



Missionary Society of St. Columban

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 2364
Government Buildings
Suva, Fiji

email: mcevoyfj@gmail.com

119 Queen Elizabeth Dr
Nasese, Suva.
Tel: (679) 3308290
Fax: (679) 3308292

Circular # 3; 6th April 2022

Dear Columban Confreres,

A Few Difficult Weeks here in the Central House: Life at 119 QED Nasese has not been easy over the past 3 weeks – The water supply to the entire Nasese area was cut off due to low levels of water in the Flagstaff Reservoir according to WAF (Water Authority of Fiji). We installed a 10,000-litre tank and a pump to ensure that water would reach the top floor – but the WAF had to fill this tank a few times as there was no water was coming into the compound. The water supply to the compound returned on the weekend but has been cut again!!!!

The Road works by China Railway #5 has broken our fast DSL internet line on several occasions during the past two years. Recently it has been down for 2 weeks, and Telecom are fed up trying to repair it – so last Friday they set us up with a temporary internet line which is working reasonably well. The same story is with our phone line – due to these road works – there is a very bad crackling on the line – something one can't hear the caller. And on top of these there has been several power cuts during the past few months. It may be bad - but not as bad as Mariupol, Ukraine.

Golden Jubilee of Ordination - John McEvoy: Ten of us were ordained on Easter Sunday Morning, 2nd April 1972. Our ordination card with our photo that I sent out to family, friends and classmates proved very popular and received wonderful reaction – as it was a photo of 50 years ago!!!!

The Columbans here in Suva organised a small (at my request) celebration on the evening of 3rd April, which commenced with the celebration of the Eucharist. Present were our students, lay missionaries, office staff and a few other friends. My gratitude to Donal McIlraith who was the main organizer and MC for the event, to Frank Hoare who gave the homily, to Nani, Kata and Sala for decorating the conference room and to the office staff who provided beautiful food. Using Facebook and Multimedia I contacted many of my friends with the simple message “Praise and Glory to God for the past 50 years of missionary and priestly ministry. Thank you all for being part of that my journey”.

Region of Oceania Assembly/Convention 4th and 5th May: This will be a Zoom Meeting whereby all the members of the Region will be invited to attend. The main topics to be considered will be the new proposed structures for the Region of Oceania, and whether we should have a Synod of Oceania later in the year. The preparatory committee were Patrick McNerny, Peter O'Neill, Pat Colgan and Felisiano Fatu. Thank you for responding to their PowerPoint presentation (if you did). The Regional Director will send out the Zoom invitations for the Assembly/Convention.

Annual Retreat: This is fixed from **the 9th to the 13rd of May at the Nazareth Prayer Centre**. It is holiday time for our students who will be joining us. Sr Denise has offered to give us our retreat. The Prayer Centre would like to know the number attending as soon as possible So please let me know if you will be attending. Thank you for your cooperation.

Work Permits Approved: Eventually!!! The 4 Work Permits, P. Colgan, JJ Ryan, P. Tierney, J. McEvoy together with Frank Hoare's were all approved for 2 years. I express thanks to the Director of Immigration who facilitate this process, to Lillian, Nani who kept following up and all of you for your patience and your willingness to sign the many forms demanded by immigration presently.

New Secretary Appointed: On Monday Morning 4th April Alisi Vunivesilevu started work as our new Secretary. She replaces Senimili Tuitoga who's contract was terminated on the 25th Feb 2022. Alisi is from St Agnes Parish, Samabula. **I express thanks to Nani Mo'unga** who looked after the front office from late February. She is now helping with Alisi's orientation. Vinaka Nani.

Appointment of Katarina Mukai as New Regional Lay Missionary Coordinator for Oceania:

The Regional Council of Oceania made this appointment at their meeting on 20/21 Jan 2022. She comes to this post with vast experience of the Columban way of life, being a LM herself in Chile as well as holding the post of LM Coordinator for a few years. The Lay Missionary Leadership Team for Oceania with Kata are Frs Kelvin Barrett, Tom Rouse, and Willie Lee. Unfortunately, they have not meet yet as a team via Zoom.

Easter Supplies: Fr Teakare will go to Rabi for the Easter Ceremonies. Thus, at Easter he will be saying farewell to his mother and family members and his native Island for a few years.

Fr Aminiasi who held down Holy Family Parish Labasa while Fr Carlo was on holidays in Korea, is on his holidays in Suva at the present time. He will travel to Ba to help Pat Colgan with the Easter Ceremonies. He is already making preparation to depart for Peru in early May. He needs to obtain USA transit visa.

Holiday time at last: Fr Pat Colgan will travel home to visit his mother and family on Easter Tuesday 19th April. **Fr JJ Ryan will travel home** with Pat on the same flight. A long haul indeed – you both are wished well and a safe journey – hopefully to a very warm welcoming home coming. To you Pat and JJ, have a great family reunion and be renewed by the fresh air of the Emerald Isle. Donal McIlraith will travel home via London on the 11th May. Frank Hoare, Paul Tierney and John McEvoy are also well overdue their holidays. Some of them going on 4 and 5 years since they were at home.

Fr Iowane Gukibau: who has been home on holidays since early January started his return journey to Peru on the 29th March. He generously helped out in his home parish of Lami, where the PP of Lami, Fr Beni Kaloudau was not well. He was called on to celebrate many Requiem Masses, in Lami.

Carlo Jung: returned back to Labasa on the 18th March from his holidays in Korea.

Our students: Matang Maeke from Tarawa, Kiribati joined our students at the Formation House about 2 weeks ago. Birati Titon (secretary of Education) a Catholic from Tarawa helped Frank Hoare to get Matang here to Suva on a special student's flight from Tarawa to Nadi. He had also given Frank some hope that Willie Lee may be on a flight to Fiji on the 7th April but only to discover that this flight has been postponed to 13 April but they are still awaiting confirmation of that flight. Willie Lee's passport has expired. He has received confirmation letters from the Dept of Immigration which will allow him to come to Fiji – this letter is only good for a month.

Matang and Pio Tuari are in 1st year at PRS; **Ietawa Naaiti** is in 2nd year; **Elia Poasa and Paula Suka** are in their 6th Year, while **Francis Xavier** (who has completed his FMA here in Fiji) has now completed his studies 7th Year online at LST, (Loyola School of Theology, Manila). He will soon be able to return to the Philippines and hopefully be ordained deacon.

Saddened at the Death of Fr Dick O'Sullivan: Who passed away early on the morning of 26th March. He is fondly remembered here in Fiji. He was the founding Father of Holy Family Parish Labasa in 1963 and built the church at Naleba. He has left a huge Columban missionary legacy here in Fiji. He compiled Hindi and Fijian courses for those who wished to learn these languages. He taught at PRS for many years and did chaplaincy work in the Hospital. We received many messages of sympathy on his death. There were memorial Masses in our parishes and at PRS for the repose of his soul. RIP Dick.

For Other Columban Activities and News: Please visit our website; www.columban.org.fj or our Facebook page at 'Fiji Columbans'.

**MAY I WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY EASTER. MAY WE BE RENEWED AGAIN BY THE
CELEBRATION OF THE PASCHAL MYSTERIES.**

Sincerely John McEvoy
Nasese Suva.
April 6th, 2022.