



# MSA Newsletter

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



## From Brother Michael Green

8 May 2012

Dear Members of the Marist Family

As an opinionated Year Eleven student I helped to lead a protest – student protests were a bit more *de rigueur* in the early seventies and I found myself embroiled in more than one – on the demise of our school's bell. We had a great bell. A venerable, old bell. A bell with a rich, full and resonant sound that could be heard streets away. There was an art to ringing it. Year Eight students chosen for this coveted role were trained in the craft by those who had gone before them; they had a place of honour by the classroom door so they could dash out to fulfil their charge at the designated times. Different rings signalled different events: nine long, echoing tolls to call people to class in the morning; three sharper ones to indicate the period had begun; a crisp double ring to mark the end of night study. Then a new headmaster installed a synthetic, soul-less, monotonal, grating electric bell throughout the campus. Modernisation it was called. We rebelled. Unsuccessfully, of course.

I'm told the Prophet Mohammed didn't much go for the Christian thing with bells. He preferred the human voice to call people to prayer. But I like bells. Bells tell us that something is on, to be alert because something is happening.

Marcellin liked bells. He installed one on the roof of the Hermitage. It's still there. Not a good bell, it must be said – nothing like the grand bell in my old school, and certainly not one that would find a place in the belfry of a great cathedral. But a bell, none the less. It played an important part in the rhythm and life of the house. He was wont to say that the bell was one of signs of the love of God. What on earth did he mean?

It was a call to prayer. More than that, it was a reminder of God's presence in each day, in the community, and in each member of the community. The prayer that we particularly associate with the bell in Christian custom is the Angelus, traditionally rung at dawn, midday and dusk. The Angelus: the great prayer of the incarnation. Christ in our midst.

You might have read recently that schools in the Diocese of Port Pirie have re-introduced the regular praying of the Angelus at midday. Christ in the midst of each day, even in Port Pirie. Yes, that's the point: Christ at the heart of the lives of all of us. That's something to ring a bell about.

Even without the words being said, the ringing of the Angelus bell reminds us of Christ in our midst, and of all that says about who God is and who we are. This month of May – this month of Mary – let's remind ourselves and our students to take on the spirit of Mary of the Angelus: the Mary who heard because she was attentive; the Mary who said yes to the God who called to her; the Mary in whom God became incarnate; the Mary who was filled with joy and hope through this and who set out in haste to share the news that God is here. Let the Angelus remind us that as Marists we are called to be this Mary.

So ring the bells! (As long as they are real ones.)

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP...

6 – 8 May	Marist Youth Evangelisation Conference, Mittagong
9 May	Oceania workshop on <i>Evangelisers in the Midst of Youth</i> , Eastwood
9 May	Twilight Retreat, St Michael's Daceyville
14 May	MSA Leadership Team Meeting, Eastwood
14 May	Mary the Mature Disciple (2), Kogarah
15 May	MLF Team : Melbourne Regional Meeting (Randwick KLAS), Drummoyne
16 May	Marist Leadership: Next Gen II (BNE), Lavalla Centre Rosalie
18 May	Marist Leadership: Next Gen I (MEL), Montagne Centre, Brunswick

20 - 23 May	Footsteps2 #11, Mittagong
23 May	Montagne Centre Staff Formation Day
28 May	Mary the Mature Disciple (3)
30 May	Religious Leadership (Leadership Team), ST Gregory's College, Campbelltown
5 June	Noosa Marists Core Group Meeting and Evening Prayer Meeting
8 June	Marist Collections Uncovered / Workshop, St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill
12 June	Spirituality & Leadership III, Berne
15 June	MSA Leadership Team Meeting, Montagne Centre, Brunswick



## DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO COULD HELP?

St Dominic's Rural Training Centre in the Solomon Islands was established by Australian Marist Brothers in 1970s. The centre is seeking the assistance of a volunteer planning adviser to help them to evaluate their present income earning projects and to assist them to develop new ways of earning an income.

The position of planning adviser is part of the Australian Volunteers for International Development program, an Australian Government, AusAID initiative. Marist Asia-Pacific Solidarity (MAPS) is proud to be the Australian Partner Organisation for this assignment. The commencement date for the position is 2013.

We are seeking the support of fellow Marists who may know of a suitably qualified person who could full this position. More information can be found at:

[www.australianvolunteers.com/10531732-planning-adviser-%e2%80%93-sustainable-income-projects-for-rural-training-centre.aspx](http://www.australianvolunteers.com/10531732-planning-adviser-%e2%80%93-sustainable-income-projects-for-rural-training-centre.aspx)

## MARIST BASKETBALL CARNIVAL



Trinity College Beenleigh were the hosts of this year's Australian Marist Basketball Carnival which took place last week. Once again the Carnival proved to be a wonderful and energetic gathering of our schools. Congratulations to Marcellin College, Bulleen, which followed on top of the boys draw and to Lavalla Catholic College which won the girls. Sacred Heart College, Adelaide won the plate for the boys draw whilst Newman

College, Perth won the plate for the girls. Next year's Carnival is being hosted by OLSH College, Alice Springs, where they are already looking forward to welcoming Marist schools to the Centre.

## YOUTH EVANGELISATION – THE MARIST WAY



For the last three days, key members of staff from our secondary schools have been at The Hermitage, Mittagong, for this year's

keynote Marist conference on theme of evangelisation in Marist schools. The conference has been held in the context of this year's General Synod of the Church on the 'New Evangelisation' and informed by the launch last year of the new Marist document on youth ministry 'Evangelisers in the Midst of Youth'.

The conference has been a wonderfully enriching and engaging experience for everyone, according to its convenor, Brother Michael Callinan. There has been the opportunity to hear from some insightful presenters and to share with each other effective ways that different schools are using for evangelisation through prayer and worship, RE programmes, youth ministry, solidarity initiatives, mentoring and accompaniment, and other means.

*Pictured: Brother João Carlos do Prado (Director of the Office for Mission, at the Marist Brothers General Administration, Rome) was special guest at the Evangelisation Conference. He is pictured here (bottom left) with five Young Marists who led one of the sessions: Joe McDonald, Mark Elias, Cassie Shumacher, Matthew Elias and Liam Duncan.*

## BEING MARIST CONFERENCE



Congratulations to Alison Baker (Organising Committee Coordinator), Darren McGregor (Conference Host), the

Conference Organising Committee and to Marcellin College Bulleen for providing an outstanding experience for Marist School Officers at the Being Marist Conference held at Bulleen in March. A participant at the Conference, Carmel Smith (Catholic College Bendigo), shared her experience of this significant gathering of School Officers from across the country:

*"I really enjoyed the opportunity to attend the Being Marist Conference. It was such a positive experience with a fabulous group of people who understand the joys and challenges of working in a school in a non-teaching capacity. The Conference re-affirmed that we are part of the bigger picture and showed me there is a consistency across Marist schools in the care of our students."*



# Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

Two weeks ago saw the return of most of the 38 pilgrims who completed the Marist pilgrimage for 2012. The pilgrimage this year covered the Marist places in Paris, Champagnat country in the south of France, a visit to the General House and a Papal Audience in Rome, and visits to Marist works in Nairobi, Kenya, and a number of schools in the countryside in Rwanda.



This year Marist College Ashgrove has provided a new and innovative opportunity for staff spiritual formation. Why it works? The one-hour spirituality workshops run at 7.30am with stimulating presentations from MLF team member Brother Michael Flanagan (while enjoying a wonderful hot breakfast and barista coffee provided by the hospitality students). Effective and enjoyable! The most recent topic covered the great spiritual masters.



*Alana Armitage, Veronica Grant and Elizabeth Falconer at a recent Marist College Ashgrove spirituality workshop*

Last week the Sydney Marist Leadership Program, Next Gen II, was hosted by St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill. 45 participants from all over Sydney and as far away as Newcastle and Canberra were inspired and provoked by an engaging presentation from Kathryn Greiner. Sydney MSA Regional Director, Frank Malloy, facilitated a wonderful evening of profession development for senior leaders.



*Kathryn Greiner and Frank Malloy*

## FEAST OF ST MARCELLIN

The Founder's feast day is just one month away – 6th June – and as usual schools are planning their ways of celebrating it, and using the day to deepen their schools' appreciation of their Marist identity and mission. Thanks for the high level of interest in the resources that the MLF team is once again preparing to assist schools in their celebrating of the Feast of St Marcellin. As well as a Mass on the day itself, many schools use the week around 6th June to do a number of educative and celebratory activities. We hope our resource kit will enhance this for you.



In the last two weeks, Year 12 Forums have been held for the Sydney and Brisbane Regions. April 20-22 saw 33 students ... gather at Mittagong 33 young people from 16 Marist schools. The 6 staff included Fr Paul Ghanem OFM, our chaplain, Br Justin Golding (Trinity Lismore), Christine Meharg (Mt Carmel, Varroville) Jesse Smith (Trinity Lismore) and two Young Marists, Emma Field (Marist Woolwich 2010) and Nathan Beencke (North Sydney 2010) The latter three names were former school captains. The weekend was organised by Liam Duncan (ex Dundas).

It was inspiring to see how quickly these young people established strong rapport and shared deeply the narratives of their lives with the theme of the weekend 'Vocation - Call Waiting'.

We had a vocation panel with Fr Paul Ghanem ofm speaking about priesthood, Br Justin Golding fms speaking about Marist brothers, Sr Noeline Simmons sm speaking about the Marist Sisters and Christian and Jessica Moulder (Ex SFX Hamilton) on married life.

The Queensland schools gathered at Toowoomba 27-29 April.

Later in the year the NSW/ACT schools (21-23 Sept) and QLD schools will have the Yr11 Forums (20-22 July) with the theme of 'Social Justice'.







## NEW ENERGIES FOR AUSTRALIAN MARIST VOLUNTEERING AND ADVOCACY

Just before the Easter break the MAPS team welcomed its newest member, Catherine Hannon, who begins her new role as Volunteering and Advocacy Officer. During her quick visit to the National MAPS Office in Brisbane, Catherine took some time to answer some questions about her work:

### ***What excites you most about your new role?***

What excites me most is the opportunity that I will have to make contact and work with people from the wider Champagnat Marist family. Secondly, I will be inviting people to respond to a call to not only act out of solidarity, but in some cases to make a deeper commitment to the Marist mission: 'to make Jesus Christ known and loved, among the young, especially the most neglected'.

### ***What are your plans for the coming weeks and months?***

During May and June I will be attending a workshop on advocacy and promotion of children's rights that will be conducted by the Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI) in Rome and Geneva. Upon my return some key conversations will need to take place in regard to which issues regarding the rights of children in Australia are we as Marists called to be advocates.

### ***Can you tell us about upcoming Australian volunteer placements?***

In April James Hodge joined the Marist Brothers Community in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. His presence in this community is principally to provide support to Br Terry Heinrich in assisting with the LaValla School and Yodiffee projects. We also have two recent graduates of Marist College North Shore, Simon Jenkins and Josh Carnovale, who are individually going to complete a three month stay also in Cambodia living as part of the Brothers' community and assisting with some of the work at La Valla. Later this year another volunteer Peter Pichler brackets (a teacher at our school in Newcastle, St Francis Xavier College) is travelling to Vietnam. Peter is going to work with Br Geoff Kelly and do some planning work for a new project which has only just been approved. It is a social inclusion project for young Vietnamese displaced by the expanding industrialization of Hanoi.

*If you would like to register your interest in volunteering or speak to Catherine about future volunteering opportunities please feel free to email: [catherine.hannon@marists.org.au](mailto:catherine.hannon@marists.org.au) or phone (02) 8752 8233.*



The Red Caravel Day is an opportunity to take stock of the journey so far. The Remar Ministry Team has begun facilitating the two day program, leading three in Victoria over the past two weeks. Rowers are challenged to give honest consideration to how they

are "Sailing away from mediocrity" and to reflect on their development as Christian leaders. A major goal of the Red Crossing is to form a strong community within the Caravel, that is then motivated to work outwardly to address injustices in the world, and most importantly, in their local area. Therefore, various activities during this program seek to broaden their knowledge of what it means to be a part of a Christian community.



We are thankful to the Remar Co-ordinators and Helms at Notre Dame College, St Francis Xavier College and Marist-Sion College for their willingness to host these events, and for their hard work behind the scenes.

