



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

27 May 2014

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

Do you have a patron saint?

It has been recently announced by Australian Catholic University that it has chosen three patron saints for different aspects of the professional work of the University. St Marcellin Champagnat has been named as Patron Saint of Students, Learning, and Teachers. As Marists, we would readily applaud this is a worthy choice. And we are collectively honoured by it.

“Students, Learning and Teachers”. Yes, having those three as the objects of St Marcellin’s patronage names something of the essence of the Founder’s life project. I imagine that the choice of words, and also their order, was both considered and deliberate. “Learning” – an activity, a process, an outcome – is bookended by “students” and “teachers” – people. It implies that the dynamic of interpersonal relationships provides the framework for work of a school, that education is before all else about people.

St Marcellin knew this well, of course. He put it at the heart of the educational approach he taught to that first generation of Marists. “To educate young people, first we love them”. First. He didn’t mean this in some kind of theoretical, abstract way – like Charlie Brown’s “I love humankind; it’s just people I can’t stand.” No, for Marcellin, love was about genuine relationships. Love was both the means and the end of the schooling experience.

Lest we be tempted to think that such an approach suggests that Marcellin’s focus was limited to the quality of relationships – what we extol in our Marist rhetoric as “family spirit”, “simplicity”, and relating as surrogate “brothers”, “sisters”, “fathers” and “mothers” – and not with the outcomes of the learning-teaching process, then we would be misrepresenting him. It is not possible to understand Marcellin without appreciating the centrality of the educational lens he brought to addressing the needs of young people. The liberating effects of a good education were pivotal for him. He put a strong emphasis on what happened in the classroom, on what we might call the craft of teaching, and on methods that resulted in effective learning. He was not shy, either, of challenging ineffective or tired methods used by some of his Brothers and insisting they seek out newer, more effective ones. The method for the teaching of reading was a case in point.

In a double honour for 2014, ACU is also soon to open a new multi-storey building on its North Sydney campus named in honour of St Marcellin. Its use will be entirely devoted to students, learning and teachers.

Names. Saints. Patrons. Mostly they are carefully chosen, even strategically so. The challenge, however, is for them to continue to mean something beyond the intention of their choosers, to have an ongoing and fruitful significance for people, not to be empty honorifics. Next week, all around Australia our Marist schools and the Church more widely will be celebrating a name, a saint, a patron. 6th June, the Feast of St Marcellin. In the Church’s general liturgical calendar it is categorised as an “Optional Memorial”, but for Marist communities it has the rank of a “Solemnity”. Something that must be celebrated. In giving it this status, the wider Church is reminding us Marists that the name of our patron saint is not to be merely a badge, a brand, an identifying label for us. Marcellin is our model of Christian discipleship, someone whose spiritual and apostolic inheritance we have received, and to which we are called to be creatively faithful in seeking to make, like him, Jesus Christ known and loved through the Christian education of young people.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

- 27 May #serve program, Marcellin College, Bulleen
- 29 May MSA Regional Council Meeting, Melbourne
- 30 May #serve program, St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton
- 1-4 June National Business Managers' Conference, Mittagong
- 5 June #serve program, Marist College Emerald
- 6 June Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat
- 6 June #serve program, St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton

- 9 June Queen's Birthday Public Holiday, all states except WA
- 10 June #serve program, Marist College Kogarah
- 13 June #serve program, Marist Sion College, Warragul
- 15-18 June Footsteps 1 program, Mittagong
- 16-18 June Staff Spirituality Days, Mt Maria College, Petrie
- 27 June #serve program, St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas
- 27 June # serve program, Lavalla Catholic College

DO YOU HAVE THE MSA APP for your iPad, iPhone or Android device yet?



- Read this Newsletter, the Lavalla magazine and the Champagnat journal.
- Catch up with the latest news.
- Check the various programmes and events.
- Find links to all MSA schools and other Marist connections.

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.fraynework.marist>

App Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/marist-schoolsaustralia/>

2014 DATE CLAIMER

Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner

The annual Mass and Dinner, for those involved in our Marist Ministries, will once again be held in our three regions. You may like to mark the dates in your diary.

- **Brisbane**
Saturday, 18 October 2014
Marist College, Ashgrove
- **Sydney**
Friday, 7 November 2014
Champagnat Catholic College, Pagewood
- **Melbourne**
Saturday, 6 December 2014
Marcellin College, Bulleen

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP VACANCY



ASSUMPTION COLLEGE
KILMORE

PRINCIPAL
commencing January 2015

Do you have a heart that burns for the evangelisation and education of the young, and that yearns to excite them with a love of learning and a passion for the Gospel? Do you have a vision for how a contemporary day and boarding school might inspire young men and women to become engaged, compassionate, and critically responsible participants in Church and society? Are you a Catholic educational leader with a proven record of excellence in achievement, of creativity in innovation, and of wisdom in discernment? Could you see yourself as Principal of one of Victoria's leading schools?

Then we would like to meet with you. We invite you to consider applying to be the next Principal of Assumption College Kilmore.

Further information and application packages are available from Sophie Fenaughty, Executive Assistant, Marist Schools Australia
E: sophie.fenaughty@marists.org.au T: 03 9389 3175

Applications close Monday, 16 June 2014



On Friday 6 June
with Marists all around the world
we celebrate the



Feast of Saint Marcellin.

Happy Feast Day!

Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

FOOTSTEPS 1 4-7 MAY 2014

Mittagong was abuzzed in May with the MLF team and Footsteps, kicking off the second offering of Footsteps 1 for 2014 on 4 May.



FOOTSTEPS 2 18-21 MAY 2014

Enjoying unusually warm Mittagong weather last week, the participants of the Footsteps 2 Program enthusiastically engaged with each other while fully and prayerfully immersing themselves in the program. One participant remarked that she was able to depth her own Marist spirituality and became more aware of the importance of all Marists in continuing the tradition began by the Brothers.



CHAMPAGNAT WEEK RESOURCES

The 2014 Feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat Week Resources are now ONLINE.

To access a variety of resources, please go to: <http://msa.edu.au/champagnat-week-resources-2014/>

#serve
oneanother





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

LET'S CELEBRATE ST MARCELLIN'S INTERNATIONAL MISSION!



MSol is working with Marists across Asia and the Pacific to make St Marcellin's vision a reality.

With the Feast of St Marcellin next week, Marist Schools and communities across the globe are preparing to celebrate the tradition that St Marcellin set in motion in 1817. It is a vision that has grown encapsulate the international nature of Marist.

Since 1837 Marists have been working with the people of Asia and the Pacific to bring education opportunities to those on the margins, especially the young. Marist Schools across Australia have been working with Marist Solidarity since 2002 to support this ongoing work through the annual Marist Solidarity Campaign. For a range of education and prayer materials that will bring an international flavour to your Champagnat Week celebrations checkout the website:

www.maristsolidarity.net.au/2014-campaign

We thank the MSA schools for your generous support throughout this year to date especially during Lent and we look forward to the creative and inspiring ways in which students and staff will come together to celebrate our global Marist family.

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

Michael Coleman
 MSol Team – Brisbane



2014 BLUE RETREATS UNDER WAY

The first of a series of seven Yr 11 Remar Blue Retreats conducted by the Remar Tea was held at Phillip Island Resort on the weekend of May 16-18, with 90 participants.

The photo of the sign of peace at the conclusion of the final Mass says it all.



Schools involved included Marcellin College Bulleen, Sacred Heart College Somerton Park, Notre Dame College Shepparton, Penola Catholic College, and Catholic College Wodonga.

It is of interest that Remar has also proved popular and successful over the years with non-Marist schools, as attested by these latter two, who always seem to attract big numbers in their Caravel groups. Future retreats over the next five weeks will be in venues such as Alice Springs, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, and Launceston.



Remar Reds (Yr 10) giving a presentation on their Caravel Days in Alice Springs (May 21-22)

Br Rod Thomson
 Remar Coordinator