



# MSA Newsletter

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



## From Brother Michael Green

25 November 2014

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

I'm not sure who the theological adviser to the Myer Emporium might be, or even if they have one, but, either by accident or design, someone has slipped a powerful message into its famous Christmas windows in Melbourne's Bourke Street Mall.

I don't mean the story of 'Santa Claus and the Three Bears', this year's theme. As they have since the 1930s, the story-windows gather thousands in these weeks leading up to Christmas, mostly in the evenings when their light, sound and movement have an enchanting magic to them. Parents bring along their little children, as their own parents would have done for them, and their parents' parents. From what I could see the other night as I was walking by, the kids of today were as captivated and goggle-eyed as any generation has been. And they were there in numbers.

But there is a window just to the side of the others that stood more quietly that evening, even neglected. I didn't have to jostle to get a good look; I was the only one in front of it. Yet this window told a story more wonderful, and indeed more stretching of credulity, than the talking bears and gravity-defying sled to its left. I was particularly interested in the Latin text on the faux stained-glass windows that flanked the simple Nativity scene. It captured something of the essence of this time of the Church's year. Drawn from John's Gospel, from the profound Eucharistic discourse of Chapter 6, and indeed from some of the sharper verses of its Bread-of-Life metaphor, it states with powerful simplicity that person who 'eats' of the Lord will be someone in whom the Lord will dwell, and that person in the Lord (cf vv.55-56).

There is no infancy narrative in John – so no 'Christmas story', nothing from which to confect a feel-good children's fairytale. There is also, indeed, no 'institution narrative' in the account of the Last Supper – so little from which to demean Christ's presence into some facile understanding of the Eucharist. The theology of the Incarnation in John works on another plane, as we know. It was, therefore, quite apposite to find this text in the heart of Melbourne's CBD – in a temple to consumerism, with homeless men secreted in laneways just metres away, and shoppers, families, buskers, students, commuters, tourists and others, I suspect, in Billy Joel's words 'sharing a drink they call loneliness [that's] better than drinking alone'. The word in all its promise and all its contradictions.

This is where Christ dwells. This is where God is found. And also in our schools during this year.

Advent and Christmas blessings,

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

# COMING UP...

28 Nov	Marist Centre Melbourne Open Day	15 Dec	QLD/SA School Holidays commence
30 Nov-2 Dec	Student Leaders' Gathering, VIC	18 Dec	ACT School Holidays commence
1 Dec	#serve program, St Augustine's College, Cairns	19 Dec	WA School Holidays commence
6 Dec	Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner, Melbourne	19 Dec	Marist Centre Melbourne closure
8 Dec	In the Marist Way program, Marist Youth Care	22 Dec	NSW/VIC School holidays commence
8 Dec	Staff Spirituality Day, St Patrick's Marist College	24 Dec	Marist Centres Sydney and Brisbane closure
9 Dec	Staff Reflection Day, Sacred Heart College	2 Jan	Marist Centre Sydney resumes
8-10 Dec	MYM Full Retreat	12 Jan	Marist Centres Melbourne and Brisbane reopen
12 Dec	NT School Holidays commence	12-15 Jan	Marist Youth Festival



## MARIST ADVENT PRAYER BOOKLET

With the beginning of Advent next Sunday, FMSI (the international Marist NGO that advocates for the rights of children) has once again produced a prayer book for each day of the Advent Season. Click [here](#) to download the PDF.

## ENROLMENT OPEN FOR INTERNATIONAL COURSE IN MARIST EDUCATION



The International Marist Network of Marist Universities offers an on-line course in Marist education through our university in Curitiba, Brazil. The first intake of students was this year; it is being offered again from February 2015. For more information [click this link](#).

## MARIST DESK CALENDAR 2015



Orders for next year's Australian Marist Desk Calendar are now being received. [Click here](#) for an order form. The 2015 calendar features images provided by Marist Solidarity, and carries the Montagne Year Logo on each page. Enquiries can be directed to: [resources@marists.org.au](mailto:resources@marists.org.au).

# REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2015

Online registration opened this month for next year's programmes. It can be done through the MSA website by following this link:

<http://msa.edu.au/registration-for-programmes/>

Instructions on how to use the online registration system:

[Quick Instructions for Bookings Officers](#)

**2015 PROGRAMMES & EVENTS**  
MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA



# Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

**#SERVE**

## **MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK**

The staff of Marcellin College Randwick came together at the Hermitage in Mittagong to participate in a two-day spirituality retreat. Part of this included the #serve program where staff actively and energetically involved themselves in various activities and group conversations.



*(L-R) Jenny Solomonson (in pink), Peta Bourke, Mel Gerke, Bill Kostovski, Sonia Curtis, Dave Ross, Luke MacNamara and Wayne Lobo.*

**#SERVE**

## **ST GREGORY'S COLLEGE CAMPBELLTOWN**

St Gregory's College Campbelltown staff enthusiastically participated in the #serve program for their Spirituality Day. Insightful discussion and thoughts were shared in the table groups, with the Tweet activity producing some creative responses.



*Lucy Martin, Kerry Todd and James Clanfield*



*Luke Albery and Adrian Harrison*

**#serve**  
oneanother



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

Dear Marist Schools Australia,



*Children in Marist projects across Asia and the Pacific continue to build on their education because of your support!*

As the year draws to a close our team at Marist Solidarity look back on a year that has brought great challenges and great change to the lives of children across Asia and the Pacific. This would not be possible without the support and imagination that drives Marist School communities across Australia to find new ways of valuing the youth of our neighbouring regions.

We thank you for your generosity and for being living proof that solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Asia and the Pacific can make a real difference. We wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas Season and look forward to all that 2015 holds!

To make a solidarity Christmas gift through our Christmas Appeal, contact us on the details below or visit [www.maristsolidarity.net.au/christmas-appeal](http://www.maristsolidarity.net.au/christmas-appeal).



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**NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Australian Brother Peter Corr, newly appointed director of Timor-Leste's leading teacher training institute, ICFP, is seeking volunteers to tutor students who are studying their Masters of Education via distance education at ACU.  
 The successful volunteer must hold their own masters and be willing to commit to at least one term, ideally at the beginning of 2015. Contact us for more information.



## MARIST YOUTH FESTIVAL UPDATE



*Workshops will be a great chance for young people to connect with each other*

We are thrilled to announce our line up of workshop presenters, who will facilitate an engaging space for young people to discuss social justice and faith in action. These include:

- Fr Rob Galea, singer, songwriter and musician
- Sr Brigid Arthur, refugee advocate at the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project
- Conor Ashleigh, former Saint Francis Xavier, Hamilton student, photographer and filmmaker on social justice issues
- Brendan Joyce, educator and advocate for global social justice at Caritas Australia
- Ashley Bulgarelli, former Ashgrove student, coordinator of Marist Volunteers Australia
- Paul Ninnes, speaker on relationships, sexuality and personal development from Real Talk
- Sally McEniry, leader of Marist Youth Ministry in Queensland and northern NSW
- Joseph McDonald, former Joeys student, now on the Marist Youth Ministry Sydney team
- and a host of other Marists on a QandA panel!

The workshops will also feature practical opportunities to get involved as a Marist volunteer, go on immersion, or become more connected within the Marist family. A gentle reminder that **registration closes on 1<sup>st</sup> December**, so get in soon!

Joseph McDonald  
 MYF Logistics Coordinator

MYF15 major sponsors -

