



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

If, like me, you have the working view that there hasn't been any decent music written since the 1980s, then you perhaps thank God for digital radio stations such as *Pure Gold 80s* and music streaming apps such as *Spotify*. All those great tunes live on. Wonderful for pumping through the house over the weekend.

Actually, I don't really hold that we have been suffering through a drought of decent music for the last three decades. But perhaps a person's length of years should allow some indulgence of nostalgia. At least, I presume so.

Some good music and lyrics go back way before the 80s. Even earlier than the 70s. Over these past weeks, almost all schools have been holding their commencement and commissioning liturgies and, more often than not as Marist communities, they have included in them the singing of the *Sub Tuum Præsidium*. Among our family of schools there are quite a few that have a custom of singing this ancient prayer congregationally and rather robustly, while others perform it with hauntingly lyrical majesty. Some lift the tempo, some slow it down. Some murder the Latin. All seem to treasure it as a marker of their identity.

The Latin words of the hymn may seem ancient enough but it wasn't the language in which it was first written in Alexandria, probably in the third century. That was Greek. Today we usually translate the Latin "sub tuum præsidium confugimus" as "to your patronage we fly". The words "præsidium" or "patronage" do not, however, really capture the sense of the original Greek which carried more of an evocation of refuge, protection, or indeed, mercy. Cardinal Walter Kasper makes this point in his excellent book *Mercy, the essence of the Gospel and the key to Christian life* – the book which may have inspired the Pope to call a jubilee year themed around mercy. In the prayer, as in ecclesiology more generally, Mary is an archetype of the maternal mercy of God in the way that the Church is called to share it. And no-one more in the Church than you and I, as Marists.

Even more ancient than the *Sub Tuum* are the second century words of Saint Irenæus, written in Lyon, the city from where the Marist project was later to emerge. He referred to Mary as the "undoer of knots", a title for her that grew into a popular devotion in parts of Europe and is today a favourite of Pope Francis. For a Church that is often criticised for tying the consciences of people into knots rather than releasing in them a sense of liberty and relief, it is a salutary image of what it should be. Freedom to captives, new sight to the blind, healing of the wounded, good news, the favour and grace of God – this is where and how mission of God is realised. This is where and how the Church shares in the mission of God.

Each Catholic school, as an expression of Church, has the challenge to translate into everyday ways of being and doing what it means to share authentically in this mission. It can be seen in the extent to which the school's culture is rooted these maternal ways of mercy. This is a challenge to which a Marist school should especially rise, in its presumption to shape its identity explicitly around the name of Mary. Tending hurts, opening eyes, providing refuge, creating a home, building resilience, engendering hope, freeing hearts – this is the mercy of God to which every ecclesial community is called to incarnate.

'What kind of expression of Church is our school?' is a question that Marist educators would do well to ask themselves from time to time. 'What does it mean for us to be Marian?'

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

24 Feb In the Marist Way - Macarthur Region NSW
 26 Feb MYM Connect - Eastwood / Macarthur NSW
 28 Feb - 2 Mar Footsteps 1: Making Jesus Known and Loved - Mittagong
 2 Mar MYM Connect - Randwick NSW
 3 Mar A Theology of Mercy - Auburn NSW
 4 Mar Remar Helm Inservice VIC Schools
 4 Mar In the Marist Way - Central Victoria & Sydney Eastern Region
 7 Mar Labour Day Public Holiday, WA

8 Mar In the Marist Way - Sydney Western Region
 8-9 Mar National Marist Principals' Conference, Mittagong
 11 & 18 Mar Remar Red Caravel Days VIC
 13-16 Mar Footsteps 1: Making Jesus Known and Loved - Mittagong
 14 Mar Labour Day Public Holiday, VIC
 16 Mar A Theology of Mercy - Beenleigh QLD
 17 Mar In the Marist Way - Adelaide SA
 22 Mar Directors' Forum



MEETING OF BUSINESS MANAGERS OF MSA-GOVERNED SCHOOLS



Our last meeting was held in Alice Springs on 26 & 27 November. The host Br Matthew Green, Principal, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College, welcomed the group and participated in the meeting over the 2 days. The group heard from Joe McCarthy on the Association of St Marcellin Champagnat, were led by students on a tour of the 3 Campus College and participated in collegial discussion on business related topics for our schools. The location also provided the opportunity to visit the Co-educational Primary and Secondary school at Santa Teresa where Br Daniel Hollamby, Principal, School staff and brothers community shared their hospitality and provided insights into the school and community at Santa Teresa. This year's conference of MSA Business Managers is at Mittagong, 1-4 June.

NEXT LAVALLA & CHAMPAGNAT JOURNAL PUBLICATION

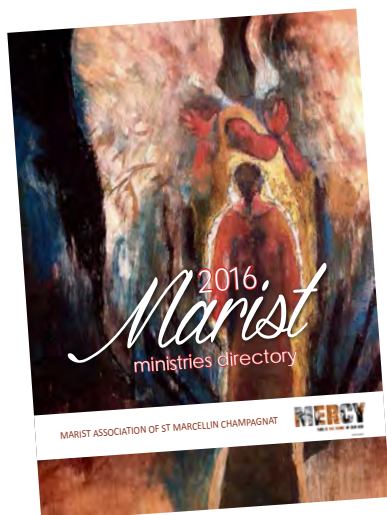


Please use Lavalla to share some news from your school with the rest of Marist Schools Australia, and/or consider submitting an article for the Champagnat Journal.

The cut-off date for contributions to the first edition of Lavalla and Champagnat Journal for 2016 is **Monday, 21 March**.

All submissions should be sent to Brother Tony Paterson at tony.paterson@marists.org.au

MINISTRIES DIRECTORY 2016



This year's edition of the Marist Ministries Directory has been printed and will be posted to schools this week.



MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



In the Marist Way - New Staff Induction

Marian Catholic College, Griffith, 28 January 2016

Will Lyon, Mary Bergmeier, Donna Parise, Fiona Harris, Stephen Munro, Andrew Tovo with Principal Alan Le Brocque



Our Daily Bread - Praying as Marists

Sacred Heart College, Adelaide, 28 January 2016



St Augustine's College, Cairns and Good Counsel College, Innisfail, 12 February 2016

IN THE MARIST WAY - NEW STAFF INDUCTION

Staff from both St Augustine's College, Cairns and Good Counsel College, Innisfail joined together to attend the 'In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction' program on Friday 12 February. They enjoyed the comfortable environs and hospitality of the Brothers' Community at St Augustine's.



MERCY RESOURCES ONLINE NOW

The 2016 Mercy themed resources are online at the Marist Schools Australia Website. Head to the link below to check them out.
<http://msa.edu.au/2016-theme-resources/>



CARE FOR THE SOUL RETREATS

The Care for the Soul Retreat is an adult retreat experience offering an opportunity for deepening and integrating prayer, mission and service.

Offered on four occasions in 2016,

- Friday 18 – Sunday 20 March
- Wednesday 20 – Friday 22 April
- Friday 27 – Sunday 29 May
- Thursday 14 – Saturday 16 July

For further information head to see the brochure here:

[CARE FOR THE SOUL RETREAT BROCHURE](#)

TIMORESE COMMUNITY OPENS NEW SCHOOL



Last month, a new Catholic primary school was opened in the remote mountain community of Abafala in Timor-Leste. More than 300 people attended the opening celebration, which took place on Friday, January 23. There were speeches and students performed traditional Timorese dances. Ceremonial ribbons were cut and the building was officially blessed.

School Principal Mistre Jaime and a spokesperson from the Ministry of Education both thanked Australian Marist donors and European agencies for their support and commented on the building's high standard of completion. There was an announcement that the Ministry of Education would provide the school new desks and chairs. Marist Solidarity in-country project manager Brother Tony Clark worked very closely with the community to rebuild the school. He said he was moved to see that the whole community was obviously proud of their school's high quality.

Marist Solidarity Timor-Leste projects' coordinator Mr Michael Coleman said that he felt privileged "to share this milestone with the local community, the young people of Abafala and, more broadly, Timor-Leste." He thanked the Diocese's Catholic Education Director, Madre Herminia Sarmento for her role in developing the school and builder Mr Martinus Rerebain for his high-quality work. The building includes three classrooms and toilets. It offers 135 young people access to primary education.

Michael said he was encouraged to see how the work our donors support had made a difference to the lives of young people and to the future of education in Timor-Leste.

He gave special thanks to Australian Marist schools Catholic College Sale, Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta and Notre Dame College, Shepparton for their support of this much-needed project. Please visit our website to donate to the second stage of the Abafala school or to learn more about our work in Timor-Leste.

www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au

INTRODUCING THE REMAR MINISTRY TEAM FOR 2016



Hi, I'm Emily and I graduated from **Marist-Sion College in Warragul, Victoria** in 2015. I joined the RMT this year because Remar has made such an amazing difference to my life and I want to help it continue to change the lives of others. My hope is that our work will help young people to grow, deepen their faith, sense of capability and worth as young Marist leaders. I'm looking forward to the adventures the team and I will have around the country, and the rollercoaster year it will be!

Hi, I'm Gerard Pirie and I graduated from **Assumption College Kilmore, Victoria** in 2015. I joined RMT this year because I want to give back to Remar, a program that has given me so much over the years. I hope I can inspire younger people to apply for this position that I was lucky enough to be admitted into. I look forward to growing more in my faith as a Marist and sharing works of mercy with others. I am excited about working with a group of like-minded young adults who value each other and have fun!



Hi I'm Damian Ruiz and I graduated from **Sacred Heart College, Adelaide** in 2014. I joined RMT this year to follow my call to youth ministry. My hope is to educate the Remar students in Marist values and our Christian faith. I look forward to living in the Melbourne Marist community whilst work closely with the others in my team.



Hi I'm Sara Petruzzella, I graduated from **Sacred Heart College, Adelaide** in 2014. I decided to join the Remar Ministry team this year as I am extremely interested in ministry, service and faith development. In particular I love working with youth and the support which the Remar program offers to these young adults. I look forward to the personal growth and development I will experience on this journey, as well as the growth I will witness in the young adults we minister too.



Hi my name is Supi. I graduated from **Trinity Catholic College Auburn, Sydney**. I joined RMT this year because I feel the need to share my experiences of ministry to young people. My hope for this year is to inspire the young minds of society and I look forward to sharing my experiences, learning new things and meeting new people.



Liz Wake
Remar Coordinator / MYM Regional Coordinator