



# 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

Probably since the first smoke signal was attempted, and the smoke didn't go up as intended, communication has been somewhat hampered by those trying to do the communicating. Don't blame the messenger, has been the easy excuse.

St Marcellin would have probably disagreed. For him, the messenger was indeed the message. Although he never met Canadian philosopher, Marshall McLuhan, he would have agreed with him on that point – the “medium is the message”. And more: McLuhan later went a step further to propose that the “medium is the message”. That is, the power and influence of the one doing the communicating, or the means by which it is being done, will have its own impact on the listener. Marcellin once told the Brother who was Novice Master that the young Brothers in his charge would “become as you make them, and you will make them as you are.”

Another who may concur with this thinking is Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli. “Archbishop who?” you rush to ask. The current President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications who has just been visiting Australia. Last week he gave a refreshingly candid and insightful address to our Bishops and other Church leaders, on the presence of the Church in the digital world. [Read it HERE](#). A challenge he presented to them was that the message that is Jesus needed to be conveyed in a way that was accessible, attractive and comprehensible to the people of today. He argued for simplicity. (I can hear Marcellin cheering.) Quoting Pope Francis, he said “... at times we lose people because they don't understand what we are saying, because we have lost the language of simplicity ... Without a grammar of simplicity, the Church loses the very conditions which make it possible “to fish” for God in the deep waters of His mystery”.

Simplicity. Obviously, Pope Francis gets that. That's why his preaching – usually without the use of words, as St Francis might have said – is so compelling.

We can be critical of our Church when we feel that it complicates matters, when it can seem to us that it uses language, or moral reasoning, or liturgical forms, or imagery, that shroud Jesus into some remote or anachronistic concept, rather than the God who dwells in the very heart of our lives. But it is perhaps a trap for us to think of the Church as “them”. For the young people in our care, we are the Church. We are the message. We are the Gospel.

Archbishop Celli proposed to the Bishops something that should resonate loudly with us as Marists. Again, partly quoting the Holy Father, he invited them to take a Marian approach to their ministry of communication: “... we need to ensure that the Church assumes a maternal presence that warms people's hearts and encourages those who are disheartened. *We need to bring Christ to others through these joys and hopes, like Mary ... we need to pass through the clouds of indifference without losing our way, we need to descend into the darkest night without being overcome or disoriented, we need to listen to their dreams without being seduced, we need to share their disappointments without becoming despondent, to sympathise with those whose lives are falling apart without losing our own strength and identity. This is the path. This is the challenge.*”

As Marcellin told his first Brothers, “You may be the only gospel that your students read.” They are unlikely to distinguish very well between the messenger and the message.

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP...

21 May MSA Brisbane Regional Council meeting  
 21-22 May Remar Red Caravel Day, NT  
 22 May justLOVE: Heart Without Borders, Hamilton  
 22-24 May Remar Blue Retreat  
 25 May justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, Parkes  
 26 May justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, Marcellin College Bulleen  
 26 May justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, Burdekin Catholic High School Ayr  
 27 May Marist Youth Ministry Leaders Retreat

27 May Mission Council meeting  
 29 May Marist Centre Melbourne Staff Formation Day  
 31 May - Footsteps 1 programme, Mittagong  
 3 June  
 1 June Meeting of Principals of MSA-Governed Schools  
 5 June justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, St Joseph's College Hunters Hill  
 6 June Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat  
 8 June Queens Birthday Public Holiday (all states except WA)  
 9 June Staff Spirituality Day, Marist College Kogarah

## LAVALLA & CHAMPAGNAT JOURNAL SECOND EDITION 2015

The dates for the next edition of Lavalla and the Champagnat Journal are as follows:

1. Cut-off date for all content is **Friday, 19 June 2015**. This should be emailed to Brother Tony Paterson at: [tony.paterson@marists.org.au](mailto:tony.paterson@marists.org.au). A preference for WORD documents and high resolution photographs (jpg) is important. Names with photographs would be gratefully received and this needs a clearance from parents/guardians if students are involved. Usually the blanket permission that parents sign at the commencement of the year in most schools in most states and territories is fine but there is some variation, and principals are in the best position to decide.
2. The final lay-out and proof-reading is completed by Friday 26th June 2015 and the printing and distribution process that follows should mean that the publication would be in schools in Week 1 of Term 3 or thereabouts.
3. Any variation to quantity required or changes in addresses etc should be sent to Tony Paterson as soon as possible.
4. At this stage there is plenty of empty space in the next edition. It would be good to hear from some of our Marist relatives that we don't hear a great deal from!

Thanks to those schools that have already indicated that they will be submitting material.

**Contact: Brother Tony Paterson**  
**e: [tony.paterson@marists.org.au](mailto:tony.paterson@marists.org.au)**  
**m: 0409 538 433**

## MLF TEAM 2016

### Expressions of Interest Invited

Would you be interested in working on the Mission and Life Formation Team for a year or more? If so, you are warmly invited to contact Tony Clarke ([anthony.clarke@marists.org.au](mailto:anthony.clarke@marists.org.au)). Each year, around this time, we make such an invitation. Usually it is possible to arrange a secondment from your current position, which keeps your employment and entitlements secure, and allows you the possibility of returning after a time on the team. Marist Principals have been very cooperative in allowing this to happen, and they see the benefits that such an experience can return to their own schools.

## MARIST BASKETBALL CARNIVAL 2016

The 27<sup>th</sup> Marist Basketball Carnival will be hosted by St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill NSW from **Sunday, 10 April - Friday, 15 April 2016**.

Sunday 10 April: Opening Mass, BBQs and Managers Meeting  
 Monday 11 April: Day one of competition  
 Tuesday 12 April: Day two of competition  
 Wednesday 13 April: Rest day  
 Thursday 14 April: Day three of competition  
 Friday 15 April: Day four and final day of competition. Presentation Dinner at SJC.



For further details, contact Miles Newman e: [mnewman@joey.org](mailto:mnewman@joey.org)

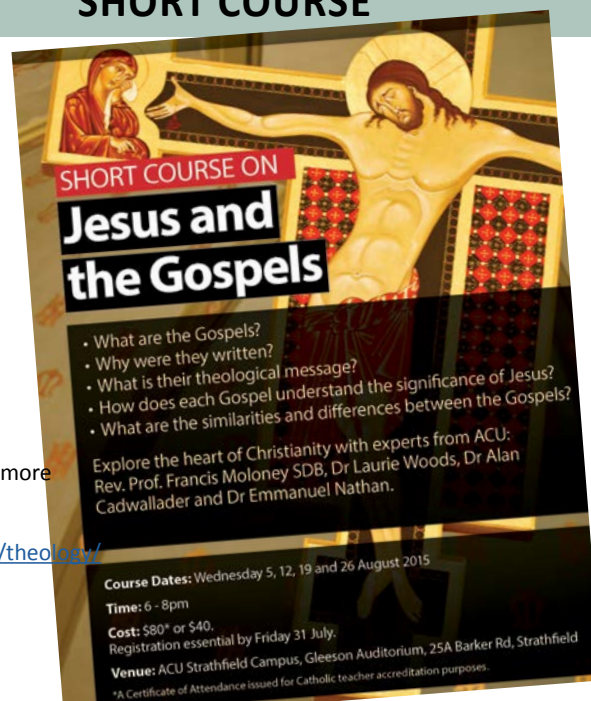
## 2015 MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

### Biennial Conference

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FILLING QUICKLY  
 DON'T MISS OUT REGISTER NOW!**

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

## ACU THEOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY SHORT COURSE



To register or for more information visit:

[www.acu.edu.au/theology/shortcourses](http://www.acu.edu.au/theology/shortcourses)

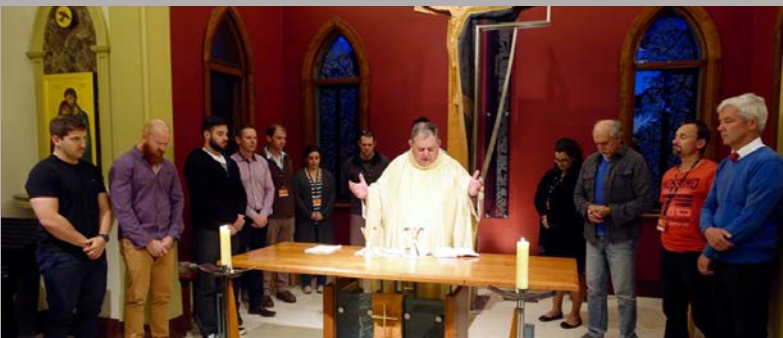


# Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

## FOOTSTEPS1 THE HERMITAGE



(L-R) Bessie McConnell (Marist Centre Sydney); David Sexton (Burdekin Catholic High School, Ayr); Jennifer Clare (Marist College, Ashgrove)



Mass celebrated with celebrant Fr Bob Barber SM (Provincial of the Marist Fathers)

Mittagong turned on some spectacular Southern Highlands weather for the May Footsteps 1 program with trees of golden leaves and some with no leaves at all. The fresh winds and crisp air invigorated the 33 participants from 19 different Marist Schools and Ministries. Some evaluation comments included: "I was challenged to find my inner Marcellin", "the program allowed a reflection to occur for what broader elements of education involve", "the opportunity to learn from and about other participants and their experiences guided by the session themes", "it inspired the sense of the Marist community". This program also saw the 4000th participant to complete the Footsteps (or a similar predecessor) in its 21 year history. A marvellous milestone of sharing the spirit and charism of our Founder.



Andrew & Stacey

We do not live on "Spirit" alone. Each of the MLF Programs at Mittagong are catered for with goodness and style by the Kitchen at Mittagong. The staff are truly of service to all of us. Service may be the ingredient but creativity is the seasoning. This is clearly demonstrated on the Tuesday evenings with meals of great style to ensure an enjoyable and convivial repast and atmosphere.

Stacey has taken the care and time to ensure that repetition is not the norm but gourmet creativity is to the fore. These meals are a surprise and a scrumptious delight. Thank you all those who are of service to us in your kitchen ministry.

## MARIST LEADERSHIP IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION - ASSUMPTION COLLEGE



(L-R) Maurice DiMuzio and Br John McMahon

Principal of Assumption College Miss Kate Fogarty invited Br John McMahon to present, the first Aedificare Session, on Marist Leadership in Catholic Education, on Thursday 23rd April. A warm atmosphere permeated the session which evoked good questions and lively discussion.

## PRAYING OUR LIVES ST GREGORY'S CAMPBELLTOWN



Stephen Hartnett, Debbie Simmons, Jane Coupland and Rebecca Graham (Back)

14 members of the senior staff Executive and Middle Managers gathered with Br Robert O'Connor, Spiritual Direct/ Consultant, for an after-school session of about 1 and half hours to work through our program Praying Our Lives, which is a short reflective follow-up to the JustLOVE: Hearts without Borders, program that a number of schools have done. It was a time to be still and take some time for prayer, and sharing was greatly appreciated by the staff members involved.



Max Spencer, Damien Millar and Matt Brennan (hidden)

hearts without borders



## REMAR

It has been a busy time of year for the REMAR team! The first two Blue Retreats have taken place in Victoria; four more will take place across the country over the coming weeks. The Blue Retreat serves to remind rowers that Jesus is an anchor in our lives. Despite the winds and waves of doubt, we can be disciples of Christ.

The REMAR team is also in the midst of running Red Caravel Days, where they are challenging the Yr 10 Rowers with the motto 'Sailing away from mediocrity'.

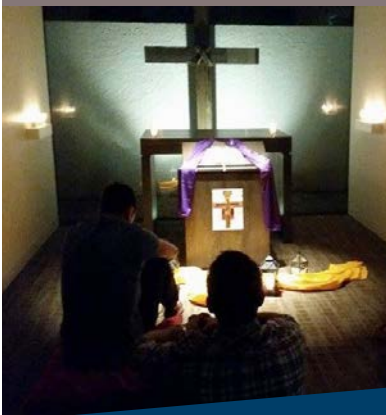


## MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) has also been hard at work following its official launch earlier in the year. The MYM team continues to provide opportunities for post-school Marists to engage in ministry and service. In addition to Toasties, a food service for the homeless that operates every Friday night, MYM has teamed up with Jesuit Social Services to deliver weekly homework tutoring for underprivileged children.

MYM also provides opportunities for faith formation and development. Our first Exchange night – an evening of Taizé prayer – proved highly successful. Young Marists gathered together to reflect, pray and share in fellowship over a hearty meal.

Mark Gilbert  
MYM Melbourne  
Regional Assistant



## MARIST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE



Marist Volunteers Australia (MVA) currently has volunteer opportunities available in seven countries across Asia and the Pacific.

Australian Marist Brother Geoff Kelly is seeking experienced teachers to work with him in Vietnam. Br Geoff runs the New Horizons centre where they provide extra classes to the young people in Quoc Oai, just outside of Hanoi. Volunteers are required to teach English classes.

In Timor-Leste, newly appointed ICFP (teachers training college) Director, Br Peter Corr, requires volunteers to tutor and mentor the students who are studying their Master in Education. ICFP is the only institution in Timor-Leste that offers a Masters and is dedicated to rebuilding the country through the education of future generations.

The Marist Centre for Migrants, located in the fishing village of Samut Sakhon, Thailand provides support for Burmese refugees and their families. Similarly to New Horizons, volunteers are required to help teach classes including English, IT and physical education to the Burmese children who are excluded from formal education.

If these opportunities excite you, and you have the ability to commit to a minimum two month placement, please contact Ashley for more information. To learn more about other positions available please visit the Marist Volunteers Australia website direct at [www.maristvolunteersaustralia.net.au](http://www.maristvolunteersaustralia.net.au).

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