



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

The Cross. A hard sell, really. Always has been. Even the Gruen team* would have a tough job putting a marketable spin on it.

Since the time that Saint Paul first attempted to do so – and he was certainly a cut-above-the-average as a salesman – it’s been like that. He found that preaching a crucified Christ was “to the Jews an unsurmountable hurdle, and to the Gentiles madness” (1 Corinthians 1:23). Even to Christians themselves, the idea has not always been so obvious or even attractive. It took some centuries before they were no longer too embarrassed to use a cross or crucifix as their defining symbol. And then, when they did, it was often ironically emblazoned as a symbol of power. Look at the outfit the Crusaders wore into battle. More recently, when Pope Francis was elected, one prominent Cardinal was reported in the Australian media as being pleased with the outcome because he expected that the new Pope would be a “strong” leader for the Church, which was, he had concluded, what it most needed.

Strength.

There’s conventional wisdom in wanting strength in a leader. People buy that idea. Lots of mileage to be gained there. Just ask Donald Trump.

But “the power and wisdom of God” has always been elsewhere. The Gospel is not about that. To preach Jesus is to preach “him crucified”. Strength in weakness. (1 Cor 2, *passim*). The God to whom we seek to give witness is the God of Good Friday.

Pope Francis has indeed been a strong leader, but in a Pauline sense rather than a Trumpist one. And I don’t think that it was Paul’s view of things that was exactly what His Eminence had in mind when he made his comments after the Conclave. But perhaps I misjudge him. In any event, the Pope has modelled for us the vulnerability and self-emptying to which we are all called as Christians, and as Church. He has done it by word but, like his namesake, he has done it most especially by deed. He’ll do it again this Thursday evening.

The Cross is a symbol that many of us wear. We put it in our classrooms and on our buildings. We include it in our school’s badge. It marks us and our places as Christian. But what does it symbolise for us? Really? Do we get it?

But here’s the nice twist: when you see Pope Francis in action, you realise that the Cross actually isn’t a tough sell after all. Disarmed, trusted, accepted, people’s fears and hurts dissipate. Love does that.

Easter blessings.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

* For overseas readers, this is a reference to an Australian television show, an element of which involves advertising and marketing gurus taking on the challenge of selling the unpalatable.

COMING UP...

23 Mar	Association Council meeting	11-14 Apr	Our Daily Bread - Alice Springs NT
24 Mar	Our Daily Bread - Casino NSW	18 Apr	Our Daily Bread - Petrie QLD
25 Mar	Good Friday	21 Apr	In the Marist Way - Marist Youth Care, Blacktown NSW
28 Mar	Easter Monday	25 Apr	Anzac Day
31 Mar	Remar Red Caravel Day SA	26 Apr	Our Daily Bread - Sunshine Beach QLD
1 Apr	Remar Red Caravel Day TAS	1 - 4 May	Footsteps 1: Making Jesus Known and Loved - Mittagong
3 - 24 Apr	Marist Pilgrimage	2 May	Labour Day Public Holiday QLD
10 - 15 Apr	Marist Basketball Carnival	2 May	A Theology of Mercy - Forbes NSW

ACTING DIRECTOR OF FORMATION



After Easter Tony Clarke will begin a period of extended leave, until the end of Term 2. His place as Director of Formation will be taken by Ryan Gato, one of the members of the Mission and Life Formation Team. Our best wishes to Tony for an enriching period of leave, and to Ryan as he takes up the reins of the MLF team for eleven weeks.

VISIT OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARIST MISSION COMMISSION

Last week, members of the International Marist Mission Commission were in Australia for their annual meeting. Before gathering at North Sydney on Wednesday, they spread across Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney to visit various Marist schools and ministries. Here they are pictured at St Joseph's College, The John Berne School, Marist College Bendigo and Assumption College. Thanks to many Marists who acted as hosts to our guests.



St Joseph's College



The John Berne School

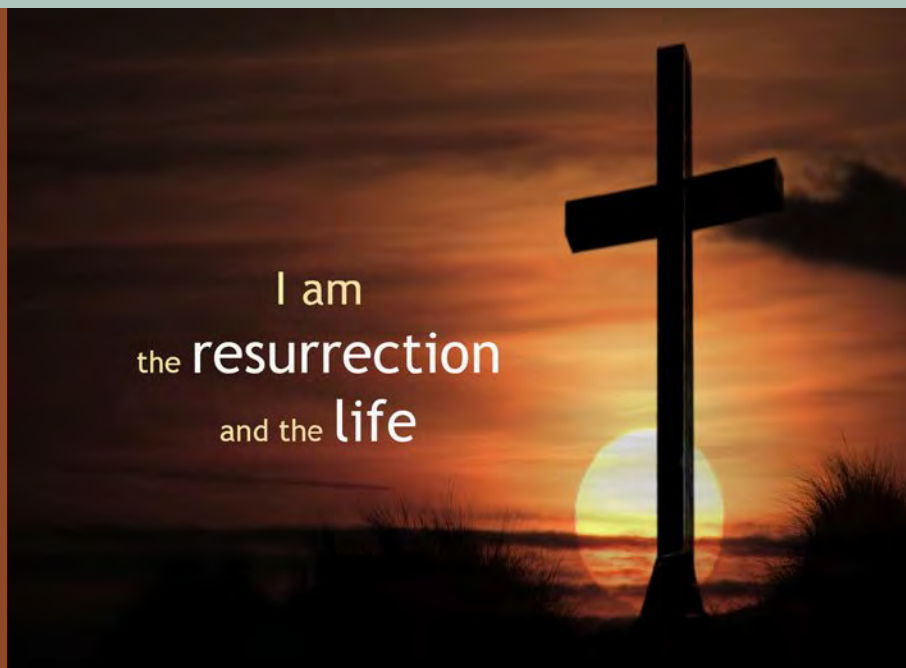


Marist College Bendigo



Assumption College

EASTER BLESSINGS



I am
the resurrection
and the life

MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



Footsteps 1 - Making Jesus Christ Known and Loved
13 - 16 March 2016



In the Marist Way - New Staff Induction
St Teresa's Catholic College, Noosaville and St Thomas More Primary School, Sunshine Beach
10 February 2016



In the Marist Way - New Staff Induction
Sydney Western Region, 8 March 2016

375 NEW MARIST STAFF, 20 LOCATIONS AUSTRALIA WIDE

As the end of Term 1 draws to a close we reflect on the significant number of new members of staff who have participated in our 'In the Marist Way' programme. In over 20 locations across the country these women and men came together bringing vitality to their conversations as they explored Marist spirituality and mission. The programme allowed these new staff members to grow in a spirit of partnership and come to a greater appreciation of our Marist story and that of shared responsibility.



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

CYCLONE WINSTON WON'T STOP FIJIAN KIDS GOING TO SCHOOL



Marist Solidarity is appealing to our Australian networks to support our friends and neighbours in Fiji as they rebuild their communities, following the devastating category-five cyclone Winston, which hit the small South Pacific island nation at its peak on February 20.

Our partners in Fiji need our support to rebuild the severely-damaged Saint Vincent College in Natovi, in the province of Tailevu, on Fiji's largest island Viti Levu. Since the cyclone, classes have been limited due to the extent of damage. Despite the challenges, college teachers and students are getting on with the job of teaching and learning the best they can. Classes are being held in rooms with no walls, or wherever there is a patch of grass. Saint Vincent College was established by the Marist Fathers and Marist Sisters more than 115 years ago and is now administered by the local diocese.

It is located about a two-hour drive away from the capital of Suva and caters for 220 students, including 60 boarders (35 boys and 25 girls). Students are aged between six and 14 years old.

Many of these students' families live on outer islands or in the interior highlands, and most struggle to pay school fees, which are less than \$100 a year.

These families come to Saint Vincent, often having being turned away by other schools in the area because of their inability to pay school and boarding fees. Saint Vincent's never turns away any child in need of education.

Please support our appeal to help the Saint Vincent College community rebuild their school and enable young people continue their education in a safe learning environment.

To find out more please contact
Marist Solidarity Projects Coordinator Mr Ashley Bulgarelli
 by email ashley.bulgarelli@marists.org.au
 or visit our website
www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au



GET REAL ALTERNATE SCHOOLIES IMMERSION

Now in its third year, the Get Real Alternate Schoolies Immersion is seeking applications from current Year 12 students within our MSA network. This two week immersion to The Philippines has been designed to offer a positive alternative to the common-place Schoolies experience here in Australia.

For more information and to apply, please direct students to the MYM website www.maristyouthministry.com/getreal



YOUNG ADULT LENTEN HANGS

Every Sunday throughout Lent our MYM Brisbane team has been meeting at a nearby café. The Meeting Place Café in Mitchelton is run by a local church and is gold coin by donation. This makes it the perfect spot for our regular gatherings on Sunday evenings. Our Sunday night hangs consist of time for fellowship, lectio divina with the Gospel of the day, journaling and reflection on the Scripture, followed by some live music and time to enjoy each others company. We have really relished these weekly catch-ups, as it has been a really intentional way of deepening our relationship with Jesus throughout Lent.



Sally McEniry
 MYM Regional Coordinator, Brisbane