



# SM bulletin

Friday, 16 February 2018

## General Administration

Fr John Larsen is on visitation of our confreres in the Solomon Islands Sector of Oceania.

Fr Paul Walsh has arrived back from his visit to Senegal, but returns to Africa next week to visit Cameroon.

Fr Ben McKenna is on a month's retreat in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

## CYCLONE GITA HITS TONGA

This week the Pacific has been struck once again by a powerful cyclone, Gita, said to be the worst cyclone passing through Tonga's main island in 60 years, with winds of 230 km/h. Fr Setefano Mataele, provincial of Oceania, reported: "Gita's track went past Samoa leaving trails of flooding and destruction. Marists in Samoa are safe with no damage to any of their buildings (...) Tongatapu, the most populated island in Tonga was not so lucky. Gita went over it on Monday night and left destructions never seen before in the island. A State of Emergency was called. (...) The Marists in the Kauvai Parish are well with no damage to their building. The Marists in 'Apifo'ou College are safe, but the school's infrastructures were not spared as seen in the pictures. A lot of work and help are urgently needed to enable students to return to school as soon as possible."



## FEAST IN OUR PARISH IN DAKAR



On his recent visit to Dakar, Fr Paul Walsh took part in two days of celebration for the feast of the parish of Saint Josephine Bakhita, entrusted to the Marist Fathers. On two consecutive days a Mass was celebrated in the grounds purchased for the erection of a parish church. Hundreds of parishioners – including Marist Sisters and Marist Missionary Sisters – gathered with the Archbishop of Dakar and with the director of Caritas Internationalis Senegal in a joyful and prayerful Eucharist – followed by a great feast. The parishioners have launched a campaign to fund the building of the school. The archbishop himself, and many of the civic and political dignitaries present had been educated at the Cours Sainte Marie, the huge school run by the district for decades, and where the Marists continue to offer chaplaincy services.

## ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, WELLINGTON IN RANONG

The Marist Mission in Ranong recently welcomed students and teachers from St Patrick's College Wellington, New Zealand as part of a mission experience. Their helping with a Thai school and the Burmese Migrant Learning Centre saw them teach and have fun with over 250 students. They proved a huge success in the classroom as well as playing sports with the students.

