



## From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

### *Kindness, it's contagious!*

Early in the first month of the current pandemic appearing in this country, Prime Minister Morrison urged Australians to *be kind to one another*. The statement seemed remarkable from a Prime Minister, and entirely appropriate. As we navigate the impacts of COVID-19, take pride in our collective efficacy in minimising infections through adherence to the various prescribed measures, and make the necessary careful adjustments to new ways of working and living whilst the virus remains active, the need to *be kind to one another* is growing rather than diminishing.

In difficult times great leaders come to the fore, at all levels of society. This has certainly been the case in our Marist schools, among staff, parents and students. The demands upon parents and students these past months have been extraordinary and rightly teachers and Principals across the country are being hailed as unassuming, national heroes. The speed and agility with which our school communities have responded to the crisis and the many changes it has necessitated is remarkable. Most impressive has been the strategic, purposeful evaluation by teachers of the various off-site learning arrangements and the manner in which new insights are influencing learning and teaching as students return to school. Reports of greater engagement particularly by boys in the coeducational settings have been common, whilst students of a quieter disposition have also featured prominently in positive feedback. Most overwhelming from our schools across the country, is the demonstrable sheer delight of our young people to be together again, learning at school.

The unexpected break from normal school attendance has certainly reminded all Australians of the compelling beauty, wonder, and importance of education. Inspired by the faith filled life and work of Saint Marcellin, we Marists understand and appreciate the precious gift of education. For students in our Marist schools, 2020 will always be remembered as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. More importantly it will be remembered by them for the spirit of *kindness* in which Marist educators taught and cared for them.

Last week the Australian Bishops met together and in the midst of this crisis have written a message to the Catholic people of Australia, titled "A word of encouragement"<sup>1</sup>. Highlighted from their message is the following invitation to prayer, with and through Mary.

*At the heart of the community of disciples, there is always Mary the mother of Jesus (cf Acts 1:14). In this month of May, Pope Francis has urged us to look to her to intercede for us in this time of affliction; and to Mary we will entrust our homeland later this month, looking to a mother's unfailing love. May she who is Health of the Sick and Help of Christians pray for us now, that we may see Jesus with her eyes, the eyes of Easter, and love him with her heart, which is the heart of faith: "O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not our petitions but in your mercy hear and answer us".*

*One important service which people of faith provide to the wider community in this time is an unceasing prayer of intercession. So we ask you all to continue praying in the power of faith for those who have died, who are sick or at risk from COVID-19, for our healthcare professionals, essential service providers and researchers, for all who are isolated and anxious, and for our civic leaders and health authorities.*

May our school communities take up the invitation to pray together at this time, by *Entrusting Australia to Mary Help of Christians*.<sup>2</sup>

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Frank Malloy**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR



# ENTRUSTING AUSTRALIA TO *Mary Help of Christians*

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

**REMINDER**

# LAVALLA MAGAZINE

Please use Lavalla to share some news from your school with the rest of Marist Schools Australia.

The cut-off date for contributions for the next edition of Lavalla for 2020 is ***Friday, 4 September***.

All submissions should be sent to Br Michael Flanagan  
([michael.flanagan@marists.org.au](mailto:michael.flanagan@marists.org.au)).

NEW

# THE VISION STILL HAS TIME

*Living our faith in a time of chaos*

REFLECTIONS BY  
MARK O'CONNOR FMS

The vision still has its time,  
presses on to fulfillment,  
and will not disappoint;  
if it delays, wait for it,  
it will surely come,  
it will not be late.  
— Habakkuk 2:2-3

*marist*  
ASSOCIATION OF  
ST. MARCELIN BARRABANT

A RESOURCE BY  
BR MARK O'CONNOR *fms*

## THE VISION STILL HAS TIME

*Living our faith in a time of chaos*

This series consists of seven short meditations on our humanity, faith, seeking God, compassion, prayer and the state of our hearts.

*We live in unsettled times. Crises and chaos abound. Whether it is the current pandemic and the stresses it has generated or the ongoing drama of how we reform our Australian Church, after the shame and trauma of the recent Royal Commission, we all sense the need for greater freedom and a deeper personal spirituality. In our inner lives it is so easy to lose our hope and joy as Catholics and Marists. Let us take courage in the hope that 'The Vision Still Has Time.'*

**Commences:** Wednesday 6 May 2020

**Duration:** Seven weeks

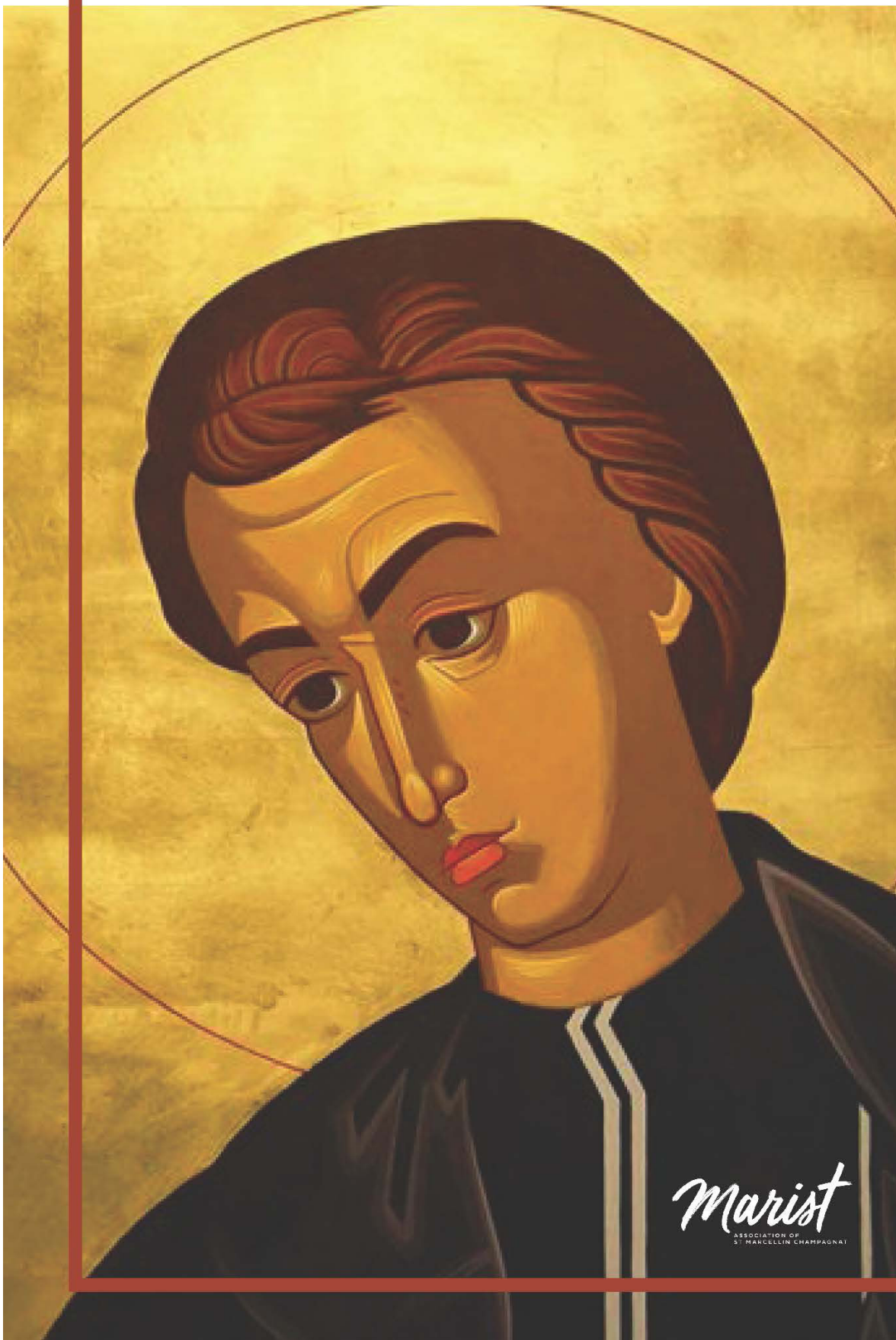
**Mode:** By subscription - each short meditation emailed weekly

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# THE FEAST OF SAINT >>

MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT 2020



## The Power of Words

Aussie **#Coronaspeak** would have to be one of a number of silver-linings to this current iso-life of ours. While in quazzie from the rona, we may not all claim to be armchair virologists but this pando has certainly placed us all on a coronacoaster while we vigilantly de-rone ourselves with sano and look forward to our end of day locktail hour.

More seriously, as Marists we also know the importance of our language, our sacred language, in

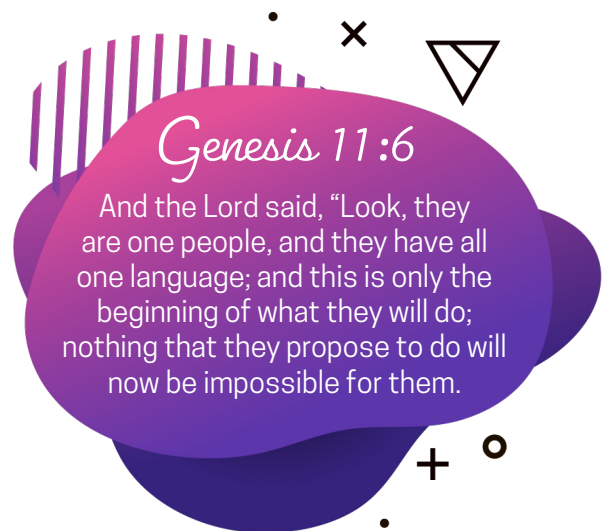
making meaning in our lives. As faith communities we inherently turn to our language of mystery, suffering, hope, compassion, surrender and more, to help us cope with situations beyond our control. Hearing this familiar language in our prayers and reflections over the last few months has helped connect us to our faith and increase our spiritual resilience. It is our communal language of love for our brothers and sisters that sustains and encourages us and helps us to be sowers of hope for our young people.



*One Wild and Precious Life* at St Teresa's Catholic College, Noosaville (12 March 2020)

Ironically, staff are in discussion about the fundamental issue of our shared humanity only days before COVID-19.

*Rob Smith, Kellie Barker, Aaron Heffernan, Juan Gonzaga, Amanda Murray-Salker, Paul Baker.*



Click here to access our **"COVID-19 United in Prayer"** Resources

## COVID-19: A Reflection

I find schools a lonely place without students. They are, after all the beating heart of the environment. The staff that are working on site appear to be ghost figures weaving in and out of a story that seems to be half told. The very essence of our Marist story is one of relationship, connectedness and love; the true gift of Easter is that we are, each one of us given new life to live with the spirit of God whatever the circumstances of our lives – to be whole story tellers wherever we are. This 'new normal' has presented me with opportunities for my colleagues, the students, and the families to tell story in new ways, and for me to listen, really listen, to the story found in frustration, in joy, in small things, in gratitude, in reflection and in longing. For this time, for this space for the story I am grateful.

*Mena McLean - Campus Minister, Marist College Ashgrove*



Dear friends,

We would like to send our deepest thanks to those of you who have contributed to our Vanuatu Appeal to help rebuild St Michel's on the island of Santo. From Gladstone to Kilmore, from Brisbane to Sydney, we see a number of Marist Schools Australia staff on our list of donors and we are buoyed by the continuing support of the work of AMS, even during these challenging times. We would like to send a special 'shout out' of thanks to our Marist families at Marist College Canberra and John Therry Catholic High School for your significant support of the appeal.

Last month we trialed our first AMS online event, with the opportunity to hear from one of the young people who participated in a youth program that AMS supports in Baucau, Timor Leste. This was a wonderful gathering and proves that physical distancing doesn't mean social isolation at all! We will be offering another online event in the coming weeks with the chance to meet our partners at the Marist ICFP Teacher Training College in Timor Leste. We would love to see some of you there, please do also share the details in your staff, parent, alumni and student networks.

Lastly, we know that many of you are transitioning back to the classroom in various ways across the country. Please know that you are in our prayers as you navigate another change. Thank you for all the work you've been doing to keep our young people here in Australia connected to learning and the care you've provided during this period.

Yours in Solidarity,  
Bec and the AMS Team



## AMS FREE ONLINE EVENT

**DATE:**  
Wednesday 27 May, 2020

**Time:**  
4:30pm - 5:30pm

AMS CEO Rebecca Bromhead in conversation with our ICFP Marist Teacher Training College partners in Baucau, Timor Leste ICFP are doing exceptional work training teachers from across Timor Leste and strengthening an education system that was destroyed during the transition to independence and battles insufficient resources today.

**Register here to join us:**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/ams-meet-an-icfp-project-partner-registration-105197719210>

## VANUATU - TROPICAL CYCLONE HAROLD RECOVERY APPEAL



The Principal of St Michel Technical College, Vanuatu, has sent us a video outlining the damage suffered by the school. To view this moving video click: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sow-bLshZS4>

To donate to the Appeal please visit <http://bit.ly/helpAMS>

## MEET OUR REGIONAL ASSISTANTS

### **Ashley Doueihi- Marist Youth Ministry, Sydney**

As a 2019 graduate from St Patrick's Marist College, I find it quite easy to identify how MYM has impacted my life, during my senior years of schooling, as an RA and beyond. I have the most vivid memory of attending my first regional Marist Connect in Year 11, and it is this memory which really encompasses the impact that MYM had on my life during school.

I remember feeling so welcomed and accepted in the Marist community. I loved being able to build relationships with like-minded students who shared similar Marist schooling experiences.

There was an immediate family-like bond that was forged amongst so many fellow students, a bond which really played a vital role in the supporting of one another in times outside of connect nights and forums. But most importantly, attending MYM events really enabled me to openly express myself and my faith, whilst deepening my relationship with God. For the first time, I genuinely felt comfortable to share my personal beliefs, encounters, and relationship with Christ to others without the fear judgement. In Year 12, it was the strength of faith and family bond that MYM provided me which ignited my desire to become an RA. Now both in my job as an RA and in life beyond, I have continued to immensely expand my knowledge and understanding of my faith through interactions with the boarder Marist family all as a result of MYM. As a new MYM RA, I feel so blessed that I can 'make Jesus Christ known and loved' in lives of today's the youth. Ultimately, I aim to have the same impact on the lives of students through MYM, which I received during my schooling.



### **Daniel Litjens, Marist Youth Ministry, Perth**

My name's Daniel Litjens, and I graduated from Newman College in 2016. I was first introduced to MYM through the Remar program in Year 10, which was instrumental in forming my leadership abilities and my faith life. At the end of Year 12, I was offered to opportunity to move to Melbourne and join the 2017 Remar Ministry Team. This year of ministry is still so valuable to me, as it gave me a strong work ethic, a nourishing faith life, and the ability to engage with young people. After my

team on RMT, I brought these values home where I worked to start Marist Youth Ministry here in Perth, which has brought a tangible sense of meaning to my work. I am very grateful to MYM and the opportunities it has given me.



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Marist Youth Ministry  
Marist Game Changers





**Lachlan Scott, Marist Youth Ministry, Melbourne**

“Kerry loves a chat”, Br. Doug remarked as we sat in my car waiting for Kerry to bid farewell to her friend (the first of many) on our Exodus Bread Run that afternoon. The quite aptly named Exodus Community (situated in Heidelberg West’s Olympic Village) is one of love and acceptance. Kerry, known as quite the mover-and-shaker, has been involved with their Exodus Bread Run almost from its inception over 20 years ago. These days, students from several of our Marist schools in

Victoria participate in the Bread Run as a ministry opportunity. Like many Old Collegians and current students of Marcellin College (graduated 2016), I attribute my understanding of service to people like Kerry. Because of Kerry, I have encountered one of the poorest areas in Victoria in a different way; as a place of family. While many of the folks to whom we deliver bread wouldn’t know much of the life of Champagnat or perhaps Jesus, they certainly embody the sense of family spirit and presence their legacies call for. “That’s what Exodus is about, supporting each other”, one of the residents said as she offered to deliver Bread to someone who was just a little further than our Bread Run “jurisdiction”. Experiences with MYM like those on the Bread Run have had a ripple effect in my life. I find myself seeking and building that same sense of love for the other in all my relationships. For the Bread Run, and particularly people like Kerry, I am very grateful.



*Kerry talking with her new friends from Marist-Sion on a Bread Run Wednesday.*



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