



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

I find it to be a captivating metaphor, that used by Brother Emili in his latest Circular to all Marists to describe our engagement with God's mission. He call us to join in the "divine dance".

Have you had a chance to read the letter yet? It rewards the time and space you may be able put aside to sit with it – on your own, with some fellow Marists, or perhaps as a whole staff. It's a rich and fresh piece of writing, directed to each of us as part of this first year of the lead-in to the Marist bicentenary. Access it on the [champagnat.org site](http://champagnat.org/site) or the [MSA site](http://msa.org.au).

I am not known for my dancing, neither my skill in it nor my ease with it. With a typically male fear of failure, I have been known to make myself scarce when at a school formal or a wedding the time the dancing starts. These days I just claim excuse due to age. But it strikes me as an insightful way of describing our relationship with the God who invites us into life and into mission.

I know from embarrassing personal experience that too much rigidity and caution don't work in dancing. There's a surrender involved, a going with the music, and going with it fully. Brother Emili cites a term from South African missiologist, David Bosch, to describe the "bold humility" that's needed. I see that in great dancers.

In speaking to this year's Marist Pilgrimage group in Rome a couple of weeks ago and exploring the themes of his letter with them, Brother Emili proposed that each person's image of mission will be defined by the image of God that he or she has. What we do each day in school, why and how we go about it, will find its shape and tenor in how we personally experience God. An experience of a loving, forgiving, self-giving, merciful, immanent and faithful God will result in a quite different educator than one whose image of God is more exacting, righteous, punitive, distant and fear-inducing.

It can be natural for us to bring all our own biases, tight frames of morality, and fears of difference to the kinds of learning environments and school cultures we create. We can have our own little "border protection" racket going. Undesirables are not welcome; recalcitrants are detained; dismissive judgements are quickly made. But, of course, the God revealed in Jesus is nothing like that.

To be a mystic, as we Marists are being called to be, is to come to know and love the God revealed in Jesus. To be a prophet is to incarnate that knowledge and love into words, actions and relationships that help to bring God's music to the dissonance of people's lives.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

3-6 May Footsteps 1, The Hermitage, Mittagong
 6 May justLOVE Praying Our Lives, John Therry Catholic High School
 7-8 May Remar Red Caravel Day, VIC
 11 May Spirituality and Leadership 1, Marist College Ashgrove
 11-12 May Remar Red Caravel Day, VIC
 12 May justLOVE Praying Our Lives, St Gregory's Campbelltown
 13 May Marist Leaders: Next Gen2, Sydney
 15 May Marist Leaders: Next Gen1, Melbourne

15 May MSA Sydney Regional Council meeting
 18-19 May MSA Melbourne Regional Council meeting
 21 May MSA Brisbane Regional Council meeting
 22-22 May Remar Red Caravel Day, NT
 25 May justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, Parkes
 26 May justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, Marcellin College Bulleen
 26 May justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, Burdekin Catholic High School
 May

LAVALLA MAGAZINE & CHAMPAGNAT JOURNAL



The latest *Lavalla* magazine and *Champagnat Journal* can be accessed online via the MSA website by clicking on each image. Delivery of hard copies to Marist schools and centres has commenced.



TWO NEW MARIST HYMNS FROM BR MICHAEL HERRY FMS



I've written [Celebrate Our Marist Story](#) around the themes of our Marist bi-centenary – Montagne, Fourvière and Lavalla and it may be sung to three different melodies. The new bright contemporary melody was recorded by the 2015 Remar Ministry Team. [Meditation With Mary](#) is a simple, reflective hymn about the mysteries and stories associated with Mary. These hymns as well as other Marist songs, two Masses and scripture-based chants for prayer and worship may be downloaded free from

maristmusic.org.au

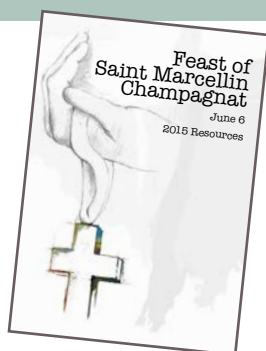
Br Michael Herry

MLF TEAM 2016 Expressions of Interest Invited

Would you be interested in working on the Mission and Life Formation Team for a year or more? If so, you are warmly invited to contact Tony Clarke (anthony.clarke@marists.org.au). Each year, around this time, we make such an invitation. Usually it is possible to arrange a secondment from your current position, which keeps your employment and entitlements secure, and allows you the possibility of returning after a time on the team. Marist Principals have been very cooperative in allowing this to happen, and they see the benefits that such an experience can return to their own schools.

CHAMPAGNAT WEEK RESOURCES

The 2015 Feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat Week Resources are now ONLINE. [Click here](#) to access the resources.



2015 MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA Biennial Conference

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSING ON 8 MAY
REGISTER NOW!

<http://msa.edu.au/registrations/>

MARIST ASSOCIATION REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Members and intending members of the Marist Association are meeting in nearly twenty separate regions across Australia over the next three months. The aims of the gatherings include acknowledging the contribution of so many people to witnessing and growing Marist life and mission today, and providing an opportunity to *have a voice* at the Marist Association Mission Assembly to be held in August this year.

The Regional Gatherings will be a further opportunity for members to dialogue on the purpose of the Association, and continue to build community and identity. [Click here](#) to see the breakdown of the Regions across Australia.

Joe McCarthy
Director, Marist Association

FROM THE VOCATIONS TEAM



Melbourne and Brisbane "Live Marist" Dinners were held recently, with around twenty young men attending both. We're asking all Marists to invite young men, 18 to 35, to our upcoming dinners in Sydney (May 20) and Canberra (May 21), to reflect on their life journey and consider the invitation to Brotherhood, or to membership of our new Association.

See www.facebook.com/MaristVocations for photos.

For details contact rod.thomson@marists.org.au

Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

MARIST PILGRIMAGE 2015



This year's pilgrimage concluded at The Hermitage in France yesterday, and the pilgrims are now on their way home. It began 22 days ago in the Holy Land, then to Rome, and finally at the house of St Marcellin. Here the group is pictured outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City of Jerusalem after morning Mass at Jesus' tomb.



justLOVE: OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College is certainly a concrete example of "going to the periphery". Spread over three campuses we have Bath Street with its lively Transition to Year 4 students, Traeger with Years 5 to 8, and the impressive Sadden Campus for Years 9 to 12. Marist has developed on the foundation of those pioneering Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. With such a variety of staff the discussion and creations were full of vibrant creativity.



(L-R) Vicky Howie, Innocent Madamombe, Sarah Bonney, Joanne Dermody

justLOVE: MARCELLIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE



(L-R) Michael Petrucci, Lee-Anne Fernandez, Gianni Petrucci, Luke Harris and Pete Sudaj

justLOVE: ASSUMPTION COLLEGE KILMORE

Assumption College Kilmore hosted a great staff spirituality morning on the province theme of justLOVE on Tuesday 14 April. The whole staff gathered together and shared laughs as well as wisdoms and insights into how they can reach out, even further, to those who may require special care in their community.



(L-R) Jon Raveney, Kathryn Reilly, Bruce Were, Michael Hurley, Gemma O'Brien, John O'Brien



(L-R) Conor Devine and Brett Benkenstein

just
hearts without borders

MARIST VOCATION FORUM

What an amazing weekend with Year 12 students at the NSW-ACT Marist Vocation Forum at the Hermitage, Mittagong. The forum was attended by about 40 students from around NSW featuring a number of interactive sessions and games led by Br Greg McDonald and Br Rod Thomson with the help of the MYM Team in Sydney.



Thanks to our wonderful guest presenters who shared their vocation stories with us. Thanks also to all those teachers who were present. Every blessing on these senior students as they seek to 'wake up the world' through the gift of their lives and future vocations.

Nehme Khattar
MYM National Coordinator



Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS) invites you to join the partnership for change as we launch our new website –

www.austrianmaristsolidarity.net.au

Our new digital presence features improved project and country information that tells the Marist Solidarity story and connects Australians to the aid and development work of Marists across Asia and the Pacific. If you know of anyone that would be interested in our work please feel free to share this site with them.

We look forward to continuing to partner with MSA Schools and thank you for sharing a vision of a better world through the support of the young people on the margins of life in our projects.

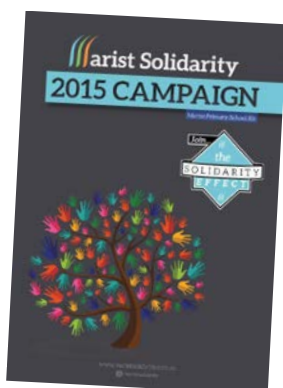
NEW RELEASE:

First Primary School Campaign Kit

In the primary schools of the MSA network and the Marist Pacific Network, this kit brings the young people on the fringes of society back towards the centre of their communities in Asia and The Pacific.

You will find the kit on the 2015 Campaign page of our website marked Primary Resources:

www.maristsolidarity.net.au/2015campaign



Ashley Bulgarelli
Marist Solidarity

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