



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

## From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues

### Pilgrims

In preparing a large host of students over many months from multiple schools for World Youth Day, Madrid in 2011, the credo *"I'm a pilgrim, not a tourist!"* was repeatedly impressed upon the young people by the adult leaders. In part, this was to build a robust mindset for the inevitable challenges to comfort, convenience, patience and energy. Of course, primarily the credo was to focus the group on the real purpose of the journey: a faith experience.

After all the careful and detailed preparations, you can imagine the dismay when, two hours after take-off from Sydney, we were alerted by the cabin crew of an order for "Gin and Tonics" by three young pilgrims. Quickly averting delivery, a full investigation was conducted immediately with interviews, written statements and very serious faces accompanied by complex musical chairs as the three culprits were isolated from one another, and the depth of their transgression analysed. The fallen pilgrims were informed they would be on the first plane back home from Dubai if unable to convince the Pilgrim Leaders of their remorse and commitment to more trustworthy behaviour. This was to be demonstrated by lengthy written dissertation, due an hour before landing. After many drafts and much critique, upon descent into Dubai, the verdict was handed down. The fallen pilgrims had convincingly redeemed themselves.

Whilst notoriety among their peers was inevitable, to their great credit all three were model pilgrims throughout the remaining time together. Sincere, thoughtful, and completely engaged, whenever the going got tough they would lead the throng in unison with *"I'm a pilgrim, not a tourist!"*.

Later this month, during the next school holidays, the Marist Pilgrimage will commence involving teachers and staff from across the country. The character of the Marist Pilgrimage, honed and refined over many years, is built on prayer, reflection, learning, fellowship, and encounter with God. Commencing in the Holy Land, under the guidance of Brother Michael Green, Brother Neville Solomon and Ms Liz Falconer, the Pilgrims will trace the steps of Jesus and familiar stories from the Gospels. Jesus will become known in new ways for each of the pilgrims. The second phase of the pilgrimage is spent in Rome, where the pilgrims will experience a sample of the rich diversity of expression of faith and Catholic tradition over many centuries. The final phase will see the pilgrims in France, walking the physical and spiritual paths Saint Marcellin trod 200 years ago, as he answered God's call. Many who have been on pilgrimage will tell you the experience is life changing.

As the well known hymn reminds us, we are all pilgrims on a journey. Over the coming weeks, our Year 12 students will be completing a stage in their own journey. Like the three fallen pilgrims, they will be confronted with all manner of opportunity and possibility, failure and forgiveness. As students who attended Marist schools, may they consciously live a meaningful journey with God, characterised by prayer, reflection, learning, fellowship, and encounter. May their life credo ever be

*"I'm a pilgrim, not a tourist!"*

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Frank Malloy**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP...

13-15 Sep	Remar Red Leadership Camp - VIC	25 Oct	MSA Mass and Dinner - Sydney
28-30 Sep	Year 11 Justice Forum - NSW	25 Oct	Marist Connect - Macarthur
29 Sep - 17 Oct	Marist Pilgrimage	27-30 Oct	Footsteps1 - Mittagong
18 Oct	Marist Connect - Eastwood	30 Oct	Marist Connect - Randwick
20-23 Oct	Marist Solidarity Retreat	30 Nov	MSA Mass and Dinner - Melbourne

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**PRINCIPAL** - Champagnat Catholic College, Pagewood

Click [HERE](#) for more information

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL** - Student Learning and Wellbeing - Catholic College Sale

Click [HERE](#) for more information

**DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS** - St Gregory's College, Campbelltown

Click [HERE](#) for more information

**DIRECTOR OF STUDIES** - St Gregory's College, Campbelltown

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THE MARIST BRIDGE BUILDERS PROGRAM OFFERS BOTH SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM ENGAGEMENTS IN AUSTRALIAN OR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES.

<http://msa.edu.au/australian-province-volunteering>

### ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE HUNTERS HILL

The recent heart-warming story of Year 7 student Callum Di Bortoli's participation in the College Athletics Carnival featured in the national media. It is a wonderful Good News story and we extend Callum, his classmates and the Joey's community our admiration and congratulations.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE STORY AND VIDEO](#)



## FOOTSTEPS 1: 25-28 AUGUST

The Footsteps program invites participants into a deeper understanding of the Marist charism, explores how the spirit is being lived out in our ministries and allows time for personal reflection. A participant at the August gathering wrote in reflection, "At the start, I hoped to gain a stronger connection to God, I did not expect to gain that through Mary!" To make Jesus known and loved is our Marist mission and we do this in a Marian way. Our Footsteps programs provide the spaces and places for such connections to happen.



From L to R: (bottom row) Adeline Hendriks, Fiona Mayo, Lisa McClue, and Danniella Larman-Yalda (top row) Jenni Mitchell, Paul Harris, and Margit Cruice

## FOOTSTEPS 2: 4-7 AUGUST



From L to R: Ray O'Brien, Dorota Szarycz and Craig Harrison

Weathering some frosty conditions, teachers and school officers travelled to the gorgeous Southern Highlands and temporarily left behind the usual distractions for a few days to allow for some relaxation, Marist wisdoms, reflection and prayer. Ongoing conversions of the heart, that are critical to deepening faith, were exchanged with joy and enthusiasm. All the participants were encouraged by the example of each other and left The Hermitage to go back to their homes and communities to enliven their faith in new ways.



## Get connected to St Dominic's in the Solomon Islands

On August 28, an undersea telecommunications cable about twice as thick as a garden hose and comprising of optic fibre thinner than human hair finally reached Sydney. The Coral Sea Cable System is said to improve development in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands and will be connected to an underground land cable which was installed earlier in August.

With only 11% of the residents of PNG and the Solomon Islands connected to the internet, the Coral Sea Cable System is set to bring about a lot of change to education in the region. Most Australian children are raised today as 'digitally literate' through early and constant exposure to electronic devices and this is certainly not the case in the Solomon Islands.

In 2018, Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS) supporters donated \$50,000 to the Solomon Islands to improve school infrastructure and education.

One of the two projects that AMS has in the Solomon Islands is St Dominic's Rural Training Centre in Vanga Point. This school has been generously supported in the past by schools from the Marist Schools Australia network including:

- Champagnat Catholic College Pagewood
- Marist-Sion College
- Marist College Canberra

St Dominic's is a Marist-run rural training centre (RTC), operating since 1971 and offers vocational training in building, mechanics, poultry raising, agriculture and forestry. RTC plays an important role in the Solomon Islands educating youth from rural areas in practical vocational skills that allows them to stay in rural areas and halt the high rate of urbanization. Currently there are 145 students enrolled at the school.



There are two issues facing the St Dominic's. The first is that there is no dedicated administration building therefore the staff have no area to work. Without this proper infrastructure the staff of St Dominic's have not been able to properly plan lessons, undertake joint-planning sessions and conduct staff/student meetings. Once complete the building will provide office space for the principal and deputy principal, general staff room, department rooms and a bathroom block. The construction of the administration building is

currently underway and is being undertaken by the staff and students as part of their learning.

The second issue of which AMS is actively seeking donations for, will be the fitting out of the administration block with computers, as well as solar power installation throughout the campus. In Solomon Islands, less than 20 percent of the population has access to any electrical power supply, and when electricity is available, it is costly and unreliable.

With funds donated to St Dominic's, together we are actively increasing the quality of education for these students in time for the Coral Sea Cable System and bringing this community together to give the students a strong foundation of learning and provide better opportunities for future generations. To donate or learn more visit <https://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/project/st-dominics-rural-training-centre-so0027/>

**For more information contact:**

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## MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY BRISBANE

On 7 August, MYM Brisbane held our Year 11 Social Justice Forum. 48 students from six schools were in attendance as we explored what Social Justice looks like in our world today; how it affects us; and what we can do about it. Students had the opportunity to hear what Social Justice is, and how it relates to Catholic Social Teaching.

The students were able to participate in an interactive simulation experience called Basti Life. In the activity they were placed in the scenario of a poor family living in the slums. Within the activity the students had to make tough choices involving their family, all while encountering life situations that were unseeable, unfair and often destructive. The goal of the activity was to place the students in the shoes of real-life families who are severely limited by their situations. It is safe to say that the students gained a lot of insight from the experience.

We were also lucky to have Australian Marist Solidarity come and speak at the forum about what they do. It was great for the students to see and hear about what AMS does for the international community.

A big part of the day was the student forum. This forum was a place that enabled the students to run their own discussions and offer insights into Social Justice issues that they believe are important and relevant to them. This was a huge success as the students freely engaged in conversation and were highly motivated in discussing solutions to issues like mental health and the environment.



Caitlin Humphrys  
Regional Coordinator  
Marist Youth Ministry Queensland



# MARIST BROTHERS

THE HERMITAGE - MITTAGONG



## Care for the Soul Retreat: August 2019

Recently we held another 'Care for the Soul' retreat at Mittagong. This retreat had participants from Adelaide, Sydney, Leeton and five guests from Perth. The feedback offered by participants highlights the value of stepping back from the busy nature of daily life to take some quality reflection space in the beautiful environment offered by the Hermitage. There are always plenty of reasons not to give some quality time to prayer and reflection but as the comments below convey the value of doing so speaks for itself. I never cease to be amazed at how profound the retreat experience can be for those who give some time to let the Spirit touch their inner world. Thanks to the team of Br Bob O'Connor, Br Bill Tarrant and Dominique Galea who guided the participants through this time. Here is some feedback offered by participants:

*"A wonderful experience. I will take back to my community the ideas and concepts I've learnt on this retreat and encourage others to seek some personal time and space at Mittagong, thank you!"*

*"I will be back, I must! I need to come back again, and again! Thank you."*

*"The power of the Visio and Lectio Divina prayer times. I like where they took me. I also enjoyed joining the Brothers community for morning prayer."*

*"Permission to be with God as I am, that prayer doesn't need to be arduous or scripted in it's being. Thank you hardly seems enough, but thank you!"*

*"An additional day in 2020 would be very valuable. Thank you for being so inclusive. This is very much my spiritual home."*

*"Many thanks for the wonderful insights and encouragement."*

Our two Retreat Villas are now available for those wishing to participate in a private retreat. These comfortable facilities can be self-catered or catered. Accompaniment is available on request for all who come to do a retreat at the Hermitage.

All remaining 2019 retreat dates and booking information can be found on our web site

[www.thehermitage.org.au](http://www.thehermitage.org.au)

Why not consider taking some time this year to join one of our retreats?

Br Bill Sullivan, Director





### A Message from John Hickey...

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Brothers,

Greetings from Marist Tertiary.

It is that time of year when those of you in our Marist schools are immersed in the 'in between' time – having one eye reviewing the past year and the other firmly focused on the year to come. The same is true of Marist Tertiary.

This year the Marist Educational Leadership course was run out of the Marist Office in Brunswick. A small but high-quality and enthusiastic group worked with Dr Jennifer Elvery and myself in unpacking Marist Leadership and discerning how this leadership 'lens' can be best put into practice in their own school environments. You can view some of the feedback from course participants on the following page.

While only one course was run this year, several staff used the opportunity to seek tertiary accreditation through their involvement in one of the Marist formation programs run through the Mission and Life Formation Team. The feedback from staff involved in these programs has been very positive also.

In terms of planning for 2020 and beyond, an exciting development this year was the implementation of a Marist Tertiary survey. The primary purpose of this survey, sent to all Marist schools, was to firstly, establish how many staff in Marist schools are currently undertaking tertiary study and secondly, to inquire as to how many staff would be interested in accessing the services of Marist Tertiary into the future. Close to 350 staff took

part in the survey so the data that has emerged is substantial and has given us invaluable information for our future planning.



In response to the survey data, things are already being put in to place for next year. Full details will be available in the Marist Programs and Events booklet which will be available in schools during fourth term but details of the main two courses being run next year are located here on the front page of this newsletter. A new development for next year is that for the Marist Educational Leadership course, there will be an option for staff who are not seeking any form of tertiary accreditation, to do the face to face component of the program (2 days) as a stand-alone. In other news, the Marist Tertiary Library, which is situated at the Marist Centre in Brunswick, is taking shape and will be a great resource for anyone engaged in further study next year and beyond. Questions in relation to use of the Library can be addressed to Grace Johnstone at the Brunswick office.

My best wishes to all Marists for a calm and productive final couple of months of the year and I look forward to a very exciting 2020 for Marist Tertiary.

Blessings to all,  
**John Hickey**  
Executive Officer  
Marist Tertiary Education



### 2020 Programs

#### Marist Educational Leadership

This course will be offered via two pathways.

26 & 27 March, Marist Centre Mascot & Online mode to be completed by 17 July 2020.

#### Leadership from a Marian Perspective

This course will be offered via two pathways.

8 & 9 August, Marist Centre Melbourne & Online mode to be completed by 17 July 2020.

**If you would like to express interest in a 2020 program, please email John Hickey at [john.hickey@marists.org.au](mailto:john.hickey@marists.org.au) or [www.mte.org.au](http://www.mte.org.au)**

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#### Website:

[www.mte.org.au](http://www.mte.org.au)

#### Registration:

[www.msa.edu.au/registration-for-programmes](http://www.msa.edu.au/registration-for-programmes)

## Marist Educational Leadership Program

This year's Marist Educational Leadership program was taught in Melbourne from 8-11 July.

Participants in the program were Jill Fitzsimons and Phillip Kamay from Marcellin College, Bulleen. Jodie Hillhouse was from St Gregory's College Campbelltown, she completed the course via Webex teams video conferencing.

### A feature from Jill Fitzsimons and Phillip Kamay...

We would like to thank John Hickey and Jennifer Elvery for leading our four days and Jodie (and Ruby!) for being such excellent companions on the journey. We are very grateful for the opportunity and loved having the chance to develop a more consolidated understanding of the history of the Marist Brothers and key figures, settings and stories.

*"Developing a richer understanding of Marist Leadership."*

Developing a more nuanced understanding of the charism and its influences, as well as a richer understanding of Marist leadership, was also a source of delight and will no doubt prove to be a source of strength in the face of leadership's inevitable challenges. Learning more deeply about the many and varied aspects of Marist ministry, as well as the key figures in Marist education, was also invaluable and inspiring. An often underestimated benefit of professional learning is the chance it provides to develop relationships. Getting to know key people working for Marist Schools Australia and benefitting from their expertise and experience was simply terrific. (We loved the simple ritual of sharing morning tea and lunch each day with the community working in the Marist Centre in Brunswick, as well as our meal at the Brunswick Hotel!) We completed our course with a real optimism for how working in a Marist school will continue to develop us as teachers, leaders and people. Thank you so much to Marist Tertiary

for taking the time to invest in our formation.

**Jill Fitzsimons, Director of Professional Learning and Partnerships, Marcellin College, Bulleen**

**Phillip Kamay, Faulkner House Leader, Marcellin College, Bulleen**



**Phillip Kamay, Jill Fitzsimons, Jodie Hillhouse, Jennifer Elvery and John Hickey**

### A feature from Jodie Hillhouse...

I am currently completing the Master of Educational Leadership course at Australian Catholic University and was thrilled to find out Marist Tertiary offered the Marist Educational leadership unit at a tertiary level.

*I am grateful that Marist Tertiary catered for my unique situation (having a newborn baby and living interstate) by allowing me to attend the course 'virtually' via Webex Teams video conferencing.*

This course gave me a deeper understanding of the life and leadership of St Marcellin Champagnat and how leading in a Marist way looks in a modern context. I gained a greater understanding of the five Marist characteristics and in particular 'solidarity' and what this could look like in my school. This course also provided the latest scholarship on emotional intelligence, networking and theological perspectives on leadership in the Catholic school. Not only was this a highly professional and thought-provoking academic unit, it was engaging in a spiritual and faith formation way too.

Completing this unit is a worthwhile experience for any teacher or leader looking to lead and serve in the Marist way within their school.

**Jodie Hillhouse**

**Year 3 Classroom Teacher  
St Gregory's College Campbelltown**



## University Accreditation

As a Marist organisation we have formal academic agreements with Australian Catholic University, the University of South Australia and the Australian Institute of Theological Education. This means we can teach our own courses and

gain academic credits for these courses from these Universities and Institutes. We also have informal academic agreements with the University of Divinity and the University of Notre Dame. We offer academic supervision of students undertaking a selection of these courses at the postgraduate level.

**If you would like further information please contact Br John McMahon at [john.mcmahon@marists.org.au](mailto:john.mcmahon@marists.org.au) or [www.mte.org.au](http://www.mte.org.au)**

