



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

Being a phone would be good, don't you think? A smartphone.

You would be so precious to people. You would never be left out, always included in whatever was happening. They would drop everything to attend to you; all you would need to do is give the slightest signal. You would be irresistible. If you were presumptuous enough to make a loud noise, then people would fall over themselves to rush to see what you wanted. Even when they were in the middle of a family dinner or an important meeting at work, they would sneak a sly look your way, perhaps many. In fact, they would often prefer be looking at you, ignoring friends and colleagues, absorbed in what you had to offer. And many of these others would probably understand, because they might be doing the very same.

It would be up to you to signal when you'd had enough, when you needed time alone to re-energise. It would all be on your terms. You'd take your time. You couldn't be asked to give more than your reserves allowed.

Yet you would be indispensable, essential. How could people possibly live without you? They couldn't. They rely on you. They need you. You are the one who tells them what they should be doing and when, and what the weather will be like when they get there. You have lots of fun facts; you can always provide an arresting distraction. You let them know when others want to communicate with them. They can deflect the blame to you when a message doesn't get through or when they don't want to receive it. You can be their accomplice. You can do sums for them, check their spelling, tell them how to get to places while they drive, and rescue them when they are lost. You can project their Powerpoint presentations and play their music. You can do all their social media. And the footy scores.

You are the first thing on their mind in the morning, and their last thought before going to sleep at night. In fact, you are really the one in control of everything. You call the shots. You only have to whisper, and they jump.

But how smart are you, really? How clever is it to intrude into a person's personal and professional relationships the way that you do, even to hijack them? How do you feel about manufacturing a virtual cone of silence for people, insulating them from having to be present? Or conning them that they can't turn you off? Or what about your robbing a person of the opportunity to have the respite and space that you yourself so regularly demand? And what are you teaching young people?

But then, you don't feel anything, do you? You don't do the hard yards of relationships, of give and take, of empathy, of forgiveness, of reconciliation, of self-giving. On second thought, it would be dumb to be a phone. Or to be controlled by one.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

8-9 Mar National Marist Principals' Conference, Mittagong
 10 Mar In the Marist Way - Noosaville & Sunshine Beach QLD
 10 Mar In the Marist Way - Marist Youth Care NSW
 11 & 18 Mar Remar Red Caravel Days VIC
 13-16 Mar Footsteps 1: Making Jesus Known and Loved - Mittagong
 14 Mar Labour Day Public Holiday, VIC
 16 Mar A Theology of Mercy - Beenleigh QLD
 16 - 20 Mar International Commission of Mission Conference
 17 Mar In the Marist Way - Adelaide SA

22 Mar Directors' Forum
 23 Mar Association Council meeting
 24 Mar Our Daily Bread - Casino NSW
 25 Mar Good Friday
 28 Mar Easter Monday
 31 Mar Remar Red Caravel Day SA
 1 Apr Red Red Caravel Day TAS
 3 - 24 Apr Marist Pilgrimage
 10 - 15 Apr Marist Basketball Carnival

ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETS AT LANCEFIELD

From Sunday to Tuesday last week the members of the Marist Association Council met at Lancefield, just outside of Melbourne for an intensive strategic planning workshop. The Councillors used the material that came from last year's Australian Mission Assembly and the subsequent regional gatherings of Marists in Term 4, to distil a statement on the hopes and priorities for the Association from now until 2018. A draft of this document will be considered at the MSA Principals' meeting this week at Mittagong and at next week's Directors' Forum in Sydney before a final version is signed off by the Council at its next meeting on 23 March.



On the first night of the strategic planning meeting, the Councillors were hosted by the boarding community and Association Members at nearby Assumption College Kilmore for Mass and dinner. Pictured are members of the Council, some Marists from ACK, and some senior boarders at in the Marhles Restaurant at the College.

BEING MARIST CONFERENCE



The Being Marist Conference provides opportunities for those involved in the important work of administration and care in Marist ministries. The theme adopted for this conference is "Being Marist – The Face of Mercy". Beginning with a review of your local experience of the Year of Mercy, the conference will explore how we are the face of mercy in our role of support and care. In particular, the conference will review and workshop what sustains and supports us personally in our particular ministry.

Conference Location: Marist Centre Melbourne 1 Dawson St Brunswick
 Date: Wednesday 24 - Friday 26 August 2016

For registration and further information visit:
<http://msa.edu.au/registration-for-programmes/>

139 MARIST YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY REUNION

Saturday 9th April; 4pm @ Coburg RSL (Melbourne)



If you were in any way connected with Marist Young Adult Ministry through '139' Royal Parade, Drusilla (at Macedon), the National Youth Festivals, Stranger Camps, Remar, 'Being There' or 'Nicho St', then you are invited to come along (for a drink or two) to share some memories. We'll have people there from the 80s, 90s and 00s - and we'd love to see you there!

There'll be a few short formalities at 6pm, and if you feel like settling in for evening, you can order in some yummy takeaway food. Families and children welcome!

The event is hosted by Marist Association members Kate Fogarty, Joe McCarthy and Sheree Limbrick. More information is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/585625688267117/>

NEXT LAVALLA & CHAMPAGNAT JOURNAL PUBLICATION



A reminder the cut-off date for contributions to the first edition of Lavalla and Champagnat Journal for 2016 is **Monday, 21 March**.

All submissions should be sent to Brother Tony Paterson -

tony.paterson@marists.org.au



MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



Our Daily Bread - Praying as Marists
Marist College Ashgrove, 22 February 2016
Alison Braidwood, Megan Harmston, and Rhiannon Fenn



In the Marist Way - New Staff Induction
Hunter Region, 9 February 2016

IN THE MARIST WAY - NEW STAFF INDUCTION

17 staff from All Saints College - St Peter's Campus Maitland and St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton gathered together to participate in the New Staff Induction programme.



In the Marist Way - New Staff Induction
Macarthur Region, 24 February 2016

IN THE MARIST WAY - NEW STAFF INDUCTION

On Wednesday 24 February 32 staff from the three Marist schools in the Macarthur region gathered at St Gregory's College to participate in the IMW programme. Staff came from St Gregory's College, John Therry Catholic High School and Mount Carmel Catholic College.



Footsteps 1 - Making Jesus Christ known and loved
28 February - 2 March 2016
Rosemarie Black and Kelly Ritchie



Footsteps 1 - Making Jesus Christ known and loved
28 February - 2 March 2016
Susanne Vincent and Ellie Ferguson

FOOTSTEPS 1 - MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN AND LOVED.

At the end of February 34 participants from our Marist schools ventured to Mittagong to embark on our first Footsteps programme for 2016. The beautiful weather was a warming welcome for the year ahead.

AUSTRALIAN MARISTS VOLUNTEERING IN INDIA AND SRI LANKA



Former Assumption College Kilmore (ACK) student Jack Callaghan, pictured here on the far right, is currently spending two months in Sri Lanka volunteering at the Marist Niwasa Homework Centre in Kalpitiya, where he is helping centre staff and tutoring students in English, maths and physical education.

More than a month into his volunteer experience, Jack—who graduated from ACK last year—says that his eyes have been opened to the dedication and achievements of local teachers, Brother Lal Fonseka, pictured here on the left, and the wider Marist community.

He also says he is amazed at how motivated students are in their pursuit of better education.

Former St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill student Dominic Kocx, recently returned from India where he spent a month helping teachers and students at St Marcellin High School, which is located in the rural village of Mangamanuthu.

Dom says, "I am truly inspired by how the pursuit of social justice can bind so many people together behind great causes, like those that I had the opportunity to work with and witness in action."

He has described his experience as enriching, enjoyable and eye-opening.

If you've recently graduated from high school, or thinking about a sabbatical in your teaching career, there is a Marist mission that would benefit from your unique skills and experience.

To find out more about volunteering in a Marist community overseas, visit our website www.maristvolunteersaustralia.com

Alternatively, contact Brother Mark Fordyce by email at mva@marists.org.au or phone (07) 3354 0600.



MYM CONNECT

Regional Assistants, Lucy Murrie and Anthony Mackett led the first MYM Connect for the year at Marist Eastwood on Friday, 26th February. Twenty eight students joined them to reflect on the theme 'Dropping our stones' based around John's gospel of the 'adulterous woman' and the Year of Mercy. After sharing and reflecting, further connections were made over a delicious dinner of tacos at the Brother's residence. Br Michael Akers led the Brothers in providing students and staff with the wonderful meal and we thank Br Matthew for opening the Brother's home and providing us with such generous hospitality!



Regional Coordinator, Lucy Murrie ran the second Connect gathering for the term at Seabird, Randwick region on Wednesday, 2nd March. Boys from North Shore, Marcellin and Pagewood worked together to discuss ways they could bring mercy to themselves, family and school. Pizza was shared to further connections between the students. Thank you to Br Mark Paul for your hospitality and hosting staff and students.



UPCOMING MYM EVENTS

Year 12 Forum

The annual Yr 12 Forum on Vocations will be held in Mittagong on 22-24th April. Information packages complete with student Consent and Medical forms have been sent to Principals and your Director of Mission on 1st March. Please note: Consent forms are due back by 16th March (only 8 days from now).

Super Connect

Next Connect gathering will be next term on Friday, 3 June. It will be a Super Connect which means all three regions, Randwick, Eastwood and MacArthur will be united at Marist College Eastwood. Usual time of 5-7pm. Drinks and finger food will be served from 5pm till 5.45pm with the Connect event to start at 6pm. Save the date!

Jenifer Miller
MYM Regional Coordinator, Sydney