



# MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

A week after the powerful symbol of ashes was traced on our foreheads, and how are we doing in our time of Lenten renewal? Perhaps we might heed some advice from St Marcellin.

The story goes that, just after Ash Wednesday one year at the Hermitage, some young trainee Brothers, full of youthful fervour for what they might do for Lent, came to Father Champagnat to request permission to join in the full fasting of Lent (something that was not usually allowed for any Brother under 21 years of age.) They were pleased when the Founder agreed, but rather surprised by what he said next. Yes, he told them, they could have permission to fast but only if they allowed him to determine the parameters for their fasting. What he then set out for them had little to do with skipping lunch, as they had imagined.

He proposed a three-way fast. First, he said, they should have their eyes fast. By that he meant that, rather than engaging with every stimulus which came their way, they should make time and space to disengage, to be quiet, to be recollected. Second, he suggested that they should have their tongues fast, to listen rather than to speak. Third, they should fast from acting insensitively or impulsively, and being victim to every little whim or emotion. Additionally, he counselled the young Brothers that there was something from which they should never fast: they should not allow their souls to fast, never to neglect to nourish their inner selves. He explained to them, in case they didn't get his meaning, that this meant they should never starve themselves of prayer, of meditation, of Eucharist, or of a time of examen at the end of each day. He went further on this point, using some typically earthy figurative language: "Don't give mouldy bread to your souls," he told the young men. "Mouldy bread" for him meant prayers that were rushed, meditation that was distracted, or an attitude to their spiritual lives that was shallow or merely perfunctory. Give your souls the very best bread, he told them, and generously.

One of the imperatives that last year's International Marist Mission Assembly put before you and me as Marists was that we should be "mystics". The delegates wrote in their final communiqué that, indeed, we will be recognised as *Marist* in the way that Marcellin wanted us to be Marist if, first of all, we were mystics. They listed five ways as to what that might look like. Third on their list was: *we make use of quality time and space to deepen our attentiveness to who we are, a process that gives meaning to what we do.* Then fourth, that as educators and evangelisers, *we accompany ... other to grow in interiority, spirituality and prayer.* At last month's Marist Youth Festival, Brother Emili's strongest message to the young people was along the same lines.

Perhaps as Marist educators this could be one of the most helpful lessons we might share with the young people in our care this Lent – to witness to them how to be recollected, how not to be victim to every emotion or every stimulus with which we are confronted. In their hyper-stimulated lives they can be ill-prepared and ill-equipped to create the time, space and silence to be attentive – to take out their ear-pieces and turn off their smartphones, both literally and figuratively. It is, of course, the first Marian attitude: to be silent so as to hear, to contemplate. Among all that they might gain from the Marist education we offer our students, let's ensure a special place for helping them to develop a disposition to contemplation.

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP...

25 Feb	In the Marist Way, Macarthur Region	13 Mar	MSA Regional Council meeting, Sydney
1-4 Mar	Footsteps 1 programme, Mittagong	13 Mar	Marist Principals' Regional Meeting, Melbourne
5 Mar	In the Marist Way, Central Victoria	15-18 Mar	Footsteps 2 programme, Mittagong
6 Mar	In the Marist Way, Sydney Eastern Region	16 Mar	In the Marist Way, Marist Youth Care
9 Mar	Labour Day Public Holiday, Victoria	19 Mar	In the Marist Way, Adelaide
9 Mar	Marist Principals' Regional Meeting, Brisbane	20 Mar	In the Marist Way, Western Region Sydney
10 Mar	Marist Principals' Regional Meeting, Sydney	20 Mar	Remar Coordinators' Retreat, Templestowe
11 Mar	MSA Regional Council meeting, Brisbane	23-25 Mar	Marist Leaders: Mystics and Prophets, Sydney
11-12 Mar	MSA Regional Council meeting, Melbourne	31 Mar	Directors' Forum

## NOMINATIONS FOR 2015 AUSTRALIAN MARIST MISSION ASSEMBLY

The Marist Mission Assembly to be held in August at Mittagong will be the first representative gathering of the new Marist Association of St Marcellin. Its purpose will be to reflect on Marist life and ministry in Australia, to consider the strategic directions and priorities for the next three years, and to nominate the members of the next Mission Council (which from later this year will be the Council of the Association). All who have put in their expressions of interest to join the Association, or have already been accepted, should have received information last week on how to nominate people to attend the Assembly.

Expressions of interest to join are always welcome and can be submitted at any time. Already the number is at the 400 mark. If you would like to know more then send an email to Joe McCarthy at [joe.mccarthy@marists.org.au](mailto:joe.mccarthy@marists.org.au)

## NEW APPOINTMENT MLF TEAM

We welcome **Bessie McConnell** as the new Personal Assistant to the Director of MLF and Executive Assistant to the MLF team. She joins us with the experience of working in a large firm and holds a Bachelor of Design (Multimedia Systems). Bessie will join the Marist Centre Mascot on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

We also thank **Charlene Sim** for her wonderful work with the MLF team. Charlene's amazing creativity in the development of spiritual formation resources, the sharing of ideas and the way she has supported all our programmes has been a great gift to us. We wish Charlene all the very best in her future endeavours.

## USA WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG LITURGICAL MUSICIANS



Here's some thing that may be of interest to schools looking to develop their contemporary liturgical music.

Visit the website for more information:  
[musicministryalive.com](http://musicministryalive.com)

## 2014 MARIST MINISTRIES MASS & DINNER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Here is a list of last year's awardees for Outstanding Contribution to Marist Education or to Marist Ministry. Special thanks and congratulations to all.

### Brisbane

Cath Collier, Marist College Ashgrove  
Michael Druce, Marist College Ashgrove  
Tom Kruger, Burdekin Catholic High School  
Eve McCormack, Marish College Ashgrove  
Peter McWhirter, parent, Marish College Ashgrove  
Diarmuid O'Riordan, St Peter Claver College Riverview  
Megan Pettiford, Trinity College Beenleigh  
John Pierce, St Mary's Catholic College Casino  
Sam Puglisi, Mt Maria College Petrie  
Mark Stower, Mt Maria College Mitchelton  
Geraldine Swindells, St Peter Claver College Riverview  
Derek Worden, Mt Maria College Mitchelton

### Sydney

David Buckley, Australian Marist Solidarity  
Sue Dein, St Gregory's College Campbelltown  
Leonie Flynn, John Therry Catholic High School  
James Gray, St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill  
Ray Holmes, Trinity College Auburn  
John Kelly, Mount Carmel Catholic College Varroville  
Julia Lederwasch, St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton  
Carmel Luck, Marist College Canberra  
Chris Maley, Marist Youth Care  
Tony McDonnell, Marist College North Shore  
Chris Morrissey, Marist College Canberra  
Christine Robertson, Marist College Canberra  
Les Salisbury, Marcellin College Randwick  
Jacqui Smith, Marist Youth Care  
Carole Wark, Province

*Congratulations...*

### Melbourne

Margie Beck, Province  
Phil Billington, Province  
John Cadd, Sacred Heart College Senior  
Peter Centra, Catholic College Sale  
Peter Collins, Catholic College Sale  
Matt de Jong, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Alice Springs  
Michael Kenny, Assumption College Kilmore  
Robert Tarraran, Lavalla Catholic College  
Br Fon Van Rooij, Province  
Peter White, Province

# Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

## IMW HUNTER MAITLAND/NEWCASTLE

Staff from St Francis Xavier Hamilton and St Peter's Maitland participating in the "In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction" program hosted by SFX on Tuesday, 10 February.



Front Row: (L – R) Dan Mitchell, Matt Priest, Rachel Said, Nicole Morgan, Amanda Smith.

Back Row: (L – R) David Obradovic, Craig Phillips, Melissa Grey, Andrew Burke, Kim Ninness, Lisa Duck, Mary Foxall, Eva Frize, Kim Hann

## NURSES AND CARERS' CONFERENCE

From 16 -18 February, a group of nurses and carers from the Brothers communities at Ashgrove, Randwick, Hunters Hill and Campbelltown gathered at the Hermitage, Mittagong, to reflect upon their shared Marist mission of care and health support.



## MARIST COLLEGE EMERALD



College Vice Captains, Billy Price and Kealy Jeppesen

On Friday 19 February, the Marist College Emerald family held their Opening Mass for 2015. It was a wonderful celebration of the senior leaders, senior students, new Year 7 students and new staff. The community of students, staff and a large contingent of parents gathered together and enjoyed a lively Mass celebrated by Fr Steven Hanly.

Some staff then gathered for a justLOVE Program and finished the day with an evening meal.

justLOVE  
hearts without borders



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



## INTRODUCING THE 2015 REMAR MINISTRY TEAM

## MSOL KIT LAUNCHED ACROSS THE DITCH!



Marist Schools in New Zealand are, for the first time, being rallied together to join Marist Schools in Australian in support of Marist Solidarity. It marks a new era of collaboration as Brother David McDonald, District Leader of the Pacific, invites New Zealand schools to "Join the Solidarity Effect".

In his letter he invites the District of the Pacific to support Marist Solidarity through *"sharing resources, educating others and providing information to help raise the community's level of understanding of others as well as providing physically through donations of money, resources and time."*

We are excited about the prospect of Marists across Australia and New Zealand combining efforts in support of the Marist aid and development mission in Asia and the Pacific.

**Marist Solidarity Campaign resources are available on:**  
[www.maristsolidarity.com.au](http://www.maristsolidarity.com.au)

## MSA SCHOOL VISITS – FROM CAIRNS TO CAMPBELLTOWN

The MSol Team members have visited 15 schools in Queensland and New South Wales this year to introduce Schools Campaign, discuss immersion experiences and co-ordination as well as introduce the possibilities for staff and students with MVA (Marist Volunteers Australia). It was also great to be able to work with the young men and women at the Marist Youth Festival and Qld student leaders at the Student Leaders Gathering. We are grateful for the hospitality and time shared with us. We look forward to visiting the Southern schools in the coming months.

Michael Coleman  
 MSol Team – Brisbane  
 E | [msol@marists.org.au](mailto:msol@marists.org.au)



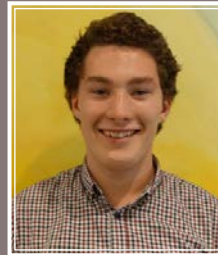
**Liz Wake**  
 MYM/Remar Coordinator



**Emily Lyall-Green**  
 St Patrick's College,  
 Launceston



**Lance Newton**  
 Marcellin College,  
 Bulleen



**Jackson Perry**  
 St Patrick's College,  
 Launceston



**Cassie Wilmott**  
 Sacred Heart College,  
 Adelaide



**Maddison Whyte**  
 Marist Sion College,  
 Warragul