



From Dr Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

Last week you may have read of the award presented in Geneva to a 25 year old Sudanese asylum seeker, Abdul Aziz Muhamat, who has been detained on Manus island since the age of 20. Abdul was allowed to fly to Switzerland to receive the 2019 Martin Ennals Award Laureate, which annually honours individuals who have shown outstanding commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, often working under threat of imprisonment, torture or worse. Whilst there has been recent debate in the Federal Parliament and amendments to legislation, which will provide an evacuation process to Australian health facilities for asylum seekers with serious medical conditions who are currently on Nauru and Manus islands, the overall management of those detention facilities by the Australian Government continues to attract international criticism. Here at home, our Catholic Bishops have represented the thoughts of many Australians, urging our elected representatives to find new ways of assisting people seeking refuge in Australia.

Just before Christmas last year, the Chair of the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference, Archbishop Mark Coleridge wrote a statement¹, which provides helpful reflections on the relevant issues, which are important to share with our school communities and local Members of Parliament. Archbishop Mark's statement included the following important observations:

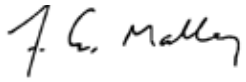
- *Offshore detention is a crisis that confronts our country.*
- *We need to be asking if we Australians could be more generous in the number of people in humanitarian need we receive each year as part of our orderly migration program.*
- *We should only turn back boats by means that are legal, transparent, and safe. We should always ensure that anyone on such a boat is not directly fleeing persecution in Indonesia.*
- *There is a need for prompt resettlement of people proven to be refugees.*
- *After five years, we have to ask:*
 - If our Government is unable to find a home for these people in another country, should we not provide them with a home in Australia or New Zealand (which has generously offered places) while at the same time strengthening the police, military and diplomatic measures to ensure that boats remain stopped?*
 - Should we not do more to co-operate with our regional neighbours to care for those seeking processing and security in our region, and to provide a permanent home for more of these persons who are fleeing inhumane conditions in their home countries?*
- *We ask our politicians to put an end to the intolerable situation on Nauru and Manus Island endured by asylum-seekers whose plight continues to be our responsibility.*
- *We cannot afford to have the plight of these people made even worse by making their futures the subject of bitter electoral disputation in the year ahead. Enough is enough. Let's find them a home.*

continued next page

1. (Full text can be found at <https://www.catholic.org.au/acbc-media/media-centre/media-releases-new/2168-acbc-statement-on-refugees-and-asylum-seekers/file>)

An important Marist ministry for young people who are among the most marginalised in Australian society is Marist 180, formerly known as Marist Youth Care. For some years the Federal Government provided financial support for unaccompanied minors seeking asylum, and Marist 180 was a pivotal agency in the scheme, which was discontinued by the Government. Only minors were eligible for the funding, so asylum seekers once post school, desiring further education at University or TAFE, were placed in a very difficult position. Several universities have been supportive and have accepted five young asylum seekers who were formerly part of the unaccompanied minors program as international students and have waived their fees. The young men have been able to continue their post school education for the past year due to the generous support of Marist 180 and the Marist Brothers though the provision of a modest living allowance. This support will continue in the future and schools are invited to consider contributing to this worthy cause. For more information please contact Brother Chris Wills by email or phone. (chris.wills@marists.org.au | 0407017774)

Yours sincerely,



Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

22 Feb	In the Marist Way, North Queensland	13 Mar	Meeting of all Marist Principals - QLD/NT/ Northern NSW
24-27 Feb	Footsteps1, Mittagong	14 Mar	In the Marist Way - Bendigo
4 Mar	In the Marist Way, Gippsland	15 Mar	Meeting of all Marist Principals - VIC/SA/WA
8 Mar	MYM Super Connect - Eastwood	15 Mar	Marist Connect - Brisbane
10-13 Mar	Footsteps1, Mittagong	18 Mar	In the Marist Way - Melbourne
12 Mar	Meeting of all Marist Principals - NSW/ACT		



LAVALLA & CHAMPAGNAT JOURNAL

Please use Lavalla to share some news from your school with the rest of Marist Schools Australia, and/or consider submitting an article for the Champagnat Journal.

The cut-off date for contributions to the first edition of Lavalla and Champagnat Journal for 2019 is **Friday, 29 March**.

All submissions should be sent to Br Tony Paterson (tony.paterson@marists.org.au).

ACU SHORT COURSES IN THEOLOGY

Catholic Social Teaching

The next ACU Short Course in Theology will be on Catholic Social Teaching in February-March at the Brisbane, Strathfield, Canberra and Melbourne campuses.

More information is available from <https://www.acu.edu.au/theology/shortcourses>.

The flyer for each location can be found by clicking below:

[BRISBANE](#)
[STRATHFIELD](#)
[CANBERRA](#)
[MELBOURNE](#)



WELCOME TO ELIZABETH GALLAGHER CHILD SAFEGUARDING AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER

We welcome **Elizabeth Gallagher** to Marist Schools Australia this year as the Child Safeguarding and Compliance Officer.

Elizabeth has practiced and worked as a highly successful lawyer in a variety of settings and positions including as a Senior Associate with Sparke Helmore Lawyers, a solicitor for GILD Insurance Litigation Pty Ltd and in senior roles with Zurich Australian Insurance Ltd with responsibility and oversight for over 200 employees.

Principal of The John Berne School to commence in Term 3 2019

With the announcement that Mr Richard Sidorko, Principal of The John Berne School, Lewisham, will conclude his highly successful tenure at the end of Term 2, 2019, the National Director of Marist Schools Australia, Dr Frank Malloy, invites suitably qualified applicants for this position.

Situated in the Inner West of Sydney, The John Berne School offers a specialised and unique learning environment that caters to students who face a variety of challenges and often struggle to thrive in the mainstream schooling system. The school offers up to 45 students in Years 7-10 a safe and supportive environment where they have the opportunity to gain the literacy and numeracy, social, and employment skills necessary to become contributing members of society.

A creative, contemporary and dynamic leader is sought to ensure The John Berne School will continue to provide students with high quality learning opportunities and formative experiences in the Marist tradition of Catholic education. The John Berne School's priority is to prepare students for a return to mainstream education, for entering trade training or other employment options, and the staff pride themselves in achieving this. Staff are dedicated to providing an all-round and balanced schooling experience for Berne students, in a manner which fulfills the Marist ethos, the Berne Pedagogical Framework and the Berne Pastoral/Wellbeing Framework.

For a full application package or an expression of interest, please contact Lindsay Franko at MSA.temp@marists.org.au.

Closing date 8 March 2019



The John Berne School
Hope Always



HOLY TODAY! AND IN THE MARIST WAY MURGON

On 5 February, new staff from St Joseph's Primary School in Murgon, Queensland gathered and engaged enthusiastically with the *In the Marist Way* program as they explored aspects of Marist history, pedagogy and spirituality. Experiencing something of the Marist context was a timely introduction to the school year and great preparation for entering in to the Association theme of *Holy Today!*

Staff involvement in the *Holy Today!* program was dynamic and demonstrated clearly the willingness of all to continue to explore ways to cultivate their awareness and attentiveness to God in everyday life. This openness showed a community committed to assisting their students to also be attentive to the 'God Moments' in their life and to build healthy relationships based on the belief that to be human is to be sacred.

St Joseph's Primary School Murgon has over 165 students, ranging from Prep to Year 7, with over one third being indigenous children.



From left: Jess Marshall, Victoria Jeffs



From left: Claire Dennis, Amanda Rofe, Michelle Buiatti

A moment to pause and reflect

In his apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world, Pope Francis speaks of the importance of discernment in our lives – 'a gift we must implore'. The following reminds us of the urgent need in our contemporary world to develop this 'gift'.

"The gift of discernment has become all the more necessary today, since contemporary life offers immense possibilities for action and distraction, and the world presents all of them as valid and good. All of us, but particularly the young, are immersed in a culture of zapping. We can navigate simultaneously on two or more screens and interact at the same time with two or three virtual scenarios. Without the wisdom of discernment, we can easily become prey to every passing trend." (Gaudete Et Exsultate, 167)



Two East Timorese children sit along the wall of the Cathedral in Baucau, Timor-Leste. Photo by Conor Ashleigh.

At the recent World Youth Day in Panama, the archbishop of Canberra Goulburn, Archbishop Christopher Prouse, spoke of the Three Ls. He, like Pope Francis, sees young people in the Ls as at the heart of the Gospel message of Jesus:

The Lost
The Last
The Least.

Much of the work of our project partners at Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS) focuses on these young people who have been pushed to the edge of communities because we share a concern for the most vulnerable and the defenceless.

At AMS we see our core business as facilitating education access and education quality for more young Asians and Pacific Islanders. At the core of our work for change is the belief that providing education access, and of high quality, is a key lever to alleviating poverty in a community.

At the start of another school year in Australian Marist Schools we know that you share our hope of encouraging your students to reach out from their world into the world of others and thus capture the 'Step into my Shoes' theme of this year's educational resources available on www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au.

We too share the dream of Marist educators that what we can do together in education enthuses, enlivens and empowers.

The AMS Team, Brisbane.

MYM Sydney welcomes two new Regional Assistants

Vaiata Hehea, ex-student from Trinity Catholic College, Auburn (2017) and **Max Mitchell**, ex-student from St Joseph's Catholic College, Hunters Hill (2018). They join Jerick Perez, ex-student from St Patrick's College, Dundas (2016) and Jeni Miller, Sydney Regional Coordinator.

Gratitude to Monica Gonzales and Supi Taufaa for their service to MYM over the past two years. Fortunately, both remain mentors to Max and Vaiata!

We all look forward to working with students in NSW/ACT schools this year!



Next Super Connect for Sydney

Marist College, Eastwood

Friday, 8 March 2019

5.00 - 7.30pm

Students need to see relevant youth minister for Registration Form

National Remar Conference | 10 – 12 February

The MYM Leadership Team recently hosted 43 members of staff from 17 schools around Australia at the Hermitage in Mittagong for a few days of formation, discussion, and practical support. Staff are either involved in the Remar program or piloting the new MYM school-based program. The few days ended with a simple, yet meaningful Commissioning liturgy.

Gratitude to Tony Clarke and Ryan Gato (MLF) in leading the group in formation, giving all some time-out to listen and reflect on God's call and being. Thanks also to Nathan Ahearne (Marist College Canberra) for highlighting the important points of mentoring and accompaniment of young people in our schools.

As the National Remar Coordinator and on behalf of the National MYM Leadership team, I would like to thank all the Principals for their continued commitment and support of Remar and the new MYM school-based program. Your generosity allows our programs to continue to flourish.

