



# MSA Newsletter

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



**From Brother Michael Green**

21 August 2012

Dear Members of the Marist Family

Amid the many graced moments of last week's Mission Assembly – and what an extraordinary time of grace it was for Marist Australia – was a gem that came from the sometimes cheeky mouth of Brother Allen Sherry. He spoke to us of our “upside-down God”.

Mary also knew that God's ways were the wrong way around. Read the Magnificat.

The God whom Jesus reveals to us was full of apparent unreasonableness: like a vineyard owner who would pay the same to those who showed up at the end of the day as those who had worked right through; like a woman who would turn her house inside out and then throw a party when she found the single coin she had lost; like a shepherd who would drop everything to look for one dumb sheep; like someone who would forgive a hurt seventy-seven times; like a person would share table with extortionists; like an immortal God who would take on mortality and then surrender his life. All out of proportion, really. Over the top.

It can be awkward to preach this God to fair-minded people. The Scriptural example that Allen used was that of the queue-jumper whose people-smuggling mates cunningly got him to Jesus by lowering him down through the roof. And then Jesus' not telling him to go and wait his turn behind all the other deserving people who were doing it the right way.

Don't get the wrong idea. The gospel is not an argument for unfairness or inequity or even lack of due process. No, that's not the point. But it does reveal a God whose love is immeasurable and unconditional, and can't be earned: a God that wants us at any price. And he'll be the one who pays.

We Christians can be often so self-righteous about who's in and who's out. We live in a society, alarmingly fuelled by sensationalist media, that can be the same.

St Thomas Aquinas had it right when he wrote – in a line that another confrere, Robert O'Connor, often cites – that “it is when we are magnanimous that we most resemble God.”

Big-heartedness. That's the key to being God-like. Unreasonably so. Indulgently so. But then when you are in love, that's what you do. And God is in love with us.

As Marists, as men and women of the Magnificat, the challenge of walking this gospel talk is something that we are called to embrace, and to witness to the young. Not easy sometimes. Perhaps that's why Marcellin tells us that if we aspire to be educators, then first we must be lovers.

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

- 24 Aug Staff Formation Day - Marcellin College Bulleen
- 26-28 Aug Living Champagnat's Vision Retreat
  - Santa Teresa
- 27 Aug Marist Pedagogy (3) - Kogarah
- 29 Aug Marist Leadership: Next Gen I (s1) (SYD)
- 3 Sep Red Helms Inservice
  - Overview of Marist Spirituality
- 3 Sep MLF Team Meeting - Marist College Bulleen
- 4 Sep MLF Team Meeting - Montagne Centre
- 5-8 Sep Contemplative Retreat - Mittagong
- 5 Sep Gippsland Evangelisation in the RE Clsroom
  - Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon
- 6 Sep RE Teacher Teams. Evangelisation follow-up
  - Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon
- 6 Sep Spirituality & Leadership II - Middle Mngrs
  - Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon
- 6 Sep Evangelisers in the Midst of Youth Workshop
  - Rosalie
- 7 Sep MSA Regional Council Meeting
  - Brisbane and Drummoyne
- 10 Sep Canberra Spirituality Session - Canberra
- 10 Sep RE Staff (Evangelisers in the Midst of Youth)
  - Canberra
- 11 Sep Marist Leadership: Next Gen I (s2) (SYD)
- 12 Sep MSALT Meeting - Montagne Centre, MEL
- 13 Sep MLF Team Meeting - Bulleen
- 16-19 Sep Footsteps #04 - Mittagong
- 19 Sep Montagne Centre Staff Formation Day
  - Montagne Centre - Melb
- 20 Sep SHC Staff Retreat - Somerton Park
- 21 Sep SFX Mass - SFX, Hamilton
- 21 Sep Full Staff Day - Kogarah
- 28 Sep Province Mission Council Meeting - St Josephs College

## BLUE SOLIDARITY AT MT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL

The students at Mt Carmel High School in Varroville, NSW recently held a Blue Solidarity day to express their concern for the Marists in Aleppo in Syria. In Aleppo brothers and lay people are working with children and families daily to sustain their hope during the civil war and all wearing distinctive blue T shirts.

The students raised almost \$1400 on the day with a blue cake morning tea. This will be sent on to Brother Georges via the MAPS office in Brisbane. For any further contributions please contact Paula McLoughlin at MAPS on 0422 169645 or pmcloughlin@maristsolidarity.net.au. These contributions can be forwarded via MAPS without international bank fees.



### Class of 2012

#### Immersion Experience

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte) - NT by MYAM

## January 15-25 2013

An experience for young adults, who will complete secondary schooling at the end of 2012. Visit and work alongside the youth of Santa Teresa, a predominately Australian Indigenous community. Santa Teresa is approximately 60km South of Alice Springs.

### GRADUATING IN 2012?

Do you have an interest in the spirituality and stories of Australia's Indigenous people?  
Keen to do something a little bit different before starting Uni, TAFE or work in 2013?  
Ready to spend some time in the heart of Australia with a group of like minded young men and women from across the country?

**Visit Santa Teresa with Marist Young Adult Ministry in January 2013!**

<h4>The Details</h4> <p><b>When:</b> January 15-25, 2013</p> <p><b>activities:</b> Working with community programs involving the indigenous youth. Light maintenance works. Sporting &amp; Recreation activities. Camping.</p> <p><b>Cost:</b> \$280.00 (inc. meals, basic accommodation and local transport).</p> <p><small>NOTE: Airfares to Alice Springs not included and are by own arrangement.</small></p>	<h4>Keep in Contact</h4> <p><b>Twitter:</b> @MaristMYAM <b>Facebook:</b> www.facebook.com/groups/MaristMYAM <b>Phone:</b> 03 9389 3109 <b>Mobile:</b> 0408 137 926 <b>Email:</b> myam@maristmelb.org.au</p>
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**MORE INFO:** [www.champagnat.org.au/SantaMYAM](http://www.champagnat.org.au/SantaMYAM) or scan the QR Code

## MISSION ASSEMBLY

Seventy Marists from around the country gathered at Mittagong last week for the first 'Mission Assembly' during which they discussed priorities and strategies for the growth of Marist life and mission in Australia. Copies of the letter of the participants to their fellow Marists and their recommendations to the Provincial will be circulated to all schools shortly.

### TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE LISMORE

#### Director of eLearning

Position Details available on the College's website  
[www.tccl.nsw.edu.au](http://www.tccl.nsw.edu.au)  
Applications to the Principal close Friday, 24th August, 2012

## MARIST PEDAGOGY PROGRAM AT MARIST COLLEGE KOGARAH



*Pictured: Top Row: John Riordan (Principal), Michael Young, Br. Michael Callinan, Grace Mandile, Natasha Mohamad. Front Row: Mark Hildebrandt, Adrian McKeveitt, John Finneran, Kirstie Wakely, Nathan Collins, Shelley Foster*

### Footsteps

*'I know I am a part of a movement of people who want to help forge some change in the world', was a comment from one of the participants from the recent Footsteps: Making Jesus Christ Known and Loved program held at The Hermitage, Mittagong. Another participant expressed a real sense of gathering together as one; 'There has been a real sense of hope brought about by meeting so many people of like mind with the same goals. I feel encouraged to participate more in the school to make known the Marist way'.*



*Pictured: Ryan Gato, All Saints College - St Peter's Campus, Maitland; Elisa Rigano, Burdekin Catholic High School, Ayr and Sarah Cross, Assumption College, Kilmore, at the Footsteps: Making Jesus Christ Known and Loved program*



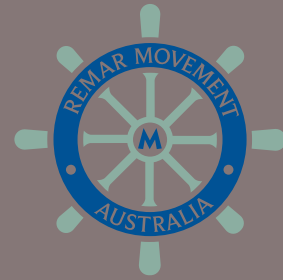
## MARIST SOLIDARITY EFFORTS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Last Friday, Christian Nobleza (Marist Solidarity Projects Officer) travelled to Sacred Heart College Middle School (SHCMS) in Adelaide to be part of school's 'Marist Week' celebrations and to acknowledge their fundraising efforts. Through an interview-style setup during a full-school assembly, Christian responded to a number of questions posed to him by some year nine students about the type of work and projects that Marists are engaged with throughout Asia and the Pacific. Of particular interest to the students was the OASIS project, which SHCMS has been supporting since last year.



OASIS is a study and learning centre based in the town of Baucau in East Timor which provides children and young people the opportunity to develop language skills in English and Tetum (the local language spoken in East Timor), as well as basic computing.

"It's important that our office engages with our supporters in such a direct way, particularly with Marist school communities across Australia", said Christian. "Even though we're a small office, we believe that what makes our Marist Solidarity team distinct from other development agencies is our conscious effort to be available for our supporters, and upfront about where and how fundraising efforts are being used".



## REMAR

### REMAR MINISTRY TEAM 2013

Applications for the Remar Ministry Team 2013 are now open. The aim of the program is to capture young leaders who are firm in their Christian beliefs, whilst being motivated to use their talents and skills to serve others. They need to have confidence in their ability to encourage young people to do the same.

Ministry team members will receive training to be able to:

- take a leading role on all Remar camps
- plan and prepare for camp presentations
- confidently lead discussion groups
- take an active part in service activities
- participate in, and lead where required, on school based retreats and/or reflection days

Team members will be expected to:

- maintain a commitment to daily prayer life and personal faith development
- meet regularly with a spiritual director for personal and team support
- be a positive role model for all who may come into contact with them throughout the year

Should you know of any Remar graduate who might fit the bill, please encourage them to contact Simone Boyd at [sboyd@maristmelb.org.au](mailto:sboyd@maristmelb.org.au) for more information.

