



## From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

***"Lent is a time in which to turn off the television and open the Bible."***

*Pope Francis, Saint Peter's Basilica, Ash Wednesday 2020*

As we commence the Lenten Season for 2020 in our Marist Schools, it is timely to reflect on the meaning and importance of this holy season. The following reflections by our Holy Father, Pope Francis provide some simple, practical insights to share with our students.

On Ash Wednesday, during catechesis with his weekly audience, Pope Francis reflected on the 40 days spent by Jesus in the desert and said that, during the Lenten season, we are called to *imitate Jesus* and seek places of *silence*, in order to hear the God's word and experience God's call. "In the desert one hears the Word of God, one finds intimacy with God and the love of the Lord," said Pope Francis, noting Jesus' example of seeking God, in silence. He observed that, for many of us, "silence" is elusive, in an environment "polluted by too much verbal violence," with "offensive and harmful words" that are often amplified in social media. Pope Francis implores us this Lent to simple actions, which are readily possible for all members of our school communities.

***"Lent is a time in which to turn off the television and open the Bible!"***

***"Lent is a time to disconnect from cell phones and connect to the Gospel!"***

***"Lent is the time to give up useless words, chatter, rumours, gossip,  
and to speak directly to the Lord."***

In a world in which we often struggle to distinguish the voice of the Lord, Jesus calls us into the desert and invites us to listen to what matters, Pope Francis explained. The Pope also noted that the solitude of the desert increases our sensitivity to those who quietly cry out for help.

*"Even today, close to us, there are many deserts, many lonely people: they are the lonely and the abandoned. How many poor and old people live near us in silence, marginalized and discarded".*

The desert of Lent leads us to them, he continued. It is a journey of charity towards those who are weak and in need. Pope Francis concluded his catechesis reiterating that the path through the Lenten desert is made up of "prayer, fasting, works of mercy", so that it may lead us "from death to life".

"If we enter the desert with Jesus, we will leave it at Easter when the power of God's love renews life."

As Marist educators, may our actions, words and silence bear witness to the meaning of Lent, with our students and one another.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Frank Malloy**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP...

5 Mar	In the Marist Way: Northam	12 Mar	In the Marist Way: Bendigo
6 Mar	MYM Super Connect: Eastwood	15-18 Mar	Footsteps1: Mittagong
9 Mar	In the Marist Way: Cairns	19-20 Mar	Meeting of Principals of MSA Governed schools
11 Mar	In the Marist Way: Central VIC		

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**The John Berne School, Lewisham - Secondary Teacher**

Click [HERE](#) for more information



## 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 to the first edition of Lavalla for 2020 is **Friday, 27 March**. All submissions should be sent to Br Michael Flanagan ([michael.flanagan@marists.org.au](mailto:michael.flanagan@marists.org.au)).

A beautiful mass was celebrated at St Laurence's Church in Forbes for the visit of the relics of St Therese of Lisieux and her parents, Louis and Zelig Martin on Thursday 27 February.

The celebration was part of the national four month tour of the relics. St Therese of Lisieux has been described as the "Little Flower" for her small acts of kindness and love inspiring us to do the little things in everyday life well. Generations of Catholics have admired this young saint, and find her life an inspiration for their own.

We were pleased to have our Regional Director of Marist Schools Australia Mr John Robinson with us on the day.

**Stephen Dwyer**  
Principal  
Red Bend Catholic College Forbes



CathNews article *Big crowds turn out as saintly family heads bush* can be found [HERE](#).



# Blessing of Sculpture, Marist College Canberra

At the entrance to the College a crumpled figure lies sleeping on a park bench. The figure is, in fact, a statue of the "Homeless Jesus." The bronze sculpture, blessed last week by Archbishop Prowse, is one of about 100 Homeless Jesus statues throughout the world.

The idea for Homeless Jesus was born when Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz was driving past people living on the streets in Toronto. Amongst the busyness of a city lay the contrasting fragile figure of a person covered up in a blanket. He was shocked, and felt he had just witnessed Jesus.



The sculpture is intended to be "a visual translation of Matthew 25." In that chapter of Matthew's gospel, Jesus likens himself to a homeless person to teach about the need for compassion. The gospel passage slowly reveals his message as does 'homeless Jesus'. At first you just see the statue of a homeless person but with closer investigation, you realise it is Jesus by the holes in his feet protruding out from the blanket.

We have had much discussion about the best place to install the sculpture. The obvious place would be just outside the College Chapel. There it will remind you every time you entered or left the chapel that it is not sufficient merely to listen to the word of God at Mass but also that you must put it into practical effect.

We also thought it would be a wonderful sculpture to mark the new Jubilee building, just outside the canteen, extolling the virtues of gratitude, of being grateful of the privilege of knowing where our next meal is coming from.

We decided, however, it would be better to put it near the gates of the College. There, every time you entered the College it would remind you that in so many places of the world children lack access to even rudimentary education. And every time you left the College to go home in the late afternoon, it would remind you that there are many homeless men and women even in this fair City of Canberra who are sleeping rough on park benches and under trees for shelter every night, just like 'Jesus, the homeless'.

The interesting features of the sculpture, is that the shrouded figure of Jesus does not fully occupy the park bench on which he is sleeping. The sculpture invites you, quite literally, to sit at the feet of Christ.

Whilst the statue may be confronting to some, it is an appropriate statement about who we are at Marist College, the people we must engage with and our responsibilities to care for and even get to know those living on the peripheries of our society.

The interesting features of the sculpture, is that the shrouded figure of Jesus does not fully occupy the park bench on which he is sleeping.

The sculpture invites you, quite literally, to sit at the feet of Christ. There is a place to sit and touch the sculpture, perhaps pray. I love the idea of a boy describing the pickup location sitting next to the 'homeless Jesus.'

Whilst the statue may be confronting to some, it is an appropriate statement about who we are at Marist College, the people we must engage with and our responsibilities to care for and even get to know those living on the peripheries of our society.

**Mr Matthew Hutchison, Headmaster, Marist College Canberra**



## A Blueprint for Right Living

If we look closely, we can see that the true difference between the biblical accounts and a scientific study of the origins of the universe lies not so much in the methods employed but in the questions that we are asking.

Scientists are primarily interested in asking “how did the world and life as we know them come about and continue to function?” The biblical authors asked, “what links the history of Israel and its God to humanity and the universe as a whole?” and “how does the world as we know it follow from the identity of God?”

To understand our origins in this way is, in fact, to have a kind of blueprint for right living. The concern of the biblical authors was anything but theoretical. If everything in the end goes back to God, then our relationship with him gives us the key to taking part in a life which is truly significant. ([www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr) *The Cosmos: What is the place of human beings in the universe?*)



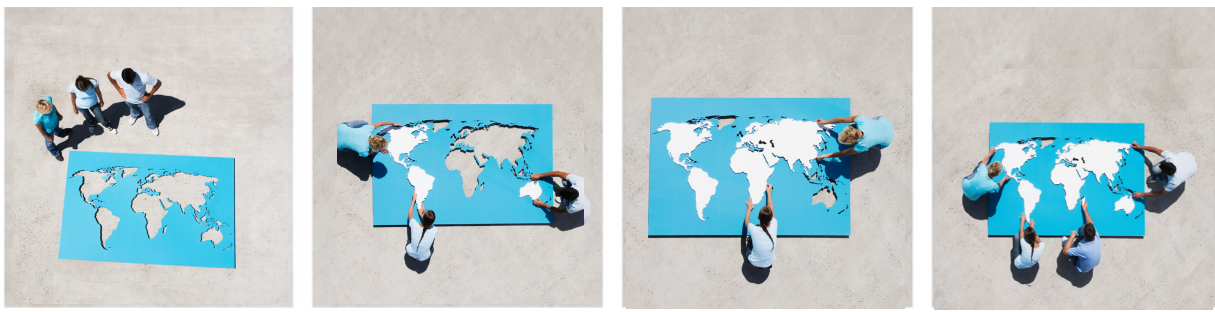
One Wild and Precious Life Program at St Peter Claver College, Riverview: Chris Balhatchet, Mark Kudeborg, Angela Ryan



One Wild and Precious Life Program at The John Berne School: Ange Flannery, Br Chris Hogan, Phoebe Taylor, Michael Muranty, Domenic Wan, James Le Huray, Melissa Painter, Dave Stevens, Sandra Scott, Grant Lee, Declan Martin, Chris Langridge, Nicole Arathoon, Kristina Allan, Paul Harris, Tanja Kosovski, Supi Taufaa

“The journey, the sacred journey of the universe, is the personal journey of each individual... The universe is the larger self of each person, since the entire sequence of events that has transpired since the beginning of the universe was required to establish each of us in the precise structure of our own being and in the larger context in which we function.” (Thomas Berry, *Cosmology of Religions*, *The Sacred Universe*, 122-123)





## CREATING ONE NEW HUMANITY 2020

### PARTNERING, BUILDING AND TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

Australian Marist Solidarity Limited (AMS) has evolved from a long heritage of aid and development activities conducted by the Marist Brothers Province of Australia.

The Brothers have financially supported and managed overseas aid and development programs in the Solomon Islands since 1938, in Bougainville since 1941 and in other parts of Papua New Guinea since 1950.

Today, the Marist Brothers have a broad presence in Asia and the Pacific including Bangladesh, Bougainville, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Fiji, India, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vanuatu.

AMS currently supports fifteen of these countries in a range of ways. For example, through the support of schools and our previous school campaigns, together we have built, refurbished, renovated and transformed 13 schools in Timor-Leste.

AMS hopes to continue fostering connections between the Marist Schools Australia Network and our partner communities by giving young children in some of the poorest nations in the Asia and Pacific region, the best chance to reach their fullest potential.

In 2020, the AMS school campaign is focused on transforming St Louis High School in Kiribati. St Louis High School was established by the Marist Brothers in 1984.

With aging infrastructure, environmental pressures and a growing cohort, St Louis High School requires upgrades, particularly to its unhygienic bathrooms. The current toilet block is dilapidated, with toilets that barely flush and no doors on the cubicles.

To learn more about the school campaign and how you or your school can support St Louis High School, visit <https://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/partnerships/schools/>

#### Past Schools Supported in Timor-Leste:

- 1 Baguia Filial School, Baucau District.
- 2 Bercoli Primary School, Baucau District
- 3 Odoforo Primary School, Lautem District.
- 4 Our Lady of Grace Primary School, Viqueque District.
- 5 St Antonio Junior High School, Baucau District.
- 6 St Antonio Primary School, Manatuto District.
- 7 St Estevao Senior High School, Viqueque District.
- 8 St Francis Assis Primary School, Baucau District.
- 9 St John II Secondary School, Lautem District.
- 10 St Maria Gorreti Junior High School, Viqueque District.
- 11 St Terezinha Primary School, Baucau District.
- 12 St Ursula's Primary School, Baucau District.
- 13 Abafala Catholic Primary & Junior High School Baucau District.



# MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Late Feb Update

## GAME CHANGERS

At various school across Australia, Marist students have started their **Game Changers** journey this Term. From creating Rocky Road as a sign of creating authentic community to painting pots to represent the MSA theme of One Wild and Precious Life, with seeds being planted together with the goals of the students, hoping to see their goals blossom like flowers during 2020.



*Game Changers students from Marist College, Canberra*



*Game Changers students from Assumption College, Kilmore*

## Young Adults

One of the great aspects of Marist Youth Ministry is providing opportunities for graduates from MSA schools to stay involved with different ministry opportunities around Australia. Besides the Immersion to the Philippines (December) and the Santa Teresa Holiday (January), plenty of local events are organised by MYM to **connect, serve and grow**. Like every year, we start our MYM year with a training day and launch, where we connect with the volunteers to inform and form them about these events. It was a great encouragement to see a large number of MSA graduates to attend our training days.



*Young Marists in Perth (Newman College Graduates)*



*Young Marists in Melbourne (Various VIC School Graduates)*

On behalf of all the MYM staff I would like to thank all school leadership teams and school staff for their support and encouragement. We are looking forward working more with you in the months ahead.

**Edwin Bakker**

Marist Youth Ministry National Coordinator



# MARIST EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

This 2-day\* course is targeted for Marist School Leaders current and emerging, or those who simply wish to learn more about educational leadership from a Marist perspective.

Participants will have the opportunity to study how their leadership might be shaped through the Marist charism, in particular, the charism's contribution to educational leadership through decision making processes, and the development of educational and social movements.

26-27 March 2020  
Marist Centre Sydney

Cost: \$300

## COURSE PRESENTERS



Dr Frank Malloy  
National Director —  
Marist Schools Australia



Br Michael Green fms —  
Rector, Aquinas College  
Adelaide



Dr Jennifer Elvery —  
Sessional Lecturer,  
Australian Catholic  
University

*\* This course may also be used for university accreditation by undertaking additional online modules.*

REGISTER AT THE MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA  
WEBSITE [HERE](#) OR AT [WWW.MSA.EDU.AU](http://WWW.MSA.EDU.AU)

# Good Friday@the Hermitage

Please join other members of the Marist family on

**10 April 2020**

to mark this important day in our Christian calendar.

You can join us for all or some of the events below:

## **The Hermitage**

843 Old South Road, Mittagong

### **10.00am**

Stations of the Cross  
followed by morning tea

### **12.30pm**

Lunch

### **3.00pm**

Celebration of the Lord's Passion  
followed by afternoon tea

### **Cost**

Donation

### **RSVP**

to [bianca.buda@marists.org.au](mailto:bianca.buda@marists.org.au)  
by **23 March 2020** using the  
RSVP Form attached.

**Family & friends welcome!**

# INVITATION



# Good Friday @ the Hermitage

## RSVP FORM

Please complete and return this form to  
bianca.buda@marists.org.au by **Monday, 23 March 2020**

NAME	I'll be attending:				
	All day	Stations of the Cross/ Morning Tea	Lunch	Lord's Passion / Afternoon Tea	Dietary Requirement
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