



# MSA Newsletter

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



**From Brother Michael Green**

7 May 2013

Dear Brothers, colleagues and friends

Each day, for twenty-three in a row, the God of Surprises had something different up the divine sleeve to keep us alert and unsettled. Sometimes God's angel came to us dramatically and unmistakably, but more often the messenger's entry was gentle and subtle – but no less challenging for being so. At the General House in Rome, we reflected on the “whisper of God” in our lives.

Pilgrimage 2013. A remarkable journey indeed for the thirty-five Marists who have just returned to Australian shores. At one level it was a physical journey – lots of packing and unpacking, buses and planes, fascinating places, interesting people, memorable events – but at a deeper level for each pilgrim it was a real journey of the heart, a journey inwards to find the God who is our life, the God of Marcellin and Mary, the God whose Good News we give our lives to make known.

There was so much that happened for us, so many encounters and experiences, so many times when the Word of God came alive and dwelt in our midst. Let me choose one. We were in Jerusalem, and had gallantly risen well before dawn to make the Way of the Cross through the deserted streets of the Old City. It was just after 5.00am as we walked through the cobbled streets to the first Station of the famed Via Dolorosa. There was the stillness of a city yet to wake, all made somewhat eerie by the antiquity and closeness of the place.

But the ancient streets were not deserted. The shutters were down, the crowds yet to appear, but we weren't on our own, or not quite. As we made our way through the dimly lit laneways, we found ourselves bumping shoulders with others. Muslims were answering the call to morning prayer, making their way quietly in small groups and alone to various mosques – both the imposing Al-Aqsa mosque and any number of smaller ones tucked in corners here and there. Along the same streets, Orthodox Jews – men and boys – hurried silently past us in their black suits and hats, perhaps running late to make up the required numbers for Sacharit at the synagogue. And us, and bunch of Aussie pilgrims.

There was something afoot, and we were all part of it in our different ways, with our variety of outfits, and our own languages. What were we all doing at this early hour? What was the call we were answering? Who was the God we were seeking? For seekers we all were. I mused, however, that set on our own courses – people from the three faiths in a place that each regards as holy, crossing each other's paths without any apparent ability or desire to connect – that we might be missing the glaringly obvious. It was both the beauty and the tragedy of religious experience in microcosm: all of us heeding the call of God to come out of ourselves, but all still so bound up in our own purposes and ways. God must have been smiling. And God must have been crying. But, I guess that God's being doing both for a long time.

At the end of the day the questions might seem to be different, but the answer is always the same.

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP..

8-10 May	Marist Primary Schools' Colloquium, Canberra	22 May	CLRI Mission Directors' Seminar
9 -10May	Marist College Penshurst Staff Spirituality Day	25 May	Centenary Mass of Brothers in Perth, WA
13 May	Marist Governed Principals' Meeting, Mascot	2 June	Champagnat Mass and opening of new buildings at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill
14 May	Mission Council Meeting, Mascot	2-5 Jun	Business Managers' Conference, Mittagong
16 May	MSA Leadership Team Meeting, Brisbane	5 June	Marcellin College Randwick 90 Year Anniversary Mass, St Mary's Cathedral
17 May	Next Gen 1 Programme, Melbourne	6 June	Feast of St Marcellin
17 May	Marcellin College Randwick 90th Gala Dinner		
19-22 May	Footsteps 2 Programme, Mittagong		

### MLFTEAM 2014

#### *Expressions of Interest*

The Province is currently considering options for the Mission and Life Formation Team for next year. It is likely that there will be one or two positions open up for 2014. So, expressions of interest are invited from Lay Marists who may be attracted to the experience of being on the MLF Team, perhaps for a year or two.

Maybe it could be you. You would be based at the Marist Centre in Melbourne, Brisbane or Sydney, and work as a full member of the team. In most cases, a temporary secondment would be arranged with your present school.

If you would like to know more, or want to have a chat about possibilities, contact Tony Clarke: [tony.clarke@marists.org.au](mailto:tony.clarke@marists.org.au)

### RESOURCES FOR 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE



Once again this year, the MLF Team has prepared some staff and student resources to help schools celebrate the Feast of St Marcellin on 6th June. They can be accessed on the MSA website.

The resources draw on the Province's "iBelieve" theme associated with Year of Faith, as well as providing Marcellin-related materials for staff and student use.



### LAVALLA

The first issue of our staff journal, Lavalla, for 2013 which was due out in the first week of term will be a little late. This is due to production issues with our moving to a new printer. All being well, it should be in schools next week.

One major change for this year is that Lavalla will be co-published with the Champagnat -journal. The latter, which was previously a subscription-based journal, will now be an insert with Lavalla and go to all staff. It will be shorter than the previous format – with three or four longer academic articles.

### PILGRIMS PROGRESS

All reports indicate that the 2013 Marist Pilgrimage was a wonderful time of grace for the thirty-five Principals, Teachers and Brothers who have just returned. Comments have been universally superlative. Congratulations to Brother Michael Akers for his leadership of it, and thanks to schools for support of it once again.

This year the Pilgrimage took a new three-phase format: first, nine days in the Holy Land; three days in Rome; and then the final stage in France in Lyon and at The Hermitage. Starting in the land of Jesus took the whole experience to a new depth, and centred everyone on the Christ experience in a profound way.

Next year's Marist Pilgrimage is already in preparation. It will begin with a solidarity experience with Marist communities in Kenya and Rwanda, before following the experience of this year to Rome and to the Hermitage. In 2015, we will again return to the 2013 format.



## MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA BOARDING CONFERENCE

*Extract from Sacred Heart College SA Boarding Newsletter (Shane Hennessy):* In Holy Week, Sacred Heart College had the privilege of hosting the **MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA BOARDING CONFERENCE**. 24-26 March.

All Australian Marist Boarding schools were represented: St Augustine's, Cairns QLD; Marist College Ashgrove QLD; St Joseph's College Sydney NSW; St Gregory's College Campbelltown NSW; Red Bend Catholic College Forbes NSW; St Francis de Sales College Leeton NSW; Assumption College Kilmore VIC; Sacred Heart College Adelaide, SA.



Australian Marist Boarding School Representatives

**Keynote Speaker – Br Robert O'Connor**, addressed the question "Why do we do this?" The simple answer is: **To make Jesus Christ known and loved, in Mary's way.** I have spent hours attending many varieties of professional development and the time spent with Br Robert was a gift and some of the best spiritual development I have participated in.

Br Robert stated that many of our boarders live in a 'toxic' culture and we who work in boarding have to be positive role models and we have to be Marist role models. He reminded us of Marcellin's words: **YOU MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT GOSPEL OUR YOUNG MAY EVER READ.** He introduced the group to the recent Marist publication: **"EVANGELIZERS IN THE MIDST OF YOUTH"**. He gave us one quote from the book to ponder:

*"In a very rich way the words 'sister and brother' express our Marist style of relating to one another: a way that affirms others and fills them with hope and self-confidence. Thus our way of living out our Marist apostolic spirituality and putting flesh and blood on our mission: being brothers and sisters to everyone we meet on our journey through life."*

**Keynote Speaker – Danny Sidgreaves** from St Joseph's College Hunters Hill was the second keynote speaker. Danny gave a presentation that he has delivered to national forums and the title was **"TECHNOLOGY IN BOARDING, ACHIEVING A HEALTHY BALANCE."**

Danny presented many facts and figures in an engrossing and comprehensive presentation and the impact of his presentation will also be felt in Marist boarding houses in the years to come.

Submitted by Br Robert O'Connor

## SPIRITUALITY AND LEADERSHIP I PROGRAMME

### MARIST-SION COLLEGE WARRAGUL

The schools of the Gippsland region in 2013 have taken up the programme for their respective schools. Warrigal leadership staff participated in the programme held on-site last month with Sale and Traralgon to follow later in the year.



## MARCELLIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE INSERVICE

L-R Pete Chambers, Fr. Charles Gauci, Andrew Dale and Alana Andrews participating in the Marcellin Technical College inservice held at Moana Surf Club in Adelaide.



## NEXT GEN 2

And from the Next Gen 2 gathering at the Marist Centre Sydney held recently. It was an opportunity for Marists in leadership across the Sydney region to consider questions around 'Leaders in the new way of being Marist' by engaging in a conversation with Br David Hall from the Province Mission Council and Carole Wark from the Australian Marist Pastoral Team on emerging structures for the Australian Marist Community.



L-R: Pat Rodgers, Matthew Brennan, Damien Sliagar, Greg Thompson, Charmaine Mantarro, Martina Rotta

## iBELIEVE PROGRAMME



Lisa Rachow with the iBelieve Headlines from Trinity College Beenleigh



## MSA LENTEN SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

The team at Marist Solidarity (MSol) are very grateful for the support of a number of schools in their solidarity fundraising for projects throughout Lent. Through the use of the MSol schools kit the contribution from these MSA Schools constituted 40% of our income in 2012. This has enabled us to fund projects for young people such as computer skills training in Wai-Lili in Timor-Leste and urgently needed text books for Marist Brothers High School in Suva, Fiji, as well as programs for young people at risk or with disabilities in a number of the 15 countries where we currently have active projects.

Other Marist School communities will be conducting their solidarity efforts at other times in the year especially around the feast of St Marcellin (6<sup>th</sup> June) and the Solemnity of the Assumption, our Marist Patronal Feast (15<sup>th</sup> August).

For further information or assistance in promoting Marist Solidarity check out [www.maristsolidarity.net.au](http://www.maristsolidarity.net.au)



From left to right: Br Allen Sherry, Br Michael Green, Professor Gabrielle McMullen

## UNIVERSITY CHURCH CONVERTED TO GALLERY FOR MSOL LAUNCH – MAY 2

Marist Solidarity (MSol) is the overarching brand of the international aid and volunteering offices of the Province of the Australian Marist Brothers. MSol now constitutes three offices:

- Australian Marist Solidarity Ltd. (AMS)
- Marist Asia-Pacific Solidarity (MAPS)
- Marist Volunteers Australia (MVA)

The brand launch was marked with an exhibition of photographs from documentary photographer Conor Ashleigh’s recent visits to Bougainville and Timor-Leste. As an ex-student of St Francis Xavier College, Hamilton, Conor’s photography captures the stories of our Marist brothers and sisters in a unique light.

The event drew the largest crowds seen at any MSol event in Melbourne and included significant donors and members of MSA school communities and Marist Youth.

MSol is grateful to four companies – Architect, Cabinet Makers, Lighting Experts and Print Media who each donated pro bono services toward the event for its successful design and installation features.

Michael Coleman



## REMAR NEWS

The Remar Ministry Team has been busy facilitating a number of in-services and camps over the past two months. In late March, school coordinators from across the country gathered for the annual two days Coordinators Conference.



This conference allows our school coordinators to collaborate with their colleagues and to share ideas and resources. Lengthy discussions were held around the growth of Remar within our schools and the growth of Remar across Australia.

The evening meal was shared with young people at the first MYM pub forum for the year. At the forum, we heard from Brother Harry and Kerry who both reside in the Exodus community. Our Remar school coordinators work tirelessly to ensure the program is delivered within the school with authenticity and integrity. We sincerely thank them for their dedication and hard work. We also wish Hannah (Marist-Sion) and her husband Terry all the best as they await the arrival of their precious bundle of joy. We would also like to thank Rosemary (Sacred Heart Catholic School) for her many years of service to our Remar community. Rosemary will be stepping down from the school Remar coordinator position at the conclusion of Semester 1. In mid-April we held our annual Leaders Training Weekend. The first day was dedicated to leaders who have just completed their own Remar journey or who were interested in being a leader on Remar camps. We had over 33 attendees on the first day. Their energy, dedication and motivation were highly contagious and the room was abuzz from the moment they arrived until their departure late in the evening!



The second day witnessed the return of past leaders joining our 33 from the first day. Over the two days Mario and the 2013 RMT presented the bigger picture concepts on what it means to be a leader on Remar Camps. A guest speaker also presented to us a 2 hour session concerning Mandatory Reporting. The skills attained over the weekend will be put to use on our upcoming Blue Retreat Red Caravel Day Camps.

We have also held the Blue Helms Inservice and facilitated the three Red Victorian Caravel Day Camps. Following the two Victorian Blue Retreat camps we hit the road as we facilitate these camps in Northern Territory, Sydney, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and Queensland.



Nicki Pitt  
Coordinator Remar