



# 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

It is that time in the Church's liturgical cycle when the daily Gospel readings for Mass are working through Chapters 5 to 7 of Matthew's Gospel – the so-called "Sermon on Mount" – where the evangelist opens up the theme of Christian discipleship. In this first major discourse of the Book of Matthew, Jesus teaches what the signs of genuine discipleship are, the signs of the Kingdom, and in doing so turns inside-out many of the accepted misunderstandings of what it meant to be righteous in the sight of God. He proposes a radically different basis for ethical human behaviour.

Our pondering of these scriptures provides an apposite lens for viewing two other bleeps on this week's radar: Refugee Week and Magna Carta's 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

There has been much media commentary – and deservedly so – on Australia's official treatment of those people who seek refuge here, and who are desperate enough to risk everything to do so. While shock-jocks continue to fan the flames of fear, happily there seems to be a growing number of column-inches devoted to analyses and opinions that are more nuanced and magnanimous. There was a time when our national discourse saw refugees in heroic terms, and there was a collective pride in our embrace of them. That was before the self-righteous language of exclusion and protection became increasingly employed to exploit people's ignorance and fears. Similar language seems to be fuelling proposals around summary and extra-judicial removal of citizenship rights. The self-entitled and self-protecting premises for justifying such action are attitudes that the barons at Runnymede thought that they might have snuffed out back in 1215. Not by a long chalk.

But ordinary people, whose Christianity and basic humanity lead them to other responses, continue to give hope. Around the corner from our office in Brunswick is refugee welcome centre – a shared ministry of local Christian churches. It does wonderful work. Similar places and programmes, sponsored by churches and other community groups, have sprung up all over Australia. Our own youth welfare agency – Marist Youth Care – has been quite active for a number of years now in supporting young unaccompanied refugees and advocating for them in what those young people often experience as callous and cruel regulatory environment. And, of course, our schools. The outreach of so many Marist schools to refugee communities, and the pro-active inclusion of refugees within those schools, is work of justice. It is evangelical.

Practices of exclusion, capricious exercise of authority, and self-serving insularity are the ever-lurking dangers of power and privilege. Let's be alert for them. How easily they can take root in individuals, in families, in ethnic groups, in schools, in churches, in clubs, in governments – indeed in any human being or human institution. It is salutary for us in schools to step back occasionally and evaluate dispassionately the extent to which our school's culture is one of inclusion, the degree to which there is a deep respect for rights and a promotion of mutual responsibility, a lived openness for difference and diversity, and a leadership paradigm based on trust, kindness, and big-heartedness. A place where Marcellin would feel at home. That would be a good sermon on the mount.

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR



## COMING UP...

19-21 June Joeys Blokes' Weekend Retreat, Mittagong  
 22 June NT Holidays Commence  
 26 June justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, Lavalla Catholic College  
 29 June NSW/QLD/VIC Holidays Commence  
 29-30 June Asia Laity Commission Meeting, Sri Lanka  
 29-3 July Pruning Retreat, Mittagong  
 6 July ACT/VIC/SA Holidays Commence  
 13 July justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, St Augustine's College

13 July justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, Marist College Eastwood  
 13 July justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, John Therry High School  
 13 July NSW/QLD/VIC Resume  
 16 July justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, St Teresa's Catholic College  
 16 July justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, St Thomas More Primary  
 20 July NT/ACT/WA/SA Resume  
 21 July justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, Newman College  
 26-28 July MSA Biennial Conference

### MYSTICS AND PROPHETS MELBOURNE

Last week the second of the two three-day "Mystics and Prophets" colloquia for 2015 was held at the Marist Centre Melbourne, drawing 30 participants from Cairns to Perth. Once again it was led by Brothers Michael Green and David Hall. We were pleased also to welcome Brother Michael Schmalzl from Germany and Brother Francis Attah from Cambodia.



Mystics and Prophets participants

### MARIST ASSOCIATION REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Regional Gatherings of the Association are being held in 17 different locations. These are an important step in building a community spirit among us. An important focus for these gatherings is preparing for the Mission Assembly in August. The Regional Gatherings have provided a space for two key things to occur:

- Public acknowledgement of all those who have been formally received as members of the Marist Association.
- Participation in a workshop to 'create a voice' from each Region which will contribute to the Marist Mission Assembly, August 20-23.

Regional Gatherings that have already taken place are:

May 20 – Cairns/Innisfail (QLD) | May 21 – Melbourne (VIC) |  
 May 27 – Country Victoria (VIC) | May 27 – Adelaide (SA) | June  
 4 – Gippsland (VIC) | June 4 – Emerald (QLD) | June 9 – Brisbane  
 (QLD) | June 11 – Canberra (ACT) | June 11 – Macarthur (SYD) |  
 June 13 – Sunshine Coast/Murgon (QLD)/

There are upcoming Regional Gatherings to be held:

June 17 – Casino/Lismore (NSW) | June 18 – Eastern Sydney (NSW)  
 | June 25 – Western Australia (WA) | July 23 – Alice Springs (NT)

(Dates to be confirmed for Northern/Western Sydney, Hunter Valley and Forbes).



### INTERESTED IN TEACHING IN THE TERRITORY?

Catholic Education Northern Territory has various teaching and school leadership positions available in Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary education for the 2016-2017 school years. Visit the [MSA website](http://msa.edu.au) for further details.

**2015 MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA**  
*Biennial Conference*

**REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 10 JULY**  
 DON'T MISS OUT REGISTER NOW!

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



# Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

## justLOVE: MARIST COLLEGE KOGARAH

The Queen's Birthday weekend for Marist Kogarah was bracketed by the College walkathon on Friday and the JustLove program for staff on the following Tuesday. Reflecting on the day one staff member expressed that the day was a "lovely way to consider the Marist ethos and remind us of the crucial role that teachers play every day!"

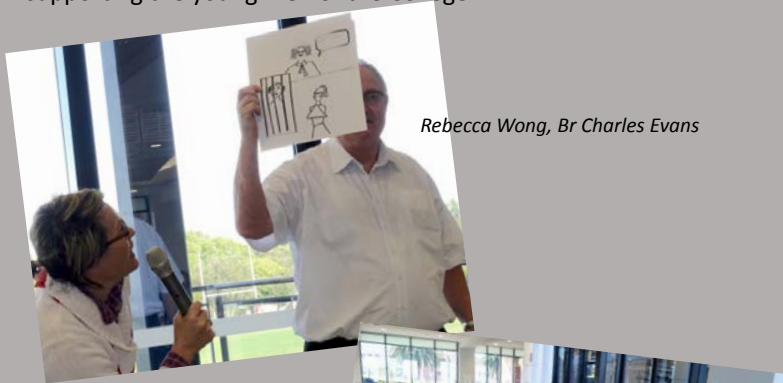


Josh Pentecost & Chris Kalodikis

Vesna Mihaljevic & Mary Pin

## justLOVE: ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE HUNTERS HILL

The staff of St Joseph's College gathered recently to participate in the justLove program. The College staff were able to contribute special insights due to the privilege of being involved in the ministry of boarding. Many of the staff are involved in more than just teaching. They have the privilege of being closely connected to students in teaching, studying, coaching, supervision. Boarding enables them to help create a family atmosphere. The Marist way of "doing things" certainly comes to the fore in the broad range of supporting the young men of the College.



Rebecca Wong, Br Charles Evans



Kelly Oastler, Di Fazio, Judy Gillespie,  
Joshua Clark



Bernard Ryall, Graeme Kachel, John Reading

## FOOTSTEPS1: MAKING JESUS KNOWN AND LOVED

As winter starts to settle in, 35 participants from our Marist schools layered up with coats and beanies to embark on the Footsteps journey. Over the four days they not only had opportunities to grow in Marist life and faith, but had an energy and vitality in their witness and conversations with one another. It was a program, despite the cooler weather, of warm welcome, family spirit and companionship.



Jamaal Sugars, Julie Twomey, Sandra Leeson, Bernard Kyan, & Brent Mitchell



Julie Twomey, Sr Mary Martinez, & Lisa Sorenson



Brent Mitchell, & Carmel Luck

justLOVE  
hearts without borders



## CALLING ALL 2015 YEAR 12 STUDENTS FROM MARIST SCHOOLS!

Marist Youth Ministry is excited for the second year, to offer the Get Real Alternate Schoolies Immersion to The Philippines.

Lead by Sally McEniry, a group of Year 12 leavers from various Marist Schools across Australia will spend two weeks immersed in Filipino culture, life & faith. The group will have a broad range of exciting experiences: visiting the slums of Manila, working in orphanages, engaging with the Marist Brothers from the district of Melanesia, meeting street children and their families, as well as relaxing in and touring around the beautiful sites of The Philippines!

The immersion will take place from November 28-December 12. The cost is approximated to be \$2000, which is inclusive of flights, accommodation, food & spending money. For any students that are interested, more details can be found at [www.maristyouthministry.com/getreal](http://www.maristyouthministry.com/getreal).

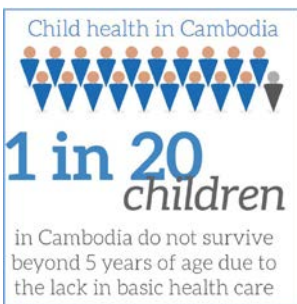
Let's encourage our young people to Get Real this year for Schoolies and have a meaningful experience that can positively shape their future!

## MARIST BROTHER FROM THE PAILIN PROJECTS VISITS MSA SCHOOLS



For many years the people of the Pailin Province in Cambodia have not had access to healthcare. This frequently leads to acute cases of treatable diseases and irreparable damage caused by injury.

One Brother currently working in solidarity with the people of the Pailin Province is Brother Francis. He has been in Cambodia for nine years and plays a large role in coordinating the projects there. Over the past year he has worked with volunteers to initiate the successful Pailin Rural Health Outreach program. Click [here](#) to read about the program and other Marist Solidarity projects.



Br Francis has just completed visits to Marist College Ashgrove and Marcellin College Bulleen. The schools organised the visit to coincide with their various Champagnat Day celebrations. While in Brisbane he visited Marist Solidarity and wishes to pass on his thanks to all MSA Schools, staff and students, who have supported the projects in Cambodia.

We also thank all those who have celebrated Champagnat Day with their solidarity appeals in support of the many children and young people in Asia and the Pacific.

Michael Coleman  
Marist Solidarity  
E | [msol@marists.org.au](mailto:msol@marists.org.au)  
[www.maristsolidarity.net.au](http://www.maristsolidarity.net.au)



Sally McEniry  
Marist Youth Ministry Brisbane- Regional Coordinator