



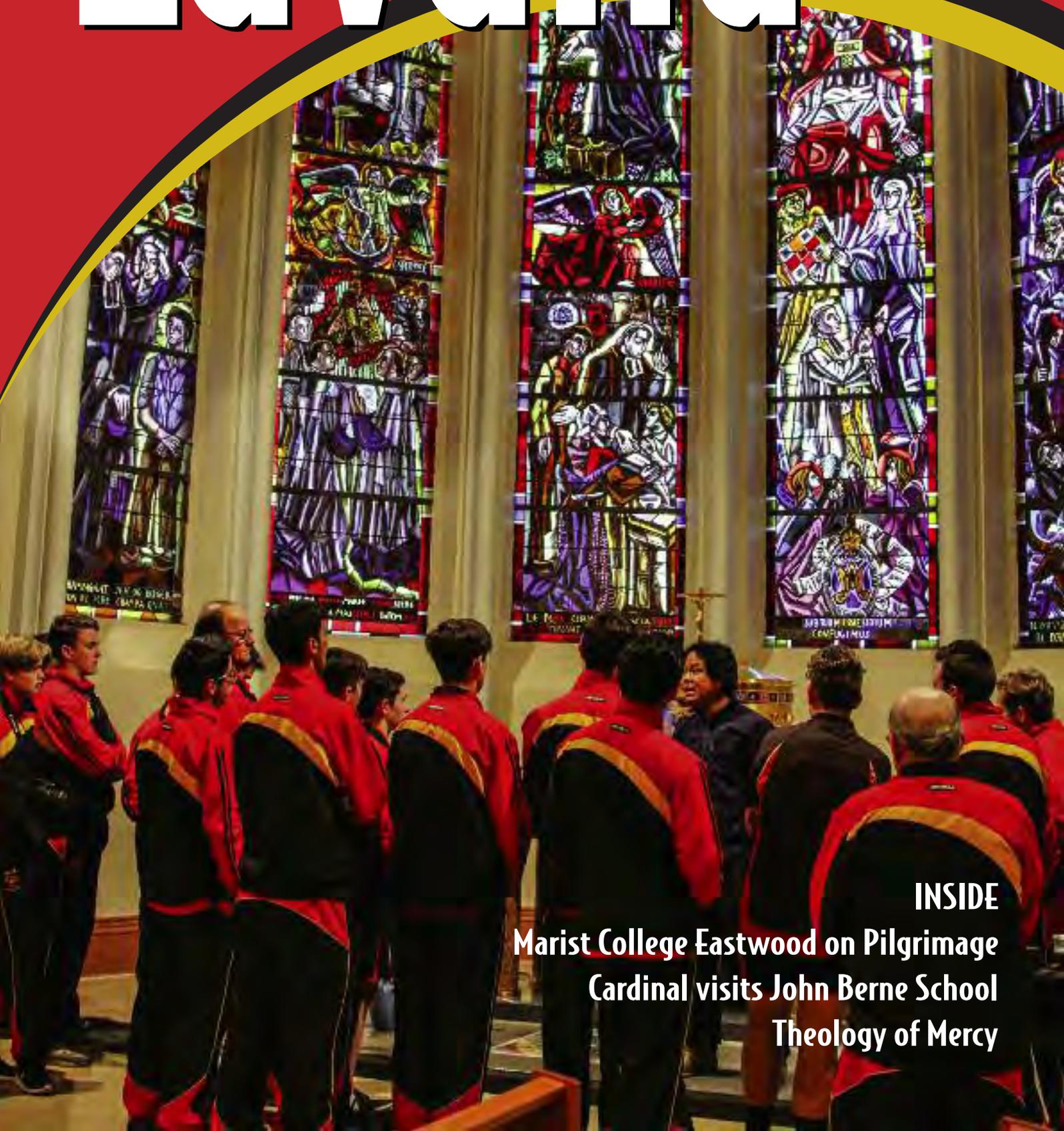
MARIST | SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA  
Catholic education in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat

The staff journal of  
Marist Schools Australia

Volume 22  
Number 1

April 2016

# Lavalla



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**Lavalla**

Published by Marist Schools Australia

**Design & Artwork**

Sydney Design Studio Pty Ltd • 02 9452 1967

*Lavalla*, the name given to this magazine is taken from the village in France where St Marcellin Champagnat established the world's first Marist school in 1817.

There are now Marist schools in 80 countries.

**Cover:** Staff and Student from Marist College Eastwood on pilgrimage at The Hermitage in France. Photograph taken in Chapel close to the burial place of St Marcellin Champagnat.



# Editorial



Dear Brothers, colleagues and friends

You know the experience of arriving somewhere to find the doors shut or the gates locked. We've all been there.

Deflation. Frustration. Anger. Did I get the time wrong? Am I in the right place? What an annoying waste of my time!

There is powerful symbolism in a closed door. To be locked out. To be ignored. To be alone. And when the doors are big and solid – like those of a grand old building such as a bank or a church – the sense of exclusion and powerlessness is exacerbated.

The defining Marist quality of “presence” stands in contradistinction to the imposition of such barriers. As Marist educators, we like to think of ourselves as people who put a high priority on being present to our students and also to one another. We eschew a style of ministry that would have us be office-bound, remote or impersonal. We have open doors; we respond promptly to emails; we look for opportunity – indeed create opportunity – to spend time with students and colleagues, day in and day out. We matter to one another and we make ourselves available to one another. We understand this to be Marian, to be at the attentive service of the other. We know that personal relationships are built on this, that they can't develop without the investment of time and physical presence. And Marist education pivots on forming relationships.

Do we have the same sense of “presence” when it comes to our spirituality? Just as presence is at the heart of our educational style, so also it is at the core of the spirituality we have inherited from Marcellin. To be alert to the presence of God in the everyday, to live consciously in the presence of God and in relationship with God, this was so important for Marcellin.

Thus for you and me as Marists, there is a horizontal and a vertical dimension to “presence” –our relationships with those of our community and our relationship with our God. Both require an open-door mindset and heart-set. Doors have a nasty habit of shutting themselves if we are not careful.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the open doors of our cathedrals, churches and chapels carry a strong message. What about the pervading culture of our schools? Are there the same subliminal messages of invitation, welcome and hospitality there? The pages of this issue of *Lavalla* suggest that the answer to those questions is very much in the affirmative.

In his inspirational address to Marist Principals at their national conference in March, Archbishop Mark Coleridge suggested that as faith educators our task is to bring people into what God is and what God does. God opens doors, and keeps them open.

*Nisi Dominus*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Michael Green'.

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
**National Director, Marist Schools Australia**



# MARIST COLLEGE EASTWOOD

## European Tour

Marist College Eastwood has recently returned from a tour of Europe, that included England, France and Italy. Comprising of 49 students, the group was made up of a Rugby and Football team, whilst 12 students attended as part of a cultural group.

The squad landed in London where they stayed for 4 nights. The Rugby team attended a World Cup rugby game, being lucky enough to witness the greatest upset in World Cup history, with Japan defeating South Africa in an early pool match. Meanwhile, the rest of the squad attended a Preston vs Brentford soccer game and the next day, the whole squad attended a Tottenham Hotspur vs Crystal Palace game at White Hart Lane. Whilst in London, the Rugby group had a training session with London-Irish whilst the Football team had a training session with Chelsea. Meanwhile, the Cultural group spent the day touring the sights of London and finished the day by attending the musical 'Wicked'. Both the rugby and football teams played a game against Dulwich College, with the rugby team

winning 35-0 and the football a 1-1 draw.

The group then headed off by Eurostar to Paris, for another round of sightseeing and sporting experiences. The rugby team visited Racing Metro and had a trial against their junior representatives teams, winning 25-10. The football team had a training session with Paris-St Germain, another highlight for them. From Paris, they went to Toulouse, for a homestay and game with their sister school, Le Maristes Montalembert. The football team had a game against them winning 2-0 to keep their undefeated tour intact.

From Toulouse, the group headed to Lyon, for what would be the highlight of the

tour, a visit to the Hermitage and La Valla to see where Marcellin Champagnat began the Marist Brothers. Although only a quick visit, it proved a very spiritual one and they all left in awe of what Marcellin had been able to achieve all those years ago.

From Lyon, they then flew to Rome for a 3 day stay, visiting the Vatican and the many other sights that Rome offers. The rugby team played a local team and went on to record a strong victory whilst the football team, surprised the Roma academy team, defeating them 2-1 in an exciting contest.

All in all, it was a fabulous trip with so many memorable moments. The boys all returned with a greater appreciation of other cultures and the realisation that there is "no place like home".



# Love our new Learning Commons

Bunbury Catholic College has now joined schools throughout the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, who have transformed their school libraries into Learning Commons.

The Learning Commons on the Marist Campus, known as the Marcellin Champagnat Learning Commons was officially opened last December. It is light and bright, able to be adapted at any time for a range of needs, with furniture which is attractive, comfortable, flexible and mobile.

The Mercy Campus Learning Commons, known as the Ursula Frayne Learning Commons, also provides a welcoming learning space for formal and informal classes, groups and individuals, with resources, services and facilities; and as a venue for social and community interaction.

Students and staff share the education journey in a space which encompasses the 21st century culture of learning – where we can collaborate, communicate, inquire, question, reflect, inspire, create and imagine.

The “Commons” concept embraces emerging technologies, and continues to



*BCC Principal, Ms Denise O'Meara and Chair of the Board, Mr Peter Wheeler at the opening of the Marcellin Champagnat Learning Commons.*

promote literature to encourage a reading habit for literacy development and enjoyment.

Our students and staff love it!



*Marcellin Champagnat Learning Commons (photo courtesy of Acorn Photo)*

*Ursula Frayne Learning Commons (photo courtesy of Peter Hayes)*



ESTD **BOB STEWART** 1925

*Our family serving you since 1925*

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# SOCRATIC SEMINARS@MARIST

## Students enjoy a new building and a new way of learning

While the Year 9 students at Marist enjoy the advantages of a new open plan learning space, they are especially pleased with the challenging and innovative curriculum this kind of space lends itself to. From small group activities to whole Year level tutorials, students have had the opportunity to engage with a variety of texts on many different levels.

As students, our latest challenge has been to participate in Socratic Seminars, an activity that extends the concepts of Literature Circles and relies on the students' group discussion to create a deeper and fuller understanding of a text. The texts we have been analysing have been getting more challenging as they go on. For example, 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan was quite straight forward compared to 'Jasper Jones' by Craig Silvey. This process allows our ideas to become more in depth and sophisticated with each new week and we are surprised how quickly our ideas have developed!

Participating in Socratic Seminars has been both interesting and challenging. They have been interesting because we like hearing what other students have to say on the topic and the different

opinions offered. At times, we hear new ideas from students who may not contribute to a class discussion. The seminars have been challenging because we have had to understand the text in depth and talk about it for 10 minutes, sometimes 20 minutes, and it is hard to keep the conversation going. This means we have to take the time to think about the texts from different perspectives and always have new questions to pose to the group to open up the discussion.

After the students have discussed the texts in depth they are then required to write an analytical paragraph. By engaging in the Socratic Seminar first, we have found that the discussion improves our ideas in analysis and makes

the brainstorming process so much easier. We feel they are also helping us with important social skills that we can use in everyday life, such as keeping conversations going, improving listening skills and body language, gaining confidence in public speaking, finding new ideas and expressing your opinion through group conversations. These are skills that we can use in Literacy, in other subjects and in our personal life.

It is really exciting to be part of a new school, space and curriculum because we are finding new ways to challenge ourselves and deepen our understanding of education because we are in a new age of learning.

**Tess Williams and Georgia Simons**



# FOOTSTEPSI – MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN & LOVED

29 FEBRUARY – 2 MARCH SEPTEMBER 2016



**Participants:** Brad Nielsen, Jared Baca, John de Souza, Susanne Vincent, David Cuzens, James Lockwood, Phil Kamay, Jo Rule, Jo York, Paul Dionysius, RoseMarie Black, Ursula Witham-Young, Kate Ralph, Ellie Ferguson, Marcus Richardson, Jason Mischczyn, Lauren Hunt, Mel Bond, Gabriella Di Lorenzo, Lynn Ford, Jo Vanderzee, Susan Hadden, Rebecca Ratkovcic, Theresa Duke, Kathy Gottschalk, Gina Governatore, Donna Bowen, Mel Lidbury

**Brett Carroll, Kelly Ritchie, Sian Cameron, Sarah Nankivell, Jacqui Hudgson, Jarrod Schindler**

**Team:** Ryan Gato, Elizabeth Falconer, Br Michael Akers and Br Hubert Williams

13 – 16 MARCH 2016



**Participants:** Karyn Whyte, Luke Hamilton, Nikola Cvitkovic, Kelly Murray, Warwick Goodsell, Chris Capelin, Michael McKenna, Marcus Trimboli, Daniel Mitchell, James McLaughlin, Kim Scully

**Helen Petre, Dee Tyrrell, Tanya Haskell, Di Poulton, Danielle Lynch, Leah McBryde, Kylie Morrissey, Paul Howe, Shane Chapman, John Lichaa, Olivia Mulic, Velinda Morabito, Brenda Rountree, Erin McGurk**

**Rebecca Toogood, Sue Mckay, Pam Paton-Mills, Bec Bromhead, Cath White, Lisa Fogliani, Katie Helm, Kerstin Cole, Mary Foxall, Anna Novak, Lucy Martin, Mandy Greaves, Debby Sewell, Sue Caldwell**

**Team:** Paul Harris, Elizabeth Falconer, Ryan Gato and Br Hubert Williams

We all have a beautiful place in our mind. For many of our recent Footsteps' participants, Mittagong has certainly been a spot that has filled them with beauty and awe. In what is often described as the most glorious season of the year at The Hermitage, two groups gathered over the course of the term to deepen their knowledge and understanding of our Marist spirituality and mission. Amongst the large numbers were staff from various schools and ministries, who through personal reflection and group discussion, explored many aspects of their vocations. As this programme grounds itself on the Marist way of making Jesus Christ known and loved, it also promotes and encourages a sense of on-going community. In the warm breezes and rich colours of autumn, strong relationships were formed and a spirit of partnership blossomed.



## OUR DAILY BREAD – PRAYING AS MARISTS

ST TERESA'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE NOOSAVILLE, 21 JANUARY 2016



**Participants:** Amanda Murray-Salter, Br Paul Creevey, James Garrahy, Paul Baker, Marc Sauvage, Marcus Pojtek, Briony Currell

**Team:** Paul Harris

In January, staff at St Teresa's Catholic College Noosaville came together to participate in the 'Our Daily Bread – Praying as Marists' programme. This new style of formation invited school staff to facilitate workshops centered on a variety of different prayer experiences. Each of the staff involved brought their own expertise and insight to these sessions, offering a personal and communal aspect. The practice of contemplation, which is one of the foundations of the school's mission statement, was explored and welcomed throughout the day.

## THEOLOGY OF MERCY 16 MARCH 2016

The Year of Mercy has allowed many of us to reflect and have conversations about what Pope Francis is calling a 'conversion in our own lives', so that we may bring the merciful face of God to all. Drawing on this timely theme, the Theology of Mercy programme brings greater insight and theological underpinning to the papacy's central teaching. Br Neville Solomon, Regional Director of Marist Schools Australia, Brisbane, delivered and worked with the Leadership Team at Trinity College Beenleigh, who in light of the material presented, are looking at revising and reassessing their policies.

Br Neville continues to present this programme throughout the country, having already delivered it to our Marist schools in Innisfail, Mitchelton, Petrie and others in Northern Queensland.



# Students help feed Victorians doing it tough

Last week, Year 11 students from Catholic College Sale travelled to the FareShare kitchen in Abbotsford to chop, prepare and cook meals for Melburnians doing it tough.

As part of the FareShare Schools in the Kitchen program, CCS students cooked over 900 meals during their session in the kitchen, whilst they learnt valuable lessons about the reality of hunger in the community, as well as issues around food waste and rescue.

Catholic College Sale Food Technology Co-ordinator, Mrs Costin spoke about how rewarding the 'Schools in the Kitchen' session was for the students.

"It was a great experience and the kids really worked hard making all of those meals which were consumed the following night by families around Victoria" said Mrs Costin.

FareShare Education and Volunteer Co-ordinator Dianna Chapman said that she was really happy with what the students achieved. "We really appreciate the support of the College and were super



*Catholic College Sale Year 11 students in the FareShare kitchen*

impressed with the students and what they achieved while here," she said.

FareShare CEO, Marcus Godinho, says FareShare sees 100 schools come through the kitchen each year with each school making a tangible difference to food security issues in Melbourne.

"Our FareShare Schools in the Kitchen program is a valuable experience for kids, offering a unique opportunity for them to learn about the topics of food waste and hunger as they begin their own response to the issue through action."

"Through Schools in the Kitchen, FareShare aims to set a benchmark for e-learning whilst capturing useful lessons for young people on social justice engagement and volunteer programs." He said.

The FareShare Schools in the Kitchen sessions run on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings during the School term.

To find out more about the FareShare Schools in the Kitchen program or to get your school involved, visit <http://www.fareshare.net.au/schools-program/>.

## Plastic Fantastic!

Catholic College Sale Year 9 Textiles students are 'breaking the mould' by creating individual acrylic and plastic projects with a twist.

Students in these classes are currently making unique rings from old pool balls. The balls are sliced into three sections and the students use a drill press to cut a finger sized hole in the middle of one of these segments. They shape and smooth their ring until they end up with a unique and individually designed piece of jewellery.

"The students really love the plastics textiles class" said Ms Stephanie Ongarello, CCS Textiles teacher. "The projects come together really quickly



and the students are always keen to work with different mediums and try their hand at new projects" she said.

Among the other projects, the students have made bowls from old records, kitchen utensils, photo holders and jewellery.



*Year 9 student Ruby Richardson finishing her piece*

# CCS East Timor Immersion

Catholic College Sale East Timor group has returned home after a very rewarding, yet confronting immersion experience.

The group of six Year 11 students and three staff began with a short stay in Darwin being hosted by O'Loughlin College. Here they met Bishop Eugene Hurley after Sunday morning Mass and he gave some wonderful insight into the need of the East Timorese and of our local indigenous people.

in Australia in the 1970s. He has now moved back to Dili to help improve conditions for the people in his home country.

The CCS group of nine travelled to Baucau where they stayed at Canossa Hostel and were hosted by Br Tony and the Marist community. "We had a wonderful guide named Sebastiou Santos (Sebas) who assisted us throughout the tour" said Ms. Costin "He was a wonderful ambassador for his country."

While in Baucau the group visited the Marist Teachers College, the Canossa Convent and Oasis Centre for Education. When they went shopping they met the locals, washing in the public washing areas and at the beautiful Watebo beach. They participated in a traditional cooking class and made dinner at the Brothers' house with the groceries they had bought at the local market.

"The highlight of our trip was visiting Abafala primary school which is in the process of rebuilding using the funds we have raised over the past 3 years." Ms. Costin went on to explain "It was truly wonderful to see our money really making a difference to the lives of these people who have so very little." The community of Abafala came out to meet the group and they danced and sang all afternoon and night. They shared a number of delicious meals with the



school leaders and the parish priest who were all very grateful for the College's contributions. "We left Abafala secure in the knowledge that our efforts certainly do make a difference" said Ms. Costin.

The Immersion organisers gave thanks to Br. Tony Clark in Baucau who organised their fantastic itinerary and supported them throughout the trip and also to CCS teacher Br. Frank McIntosh who organises everything from this end. Without Br. Frank, this immersion would never happen.

Throughout the year, Year 7 students made hundreds of friendship bracelets and donated and packed many, many pencil cases for the students to take to East Timor. The students absolutely loved receiving these gifts and were very grateful for them.

Ms. Costin and the group invite people to come and talk to them if they have any queries about the trip. "It is one we will never forget."



On arrival in East Timor they spent a couple of days exploring the capital city, Dili. The group met the staff at the Caritas office who made an official presentation and gave them a traditional tais to take home. "We had a wonderful conversation with the staff who all learn to speak English in the hope to work in Australia someday" said CCS Immersion Team Leader Ms. Gabrielle Costin. Fernando, the director of Caritas, was one of the original 'boat people' arriving



# Reflection

BY LES BILLINGS, Deputy Principal - Catholic Identity

## College Mass WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS

I was approached by many staff after our College Mass describing it as a “tremendously uplifting experience” or “it is always the best day of the school year” and “a wonderful prayerful experience”.

One of the most humbling of comments came from a new staff member who wrote an email about how impressed she was with the event: ‘These whole College practices have so many special outcomes for all participants; a shared event, a spiritual event, subgroup belonging in house groups, taking the time and dedicating the resources to organise complex big picture opportunities. In my whole working career that spans more than 3 decades I have never had the privilege of participating in such an event that promotes belonging and values all individuals in the organisation.’ High praise indeed for the many people who make this event such a spiritual and prayerful occasion.

I did mention at the end of the Mass how all of our individual singers and the choir made everyone feel so special to be there and experience the power of God’s presence in each and every song. They had a special way of ‘praying’ each song so that we were all lifted up by their singing and felt the spirit moving.

For them, and our musical team led by Mr Ryan Black, it is not a performance but an offering to God; a moment to be filled with the Holy Spirit and sing, not for their own satisfaction but for the sake of the whole community.

So many people worked very hard to get this Mass to work, the music team I already

mentioned, but there were so many more. The Faith and Ministry Team, our College Captains, House Captains, Maintenance Staff, Office Staff, Heads of House, Pastoral Group Representatives, Altar Servers, Readers, Special Ministers, Message Stick and FIRE Carriers, Ushers, Fr Berny, Fr Joe, Fr Joven, Tracey, Kellie and Kate, the list goes on and on. A special mention to Mr Jason Giuliani for all of his efforts to get the sound working so beautifully in the stadium.

“

***...we all had the opportunity to walk through a replica of the Mercy Door at St Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican. Fr. Berny used his homily to explain this door and the abundant love and mercy of God and how it relates to our College Theme ‘We rise by lifting others’.***

”

Another special mention to Karen Norton and her hospitality students who worked hard to set up and serve at the luncheon. The table settings were magnificent and the rustic crosses made from sticks impressed everyone who attended. It is very easy to see that this is a celebration of our community, of who we are and what we represent, it brings us all together.



In this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy we all had the opportunity to walk through a replica of the Mercy Door at St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Fr. Berny used his homily to explain this door and the abundant love and mercy of God and how it relates to our College Theme 'We rise by lifting others'.

The College Mass was an uplifting and amazing experience because we were able to listen to the word of God and pray with the spirit of God; we learned of God's love and His mercy in a respectful and reverent manner. We do all this in a stadium that is dedicated to sporting pursuits, not a place of worship, but we work hard and make this place a special place to be, and our whole community is given an experience of praise and worship worthy of our God.

I would like to pray for a blessing on all those who helped deliver this Mass, and for all our community, that this celebration of the Eucharist and the moving of the spirit represent all that we will do together throughout the rest of the year.

God bless.



# MARIST COLLEGE EMERALD

## Fiji Immersion

Marist College continues to take a small group of students to Suva, Fiji for 10 days each year for an immersion experience. A social justice immersion is not about doing things for someone less privileged than us, nor is it about giving or helping. It is simply being with, gaining an understanding, appreciating what we have and the honour to be able to walk alongside another culture, another way. Students and staff spend time alongside Fijian families who also are working in or attending Marist schools in Fiji, whilst being based in a community of Marist Brothers.

Most people hear 'Fiji' and imagine hammocks and palm trees, beaches and sunshine. Yet, we recall the smell of burning fires, the incessant rain, the busy-ness of a suburban city. We end up telling what we ate, where we slept and other superficial facts, but it is not these details that make this journey so important. It is the people, the welcome, the experiences that no camera, no words and no brochure can do justice.

The logistics of the ten days do include multiple overnight stays and journeys to student's homes, some of which were in squatter's camps, or a two hour bus ride into the country side. The participants eat new parts of plants, unfamiliar vegetables and try the national tradition of kava drinking. The shock of a different



culture, language, environment and the overwhelming welcome from complete strangers, only united through the Marist Brothers work in schools across the world.

We spend time across three Marist schools, a significant portion of time at the Champagnat Institute, a unique school in Fiji, where high school age students who are disabled, intellectually impaired or have fallen 'behind' like aged students. Here they are provided with services, training and life skills to suit their needs. They are exempt from national tests, like

NAPLAN, and graduate with their profit from the community service gardens the students tend daily.

The Fiji Immersion will continue to be a part of the array of social justice opportunities for Marist students in the Central Highlands. Its effect is long lasting and extends into the local communities when our graduates seek justice within their friendships, families, churches and workplaces.

**Margaret Bailey,**  
**Coordinating Teacher**



Lavalla



## ST GREGORY'S COLLEGE, CAMPBELLTOWN

# Exciting News – A New Primary Department

St Gregory's College recently announced a new Primary Department to cater for the education of young children from K to 6. With the recently developed Gregory Hills precinct and surrounding quickly growing suburbs, to meet the increasing demand for Catholic education has been the subject of close consultation with Bishop Peter and Mr Peter Turner from the Wollongong Diocese over the past few years. Brother Michael Green, National Director of Marist Schools Australia, recently announced that St Gregory's College will have a Primary Department opened on the College site in 2018. The new facility will provide Catholic education for boys and girls from Kindergarten to Year 6. The Primary Department will be an integral part of the College and work in close liaison with the Parish of Saint

Mary MacKillop, Oran Park and other surrounding parishes.

In 2018 it is expected the Primary Department will commence with two streams and will be located on the College site to the north of the rugby league fields.

A Steering Committee will be established in order to commence work on the planning and preparation for the new Department. A new Head of Primary will be appointed in 2017. The timelines will be on the College website and regularly updated.

Since commencing as Headmaster of St Gregory's College, people have frequently raised the possibility of the



establishment of a Primary Department. I know that this announcement will be met with great excitement especially for the people from the Gregory Hills side of the Macarthur Region as the western access road into the College will be in operation by 2017.

**Damien Millar, Headmaster**

## ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL DACEYVILLE

# Inauguration Ceremony of the First Mini Marists 2015



On the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, thirty students from Years 3–6 were inducted into the first Mini Marists Team. During the ceremony the students recited a pledge to:

- wear their Mini Marist badge proudly

- pray regularly together
- learn about the needy in the world
- organise activities to support the needy
- report to the school community

Our resident Marist Brother, Paul Bailey, presented each member with the badge and a pair of rosary beads which would be used in the regular prayer service of the Team.

Early in the year the principal, Mrs Allana Vedder, invited all students to consider joining the Team.

She reminded them that we are all called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and his Mother, Mary and that as students in a

Marist school, we have the privilege and challenge to work for a fair and just world.

After completing an Expression of Interest form, the students were then required to seek parental support and approval for their commitment. Once these processes were complete, the final Team was identified as the founding members for the next twelve months.

The first activity organised by the Mini Marists was A SOCKTOBER FUND-RAISER. For a gold coin donation students were encouraged to wear 'crazy socks' for a day. All proceeds will be directed to Marist Missions.

We congratulate the students for their commitment and service to the less fortunate in our world.

May Mary, our good Mother, bless and guide the students in their endeavours.

# The Rite Journey

In 2014, Sacred Heart College Middle School introduced to their Year 9 students the Program developed by Andrew Lines entitled, The Rite Journey - a program which has successfully been introduced into schools in Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Europe and The United Kingdom. Andrew writes, "The Rite Journey is a unique educational programme designed to support the development of self-aware, vital, responsible and resilient adults. Given the current lack of Rites of Passage in the Western World, young people are left to invent their own, which are often unhealthy and unsafe. The Rite Journey reinvents the traditional process of a Rite of Passage to assist in transforming the adolescent from dependency to responsibility."

As an all boys school which caters for students in Year 6 - 9 it was a program that we believed would really support the social, emotional and spiritual development of our Year 9 boys. Essentially we want to be proactive in working with parents and carers in promoting what a good young man looks like being fully aware that some of the influences around teenagers may not always be positive. The program is delivered using the "5 C's"

**CONSCIOUSNESS** The importance of raising a young person's awareness of the issues that they might currently be facing as well as the skills and understanding that are required to navigate their way through beginning adulthood.

**CONNECTION** Acknowledging the importance of relationship over role. Encouraging a number of threads of connection (with self, teachers, parents/caregivers, mentor, Spirit and the world). Providing the all important ingredient of time to allow these connections to build and strengthen.



Students begin to prepare for their first effort in dragon boat racing. The boating aspect is symbolic of the students "leaving the shore" or leaving their "boyhood" and associated habits Behind. This part of the program is called the Departure.

**COMMUNICATION** Understanding self-talk; communication and listening with others appropriately; prayer; hearing stories of adults' experiences; having students share their stories and experiences.

**CELEBRATION** Acknowledging the transition into beginning adulthood; teachers and parents providing ceremony and celebration for the students as they are the 'elders' in our society.

**CHALLENGE** Providing physical, social, emotional and spiritual challenges as learning experiences and as a rite of passage. (Taken from [www.theritejourney.com](http://www.theritejourney.com))

Each of these areas is explored within term length topics: Relationship with self; Relationship with others; Relationship with Spirit; Relationship with the world. Across the year we cover the following topics:

Who am I really?	How do I get along with others?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My story</li> <li>• Mothers and Fathers</li> <li>• Great Men and Women</li> <li>• Body Image</li> <li>• Gender stereotypes</li> <li>• Boys to men (masculinity)</li> <li>• Girls to women (femininity)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening</li> <li>• Anger</li> <li>• Bullying</li> <li>• Honesty, apologising and forgiveness</li> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Sexuality</li> <li>• Pornography</li> </ul>
Is there something more?	What is my purpose?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PornographySpirituality</li> <li>• PornographyDealing with hardship</li> <li>• Pornography Empathy and vulnerability</li> <li>• PornographyMindfulness</li> <li>• PornographyConnection with our Catholic Identity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PornographyRisk taking</li> <li>• What is failure?</li> <li>• What do I have to give?</li> <li>• Gratitude (Year 9 Graduation letter)</li> <li>• Responding to negativity</li> <li>• Seeking your purpose</li> <li>• What motivates you?</li> </ul>



*The race is on! The (ultra-competitive) students race each other in their homerooms. The head of the boat beats a drum that the students match in their stroke - the smoother this happens, the faster the boat moves. Working together (in relationship) is the take away message.*

Any important part of the program are the series of challenges and ceremonies we present to the boys. Essentially it begins with a Calling ceremony where we seek the blessing of parents to work with their sons. Then we have the Departure - typically the boys learn to race in Dragon Boats and complete a High Ropes Challenge. In many the Program culminates with a four day camping trip to the Flinders Ranges – here the boys complete a “solo” experience (essentially an afternoon with no communication) where they reflect on who they are and what sort of characteristics they want to be defined by. The challenges continue throughout the year. The program concludes with the “Homecoming” where we are again joined by the parents for a meal where we celebrate and

*Students from the 2015 Camp to the Flinders - preparing the evening meal around the campfire. Much of the program is centred around “conversations” - the campfire provides a wonderful stimulus for this. Where possible we connect the Rite Journey with our Catholic Identity and Marist Charism.*

acknowledge the journey the boys have experienced. Symbolically the boys leave our campus and move to the Senior School Campus at Brighton for Year 10.

*The Love of Hardwork and Presence* are two essential ingredients that bring us to a greater understanding of who we are, our responsibilities in life and what we are called to do and be.

**Tim Mullin, Head of Sacred Heart College Middle School**



*The Calling is a ceremony held early in the term. We invite parents into the school to share a breakfast with their sons. This ceremony is symbolic of the parents giving us their blessing to work with their son as part of the Rite Journey. It acknowledges the important role that parents and carers have in raising boys. Father (Craig Beecroft) and son (Luke Beecroft) enjoying the breakfast at this year’s Calling.*

The  
**Jubilee Mass**  
 of St Marcellin Champagnat  
 1817 - 2017



A Mass to celebrate the  
 Bi-Centenary of the Marist Brothers  
 1817 - 2017

**Listen online at [www.maristmusic.org.au](http://www.maristmusic.org.au)**

Br Michael Herry fms

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education

2015 was a huge year in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education at Sacred Heart. It began in 2014 with the election of Sacred Heart's first ever Indigenous School Captain, Dre Ngatokorua. Dre led the College in 2015 with integrity and humility. He was an active and enthusiastic participant in all aspects of college life, with some particularly memorable contributions to assemblies and the Kilmore exchange.

Our first major outing for the year was to a breakfast at the Convention Centre on the 13th February to mark the Anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generation. I accompanied the six Year 12 students to the event, which featured cultural performances and a keynote address by former AFL player and Recognise Ambassador, Michael O'Loughlin. The students thoroughly enjoyed the morning and the opportunities it provided to represent Sacred Heart, catch up with friends and family and meet a number of role models, including Michael O'Loughlin himself and Gavin Wanganeen. The solemnity of the

occasion was, however, at the forefront, as students heard stories from members of the Stolen Generation of their experience. Recognition was also awarded to descendants of the Stolen Generation who still endure the impacts of the inhumane decision to remove children from their families and communities. This was a very moving moment for our Sacred Heart students and for myself, as each of these students is descended from people who were directly impacted by these policies.

Leona Fatt-Clifton was lucky enough to be selected as one of two students to represent South Australia at the Work Experience in Government program (WEX), a week long residential program held in Canberra. WEX aims to provide high performing Indigenous students in Years 11 and 12 with hands-on experience and information about job opportunities and career pathways in the Australian Public Service. During the program, students undertake placements within the offices of Parliamentarians or an Australian Government department, agency or

public sector organisation, as well as participating in cultural activities, including visits to the Australian War Memorial, Questacon, the Canberra Police Academy and the Australian Defence Force Academy. Leona was also the recipient of the Academic Award for Stage 2 Aboriginal Studies.

In May, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Years 8-12 set off each day for a week to the Yellakka Yellarkarri Leadership program run by the ATSI team at Catholic Education SA. The aim of this program is to develop the leadership skills of secondary students, build self-esteem, to emphasise the importance of doing well in their studies, and to broaden their knowledge about the opportunities available for tertiary study, training and employment at the end of their secondary schooling. In addition, it provided a great opportunity for the students to bond as a group, for informal mentoring to occur, to catch up with friends and family at other schools and for students to build a broader network of relationships with other students in the Catholic Education system. Most





sessions were held at Tauondi College at Port Adelaide, but the students also visited the University of South Australia, Mawson Lakes campus, and significant Kuarna sites around Adelaide and the River Torrens. Through the program, students worked with significant members of the Kuarna community. It was great to see the students confidence bloom over the course of the week and many students who may not previously have thought of themselves as leaders stepped into this role during the course of the week.

Our year 12 students this year were the inaugural members of the first graduating class of Stage 2 Aboriginal Studies at Sacred Heart. A significant achievement for this group was the lasting legacy they left at Sacred Heart College in the form of a Reconciliation AFL match. This year, the students selected Westminster as their opposition and both schools fielded combined teams of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal players who came together to play in the spirit of Reconciliation. The students planned, organised and implemented the game as part of their Stage 2 studies with the hope of raising awareness of the need for Reconciliation and to help build bridges between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community. There was resounding interest in being part of this momentous event, with many more students showing an interest in getting involved than were ultimately able to play. Jaleel Stuart designed the uniform, incorporating Sacred Heart and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, and all players wore their guernsey with pride. A small but passionate group of supporters came

out on the day to watch and both teams showed the spirit in which the game was meant to be played. The students hope that this event will become an annual part of the Sacred Heart sporting calendar and 2016 students have already begun asking about the game. When reflecting on the successes and what could have been improved about the day, Liam Stuart lamented that the only problem with the day that he could see was that the venue had not been the Adelaide Oval! The group went on to agree that this should be the aim for the future.

I feel very privileged to have worked with all of these students over the course

of 2015. I feel sad to see our six year 12 students move on but am excited and hopeful for what the future holds for them. I know that they will maintain their connection to Sacred Heart and a number of parents will continue to work with us on our Indigenous program into the future. 2016 will see our current students step up into leadership roles and a number of new faces. I'm looking forward to continuing the journey with these students and sharing their achievements with them.

**Robyn Sutherland**  
**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander**  
**Education Focus Teacher**

  
**SAVE *the* DATE**  
**Friday 24 June 2016**  
*for the*  
**Annual Berne Luncheon**  
 To be held at Dottene House, Hyde Park, Elizabeth Street  
 Enquiries: Ange Flannery  
 p. 9560 9260  
 e. [events@jahberneschool.org](mailto:events@jahberneschool.org)  
 We'd love you to join us at our major fundraising event for 2016. Please put this date in your diaries now.

# Immersion Program

In 2004 Marist College North Shore joined a small number of Catholic schools that had responded to the call to place the most vulnerable communities of the world at the heart of our "call to serve". In that year five staff and seven students travelled on our first immersion. Since then more than 25 staff and 175 students have engaged in the Immersion program.

An immersion experience is when a person is exposed to a situation where their normal pattern of their existence is challenged by a new set of circumstances. There are many models of immersion. At the heart of the Marist North Shore model is the challenge to walk in the footsteps of Saint Marcellin Champagnat – his love of the poor youth of rural France is our model and challenge when identifying ourselves as "Marist".

This challenge, "to be with the poor", is an identifying feature of the Marist mission that we focus upon at a whole school level. The Solidarity program at the College initiates the path for Immersion. The College community actively engages through advocacy and action with current social issues, specifically through MAPS, Project Compassion and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Through Years 9 to 12, there are voluntary opportunities

through a range of fortnightly activities including St Vincent de Paul's Sydney Night Patrol and Matthew Talbot Hostel, as well as the Salvation Army's Street Level cafe and various Social Justice forums and events.

In June this year our Year 11 students will again have the opportunity to be involved in three immersions: India – the Chetana Boys' Hostel in Talit; Cambodia – the LaValla School in Takhmao; and, the Northern Territory – the Indigenous community at Wadeye. We offer these three Immersion experiences in order to provide the opportunity for the students to see a new perspective on the world and the way other people live their lives. The purpose is to learn from the people we meet and to stand in solidarity with them – essentially, to develop a sensitivity and empathy to the difficulties of their circumstances.

The four Marist Brothers at the Chetana Tribal Boys' Hostel who host the Immersion project in India were inspired by Br Sean Sammon FMS (previous Superior General of the Marist Brothers) who wrote "I believe firmly that this call for a new mission ad gentes project in Asia is from the Spirit. I pray too that a century from now when historians look back and write a history of this period in our

*institute, they will be able to say we undertook the challenge with courage, daring, and hope, and throughout Asia at that moment in time there will be an abundance of evidence of our presence and works".* Brother Alexander Arockiasamy (India), Brother Jose Maria Sierra (Spain) and Brother Bartholomew Malangmei (India) and Brother Pepito (Philippines) work at the Chetana Tribal Boys Hostel in the village of Talit (West Bengal) to provide the Santali children a home where their spiritual, educational and nutritional/health needs can be met. The Santali are the poorest of the poor in India as they are an indigenous tribal group. The students also work in the Chetana Clinic with children with HIV, at St Frances' De Sales at Galsi and in Kolkata with the St Teresa's Missionaries of Charity Hospitals. Since 2011, students from Marist College North Shore have journeyed to Kolkata and Talit. The Immersion experience has touched the lives of many and has connected our College community with the Marist family in India.

The Marist Brothers have been in Cambodia since 1995. A period of



*Brother Alex Arockiasamy (Chetana Tribal Boy's Hostel)*



discernment had identified a lack of opportunity for disabled youth in Cambodia. The LaValla school was started in 1999 by Br Terry Heinrich. The vision was for a school to be developed that catered for the educational, cultural, social and medical needs of disabled youth. The criteria to attend LaValla is that the young person must be disabled and the "poorest of the poor". They are aged from eleven through to nineteen or twenty. Ninety per cent of the students come from the provinces and therefore live on site. All teachers at the school are disabled, which obviously serves as a great role model to the students of what a disabled person can achieve. LaValla is still the only government approved school for disabled children in Cambodia. It runs an accelerated primary school program whereby students complete two school years in a calendar year. Today, LaValla forms part of Marist Solidarity Cambodia (MSC). Br Terry continues his leadership and involvement to this day. For the last three years Br Tony Burrows has also been part of the LaValla community. We have been very



fortunate to develop such a strong relationship with Marist Solidarity Cambodia and the LaValla school.

Wadeye is a Aboriginal community situated on the Western edge of the Daly River Reserve in the Northern Territory (6 hour drive south west of Darwin). The community consists of approximately 15 clan groups across 7 languages groups. Murrinh Patha is the main language spoken in Wadeye. Wadeye is Australia's largest Aboriginal town, consisting of 2,000 Aboriginal citizens and 200 non indigenous citizens. Despite the size, Wadeye has poor educational and health outcomes. The Marist College North Shore students work closely with the local council, park rangers, and youth

workers, as well as the Parish Centre and Women's Centre. The students undertake a variety of roles spanning from manual labour to running the Sport and Recreation Holiday program. The group also spend time visiting local communities, immersing themselves in traditional indigenous culture.

We are very proud that in the last decade eleven Marist College North Shore ex-students have worked in Vietnam, Cambodia, Bougainville and the FMSI office in Geneva in post school "gap year" Immersion experiences through their exposure to the College's Immersion program. It is hoped that the students involved in the Immersion program become lifelong global citizens and continue to connect with their faith through their actions and prayer.

The enduring characteristics of Champagnat's charism (presence, simplicity, family spirit, love of work and in the way of Mary) find their place very comfortably in the Marist North Shore immersion experiences.

**Carolyn O'Brien**

## MARIST COLLEGE KOGARAH

# Celebrating HSC Success

On Friday, 12 February Marist College Kogarah held a High Achievers' Assembly to celebrate those students who obtained outstanding results in the 2015 Higher School Certificate.

With over ninety percent of subjects scoring above the state average, Marist College Kogarah was the highest ranked Systemic Catholic boys' school in the Sydney Archdiocese. Over the past four years the College has been ranked first on three occasions.

The guest of honour, Mr Chris Minns, State Member for Kogarah and a former student of the College, presented awards and addressed the College Assembly. Mr



PHOTO: KITTY BEALE

*Photo: Mr Chris Minns, Member for Kogarah and Mr John Riordan with the award recipients.*

Minns remembered fondly his time at the College. He recounted how the values instilled during that time had prepared students to be solid citizens and make a significant contribution to society.

Mr John Riordan, the College Principal said

"the College strives consistently to create an engaging learning environment which promotes student achievement. The range of subjects represented at today's assembly is indicative of the success of this approach across the breadth of our wide curriculum".

# John Therry Catholic High School

## Being Marist- Year 7 Immersion

Each year, our Year 7 students are immersed in the experience of Being Marist. During a reflection day and camp, Year 7 are taught about Marist values. We are fortunate to have Br. Robert Spears on staff, who shares his stories about being Marist, and explains about the life of a Marist brother. Brother Robert shows the students the robes worn by Brothers over the past years. All the students are taught the Sub Tuum, and a stirring rendition is sung on one night of the Year 7 camp.

This immersion experience creates a sense of belonging to the Marist family and begins their Marist education journey.

## Marist Connect

On Friday the 4th of March, a select number of students from John Therry Catholic High School attended a Marist Connect event at Mount Carmel Catholic College Varroville. Students engaged in celebrating and exploring the year of Mercy with other Marist schools in the Macarthur area. The event highlighted the values of family spirit and sense of community, as students openly connected with values of Mercy, Humility and acceptance in their own life and in the lives of those dearest to themselves.



was easy to care for as she cared so much for others. I feel I have lost one of my own children and I know you all feel this tremendous loss and confusion as well. Thank you for all giving so much of yourselves to each other today. I am so proud and feel privileged to be principal of this amazing school community. I know you will continue to pray and

care for one another in the days and weeks ahead.

### Karen Young

What an awful tragedy!

I so much want to be with the JT staff as we mourn the loss of Mel.

I weep for a life cut short,  
I weep for family and relatives,  
I weep for friendships wrenched apart,  
I weep for all affected by this loss.

This evening (Tuesday), I was asked to read at Mass. Some verses from the responsorial psalm was apt. In the midst of tragedy our strength is in God.

\* \* \*

## Condolences for Melissa Bond

We had an outpouring of grief with the passing of our dear friend and colleague Melissa Bond.

Here is a selection of these condolences:

Today was the hardest day I have ever had as a principal. When a young teacher begins their career you always care for them. They trust you and you never take for granted that trust. Now again you meet an exceptional human being who is a born teacher. Full of love for children and a love of learning. A person who accepts every challenge and excels. A person full of life and a person who an amazing capacity to engage young people. Mel Bond was such a person who had the whole world in front of her. She



On behalf of the Lipovic family, we would like to express our deepest sadness over the news of Miss Bond.

My son Joshua was very upset this morning, as was the rest of our family.

There are no words that can comfort the family of Miss Bond. We had a similar tragedy with my brother in law many years ago. Knowing there were others that cared about what we were experiencing certainly helped us.

Please pass on our thoughts and prayers to the family.

May she rest in peace.

With kindest regards

**Beth Lipovic and family x**

### Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

## A prayer for Miss Bond from a Year 9 student

Our heavenly father,  
I hope you care for her the same way  
that she cared for us.  
I hope the sadness will go away and  
leave me with happiness. I hope that I  
can share that happiness with others the  
way she did.  
I pray she is resting in your eternal  
kingdom, Heaven.  
In the name of the Father, the Son and  
the Holy Spirit. Amen

## Emmaus Walk

“what are you discussing with each other  
while you walk along...”

Luke 24:17

In the last week of Term 4 2015 the staff started the construction of our Emmaus Walk during our Staff Spirituality Day. This area will eventually incorporate an Aboriginal reconciliation garden, a labyrinth, prayer spaces, native landscaping and walking paths.

Inspired by images of a trip to Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre in Ormiston Queensland, the staff were quick to



work on planting gardens, measuring the labyrinth space, designing the pathways, propagating seeds, planting shrubs and planning for future developments in the space during 2016.

In week 9 2016 we saw the concrete poured for the space. Staff and student could see the new possibilities of this place of the school and how this could help them with their own spiritual journeys. We hope that the area can be a place of dialogue, sharing and learning and at other times a place for stillness, solitude and silence amidst the awe and wonder of God.

## The Brother Clarence Library

Over the last few years the Brother Clarence Library at John Therry Catholic High School Rosemeadow has undergone a major transformation. We began with a four year plan in 2012. The first year we encouraged social interaction, so activities that involved the integration of students of different year groups were the focus. This



involved initiating groups such as the chess club, debating and public speaking clubs and informal activities such as board and card games.

In 2013 and 2014 we recreated the physical space of the library, by moving the large shelving to small discreet shelving around the perimeter. Our large floor-to-ceiling windows created a sense of spaciousness and connected us to our outside environment. Inspirational posters and backdrops from our school musical became a permanent part of our display, along with a digital display that informs the students and staff of school events and creates a sense of community through such slides as birthday wishes to students each week. Inspired by an article in Lavalla magazine about the library at St Francis de Sales Regional College Leeton, we purchased similar bright, circular lounges which have been effective in making the library a welcoming environment for social activities and classes. This, along with initiatives such as after school tutorials and reading lessons, has supported our focus for 2015 and 2016 which is improving the academic standards within the school. We hope to continue and build on the successes we have achieved in the last four years.

## JOHN BERNE SCHOOL, LEWISHAM

# His Eminence Cardinal João Braz de Aviz's visit to The John Berne School

On Friday 27th November 2015, His Eminence Cardinal João Braz de Aviz visited The John Berne School. The Cardinal, originally from Brazil, is the current Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. His position at the Vatican provides oversight of all the works of the Church especially in relation to missions of Religious Orders such as the Marist Brothers.

The John Berne School was specifically chosen by the Cardinal, who was eager to see for his own eyes an example of the Church's work and mission with the marginalised here in Sydney. We were advised that, upon his return to Rome, The Cardinal would be reporting directly to Pope Francis about his visit to Berne. In his own words, the visit to Berne was "the highlight of my visit to Sydney".

The Hon. Kristina Keneally, Ambassador to Berne, joined us for this auspicious occasion, acting as Chair of the Q & A panel, comprising three members of



*Interpreter, Grant Lee Teacher at Berne, Cardinal Joao , Jake Sefer, Joe Lombardo, Wade Davis, Kianu Kahaki*

Berne staff and ex-student, Ms Krystyna Aggatt.

Assisted by an interpreter, The Cardinal listened carefully to the discussion, interjecting with questions and comments frequently throughout. His

intricate understanding of the Marist world and Charism was impressive. His passion for the marginalised and those who find life difficult was evident. The Cardinal spoke at length about poverty; not just in the material sense but also in terms of spiritual poverty.



*Interpreter, Cardinal Joao, Grant Lee Teacher at Berne, Jake Sefer, Joe Lombardo*



*Douglas McLaren, Simon Mercer, Cardinal Joao*

Teachers and students alike put a great deal of energy and enthusiasm into preparations for this very unique visit. The Cardinal spent time greeting and chatting with the students individually as well as visiting the various classrooms in order to extend his personal experience of life here at Berne.

The Cardinal's visit had a very informal, relaxed and happy tone. His approachable, warm and genuine nature put us all at ease immediately. When asked to shake hands with one of the students, he reached forth, hugged the boy, claiming, "We should all hug more".

The Cardinal possessed a genuine aura and a sense of real, complete presence in his kind, gentle, caring and loving manner. He seemed such a humane and humble person. So passionate and so committed and yet happy to share with us a normal, authentic, down to earth and kind persona. As one of our students was heard to say, "I don't believe in God but I experienced a really spiritual man".



*Br Mark Paul, Principal of The John Berne School, Peter Barbarigos, The Hon Kristina Keneally, Ambassador of Berne, Tinei Toi Tuala, Jake Sefer, Jordan Papallo, Cardinal Joao, Joe Lombardo, Fr John Pearce, James Le Huray Assistant Principal of Berne (in background: Claire Pate, Sharon Alafaci)*

The staff and students of Berne were indeed blessed by The Cardinal's visit. An incredibly uplifting and overwhelming experience for us all. What an honour to experience so much humility, gentility,

care and love emanating from such a senior Church official. Thank you very much to Fr John Pearce, our Berne Chaplain for making this visit possible.

## ST JOSEPH'S HUNTERS HILL – JOEY'S MUMS, 2016 RETREAT

# "A journey of faith with Jesus, Mary and Marcellin!"

For 4 years now a group of mothers with sons at St Joseph's College Hunters Hill, have gathered at The Hermitage Mittagong in early Autumn, for 2 days of reflection and community.

Originally suggested, imagined, and encouraged by one of the Mums – Maggs Thomsett - these gatherings are facilitated by Brother Robert O'Connor MLF Team member and Spiritual Director/Consultant, and to all accounts are a special event for the Mums. Attracting around 30 Mums on each occasion attests to their attraction to the event.

Generated originally as a way to "learn more about Marcellin and Mary, who we know are so central to our boys being Marists", the retreats have morphed into a more reflective consideration of the place of Jesus in the faith journeys of these Mums.

This year, recognising that only a small number of the group had attended earlier



Retreats, and that many of the group were Year 7 Mums in their first year of connection at the College, we spent some time recapping the stories of Marcellin and Mary in their relationships with Jesus and their personal faith journeys.

On Day 2 time was spent on: "Befriending my own inner silence" and Coming to know Jesus more deeply: "Who do you say I am?"

One of the Mums on our first night

conducted a sensitive reflection on the child refugee crisis and our response to it.

Mass was celebrated on the second evening by Father Martin Maunsell PP of Eastwood and Old Boy of the College who kindly travelled to Mittagong and joined us for dinner after Mass.

Meals and free time allowed for much interaction and sharing by the Mums themselves. Another Retreat event has been booked for 2017!

## Red Bend Catholic College Welcomes two new Pastoral Care Houses

The introduction of the two new Houses in late 2014 to Red Bend Catholic College was welcomed wholeheartedly by the community. A year later, it feels like we have always had six houses. We feel extremely proud of our school community who have embraced the change in order to better cater for our students' pastoral needs as a result of school growth.

The smooth transition into six houses from four has been due to the work of many. The New Houses Task Force, formed in early 2014, did an outstanding job consulting, planning and implementing decisions such as colours, crests, patron saints, students, surveys and House names. A memorable moment was seeing the reaction of students at assembly in Term Three when our Principal, Br Michael, announced the new House colours were Pink and Grey!

The new Houses have blended in seamlessly as the actual colours, orange and purple, complemented each other with originality and brightness.

Throughout the year, both Houses had success in many aspects of House culture. Chisholm and McAuley Houses had an unmistakable presence in the athletics and swimming carnivals along with Mission week events, masses and assemblies!

One important aspect of our House system is the way we support organisations which have a positive influence on society. Each House chooses one organisation to support through a fundraiser and/or awareness raising. With the introduction of the two new Houses came two new organisations to support. As our College was founded by the Mercy Sisters and Marist Brothers, McAuley and Chisholm House chose to support Mercy Care (MC) and Marist Youth Care (MYC), respectively. In particular, our Houses chose to support the youth homeless arm of these organisations. All students at the College became aware of youth homelessness through a PC activity. Awareness raising also occurred through a Homeless Sleepover Challenge for those students in year 8 and 12. Huge

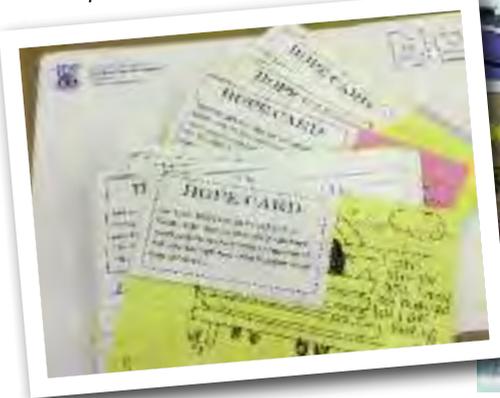
thanks must go to our House Captains for helping with its organisation. Below is a report from our current girl captains for Chisholm and McAuley Houses, Emily Walker and Paige Hay.

The Homeless Sleepover was held on Friday the 20th of November. The Sleepover was attended by many year 8 students and year 12 students from both Chisholm and McAuley and supervised by Mrs McDean and Mr Pearce.

The Sleepover Challenge, held in the Multipurpose Hall, was undertaken to create awareness about what it was like to be homeless. It was challenging as students were asked to go without food or electronic devices for about 12 hours. They were asked to come with only a sleeping bag, pillow and a bottle of water.

We started the night with an introductory liturgy run by the liturgy captains, Kate Green and Caitlin Duncan using cardboard prompts instead of a computerised slideshow. We had a quiet reflection by writing prayers which

Hope cards



RBCC's Soup Kitchen



McAuley House at the Swimming Carnival

would be sent to many young people who are suffering homelessness within parts of Sydney. Mr Pearce talked to us about youth homelessness. Here is a part of what he said.

"Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." How true! My hope is that you will go out and serve. If you try something and don't find it rewarding, try something else. But use every service experience to learn or affirm something. I was not expecting my world to change, but it did. And so can yours."

By that time, hunger set in and, to our surprise, a soup kitchen arrived from which we could take the feelings of homelessness to an even more personal depth. The power of a soup kitchen highlighted how it wasn't the soup which filled our spirits. It was the people who came to help us. MYC and MC are those who provide such assistance to those in need.

Lights out was at 10:00 PM and this was the real test which was sleeping on gym mats, and some willing students took the difficult task of sleeping on the floor with nothing at all!

Most of us could say that we all had a very restless sleep, and felt very tired and drained the next day, but overall everyone appreciated the tough experience. Homelessness is a situation many could never imagine, but students and staff had a sense of realisation of how hard it is and became more open-minded from this experience. We would like to thank Mrs McDean and Mr Pearce for running the event and to all the students who weren't afraid to get involved and come to the event.

**Matthew Pearce (House Coordinator)**



*Year 8 students at the youth homeless night*

## MARIST COLLEGE ASHGROVE

# Celebrating the new pool complex at Marist College Ashgrove



supports swimming, water polo, water fitness, triathlon, lifesaving competition and training plus other activities. There is also a disability ramp.

The Marist College Ashgrove (MCA) celebrated the official blessing and opening of their new swimming pool complex on 3 February 2016. The pool was officially blessed by Fr Jim Hargrave SM and officially opened by Br Roger Burke FMS (MCA Old Boy 1953). Headmaster Mr Peter McLoughlin thanked everyone involved with the development of the pool, College Captain Harry Willmington (Y12S)

was MC and Kristian Schuh (Y12H) gave the Acknowledgement to Country. The opening was well attended by members of the Marist family as well as Minister for Education Hon Kate Jones and Brisbane City Council Cr Steven Toomey.

This heated, 10-lane, Olympic-size pool with night lighting has greatly increased year-round swimming training for all College students. This state-of-the-art water sports facility

Headmaster Peter McLoughlin says, "It is wonderful to see our boys have a first class swimming venue. I am grateful to all who contributed to the creation of the new pool."

The new pool further strengthens our highly successful AIC swimming squad, who have won eight of the past 10 AIC Championships, including the 2015 championship, and aims to provide opportunities for those wishing to go on to State and National championships. In addition, the new facility allows the College to expand our offering to develop the MCA Swim Club. The Swim Club encourages active involvement from MCA students, as well as boys and girls of all ages from other schools. An adult swimming program has also commenced. This provides opportunities for parents and other members of the community to train at this outstanding facility.

# The Quest program

The Quest program provided a truly unique opportunity for students to experience a country-based, experiential learning program with an emphasis on vocational trade skills and the rite of passage into manhood. The students also learned about examples of current agricultural farming practices being used today.

The program allowed students to be involved in projects where they undertake 'real-life tasks' and authenticates what teachers and students are doing in the classroom.

The students were supervised by enthusiastic staff who worked with the students to complete small projects such as, replacing and re-building fences, landscaping and planting vegetables, drenching sheep, feeding cattle, cooking meals with fresh farm produce and experienced a live cattle sale yard auction.

The students had time for self-reflection, exam study enrichment and workplace journal writing. The rite of passage into manhood looked at issues of social justice and social responsibility as a responsible and resilient young man, the ability to form healthy relationships and be positive about the future making the best possible contribution to the world. All students wrote their motto for manhood onto a mini cricket bat as a symbolic gesture of their commitment to be good men.

The camp concluded with an outdoor liturgy where students placed their mini cricket bats at the foot of the statue of Jesus Christ to demonstrate faith in action as young men.

My sincere gratitude to Br Anthony and Br Ian from the Hermitage Farm



Mittagong who provided the opportunity for the students to get involved in many of the projects and to our staff who worked extremely hard to make the experience not only memorable, but an opportunity to learn and enhance vocational skills. Justine Jaeger, Greg Angelou, Francois Simons, Niamh Whyte, Debra Featherstone-Little, Daniel Chee and Bruce Hibbard.

I would also like to thank Mr David Mc Innes who allowed the Quest program to run and spent time with the students while they worked.

**Dominic Ritchie**  
Leader of Trade Training



# Marist Youth Ministry Sydney

The first Exchange night for the year was launched on 6th March at the Marist Brothers Eastwood Residence. Young adults, from the ages of 18 years to 25, met first for a dinner hosted by the Brothers. A beautiful meal was prepared for us by Br Michael Akers, ably assisted by the Community Leader, Br Matthew Clarke and the other members of the Community. Great joy was expressed by all as the young people were reunited

after the long Christmas break and warmly welcoming a number of new comers.

The reflection for the evening was prepared by Regional Assistants Anthony Mackett and Lucy Murrie. The theme for the evening was 'Solitude'. Time was spent investigating the Year of Mercy and what does Mercy mean for us. The Gospel reading from John 8:2-11, the 'Adulteress Woman,' was the example used to reflect the mercy of Jesus. We explored the

encounter of solitude between Jesus and the woman – one on one, private, and personal. Jesus gave her the space to encounter mercy, a chance to respond. "Go and sin no more". The night concluded with a relaxation/meditation whereby each participant was guided into a personal conversation with the Lord. If the success of the night could be gauged by the hesitance of everyone to go home for the evening – it was a great success!



**The group attending our first Exchange evening for 2016, held in the La Valla Room** From Left to Right starting from the back row: Tim Alice, Br Michael Callinan, Cameron Menzies, Harry Sorensen, Jaram Richa, Sydney Zheng, Faith Richa, Br Justin Goulding. Middle row: Jeni Miller, Regional Coordinator of MYM NSW/ACT, Jessica Barrett, Ashleigh Green, Andrew Alice, Tom Alice, Pipiena Sofia Mafi, Jamie Elle Manalaotao, Emily Khoury, Dominic McDonald, Josie Rizko. Front row: Lucy Murrie, Regional Assistant MYM NSW/ACT, Anthony Mackett, Regional Assistant MYM NSW/ACT, Joe McDonald, Amnada Modder, Patricia Mendoza. Photo by Br Mark Murphy



Seated L to R: Sydney Zheng, Joe McDonald, Patrick Cooke, Emily Khoury  
Standing L to R: Lucy Murrie, Liam, Cameron Menzies, Tim Alice, Dom McDonald, Josie Rizko

The Young Adult Marists met at Seabird to celebrate Holy Thursday. After a 'nibbles' and a short reflection on the upcoming Gospel reading involving 'Dirty Feet' and accepting and giving compliments, the participants walked to the Sacred Heart Church at Randwick to celebrate the first of the Easter Triduum. Returning, after the mass, to Seabird we dined together thanks to the wonderful hospitality given by Br Mark Paul.

### Archdiocese of Adelaide

Marcellin Technical College, Christies Downs  
Sacred Heart College, Adelaide

### Archdiocese of Brisbane

Marist College, Ashgrove  
Mount Maria College, Mitchelton  
Mt Maria College, Petrie  
St Joseph's School, Murgon  
St Peter Claver College, Riverview  
St Teresa's College, Noosaville  
St Thomas More School, Sunshine Beach  
Trinity College, Beenleigh

### Diocese of Darwin

Ltyentye Apurte, Santa Teresa  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College,  
Alice Springs

### Archdiocese of Melbourne

Assumption College, Kilmore  
Marcellin College, Bulleen

### Archdiocese of Perth

Newman College, Churchlands  
St Joseph's School, Northam

### Archdiocese of Sydney

Champagnat Catholic College, Pagewood  
Marcellin College, Randwick  
Marist College, Eastwood  
Marist College, Kogarah  
Marist College, North Shore  
Marist Catholic College, Penshurst  
St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill  
St Michael's Primary School, Daceyville



## MARIST | SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

Catholic education in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat

The John Berne School, Lewisham  
Trinity Catholic College,  
Auburn/Regents Park

### Diocese of Bunbury

Bunbury Catholic College

### Diocese of Cairns

St Augustine's College, Cairns  
Good Counsel College, Innisfail

### Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn

Marist College, Canberra

### Diocese of Lismore

St Mary's Catholic College, Casino  
Trinity Catholic College, Lismore

### Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton  
St Peter's Campus (All Saints College)  
Maitland

### Diocese of Parramatta

Parramatta Marist High School,  
Westmead  
St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas

### Diocese of Rockhampton

Chanel College, Gladstone  
Marist College, Emerald

### Diocese of Sale

Catholic College, Sale  
Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon  
Marist-Sion College, Warragul

### Diocese of Sandhurst

Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta  
Marist College, Bendigo  
Notre Dame College, Shepparton

### Diocese of Townsville

Burdekin Catholic High School, Ayr  
St Francis Xavier School, Ayr

### Diocese of Wagga Wagga

St Francis de Sales College, Leeton

### Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes

Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes

### Diocese of Wollongong

John Therry High School, Rosemeadow  
Mount Carmel Catholic College, Varroville  
St Gregory's College, Campbelltown

## ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, NORTHAM

### Marcellin Day

Students at St Joseph's School in Northam, celebrate their house, Marcellin, in Term 4. They enjoy a free dress day wearing blue, they retell the Marcellin story at their assembly, and secondary students fundraise for charity by selling blue cordial and jelly. As the school celebrates its House Days on four different days, the whole school joins in remembering each of the patrons. Students enjoyed this year's Marcellin Day in particular as they decided to add to the fundraising component of the day with more raffles and competitions.

