



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

22 October 2013

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

Two mandatory items for which we were randomly checked in the Marist Brothers' primary school I attended: a comb and a pair of rosary beads. Combs were slipped down the side of the long socks, rosaries jangled familiarly in the right pocket. I have little need any more for the former; I probably have more need that I care to admit for the latter.

October. The *Month of the Rosary*. A lot used to be made of that. As indeed, a lot used to be made of the Rosary itself in the spiritual lives of Catholics, both personally and communally. A "swift round of the beads" was something my mother often recommended that I do or, more frequently, offered to do for me. How many mothers have done the same?

There is much that could be said about the history, format, and significance of the Rosary, but that word "bead" may be a useful way into considering what this medieval prayer could mean for us today. "Bede" or "beda" was an Old English word that meant "prayer". The connection is obviously to prayer beads that long pre-date the modern form of the Rosary, and of course exist even outside Christianity. They go back at least to the desert fathers but, I suspect, much earlier in human spiritual practice. Beads seem to me to be an interesting interplay of the concrete and the mystical: the tangible and regular movement through one's fingers as a way into an experience that is centring and essentially meditative.

In the chaotic and time-poor lives that we lead, the praying of the Rosary fits less naturally, less easily. Yes, we can give cerebral assent to its worthy foundations and its Christocentric rationale – as a Gospel-focused prayer that takes us, with Mary, deep into the mystery of the indwelling God who fills us with hope and joy and compassion, who invites us to take up the Cross, who offers us life beyond the realms of our finite comprehending. Yes, we get all that. We just don't pray it much anymore.

But the beads. Perhaps it's the beads that we need. In our pocket. Between our fingers. The gentle discipline of doing that, the steady rhythm of it. The time it takes, the space it creates.

There is a lovely account that has been passed down to us of Brother François as an old man, retired back to The Hermitage after his twenty years as Superior General, and found most days in his herb garden. There he was, working quietly away with his hoe, planting, watering, weeding, but always with his old beads slipping through his fingers. All the time. People were never quite sure whether he was on earth or in heaven. Mystic that he was, he was in both places, richly. Serenely.

We could do a lot worse than pop a set of rosary beads into our pocket.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

25 Oct	Beenleigh Staff Retreat, St Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston	5-7 Dec	Australian Catholic Youth Festival, Melbourne
1 Nov	Marist Ministries Mass and Dinner, Sydney	13 Dec	Mission & Life Formation End of Year Office Closure
5 Nov	Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday	13 Dec	Marist Centre Melbourne End of Year Office Closure
8 Nov	MSA Regionl Council Meeting, Sydney	16 Dec	QLD/SA School Holidays Begin
11-12 Nov	MSA Regional Council Meeting, Melbourne	20 Dec	WA School Holidays Begin
14-15 Nov	MSA Leadership Team Meeting, Marist Centre Melbourne	20 Dec	Marist Centre Brisbane End of Year Office Closure
19 Nov	Mission Council Meeting, Marist Centre Sydney	23 Dec	NSW/VIC/ACT School Holidays Begin
30 Nov	Marist Ministries Mass and Dinner, Melbourne	24 Dec	Marist Centre Sydney End of Year Office Closure

BROTHER DARREN BURGE BEGINS IN CAIRNS

At the beginning of term, Brother Darren Burge was formally commissioned as the seventeenth Principal of St Augustine's in an uplifting and warm Service held in Lennon Hall at the College. The whole College was present, along with many parents, friends of the College, and members of the Diocesan education community. Brother Darren was welcome to the College by the College Captain, Matt Hancock and the Director of Catholic Education, Brother Paul Hough. He was formally introduced by Brother Michael Green before his commission by the Provincial, and a blessing from the Bishop.



L-R: Brother Darren Burge, Bishop James Foley, Brother Paul Hough, Sean Willmet

TERM 4 MEETINGS

Thanks to Principals for making time for the annual Term 4 meetings between the Regional Director (usually in the company of a member of the MLF Team) with each Principal (usually with members of the school's leadership team). These are now under way. The purposes of the meeting are (a) to have a focussed discussion to review the effectiveness of the Province's range of programmes, events and strategies to foster Marist life and mission in the school during the year, (b) to plan and to prioritise next year's involvement, and (c) to discuss other directions and initiatives being taken by the Province and how they might be able to support each school. In preparation for the meetings, each school should already have received some copies of the brochure of next year's programmes, courses and events, and a proposed agenda for the meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS

St Teresa's Catholic College Noosaville has just celebrated its tenth anniversary with a Mass and festive day at the College. Warmest congratulations to Brother Paul Creevey and all at St Teresa's!

BLESSING AND OPENING IN BRISBANE

The Marist Centre Brisbane, which has been in operation since mid-year, was officially opened and solemnly blessed earlier this month. A large gathering of Marists from Brisbane and other parts of the Region gathered for the occasion. Officiating were Archbishop Mark Coleridge (Archbishop of Brisbane) and Brother Jeffrey Crowe (Provincial).



L-R: Christian Nobleza, Brother Allen Sherry, Brother Michael Green, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Brother Jeffrey Crowe, Brother Neville Solomon

MARIST YOUTH CARE – A NEW INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT AT-RISK YOUNG WOMEN

In early 2014, Marist Youth Care will launch a social enterprise – *Pink Lightning!* – that will provide transitional employment to young women, and at the same time generate revenue that will contribute to the ongoing sustainability of the Brunswick Skills Development Centre.

BEATIFICATIONS IN SPAIN

Sunday of last week saw the beatification of 68 Marist Brothers and 3 Lay People who were killed for their faith in Spain in the 1930s. It was a most significant occasion for not only the Marists in Spain, but all Marists across the world. You can get a sense of the celebrations [here](#).

STAFF SPIRITUALITY DAY St Thomas More Primary School Sunshine Beach



Sunshine Beach staff



Bob McGhee and Abby Muras

FOOTSTEPS – MAKING JESUS KNOWN AND LOVED



Corey Scholtes (Catholic College Sale) and
Lyndel Peterson (Galen College, Wangaratta)



Kastelle Gane and Tania Bellerby
(St Augustine's College, Cairns)

LIVING CHAMPAGNAT'S VISION Alice Springs

Back Row: Anthony Robbins (Sale), Debra Doyle (Wangaratta), Ashleigh Bryans (Mitchell Park), Jenny Johnson (Mitchell Park)

Middle Row: Raeleen Austin (Maitland), Pat Fooks (Somerton Park), Ryan Gato (Maitland), Jessica Flavell (Kilmore), Mark Murphy (Bulleen), Maria Santos (Campbelltown), Simon Abernethy (Rosemeadow), Br Pat Thompson (Dundas), Benjamin Proctor (Randwick)

Front Row: John McKay (Kilmore), Sue Duncan (Somerton Park) Danielle Hansen (Noosaville), Br Mark Paul (MLF), Robert Sheridan (Hamilton), Br Hubert Williams (MLF)



MARIST MINISTRIES MASS AND DINNER – BRISBANE

The first of the now annual Marist Ministries Masses and Dinners for the Province was held in Brisbane last week. Leaders from Marist schools from Queensland and the Northern Rivers gathered with those working in the other Province ministry areas of Marist Youth Ministry and Marist Solidarity, Brothers, Affiliates and other Marist friends and supporters, for a most enjoyable family occasion. During the evening, several people were honoured for their long and outstanding contribution to Marist education, being presented with Certificates of Appreciation by Brother Michael Green. Thanks once again to Marist College Ashgrove for hosting the evening.

The dates and venues for the remaining two functions are:

- **Sydney:** Friday 1st November, at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill (for further details and rsvp contact: Sally Dillon sally.dillon@marists.org.au)
- **Melbourne:** Saturday 30th November, at Marcellin College, Bulleen (for further details and rsvp contact: Sophie Fenaughty sophie.fenaughty@marists.org.au)



YOUNG MARISTS IN SOLIDARITY

“I get annoyed when people ask me: ‘How was your holiday?’ It wasn’t a holiday. I lived exactly how the community lived and worked the same as they did. I entered into the total experience, it had a purpose and it wasn’t wasting time doing tourist things. “

Daniel Flynn an ex-student of Marist College North Sydney made this comment when he met with Marist Volunteers Australia to speak about his recent Solidarity Experience at the LaValla School in Cambodia. Daniel is one of 7 ex-students of Marist schools who in 2013 decided to take a Gap Year in order for them to have a 2-month experience living and working in a Marist Community and Ministry in another country.



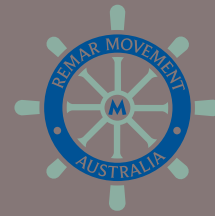
Daniel with a student from Lavalla School

The LaValla School provides for the educational needs of children with disabilities. In July twenty-six students graduated from the LaValla School allowing them to enter secondary school in 2014; Daniel was fortunate to be a member of the Lavalla community to witness this event. “It was a very moving experience and privilege to be there and watch the students prepare for this event. Some of the students have such physical disabilities and yet they are the brightest in their class and do really well in their studies”.

‘The thing that I am most proud of myself is that I identify as Marist’, Daniel concluded. ‘I went to a Marist School and there I was working in another Marist school overseas with fellow Marists’. In 2014 Daniel will commence his university studies and has volunteered to support other ex-students who will complete their Solidarity Experience in 2014.

So far this year, a number of Year 12 students in Marist school have completed applications in order for them to complete a similar Solidarity Experience in 2014. Students are encouraged to apply as early as possible in the year as places are limited.

For more information about Solidarity Experiences for Young Marists or Volunteering Opportunities for older Marists please contact Marist Volunteers Australia – mva@marists.org.au or phone Catherine Hannon (02) 9218 4033/0409 636 116.



REMAR NEWS

Dear Friends

It is with much pleasure that we announce the 2014 Remar Ministry Team (RMT). In doing so, we acknowledge the contributions; sacrifices and dedication of the 2013 RMT. We wish Connor, Ellen, Gilbert, Jess, Rita, Simon and Tshepo all the best with their future ambitions. We thank you for the manner in which you inspired, mentored and nurtured our Young Marist Rowers across Australia. In 2013 our Remar Youth Ministry Movement was operating in 13 Colleges. In 2014, our movement will be extending into four new NSW and Queensland schools.

In 2014, two Remar crews will operate - one from Melbourne and the other from Sydney. Our Melbourne Crew will be living within the Coburg suburb whilst our Sydney Crew will be living within the Eastwood suburb. Our 2014 RMT members are:

Sydney Crew

- Ashley Cipriani
St Francis Xavier's College, Beaconsfield
- Michael Lane
Marcellin College, Bulleen
- James Mein
Penola Catholic College, Broadmeadows
- Tegan Perkins
Newman College, Perth

Melbourne Crew

- Tom Chalkley
Notre Dame College, Shepparton
- Paige de Ravel
Assumption College, Kilmore
- Amanda Hance
Marist-Sion College, Warragul
- Stefan Versace
Newman College, Perth

We wish the 2014 RMT all the best as they embark on their year of solidarity and service.

Nicki Pitt
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