

# Marist Mission Centre (MMC)

Managing both:

The Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)

ABN 91 030 510 250

The Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)

ABN 87 382 823 140



MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER  
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## Our Gift of Gratitude

Recently a friend of mine went into hospital for day surgery and was most grateful for the level of personal care and kindness given by every staff member at all stages of his visit to the hospital. His response to this experience was one of gratitude.

During this year we have all felt the challenges of COVID-19 and at the same time we are grateful that most of us have been able to hold on to what is most important to us – our families, our relationships and our faith.

Gratitude is a simple gift freely given and when it is given it frees our hearts and our spirit.

Christmas is a time for gratitude. Gratitude for the gift of Jesus born in Bethlehem and for the gift of each other in the midst of the difficulties and challenges of the year. Gratitude is our gift to each other.

This spirit of gratitude is evident in the young people whose stories are in this Christmas Newsletter.

Young refugees from Burma who have been living in fear and separation from their families have now been given the gift of education and a career. Some of these refugees have been living in a Hostel in a remote area of Thailand while others are attending our education and health centre in Ranong, Thailand.

Our missionaries are most grateful for the kind hearts of all our MMC friends and supporters. On their behalf and all at the Marist Mission Centre I would like to wish you and your families the blessings and joy of Christmas and the New Year.

With my thanks and gratitude



Learning in COVID-19 Marist  
Asia Foundation Ranong



Fr Paul Sullivan sm  
MMC Executive Officer



ACFID  
MEMBER



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[www.maristmissions.com](http://www.maristmissions.com)

# COVID – 19 CHANGES

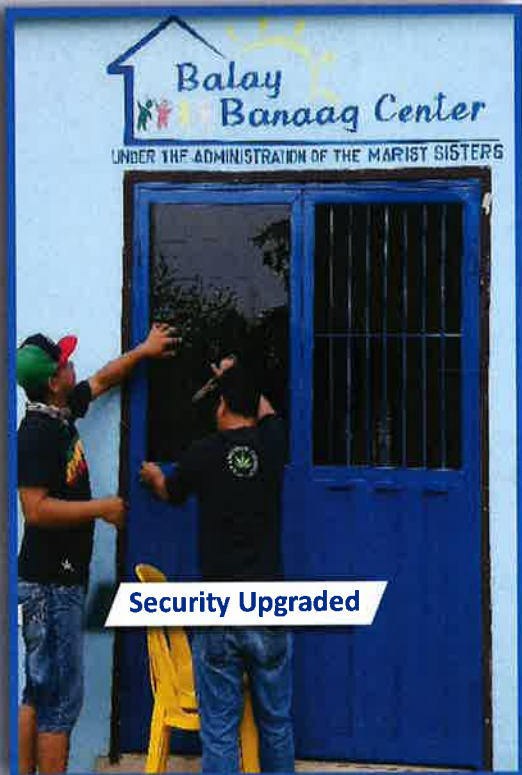
## Philippines : Balay Banaag

## — MFIM Project —

Balay Banaag is a centre for girls at risk. Due to COVID-19 lockdown, the girls are doing study at home.

Thanks to your generous support the receiving areas and sheds at Balay Banaag have been repurposed into classrooms and new desks purchased for home study.

Facilities have been upgraded with a new kitchen, laundry, pathways and security, and the provision of bedding for teachers.



Security Upgraded



These young girls can now live and learn in a safe and secure environment supported by the caring sm sisters and staff.



New study spaces

## Philippines : Balay Pasilungan

## — AMCOA Project —

Balay Pasilungan is a centre for homeless boys. Due to COVID-19 the school year for 2020-2021 will commence under the new normal of on-line learning. The boys have had orientation to the new education system and are enjoying online learning.



The boys adjusting to the new learning style.

## EDUCATION — GIVES A BRIGHTER FUTURE

— AMCOA Project —

### Thailand: Marist Asia Foundation Ranong

Great to see all the Burmese Migrant Secondary Programme students return to school and no longer on a day on/day off routine.

The 180 students aged 12-17 are the lucky ones in the Ranong community that can continue with their education. Other Education centers have been closed due to government decisions.

Education is highly valued in the Burmese refugee community. These migrant students are aiming higher with their English learning. They want to get a better job or a scholarship to University courses and now have the chance to complete 6 months of learning. The Students in Ranong are preparing for the entrance test to the Australian Catholic University Online Diploma Programme in 2021.



New School year begins



Migrant Outreach Programme



Secondary Programme Teachers

Left are the Burmese Migrant Secondary Programme Teachers. They are a wonderful team full of enthusiastic migrant teachers for our migrant children. They bring a new sense of hope and dignity to the whole community and are the future of the Burmese Refugee community in Ranong.



Home visits during COVID-19

The team at Marist Asia Foundation are caring for some of the most abandoned Burmese Migrant Families with Education and Health care. Home visits provide information, education and support that are especially appreciated by families during COVID-19.

## RESTORATION AFTER CYCLONE HAROLD

### MaeRa Moo Refugee Camp Hostel

— MFIM Project —

The Hostel was established in 1999 with MMC support. The Hostel on the Thai-Burmer border provides a safe and positive environment for the students to live and study. They form a small community with the support of a hostel manager and share all cooking and household duties.

Up to 25 students studied at the hostel during the 2019 -2020 academic year. Ten of the students completed their studies and are now working or commencing continuing education. Some have returned to Karen State and have become teachers in their home communities.

Sadly COVID-19 has affected some of the students' ability to complete their studies because of travel restrictions.



Some of the students who have completed their studies

## IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

### Bougainville: St. Joseph's College Mabiri

— AMCOA Project —

The college's only way of storing water for both students and staff's consumption is through rain water- tanks catchment systems.

The project was identified as one of the priority areas for the college.

Thanks to your generous support, MMC was able to provide funding for these urgently needed Water-tanks.



New water tanks



**Gifts in Your Will  
Supporting the  
Mission Centre**

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