

Office Updates

Margaret is away from the office **4th–13th March, then 25th March to 10th April**. This means that Bev will be holding the fort and we ask for your patience if there are any delays or glitches. We are doing our best to be prepared and keep things running smoothly for you. We wish Margaret well as she makes the most of time with her family. Please keep her in prayer and Bev also who is still a bit compromised with a splint on her right hand from a tendon injury which is proving slow to heal.



Group News. Pahiataua:

As with many Third Order of Mary groups around the country, the Pahiataua group has stopped meeting due to age, members moving or passing away. Vilma wrote; *“I am deeply grateful for the years of devotion you have given and the benefit to us spiritually is unmeasurable.”* We acknowledge and thank them for their faithfulness to Mary and want them to be assured that she will always be faithful to them.

Tauranga: Joan McWhinney had a fall recently and has moved to a rest home. She is doing well but we ask that you keep her in prayer.

Aging groups: If you are in a situation where meetings are becoming a burden for whatever reason, then please consider asking for a visit so we can have a ‘closing ceremony’ to conclude the formal meetings and place each one individually under the renewed care of Mary. It is possible for individuals to still receive the news and scripts personally if that is helpful. Please keep in touch and let us know what is best for you and your group.

Reflection Days—SAVE the DATE

Kaikoura Saturday 30th March

Picton Sunday 31st March

Fr Chris Skinner and Bev McDonald are giving Reflection Days 30/31 March.

More details to follow.



*Lenten Blessings,
Bev and Margaret,*

MARISTLAITY NZ

Instruments of mercy in daily life.

March 2019



Dear Marist Friends,

In Aotearoa New Zealand it seems most people know someone impacted in some way by the drought or the fires. By the time you receive this we are hoping and praying that the fires in Nelson are under control and the extreme temperatures will have eased a bit. It is always so inspiring though, to see communities rallying together and supporting the most vulnerable in times of crisis and we are so blessed to have that instinct for compassion and empathy so deep in our Kiwi makeup.

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Thank you to Maria Kennedy for the reflection this month on St Joseph. We are very grateful to her for her beautiful insights and it’s always good to hear new voices.. Maria is in the Johnsonville Marian Mothers Group. If any of you have an idea or experience you are willing to share please contact Bev. Making a reflection is easier than you might think.

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Ash Wednesday Lent and Easter are quite late this year. Ash Wednesday is on 6th March. The **Caritas Lenten Focus** this year is; **“Living Our Lives with Love.”** (*Te Nohi Tahi Me Te Aroha*) It is a quote from Pope Francis in Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Exult p.14, 2018). The witness

“We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.” Pope Francis

of St Joseph gives a great example of this. Consider participating in the Lenten Program in your parish.