



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

From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

I trust the new school year has commenced as smoothly as possible as we continue to navigate the ever changing COVID-19 environment. Our thoughts and prayers go especially to our friends and colleagues in Western Australia with the sudden lockdown changes there this week and the serious impact of the devastating bushfires effecting so many people and enterprises, including schools.

Memorable during the 2020/21 holiday period was the extraordinary historical events in the United States on January 6th. The tragic loss of life due to the behaviour of a small minority was shocking. The riot was a manifestation of reckless words and uneducated theories based on falsehoods propagated for months. It was deeply disturbing to see such wanton destruction and disruption in the US Capital Building. However, in the midst of the chaos of that day, President (elect at the time) Biden spoke words of calm, dignity, hope, reconciliation and unity. These same sentiments were repeated during his inauguration speech. The sentiments expressed were readily appreciated by people, organisations and countries across the globe. Described generally in the media as a “devout Irish Catholic”, “deeply motivated by social justice”, “inspired by a contemporary theology” and “guided by Catholic social teaching”, Joe Biden seems to be the ideal leader for these fractious times in America’s history. For fellow Catholics, his words during the inauguration resonated. Some excerpts include:

I know speaking of unity can sound to some like a foolish fantasy these days.

History, faith and reason show the way, the way of unity.

We can see each other not as adversaries, but as neighbours.

We can treat each other with dignity and respect.

We can join forces, stop the shouting and lower the temperature.

For without unity, there is no peace — only bitterness and fury.

No progress — only exhausting outrage.

The answer is not to turn inward, to retreat into competing factions, distrusting those who don’t look like you or worship the way you do, or don’t get their news from the same sources you do.

We can do this if we open our souls instead of hardening our hearts.

If we show a little tolerance and humility, and if we’re willing to stand in the other person’s shoes, as my mom would say, just for a moment, stand in their shoes.

Because here’s the thing about life: There’s no accounting for what fate will deal you.

Some days, you need a hand. There are other days when we’re called to lend a hand.

That’s how it has to be. That’s what we do for one another.

Noteworthy in the images and footage of President Biden signing a multitude of Executive Orders, was a photo behind his desk which captured him shaking hands with Pope Francis. May our prayers for the future of our world, join those of Pope Francis in his recent message to President Biden.

*At a time when the grave crises facing our human family call for farsighted and united responses,
I pray that your decisions will be guided by a concern for building a society
marked by authentic justice and freedom,
together with unfailing respect for the rights and dignity of every person,
especially the poor, the vulnerable and those who have no voice.
I likewise ask God, the source of all wisdom and truth,
to guide your efforts to foster understanding, reconciliation and peace
among the nations of the world in order to advance the universal common good.*

Yours sincerely,

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

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 is **Wednesday 31 March 2021**.

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

The Breath of God...

... then the Lord God formed [us] from the dust of the ground and breathed into [our] nostrils the breath of life; and [we] became living beings. (Genesis 3:7)

The *Breathe: the Spirit of Life* program has been very well received by our Marist teachers and staff at Mt Maria College Petrie, Queensland...



L-R: Kirstie Cochrane, Irene Knauseder, Heidi Blomfield, Sharon Ruthven, Alison Clifton and Hayley Stanley



L-R: Lachlan Smith, Thymon Venter and Joshua Grinter

The breaths we take...

There is a bit of every human that has ever lived in the breaths we take, and just about every human from now until we are no more will inhale a bit of us. But as people of faith we also recognise that there is a Giver – the Giver of the first breath – the Giver of Life. Being connected with everything that has ever been is an extraordinarily astonishing thing to get our heads around.

Just as our breathing links us with everything, so too, we are confident of God's presence being in all things.

...and St Teresa's Catholic College, Noosaville at the Sunshine Coast



L-R: Leigh Boggis, Adriana Lidden, Meegan Ford, Geraldine Pettit, Wendy Clifford and Sarah Gellie

2021 THEME RESOURCES

[click here](#)

MARIST ONLINE SYMPOSIUM 2021

Marist
ASSOCIATION OF
ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Alive in God

*Using creativity and imagination to
open our minds and hearts to God*



Please join with **Timothy Radcliffe**
OP who will explore our 2021
Marist Association theme *Breathe:
the Spirit of Life*.

Timothy is a former Master of the
Dominican Order. Educated at Oxford
and in Paris, he joined the Dominicans in
1965 and taught scripture at Blackfriars,
Oxford for many years. His latest book,
Alive in God – A Christian Imagination,
was a foundation document inspiring
our theme.

TUESDAY 2 MARCH
5:00PM-6:30PM (AEDT)
ONLINE

For more information:
mark.ofarrell@marists.org.au

REGISTER HERE

Fun fundraising at summit

Get ready for some awesome school events in 2021 to support educational opportunities for young people in Asia and the Pacific.

That was the message from a fantastic workshop run by Australian Marist Solidarity at the Qld Student Leaders Summit in January.

AMS CEO Rebecca Bromhead and Acting Communications Officer Emma Field introduced the students to the organisation's projects in Timor-Leste – which includes building a new Marist School in Lautem.



In small groups, students then picked a fundraising idea and worked together to create a plan for running a successful event at their school. They also examined how they could teach participants about the challenges facing young people in Timor-Leste. The students came up with some terrific ideas about how to get their classes, houses and schools involved.



We can't wait to see their ideas in action. We don't want to spoil the surprise, but it sounds like it will be a colourful year (okay – a colour run could be coming to your school!).

Follow us!

For all the latest news and updates about the incredible projects we support with your help, you can find us at:



@MaristSolidarity



@AusMSol



Australian Marist Solidarity



@AusMSol



Australian Marist Solidarity

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Late January Update

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to 2021, with ample opportunities to walk the journey of faith with our staff and students. I am pleased to commence the year on a high, with over 80 student leaders gathering to be formed and equipped to lead in the Marist way: A Student Leaders Summit in Brisbane and a Student Leaders Gathering in Perth. Term 1 will also mean the beginning of another cohort of Game Changers. Game Changers is commencing in 21 schools, with over 66 youth groups and around 850 students across the country. Term 1 will allow the students to gather in youth groups in their school community, while each year level will connect virtually during the Term at a regional level, to explore their journey together.

Furthermore, Year 11 and Year 12 students will continue to gather virtually at MYM Connect and Super Connect nights. These nights provide students with a place to connect and reflect on various Marist topics.

I am confident that we will have plenty of hurdles to jump over this year but convinced it would assist us in growing as Marists.

Kind regards,

Edwin Bakker
MYM National Coordinator

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY *Formators' Conference*

The Marist Youth Ministry leadership team invites you to join us virtually for our annual **National MYM Formators' Conference**.

The program aims to equip and skill Mentors and Coordinators through a variety of offerings as we commence the Game Changers journey in 2020.

When: Monday 15 to Tuesday 16 February 2021

Where: Virtual Event, via Zoom

Program Offerings:

- + Practical Workshops
- + Keynote Presentation from Br David Hall fms.
- + Networking Opportunities
- + Spiritual Formation
- + Unpacking the "Tracks"



Scan or click the QR code to register



breathe
the Spirit of life

MYM QLD/NT

Inaugural Marist Student Leaders Summit in QLD

Nearly 60 students and staff representing 10 Marist schools converged in Brisbane for the first Marist Student Leaders Summit. Marist schools represented included St Augustine's (Cairns), Burdekin Catholic High School (Ayr), Marist College Emerald, St Teresa's College (Noosaville), Mt Maria College (Petrie), St Peter Claver College (Riverview), Mt Maria College (Mitchelton), Carmel College (Thornlands), Marist College Ashgrove and Trinity College (Beenleigh). Continuing the legacy of the Student Leaders Gathering, the Summit aimed to further form students as leaders in the Marist way and charism.

The program facilitated opportunities for the students to exchange ideas about how to expand the Marist experience within their communities. The networks formed between students helped them identify a common path, with similar challenges in the balance of leadership and student life. Family spirit emerged as a concrete expression of Marist leadership.

Helping the MYM Brisbane team present the program were 7 volunteers, all of whom were past students at Marist schools or members of the Marist Association. Their personal link to the Marist family helped concretise the learning through sessions and small groups.

The Summit also featured guest presenters, grounding the content in real life application. Australian Marist Solidarity offered a workshop which inspired many students to dream bigger about their support of Marist communities throughout the Asia Pacific. The keynote speaker at the Summit Dinner was Mrs Cecily McGuckin, CEO of Queensland Steel and Sheet. Her story as the first and only female CEO in the industry invited students to consider who their supports are, to trust their gut and and to grow in their emotional intelligence.

Indicating a deeper connection to the Marist story, one student commented; "...sometimes it isn't about leaving [behind] something new. Holding on to a good foundation is key. If it ain't broke don't fix it!"

Adam Burns
Marist Youth Ministry Brisbane



MYM SYDNEY

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all the Marist staff in our region, NSW/ACT!

MYM Sydney Team for 2021

Ashley Doueih and **Emma Gallagher** will continue as MYM Sydney Regional Assistants (RAs) this year. I am very pleased to announce they will be joined by two new assistants:

Monica Le:

Ex-student from St Patrick's Dundas (2019). Monica is currently in second year at Central Queensland University studying a Bachelor of Medical Sonography.

Daniel Cooper:

Ex-student of Marist Parramatta (2019). Daniel is currently studying Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Western Sydney University and is also in second year.

Both Daniel and Monica were MYM Young Marist Volunteers last year, helping out at events such as our Super Connects and Student Leader's Gathering. They also attended many of our MYM young adult formation events. They are keen to share their faith with students and develop new skills.

The RAs and myself will be joined again by Br James Hodge, fms, our MYM National Assistant. Br James is a wonderful source of knowledge and support, not only to the Sydney team, but our teams across the country.



MYM Events in Term 1 include:

Online Super Connect

Friday, 5 March from 4 – 5pm
Consent notes due 26 February

MYM Formators Conference

Monday, 15 February and Tuesday, 16 February
Online from 10am



This year all the Game Changers programs in NSW/ACT will be managed and presented by myself and our MYM Sydney team.

We are thrilled to be able to offer this program to **7 Marist Schools** in our region during 2021. These schools include:

- *Trinity Catholic College Auburn*
- *Marist College Canberra*
- *St Patrick's Dundas*
- *St Joseph's College Hunters Hill*
- *The John Berne School Lewisham*
- *Marist Parramatta*
- *Marcellin College Randwick*

The MYM Sydney team are looking forward to meeting and working with students from these schools.

Game Changer Events in Term 1 include:

- Friday, 12 March **Year 10 Retreat Day**
- Friday, 19 March **Year 8 Retreat Day**
- Thursday, 25 March **Year 9 Retreat Day**
- Friday 26 March **Year 11 Retreat Day**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to host the MYM Sydney Team for a Recruitment Day or any other activity.

Best wishes for 2021,

Mrs Jeni Miller
MYM Sydney Regional Coordinator

**Want to learn more about
Game Changers and our
newest branding?**

Head to our socials!



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