



MARIST COLLEGE

Bulletin

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Two Realities

Marist College Bulletin

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Facebook: Marist College

An Easter

Experience during Covid-19

**Mikaele
McVery**

Easter Triduum celebrations are the most solemn and anticipated annual events in both the universal and local Catholic Church communities. The celebration is a joy-filled and faith-filled experience shared in a communal spirit together with all the faithful. It is the celebration of our common faith in the Paschal Mystery of Christ. In this celebration we share in his life, death and resurrection and for many believers it is as if they can begin to see the light at the end of a dark tunnel.



Mikaele McVery

In the year 2020, the emergence of Corona Virus brought about various changes in our world, our nations, our families and even in our personal lives. One of the many changes it imposes on us is the way we worship. Easter Triduum celebrations used to be a grand reunion in parishes around Fiji. However, in 2020 the Triduum celebrations were restricted to a small number of public worshippers and many resorted to family prayers and virtual participation in the Eucharist.



The tradition at Marist College each year has been that we celebrate Easter with the whole Pacific Regional Seminary community and families, friends and benefactors join us. Unfortunately, at Easter 2020, when strict lockdown was in force, we were like the disciples at Pentecost, hiding behind locked doors. At Marist College we organized the entire Easter Triduum and lived it on our own

For me personally, I was challenged but, motivated to actively participate in my faith through every given task. It gave me a sense of belonging to my Marist community especially when I contributed to the common life with my brothers. I was grateful that the whole preparation in the Easter Triduum was an opportunity to actively participate and to get to know members of my community.

Did You Know?

- St. Peter Chanel was born on the 12th of July, 1803
- He was ordained on the 15th of July, 1827



Easter 2021, was celebrated with the wider Pacific Regional Seminary community. This year there was no restriction on numbers of worshippers. Things started to look normal in spite of the pandemic still around us and for me, resurrection had a new flavour to it and there was a beacon of hope that despite all that we are going through since last year Easter, the light is much brighter in the dark tunnel.

Deep within me there were still questions that I had to grapple with, for example: Given the extent of suffering and pain that was brought about by the pandemic, how would people experience the joy of the resurrection? Both Easter experiences, were very different in the nature of their celebrations, I lived through them and could see how the Lord sustains us and reward us for my steadfastness in faith, despite the storms of daily life.

As I write this article, I am aware of the exponential rate in numbers of Covid cases in Fiji every day. I am challenged thinking on how I can effectively present the maternal Love of Mary to so many struggling. Yes, the struggles and pain are real and people are searching for answers and meaning in the midst of chaos. So often the commonly asked questions remain within me, “Where is God in all of this and how do I witness to the joy of the risen Christ and give hope to my suffering brothers and sisters?”

I see my being a Marist seminarian is a blessing in this difficult time. What gives me hope is thinking of Mary who was chosen to bear the savior of the whole humanity. I find consolation in that, as I continue to respond in faith to the call. Mary responded with total surrender and with faith knowing that with God, nothing is impossible.

coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue:

*First Year Experience
by Patrice Teguebou*

As a young Marist, Mary inspires me at this time to attest that “Faith suffices” when things seem unreasonable and uncertain. I’m grateful to all those who have contributed to my faith formation especially, to my parents, my catechists, priests and religious who have journeyed with me, my formators and teachers who continued to be instrumental in shaping me becoming my best self and deepening my faith in God. For me, Mary is the constant companion on this journey of faith.

Learn more about becoming a Marist, contact us today.



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