

# Marist Mission Centre (MMC)

Managing both:

**The Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)**

ABN 91 030 510 250

**The Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)**

ABN 87 382 823 140



**MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER**  
SPRING 2020 VOL. 71 NO. 3

## Our Dignity as Persons

The dignity of every person is central to our faith and shapes how MMC engages in our mission to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

One of the lessons of COVID19 is that we are called to see each other with new eyes and a new heart. We have become more aware and appreciative of this reality, namely: our common humanity and our shared dignity made in the image and likeness of God. This dignity calls us to look out for and care for our neighbour especially the poorest of the poor.

A practical expression of this conviction is that our MMC supporters have been able to keep 'giving' during these challenging and demanding times in our country and in our families.

Most of our Marist missionaries are able to continue their day to day work. Projects in the Philippines for Street Boys and Girls at Risk continue to operate under lock down conditions. In Bangladesh, the children with disabilities have great difficulty understanding why they are unable to attend their centre each day. Staff in this centre are maintaining contact with family visits or regular messages.

Schools and parishes in Oceania are open but the economy as a whole is struggling due to a lack of tourism. Our school in Tonga has undergone a major restoration project following Cyclone Gita with the support of the World Bank and MMC.

MMC would like to acknowledge your generous and kind hearts and assure you that your support is greatly appreciated by our missionaries working in Oceania, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

As we approach the month of November for the remembrance of the Holy Souls you are welcome to have Mass offered by a Marist Missionary for your departed loved family member or special friend.

On behalf of our missionaries and the Marist Mission Centre I would like to acknowledge your kindness and thank you for your generosity.

With my thanks and blessings,



**Fr Paul Sullivan sm**  
MMC Executive Officer



To Donate visit MMC Website:

**[www.maristmissions.com](http://www.maristmissions.com)**

# HOUSE OF JOY

## Bangladesh Anondo Neer

Dhaka is one of the most densely populated cities in the world.

Children with disabilities are seen as a source of shame for the family and as a punishment for some wrong doing.

Many women are blamed for their child's disability and abused and rejected by their husband and his family.

The Centre is a safe place where the mothers and children are accepted and supported.

Some disadvantaged young women are employed to live at the home and to assist with activities.



Therapy on a home visit under restricted conditions



Enjoying a merry-go-round pre-lockdown

The Centre is conducted by the SMSM Sisters. Sr Julianne writes that 'our priority is to help the children to feel happy and loved while also carrying out development activities'.

The staff have been busy keeping in touch with students and families during lock-down.

This has been a blessing for everyone during COVID 19.

This program provides a place of joy, helping young people to develop to their full potential. Most of the children have intellectual and physical disabilities and can take part in some form of play.

Each mother or guardian is taught how to do simple exercises and massage on their child at home. The children are learning basic life skills and ways of communicating with others.

There are 21 children regularly attending the Centre with a parent or guardian.



Working during lockdown with Sr Julianne smsm



## EDUCATION — A GIFT OF HOPE

### Marist Solidarity Cambodia

More than half a million people live with a disability in Cambodia. They face experiences that ‘disable’ them from participating fully and equally in community life.

The greatest impediments in the lives of young people with disabilities are prejudice, social isolation and discrimination.

This is even more so for young girls. These young people have limited access to appropriate treatment, rehabilitation services and skills and vocational training.



Caring for each other



A time to learn

This program conducted by the Marist Brothers is known as: the ‘Inclusive Education Program for Secondary and University Students’.

It is for students who would have no chance of accessing education if living at home. Education opens the way to a future with hope.



School can be fun pre-lockdown

There are 75 High School students and 13 University students who are provided with hostel care, guidance, medical care, essential school supplies and rehabilitation services.

These students have the same basic right to education, employment, social participation and self-determination as their non-disabled peers.

They are now looking forward to employment, housing and community integration.

## RESTORATION AFTER CYCLONE HAROLD

### Tonga: Apifo'ou College

— AMCOA Project —

Good news from our Marist College in Tonga. The restored Science block and other class rooms following Cyclone Gita have been opened by the Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Rev. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa assisted by college Principal, Fr. Ekuasi Manu sm and other local dignitaries.

All class rooms are now cyclone proof.

We thank our generous MMC supporters for funding the new Science block.



A Science led recovery



Opening Ceremony

## RESTORATION AND REFORESTRATION IN FIJI

Sr. Lora Adikakai sm has been given a new ministry by the Marist Sisters – namely to work with her family and the local community on the Yasawa Islands off the coast of Nadi to undertake the work of restoration & reforestation of their Island home.

The natural beauty of the trees, vegetation, and waterways have been ruined by the exploitation of their natural resources.

MMC is funding the purchase of resources to begin the slow journey to recovery.

— MFIM Project —



A new water tank - a gift of life



**Gifts in Your Will  
Supporting the  
Mission Centre**

**Postal:** Locked Bag 5002, GLADESVILLE NSW 1675

**Office:** 3 Mary St, Hunters Hill NSW 2110, Australia

**P:** +61 2 9844 2275 **F:** 02 9816 1737

**E:** admin@maristmissions.com

Visit MMC website for more information: [www.maristmissions.com](http://www.maristmissions.com)