



## From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

### ADVENT

In a little over a week, the holy season of Advent will mark our preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Questions such as “where did the year go?” or “how can we possibly get everything done before Christmas?” naturally enter our minds. Advertisements on television and on billboards can accentuate a sense of panic, as days are counted down to Christmas and the need “to shop” is repeated incessantly. However, as Marist educators, we share the vision of Saint Marcellin, *to make Jesus known and loved*, and embrace this holy season with its many opportunities to bring that vision to life. Whether it be through supporting the Australian Marist Solidarity Christmas Appeal, a particular project of the local St Vincent de Paul, additional times for prayer and reflection, or special events such as a Carols night, we seek to point our young people to Jesus.

At this busy time of year for people in schools, the sheer volume of work can distract us from our own attentiveness to the meaning of Advent from a personal perspective. Recently a colleague kindly shared the following reflection from Saint Pope John XXIII, the instigator of the Second Vatican Council, fondly referred to as “The Good Pope”. I share it with you, hopeful it may prove useful during the coming weeks.

*Ten tips from Pope John XXIII about how to live a better life, day to day.*

- 1. Only for today, I will seek to live the livelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.*
- 2. Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behaviour; I will not criticise anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.*
- 3. Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.*
- 4. Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.*
- 5. Only for today, I will devote 10 minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.*
- 6. Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.*
- 7. Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.*
- 8. Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.*
- 9. Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good Providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.*
- 10. Only for today, I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness. Indeed, for 12 hours I can certainly do what might cause me consternation were I to believe I had to do it all my life.*

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Frank Malloy**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP...

24-26 Nov	MYM Student Leadership Gatherings - NSW/VIC	5-7 Dec	Savouring the Silence, The Hermitage
28-30 Nov	Care for the Soul, The Hermitage	16-20 Dec	Guided Retreat, The Hermitage
30 Nov	MSA Mass and Dinner - Melbourne	25 Dec	Christmas Day

## MSA MASS AND DINNER - NSW AND ACT 25 OCTOBER 2019

The annual Marist Schools Australia Mass and Dinner for NSW and the ACT attracted the largest gathering of people since its inception in 2013. Close to 200 staff, family and friends gathered at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill to celebrate Eucharist and, over dinner, recognise the wide ranging contributions of 20 colleagues in Catholic education from our schools and Dioceses throughout the region.

We extend our congratulations to the following recipients of awards for Outstanding Service to Marist Education:

### AWARDEE

Michael Perry  
Garry McKeveatt  
Lydia Khoury  
Laurence Malaesilia  
Matthew Paton  
Elizabeth O'Carrigan  
Ruth Mendham  
Br Michael Flanagan  
Br Robert Sutton  
Magdy Habib  
Peter McPhee  
Anthony Munro  
Michael Blake  
Paul Burg  
Br Tony Butler  
Chris Shields  
James Sullivan  
Br Hubert Williams  
Fr Bob Barber  
Peter Turner

### SCHOOL/MINISTRY/DIOCESE

Trinity Catholic College Auburn  
Marist College Canberra  
St Gregory's College Campbelltown  
St Gregory's College Campbelltown  
St Patrick's Marist College Dundas  
Sydney Catholic Schools, Eastern Region  
Red Bend Catholic College Forbes  
Red Bend Catholic College Forbes  
St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton  
St Joseph's College Hunters Hill  
St Francis de Sales Regional College Leeton  
Marist College North Shore  
Champagnat Catholic College Pagewood  
Marist Catholic College Penshurst  
Marist Catholic College Penshurst  
Marcellin College Randwick  
Parramatta Marist High School Westmead  
Marist Mission and Life Formation Team  
Marist Fathers  
Catholic Diocese of Wollongong



## MARIST SOLIDARITY RETREAT 2019

On Sunday 20 October, 18 participants from various Marist schools and ministries ventured over to the Central Australia to partake in the annual Marist Solidarity Retreat. Participants spent significant time in the Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School in Santa Teresa. The four days provided an encounter of the living spirituality within the land; having opportunities to visit sacred indigenous sites, as well as hearing from local elders, brothers and students. Surrounded by red dirt and hauntingly beautiful mountain ranges, the group not only experienced a strong sense of connection with the land, but also that of Marist mission.

Below are the words of one of the participants reflecting upon her experience.

*Spirit wind, surround me.  
Make me stop.  
Listen.  
Here you are,  
all around me like draping cloth.  
Neither cold, nor hot, cool or warm.  
Completely embracing, soft as cloud  
and violently alarming all at once.  
Everything is within your reach  
and moved by you.  
The leaf's dance  
The bird's call  
The insect's chirp  
It's all yours  
And you let me have it,  
fleeting in physicality  
but eternal in memory.  
You are talking to me  
and I will listen.*

*I  
will  
listen.*



## 2019 Christmas Appeal

This Christmas Australian Marist Solidarity is asking you to give hope to young people in the District of Asia.

For over 10 years Australian Marist Solidarity, with your support has been changing the lives of individuals and communities in the District.

In this edition of MSA News we are focusing on how together we have been changing lives in Vietnam.



### Training for the visually impaired

People who have been blind since birth face innumerable difficulties, most especially in countries such as Vietnam which have very limited resources for the visually impaired.

Students have completed an IT course leading to employment.

29

Have completed a massage training course and now run their own business.

64

In Hanoi the Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind (TRCB) offers courses in Therapeutic Massage, Computer Proficiency, English, Business Management and Communication Skills to blind students from the many provinces of Vietnam, thus greatly improving their employment opportunities and capacity to live productive and independent lives.

### English skills & leadership training for youth in Quoc Oai

The project seeks to address the needs of local Vietnamese youth in English Education, Vocational Skills Training and access to Employment Opportunities.

Young people are engaged in weekly classes in English language, computers and other subjects.

200

It seeks to provide them with increased educational opportunities and to widen the horizon of life's possibilities.



To support the AUSTRALIAN arist SOLIDARITY Christmas Appeal, please visit [www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au](http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au)

## NSW REMAR RED LEADERSHIP CAMP



Trinity Catholic College students attended the NSW Remar Red Leadership camp at Mittagong from 15-17 November.

The Remar Year 10 students were skilfully guided through themes of leadership, ministry & service, Community and Christian Discipleship.

The students are looking forward to being part of the new Game Changers program starting next year!



**Jenifer Miller**  
Regional Coordinator  
Marist Youth Ministry NSW/ACT