



MSA Newsletter

A newsletter for Member Schools of Marist Schools Australia published fortnightly during term time



From Brother Michael Green

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

There are some things that I just don't get, such as why a man would choose to wear a business suit that is royal blue in colour, or why a young woman with beautiful skin would want to ink it indelibly with a giant tattoo, or why God made mosquitoes. But, of this I am sure: the education of young people is one of the noblest pursuits to which a person could devote his or her life.

Marcellin certainly thought so. At a time when the quality of the schooling for children from the rural hamlets and small towns of France – which was where the great majority of them lived at the time – was often a matter of chance, the founder of Marist education believed things should and could be different. And so he acted. It was simply not right, he was convinced, that an accident of birth or privilege should determine whether or not a young person had the opportunity to be well educated. The empowerment and liberation that are the fruit of knowledge, understanding and competency should not be the preserve of a lucky minority. Deeply planted ever since, in our collective psyche as Marists, has been the desire for all young people to enjoy what should be theirs by right. We look for ways to make that happen, and we will be doing so again in 2016. Theologians might describe our efforts as helping to bring about the reign of God – the way that the order of things should be – but I suspect most of us simply do it because we intuit it to be right and just.

Speaking late last year to the first-ever international congress of Catholic education organised by the Vatican, Pope Francis emphasised this point in particular. He urged the thousands of educational leaders who had gathered in Rome from every corner of the Earth to ensure that their schools and projects did not operate as gated communities. "The greatest failure that an educator can have," the Holy Father said, "is to educate within the walls – the walls of selectivity, the walls of a culture of security, the walls of social affluence." He implored them to seek out those young people who were in most serious need of education.

As we take up our work for another year, we do so in a world where so many people of influence are trying quite hard to build impenetrable walls of exclusion, self-protection, and self-righteousness. They like to pretend that they are the only deserving ones on the planet. Political campaigns are being fought; ideological wars are being waged. Drivel parades as moral rhetoric. It has the emotional and intellectual equivalence of a screaming child locking his or her bedroom door and shutting out the rest of the family. As history shows, however, "splendid isolationism" always ends up as an oxymoron – whether it be in a country, a club, a church, a social group, a classroom, or even an individual person.

What drives people to circle their wagons in this way? Fear, usually. And what is it that fuels fear? So often it is ignorance. Dull-witted, cocooned, blinkered ignorance. Few things are more insidious than ignorance; and few more liberating than education.

It's already Week 3 in many places, and no doubt the busyness and demands of school life are well back in play. Perhaps the lofty hopes and visioning of staff days are already dimming. Hold on to them, for it is indeed a noble endeavour that we are about. There is much to address in our world, and our contribution is to be its educators. Marcellin would want us to be great ones.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

12 Feb In the Marist Way - Innisfail, QLD, Cairns, QLD, Lismore, NSW, Casino, NSW and Bulleen, VIC
 15 Feb Remar Helm Inservice - Templestowe, VIC
 15 Feb In the Marist Way - Brisbane, QLD
 17 Feb In the Marist Way - Kilmore, VIC
 17 Feb Our Daily Bread - Beenleigh, QLD
 18 Feb In the Marist Way - Bendigo, VIC & Emerald, QLD
 19 Feb In the Marist Way - Gippsland Region, VIC

22 Feb Our Daily Bread - Ashgrove, QLD
 24 Feb In the Marist Way - Macarthur Region, QLD
 28 Feb - 2 Mar Footsteps 1: Making Jesus Known and Loved - Mittagong
 4 Mar Remar Helm Inservice - Melbourne, VIC
 8-9 Mar National Marist Principals' Conference, Mittagong
 11 & 18 Mar Remar Red Caravel Days, VIC
 22 Mar Directors' Forum
 23 Mar Association Council meeting

THANKS TO FRANK MALLOY

A word of deep gratitude to Frank who stood in for me in Term 4 as National Director of MSA and Executive Director of Ministries for the Marist Association. It was wonderful to be able to return to a ship where a trusted hand had ensured the bearings were sure and the speed was full-steam.

Brother Michael

NEW ASSOCIATION COUNCIL COMMISSIONED

Last night in Melbourne, the incoming Council of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat was formally commissioned during a Mass. Today it is having its first meeting for 2016 at the Marist Centre Melbourne. A three-day strategic planning meeting is scheduled for later in the month, during which the Council will take up the outcomes of last year's Mission Assembly and the Regional Meetings of Association Members held during Term 4. Marist Schools Australia is the largest single ministry area for the Marist Association, and the great majority of its members are members of staff in Marist schools.

The Councillors of the Association for 2016-2018 are:

- **Brother Peter Carroll:** Leader, Marist Association
- **Mr Steve Byrne:** Principal, Sacred Heart College, Adelaide
- **Mr Tony Clarke:** Director of Formation
- **Ms Kate Fogarty:** Principal, Assumption College, Kilmore
- **Brother Michael Green:** Executive Director, Marist Ministries & National Director, Marist Schools Australia
- **Brother David Hall:** Professor, Australian Catholic University, Dean – La Salle Academy
- **Mr Joe McCarthy:** Deputy Leader, Marist Association; Leader, Pastoral Team
- **Ms Erica Pegorer:** Executive Officer of Kildare Ministries
- **Ms Cate Sydes:** CEO, Marist Youth Care



NEXT LAVALLA & CHAMPAGNAT JOURNAL PUBLICATION

The cut-off for contributions to the first edition of Lavalla and Champagnat Journal for 2016 is Monday, 21 March. Please ensure photographs are high resolution jpg copies and provide names of people in the photos. Written material should be in the form of a WORD document and sent to tony.paterson@marists.org.au

NEW PRINCIPALS AND STAFF

A warm welcome to all those who are joining Marists schools at the start of this year. Over these first weeks, many will be taking part in the "In The Marist Way" programmes that are being offered locally and regionally. We hope that you will soon feel at home in our Marist family. A special welcome to Principals who are taking up new leadership positions in Marist schools – to **Ray Martin** at Marist Catholic College Penshurst, **John Finneran** at Newman College Perth, **Paul Rijken** at Marcellin Technical College Adelaide, **Bill Goodwin** at St Francis Primary School and **Seb Spina**, Acting Principal at St Francis de Sales Regional College.

THIS NEWSLETTER

- The MSA Newsletter is published fortnightly during term time – four issues each term. It is prepared with a wide readership in mind – the teachers and staff of member schools, members of the Marist Association, those with whom our schools work in partnership such as pastors and diocesan offices, and friends and associates of our Marist schools and other ministries.
- The Newsletter is sent electronically to each Principal with the invitation for the Principal to electronically forward it or print it for staff and others associated with the school.
- Each issue follows a regular format: a message from the National Director (page 1), news and information (page 2), formation and other Marist programmes (page 3), and updates from Marist Youth Ministry and Marist Solidarity (page 4).
- The Newsletter can also be accessed via the MSA app (available from the App Store (Apple) or Google Play (Android)), and downloadable from the MSA website (www.msa.edu.au).

NEXT YOUTH FESTIVAL IN SYDNEY TO LAUNCH YEAR OF YOUTH

Information from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference was released last December. Click on the link for further details: <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=0bfcbe7b23d4d0399421d8b1&id=f91221eb5b&e=25589c18d4>

MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



Our Daily Bread - Praying as Marists

The John Berne School Lewisham, 27 January 2016

Sandra Scott, Jodine Hardwicke, Katie Digiorgio, Grant Lee



St Francis de Salles Regional College, Leeton, 27 January 2016



Red Bend Catholic College Forbes, 25 January 2016

IN THE MARIST WAY - NEW STAFF INDUCTION

Beginning with Red Bend Catholic College Forbes on Friday 25 January, all new staff participated in the 'In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction' program. Participating in this program were Marist College Canberra, St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton and Marian Catholic College, Griffith. While the Marist story is very familiar to our colleges in Forbes and Canberra it is not so familiar to our two colleges in the Riverina who have only recently reconnected to Marist Schools Australia.



THIS IS THE NAME OF OUR GOD

-POPE FRANCIS

MERCY RESOURCES ONLINE NOW

The 2016 Mercy themed resources are online at the Marist Schools Australia Website.

Head to the link below to check them out.

<http://msa.edu.au/2016-theme-resources/>



CARE FOR THE SOUL RETREATS

The Care for the Soul Retreat is an adult retreat experience offering an opportunity for deepening and integrating prayer, mission and service.

Offered on four occasions in 2016,

- Friday 18 – Sunday 20 March
- Wednesday 20 – Friday 22 April
- Friday 27 – Sunday 29 May
- Thursday 14 – Saturday 16 July

For further information head to see the brochure here:

[CARE FOR THE SOUL RETREAT BROCHURE](#)

EVERY STEP YOU TAKE CAN TRANSFORM OUR WORLD #mysolidaritystep



We are pleased to announce to the 52 schools in our Australian Marist network the launch of our 2016 Marist Solidarity campaign. The theme for this year's campaign is *Transform our world, one step at a time*.

It reflects the important messages about our "relationships with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself", outlined in Pope Francis's recent letter titled 'Praise Be to You'—or 'Laudato Si'.

We have produced a campaign kit, which includes teaching and learning materials, activities for prayer and reflection, a poster and short promotional video. Each school will receive a kit and it is also available to download from our website:

www.maristsolidarity.net.au

Marist Solidarity Executive Director Brother Allen Sherry says, "We hope to inspire all Marist school communities to join our campaign in the year ahead and raise awareness of how we can support our fellow Marists in 17 countries across Asia and the Pacific."

While schools run their solidarity campaigns at various times throughout the year, we encourage students to share photos and stories of your solidarity campaign, using the hashtag:

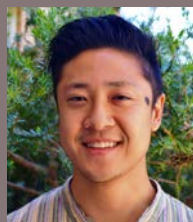
#mysolidaritystep

"Our team is very grateful for the generosity of Marist schools for contributing more than \$440,000 in 2015 and surpassing expected targets by more than \$100,000," Brother Allen says.

To find out more about how Marist Solidarity is transforming lives through education and community development email us at msol@marists.org.au or to support our work visit the website:

<http://www.maristsolidarity.net.au/support-our-work>

INTRODUCING OUR TWO NEWEST MYM TEAM MEMBERS



Daniel Nguyen is a Young Marist who has remained connected with the Melbourne scene since he left Marcellin College Bulleen in 2009. Daniel will be working with us part-time while continuing to study music at Melbourne University. He is a member of the Marist Association and a young man who has played a key role in the Bread-Run Ministry out at Heidelberg West. Last year Dan was also a member of our V-Team (volunteer team) supporting events in music ministry, small group leading and running games. As a Regional Assistant, Dan brings a calming presence among our young folk and is excited about being part of the MYM Melbourne team through Remar support, Exchange nights and Ministry experiences. Welcome Dan!



Amanda Razon graduated from Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park in 2009 and since that time has become heavily involved in her local parish with music, liturgy and reading. Amanda completed a degree in radiotherapy but after working in that field for some time decided that her true passion lay in the faith formation of young people. It was at this time that Amanda noticed the role of Sacred Heart College Youth Minister advertised and so applied and was successful in securing that position for 2015. In 2016 Amanda will fill the new role of Sacred Heart College Youth Minister and Regional Assistant for the Adelaide Region. Welcome Amanda!

MYM TEAMS GATHER FOR NATIONAL FORMATION PROGRAM

Last week the Marist Youth Ministry Regional teams gathered together with the 2016 Remar Ministry Team, for a 4-day formation and induction program at Holy Cross Retreat Centre in Melbourne. The days were facilitated by Ryan Gato and Paul Harris from the Mission and Life Formation team, along with Brother Greg McDonald, the new MYM National Co-ordinator. The days provided significant formation for participants in Christian discipleship, Marist spirituality and mission, professional standards, and youth ministry skills. Each person was commissioned during a final Eucharist celebrated by Fr Andy Hamilton SJ. Good luck to our MYM teams as they kick off a new year in mission!

