

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions: May

That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.



The retreats in Kaikoura and Picton went well. Thank you for the prayers. There are more pictures on the website.



Fr John Larsen, Superior General told us 'Mission' is an attitude of the heart when he was in NZ in April. Like Mary going to Elizabeth, those on mission leave their comfort zone and, as it were, 'cross the road' to help give life and encouragement. He sees the changing world and declining demographics as an "opportunity" & not cause for panic. He said the Work of Mary means working with Lay collaborators. "We need to work out the issues, new structures, but ultimately...get on with it in a way that Lay people can participate. He spoke about the importance of the Dublin Laity meeting in August. Three NZ Marist Laity will be attending; Bev, Penelope and Tutangata. More news on that meeting to come later. Please pray for us.



R.I.P Jean Baillie - beloved long time member of Marist 3rd Order Hawkes Bay

Easter Joy & Blessings,
Bev and Margaret.



MARISTLAITY NZ

Instruments of mercy in daily life.

May 2019 - Mary's Month

Kia Ora Marist Friends, **We are Easter people; Alleluia is our song!** Lent challenged us deeply. Last month we were shocked by the atrocity in Christchurch. That tragedy has focused us to prayer and compassion and we have witnessed both this Lent. We ask God for mercy and hold all those impacted in prayer.



I write this in Holy week, anticipating Easter and May for you.. A profound sadness of a different order is unfolding as Notre Dame de Paris goes up in flames. Mary stood at the cross of Jesus and embraced his broken body and we stand with her as this place of beauty, sacrament and grace, which bears her name, held the relic of the crown of thorns and is built in a cruciform shape, falls in flames. It has survived kings, queens, revolutions, wars and tragedies for nearly 800 years, its bells have consoled and called to prayer but it's now a broken shell. We pray in solidarity with the people of France. We appreciate anew that '*mountains may fall ...but the love of the Lord will stand*'. (Is.54:10)

In the Resurrection we realize we are utterly dependent on the Mercy and Grace of God. There is a great call on the people of God to humility and prayer. As we rejoice we begin to gather in the upper room and pray for ongoing conversion in our lives this Easter. May the full truth of the Resurrection come home to us. We are Easter people of hope and joy.



This months reflection comes from Antonia Swann, who is a part of the Logos Marist Youth Project. She went to Guatemala in January and shares the deep significance of that event for her Marist identity and calling by Mary. **Thank you Antonia.**