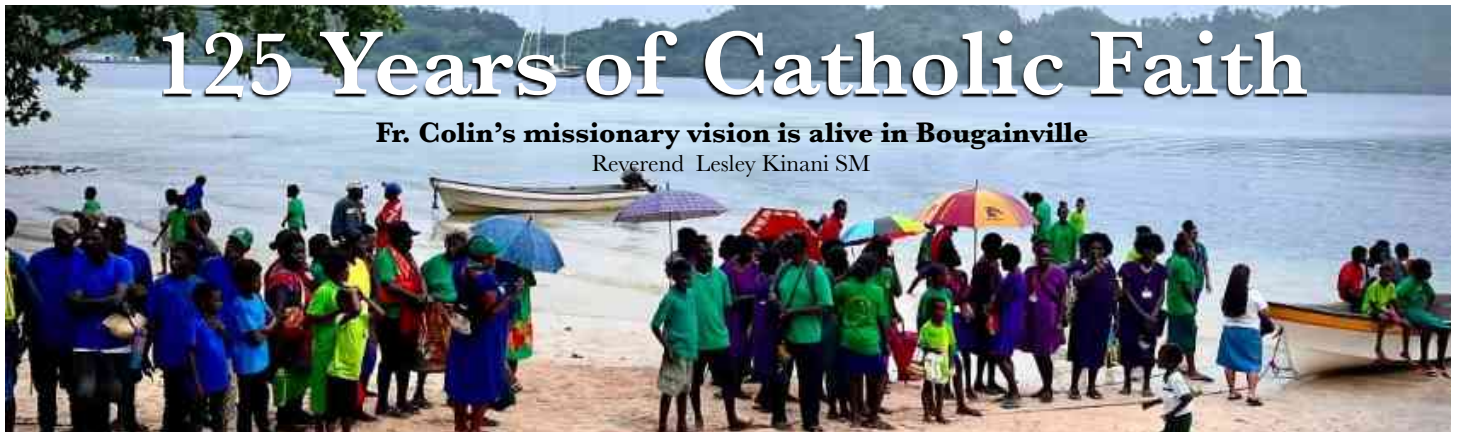




Imprints *of Venerable Jean-Claude* *Colin*

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A publication about the mission of the Society of Mary-Marists around the world inspired by the Venerable Founder.



125 Years of Catholic Faith

Fr. Colin's missionary vision is alive in Bougainville

Reverend Lesley Kinani SM

125th Commemoration of the Arrival of the Marist Missionaries at Pokpok Island, Bougainville — 7 August 2026.

This year, the Catholic Church in Bougainville celebrates 125 years since the Gospel first touched its shores. This celebration is not simply a commemoration of history; it is above all a celebration of the enduring presence of Christ among the people of Bougainville.

At the heart of this story is the missionary vision of Fr. Jean-Claude Colin, Founder of the Society of Mary. Responding to the Church's call to evangelise Western Oceania, Fr. Colin sent Marist missionaries into these distant and challenging territories. Their missionary spirit eventually brought the Gospel to Bougainville. The first Marist missionaries arrived at Pokpok Island in 1901, followed by another group at Patupatuai in 1903. From

these beginnings, the mission gradually spread throughout Bougainville and its outer islands.

The mission was never easy. Malaria, fever, language barriers, lack of roads and the fear of local people tested the missionaries. During the Second World War, several Marists were killed, others were taken captive, and mission stations were destroyed. For years, many communities had no priest. Yet the faith survived. Catechists continued Sunday worship, keeping alive the Gospel planted by the early missionaries.

After the war, Marists from Germany, the United States, the Netherlands, Australia, Ireland and elsewhere returned and rebuilt the mission. Under Bishop Thomas

Wade, churches, schools and health centres became foundations for evangelisation. From only three stations in 1911, the Church grew into more than 30 parishes.

Local vocations flourished, producing priests, religious and eventually five Bougainvillean bishops, including two Marist bishops.

Even through the Bougainville Crisis, faith sustained people and inspired efforts for peace. Today, thousands gather in joyful communion, witnessing that after 125 years, the faith planted through Fr. Colin's missionary vision remains alive, strong and fruitful in Bougainville.

The Holy Name of Mary

Titular Feast of the Society of Mary

12 September

Venerable Jean Claude Colin often repeated a saying that he attributed to Mary herself: 'I was the support of the Church at its birth; I will be so at the end of days.' He often said that the earliest Church, literally 'the-Church-as-it-was-coming-to-birth,' was the sole model for the Society of Mary.

Continuation at the back page....

Seeking Graces

... through the intercession of Venerable Jean-Claude Colin

The Church teaches that the saints in heaven lovingly intercede for us on earth. As we journey toward the beatification and canonisation of a holy person, we confidently ask God for His graces through that person's intercession. Around the world, many people seek God's help through the intercession of Venerable Jean-Claude Colin. Here you will find some of their prayer intentions. Let us unite in prayer, asking God to hear these petitions through Father Colin's intercession.



A prayer for graces

Loving God, you inspired
Jean-Claude Colin
to live a life faithful to the
Gospel and in the spirit of Mary.

If it is your will that he be
honoured as a saint to the glory
of your name, please show us the
favour he enjoys in your sight by
granting the grace we now ask
through his intercession:

.....
We ask this through Christ,
Our Lord. Amen



Prayer for a miracle

Loving God, you inspired
Jean-Claude Colin
to live a life faithful to the
Gospel and in the spirit of Mary.

If it is your will that he be
honoured as a saint to the glory
of your name, please show us the
favour he enjoys in your sight by
granting the miraculous grace we
now ask through his exclusive
intercession:

.....
We ask this through Christ,
Our Lord. Amen

Colombia



José Anaya Cabrera



Mateo Anaya Cabrera

In the city of Neiva, Colombia, two brothers suffer the affliction of advanced glaucoma.

Jose, 38, married and father of infant son, after unsuccessful surgery is now legally blind, and Mateo, 30, have lost peripheral vision and lives in fear of impending blindness. They both seek the grace of healing from the Lord through Fr Colin's intercession.

....continuation of the Holy Name of Mary

Colin believed that the Blessed Virgin had a key role, which she wanted her Society to carry out in her name. That was the purpose of its foundation and existence. In the meantime, the Society was to strive to bring about, and even to model, the 'new Church' that would resemble the Church of Acts.

Colin is convinced that the Marist project was intended to establish a society "called by Mary's name" to do Mary's work.

An excerpt from
A Short Life of Colin
by Fr Justin Taylor
(cf *A Short Life of Colin* Ch.2 pp. 9-10)

If you or someone you know would like prayers offered through the intercession of the Venerable Jean-Claude Colin, please feel free to contact a member of our network near you. Please check for further details at

<https://www.jeanclaudecolin.org/cause/network>

