

From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

In this past week, Marist Principals throughout the country have gathered as have Directors of Mission and RECs to reflect upon and strengthen our shared religious and spiritual leadership. Keynote addresses by Brother David Hall as Chair of the MSA Board, Brother Michael Green renowned for his scholarship on Marist Spirituality, and the social researcher and commentator Hugh McKay, all observed challenges, issues, and trends in contemporary society from different perspectives and with a common sense of *hope and trust in God*.

As we enter the final few weeks of a uniquely demanding term and approach the Sesquicentenary celebrations on 8 April, there is merit in reflecting on some of the challenges faced by those first Marist Brothers in 1872 at this very time of year. Having arrived in late February, during the month of March there were a host of trials for the four young Brothers as they sought to open the school and commence the work for which they shared such passion – the Christian education of youth. Reading the accounts from Brother Ludovic's *Annales and Journals*, as presented by Brother Alban some 100 years later, one is drawn to the tedious frustrations highlighted with an abiding empathy. The painstaking work in organisation and administration including deft negotiation with a host of local Church and Catholic education authorities is familiar and fascinating. Basics such as classrooms, furniture, as well as accommodation and financial support for the Brothers had not been finalised. Whilst there were some critical tensions to be resolved, the overwhelming response of the Catholic community was a mixture of joy, excitement, and encouragement.

When they made their first appearance at St Patrick's in the religious dress of the Brothers on April 7, they had to run the gauntlet of the curiosity and emotional reaction of the greatly augmented congregation....After Mass, they more or less had to fight their way across the street to their temporary quarters through pious well-wishers who were greatly taken by the Brothers' costume.¹

However, any sense of euphoria from that happy Sunday must have been short lived. Accounts of the students in those first days of the school include the following:

Their lack of discipline continued throughout April; particularly distressing for the Brothers was their conduct during the recitation of the Rosary. This seemed to them a game and was said in the greatest disorder. They made up banal, impious and immoral words for the "Our father" and "Hail Mary" to such a point that the Brothers begged Brother Ludovic not to have them said, seeing that more harm than good was being done.²

In Ludovic's Journal³ entry dated 1 May, he records "67 out of 204 pupils knew the Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Apostles Creed. Very few knew the acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity." The data was alarming.

Happily, what has become known as the "May miracle" soon brought hope to the Brothers. Through Ludovic's sincere example and earnest appeal to the better nature of the students, daily Rosary before a beautiful May Altar crafted with contributions from the children including candles, was the catalyst for the great change that occurred in general behaviour and demeanour. Without *hope and trust in God*, the very first Australian Marist school could have well floundered. You are reminded of the special **Sesquicentenary Mass on 8 April at 5.30pm at Saint Mary's Cathedral** to give thanks to God. **Those intending to join the celebration who are yet to RSVP, please do so by emailing (sally.dillon@marists.org.au).**

For those who are free on 8 April in the middle of the day, please note that the **Marist Fathers will be unveiling a sculpture of Brother Ludovic after the 12.00pm Mass at Saint Patrick's at Church Hill**. This sculpture has been thoughtfully commissioned by the Marist Fathers, whose direct and persistent advocacy from the 1840s onwards, progressed the establishment of the Marist Brothers in Australia.

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Due to the generosity of so many Marists throughout Australia, the MSA Trinity Catholic College Flood Appeal has raised \$90,000 since being launched two weeks ago. The solidarity of the Marist community across Australia has been clearly evident and is deeply appreciated. The reports of destruction continue to exceed all earlier reckoning, with an estimated 4,000 homes in the Lismore area deemed uninhabitable. Local Marists have reported first hand experience and observations detailing the extent of the damage to homes, key infrastructure, businesses, and shops. Media reports are incapable of properly capturing the scale of the disaster and its long term implications. The Chair of the Trinity Lismore Board, Brother Neville Solomon, shared this video which captures images of the extent of the flooding (<https://youtu.be/3IO-95NUBNk>). Those still wishing to make donations, please see the [Flyer](#) for details.

Words spoken by Pope Francis last week describe the reckless evil that has been loosed upon brothers and sisters of the one human family.

“The heartbreaking scream for help from our Ukrainian brothers pushes us as a community of believers not just to serious reflection but to cry with them and work for them; to share the anguish of a people wounded in its identity, history, and tradition....The blood and tears of the children, the suffering of women and men who are defending their land or fleeing from the bombs shake our conscience. Once again humanity is threatened by a perverse abuse of power and partisan interests, which condemns defenceless people to suffer all forms of brutal violence.”⁴

As the suffering enters a fourth week in Ukraine, let us remain steadfast in our most determined and constant prayers for peace.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

1. DOYLE, A (1972) The Story of the Marist Brothers in Australia 1872- 1972 page 47.
2. DOYLE, A (1972) The Story of the Marist Brothers in Australia 1872- 1972 page 54
3. DOYLE, A (1972) The Story of the Marist Brothers in Australia 1872- 1972 page 57
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/18/pope-francis-denounces-abuse-of-power-in-russia-ukraine-war>

**LIVE STREAM LINK TO MASS OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE GIFT OF 150 YEARS OF MARIST EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA
FRIDAY 8 APRIL 2022 | 5.30pm AEST
<https://youtu.be/e2ULY3CnlcE>**

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 2022 editions of Lavalla are:

Friday 8 April 2022: Issue 1
Friday 24 June 2022: 150 years special issue
Friday 23 September 2022: Issue 2

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

SESQUICENTENARY MASS 150 YEARS OF MARIST EDUCATION

*Celebrate
with Us!*

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF
150 YEARS OF MARIST EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA

Please note change of time and venue:

5.30pm on FRIDAY, 8 APRIL 2022

at St Mary's Cathedral, College Street, Sydney
*following Mass, you are invited to refreshments at the
St Mary's Cathedral College Hall*



As we discover how well and how deeply God knows and loves us, it will completely change how we interact with others. When we find our value in God's love for us, rather than in what others think of us, we will find it easier to serve God and to freely open our hearts to Him. (From: *Living Truth: Daily Devotional: Feb 12, 2018*)



Above: Champagnat Catholic College Pagewood Year 7 students, Jesse Hooper and Don Brilliant Nishimwe, at their Reflection Day



Above: Ash Wednesday Mass at Marist College Ashgrove. Jeremy Vanderbyl, Connor Lyons, Fr Alatini Kolofo'ou sm, Ethen Tsiamalili, Douglas Cowlshaw

Local Coordinators' Forum

Recently, Local Coordinators of the Marist Association gathered online for a Forum to explore themes around seeking God, in Mary's way, reinforcing that this lies at the heart of our Marist life and vocation. In preparation for the National Assembly III in August, further online gatherings will occur on 7 June and 27 July.



*You are holy, for you are God's temple and God dwells in you.
(1 Corinthians 3:16)*



New classrooms in Bougainville

We're excited to share that new classrooms in St Raphael Elementary school, Bougainville are now complete and ready for use! The building was blessed and opened by Fr Thomasi Sili SM Superior of Marist Community in Buin. What great news for primary education in that part of Bougainville. 🙌



Don't forget to register!

A reminder that our online teacher briefing is next week! Please join us for this informative sessions where we will tell you about some of our exciting projects for 2022, present details about an exciting fundraising initiative that will contribute to schooling in Timor-Leste and detail the useful resources you'll find in our annual school campaign kit. One of the new aspects of the campaign this year is the launch of our [School Ambassador Kit](#).

Following the Easter holidays, we will then host an online briefing session for students. It's all free, but you must register. Details are as follows:

- **Teacher briefing** | Tuesday 29 March 2022, 3.30pm to 4.30pm AEST
Register [here](#)
- **Student briefing** | Tuesday 26 April 2022, 12.30pm to 1.30pm AEST
Register [here](#)

Connect with us to find out more.



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MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Late March Update

MYM VIC

On the 10th of March, MYM Melbourne hosted our very first in-person Connect Night since March 2020! Students from Marcellin College, Assumption College, Lavalla Catholic College, and Marymede Catholic College came to Marist Centre Melbourne, accompanied by dedicated staff, to spend an evening connecting with each other and sharing a meal. The theme of the night was 'Known', taken from our Marist theme for this year.

The aim of the evening was to allow students to get to know each other, as well as to explore how they can **help others feel known**. We explored the symbol of the emergency blanket that Our Lady of Loreto wears in our beautiful theme image with the students, who were asked to discuss and reflect on who in the global, national and their local communities might feel unknown, who might need the warmth of an emergency blanket. Students were each given a prayer card where they wrote their **reflections and commitments** of how they could act as someone else's emergency blanket in their own communities, that they were able to take home with them at the conclusion of the evening.



It was an absolute blessing to see so many wonderful students and staff talking animatedly amongst themselves any chance they got – we couldn't get them to leave at the end of the night! Thank you to all the students and staff who sacrificed a Thursday night to attend with such **vibrancy and joy** – it was a privilege to spend an evening with such wonderful Marists. Special thanks to Nuwin Fernando, part of the Music Ministry team at Marymede, who came almost three hours early to help with set up. We hope to replicate such a wonderful experience at our next Connect Night!

Grace Wake
MYM Regional Assistant, Melbourne



MYM QLD/NT

Year 7 Forum

The first Year 7 Forum was held at the Marist Centre Brisbane on March 7th. The significance of this program was that it marked the first of a series of MYM Forum programs tailored to the formation of younger year levels.

Attended by 14 students representing Mt Maria Mitchelton and Trinity College Beenleigh, the single-day program was an introduction to **Marist spirituality**. A variety of activities, group work and games helped the students gain a deeper understanding of their place in the **Marist family**, culminating in the creation of their own list values and actions that represented the Five Marist Characteristics:

- Presence: focus, availability, collaboration
- Family Spirit: Respect, caring, inclusivity
- Love of Work: Passion, commitment, working together
- Simplicity: Honesty, authenticity, being yourself
- In the Way of Mary: gentle, resilient, devoted



Connect Night

Our first Term 1 Connect Night took place on the evening of March 11th. The evening gathered together 45 students from Mt Maria Petrie, St Peter Claver Riverview, Mt Maria Mitchelton and Marist College Ashgrove. The **atmosphere was electric** as students met for the first time or became re-acquainted, a sign of true Marist family spirit.

Throughout the evening, students were invited to consider the meaning behind the 2022 Marist theme artwork. Reflecting on the artist's commentary on the victims of brutality, war and racism, students pieced together the theme artwork with their **prayers and hopes for the world**.



Game Changers

The Game Changers youth ministry program continues to build momentum across our schools, with groups running at Marist College Ashgrove, Carmel College Thornlands, Trinity College Beenleigh and OLSH Alice Springs. Excitement is growing amongst our Game Changers in the anticipation of upcoming Regional Retreat Days, scheduled for the beginning of Term 2.

We're also in discussions with several of our Primary school communities regarding the **Game Changers Projects**, a version of the program tailored to younger years.

For more information about Game Changers, please contact Adam at adam.burns@marists.org.au.

MYM NSW/ACT

Term 1 Super Connect

One hundred students from 9 Marist schools took part in our first 'in person' Super Connect in 2 years! The **joy** of being 'physically' together was evident especially during the Ice breaker activities. Anti-slavery was focus of the gathering as it related perfectly to 2022 Marist theme, **'Known and Loved, Dignity for all'**.



Parramatta Marist High School



Marcellin College, Randwick

Every school left with a plan to spread the importance of buying Fair trade chocolate for Easter and beyond. A big thank you to Ms Silvana Rossetti, the principal of Marist College Eastwood, for the use of the wonderful Montagne Hall and Helena Bozic and Michael Neylan for preparing the space, amongst other activities. The MYM team are looking forward to seeing everyone again next term!



A big thank you to Mrs Emma Kent, Youth Minister from St Gregory's College, Campbelltown. Emma has bought students from St Greg's to all the Super and Local Connects every term as well as accompanied students on all the Marist Forum weekends for the last 5 years.

She is a woman of faith and supported many MYM programs in discussion groups and panels as well as supervision. Her ministry work with MYM is very much appreciated and we will miss her whilst on Maternity Leave. Along with the Marist Youth Ministry team, past and present, I wish Emma and her husband many blessings as they experience the miracle of parenthood!



Jeni Miller
MYM Sydney Regional Coordinator



Upcoming Events:

Check out the respective MYM Socials for more information!

VIC

Bread Run

Every Wednesday

YMV Social

Thursday, April 28

Regional Retreat Day (Yr 10)

Friday, May 6

Regional Retreat Day (Yr 12)

Friday, May 13

NSW

Year 12 Game Changers

Reflection Day

Friday, April 1

Regional Retreat Day (Yr 10)

Friday, May 20

WA

Regional Retreat Day (Yr 11)

Tuesday, March 29

Regional Retreat Day (Yr 9)

Friday, April 29

Regional Retreat Day (Yr 10)

Thursday, May 12

QLD

Hermitage Regional Retreat Day (Yr 11 and 12 Game Changers).

Tuesday, April 26

La Valla Regional Retreat Day (Yr 9 and 10 Game Changers)

Friday, April 29

Le Rosey Regional Retreat Day (Yr 7 and 8 Game Changers).

Thursday, May 5

Year 9 Forum More Than Words (Marcellin's Spirituality)

Wednesday, May 11

Year 11 Forum Meaning and Purpose (Vocation)

Friday, May 27

SA

Hermitage Regional Retreat Day (Yr 11 and 12 Game Changers).

Monday, April 11

La Valla Regional Retreat Day (Yr 9 and 10 Game Changers)

Tuesday, May 17

Le Rosey Regional Retreat Day (Yr 7 and 8 Game Changers).

Tuesday, May 31