



Our Work in...  
**Sri Lanka**

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## Partnership in Sri Lanka

Australian Marist are assisting education in Sri Lanka in a number of ways.

### Rebuilding of Holy Cross School after the Tsunami

Holy Cross College is located at Kalutara in Sri Lanka. This area was severely affected by the Tsunami at the end of 2004. Many students were not able to be located immediately after the Tsunami. Marists are currently in the process of rebuilding in many ways. The Bureau of International Solidarity (BIS) in Rome has identified three priorities:



- Short Term - School and Classroom reconstruction. Holy Cross College Kalutara in Sri Lanka needed rebuilding. Marists have experience in this; after the Goma Volcano in Africa in 2002, they responded by building a Tent School in less than a month.
- Medium Term - Displaced student care and relocation after village reconstruction. This is a medium-term task. Students moved away from the damaged areas to places where schools are up and running. Marist schools have always provided places for the poorest students at no cost. Now the assistance is needed for thousands of students.
- Long Term - Student and family welfare. Counselling is important for students who have suffered the trauma of losing so many of their family members. Marists have developed a good understanding of the traumatic effects of war and disaster. At our schools in Mabiri on Bougainville we have a whole school for ex-combatants in the civil war. There, each student has a counsellor and access to therapy sessions.

### Establishment of a Life Skills Education Project near Colombo

An Australian donor offered to provide educational access to local young people who had missed out on the benefits of formal education. A life skills education centre has been established in a rural setting near the capital of Colombo. Young people have access to computers, sewing machines, catering facilities and sports grounds.

### Support for a remote area school and homework centre near

Kalpitiya is very remote. It is just across the sea from a stronghold of the Tamil Tigers and the security situation is not good. Three Brothers have volunteered to live there and assist with education. They teach in the school (only one is paid by the government) and they run a homework centre each night until 10pm. Australian Marist have assisted with transport (both to and from the centre) and aided in the provision of sound equipment to support the choir, which has shown to be a great morale boosting activity for the students.