereka. The Brothers pioneered multiracial education when they opened their secondary school to all races in 1937.

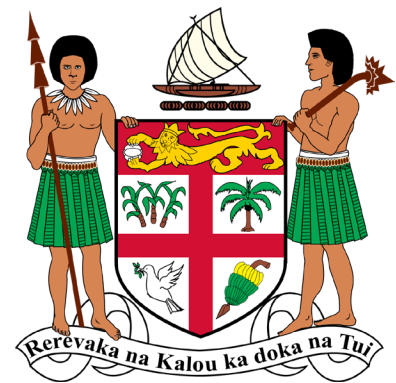
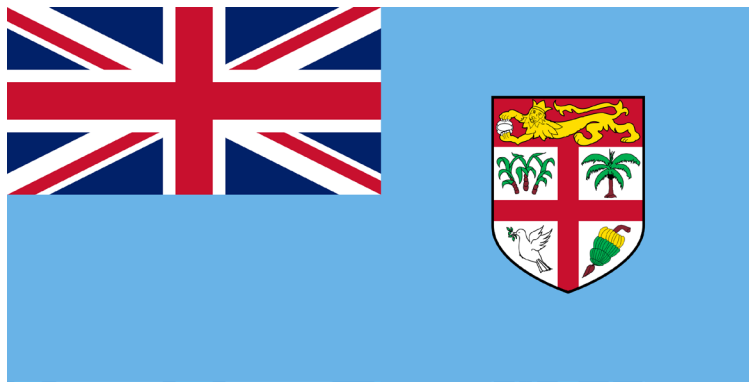
There are currently five educational institutions owned by the Brothers in Suva. One Brother is a Director of a Tertiary Level Child Care Institution which offers a Diploma level course. It was originally begun by the Brothers at Marist Champagnat Institute and remains there, but is now affiliated to Corpus Christi Teachers' College. Marist Champagnat Institute is an inclusive Special needs school catering for students at Post Primary School level.

## Formation

Formation sessions for staff are run as part of the schools' internal professional development program.



<b>National Identity</b>	Fiji, gained Independence from the United Kingdom on 10 October 1970
<b>Capital</b>	Suva
<b>Languages</b>	Fijian, English, Fiji Hindi and Rotuman
<b>Population</b>	900,000
<b>Time Zone</b>	UTC +12; Summer (DST) UTC +13
<b>Main Religions</b>	Christianity 65% Hinduism 28%
<b>Arrival of Marists</b>	1888
<b>Number of Marist Brothers</b>	6
<b>Number of Marist Brothers Communities and location</b>	2 Communities - Vatuwaqa and Lomeri
<b>Number of Marist Schools and location</b>	5: Marist Brothers High School, Marist Champagnat Institute (inc. Tertiary College), Marist Brothers Primary School, St Marcellin Primary School and Marcellin's Angel's Kindergarten



## Marist Life and Mission Groups

Name of Group	Number of Groups	Location	Active Members
Champagnat Marist Group	1	Lomeri	8
Marist Youth	1	Suva	10
Champagnat Marist Group	1	Suva	15

## Formation

Activity or Event	Description	Location
Staff Orientation	Introduction of our Marist Story to all educators in our five ministries. These are run as part of the Schools' Professional Development Programs, particularly as the school year begins, to help orientate the new staff members into the Marist Family.	Suva
Champagnat in the Pacific	A three-day live-in program exploring Marist charism, identity, pedagogy and spirituality.	Lomeri
Board Formation	The Champagnat Marist Education Governance Board has oversight of all 5 Marist Institutions. The Marist Charism ethos is an integral part of the Board's Constitution.	Suva
Charism Development	One of the teachers of MCI was given the opportunity to join a Champagnat Pilgrimage to France in 2019. She is now the resource person for Champagnat in the Pacific programs run for teachers of our schools.	Suva
Charism Workshops and Retreat for Preschool Teachers	To deepen the Marist Charism and address teachers' professional responsibilities	La Valla, Bikenibeu