



# 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

Calling a 'Jubilee Year of Mercy'. Now, there's a good idea. Throwing open the Holy Door of St Peter's as a sign of the bountiful mercy of God, a quality that should also be the defining characteristic of the People of God. Brilliant!

While Vatican watchers and the religious commentariat more generally are wryly suggesting some Machiavellian cunning in the Holy Father's surprise Holy-Year announcement last week – a clever move in the game of doctrinal chess supposedly aimed at putting his conservative brother bishops into check in the lead-up to the Synod on the Family – the call is wholly consistent with the priorities of Pope Francis's two-year pontificate. Well, perhaps there may have been a teeny weeny bit of Jesuitical deftness, but this is pure-Francis.

It is also pure-Marist. No word or concept goes to the heart of the original Marist intuition than does 'mercy'. It was this that Marcellin and his co-founders believed to be THE way forward for renewing and rebuilding a Church whose members had become flaky in their practice, sceptical in their attitudes, and disenchanted with unfulfilled secularist rhetoric. They consciously eschewed an approach that was insensitive, punitive or threatening. Forgiveness, understanding, and belief in the inherent goodness and capacity of all – these were to be their trademarks. They saw this as Mary's way, a mother's way, and they believed themselves called to share in her work. Each morning and evening Marcellin had his brothers sing the *Salve Regina*, to the 'Mother of Mercy', under whose patronage they placed themselves, in whose name they worked. When, in 1836, Marcellin and his fellow Marist priests came to profess their vows for the first time, they chose the feast of Our Lady of Mercy.

It can be a counter-intuitive thing, mercy. It's more natural to want to even the score, to take an eye for an eye, to seek retribution and revenge – served as cold as possible. Payback: so many cultures – including our own – have it deep in their collective psyche. The media are often champions of it; talk-back radio thrives on it. That is why it is so unusual at the moment to see media and politicians alike calling the Indonesian President to show mercy to Andrew Chan and Myruan Sukumaran. It's a rare demand to read in the papers: that a criminal can and should be forgiven, can and should be allowed to start again, can and should know redemption.

Our Marist founders probably never had the opportunity to read Shakespeare. Had they have done so, they may have cut out and had framed Portia's famous soliloquy in the first scene of Act IV of the *The Merchant of Venice*. They knew that mercy blesses both 'him that gives and him that takes' it; they knew that it was 'an attribute of God himself' and that people are most 'likest God' when 'mercy seasons justice'.

It can be a challenge to develop and to value a culture of mercy in a school. We all know the tension we feel between, in the one hand, rightly wanting to teach young people that their actions and decisions have consequences they need to own, while on the other hand, forgiving them and giving them another chance. Yet again. We worry about the implicit permission it may give to other students if we let one 'get away with it' and we want to prevent that happening. These can be difficult matters to resolve. Marcellin knew that; the chapter on 'Discipline' in *The Teachers Guide* is an enlightening read. But at the end of the day we are evangelisers, we are prophets of a God whose name Pope Francis reminds us, is mercy.

Let's give the Bard, closet Catholic that he probably was, the last word: *We do pray for mercy and that same prayer doth teach us all to render the deeds of mercy.*

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP...

28 Mar	VIC holidays commence	10 Apr	justLOVE programme, Marcellin Technical College
30 Mar-1 Apr	Mothers' Spiritual Retreat, St Joseph's College	11 Apr	ACT/SA holidays commence
31 Mar	Directors' Forum	12-15 Apr	South Asia Joint Formation Experience
3 Apr	NSW/NT/QLD/WA holidays commence	12 Apr-4 May	Marist Pilgrimage
3 Apr	GOOD FRIDAY	13 Apr	In the Marist Way programme, Santa Teresa
4 Apr	EASTER SATURDAY	13 Apr	VIC schools resume
5 Apr	EASTER SUNDAY	14 Apr	In the Marist Way & justLOVE programmes, Alice Springs
6 Apr	EASTER MONDAY	14 Apr	justLOVE programme, Assumption College Kilmore
6 - 9 Apr	National Gathering of Brothers	19-20 Apr	Auburn Support Staff Spirituality Day, Mittagong

### MARIST BLUES IN ALEPPO



#### SAD ANNIVERSARY

Blue Marists - Letter from Aleppo No 21



A number of MSA schools have supported the Marists in Aleppo, Syria, as they have courageously and inspirationally carried on their ministry over recent years.

A recent copy of the international 'Marist News' published by the Marist Brothers General House in Rome carried an update from Brother Georges. Click on the image to view and read.

Anyone is welcome to subscribe to the free fortnightly international Maris news bulletin.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**  
The General Council officially ended the Plenary 28 February, but continued joint activities 2-3 March. On 3rd March all the people of the General House were invited for the traditional meeting at the end of each Plenary Session. After a moment of prayer, it was time to look at the calendar 2015-2017. Then, Fr. Joseph Maria Scorsone presented new IT projects created by technicians from Curitiba and Espirito Santo for the benefit of the General Administration. At the end of this meeting, Fr. Antonio De Felip presented the application "Scorsone", intended as a tool for the management of houses data associated with the Internet.  
Brothers Tony Lison, director of the Secretariat, Brothers Todor and Louis Episcopo, director of the Secretariat of Laity attended the meeting of the Inter-American Commission of Spirituality Brothers and Laity in Quito, Ecuador (2-4 March). Fr. Louis Episcopo participated in the meeting, also in Quito, of the Commission of Laity of the Americas (2-3 March).  
Brothers Mark Meek, director of PMS-Rome, and Chris Sella, director of the Secretariat of Collaboration for missions, attended (2nd) participants in the presentation of the project "Newborn Day-renewal" (2016) and a session on the topic at the Vatican (2-3 March).

To do so, go to <http://champagnat.org/500.php?a=7c>

### CONGRATULATIONS BENDIGO MARISTS!



The warmest of wishes go to all our Marist friends and colleagues in Bendigo for this Friday's Solemn Blessing and Official Opening of our newest school – *Marist College Bendigo*.



### HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED THE MSA APP?



- 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.

Download the free app for your iPad, iPhone or Android device today.

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

**App Store:**  
<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/marist-schools-australia/id826186929?mt=8>



### 2015 MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA Biennial Conference

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSES ON 8 MAY**

**ON 8 MAY**

*Places are quickly filling. Don't miss out!*



<http://msa.edu.au/registrations/>



# Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

## IN THE MARIST WAY: SYDNEY EASTERN REGION

On Friday 6 March, Marist schools from the Eastern Region came together as newly appointed staff to participate in the programme 'In The Marist Way'. The afternoon allowed our new Marists to learn about Marcellin Champagnat, his story and the way our Marist communities give life to the Charism in our distinctive Marist Style.



(L-R) Haley Flowers, Jessica Major & Analise Emmerick

## FOOTSTEPS 2: MAKING JESUS KNOWN AND LOVED



(L-R) Tony Flood, Melo Conti, & Matthew Thomas

## NEW PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE MLF TEAM

Ms Bessie McConnell, new Personal Assistant to the Director and Executive Assistant to the Marist Mission and Life Formation Team.

Bessie has recently joined the Mission and Life Formation team at the Marist Centre Sydney. She moved from Melbourne where she was a secretary in a large national law firm. Bessie has a Bachelor Degree in Design and Multimedia Systems from RMIT University in Melbourne.



She is excited to be part of the MLF team and is looking forward to getting to know everyone in the Marist Schools Australia community.



(L-R) Brother Doug Walsh & Brother Hubert Williams

justLOVE  
hearts without borders



### VANUATU RELIEF FUND LAUNCHED



Cyclone Pam's destructive force has been felt around the Pacific with severe flooding recorded in Kiribati, Tuvalu and of course the devastating effects it had on Vanuatu. On the 20th of March, the District of Melanesia Leader and Vanuatuan, Br Jean-Marie Batick, re-established contact with the Brothers on Espiritu Santo - Br Brendan Sinei, Br Blaise Jai, Br Elie Sangul and postulant Fereol Melteror.

The Brothers teach at St Michel Technical College, run the attached boarding house and provide financial and food support for many students who have very little. There has been damage to infrastructure and destruction of food crops meaning that there is still uncertainty around the situation of the students, families and the local community on Santos Island.

We have opened a Vanuatu Relief Fund. All funds will be designated for the requests to come from Marists in Vanuatu in the ensuing weeks and months. As we learn more about the situation of the local community we will keep you updated.

To support the Vanuatu Relief Fund please send a cheque to PO BOX 273, Ashgrove West, QLD 4060 or make a direct deposit to the account below.

Account Name: MAPS Mission  
BSB #: 062 000  
Account #: 1126 8914  
Description: Vanuatu Relief Fund

If you require a receipt please email the details of your deposit to [msol.accounts@marists.org.au](mailto:msol.accounts@marists.org.au). Please note that donations are not tax deductible.

Ashley Bulgarelli  
Marist Solidarity  
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[www.maristsolidarity.net.au](http://www.maristsolidarity.net.au)



Every Thursday evening throughout Lent, young adults from across the Brisbane region have been coming together to break open the meaning of this important time in the Church's liturgical calendar.

The evenings consist of prayer, fellowship, hospitality, scripture and small group discussions. This time of formation together as a group has strengthened friendships and family spirit, as well as strengthening our young adults connections to the wider Catholic Church as we approach Easter.



Sally McEniry  
Marist Youth Ministry Brisbane