

# Star MESSENGER

Dear Brothers

I remember two Hebrew words from my scripture studies. They are significant because of the frequency with which they are used in the scriptures, and secondly because they express what salvation history reveals about the very character of the Divine. They are '*hesed*' and '*emet*'.

The Hebrew word *hesed* (sometimes *chesed*) is translated into English as either steadfast love, loving-kindness, mercy, love, or unfailing love, depending on the particular translation of the Bible. It's used 248 times in the Old Testament, with fifty percent of its usage in the Psalms.

In Hebrew though, *hesed* is such a rich and robust term that no single English word captures its essence. *Hesed* is not just mercy, but covenant loyalty and relational fidelity. It is freely given, often unexpectedly, without requiring anything in return. Even though *hesed* stems from covenant (contract) loyalty, there is a sense that the loyalty surpasses the letter of the law. In *Hosea*, God said that he desires mercy (*hesed*), not sacrifice (law), which Jesus reiterated in *Matthew 9:13*. Jesus further reinforced this thought when speaking about the Roman law forcing locals to carry soldiers' packs for a mile; Jesus suggested going an extra mile (*Matthew 5:41*). So *hesed* describes the rich and robust depth of God's character.

The second word, '*emet*' can be translated into English as faithfulness or verity (truth). It carries an underlying sense of certainty and dependability. *Emet* is often coupled with *hesed*, creating a synergism of two of God's strongest attributes. We know that when synergy occurs the combined effect is greater than the sum of the individual attributes. So *hesed* and *emet* provide a most powerful glimpse of who God is: love and

faithfulness, mercy and truth. In plain English – we can be certain of and depend on God's steadfast love.

And since we know that Jesus is the visible expression of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15), the God of *hesed* and *emet*, we see these characteristics reflected in Jesus' life and mission. Moreover, as Christians who are called to follow Jesus, we know that these characteristics must feature in our lives as well.

I raise these words today in the context of our Jubilee celebrations.

Last weekend, I attended the New Zealand Jubilees. We were especially honouring seven Brothers: **Kevin King** and **Brian Callaghan** (50 Years), **Bill Lawley** and **Des Quirke** (60 Years), **Fergus Garrett**, **Alan Henley** and **Humphrey O'Connor** (70 years). We commenced on Saturday night with a Mass and renewal of Vows at Sacred Heart College, followed by a gathering at Villa Maria community. On Sunday, we celebrated at Onehunga with prayer, presentation of plaques and candles, festive lunch, toasts and speeches. One of the aspects I most liked was that each Jubilarian was invited to offer a suitable quote and a prayer that reflected his feelings and experiences. You will see these words later in this Star Messenger.

When we celebrate Jubilees we aren't just remembering the passing years – Birthdays do that. We're not just recalling the fact that some men have lived longer than others – though there is that element. What we are commemorating is the divine characteristic that these men have expressed in their long years of fidelity to their vocation. Their faithfulness brings us into contact with the dependability and loving



kindness (the *hesed* and *emet*) of God. These celebrations bring to clarity our Jubilarians' continuing desire and commitment to bring Jesus to others: to make Him known and loved.

I congratulate and thank Kevin, Brian, Bill, Des, Fergus, Alan and Humphrey for all they have been to us, their brothers, and for all they have done to serve others with such dependable faithfulness.

Next month, the Australian Jubilees.

### Prayers for Br Jone Seduadua and his Family

Our sympathy to Br Jone Seduadua who recently suffered the loss of his father. Jone returned to Fiji for the funeral services and has now returned to MAPAC. We assure him and his family of our prayers.



**Br Peter Carroll**  
Provincial

# INVITATION



## Santa Teresa, Northern Territory 70th Anniversary Celebrations

This year, the Little Flower Mission at Santa Teresa in the Australian Northern Territory, celebrates the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the Arrernte people and the missionaries, the MSC priests, FMS Brothers and the OLSH Sisters from Arltunga, where they had been for about 10 years.

The Arrernte community celebration will be over the days

**27 - 29 October 2023**

with a Mass on the oval to be held on Saturday 28 October, led by Bishop Charles Gauci.

I invite Brothers who have lived and worked in Santa Teresa to be part of the celebrations. It would be encouraging to have a good presence of Brothers.

Please let **Frank Hough** ([frank.hough@marists.org.au](mailto:frank.hough@marists.org.au)) and the community know if you need accommodation.

# ANZ Jubilee Celebration

**9 and 10 September 2023, Auckland, New Zealand**



**Back Row:** Fergus Garrett (70 years), Peter Carroll, Kevin King (50 years), Peter Horide, Brian Callaghan (50 years),  
**Front Row:** Alan Henley (70 years), William Lawley (60 years), Desmond Quirke (60 years), Humphrey O'Connor (70 years).



Chris Maney giving a speech



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JUBILARIANS....



## Brian Callaghan

Celebrating 50 years

*"As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were Fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you Fishers of men. And they left their nets at once and followed him." (Matt 4:18-22)*

**Prayer:** I wish to thank the brothers I have lived and worked with over the past 50 years for their assistance, guidance and friendship in the ups and downs of life.



## Kevin King

Celebrating 50 years

*"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters." (Psalm 23:1-3)*

**Prayer:** We pray God's blessing on all Marist religious Brothers who have devoted their lives to building up God's Kingdom of love, peace and justice. I ask you to guide them, strengthen and sustain them and shower them with your grace. May they always be close to you in prayer and reach out, in turn, to help their neighbours in need. I pray. Amen.

## William Lawley

Celebrating 60 years



*"You dare your "Yes" and experience a meaning. You repeat your "Yes" and all things acquire a meaning. When everything has a meaning, how can you live anything but a YES! (Dag Hammarskjöld)*

**Prayer:** O Mary, my Good Mother and Ordinary Resource, I give to your sacred keeping and commend to your special care and protection my body, mind and spirit, for this day and every day of my life. I entrust to you my hopes and consolations, my difficulties and sorrows, my life and my death – that through your prayers and your merits, all my actions may be directed and disposed according to your will, and the will of your Son. Amen. (Marcellin Champagnat)



## *Desmond Quirke*

Celebrating 60 years

*"With pain and gratitude, O Divine Spirit, I come to you with all my brothers and sisters on the planet. I pause with them to receive your love. Help each one of us to know truth, and to more fully claim our individual belovedness. May your Spirit in each one accomplish new miracles."*  
 (Henri Nouwen, *Home Tonight*, p. 105, Doubleday)

**Prayer:** I pray for those we have been involved with in our 60 years of brotherhood. I pray for my family – my parents (deceased), brothers and sisters. I pray for those who have died – Brothers, colleagues, pupils, core members, assistants and administrators. I thank God for the enjoyment we have had working with nature and dogs.



## *Fergus Garrett*

Celebrating 70 years

*"The Basic Truth – Our loving presence is all we need.  
 For God's Commandments are these:  
 (1) to believe in the one he sent, Jesus Messiah, and  
 (2) to love one another as Jesus told us. (1 John 3:23).*

*"Love is all you need"*

*(John Lennon & Paul McCartney, 1967)*

**Prayer:** Dear God, loving Father and Mother...  
 lover of all you have made...  
 fill us with your Loving Spirit...  
 a love that Jesus has revealed to us...  
 a love that filled Mary our Good Mother  
 and your servant Marcellin...  
 Thank you, Dear God, for the gift of your love  
 and your life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## *Humphrey O'Connor*

Celebrating 70 years



*"Let us bring a loving vision and awareness, a  
 compassionate mindfulness, to the most mundane realities  
 of our day, so that our activities, especially for people,  
 become **love made visible**. For this is what Jesus did."*

*(Daniel O'Leary)*

**Prayer:** What wonderful memories I have, dear Lord! I am filled with gratitude for the life I have lived; for all the people I have learned to love, young and old; for the multitude of places where I have landed; and for the many I found hard to leave. Many thanks, Lord, for the life where you have led me. Now, at peace in my autumn stillness, lead me on into the fullness of your presence.



## *Alan Henley*

Celebrating 70 years

*"In calling ourselves "Brother" we proclaim that we belong to a family united in Christ's love. The home at Nazareth is the model for this family spirit, which consists of love and forgiveness, support and help, forgetfulness of self, openness to others and joy. It draws its strength from the Lord's love for the Brothers whom he himself has given us. It pervades our attitudes and behaviour."*

**Prayer:** As we gather together, loving father, we recognise the call you make to us to be Brothers to each other and to everyone that we meet. We recognise and we rejoice that, though we come with different personalities and unique personal histories, we share a common Marist Brotherhood. We gather today, honouring the share that each of us has of Marcellin's charisma, with each of us having his own insight into Marcellin's vision and spirit... May our gathering make that spirit ever more real and active among us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother. Amen