



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

6 November 2013

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

How did you go in the Cup? Were you tempted to have little wager? Get lucky in a sweep?

[You non-Australians – we do have more than a few among our loyal international readership – may require some translation. Yesterday there was a major horse race, so of course the whole country stopped to watch it. Not just in pubs and clubs and racetracks, but also in offices and factories and schools (at least, in Catholic ones, where there seems to be less of an ethical dilemma about such a thing). Classes were suspended. People put on funny hats. Those who were not at work, and others who were, popped champagne corks. Normal rules of probity were put aside. Students clutched tickets drawn in their classroom sweeps and glued themselves to television sets, along with their teachers. People who never darken the door of a betting agency from one year to the next, kissed their \$10 tickets for good luck. In Melbourne itself, there was a public holiday. There's always been. It was all so important that even the MSA Newsletter was delayed by a day.]

As the son of a bookie, I have no problem with any of this silly carry-on.

Sister Mary Bernard is also to blame, back in Year 1. The valves of the recently donated radiogram – a polished-timber, three-in-one HMV – were warmed up, amidst much anticipation from us young punters. I think she may have had a couple of bob on Lord Fury; she did seem rather pleased when correct weight was called. I haven't missed a race since.

Sure, there's an ugly side to the effects of gambling that shouldn't be dismissed or diminished. And, yes, there's an extravagance in the participation of some on Cup Day that is indecently wasteful and decadent, and therefore morally problematic. But for most of us, it's just some refreshingly meaningless and diverting fun.

Is it just me, or is it a broader experience, that we seem have less time for fun? Have all the time-saving devices at our disposal just increased how much we try to pack into our days, and into our whole approach to life generally? Has it resulted in our being more begrudging of the time required to organise events that don't have any great weight and import, that aren't useful? I am increasingly alert to how frequently people ask you if you have been "busy". Have you noticed how it is often a double-barrelled question when greeting another person: "How are you? Been busy?" Of all the aspects of someone's well-being about which we could enquire, why would we focus before anything else on the degree of busyness of a person? Think about it.

For most of us, the first Tuesday in November is mainly pointless nonsense. That's why it serves us so well.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

8 Nov	MSA Regionl Council Meeting, Sydney
11-12 Nov	MSA Regional Council Meeting, Melbourne
14-15 Nov	MSA Leadership Team Meeting, Marist Centre Melbourne
19 Nov	Mission Council Meeting, Marist Centre Sydney
30 Nov	Marist Ministries Mass and Dinner, Melbourne
24 Nov	Marist Solidarity Christmas Gathering, Melbourne

25 Nov	Marist Solidarity Christmas Gathering, Adelaide
2 Dec	Marist Solidarity Christmas Gathering, Brisbane
4 Dec	Marist Solidarity Christmas Gathering, Sydney
5-7 Dec	Australian Catholic Youth Festival, Melbourne
16 Dec	QLD/SA School Holidays Begin
20 Dec	WA School Holidays Begin
23 Dec	NSW/VIC/ACT School Holidays Begin

MARIST MINISTRIES MASS AND DINNER - SYDNEY



A most enjoyable function was held last Friday for the Sydney Region's inaugural Marist Ministries Mass and Dinner. Over one hundred and fifty Marists gathered for Mass in Holy Name Church Hunters Hill followed by dinner in the new arts building at St Joseph's College. During the evening, eleven people were honoured for their outstanding contribution to Marist life and mission. In his closing remarks on the night, Brother Michael thanked everyone for the many ways in which they have served young people in the Marist way through 2014. He also spoke about the current directions and priorities of the Province, emphasising the importance of firming up the identity and sense of belonging among Marists.



SOME GOOD NEWS

Here is a window into one of our MSA member schools – Mt Maria College at Petrie (Brisbane) – a school that has had a long history of welcoming students with particular needs and challenges. Enjoy their recently made promo video: [Mt Maria College Petrie](#).

BLESSING AND OPENING OF LE ROZEY ARTS CENTRE LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Congratulations to all at Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon on the opening of the Le Rozey Centre on the St Paul's campus last week. The new facility for the teaching of the visual and graphic arts replaces a building that was tragically destroyed by fire several years ago. The attractive and contemporary learning spaces and gallery were solemnly blessed by the outgoing Bishop of Sale, the Most Reverend Christopher Prowse, and officially opened by the National Director of Marist Schools Australia, Brother Michael Green.



MARIST ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLET

Each year the Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI) puts together a prayer and reflection booklet for use during Advent. This year it the booklet has the them 'THE WORLD OF MIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH'. For each day of Advent, Marist students offer a first-hand account of their experiences of migration and then offer a prayer for the future. A number of students from our Australian Marist schools are in the booklet, including one boy's moving recounting of his family's migration from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Later in the week, we will send out more details to schools. Meanwhile, you can download a PDF [here](#) or go to the [MSA website](#).

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, MUMS RETREAT



On the initiative of one of the Mums from St Joseph's College and with the encouragement of the College Leaders a group of 37 Mothers gathered with Br Robert O'Connor from the MLF Team for two and a half days at The Hermitage Mittagong for a time of reflection on what it means to be Marist.

Time was spent on hearing Marcellin's story and his insights into spirituality and prayer; time for personal prayer and reflection and just the chance to enjoy time in our Marist 'dream-space' at The Hermitage, Mittagong.

The Mums affirmed it as a special time and hope we can add such an event to the yearly calendar – and maybe something for Dads too down the track?



Therese Armstrong & Rebecca Klarica



Jenny Fazzari & Jenny Dunstan

FOOTSTEPS 2– MAKING JESUS KNOWN AND LOVED



Anna Dean (Bulleen) & Br Paul Creevey (Noosaville)



Sonia Carbone (Trinity College, Auburn/Regents Park) & Kathryn Collins (Varroville)

KOGARAH STAFF SESSIONS #1-3

On a series of Monday afternoons [3X 1hour], 35 of the Kogarah Marist staff came together to reflect on Marist Spirituality and the insights to be gleaned from Evangelisers in the Midst of Youth.



From left: Adrian McKeveatt, Frank Azor, Anthony Brown, Justin Smith, Steve Byrnes, Shelley Foster, Catherine de Andrade, Maria Georgiou

MSOL IN THE FIELD WITH LOCAL PARTNERS: TIMOR-LESTE

Marist Solidarity is both the name of the international aid and development agency of the Australian Marist Brothers as well as a way of supporting such work. This is Marist solidarity in action.



Br Tony Clark and Br Allen Sherry, Executive Director of Marist Solidarity (MSol), reaching an agreement with Maway, founder of the Centru Treinamentu Uailili Lafu (CTUF) the training centre in Wai Lilli, District of Baucau.

Br Allen Sherry and Michael Coleman were recently in Timor-Leste working with project partners. At the heart of MSol's work is empowering young people by enhancing their human dignity and developing their capacity to transform their own lives and the communities in which they live. The visit was an opportunity to work with local Timorese project managers and to provide suggestions for operation and planning. Some time was spent with two particular locals, Maway and Rio, both of which have initiated projects based on the need that they see in their communities. Maway, from the village of Wai Lilli, with the backing of his village elders has been supported by MSol in establishing a computer training centre that in 2014 will expand to a carpentry training centre. Rio is a local Timorese man trained in physiotherapy for people with disabilities. MSol is supporting his plan to provide physiotherapy for poorer children with disabilities in a small centre to be called the St Vincent de Paul Centre.

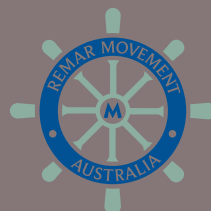
These are but two of many community projects initiated by Timorese and now partnering with us at MSol. Local Timorese such as Maway, Rio and their friends are the driving force for development and your support enables them to build their own capacity for change within their communities.

It is the support of our Australian Marist Schools Australian donors that makes these partnerships and expressions of Marist solidarity possible.

Michael Coleman
MSol Team – Brisbane

For more information or to support projects like these contact us on msol@marists.org.au.

REMAR NEWS



REMAR YEAR DRAWS TO AN END

Over the weekend October 25-27, the last of our Red Remar Caravels gathered at Lady Northcote Recreation Camp to celebrate their Red Leadership Camp. This marked the last National Camp for 2013. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Helms, Coordinators, Support Staff and last but not least our Rowers for making 2013 a successful and rewarding year.



I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions, sacrifices and dedication of the 2013 RMT. We wish them luck as they transition in to 2014: Connor – Latrobe University studying Sociology; Ellen – Latrobe University studying Occupational Therapy; Gilbert – University of Melbourne studying Science; Jess - following her pursuit in music at University; Rita –University of Melbourne studying Bachelor of Arts; Simon – following his passion with social justice and looking at working in rural Australia; and Tshepo – University Western Australia – studying Engineering. We thank you for the manner in which you inspired, mentored and nurtured our Young Marist Rowers across Australia.

Finally I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Mario Frazzetto for his support, wisdom and care throughout the year. Mario has been an immense support to myself and the team. We wish him all the best as he returns to Marcellin College, Bulleen next year.



Nicki Pitt
MYM - National Remar Coordinator



MARIST SOLIDARITY CHRISTMAS GATHERINGS

AMS LTD MAPS MVA
AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY LIMITED MARIST ASIA PACIFIC SOLIDARITY MARIST VOLUNTEERS AUSTRALIA



Melbourne Sunday November 24,
Marist Community 106 Holdren St,
North Fitzroy Vic 5:30 to 7:30 pm
ravp: sophie.fenaughty@marists.org.au

Adelaide Monday November 25,
Paringa Hall, Sacred Heart College,
Somerton Park SA 5:30 to 7:00 pm
ravp: helen.quirk@marists.org.au

Brisbane Monday December 2,
Marist Centre Brisbane, 142 Frasers Rd,
Ashgrove Qld 5:30 to 7:30 pm
ravp: helen.quirk@marists.org.au

Sydney Wednesday December 4,
Lavalla Foyer, Marist College,
North Shore NSW 5:30 to 7:00 pm
ravp: catherine.hannon@marists.org.au