



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

From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

Lent is a time when we are called to listen. To contemplate God's voice, to feel God's presence. In order to do this we are called to be more attentive to one another, to listen, and seek to understand. During the past four weeks, Australian women have spoken out bravely in relation to injustice and suffering at the hands of Australian men. The compelling strength, depth and dignity in which these issues have been brought forward into the public square present a catalyst for change in Australian society.

As educators we must be ever attentive to attitudes of prejudice. Such attitudes can insidiously worm their way into the collective consciousness of people young and old. It has been heartening to see the manner in which our Marist school leaders have prospered core elements of our Faith in the current important public debate. Below are a few examples.

As a Catholic school we have a commitment to the dignity of the human person, of which the expectations around social and sexual behaviours are fundamental. Equally, there is an essential need for parents, families and peers to have the major role in reinforcing these basic understandings of the right of respect and dignity for lives that we all deserve by the very nature of our human condition.¹

*Healthy relationship with others requires us to have open and honest conversations with teenagers in our care and educate them about respectful relationships and issues surrounding consent. Pope Francis reminds us that an education in the **fullness of humanity** should be the defining feature of Catholic schools.²*

As Marists, seeking to make Jesus known and loved in the way of Mary, the following prayer during this Lenten time of listening is commended to you.

For Christlikeness

*In a still serenity of spirit Lord,
let me reflect your face.
Look upon me, look out from within me
Only ever upon the surface of my life let your face be seen.*

Yours sincerely,

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

1. Letter to parents at Saint Joseph's College Hunters Hill from Head Ross Tarlinton.
2. Letter to parents at Marist College Canberra from Deputy Head Ryan Greer.

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).

St Joseph's College Mums' Retreat 3-5 March 2021

Once again this year 31 Mums gathered at The Hermitage Mittagong - the Marist Brothers' Retreat and Spirituality Centre, from 3-5 March to rest, share and ponder on some of the issues of interest to our Mums of College boys: maybe Marist issues about Marcellin or Mary, or issues even about prayer and how we are travelling in our profound parenting roles.

Each year some who were even here in our very early gatherings starting in 2013, return for more. So we are now into our 9th year. This has been a wonderful initiative by the mothers, and we pray it may continue for many years to come. We continue to hope we may be able to include our Dads in some of these gatherings.

Our deep thanks to Br Robert O'Connor from The Hermitage community, who would be well known to many families from his years of enrolment interviews for new boys at St Joseph's College, who provides most of the input for our gatherings.

Many thanks to all those Mums who once again joined us for 2021.



Attending were:
S Cooper, N Nikandrow,
K Poponoski, M Deece, L Phillips,
A Burke, L McEvoy, A Roche,
J Boulis, K Walton, M Rogers,
G Griffiths, J Goodall, S Mears, S Dunn,
A Martinus, J Bolitho, L Papesch,
L Hudson, J Burnickle, F Dunne,
T Clarke, Barclay, K Fitzgerald,
S Thomas, J Anderson, R Nitsios,
S Spooner, S Wood, K Castorina



CATHOLIC COLLEGE SALE

BLESSING AND OPENING OF THE CHARISM GARDEN

On Friday 12 March the Blessing and Opening of the Catholic College Sale Charism Garden was held. Sister Mary Barbuto NDS, Regional Leader of Our Lady of Sion Sisters and Brother Peter Carroll FMS, Provincial of the Marist Brothers shared the Gospel and spoke of the Mission of the Catholic School before Dean Peter Bickley and Father Jithin blessed the gardens. Those gathered were then invited to walk amongst the garden and reflect on the gifts to the Church of the Marist and Sion Charisms.



BLESSING AND OPENING OF THE JOHN XXIII BUILDING

Last weekend the refurbished John XXIII Building at Catholic College Sale was officially opened. Member for Gippsland the Honourable Darren Chester joined with Most Reverend Greg Bennet, Bishop of Sale, and Brother Peter Carroll FMS, Provincial of the Marist Brothers, to officially open the building. It was



wonderful to share the opening and blessing with the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion, who first brought Catholic education to this part of Australia. Congratulations to the Principal, Mr Chris Randell, for his leadership and commitment throughout this extensive refurbishment. The College is very well placed to serve families in the region with these outstanding facilities for many years to come.

Did you ever embrace the wind
with the vigour of your love?
Did you hold its hand and
smell the fragrance of the earth
on its breath?

What is the wind to you and me?
To me it is the power of God that floods
all living things.
The wind is always here embracing our
lives with the Spirit it brings.
All of God that speaks of beauty and love.
Every breath, every sigh, every song,
is the wind of God in us.
How often do we thank the wind?
Do we speak to the wind at all?

(An extract from *Embrace the Wind* by
Virginia Skrdlant SHCJ)



Mt Maria College, Mitchelton started their year with an Opening Liturgy which beautifully addressed the theme of God's Holy Breath.

A wonderful start for the Year 7 students at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill as they received their College Bible from Headmaster Mr Ross Tarlinton.



L to R: Mr Luke Reed (Principal), Grace Bachmann and Connor McLennan (College Captains)

Photo Credit: Brody Grogan Photography

Mark Shields and Bonnie Towers as part of their *Being Marist* Program at Marist College Emerald

MARIST ONLINE SYMPOSIUM 2021

Breathe: Alive in God

On Tuesday 2 March, 600 people gathered online and in person for the Marist Symposium with Timothy Radcliffe OP, breaking open the Marist Association Theme for 2021: *Breathe - the Spirit of Life* (Romans 8:2).

The Symposium, hosted by the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat, attracted Catholics from across many dioceses and also internationally from Vietnam, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and members of the Marist Brothers General House in Rome.

Br Peter Carroll, Provincial and Leader of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat warmly welcomed Father Timothy describing him as a thinker, writer, teacher and scripture scholar who also served as Provincial and Master General of the Dominicans.

His most recent book *Alive in God - A Christian Imagination* was a source of stimulus for the Marist Association theme, and his thought provoking comments and reflections on living the Christian life prompted stimulating discussions for many of the local Marist groups that gathered across Australia and around the world. The key message was that “we are most likely to excite people with our faith if Christianity is grasped as the invitation to live fully”.

A link to a video recording of the session can be found [here](#).



Sunshine Coast Local Association Group gathering at St Teresa's Catholic College Noosaville to view the symposium



Melbourne Local Association Group gathering at Marcellin College Bulleen



Perth Local Association Group gathering at Newman College

Workplace giving

Workplace giving is a simple and effective way to have your donation to AMS automatically deducted from your pay on a regular basis. Also known as payroll donations or deductions, it allows you to nominate an amount to donate each period through your company's payroll system.

From as little as the cost of a cup of coffee each pay, you help vulnerable young people in our region reach their brightest potential. At the same time, you can reduce your tax.

For AMS, it reduces the administration costs associated with processing donations and provides a regular and reliable income stream that helps us plan the work we can commit to each year.

Under a payroll deduction program, all donations are made from your pre-taxable income. This is the easiest way to give as you do not need to worry about collecting receipts throughout the year.

Giving through Workplace Giving is super simple! To learn more or get started click [here](#)!

“ Back in 2011 our daughter went on an immersion program to Timor-Leste. As part of this the whole family got involved in learning more about where she was going and what she was going to be doing while in Timor.

We often get asked to donate money to different wonderful causes but this allowed us to see firsthand through our daughter's stories and photos, and the ongoing photos since, how donating to Marist Solidarity was being used. By simply having a small amount of money taken out of my wage each week, I can contribute to Marist projects that benefit children around the world and to see happy faces on children as their new school is being built makes it all worthwhile. And the other bonus is it is tax deductible. ”

Jenny
Teacher, Victoria

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A year in the life | Project partner in The Philippines



Ever wanted to know what it was like to live in the barrios of Manila, The Philippines, during a pandemic? Brother Doug Walsh shared this snapshot of 2020 written by a project partner.

January: was the Taal Volcano eruption in Tagaytay, displacing so many of our people, cities, and resources. Ash falls affected the air that we breathe.

February: we continued our activities for Angel Presence School's 20th anniversary and celebrated our long-awaited recognition status from the Department of Education.

March: was the beginning of lockdown... everything was on hold and everyone felt uncertainty. Online meetings were maximized, and we proved we can still work from home.

April: working but no salaries... We started livestreaming and using Zoom.

May: was building up strength and looking into all possibilities. Thanking God for the "Breath of Life" and the "Heart Beat" that gives us Life...

June: gave us hope to start again in a "new normal" way – how to do it was a big question mark. With minimal resources and physical activities, we had to make major decisions and laid-off 12 teachers and staff.

July: our decision was/is to continue... We began to explore online teaching, e-books and training, but only a few can afford to have computers and connectivity. We intensified our praying together – with God everything is possible! Nothing is impossible!

August: we started savings projects with the children, supported by their parents and friends. Since this is like "home-schooling", we trained Learning Partners and called ours "Angels from Home".

September: was devoted to online training to prepare administrators, teachers, students and parents/learning partners, and promotions to encourage enrollees.

October: we celebrated World Teacher's Day and the formal opening of the new normal school year of October to June (our regular school year starts in June and ends in March). We needed to build up the teachers' confidence.

November: was the height of the rainy season, with: monsoons, hurricanes, floods and landslides... It was aggravated by the pandemic situation plus the on-and-off lockdown. God help our people and our land...

December: more rains, typhoons and earthquakes, too. Our people ask, will there still be Christmas? Of course, Jesus is more needed at this time.

We all look forward to the New Year of 2021 to be a better year.

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Mid March Update

MYM BRISBANE

Breathing the Spirit of Life in QLD!

March has been a full month for the team, including the Term 1 Connect Night, Year 8 and 9 Regional Retreat days, and Leadership Days with students from **St Augustine's College Cairns**, **Good Counsel College Innisfail** and **Marist College Emerald**. Drawing on our 2021 theme, these events have offered students the opportunity to step away from the busyness of school life in order to breathe in the Spirit of life.

In particular, the growth of the Game Changers across the Region has been a positive of 2021 so far. Several schools have joined the program, creating a broader network of connections between groups and students. The excitement for the aforementioned Regional Retreats saw students gain learning and formation in leadership, faith and mission.

Upcoming Events:

<i>Year 10 Game Changers Regional Retreat</i>	Tues 20th April
<i>Year 11 Forum</i>	Friday 14th May
<i>Term 2 Connect Night</i>	Friday 28th May
<i>Year 7 Game Changers Regional Retreat</i>	Monday 14th June

Adam Burns
Marist Youth Ministry Brisbane



MYM SYDNEY

Game Changers

Marcellin College, Randwick Year 9 Recruitment Wednesday, 28 February

Regional Assistant, Ashley, spent a successful morning inviting the Year 9 students at Marcellin College Randwick to join the ever-growing Game Changers program. About 50 students signed up to the program and we look forward to further developments of this group. Thank you to teacher Gillian Clarke for coordinating the event.



St Patrick's College, Dundas Year 7 Recruitment Day Monday, 8 March

The MYM Team spent an action-packed day with the Year 7 students at St Patrick's Dundas on Monday, 8 March. The focus of the morning was learning about Marcellin Champagnat and the Marist Characteristics. Students listened to Br Noy Noy's (FMS) story on becoming a Marist Brother and learnt more about themselves and others through games. In the last session, all students were invited to join the Game Changers youth group. It was great to see 66 students take a chance and sign up for the program. We wish these young people and their mentor all the best as they embark on the first 'Track' of the Game Changers journey, 'Le Rosey'! Thank you to both Madonna Eskander and Daniel Moussa for coordinating the gathering.

Year 10 Regional Retreat Day Friday, 12 March

The MYM Sydney team ran their very first Game Changers Regional Retreat Day on Friday, 12 March. Due to COVID restrictions the retreat was held online with Year 10 students from St Joseph's College Hunters Hill and Trinity Catholic College Auburn. The students explored the meaning of the compass, the symbol for the 'La Valla' track. Particular attention was paid to the needle of the compass representing Mary, Our Good Mother, leading us to Jesus. Students also explored Catholic Social Teaching and Social Justice. They took time out to explore ways they could help those in need.



MYM Sydney

Super Connect 5 March

One hundred and sixty Year 11 and 12 students from 12 Marist schools registered to be a part of the first MYM Super Connect for the year. The MYM team outlined the Marist theme for the year, 'Breathe ...the spirit of life'. Students explored the beautiful Sharon William's image, 'Creation and the Universe' as well as listen to the wise words recorded at the awards for the 2021 Senior Australian of the Year by Aboriginal woman, Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann, as she outlined the ancient indigenous practice of Dadirri. Students were given a 'take away' breathing lesson to help with the challenges they may face in life.



Upcoming Events:

*Year 9 Game Changers Regional
Retreat Day (Online)*
Friday, 26 March

*Year 7 Recruitment at Marcellin
College Randwick*
Wednesday 24 March

Year 12 MYM Forum
30 May – 2 June



Kind regards,
Jeni Miller
MYM Sydney Regional Coordinator



PARRAMATTA MARIST HIGH SCHOOL WESTMEAD, NSW

2020 Subs in Schools - State & National Champions

In 2020 Subs in Schools was fought out by 30 of Australia's strongest STEM schools. As our boys tend to do, they rose to the top with their love of work and strong attention to detail. Parramatta Marist teams are now NSW and National Champions in Subs in Schools ROV Development and Professional Classes!



Congratulations to the following boys (and girl) who have achieved an incredible amount during a fun season:

Team name: Proteus. Category: ROV Professional Class, Year 10

- Ray Burchdan
- Sebastian Sammut
- Brendan Pospischil

Result: State and National Champions of Pro ROV, Best Engineered in Australia.

Team name: Typhoon. Category: ROV Professional Class, Year 10

- Alex Jorquera
- Bora Dokumcu
- Jessica Parkes *Catherine McAuley College

Result: 2nd in NSW, 2nd in Australia in Pro ROV. Fastest Sea Trial (National Record holders), Best Verbal Presentation, Best Innovation in Australia.

Team name: Poseidon. Category: ROV Development Class, Year 9

- Cammilus JohnBaptist
- Jordan Sathi
- Jarrod Mazlin
- Shane Culas

Result: State and National Champions of Dev ROV. Best Engineered, Best Manufacturing, Best Portfolio, Best Virtual Trade Display in Australia.

While some of our teams ran into challenges which stretched them beyond their comfort zones, these results show what we already know – Parra Marist boys can match it with the best in Australia on any stage. Special thanks to Precision Metal Group, who supplied students with a huge water tank for practice.

Mr John Phillips
STEM Coordinator

In December 2020, in advance of the UN's Universal Periodic Review of Australia's human rights record, seven of our Year 10 students put together a series of recommendations on the topics of climate change, asylum seekers/refugees and domestic violence. The boys presented their findings via Zoom to the Permanent Missions of twelve UN member countries (located in Geneva, Switzerland) in a series of meetings held over the last week of school. From these countries, 15 recommendations on these issues were formally made to the Australian government during the UN proceedings held on 20 January 2021.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a process by which the human rights records of all UN Member States are reviewed, every 5 years, with the aim of improving the human rights situation in all countries and addressing human rights violations wherever they occur.

The UPR culminates in what is known as an Interactive Dialogue, which takes place in a three and a half hour session at the UN in Geneva. The State under Review (in this case Australia) will outline the progress and accomplishments on human rights that have been made in the Nation-State since the prior review (in Australia's case this occurred in November 2015).

In this way the Permanent Missions needed the valuable inputs of our students in order to better understand the human rights issues being faced in Australia, as well as whether any action had been taken in recent years to improve the situation.

The boys themselves selected the issues to present on, considering them to be the most important topics to ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights in Australia. Accordingly, the presentations of our boys were authentic, humble and highly researched.

Our students were able to use their voices on a global stage to influence human rights policy and actions at the UN. This is an extremely unique opportunity that has been afforded to few students around the world. The boys' presentations were extremely sophisticated, nuanced and displayed a level of enthusiasm and understanding far beyond their years. The diplomats representing the various Permanent Missions were blown away by the preparation and work that the boys had put into their submission, and the level of detail that was included in their recommendations.

A quote from the Representative of the Permanent Mission of Ireland: "The presentations of your students were one of the highlights of the many UPR briefing sessions I attended; it was very encouraging to see young people engaging with the UN on important national issues and in such a substantive and nuanced way. Please pass on my compliments to all the students who prepared presentations and this submission!"

A special thank you must be given to Mr Patrick Cooke and Br Chris Wills for their incredible support and dedication to this project, as well as to Miss Harley, Mrs Denniss and Mr Pauschmann for their unwavering support and assistance. Additional thanks must also go to the organisations based in Geneva that our students consulted with - UPR Info, Child Rights Connect and the International Catholic Centre of Geneva (CCIG) - without their expertise this project would not have been able to get off the ground. Thank you as well to the Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI) leadership in Rome for their support of this project.

Mr Brad Murphy
School Archivist



Australian Space Design Competition

Over a period of two months in 2020, eight Parramatta Marist students were involved in the qualifying round of the Australian Space Design Competition - a prestigious STEM industry-simulation whereby students from across the country are tasked with designing a space settlement within five equally vital departments. This competition saw our team of eight divide into each of these departments, being Structural Engineering, Operations & Infrastructure, Human Factors & Safety, Automation Design & Services, and Business & Commercial, and tackle a task which usually would require a dozen students, and six months.

The 2020 Qualifying Round 'Request for Tender' (RFT) tasked us with designing 'Benevectoras', an orbital space settlement inhabiting 8800 people, and following an Aldrin-cycler orbit, thus intercepting the orbits of Earth, the Moon, and Mars in the year 2065. Our tender could not exceed fifty pages and must meet various minimum- and implied-requirements presented to us within the RFT. After many sleepless nights, our team had submitted our tender, and would eventually be judged within the top ten submissions in the year's competition, earning the team a well-deserved place in the ASDC Finals, held annually in January of the following year.



As our team readily approached the finals, we were aware of the difficulties which would arise due to the competition being presented in its first ever virtual format due to the circumstances presented to us by COVID-19, rather than being held at the University of Queensland as per previous years. Our team was prepared for 30 hours of work as we aimed to create a 20-minute video presentation in unison with three other Australian schools, pitching our response to an RFT that would be presented on competition day one.

On the 15th January 2021, the finals had begun, whereby we were named team 'Crux', alongside our assigned team of 27 students, across North Sydney Boys High School & Ravenswood School for Girls from Sydney, and Windaroo Valley State High School from Brisbane. On this occasion, the RFT presented to us by the fictitious 'Foundation Society' saw us and four other teams of Aussie students tasked with designing a 'Generic' Mars Research Base, once again set in 2065, which would need to be able to be constructed at numerous locations on the red planet and could be occupied by up to 400 people at any one time. As part of the industry-simulation, our team was required to organise a leadership structure, and we would soon have three PMH students earn respective positions, with Nathan Khoury being elected our team's CEO, Quinn O'Reilly elected as Head of Department for Structural Engineering, and Raymond Tan elected as Head of Department for Automation Design & Services. These roles proved to be vital in assisting our team with surpassing barriers which had arisen due to distance.

In the end, our team proved to be greatly successful in completing the submission to such a high quality given the circumstances of our virtual competition, and while our team did not prove to be victorious in this year's finals, we definitely walked away with a win, having experienced a competition of such a high calibre. All students found that this year's competition was incredibly rewarding, allowing the team to attain greater interpersonal skills, in order to communicate effectively - something which is particularly important in today's society, and greater time management skills through planning and spreading heavy workloads across times to meet deadlines presented to us. The ASDC also provided students with an opportunity to experience what working within a STEM field would be like and has definitely inspired some of the team to pursue careers in such discipline.

Overall, the Australian Space Design Competition has been a great experience for all students involved and has seen the cultivation of a love for space and engineering develop within the Parramatta Marist community.

Parramatta Marist High School is proud of the following students:

Zach Sheraton (Year 11)
Jake Hardwick (Year 12)
Raymond Tan (Year 12)
Christian Peregrina (Year 12)

Nathan Khoury (Year 12)
Quinn O'Reilly (Year 12)
Jackson O'Brien (Year 12)
Thomas Reid (Graduated, Class of 2020)

By Nathan Khoury and Jake Hardwick, Year 12