



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

From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

This past weekend, two people Marists in Australia have cherished as friends and colleagues for many years entered eternal life. Both Marshal (Joe) McMahon and Fr Bob Barber SM influenced scores of people here in Australia and overseas. Our prayers are for God's comfort to their families and friends, and also to thank God for the gifts they generously shared with so many throughout their lives.

Marshal McMahon was educated at Marcellin College Randwick. Marshal was a Marist Brother for 32 years and during that time was Sydney Province Vocations Recruiter, Headmaster of Marist College Canberra and then St Joseph's College Hunters Hill. Afterwards he was Head of St Gregory's College Campbelltown and taught at Parramatta Marist High. Marshal also capably served the Archdiocese of Sydney as Rector of Saint John's College at Sydney University. He was 79 years of age and our sympathies are extended to Marshal's wife Theresa and the McMahon family. There are countless inspiring stories about Marshal. His trust in God and devotion to Mary are consistently emphasised. Many feature Marshal's boundless enthusiasm for quality, disciplined and rounded education for boys. Indelible are the memories so many have of Marshal's determination and perseverance to honour every student and parent in the schools he led by knowing each person's name. Tributes to Marshal can be found at <https://joeysjottings.org/2021/02/farewell-to-a-great-man/>

Father Bob Barber SM was educated at Marist Brothers Hamilton in Newcastle. After finishing school, Bob entered the Marist Fathers seminary and was ordained in 1975. Bob's connection to the Marist Brothers and Marist education was constant throughout his life. He worked at Woodlawn College in Lismore, and then made a significant contribution to the Marist International University in Nairobi, Kenya in its formative first decade. Many of the African Marist Brothers who established the University or were students there, remember Bob's time with them with gratitude and affection. Between 2013 and 2018 Bob was the Provincial of the Marist Fathers Australian Province. Throughout this time, despite the many demands upon him, Bob generously gave his time and wise, prayerful counsel to Marist Schools Australia as a member of the Regional Council for NSW and the ACT. Bob was honoured in 2019 with an Appreciation for Outstanding Contribution to Marist Education award. This year he commenced work as Chaplain to Trinity College Lismore and was living in the Marist Brothers community. Our gentle friend will be greatly missed. Bob was 71 years of age and our sympathies are extended to the Marist Fathers, as well as the Barber family and Bob's many friends.

As we commence the Lenten season for 2021, your attention is drawn to Pope Francis' message for this holy season of renewal.

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2021/02/12/210212a.html>

The Holy Father encourages us during this Lent to focus our energies in renewing the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love.

Faith

*calls us to accept the truth and testify to it before
God and all our brothers and sisters.*

Hope

as "living water" enabling us to continue our journey.

Love

*following in the footsteps of Christ,
in concern and compassion for all,
is the highest expression of our faith and hope.*

Yours sincerely,

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

REMINDER

LAVALLA MAGAZINE

Please use Lavalla to share some news from your school with the rest of Marist Schools Australia.

The cut-off date for contributions for the next edition of Lavalla is **Wednesday 31 March 2021**.

All submissions should be sent to Br Michael Flanagan
(michael.flanagan@marists.org.au).

Every Breath Is An Invitation

The power of breath is phenomenal. It awakens us to the energy inside of us and all around us. It connects us with all creation. Remember that image of Jesus breathing on the disciples to carry his mission of love and forgiveness to all creation? "Receive the Holy Spirit" he told them. They were receiving his most profound gift—the breath of life itself—which gave birth to their community. Don't we do the same? For us, every breath can be a prayer, an invitation and a demonstration of our faith.



BRIDGE BUILDERS AT THE JOHN BERNE SCHOOL

Staff at The John Berne School began 2021 by reflecting on the Marist theme, *'Breathe: the Spirit of Life'*. Our theme image, from Santa Teresa artist Sharon Williams, was used as a stimulus to their creation of some beautiful rock art. This supported their own focus to be 'bridge builders' to the young in their care.



Left: John Berne School staff member creates rock art for the 'Breathe' program
Above: Jayne Leyland and Melissa Painter, staff at The John Berne School
Below: Heath McKenzie, Kieren Lis, Dennis Tomarchio, Toby McCarthy during the Breathe: the Spirit of Life Program at St Augustine's College, Cairns



MARIST ONLINE SYMPOSIUM 2021

Marist
ASSOCIATION OF
ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Alive in God

*Using creativity and imagination to
open our minds and hearts to God*



Please join with **Timothy Radcliffe
OP** who will explore our 2021
Marist Association theme *Breathe:
the Spirit of Life*.

Timothy is a former Master of the
Dominican Order. Educated at Oxford
and in Paris, he joined the Dominicans in
1965 and taught scripture at Blackfriars,
Oxford for many years. His latest book,
Alive in God – A Christian Imagination,
was a foundation document inspiring
our theme.

TUESDAY 2 MARCH
5:00PM-6:30PM (AEDT)
ONLINE

For more information:
mark.ofarrell@marists.org.au

REGISTER HERE

2021 School Campaign – focus on Timor-Leste

We're really excited to launch our 2021 School Campaign Kit!

The Marist Brothers have been working for a number of years in Timor-Leste and are currently planning to build the first Marist school in the country, which will be located near the regional town of Lautem in the east. Our campaign, Fratelli Tutti: the Spirit of Solidarity, will support the Marist Foundation Timor-Leste, which is the body that will build and govern the school.

We have produced a range of resources to introduce your students to the beautiful nation of Timor-Leste; help them understand a little of its history, culture and relationship with Australia; and engage them with prayer and learning activities to shape our engagement with Timor-Leste through the inspiring framework of the Pope's latest encyclical, Fratelli Tutti.



Here's our [campaign kit](#), [poster](#) and [video](#). Don't forget that you can access these materials, and lots of other resources, from our website at any time. We can also organise events for your students to connect remotely with our partners. We know how rewarding it was for school communities to speak directly with the students from St Louis in our online event between our Australian and Kiribati communities last year. We look forward to offering more of these opportunities in 2021.

Follow us!

For all the latest news and updates about the incredible projects we support with your help, you can find us at:



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MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Mid February Update

MYM SOUTHERN

WA/SA Student Leaders Gathering in Perth, WA

The last weekend of January saw Marist students from WA and SA gather together at the beautiful Point Walter campsite in Perth for the **2021 Student Leaders' Gathering**. Thirty student leaders from **Newman College, Bunbury Catholic College, St Joseph's School** and **Sacred Heart College (SA)** came together to learn about their own leadership skills, their purpose as a team, and how they connect into the wider Marist story.

The weekend saw workshops run by **special guest speakers Br James Hodge, Ella Beveridge, Cara McGlaughlin from Sacred Heart** and **Simon Martino from Newman**, where students explored what it is that makes a good leader. More special guests also visited the retreat, with ex-Marist student leaders Peter Loreck, Matthew Giumelli and Georgia Martin sharing their own experiences of leadership within their schools.

Some of the reflections of the student leaders:

"It taught me what it means to be a Marist Leader".

"A positive experience that helped me gain new friendships and leadership skills".

"Fun exciting and eye-opening".

It was an amazing and fun-filled experience for all involved, staff and students alike. A big thank you goes out to all people involved in the retreat, especially the Principals and staff from all four attending schools. It is fantastic to see the Marist spirit alive and well in the young leaders within our schools, and it was a blessing to be able to gather together in these trying times. Thank you to the MYM Melbourne team for working hard to piece together this retreat, and to Simon Martino for taking on the coordination roles.

Daniel Litjens
MYM Regional Assistant Perth



MYM SYDNEY

La Valla Year 9 Game Changers Recruitment

MYM Sydney Regional Assistants, Ashley Doueihi and Daniel Cooper, along with our new intern, Zaki Nasr, visited St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas on Friday, 12 February to introduce and recruit Year 9 students to the MYM Game Changers program. The MYM Sydney team were delighted by the response of the students, who will form the first Game Changers 'Track' in the school!



MYM Sydney Internship Program

I am excited to introduce our first intern for 2021, Zaki Nasr! Zaki graduated from St Joseph's College last year. He volunteered at our online Student Leaders' Gathering in November and is part of our MYM young adult youth group. Zaki will be working both in our Mascot office with the team and out 'in the field' over the following 12 weeks. We are excited to have such a wonderful young person volunteer alongside our team to 'make Jesus Christ known and loved'!



MYM Sydney Event Dates

Super Connect Friday, 5 March

Please note changes to Game Changers Regional Retreat Days:

- Friday, 5 March **Year 9 Retreat Day**
- Friday, 12 March **Year 10 Retreat Day**
- Friday, 19 March **Year 8 Retreat Day**

Kind regards,
Mrs Jeni Miller
MYM Sydney Regional Coordinator

