



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



## From Dr Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

Oceania!

It is a term most often heard in Australia during the cyclical qualifying rounds for the Football (Soccer) World Cup. The very word is usually accompanied with an uncertain, expansive, arcing sweep of the hand to vaguely describe a vast expanse of the globe, covered by water sprinkled with beautiful island nations. In 1836, when Pope Gregory XVI gave responsibility to the Marists for spreading the Gospel in “Oceania”, one can only imagine the limited understanding of the geographical enormity, in the offer and reception, of that mission. The region of Oceania covers an incredible 8,525,989 square kilometres.

Over the Easter break, the Marist Oceania Education Network hosted the first stage of “The Southern Stars Leadership Programme” for Principals and School Leaders from Marist Schools in Melanesia and the Pacific. Professor Brother David Hall fms, Dean of the La Salle Academy at the Australian Catholic University, and I were privileged to accept the invitation to work with an inspirational group of deeply committed Marist Brothers, Marist Fathers and Marist Lay people who teach in some very remote schools, amidst conditions most of us Australian teachers would find extremely challenging. Class sizes of 50 plus students, five hour trips in open boats to towns and small commercial centres, intermittent or no internet access, and in some cases generator supplied electricity limited to 12 hours per week, are among many realities in which some of the schools operate with outstanding success.



Throughout the days we were together, the sense of belonging was palpable. Gathered from a host of different countries, we identified most strongly as fellow Marists who shared a distinctly common approach to Catholic education. The ease with which we shared and discussed a range of concepts and practical approaches to school leadership and learning was remarkable. An enduring impression from our days together was the social responsibility the group exuded. In most of the countries represented, many former and current political and Church leaders had a Marist education. The political situations in each country were often remarked upon reflectively as were the challenges faced by teachers and schools to constructively influence the future. Australia was the cause for much mirth with our revolving door of Prime Ministers, but there was intense interest in the upcoming Australian Federal election. The sincerity and attitude to politics among our fellow Marists from Melanesia and the Pacific gave cause to reflect on the seemingly growing cynicism surrounding politics in this country and the importance of our own leadership in promoting gratitude and respect for our democracy and the rights we exercise within it.

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The [Australian Bishops Conference](#) and [Australian Catholic Social Services](#) have each produced a document, which I urge you to read and share among parents, students, and staff members. The tenor of the Bishop's statement is captured in the following quotes:

*As citizens who are Catholic, we have the opportunity to participate in the electoral process, to use our voice and our vote for the benefit of the whole community;*

*As bishops, we offer this statement as a way of sharing key points of Catholic teaching that you may want to reflect upon as we prepare for the federal election;*

*The ongoing revelations of child sexual abuse have undermined the credibility of the Catholic Church, and particularly the credibility of bishops. We have no monopoly on truth, but we offer these reflections in a spirit of solidarity, as people who also have to consider our vote carefully, who can draw upon a deep wisdom concerning the common good and who are called to care for the most vulnerable in our community.*

I commend to you this election prayer to use with your own school communities. May we as Marists continue to promote with respect and dignity the call of Saint Marcellin to form our young people as

*"Good Christians and good citizens".*

## A PRAYER FOR THE ELECTION

Holy God, at the dawn of time you fashioned the world and set it on its course. In the fullness of time your Son took flesh and sowed the seeds of a new order, and day by day your Spirit works to bring to birth your realm of mercy, justice and peace.

We give you thanks for Australia, the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit. In this Spirit we pray for our land and all its people as the nation prepares to elect a new Federal Parliament.

We pray for the women and men who have offered themselves as candidates for public office. May those who are elected set their hearts always on honourable service and the common good.

We pray for the citizens of this much-blessed country, that they may take up their responsibility to vote with wisdom and freedom, and choose what is best for the whole community.

Loving God, to listen to your Son is to be moved to speak up for the unseen and unheard. Give us hearts to heed your Word and mouths to declare your truth.

We pray that throughout this election campaign Christian communities will

be a voice for the voiceless.

We especially remember refugees and asylumseekers, Indigenous peoples, survivors of sexual abuse, those who suffer family violence, those in the womb, the elderly, those suffering mental illness, those suffering addiction, those entrapped in new forms of slavery and the desperately poor beyond our shores.

We hold before you the whole of our world, both social and natural. We pray for a healthy society in which marriage and family life is respected and supported.

We pray for the earth, our home – the land on which we dwell, the air we breathe, the water we drink – that creation's cry for healing and care is heard.

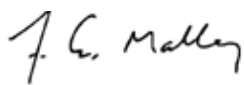
Bless all who are elected to serve the nation; may the wisdom and courage of the Holy Spirit guide them to govern for the good of all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, April 2019*

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Frank Malloy**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP...

9-10 May	Marist Leaders Next Gen - Melbourne	26-28 May	Marist Assistant Principals Conference
11 May	AMS Pre-Footy Brunch - Melbourne	4 June	10th Anniversary Celebration AMS - Sacred Heart College Adelaide
14 May	Marian Lecture - Sydney	17 June	10th Anniversary Celebration AMS - St Joseph's College Hunters Hill
16 May	Marian Lecture - Brisbane		
21 May	Marian Lecture - Melbourne		
22 May	AMS Drinks on the Deck - Brisbane		

### ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE HUNTERS HILL DEPUTY HEAD OF COLLEGE

With the announcement that Brother Anthony Boyd fms will conclude his highly successful term as Deputy Head at the end of the 2019 school year, the National Director of Marist Schools Australia, Dr Frank Malloy, invites suitably qualified applicants for the position of Deputy Head of St Joseph's College Hunters Hill to commence in January 2020.

For a full application package or expression of interest please contact Ms Lottie Moussa, Personal Assistant to the Regional Director, [lottie.moussa@marists.org.au](mailto:lottie.moussa@marists.org.au). [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

**Closing date: Monday 20 May, 2019**



### Chief Executive Officer - Australian Marist Solidarity

The AMS Board is seeking to appoint a new Chief Executive Officer on the retirement of the current CEO to commence in September 2019. The position is full time and based in Brisbane. For a more detailed position description contact: [sally.dillon@marists.org.au](mailto:sally.dillon@marists.org.au). [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

**The closing date for applications: Friday 17 May 2019**

## Marist Schools Australia Biennial Conference 2019

# HOLY TODAY...



**Catholic Leadership Centre Melbourne - Sunday 28 July to Tuesday 30 July**

The MSA Biennial Conference has been tailored for principals, leadership team members, middle level and emerging leaders and we hope that you will take advantage to participate in this Marist gathering and the exceptional professional development opportunity which offers interesting keynote speakers and 18 workshops dedicated to **'Evangelising through quality education'**.

## Registrations Now Open

For more information visit [www.msa.edu.au/msa-biennial-conference](http://www.msa.edu.au/msa-biennial-conference)



## SEEING HOLINESS IN THE WORLD AROUND US

A number of our Marist schools have recently participated in the *Holy Today!* program. At St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton on Monday 29 April, the staff took up the invitation 'to be attentive, to be open, to use their imaginations and to be artists' in a reflective and thoughtful way. At the conclusion of the program, staff and members of the Mission and Life Formation Team joined together to celebrate Mass. The following is part of a reflection given at the Mass by Ministry Coordinator, Melissa Wood, which draw together eloquently the first reading from the liturgy and the overall theme of the *Holy Today!* program.



From left: Cassie Mowbray, Br Robert Sutton, St Francis Xavier's College

"Today's focus has been around the experience of God, the experience of holiness in our everyday lives. As we are all unique people, we will experience God in different ways. For some of us, God might be most obviously present in nature; for others, on the sports field, in the classroom, in the studio, listening to music, with family and friends, in a church or on our own in silence.

So, I hope together we can move into Term 2 seeing holiness in the world around us, feeling holiness radiating from the people in our lives, and knowing that we too have that same spirit, that same holiness in ourselves. That it is, just like the disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit, we are – **HOLY TODAY!**"



Melissa Wood, Ministry Coordinator, St Francis Xavier's College

## *Introducing Dr Bonnie Thurston*



Dr Bonnie Thurston is a New Testament scholar who held the William F. Orr professorship in the New Testament at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary from 1999 to 2002. She is the author or editor of eighteen theological books and five collections of poetry. In addition, she has written poetry and articles for numerous publications.

Thurston earned a bachelor's degree in English (First Honors) from Bethany College and master's degree and doctorate from the University of Virginia. She has done post-doctoral work in the New Testament at Harvard Divinity School; Eberhard Karls University in Tuebingen, Germany; and the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem.

An ordained Protestant minister since 1984, Thurston taught at the university level for thirty years and has also served as a pastor at five churches and two overseas ministries. She is a spiritual director and experienced retreat leader and a founding member and past president of the International Thomas Merton Society.

AN INITIATIVE OF THE MARIST ASSOCIATION OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

## THE 2019 **MARIAN** LECTURE

# “AFTER THE ANGEL DEPARTED”

*Seeking God:  
hints and glimpses of the God within*



Join us in an encounter with international speaker, biblical scholar, ordained minister, author and award-winning poet, **Dr Bonnie Thurston**, who will draw on the rich tradition of contemplation and how to be attentive to the God within.



**SYDNEY** TUES 14 MAY

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
THE PETER COSGROVE CENTRE, NORTH SYDNEY

**BRISBANE** THURS 16 MAY

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
THE LEADERSHIP CENTRE

**MELBOURNE** TUES 21 MAY

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
CHRIST LECTURE THEATRE

**6.00PM - 7.30PM**

*marist*  
ASSOCIATION OF  
ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

REGISTER AT  
[WWW.MARISTASSOCIATION.ORG.AU](http://WWW.MARISTASSOCIATION.ORG.AU)



## AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY MID YEAR EVENTS

MELBOURNE | 11 May, 2019 11:00 AM | MARIST CENTRE, 1 DAWSON STREET, BRUNSWICK

BRISBANE | 22 MAY, 2019 5:30 PM | MARIST CENTRE, 142 FRASERS ROAD, ASHGROVE

ADELAIDE | 4 JUNE, 2019 5:30 PM | BR JOSEPH MCATEER FUNCTION CENTRE, SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SOMERTON PARK

SYDNEY | 17 JUNE, 2019 5:30 PM | THE PARLOUR, ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, MARK STREET, HUNTERS HILL



## MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY SOUTHERN UPDATE

**Marist Youth Ministry 'Southern'** connects with 13 schools across the vast region of Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Our team for 2019 consists of **Lachlan Scott** ('16, Marcellin) **Sara Petruzzella** ('16, Sacred Heart), and **Br Greg McDonald**, with **Maddy Forde** based in Adelaide ('14 Sacred Heart).



### Student Leaders Gathering and Follow Up

Our year begins in November at the 3-day Marist Student Leaders gathering where we meet with key students in our schools and provide formation and skills in Marist leadership and spirituality for the year ahead. Over the next 12 months we offer follow-up visits to see how the leadership teams are putting their vision plan into action.



### Marist Connect

Throughout the year our Marist Connect and Super Connect gatherings provide a way of schools coming together within their own state. These are held in four smaller regions: Northern Victoria, Central Victoria, Gippsland and Adelaide. In 2019 we are endeavouring to offer a Connect gathering in Perth for our Marist schools. These nights offer Year 12 and 11 students some fun and points of connection as well as strengthening the Marist family spirit around a particular theme or topic. There is always terrific energy and excitement in gathering as members of the family!

### Community Service

The MYM Team also offers schools an opportunity to connect with people in need. Through the work of the Marist Brothers and the Exodus Community at Heidelberg West, the MYM team operates a weekly 'Bread Run' to families in need, supported by Marcellin College Bulleen, Marist Sion College Warragul and Assumption College Kilmore.

### Northern Victoria Connect - April

It was terrific for the team to gather with students from Notre Dame Shepparton, Galen Catholic College, Marist College Bendigo Wangaratta in late Term 1. Using the national theme of 'Holy Today' the team explored the call to holiness through everyday life and the ways that God is accessible to us through our family, friends, school, service to people in need, and the beauty of the environment. Thanks to Notre Dame Shepparton for hosting the evening!



**NEXT EVENT – GIPPSLAND CONNECT – THURSDAY 9 MAY AT TRARALGON**