

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.



We Welcome two new Marian Mothers Groups. Please remember to keep other groups in prayer and to share the gift of Marian Mothers amongst your friends and social networks. A parish can have as many groups as women want, so if your timing and group doesn't fit with others they can start their own.

Fr Chris and I gave **retreats in Kaikoura and Picton** on 30-31 March. They were both encounters with Grace. Thank you for the prayers and the Marlborough parish who were so open to welcome and receive us. There are 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 said the Work of Mary means working with Lay collaborators. 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.



Fr John Larsen

Sooner or Later



*We All Quote
Our Mother!*

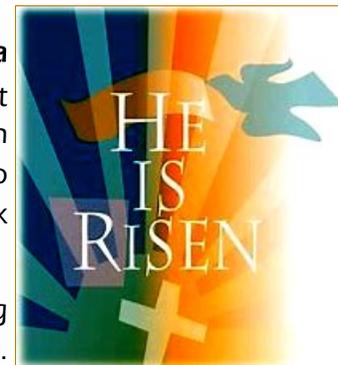
*Easter Joy and Blessings,
Bev and Margaret*



WOMEN-WOMEN: MARIAN MOTHERS

May 2019 Mary's month and Mothers Day

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



I write this news in Holy week, anticipating Easter, Mothers Day and Mary's month for you.

But another sad event 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 that 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 completely dependent on the Mercy and Grace of God. Women were the first messengers of the Resurrection. As we rejoice we pray that our message will be received with gladness.

May the full truth of the Resurrection come home to us and those we love and share with. We are Easter witnesses; women of hope and joy!