



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

25 March 2014

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

In a slightly bizarre example of life imitating art, for a while there it looked like Vladimir Putin might have been using Tom Clancy's last novel *Command Authority* as his game plan for Crimea. But then it all ended differently: rather than CIA agent Jack Ryan's single-handedly saving the free world and jetting off quietly into the sunset, the Ruskies appeared to have prevailed. Awkward outcome. Yet so much of the last month looked like it was unfolding uncannily along the lines of the Clancy script. Have a read, if you enjoy saturation levels of espionage and action.

Despite novelists' and screen-writers' predilection for John Wayne style messiahs, and our appetite for the buying the stories they spin, it rarely plays out that way in reality. It didn't for Jesus, Mel Gibson's take on him notwithstanding.

Last Sunday's Gospel reading, as well as that of next Sunday, both from John, explore the kind of messiah that Jesus was. There is little action or espionage. No Jack Ryan daring-do. The first passage – the meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman – takes up the name "messiah", "Christ"; the second uses the term "rabbi". Who was Jesus for these people, each of them coming from outside acceptable society – the woman a dreaded Samaritan, the man ostracised for being afflicted with blindness? How was Jesus messiah or rabbi for them? Why did he have such a life-transforming effect on them?

He sat with them and he talked with them.

He shouldn't have, of course. They weren't the sort of people with whom decent people kept company. But he did. Jesus saw deeply into them, and he believed in them. He spoke the truth to them, their truth – gently, respectfully, personally. Their saving didn't come as a result of any slick magic tricks or brilliant outmanoeuvring of some enemy. It came through touching into what was best in them – their innate human goodness, and their being beloved of God. The woman's thirst was satisfied; the man's eyes were opened. Their resulting joy was contagious.

The Gospel readings of the Sundays of Lent invite each of us into a similar encounter with Jesus. There is a profundity about that invitation if we are open to it.

Some years ago the U.S. Bishops published a pastoral letter on Catholic schools entitled *To Teach as Jesus Did*. The Scriptures which the Church gives us for Lent point us to a key aspect of the way Jesus taught – that of the simple, truthful and loving relationship. Spending time with people, and spending it well. Marcellin had the same intuition; we call it "presence". The way in which we Marists understand that term doesn't mean, as Woody Allen's might say, just "showing up". For us it implies "being with" – indeed seeking out every opportunity to be with young people, and to affect them quietly and respectfully by who we are, by the goodness and promise we see in them, and just a little bit by what we say.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

23-25 Mar	National Marist Faith Formators' Colloquium, Mittagong	18 Apr	Good Friday
26-27 Mar	Marist Youth Ministry Leaders' Retreat, Mittagong	20 Apr	Easter Sunday
31 Mar	#serve program, Marist College North Shore	22 Apr	QLD/VIC schools resume
7 Apr	QLD/VIC/NT school holidays begin	24 Apr	#serve program, Assumption College Kilmore
8 Apr	#serve program, Trinity College Beenleigh	25 Apr	Anzac Day
11 Apr-3 May	Marist Pilgrimage 2014	28 Apr	#serve program, St Joseph's School Northam
14 Apr	NSW/SA/WA/ACT school holidays begin; NT schools resume	28 Apr	NSW/SA/WA/ACT Resume
14-17 Apr	ICW Conference/Retreat, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College Alice Springs	2-4 May	Year 12 NSW/ACT Marist Forum, Hermitage Mittagong
		2-4 May	Year 12 QLD Marist Forum, QCCC, Brookfield

READ THIS NEWSLETTER THROUGH THE NEW MSA APP

We are pleased to announce that development of a Marist Schools Australia Mobile Application for iPhones, iPads and Android devices, which is available for free download in the Google Play Store for Android devices and the App Store for Apple. It provides information on our programmes and events; access to our publications (newsletters, Lavalla, Champagnat) and links to all Marist schools. You can access the app via the direct links below.

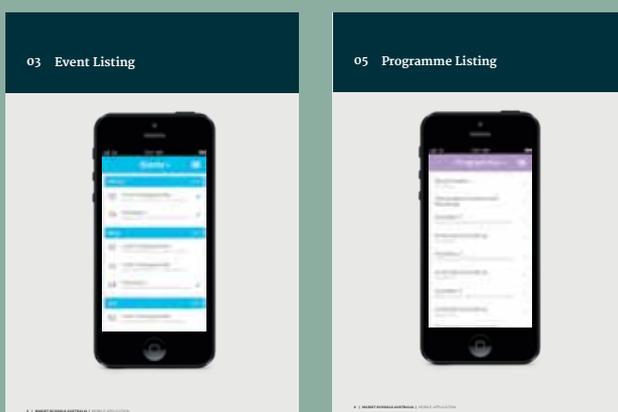
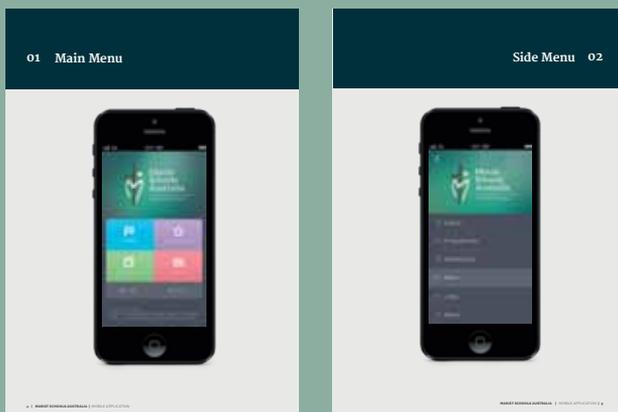
- **Google Play:** <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.fraynetwork.marist>
- **App Store:** <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/marist-schools-australia/id826186929?mt=8>

MARIST COLLEGE BENDIGO



Activity has commenced on site at Marist College Bendigo. The builders, Walsh and O'Meara have taken possession of the site and have commenced the initial works for stage 1 of the project which will house years 7 and 8 next year. Currently there are 105 students enrolled at Catholic College Bendigo who will transfer to Marist College Bendigo in 2016 and be joined by an additional 125 students.

The Establishment Committee led by Mr Denis Higgins and Principal, Mr Darren McGregor are preparing for the beginnings of this new Marist venture in country Victoria.



OUR NEW ASSOCIATION HAS A NAME

One of the major topics at the recent Principals' Conference was the launch this year of the new association for Australian Marists to be launched this year. Up until now it has been nameless, but it last month the Mission Council considered the results of the survey done last year and decided on a name. It is to be called

The Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat

Its members will simply be known as ***Marists***.

Next term, there will be more information coming out at local and Province level, with an invitation to everyone to consider joining. It is one of our major projects for 2014.

IN THE CHAMPAGNAT WAY: NEW STAFF INDUCTION PROGRAMME

*Champagnat Catholic College,
Pagewood NSW*



Br Michael Akers and Ryan Gato facilitated In the Champagnat Way: New Staff Induction at Champagnat College, Pagewood for 25 staff from the surround Eastern Sydney region

Assumption College, Kilmore VIC



Sacred Heart Middle and Senior Schools, Adelaide SA



New staff who completed In the Champagnat Way: New Staff Induction at Assumption College in Kilmore (top) and Sacred Heart Middle & Senior Schools in Adelaide (bottom) that were both facilitated by Br Hubert Williams.

FOOTSTEPS I – FIRST PROGRAMME OF 2014

The first Footsteps programme of 2014 saw 34 staff from six different states and territories participating from 16 to 19 March 2014 at The Hermitage in Mittagong.



#SERVE PROGRAMME

Over forty Marist schools have already booked in for our special programme for 2014 - #serve. We have also taken the programme to a school outside our network and run it for non-school groups such as the Marist Brothers' Community Leaders and Province personnel working at the Marist Centres.

On 5 March, the staff at St Patrick's Primary School in Gympie QLD shared a twilight #serve program together. Participants commented that "it was a very rich experience and really meshed well with 'our' story... reminding us why we do what we do; that we are here for a purpose, that we are chosen / called and the purpose is to LOVE. It was very affirming of teaching as a vocation."



#serve
oneanother

2014 CAMPAIGN INSPIRES CREATIVITY



St Gregory's College, Campbelltown, has certainly been getting into the spirit of solidarity in creative ways this year. Interactive imagery was the drawcard for its assembly to launch of the 2014 Marist Solidarity Campaign.

Starting with the first row of 50 students and ending with the whole school community numbering 1150, staff included, the groups of staff and students stood in their place to represent the number of children that will be supported through Marist Solidarity in 2014.

Other creative approaches to the 2014 MSol Campaign include cultural food days, coin trails, Champagnat cookies, chocolate drop and even an arm wrestling world record attempt. With so many ideas coming from Social Justice leaders and APREs across the country it is set to be a big year. Thanks to all our Marist Schools for the commitment and energy that goes

into ensuring the continued improvement of the circumstances of our young neighbours in Asia and the Pacific... because young people matter!

For more information on Marist Solidarity and the work that you can support please call 07 3354 0600 or email msol@marists.org.au.

Michael Coleman
MSol Team – Brisbane

Keep an eye out for the new look *solidaritymatters* e-newsletter being released this month for the latest developments in projects supported by Marists in 2014.



REMAR COORDINATORS' CONFERENCE, MARCH 20-21

The 2014 Conference saw 12 of the 19 Coordinators from around Australia gather at the Nicholson Street Brothers' Community, in sunny Fitzroy. Together with Nehme Khattar, the National Youth Ministry Coordinator, we shared on the strengths and struggles of our school programs, and revised and updated our Camps and meeting resources. Br Mark O'Connor gave an entertaining and thought provoking after dinner address, on "The Pope Francis effect". A good amount of time was spent on the second day updating our recruitment processes, which are generally conducted at the end of Year 9. As well, one major change, which was accepted unanimously, was in the way that the Helm badges are awarded to Rowers. From now on the Helms will be awarded in a ceremony soon after each Embarkation Camp, allowing Rowers to wear the colour helm of the particular Crossing in which they are participating.

Br Rod Thomson
Remar Coordinator



Daniel Ronchetti, Adrian Viney, Nicole Allan, Ellis Black, and Lauranne Baches enjoy the Paris end of Nicholson St after the first day's meeting.



Some 'stayers' enjoying the NFS rooftop bar in Brunswick Street (Daniel Ronchetti, Ellis Black, Lauranne Baches, Adrian Viney).



Those attending the Conference included: Nichole Allan (Broadmeadows), Paul Skippen (Traralgon), Simon Cuckson (Beaconsfield), Ellis Black (Alice Springs), Jacqueline de Jonge (Burnie), Daniel Ronchetti (Auburn), James Mazzolini (Warragul), Derek Leibbrandt (Somerton Park), Vicki Devine (Kilmore), Adrian Viney (Launceston), Angela Tsotsos (Bulleen), Br Rod Thomson (National Coordinator). [Absent: Lauranne Baches, Churchlands; Connor Bradley, Associate Coordinator; Nehme Khattar, MYM Coordinator].