



MARIST | SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA
Catholic education in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat

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Marist Schools Australia

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Lavalla



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Lavalla

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Lavalla The name given to this magazine is taken from the village in France where St Marcellin Champagnat established the world's first Marist school in 1817. There are now Marist schools in 80 countries.

Front Cover: Staff and Year 1 students from St Joseph's Primary School, Murgon, Queensland.

The stained glass window behind the group is of St Joseph and Nano Nagle, the Foundress of the Presentation Sisters.

The Staff in the photograph are L to R: Miss Frai's Marrinon (Teacher), Aunty Shirley Law (School Officer), Br Daniel (Principal) and Mrs Sheryl Ogden (School Officer).



MARIST | SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA
Catholic education in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat

Dear Fellow Marists

One give-away which the young pilgrims will find in their World Youth Day back-packs when they arrive in Madrid next month will be a little yellow book called *YouCat*. *Benedict XVI* is placing a lot of importance on it.

You may have already seen a copy. YouCat is a youth version of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, targeted especially at 14 to 20 year olds. Its language, its formatting, and its feel are aimed at engaging this readership in particular. It has its own website and even its own Facebook and Twitter pages. Let's hope with the Holy Father that the initiative can achieve its purpose.

The concepts of a "catechism" and the activity of "catechising" have been somewhat out of vogue for much of the post-Conciliar period. Apart from our retaining the word to describe the stoic "catechists" who parishes organise for teaching in State schools, we have let the term fall out of common usage. That's a pity, for it touches into something important that goes back to the original intuitions of our Marist movement and, in the "catechumenate", to the beginnings of the Church itself.

Brother Laurent, the third recruit to join Marcellin at Lavalla, came to be held as a hero of the founding period. A simple and passionate man – small in stature, florid in complexion,

Our Identity

"Everybody knows me here" is an endearing phrase often heard around Marist College Penshurst, a unique Marist School in the southern suburbs of Sydney. Founded in 1953 by small group of Marist Brothers, our community stands on the shoulders of those men and women who have gone before us and have left us a very rich tradition. Staff, parents and students are instrumental in allowing the charism of Marcellin to flow through every vein of the body of our community. I have often heard people say "There is just something special about the place"

If asked to identify the Marist characteristic that shines most brightly in our College, we would all say Family Spirit. We take pride in the relationships that are nurtured and developed each day between staff, students and parents. For such a small community there is a great sense of brotherhood and camaraderie between students – it is not uncommon to see Year 7 boys mingling with the older boys, asking for help or just enjoying each other's company. Honest, caring and loving relationships are at the heart of our Marist identity and are the product of the small size of our community.

Our staff are happy in their work, viewing it as vocation rather

Editorial

impulsive by temperament – he was honoured by his confreres for his indefatigable enthusiasm in catechising. For Laurent, this was a simple thing: “If the children only knew this great God who created us, who gave his life for us ...” He went to the basics. Indeed, the first Marists were very clear on their basic purposes. Their aim continues to be simply encapsulated in our Marist Brothers’ Constitutions today: “To make Jesus Christ known and loved among young people, especially the most neglected.”

In his forward to *YouCat*, Benedict reaffirms the basis of catechesis: the oral teaching (literally, the ‘drilling’) of the fundamentals, the essential principles, of Christian belief and the Christian life. The book is structured around this simple format: i. What we believe; ii. How we should celebrate the Christian mysteries; iii. How we have life in Christ; iv. How we should pray. I think Laurent would have been able to use it well.

The Pope does something else which Laurent, Marcellin, and the first Marists would have applauded. He is unambiguous in his affirmation of young people, all young people. He states and re-states his belief in their good will and their capacity to learn, to appreciate, and even to love what he describes as the “compelling” words of the catechism. He wants to nurture faith

in the young, to win their hearts by leading them to a personal relationship with Jesus. They deserve to be taught. There is no fear-mongering, no stick-waving, no punitive threats. But there is substance.

The pages of this issue of *Lavalla* reveal yet again how today’s successors of Laurent, in Marist schools in Australia, are going about doing what lay and consecrated Marists have been doing for almost two centuries. We believe that the faith can and should be taught, but we also know that it needs to be caught. Caught from us. Taught by us. Credibly. Our distinctive way of catechising – in the context of a school and through the effectiveness of simple, family-style relationships – continues to serve young people with great effect.

Marist Schools Australia exists before all else to build and to sustain the capacity of contemporary Australian Marist educators to do this work.

Brother Michael Green FMS, NATIONAL DIRECTOR



– Writing From The Heart...

than just a job. They frequently go over and above the call of their duty as teachers. For staff and students, being present to one another is a high priority, whether it is through sporting commitments, debating, music, homework club, breakfast club, camping trips, or just being there with an open ear and an open heart. Staff also value and share in the spiritual development of students through their commitment of time and energy to our student retreat program and reflection days.

A love of Jesus and a deep sense of spirituality are apparent in our College. Our students are proud to call themselves Catholic but more so to call themselves Marist. A love of Mary and Marcellin Champagnat is apparent. School Masses and school prayer are reflective of a strong sense of God’s love within the community. Students sing with gusto during our liturgies and are reverent in their prayer. Our boys relish the opportunity to spend time in prayer and reflection with Brother Tony Butler who is a calming Marist presence in our College. Brother Tony is a constant reminder that we must be true to the spirituality of Marcellin, not allowing ourselves to be constantly caught up in the busyness of everyday school life.

Our staff identify themselves as Marist in their work but also in their personal lives. This is apparent through our lay Marist Mission group that gathers each term to share a meal and pray together – we hope this will soon become a monthly gathering. We value our work for various missions, often raising money for MAPS and other charitable organizations. We hold a Multicultural night to celebrate the diverse nationalities in our community. With Mary constantly in our vision, we hold Dignity Week each year to ensure our students reflect on the importance of dignity and respect in their relationships, especially with women.

There is a very special spirit alive in our College. We strive to develop and inspire our students in holistic ways: learning must happen both inside and outside the classroom. We teachers are continually challenged to ‘love our students and love them all equally’. I am assured that this happens every day, bringing those who are on the edges back into our loving embrace.

As we move into the next chapter of our Marist story we take to our hearts the call to ‘go in haste like Mary to a new land’

Ms Marian Butler, Religious Education Coordinator
Marist College, Penshurst, NSW

Vocation – A Perfect Mess

I like being tidy. It creates well-organised classrooms, neat dorms and a sense of order in the chaotic lives of the young people. However, extreme orderliness can be a compulsion and have drawbacks, one being the loss of creativity. Those messy desks, noticeboards, relationships are more conducive to making the random connection that could lead to discoveries, solutions and even discovering one's vocation.

Working with young people is messy.

When I was appointed to be Vocation Director, a colleague expressed her 'condolences'. She explained that the vocation director lives in the anxious messy space of presenting the ideal and living in the real. Yet, anxiety has evolutionary values, it keeps us vigilant and imaginative. It is the space of disturbing wonder, like with Mary,

(Mary) was deeply disturbed (by the words of the angel) and wondered what they might mean.

– Luke 1:29

Richard Rohr's book *"The Naked Now"*, describes this sense of disturbing wonder and suggests three things,

1. *(Mary)* Standing in disbelief
2. *(Mary)* Standing in the question itself
3. *(Mary)* Standing in awe before something.

The role of Vocation ministry sustains this sense of wonder, where spiritual curiosity is encouraged to draw out the answers to one's longing, in turn, refining and standing in the question itself instead of looking for the perfect answer. The final line of the Annunciation account: *the angel departed from her.* (Luke 1:38) sees Mary left alone with the conundrum of the angel. There are no clear answers. She has no best practice models to follow. She is in a right mess.

In accompanying young people, I see their struggle for clear directions to their divine longings. It is the space of restless disorder between the desire to be in control and the call to



Young Marist Brothers in Formation: Postulant Ashley Higgins, Br Justin Golding, Br Patrick Connell, Novice Br Daniel Lynch.

surrender. For some, this wonder can harden into scepticism and choices are paused. For others, they reveal courage. Courage, (Latin 'cor'), originally was defined as telling the story of who you are with your whole heart. These are the people who have the courage to be imperfect and be vulnerable. They have made their hearts known. They are willing to invest in a relationship that may or may not work.

There is hope and mess in our house where there are young people who believe the pursuit of a brother's life is a valid & valued one. We have more Marists today, because we have spilt the identity of being Marist as being more than men in monasteries. We live in Annunciation time of a new integrated province identity and we wonder what this may mean.

I still like to tidy up things but when it comes to people, I don't mind the confusion of youthful dreaming or the quiet turmoil of those seeking authenticity. It is the disorderly sacred space of wonder and imagination. Mary's courageous 'yes' and young people's honest vulnerability teach us to love and work in this wondrous mess – A Perfect Mess.

Br Tony Leon, FMS.,
Vocations Director for the Sydney Province



Br Tony Leon (right) pictured with students from Burdekin Catholic High School in Ayr. Left to right: Danny Burke (Vice Captain), Nathan Boccalatte (Captain), Emma Montafia (Vice Captain) and Emily Pucciarmati (Captain)

Marcellin at the Montagne Centre

Marcellin And His Marvellous Companions, a short Patrimony Course designed by Br Michael Green and presented by Br Michael and Br Peter Walsh was conducted for the first time at the Montagne Centre, Melbourne from 18-21 May, 2011.

Brothers and Lay Marists from schools, Marist Youth Care and other Ministries, who gathered from as far afield as Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, were very appreciative of the course and found that it gave them much deeper insight and understanding of Marcellin Champagnat and the defining years of the Marist Congregation. Sessions included an examination of Marcellin's life and family and the influences that helped define his spirituality, and examination of his letters, and Br Michael also spent time uncovering the other members of the Founding Community at Lavalla and the part they played in shaping the Institute.



Left to right: Br Rod Thomson, Br Vincent Shekleton, Des Connelly, Karen Young, Bronwyn Ringrose, Br Michael Green, Michael Crank, Joe McCarthy.

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Pictured at Bob Stewart Menswear are his two sons who now manage the business: Robert Stewart and Francis Stewart.

Right: Ties and scarfs for the 2011 AMSA Conference are being supplied by Bob Stewart Menswear.

School uniform specialists, Bob Stewart, have been great supporters of AMSA since its inception in 2001. With historically close connections to the Marist family through Marcellin College in Bulleen the Stewart Family has a great understanding of and sympathy with Marist educational values. This sympathy and support has been exhibited in generous, varied sponsorship of Biennial conferences (eg ties and scarves) and in the manner in which special relationships have been built up with Marist schools over the years. Ossie Gauci, Robert and Francis Stewart are well known to many of our schools and have always offered wonderfully efficient, warm and generous service.



Hermitage Study Pilgrimage 2011

On 10th April, twenty-two pilgrims from Australia arrived in Paris for the first part of our Marcellin Champagnat Study Pilgrimage, not quite sure about what we were about to discover or quite how we would be affected by the experience. On 29th April, as we prepared to leave Rome and the group we had spent the last three weeks with, we knew that we had been touched by the spirit of Saint Marcellin and by the camaraderie of our fellow pilgrims.



Back row from left: David Harris, Brian Vane-Tempest, Matthew Brennan, Deb King, John Folan, Richard Quinn, Michael Connolly, Br Frank Elvidge, Br Michael Akers.

Front seated from left: Br Peter Walsh, Margie Brennan, Br Terry Heinrich, Anne Chambers, Dan Brown, Br Paul Bailey, Ann McGovern, Geraldine Swindells, Catherine Thompson, Kathryn Thompson, Br Michael Green, Br Neville Solomon

Our pilgrimage leaders, Br Michael Green, Br Neville Solomon and Br Peter Walsh unveiled a treasury of facts about Marcellin and the early brothers and we saw firsthand the evidence of their hard work when we arrived at Notre Dame de l'Hermitage on the outskirts of St Chamond. It was also a wonderful experience to see a glimpse of life with the brothers in community at the Hermitage.

Our time in Paris was spent in presentations by our leaders each morning before heading out for our field experiences each afternoon, taking lunch on the run or sharing in a meal at one of the sidewalk cafés around the great city. We were not only treated to significant information about Marcellin himself and the time he spent in Paris striving to register his Little Brothers of Mary as an official order with the French authorities, but we learnt about how the French Revolution shaped French Christianity for decades to follow. This impact demonstrated the significant plight of Marcellin and gave us a strong realisation about how determined the man was to endure multiple setbacks on behalf of this order of men who were being lost to conscription.

After visiting many Cathedrals, Churches and Basilicas, each one holding particular significance in the life of Marcellin, his family

and French Christians at the time, we headed south for Notre Dame de l'Hermitage. It was almost the start of Holy Week and it was a very special time for us all in this very sacred place. On our first weekend there we shared the Hermitage with a group of German schoolboys from a Marist school in Germany and, as the boys were full of energy until the sun went down at 9.00pm each evening, our Australian male Pilgrims challenged them to a game of football – much to the delight of the boys. This demonstration of big brother, little brother interaction would have pleased Marcellin no end and I am sure was helpful in working off some of the four course fare after another memorable French dinner.

During that week we visited Lavalla where Marcellin spent his early days as assistant Priest in his first parish. We were amazed at how large this area was and marvelled how he managed to minister to his parishioners within such a vast expanse of rugged countryside. It was a poignant moment for us all to discover the table that the brothers shared many a meal around, and that it was the one we have seen in so many photos, particularly this year in the solidarity campaign – 'Around the same table, a place for all'.

We were treated to many more special moments like this – being shown where Jean-Baptiste Montagne's house once stood, sitting in Brother Francois' family home and where Marcellin's home was in Marhles and seeing the room he stayed in each time he returned from the seminary.

After spending Easter weekend in reflection and celebration at l'Hermitage, we left early on Easter Monday morning to fly to Rome for the last leg of our journey. Here we spent the last five days visiting Marist General House, hearing from our gracious host, Superior General, Brother Emili Turu and others. Our attendance at a Papal audience while we were in Rome was also a very special experience and worth the early trek through workday commuters to get there for a barrier position.

I am sure that the experiences we all shared while on this pilgrimage will be with us forever and that what we saw and learnt about the early Marists will have an impact on how we minister to the young people we educate each day. I was inspired to find that Marist spirituality is certainly alive and well in the heartland of the early pioneers and that Marcellin's legacy lives on in each of us who were touched by what we saw.



Catherine Thompson

Catherine is Principal of Trinity College, Beenleigh, Queensland. The college is coeducational and has an enrolment of 870 students. Catherine has been the Principal for two years and prior to her appointment held senior appointments in other Queensland schools.

Celebrating St Marcellin Champagnat

There is a Rock at the Heart of Our Country

There is a rock at the heart of our country. It is one of the largest rocks on the planet and is the colour of the surrounding desert – a deep red, as a heart should be.

It is a sacred place to our indigenous sisters and brothers – a place where reside some of the great spirits of the dreamtime. It is Uluru.

Even non-indigenous visitors are struck by its beauty and awesome – even holy - presence.

It sits in the midst of a vast desert.

When the rains come it is transformed: its crevices and holes fill with water and then run in multitudes of rivulets and waterfalls and cascade down the sides of the great rock. Within days the surrounding desert bursts into life with thousands of wildflowers of every imaginable hue and colour.

This is holy ground indeed.

In the story of St Marcellin and his early companions, water and rock became sacred symbols also in the Marist story and they continue to be for Marists – students, teachers, and families in the almost 80 countries of the world from great cities like Sydney, New York, Barcelona, Buenos Aires – to tiny villages in Africa and Asia.

When young men flocked to join Marcellin in his work of starting small village schools, he needed a place for them to live. He purchased a site in a deep valley in the mountains of southern France and there in one summer with the help of surrounding farmers and artisans he and his young brothers literally carved out a space on the rock face of a mountain and built the first building we call to this day – the hermitage – our lady of the hermitage. Even today visitors can still see this great rock face on which parts of the building stand.

Nearby runs to this day the small River Gier – a fast flowing, crystal clear and icy stream emanating from the mountain snows high above the valley.

This was holy ground for the early Marists and remains so today.

Marcellin also knew the importance of a family table where

meals sustained energy, where stories were told and where laughter and pain was shared. He knew the importance of every person being welcomed at this table; that here at this table as in any family – everyone was loved and everyone had a place.

These images of water and rock – and the table at Lavalla - became for Marcellin, and remain today symbols and sources of our life together as Marists. These are simple everyday symbols. But from the time of Marcellin until today and into the future they have and will help our Marist world to blossom like that desert after the rains at the foot of Uluru.

One of Marcellin's great insights was that our god loved each of us in an extraordinary way – always wanting what was best for each of us.

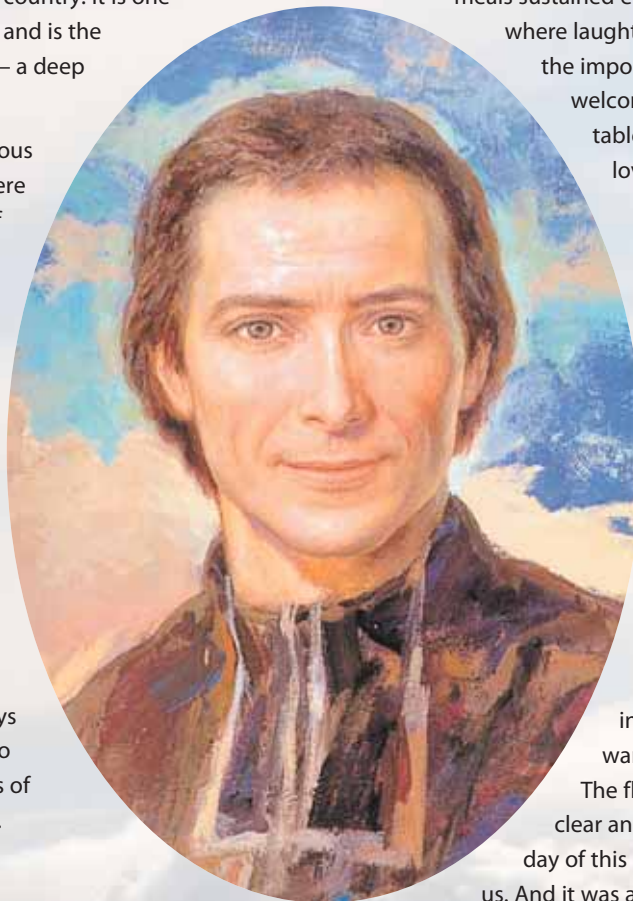
The flowing River Gier: cool, crystal clear and abundant reminded him every day of this prodigal love that our god has for us. And it was around that family table at Lavalla

where he wanted his young brothers to share and experience that love – so that they could share it with their students.

As we remember Marcellin's story, let us recall each day, that in each of our school communities we gather around the vast table that is our school - with every student and every staff member and every family welcome and blessed. Let us recall that no one can be excluded from this family table and that every day each one of us here brings the sacredness of our own journeys – sometimes full of joy and sometimes with sadness or even darkness in it but journeys which shape the vast sacred site on which we stand here, and which will continue to blossom and grow.

Yes each of our schools is holy ground because generations of young people have walked its grounds, sat in its classrooms, played on its courts – and above all because that continues today with each member of the school family contributing every day to the school's being a truly Marist sacred site.

Br Robert O'Connor, FMS.,
Regional Director,
Marist Schools Australia, Sydney.



Who's Who

Julie Bradley



I have been a member of the staff at Sale Catholic College for a total of eleven years. My roles over this time have been centred on: Pastoral teacher Sion and St Patrick's Campuses, Faculty Coordinator (Science), Year 7 Team Project 2001, Director of Teaching and Learning and Professional Learning 2002 – 2005

What do I like about my school?

The people (students and staff) who work and learn here. The students I encounter especially at the senior level are eager to learn and are great to teach. The culture here is one of caring for others within the school and the wider community and beyond. There is a focus on peace – 'peace amongst nations' is our motto but we promote peace amongst each other on a daily basis and I think in this troubled world that it is important to make these values evident. Our Peace Mass is a great event. We also try to encourage our students to think beyond the materialism that they are confronted with every day. The active involvement in a range of charities including aboriginal missions interstate gives many of our students a chance to get really involved in helping others.

The staff are the most friendly and supportive that I have ever encountered in any school. They are really great to work with. Great teaching facilities in most areas – I think this really helps students learn.

The aspect of Marist education that I value the most is to love our students and love them all equally is something I aspire to.

At times this can be difficult but the culture and support structures within our school help us to do this to the best of our ability.

And Love of work. I do love my work and do my best to foster the development of my students' talents. I seek to motivate them to achieve their best by offering them encouragement and support and of course well planned learning activities!

Andrew Dorahy

Head of Senior School
Saint Augustine's College, Cairns
Years on Staff: 1984 – Present
Subjects: English, Religious Education

Saints, as we like to call Saint Augustine's up here in the Far North, is a very special place. Almost right from the word go, when I journeyed up from Sydney to Cairns as a very young man, the school felt right; it seemed that I was at home.

The openness of the boys, their sincere friendliness, their generosity of spirit, the pleasure they take from their daily lives and the enthusiasm with which they involve themselves in every aspect of College life all combine to make this a school of which Saint Marcellin can be proud.



Working in a Marist environment is such a serendipitous experience. Whether it is in our daily attempts to follow the example of Mary, whether it is in the way we model the love of work to our students, whether it is with a simplicity of heart that we go about our core business, whether it is in the presence that we provide to our charges or whether it is in the family spirit

that we try to nurture within our communities, there are manifold opportunities to walk in the footsteps of Saint Marcellin.

I have been richly blessed to have had the good fortune to play even a small role in the continuation of this wonderful Marist project.

Rick Morrow



Greetings to all our Marist colleagues in schools across Australia from Marist College Ashgrove. My name is Rick Morrow and I have been a teacher here at the College since 1989. I have been involved in Marist education for over thirty years as a teacher and continue to be inspired in my work by the commitment of my immediate colleagues and this sense of participating in the Marist spirituality of education which persists in all our schools. The Marist schools I have taught at have been in NSW, Canberra, Solomon Islands and here in Queensland at Ashgrove, where I am currently Head of Science.

This College is renowned for its beautiful campus and our recently completed Science Centre (The Br. Alexis Turton Science Centre) will further enhance the aesthetics of the campus as well as serve to re-vitalise students' interest in all things science. As a Science Staff we have been grateful for the opportunities given us to contribute significantly to the planning of this building. The College now has a state of the art Science building with modern and practical design features which will encourage pedagogical practices that will be in keeping with an open inquiry approach to science education.

Saint Joseph's School Murgon

Saint Joseph's School opened on February 27th 1937 and for the following 49 years was administered by the Presentation Sisters. Two Presentation Sisters remain associated with the school today. When the Sisters were no longer able to supply a Principal in 1987 the Marist Brothers took over administration of the school and introduced Marist Education to the school community. When the Brothers withdrew in 1997 the school moved to lay administration for the next 10 years until the Brothers returned to the school and Principalship in 2007. During the absence of the Brothers the school was supported by the Marist Spirituality Team and maintained its Marist spirit and association with the wider Marist network of schools. In the past twelve months the staff have developed a Vision for Learning and Teaching around the Five Pillars of Marist Education, and there is now a common language based on the Pillars among and children and staff.



Uncle Eric law and the Hall of Fame



Busy Breakfast Program at St Joseph's School.

Saint Joseph's enrolments are drawn from the towns of Murgon and Wondai, the surrounding farms and villages and from the Indigenous Community at Cherbourg. Of the 170 enrolments 57 are Indigenous – the largest enrolment of Indigenous children in the Brisbane Catholic Education System of schools. There are a number of Programmes in the school to support children with various needs including a full time Counsellor through the National Partnerships Programme, Boy's Club Programme and Girl's Bright Futures Programme that focus on building self-esteem and resilience, and a Breakfast Programme. In addition we are currently implementing the Kids Matter Programme.

Celebration of Indigenous Culture is a special feature of the school. Years 5/6/7 are taught Indigenous Studies and all classes participate in Indigenous Art lessons. An Indigenous Resource Centre is a place of welcome for Indigenous parents and houses the Hall of Fame which honours Indigenous role models from among the local community. Two names are added to this group as part of the NAIDOC Celebrations each year.

As Saint Joseph's approaches its seventy fifth anniversary in 2012 there is clearly much to give thanks for and to celebrate.

Br Daniel Hollamby, FMS.,
Principal,
St Joseph's School,
Murgon, Qld

Our Marist Connection...

The art of reading and being able to reflect on what one has read is a great gift and something not to be taken lightly. It can, in a very real sense, be like a spiritual journey, where one as an educator learns to see and to hear differently. The 'unexpected' can teach us so much about ourselves and the world that we live and work in.

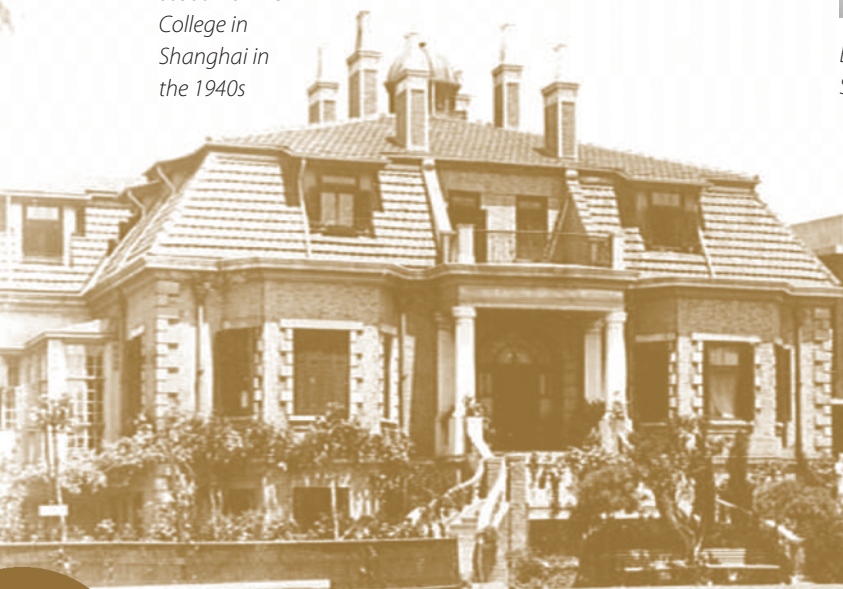
Recently I purchased a book titled 'Goodbye Shanghai' by Sam Moshinsky. Sam is one of Melbourne's senior citizens who has made a significant contribution to not only the Australian Jewish community but also to the wider community and he rightly deserves his Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service to this country since his arrival here in 1951 at the age of seventeen.



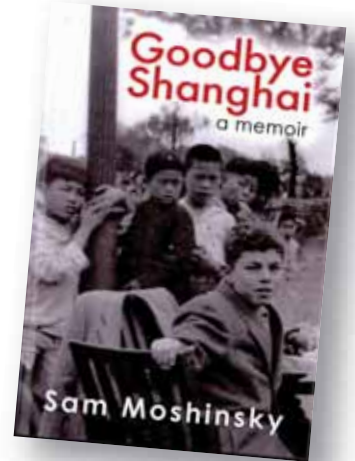
Staff and students from St Joan of Arc College. Sam's lifetime friend, Br Gilbert is pictured on the left.

The book devotes a chapter with photographs to Sam's education primarily at St Joan of Arc's College conducted by the Marist Brothers who were primarily from France. The Brothers also conducted St Francis Xavier's College in Hongkew having taken it

St Joan of Arc College in Shanghai in the 1940s



over from the Jesuits and Sam attended this college for his senior years.. Recently, Brother Michael Green and I interviewed Sam Moshinsky here in Melbourne and his gratitude to the Brothers that taught him, particularly the Frenchman Brother Gilbert, was very evident. Sam, like his book, spoke of his school life with the Marists, his outstanding school reports and the fact that on graduation he gave the valedictory address. As one of the photographs with this report indicates, Sam later caught up with his former teacher Brother Gilbert many years later in France.



Brothers and Students from St Francis Xavier's College in the 1940s. Sam is standing in the second row, third from left.



...Goodbye Shanghai



The book is a memoir, and it provides a wonderful insight through words and photographs of what life was like for his Jewish community at that time of conflict in China. A Religious Education or History teacher would find this book a great resource for the classroom. One of the interesting comments from Sam in the book is the fact that to pass the year all students had to sit for the examination in religious education. Sam sat for the examination and received the prize for religion! In addition, apart from his ongoing education in the Jewish faith out of school hours, he had to reconcile the "rationality of physics with such beliefs as the 'Immaculate Conception' ... and the 'Ascension' of Jesus into heaven" (Page 160). A Brother Kevin was teaching Sam at the time and replied without hesitation "that the former required the power of reasoning, whilst the latter demanded the gift of faith" (Page 160). Whilst the Brother may have been correct on the given points;



Sam Moshinsky pictured with Br Gilbert at their reunion in Paris in the 1990s

Sam's story and that of the journey of his family from the Ukraine to Vladivostok to Shanghai to Melbourne, leaves one in awe, marvelling at their faith in themselves, in their neighbour, and in their God.

Sam autographed his memoir for us expressing his gratitude for all that the Marists had given him in China; and it is with gratitude to Sam Moshinsky, that we feel connected with the story of the Brothers in China that have gone before us.



Finally, some good advice comes from one of Sam's relatives in the book:

In life you have three important things to take care of. Who you marry, who your friends are and who you work with. Over the rest you have no control, so pray that you will be lucky – Miriam Moshinsky.

Needless to say, Sam Moshinsky has been very lucky and we thank him for being part of our story.

His book, *Goodbye Shanghai* is available at the Sunflower Bookshop in Elsternwick in Melbourne or at the Jewish Museum Bookshop in St Kilda. It is published by *Mind Film and Publishing*.

Br Tony Paterson
Montagne Centre, Melbourne



Marist College Kogarah Raises \$25,000 to Support Charity Works!

During Week 7 of Term 3, Marist College Kogarah celebrated Champagnat Week, in honour of the Founder of the Marist Brothers, Marcellin Champagnat.

The College commenced the week long celebrations with a full school Mass and Eucharist on Monday as well as a Year 7/8 Indoor Soccer Competition and a Year 9/10 Basketball Free Throw Competition.

The College ran an art competition in conjunction with the Marist Schools Australia Art Competition. The pieces of work that were received from the students varied from short videos to beautifully painted art works, all representing the Christian faith and/or Marcellin Champagnat.

On a surprisingly clear Friday morning the school cohort concluded Champagnat Week with a walk-a-thon along Brighton Beach, in the Southern Suburbs of Sydney. The 5.5km walk was followed by a BBQ at Peter Depena Reserve, where year groups had the opportunity to participate in games of Soccer and Touch Football.

The students were encouraged to find sponsors who would donate money for the walk. Money was raised for the Marist Asia Pacific Missions, The John Berne Centre, St. Vincent de Paul and for our students who are travelling to World Youth Day in Madrid.

As a school cohort Marist College Kogarah raised over \$25,100! This brilliant effort was attributed to the generosity of the wider community, the students, their families, sponsors and the teachers of Marist College Kogarah. Their great enthusiasm and involvement during these events did not go unnoticed.

Youth Ministry Coordinator Mr. Declan Donohue revealed that this sort of generosity is "commonly seen within the school grounds at Marist College Kogarah", and continued by saying



Year 12 at the Walkathon

"I was extremely proud of the boys because many of them made sacrifices. They used their own money to sponsor themselves in this Walkathon, knowing that the money would be going to such worthy causes".

Overall the week was a magnificent time for all, showcasing everything that is great about the College Community.

The money the College raised will be used by these charities to assist those who often don't have a bed to sleep on, food to eat or clothes to wear. It demonstrated the Colleges great commitment to social justice and assisting those who are the most marginalised in our society. A small contribution from a large number of people has made a difference in these people's lives. Moreover the day couldn't have happened without the effort and commitment of the students, teachers and parents of Marist College Kogarah.

Champagnat Week at Marist College Kogarah, A week to Remember!



Year 8 Students



Founders Mass

Champagnat Awards

On Champagnat Day 6th June we presented the Champagnat Awards to the Red Bend Catholic College students in each year group who best display those qualities of St Marcellin Champagnat. The citation on their Certificates lists these qualities as being: "Patient, Encouraging, Persistent, Trusting, Caring, Hardworking, Modest, Practical and Generous". These students display true Christian and Marist values in the way they deal with others on a daily basis. We recognise the efforts of these students within our Red Bend Catholic College community.



Students receiving their awards on 6th June during the College Mass.



Red Bend altar servers James Pavey and Peter Goodwin with Br Brian McGrath and Father John Keeble.

Montagne Celebration

Some of the staff members from the Montagne Centre gathering prior to the Mass at the Academy of Mary Immaculate to celebrate the Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat.



Left to right: Kiran Rajasingam (REMAR), Laura Potts (REMAR), Maddie Hellings (Marist Young Adult Ministry), Br Michael Green (National Director MSA), Jake Stewart (REMAR), Hannah Silberstein (REMAR) and Jasmine Santamaria (REMAR). About fifty Marists gathered for the Mass followed by a celebration at the Marist Brothers residence in Nicholson Street, Fitzroy.



CATHOLIC COLLEGE SALE

Peace Begins with the Individual

Bishop Phelan Stadium was a sea of colour when more than 200 regional Catholic students came together to celebrate the 2010 Peace mass

In an ever changing and complex world, more than two thousand Catholic Primary and Secondary students will come together to pray for peace in the world at the celebration of Catholic College Sale's annual Peace Mass.

The Peace Mass is held in the state of the art Bishop Phelan stadium at Catholic College Sale and will be celebrated by Bishop of the Sale Diocese, Bishop Prowse.

The College has been celebrating the Peace Mass for the past seven years and was an inspiration of teachers at the College after the tragedy of the Bali bombings.

The concept is to bring the community together in a Christian way, to spread the Word of Peace and to acknowledge the fact that Peace begins with the individual. The hope is that after the students and staff come together to pray for Peace in the school community, the idea will filter through to the greater community and beyond.

Students from Catholic Primary schools will travel from Yarram, Heyfield, Maffra, and Stratford to join their Sale counterparts and come together to pray for peace in our lives and in the world. This moving and memorable occasion provides an opportunity for the students to appreciate that they are part of a larger Catholic student community.

History returns to the Catholic College Sale

History was celebrated at the Catholic College Sale, St. Patrick's Campus last week when an oil painting of the opening day of the St Patrick's College in 1922 was presented to the College by Mr Jim Ford.

The painting is by Terry Petersen of Omeo, an artist renowned for his love of the history and heritage of the Victorian High Country. When Mr Ford stumbled across the painting hanging in a gallery in the High Country he knew he could not leave it.

Mr Ford is a former student of the College who attended in the early 1940's. From 1950 – 1955 he worked with a young Brother Majella in the management of the College farm. Brother Majella, who still works at the College providing an invaluable service as the College archivist, also taught Mr Ford's children, Kaye, Stephen and Linda.

Mr Ford's daughter Kaye Richards who was amongst the first students in 1973 to experience co education at Catholic College Sale, accompanied him at the unveiling. The 'Opening Day at St Patrick's College' painting was unveiled by Mrs Richard's son Callum, a current student of Nagle College Bairnsdale.

Callum Richards unveiled the painting on behalf of the Ford family, a family with a long and proud association with the College. Mr Ford's father was actually involved in the early construction of parts of both Our Lady of Sion and St Patrick's



College buildings so he was very pleased to be able to present this piece of history to the College's new principal Mr. Chris Randell. Mr Randell was happy to accept the painting on behalf of the College "This is a magnificent representation of the Opening of our College and we are thrilled to have had it gifted to us" he said.

Ms Liz Whitehill, Promotions and Communications Officer, Catholic College Sale, Vic.

Marists in Benedictine Territory...

Immersing a group of people in the township of New Norcia, a Benedictine monastery owned town provided a wonder filled experience for the participants in the 'Sharing Champagnat's Vision' June Programme.

Our Marist connection to the Monastery town in Western Australia dates back to 1913 when the Marist Brothers were invited to conduct St Idelfonsus College, a boarding College for boys. Steeped in much history and the Benedictine tradition the Marist group gathered from all ends of the country to find themselves with a privileged opportunity to contextualize Marist life and spirit within a monastic setting. Comparisons and historical contexts became ready tools for the participants in their discernment of the Marist spirit in their lives.



Though the Brothers moved from New Norcia in 1964 to establish Newman College in Perth, the Marist spirit is alive and well in New Norcia with a dedicated memorabilia room reflecting the Marist contribution made to the New Norcia Mission.

For the historians amongst us, at least two of the Benedictine community are former students of the Marist Brothers: the Abbot, Dom John Herbert attended our school in Preston, Father David Barry was born in Maitland and was a boarder at St Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill. There are ten monks in the community including two novices.

Br Mark Paul, FMS., Solidarity Outreach Coordinator and Marist Mission and Life Formation Team.

Shared Formation Experience at Mittagong, June 14-19

Marists, Brothers and lay, in a new spirit of communion

Last week at Mittagong, an inspiring formation program saw 29 Marists from all across Australia come together and spend five days in community. The key word in the Program title was 'experience'. Participants were invited to 'experience' being in Marist community, reflect on their journey as a Marist, connect with the deep story which translates the Marist Charism and to identify how they wanted to take this back to the people with whom they live and work.

A deep sense of humility and privilege was shared by those present, and an enormous gratitude to the Provincials, Br Jeffery (Sydney) and Br Julian (Melbourne), for sponsoring much of the Program. With the bookends of morning prayer and evening eucharist, each day had a range of input, creative expression, discussion and forums. Topics reflected and worked on included:

- deepening our faith and vocation
- the place of formative relationships in our life
- reconnecting with the heart of Marist mission, and

considering new expressions for it

- recreating Marist life (community, spirituality, mission, formation)

One of the unique aspects of the Program was the assignment of each participant into a topic group, so that at the end of the five days, all participants had helped to shape, present and facilitate the content of the experience. Fr Pius Jones, a Marist priest, was residential chaplain for the Program, joining in with some of the sessions during the day, and each evening celebrating the eucharist in such a way that drew people into the great gift and richness of the mass. The hospitality, in every sense, from the Mittagong community and staff was magnificent, and much celebration and joy overflowed into the night around the dining room heater.

There is much anticipation for the growth of Marist life across all towns and regions

that were represented at the Shared Formation Experience. In Br Julian's written message to the participants, he says: "We have been entrusted with a great mission...it is my hope that this gathering will provide renewed encouragement and direction in taking up this challenge in our lives". Br Jeffrey wrote to the participants saying: "In the process, of change....we each have a sense of belonging to a group of people called Marists who have a mission in our place and time".

Thanks to the coordinating team for their contribution in ensuring such a powerful experience, especially Carole Wark for her organizing, and Br Michael Callinan for his gifted contribution to the music used in the prayers and liturgies.

Joe McCarthy,
Leader and Formator of Lay Marists,
Montagne Centre, Melbourne.

Standing (L-R): Br Terry Orrell, Br David Hall, Br Bill Dillon, Josh Rajasingam, Mark Small, Br Mark Needham, Br John Thompson, Br Peter Carroll, Marie Martin, Fr Pius Jones, Br Robert Speare, Maddie Hellings, Br Michael Callinan, Anthony Nestor, Gail Coates, Carole Wark, Br John O'Brien
Sitting (L-R): Julia Lederwasch, Br Harry Prout, Carmel Warnock, Barbara Radford, Joe McCarthy, Marie Butler, Julia Wake, Br Doug Walsh, Andrew Balkwill, Darren McGregor, Br Matthew Green



Champagnat Day Celebrations...

Schools and communities across Australia celebrated the Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat in various ways on 6th June. Pictured here are some of the Marists at the Templestowe celebration following Mass in the Brothers' Chapel.

Right: Dorothy Weeks, Kath Richter, Tony Magnanini



Tony Magnannini, Br Nello Facci, Pam Gartland, Jo Magnanini, Br Gerard Rush, and Michael Gartland.

Right: Catherine McMahon, Chris Mirabella, Br John McMahon, Mary McMahon, Michelle Herrick and Father John Curtis, CP.



Religious at St Joseph's School in Murgon



Br John O'Brien fms (Admin Assistant); Br Mick Hanley cfc (Learning Support Teacher) Sr Vianney pbvm (Ex student, former teacher, and now Parish Worker); Br Daniel Hollamby fms (Principal); Sr Carmel Hodgkinson pbvm (Part time Literacy Teacher); Fr Michael Carroll sm (Parish Priest).

University of Oxford Scholarship Winner Returns to Parramatta Marist



Br Patrick Howlett, Principal of Parramatta Marist High, Rahul Nath, and Greg Whitby, Executive Director of Schools for the Parramatta Diocese.

On Monday 2 May, former student and recipient of the prestigious University of Oxford's Clarendon scholarship, Rahul Nath; leading publisher of educational resources, Pearson; and Catholic Education's Executive Director of Schools, Greg Whitby visited Parramatta Marist High School, Westmead as part of their Catholic Schools Week celebrations during 1-7 May. Former Parramatta Marist student, Rahul was one of only 100 students worldwide awarded the Clarendon scholarship from the University of Oxford. Rahul competed with over 15,000 applicants worldwide, and was awarded the scholarship to study a four year Doctorate in Economics.

The Clarendon scholarship is awarded to academically excellent students and covers tuition and college fees in full and offers a generous grant for living expenses. Rahul said he was thrilled to be awarded the scholarship and is grateful for how Parramatta Marist helped him achieve his childhood dream of studying at the University of Oxford. 'It all started here. The teachers at Parramatta Marist helped me to believe in myself,' said Rahul. 'It was also the quality of the education and the discipline of studying and learning at Marist.' During the staff morning tea, Greg Whitby congratulated Rahul and thanked the staff at Parramatta Marist for the high standard of teaching that they provide. 'The staff are to be congratulated for producing students who perform highly across the spectrum,' said Greg.

'However, it is more than just the students' impressive HSC marks, but the leadership and quality of teaching that happens on a daily basis.'

Parramatta Marist Principal, Br Patrick Howlett, said he was proud of Rahul's achievements and the Marist staff who have contributed to his success. 'I congratulate Rahul and what he has achieved,' said Br Patrick. 'We can feel proud of the staff at Marist who have contributed to the successes of students like Rahul.' Rahul was accompanied by his father Rabindra Nath, who said he was grateful to Br Patrick and Parramatta Marist for the high standard of education they provide and more importantly shaping Rahul to be a well-rounded person. 'I am extremely grateful to Br Patrick and Parramatta Marist,' said Rabindra. 'They provided Rahul not only a high standard of education but more importantly shaped him into a well-rounded human being.' Greg Whitby and Br Patrick also met with the representatives from the Pearson Group to discuss how they can partner together to meet the learning objectives of Parramatta Marist. Pearson visited Parramatta Marist to see firsthand the innovative learning taking place through their project based learning program, and to see how they can provide a range of educational resources to support learning and teaching.

In his meeting with Pearson, Greg said the model that Parramatta Marist has adopted works here, but it is not about a 'one-size-fits-all' approach for all secondary schools.

'We need to ask our schools to find a model that works for them,' said Greg. 'Schools need to find ways to engage their students in a relevant way in today's world and to meet their local needs.'

Jennifer Clark,
Parramatta Marist High School, Sydney, NSW

In gratitude for the lives of those on whose shoulders we stand ...

Since the last issue of *Lavalla*, we Marists in Australia have lost three of our number – people who have been models for us of dedication to Marist education and to young people.



Brother Brian Murray (formerly known as Brother Killian) was possibly the oldest active catechist in Australia. Aged 87, and in his 67th year as a Brother, he was still teaching Year 7 religious education at Trinity Catholic College in Lismore as well as catechist and 'grandfather' work in local State and Catholic primary

schools, doing hospital visits, and in demand at children's birthday parties as a magician, not to mention still finding his way around the golf course twice a week. What energy, what passion! A much loved member of the Marist scene in Lismore, his sudden death following a stroke in May, was deeply felt at Trinity, where staff and students were already grieving the loss of a young teacher earlier in the year. Brian was born in Griffith NSW in 1923 and attended St Gregory's College, Campbelltown. After his initial training, he was to be found in the classroom for most of the rest of his life. Appointments included Villa Maria at Hunters Hill, the Minor Juniorate at Bowral, Marist Brothers HS North Sydney (all as Principal), and Marist schools at Kogarah, Auburn, Hunters Hill (St Joseph's), Penshurst, Westmead (St Vincent's), Ayr (for 28 years), Casino, and Lismore. He was known as kindly, gentle and joyful man, a deeply prayerful Brother, and a very effective educator.

Brother Alexander Moss (also known as Brother John Moss) died after a long decline through Parkinson's Disease. At the time of his death he was a member of the Marcellin House Community at Randwick, 64 years after his reception of the habit. His scholasticate followed at Camberwell in Melbourne. Following many years as a teacher of economics and history in Australian Marist schools (at Villa Maria, Parramatta, Randwick, Hunters Hill, Pagewood, Eastwood) he completed further studies in London and the Second Novitiate in Switzerland. Subsequently, he accepted a number of overseas appointments in between stints back in Australia: to the staff of the Juniorate in Malawi, and Likuni Boys' School in the same country, further work in formation of postulants in Madang (PNG) and teaching at St Joseph's (Solomon Islands), as well as to Cambodia in the early years of Salla Lavalla in Phnom Penn. Back in Australia, he was stationed at Ashgrove, Hunters Hill, North Sydney in semi-retirement but still engaged in teaching as long as his health allowed. A humble man of faith and also



of humour, wit and perceptiveness, both his students and his confreres were deeply appreciative of his companionship and his wisdom. He was most at home in community.

Brother Kevin Friel (formerly known as Brother Augustine) died as a result of an oesophageal cancer that was diagnosed only a few months ago. Originally from Innisfail in Far North Queensland, Kevin was professed as a Brother for over 60 years. He had led, until quite recently, an active life that belied his 80 years. It was only a few years ago that he finally shelved the chalk at Trinity Catholic College, Auburn, where he had continued in his passion for the teaching of senior mathematics long after the time of customary retirement. Prior to Auburn he had taught in Marist schools at Lismore, Maitland, Eastwood, Hunters Hill, Parramatta, North Sydney, and Kogarah. He was a man of profound intellect: was a member of Mensa (top 2% of the IQ range) and of the International Society for Philosophical Enquiry where admission is limited to people in the top 0.1% (99.9th percentile) of cognitive ability as measured by testing. He was a recipient of the Professor B. H. Neumann Award from the Australian Mathematics Trust for his outstanding contribution to Mathematics education. For nearly 30 years, Kevin was a member of the NSW HSC Mathematics Syllabus Committee, and involved an examiner for NSW, as well as for the Mathematics Olympiad, the Australian Mathematics Competition Committee, and the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians. He was similarly passionate as a religious educator and attended Year 12 retreats until two years ago. Kevin was a disarming humble person, an engaging conversationalist, unfailing kind and encouraging, and a generous and warm member of community. He took a personal interest in others, made friends easily and then worked hard at building and maintaining friendships through text messages, phone calls, cards and gifts. He had the ability to recall an amazing number of birth dates and anniversaries. Someone who could have followed any career of his choosing, he dedicated it as a teaching brother, with the 'passion for Christ and for young people' of which our Marist documents speak.



May these three inspirational Marists find the joy and peace of eternal life, and may we be found worthy to step onto their shoulders.

Br Michael Green,
National Director, Marist Schools Australia

Leadership Through the Mother of Believers

The Wedding Feast of Cana

John 2:1-11

In the Cathedral Church of Mary of the Assumption in Tbilisi, Georgia, in Eastern Europe, more than one hundred Christian icons tell the Story of Jesus. Icons, not only tell a story, they uncover a thread of love that can draw us to enter, through prayer, into the contemplation of the image of Jesus.

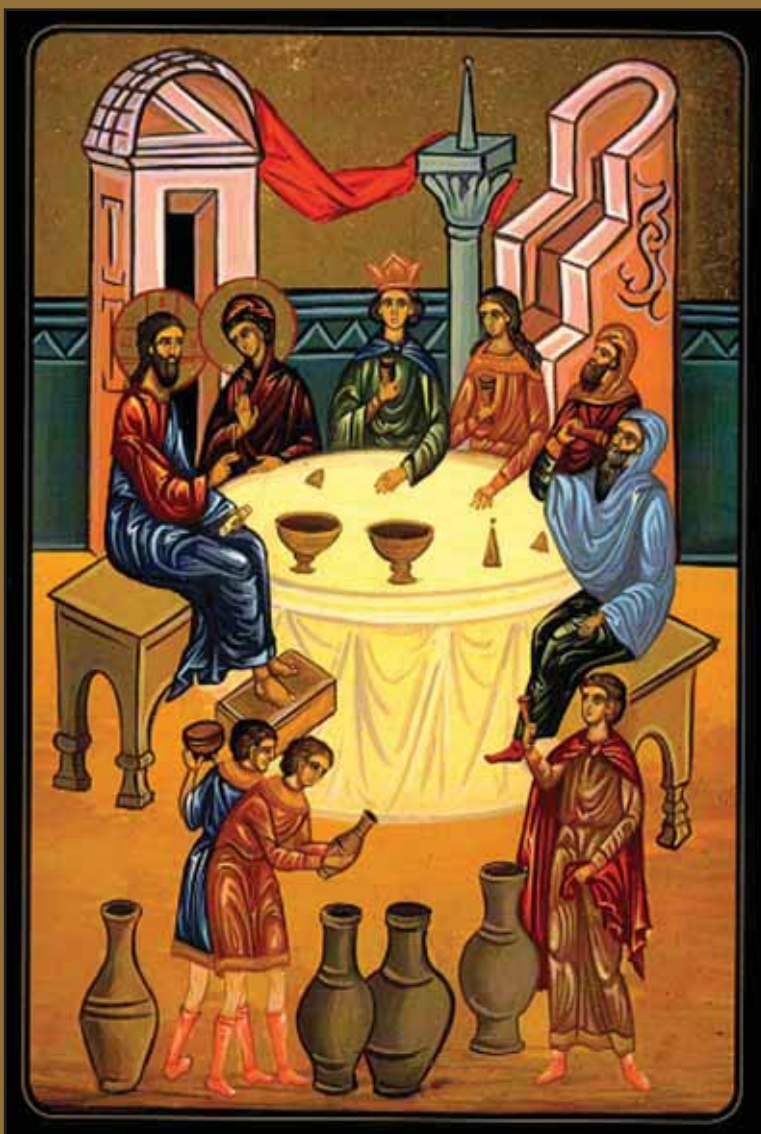
The Gospel of John tells the story of the changing of water into wine at Cana. This is a familiar story for all of us, and as we know, it is the first action of Jesus in his public ministry. It is in this story that the Mother of Jesus, the Mother of Believers, through her leadership, shows the way forward. She is the first person

mentioned in the story; she sees the problem of a lack of wine, a serious problem in a society where one's honour was measured by the success of such public events as a wedding. Mary calls Jesus' attention to this problem, and despite his reproof (as many leaders receive from time to time) she does not give up. She uses words that she continues to repeat to us today in our various roles: *Do whatever he tells you.*¹

This icon, pictured with this short article, has deliberately focused on the intervention or leadership of the Mother of Believers:

- It is shaped by a foreground made up of attendants and the water jars.
- The main focus is the people at the table –
 - The crowned husband and his wife hold their glasses. Concern is on their faces. Mary's leadership and faith in Jesus eventually changes that concern.
 - One of the guests at the table is looking into the bottom of an empty glass – a bit like some of those crises situations in schools where we ask: *Where do we go from here?*
 - Mary, at the table, is turning to Jesus next to her telling him that there is no wine left.

At that point, Jesus could have responded in a variety of ways? But he does not. Leadership is about having faith in oneself and what others are saying and doing in a given situation. As Frank Maloney suggests, it is at this moment that *the icon triggers our imagination,*



1 Maloney, F., 2008, *Life of Jesus in Icons*, Sydney: St Paul's Publications, Page 63. Icon used for non-profit purposes.

2 Moloney, F., Page 64.

3 St Gregory of Narek, in his *The Lamentations* and recorded in C.E.Braaten and RW Jenson (Eds), 2004, *Mary: Mother of God*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Publishing, Page 89.

drawing us into a response to the words that the Mother of Jesus will say to the attendants, "Do whatever he tells you"²

It is also interesting to note that the disciples are not present in the icon even though St John records in the written passage that they were invited and are present. The icon is possibly suggesting:

- The disciples are not recorded because in these early days, they still had serious doubts about the authenticity of Jesus; or
- We are the disciples looking on from a distance, out of range, at some possible safe or 'hidden distance', because we are not confident in the actions of Mary and Jesus.

Such options can possibly speak to us; they can be a source of reflection and discussion, and a good teaching resource for each of us and our students.

This icon, in the Orthodox tradition, has a rich understanding of Mary as Theotokos. It is an understanding that is embedded in the witness of scripture and tradition. In honouring Mary, the Church simply affirms the fact that God first honoured her in calling her to be the mother of Jesus Christ. This honour recognises her unique vocation and it reminds us that Mary is

truly one of us. She is one with us in our humanity and in our discipleship. As such, she provides us with a valuable example of leadership, an example as the Mother of Believers, in our Christian faith and schools ministry. She is truly the one who: *heard the word of God and kept it* (Luke 11:28).

Finally, St Gregory of Narek, a tenth-century monk, expresses the intimate relationship between each of us and God in the following simple prayer:

*There was a time when I did not exist. And you created me.
I did not ask for your favour. And you fulfilled it.
I did not come into light. And you have seen me.
I had not yet appeared. And you have taken pity on me.
I had not called upon you. And you have taken care of me*³

Our appreciation of the beautiful thoughts contained in this prayer is further strengthened when we think in terms of the application of the words not only to us, but to the Mother of God, the Mother of Believers, who like us, seeks God in the Sacrament of the Present Moment. She has shown us the way, she continues to do this each day for us ...

Br Tony Paterson, FMS

Sharing our Call 11

Mittagong, May 2011

Participants at the recent Sharing Our Call 11 program. Having graduated from SOC 1 and having completed this recent second session they are well equipped to take yet another step in our mission to make Jesus known and loved.



Back row: Andy O'Connell, Jim Holmes, Matthew Mackle, Scott Murphy, Dominic Ritchie, Peter Fuller, Luke Morwitch, Claire Pate, Brian Coates, Leonie Owens, Catherine Surany, Br Michael Flanagan, Anthony Harkness, Grant Dooner, Leigh Richards, Paul Forrester, Carole Wark, Chris Maoudis, Chris Chapman

Middle row (kneeling): Lionel Williamson, Nancy Rodgers, Wendy Clifford, Jorge Ruiz

Front Row: Angelo Scali, Chris Langridge, Maryanne Pickard, Max Redmayne, Michael Corcoran, Ian Anderson, Br Tony Leon, Br Michael Callinan, Gavan Martyn, Tony Clarke

"Living as Christ's disciples with humility, loyalty and solidarity"

The challenge put forward to our Year 11 students involved in the Blue Crossing of Remar is no simply or easy task. Yet they are called to be the hands and feet of Christ and look to Marcellin Champagnat, Mary and each other for inspiration and guidance throughout the journey. The Blue Crossing provides a strong focus on faith formation, with the turning point for many students occurring during the Blue Retreat – a three day experience that allows time to reflect upon personal identity, relationships with others and most importantly the loving and unconditional relationship God desires to have with each of us.

The transformational effect the Blue Retreat (and Remar overall) can have on our young people is best summed up by our students.

'Over the last three days a lot has changed; for me, my faith and my views. I started off looking forward to a Remar Camp, skeptic as always to the religious side of it, but willing to listen and learn as always. The first session had me wondering instantly, writing about these layers – 'T-shirts' as called by the team. I thought about how I have had to conform to so many things but it also made me realise my true self – my name – is not one thing that makes me 'me', but everything as a whole. Already, on the first day I had learnt something about myself.

We talked about love and relationships. This made me think of all those 'chick flicks' and I thought that was love. I soon came to realise there is more to it than that. Love thy neighbour, one of God's commandments, seems easy to do, but before we can love our neighbour, we must learn to love ourselves. But what is 'love'? I learnt that love is God and this confused me, but soon I realised that loving ourselves means we have to love God as we are made in the image and likeness of God. I have begun to realise that the love and relationships I have with myself, others and God are the reason behind why I enjoy every day.

Saturday night of the Retreat - a lot of things changed for me. I started thinking about my past and how I felt so apart from God. When I heard that we were having a reflection evening and a chance to go to Reconciliation, I wanted to ask about why I haven't felt God's presence with me. After talking to the Priest, I realised that I had become unwilling to connect with God and this stirred something within me. I truly prayed for the first time in a long time and I felt at peace.'

Zac, Newman College Perth.

'I have realised that love doesn't come easily. In order to love others, I need to learn to love myself and accept myself for who I am and that God loves me for me.

Hope, Marist Regional College, Burnie

'Blue Retreat was an amazing experience. I got to experience the camp from the perspective of a leader as well as a student. I had the opportunity to be a role model for the younger participants as well as someone who they could relate to and I could do the same. Being able to experience the camp on a deeper level, and be involved in a lot of the camp was a great opportunity and learning experience for me. I had to overcome my fears and step outside my comfort zone to be able to give the Rowers the best possible experience they could have, so they could get as much out of it as they could. I got to experience the many great opportunities of being a leader and role model. Just to be able to be there for the younger Rowers was great; they could confide in me and be honest about their life and their challenges. This was a great learning experience not only for the Rowers but for me as well.

This camp wasn't just an opportunity to develop my leadership skills, but also an opportunity to grow and develop in my own personal skills and spirituality. I got to witness some amazing people tell their stories and it really just made you realise that people aren't always what they seem, most of the time they need some one to listen to them, and be there for them. Even if I could have been there for them in the smallest possible way, it made my experience so much greater. When all these young people come together it is such an amazing thing to be apart of. They are all so welcoming and you feel at home. The bonds that are developed even over a short period of time is truly an amazing thing to see. I had the opportunity to not only form new friendships but develop on the ones I had already formed. I am thankful I got to be apart of this experience and I have grown in many ways from it.

Rania, (Year 12 Gold leader), St Francis Xavier College, Beaconsfield

Alice Springs Blue Retreat was a great experience for me, as I have realised that my faith is much stronger then I first thought, and if I put my mind to it I can do many things. I've always thought I don't have confidence but when I stop and think I actually do; otherwise opening up about personal things during Remar wouldn't be as easy for me as it actually is. Blue Retreat made me realise there is more to Remar compared to what you first see, there is so much love and compassion through God and Marcellin and it is really experienced over these camps. Through Remar I have been challenged to live as Christ's Disciple and I think through out Blue Retreat I have gained a better understanding of what being and living as Christ's Disciple actually means.

Tamarah, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Alice Springs

Simone Boyd, REMAR Coordinator

Wallaby Kurtley Beale presents St Joseph's with priceless caps

Australian Rugby star and Joeys old boy Kurtley Beale recently presented St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, with two very special gifts in acknowledgement of the role the college played in his life and career.

At a Headmaster's Assembly on Thursday 12 May, Kurtley presented Acting Headmaster, Brother Anthony Boyd, with his priceless Wallaby cap and the cap he received for playing 50 games for the NSW Waratahs.

"The Wallaby cap is probably the most special cap I've ever had," said Kurtley. "To get one of these is very hard and I was so happy to finally get it. Now I'd like to present it to the college, and to the boys and Brother Anthony, in appreciation of what Joeys has done for me."

Kurtley commenced at St Joseph's College in 2001 as a 12-year-old boarding student. As a student, he embraced the wide range of academic, co-curricular and sporting opportunities available to him. Upon his graduation in 2006 he had represented the college in a number of sports, including rugby, basketball, tennis, athletics and cricket, and had captained the Australian Schoolboys.

At the age of 15 Kurtley began attending training sessions with the NSW Waratahs, and at age 16 he was signed to the team.

He played rugby at St Joseph's for six years, and said he has fond memories of wearing the renowned cerise and blue jersey.

"Playing alongside some of my best mates was a great experience," he said. "I've carried my friendships from the college on and many of the boys are still great mates today."

Kurtley starred in the Joeys First XV for three years (2004-2006) and played an integral part in the success of the team. In 2004 and 2005 the SJC First XV finished the season as GPS Champions and in 2006 they were GPS Premiers under Kurtley's captaincy.

In 2005 and 2006, Kurtley was selected for NSW Schoolboys and Australia Schoolboys teams, captaining both teams in 2006. Current Wallaby Quade Cooper played inside centre while Kurtley played fly-half.

Kurtley has been a valued member of the NSW Waratahs from 2007, having earned 61 caps and 236 points since his debut against the Lions as an 18-year-old. He made his first Australia A debut in the 2007 Pacific Nations Cup and in 2009 he played for the Australia under-20 team.

Kurtley's Australian Test debut was made at the end of the 2009 Wallaby Tour of the Home Nations. He became the 836th Wallaby when he appeared on the wing as a substitute in the 43-12 victory over Wales.

2010 was a ground breaking year for Kurtley's international career. He started the Test season as a promising youngster, scoring two



Kurtley Beale with Acting Headmaster and coach of the SJC First XV Brother Anthony Boyd.

tries against Fiji. By the end of the year he was a fully-fledged Test star, playing his 30th international and having started at fullback in all 15 Tests played by Australia.

He was awarded the 2010 Wallaby Rookie of the Year and received accolades on the international stage after being only one of six nominees for the International Rugby Board's prestigious Player of the Year title. This was a remarkable achievement in itself, given that Kurtley is in the relatively formative stage of his international career.

Later this year Kurtley will join the Wallabies in their quest for the 2011 World Cup in New Zealand.

Brother Anthony Boyd said he was honoured to accept the caps on behalf of the college. "It's wonderful to know St Joseph's had such a positive influence on Kurtley's life. It's always a pleasure to welcome him back to the college and I thank him for this great honour. The caps will be treasured by the boys and staff for many years to come."

To thank Kurtley for giving his priceless caps to the college, Brother Anthony presented Kurtley with a painting created especially for him by Indigenous artist Darren Dunn.

**Ms Johanna Parsons, Communication Manager,
St Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill, NSW**

Succession Planning Inservice

The first Succession Planning In-service was held in Brisbane recently. This is one of a series being in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. The program focuses on preparing our school leaders for the future in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat and those that have followed him since.



Standing: John Brimstone (Cairns); Br Michael Flanagan (MLF, Brisbane); Michaela Smerdon (Riverview); Sherry Mulligan (Riverview); Michael Prigg (Beenleigh); Belinda France (Beenleigh); Richard Bassano (Cairns); Matthew Green (Ashgrove); Carole Wark (MLF Team); Br Michael Callinan (MLF Team) Sitting: Br Mark Paul (MLF Team); Natalie Rosa (Riverview); Louise Underwood (Ashgrove); Peter McNamara (MSA Brisbane); Scott Murphy (Ashgrove)

Archdiocese of Adelaide

Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park
Sacred Heart College Middle School, Mitchell Park
Marcellin Technical College, Christies Downs

Archdiocese of Brisbane

Marist College, Ashgrove
Mount Maria College, Enoggera/Mitchelton
Mt Maria College, Petrie
St Joseph's School, Murgon
St Peter Claver College, Riverview
St Teresa's College, Noosaville
St Thomas More School, Sunshine Beach
Trinity College, Beenleigh

Diocese of Darwin

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Alice Springs
Ltyentye Apurte, Santa Teresa

Archdiocese of Hobart

Marist Regional College, Burnie

Archdiocese of Melbourne

Assumption College, Kilmore
Marcellin College, Bulleen
Doxa School Brunswick

Archdiocese of Perth

Newman College, Churchlands
St Joseph's School, Northam

Archdiocese of Sydney

The John Berne School, Lewisham
Marcellin College, Randwick
Marist College, Eastwood
Marist College, Kogarah
Marist College, North Shore
Marist College, Pagewood
Marist College, Penhurst
Marist Sisters' College, Woolwich
St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill
St Michael's School, Daceyville
Trinity Catholic College, Auburn/
Regents Park

Diocese of Bunbury

Bunbury Catholic College

Diocese of Cairns

St Augustine's College, Cairns

Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn

Marist College Canberra

Diocese of Lismore

Trinity Catholic College, Lismore
St John's College, Woodlawn
St Mary's High School, Casino

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton
St Peter's Campus (All Saints College) Maitland

Diocese of Parramatta

Cerdon College, Merrylands
Parramatta Marist High School, Westmead
St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas

Diocese of Rockhampton

Chanel College, Gladstone
Marist College, Emerald

Diocese of Sale

Catholic College, Sale
Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon and Newborough
Marist-Sion College, Warragul

Diocese of Sandhurst

Catholic College, Bendigo
Notre Dame College, Shepparton
Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta

Diocese of Townsville

Burdekin Catholic High School, Ayr
St Francis Xavier School, Ayr

Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes

Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes

Diocese of Wollongong

Holy Spirit College, Bellambi
Mount Carmel High School, Varroville
John Therry High School, Rosemeadow
St Gregory's College, Campbelltown