



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

5 February 2013

Dear Brothers, colleagues and friends

I quietly confess to long being something of a 'Les Miz' tragic. I've found myself in its audience a number of times over the last twenty-five years or more. So, of course, I was off over the holidays to see its latest realisation, this time on the big screen. Loved it.

I know, I know, the critics continue to pan it. More than one Head of Music in schools where I have delicately proposed its staging have told me that the music is banal and repetitive. Drama teachers have argued with all their literary sagacity that the storyline is shallow, poorly constructed and tedious, especially in the second half. But it continues to grab me. Every time.

Accuse me of being just a hopeless romantic, but I'd argue that there are profound themes explored in *Les Misérables*: redemption and retribution, envy and forgiveness, heroism and opportunism, selflessness and self-pity, and of course love. Tell me that Kretzmer's lyrics and the Bouil/Schonber score are not just one big dramatisation of 1 Corinthians 13. And how can your heart be left unstirred by the final lines sung by Valjean, Fantine and Eponine?:

Take my hand, and lead me to salvation

Take my love, for love is everlasting.

And remember – the truth that once was spoken

To love another person is to see the face of God!

Indeed it's probably that famous phrase from the pen of Victor Hugo that has hooked me most. *To love another person is to see the face of God*. I would like to think that Saint Marcellin might have also been taken by that thought. It so closely aligns with his own theology which was very incarnational.

The period about which Hugo wrote was Marcellin's time. It was a time when there were arguments within the Church about the best way forward, the best way to be effective as a Church. There were those who thought it was most necessary to restore everything to the way it was – structures, liturgy, privilege, grandeur; there were conservatives, and indeed others that wore proudly the epithet that they had been given of being "ultra" conservative. Then there were those such as Victor Hugo – and I suspect Marcellin – who believed the Church was most credible when it simply put into practice the gospel of love.

What an awesome call you and I have received to reveal the face of God to young people! In school, we educators will do that so very powerfully this year, through the opening of holy Scripture to them, through the uplifting liturgies we will celebrate, through the religious education and faith formation programmes we will offer them, through art and symbol, and generally through an education based in Christian values. But perhaps nothing will – or indeed will not – reveal the face of God to them than through the way we in which love them.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

6 Feb	Mission Council Meeting, Marist Centre Sydney
8 Feb	Marist Youth Ministry Council Strategic Planning Day, Marist Centre Sydney
12 Mar	Melbourne Regional Principals Meeting
13 Mar	Sydney Regional Principals Meeting
21 Mar	Brisbane Regional Principals Meeting
31 Mar - 22 Apr	Marist Pilgrimage 2013

LETTER OF BROTHER EMILI TURÚ

The Superior General, who will be with us at our Biennial Conference mid-year, has written a very significant letter to all the Marists of the world – Lay Marists and Marist Brothers – inviting our support of the next phase of the 'Ad Gentes' project in Asia. Called "To The Ends of the Earth", it is something that we can expect to hear more about in the weeks ahead. It can be [viewed here](#)

BIENNIAL AUSTRALIAN MARIST SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

Planning is now well advanced for Cairns in July. The brochure and registration form will be out on line later this week.

MISSION COUNCIL

The new Province Mission Council meets for the first time tomorrow. Brother Jeffrey, as Provincial, is Chair of the Council. The other members are: Joe McCarthy, Brother David Hall, Cate Sydes, Erica Pegorer, Brother Greg McDonald, John Finneran, and Brother Michael Green (who, in his role as Executive Director of Marist Ministries, is also the Executive Officer of the Council). Sophie Fenaughty is the Council Secretary.

MARIST CENTRE

The new Marist Centre in Sydney opened last week, and all operations have been transferred from Drummoyne to there. The phone number is: 02 9218 4000 Work is progressing well on the new Centre in Brisbane, with a move-in date expected early next term. Until then, everyone remains at the Lavalla Centre, Rosalie. Meanwhile in Melbourne, things are at the design stage with work to commence later in the year.

MEETING OF MSA LEADERSHIP TEAM

At the same time that many schools were holding staff days, the MSA Leadership Team (Frank Malloy, Paul Herrick, Tony Clarke, Brother Neville Solomon and Brother Michael Green) took two and a half-days in late January to plan the year ahead. Topics included: programmes and events for 2013, general priorities for the year, the Catholic Identity Project, review of all MSA policies and processes, planning for the March Principals' meetings, the July Conference, communications, Brother Emili's letter, board formation, succession planning, the Royal Commission, governance and financial matters.

MARIST DESK CALENDARS

A limited number of Marist Desk Calendars remain. If any school wants extra or to place an order, please contact Marist Resources, Phone/Fax 02 9817 0459 or e-mail: rescources@marists.org.au. Thanks to the school who placed Order # 40027 for 10 Desk Calendars, unfortunately there is no name or address on the order. Could you please contact Br Terry at Marist Resources?

MSA DIRECTORY 2013

The Directory is near being finalised. Thanks for the last-minute updates and changes that have been sent in. This week is the cut-off for any changes if there have been any changes to people or positions over the holidays. Please email Sophie at: sophie.fenaughty@marist.org.au

PD OPPORTUNITY

Dominique Galea has brought to our notice and asked us to pass on news of two workshops on the Enneagram later in the year. Further information: dominique@enneagramnsw.com; www.enneagramnsw.com.

EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITY

One of our Marist schools in Spain is very keen to explore student exchange opportunities with Australian Marist schools, and also the possibility of teachers spending some weeks in an Australian Marist school in order to improve their English while building international Marist links. If you would be interested in knowing more, please contact the Principal, Mr Joan Pratdepada. His email is: valldemia.dir@maristes.cat. The school's website is: www.maristesvalldemia.com.

MAJOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Many would already be aware of the the Sixth International Conference on Catholic Educational Leadership sponsored by the Centre for Creative and Authentic Leadership of Australian Catholic University, to be held in Sydney 12-14 August this year. The Conference Committee, Chaired by Brother Tony d'Arbon, is currently calling for Abstracts from school leaders who would be interested in presenting a paper or workshop. It would be wonderful to see some of our Marist schools represented at the conference – not only as participants but as presenters. For more information: visit the conference website www.acu.edu.au/leadershipconference2013 or contact Caroline Jones: caroline.jones@pccevents.com.au

Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

2013 QLD MARIST STUDENT LEADERS GATHERING ASHGROVE 25-27 JAN 2013

The relentless wind and rain from Cyclone Oswald did not affect the enthusiasm and goodwill of the 39 Students Leaders from 8 QLD Marist schools who gathered at Marist College Ashgrove for our annual Marist Student Leaders gathering. Special mention needs to be made firstly to the generous staff who accompanied these young leaders during the Australia Day long weekend: Paula Sexton (Ayr), Colette Curtis (Emerald), Amanda Murray-Salter & Br John O'Brien (Noosaville), Geoff Skippington (Riverview), Bruce McPhee (Ashgrove), Desley Murphy (Mitchelton), Sue O'Connor (Petrie) and Caitie Humphrys (Beenleigh).

The theme of the weekend was the "Marist Leaders Commonwealth Game" where several physical activities challenged the young participants to exercise leadership, patience and humility.

Br Neville Solomon, the new **MSA Regional Director**, shared Marcellin's life through his own recent experience at Lavalla, France. Michael Coleman and Br Patrick Connell launched the **2013 Marist Solidarity Campaign: "Connect. Lives Change"**

We were graced with many 'new' supporters who attended this weekend such as: **Brisbane-based Remar Ministry Team members**, Samuel Crowe, Jessica Barrett and Rita Sargeant; the new National Coordinator of Marist Youth Ministry, Nehme Khattar and the new **Marist Vocations team**: Br Greg McDonald and Br Rod Thomson.

Many of the school principals braved the storm to join us celebrate the Servant Leaders Liturgy with Fr Pius Jones sm. The final words belong to our young people...

"I think the advantage of being a leader at a Marist school is that you have so much support from everyone. You come to an event like this and you realise that you are not just your school and that there are other Marist schools and that you have their support." Gabi

"...and you know that every time you come to school, you've got people who are there with the same reason as you and to share that with so many other people is like....a big family." Riley

"I want to try to use all my attributes to make sure that my school is a better place and that the environment is good for the younger students and that there's a family aspect going where it's fun and enjoyable to come to school." James



2013 QLD MARIST STUDENT LEADERS



iBelieve

The iBelieve Programme taps into our personal and communal understanding of being a community of faith. The programme provides an opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding of what nurtures their faith and offers some time for reflection on how their witness of life makes a difference to the young people in their school ministry.



Nicole Arathoon and Ange Flannery Staff at the John Berne School participated in the new iBelieve programme on 29 January 2013



Janet Williamson, Alistair McDonald and Wayne McAuliffe from Marist College Canberra participated in the iBelieve programme on 1 February 2013.

JOB VACANCY - DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Sacred Heart College Middle School is seeking to employ a Deputy Principal commencing in Term 2, 2013.

Application close: 4 March 2013

[Click here](#) for the full advertisement



AUSTRALIAN
arist
SOLIDARITY

MAPS SCHOOLS
CAMPAIGN KIT 2013
www.connectliveschange.com.au

The kit consists of:



- a postcard for all staff and student leaders with the website address and a campaign prayer
- A DVD of 2 minutes on the key concept for school assembly or class use
- posters
- various resources are on the **website** including learning activities, country and project profiles, liturgy, graphics artwork and getting started on the campaign in your setting.

Posters, DVDs and postcards will be mailed to all MSA schools before Lent commences February 13, 2013 or delivered by team members during school visits in Qld, NSW and ACT.

From February 8 through to 15th schools in ACT, Sydney and Campbelltown region will be visited by Br Allen Sherry (Executive Director MSol) and Michael Coleman (MSA schools liason at MSol). Other MSA schools will be visited throughout the year.

Many thanks to all MSA school communities for their support of our MAPS projects in 2012. Over \$300,000 has been allocated to Marist projects in the Asia Pacific region from these donations.

For all inquiries from MSA schools: michael.coleman@marists.org.au

Workshops in 2013: Contact for advance bookings and information: al.sherry@marists.org.au

May 2/3: Melbourne: Solidarity Marist Style (SMS)

August 4/6: Mittagong: School Immersions

*Marist Solidarity has launched its new Marist Solidarity website (www.maristsolidarity.net.au), which contains the MSA 2013 Marist Solidarity schools kit now available via this direct link:
www.connectliveschange.com.au*

Brother Allen Sherry FMS
Executive Director, Marist Solidarity Office Brisbane



REMAR MINISTRY TEAM **2013**

Greetings Friends!

My name is Nicki Pitt and I am very happy to be given the opportunity to be National Remar Coordinator for the next 3 years. I am commonly known within the Remar Family as "Pitty", a nickname bestowed on me by my own Caravel and quickly picked up by this year's RMT!

I hail from a mining town called Queenstown on the West Coast of Tasmania. However, I have recently moved from Burnie, Tasmania, where I was a teacher at Marist Regional College for the past 5 years. I join Ellen and Tshepo in bringing the Tasmania tally up to 3 for the 2013 RMT! I am a proud born and bred Tasmanian!

I love to swim and play hockey. I also enjoy reading and spending time with my family and friends. I have some serious scars that I have obtained over the years, and they all have funny stories behind them! I can't wait to share them with you!

I am sincerely blessed to be working with such an amazing and inspiring 2013 Remar Ministry Team. I look forward to them sharing their journey and stories with you throughout the year. I also look forward to working with you all throughout 2013 as we all continue to Sail away from Mediocrity, Live as Christ's Disciples and be Witnesses within our Communities.

Take care and God Bless.

Introductions from each Remar Team Member can be found [here](#)



From L to R: Jessica Barrett, Rita Sargeant, Nicki Pitt, Gilbert Mein, Tshepo (Zeppo) Ngwenya, Samuel Crowe. Front: Ellen Strochnetter & Connor Bradley

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