



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

What prompted some educational bureaucrat to come up with the idea that “cohort” would be appropriate as a collective noun for students? A gaggle of geese, that’s good. A stand of trees, that works. A parliament of owls, that’s interesting. A synod bishops, perhaps. But a cohort of students?

The Romans had cohorts. They marched in military formation, along straight roads, followed orders without question, and uncritically implemented how-to-win-battles manuals that others had written for them. They had great success as long as non-questioning discipline was maintained.

Since I first came across the term used to describe a group of students some years ago, I have been careful to avoid it. I’ve waged my own private campaign of non-violent disobedience, surreptitiously removing it from reports and articles written by others. “Our Year 12 cohort”, “We have a big cohort next year”, “We expect strong results from this cohort” – these have all been quietly censored. I don’t feel that I’ve been especially effective in influencing systemic change, but I take some comfort in striking a personal blow for humaneness.

A school, it seems to me, works best when it strives to be a humane place. Humane in its scale, in its systems, in its communications, in its policies, in its physical environment, in its ways of relating, and in its priorities. Factors that work for humaneness are beauty, gentleness, respect, cordiality, sensitivity, creativity, and compassion.

As we know well, our Founder preferred a term for schools that was quite different from “cohort”. He intuited that “family” would be the best metaphor to use for what a good school aspired to be. For St Marcellin, the education of young people pivoted on the quality of inter-personal relationships between a teacher and student – relationships that were transparent, healthy, freeing, hope-filled and, above all, loving. Admittedly it wasn’t original – he pinched the “family spirit” idea from St Francis de Sales – but it certainly was quite counter-cultural. Schools typically were not like that at the time. They could be cruel and teachers could be capricious. The so-called “mutual method” of instruction that was being promoted by many gave priority to order, efficiency, outcomes, and military-style discipline. Marcellin’s priorities were sourced elsewhere.

Families can be messy and imperfect, but at their best they are inclusive, person-focussed, resilient, forgiving, and founded on an inherent belief in the goodness of each member. While we always need to be judicious in using family as the metaphor for schools – and not allowing it to become an excuse for poor protocols or imprudent judgements – it does provide us with a rich image on which to imagine what a school community can be.

As we celebrate the upcoming feast day of St Marcellin, let us re-commit ourselves to building communities where each of us feels welcomed and accepted, where students are safe and can pursue their hopes with confidence and encouragement, and where all can become the individuals God wants them to be.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

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|----------|--|---------------|--|
| 1-4 June | MSA Business Managers' Conference, Mittagong | 19-22 June | Footsteps 1: Making Jesus Known and Loved, Mittagong |
| 2 June | In the Marist Way: Marist Youth Care, Blacktown | 23 June | Association Council meeting |
| 3 June | Wellbeing Day for combined schools: Marist Penshurst, Marcellin Randwick, Marist North Shore | 26 June | Brothers Jubilee Celebrations, Brisbane |
| 6 June | Feast Day of Saint Marcellin Champagnat | 2 July | Brothers Jubilee Celebrations, Sydney |
| 10 June | Our Daily Bread: Hunters Hill, Leeton, Lismore, Warragul | 10 July | Brothers Jubilee Celebrations, Melbourne |
| 13 June | Queen's Birthday Public Holiday: All states except WA & QLD | 11 July | Our Daily Bread: Traralgon |
| 19 June | Marist Netball Carnival, Catholic College Sale | 12 July-3 Aug | World Youth Day Pilgrimage |
| | | 14 July | In the Marist Way: Marist Youth Care, Blacktown |

CHANGE IN PRINCIPALS FOR NEXT TERM

Three Marist schools will now have new Principals for the start of Term 3. Recently, it was announced that David McInnes was appointed as the new Principal at St Teresa's Catholic College, Noosaville, replacing Brother Paul Creevey. Last Friday, it was announced that Michael Blake is to replace Dave at Champagnat Catholic College, Pagewood, moving from St Peter's at Maitland. Congratulations to both Michael Dave, both experienced Marist leaders and both members of the Marist Association. An announcement about an acting Principal at Maitland is expected in the near future.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO WORK WITH REFUGEE CHILDREN



Dear Marist friends,

Would you like to come to join our holiday program in August or December?! The program is formally registered with CMI at the Marist General Administration. Please feel welcome to look up our website and spread the word to colleagues, friends, and alumni: www.326project.com.

We have a wonderful partnership with Marcellin College Bulleen, who send two alumni each year as part of an alumni social justice award. If anyone is interested in details of this model, please let me know.

Warm Regards from sunny Joburg,
Bec

Rebecca (Bec) Bromhead
Development Coordinator
Three2Six Project
Sacred Heart College & Holy Family College
Email: 326development@ischool.org.za

MEETING OF PRINCIPALS OF MSA-GOVERNED SCHOOLS



Last week, St Joseph's College was the host for the annual meeting of the Principals of MSA-Governed schools.

Happy Feast Day!



To all Marist communities, in whatever ways you are marking the Feast of St Marcellin on 6th June, may your celebrations be rich and uplifting.

MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



Marian Catholic College Feast Day - 24 May 2016

Marist Schools: Ryan Gato and Paul Harris, Father Christian Obiekwe, Sister of Mercy Sisters: Sister Trish and Sister Theresa

Celebrations were certainly on the cards for Marian Catholic College last week where the school and wider community came together for their annual Feast Day festivities. During this time the middle leaders participated in the 'Theology of Mercy' programme, followed by a wonderful and vibrant mass, ending in a range of food stalls and activities for the students.

VICTORIA STATE LIBRARY HOSTS MARISTS SPIRITUALITY

The entire staff of Marcellin College Bulleen were the only guests at the State Library on Tuesday 24th May for a sumptuous breakfast followed by a 'very quiet' walk into the Theatre to start the Our Daily Bread Program. This formed the first session of a full day of spirituality offered to all staff who then ventured forth into various sacred sites around Melbourne City.



Our Daily Bread - Praying as Marists

24 May 2016

NATIONAL FAITH FORMATORS' CONFERENCE

The National Conference for leaders of Marist Faith Formation in 2016 takes the theme of Growing a Contemplative culture in a Marist School. The conference will be presented by Dr Maeve Louise Heaney (Theology Lecturer at ACU) along with special guest Archbishop Mark Coleridge to open the event. Although specifically designed for RECs/APREs, the conference will also benefit those involved in campus life and ministry.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Marist Centre Brisbane

TIMES & DATES

5.00pm 24 July 2016 – 1:00pm 26 July 2016

REGISTER AT:

<https://maristschools.ismartsoftware.net/iRegister/Courses>

BEING MARIST CONFERENCE

The Being Marist Conference provides opportunities for those involved in the important work of administration and care in Marist ministries. The theme adopted for this conference is "Being Marist – The Face of Mercy". Beginning with a review of the hopes for the Holy Year of Mercy, the conference will explore how we are the face of mercy in our role of support and care. In particular, the conference will review and workshop what sustains and supports us personally in our particular ministry.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Marist Centre Brunswick

TIMES & DATES

5.00pm 24 August - 1.00pm 26 August 2016

REGISTER AT:

<https://maristschools.ismartsoftware.net/iRegister/Courses>



MARIST SCHOOLS IN NSW AND VICTORIA OFFER WARM WELCOME



Brother Mark Fordyce with Marist Catholic College Penshurst Year 12 students Brady Muriwai (left) and Scott Britcher (right), and Director of Mission Mr Declan Donohue on May 4.

In the past month, recently-appointed Marist Solidarity volunteers' coordinator, Brother Mark Fordyce, has visited 14 Marist schools in New South Wales and Victoria.

Brother Mark has been speaking with senior students, school leaders, house groups and immersion returnees. He has also updated schools about how the funds they raise in Australia are giving our partners across Asia and The Pacific a better quality of life.

On May 4, Brother Mark travelled to [Marist Catholic College Penshurst](#) and met Year 12 students Brady Muriwai and Scott Britcher, who went on an immersion to The Philippines last year. Brady, Scott, and fellow Year 12 MCCP student James Pelosi have recently been selected to participate in the [Marist Youth Ministry 2016](#) post-schoolies immersion program to The Philippines. They will join a group of ten other pilgrims from Australian Marist schools.

Mark encouraged students and teaching staff to continue using our [2016 Schools' Campaign Kit](#), as a resource that is well-suited to promoting solidarity, especially on occasions, such as the upcoming Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat on June 6 and Feast of the Assumption on August 15.

The team at Marist Solidarity is grateful for Brother Mark's work to strengthen our relationships within the MSA network and their partnerships with our overseas project providers.

We are also grateful for the generous hospitality Mark has received from host schools during his visits.

To find out about volunteering opportunities and connecting with Marist Solidarity projects please email Brother Mark at mark.fordyce@marists.org.au or phone (07) 3354 0600.



REMAR MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE – BLUE RETREAT'S



It has been a huge year already for the Remar Ministry Team. Term 1 saw the team running *Embarkation camp's* across the country, along with *Red Caravel Day's* at **Marist Sion College Warragul** and **Assumption College Kilmore**. A big thank you to Marist Sion and Assumption College for their Marist Hospitality!

April and May have been jam-packed with four Blue Retreat's and two Red Caravel Day's in Victoria, Alice Springs and Sydney.

The Blue Retreats offered Rowers an opportunity to explore what it means to live out the motto *'Living as Christ's Disciple's'* through the values of *humility, loyalty and solidarity*. Rowers talked about the different relationships in their lives – with others, themselves and with God. Through games, team building, sharing's, journaling and different prayer experiences, Rowers took time to have fun and reflect on their journey. The sessions promoted self-acceptance and God's unconditional love for us, along with a challenge to the Rowers to be people of justice, service and faith.

While the Retreats were facilitated by the Remar Ministry Team, they were supported by Golds, Post School Young Marists and Brothers as part of our wider **Marist Family**. The RMT is blessed to have Brothers serve alongside them. Br Greg McDonald, Br Doug Walsh and Br Tony Caddy shared their stories of Marcellin and where they experience God's love. Br Michael Herry and Br Greg shared their gift of music by supporting Music Ministry and of course Br Doug's firm order in all catering matters was very much appreciated!

A huge thank you to the Helms and support staff that attended and participated with energy and enthusiasm. They were an example of the Marist characteristic of *presence* as they listened and supported Rowers in the Prayer teams on the Saturday night.

The team were humbled by the feedback of Rowers. When asked in the survey 'were your hopes met in attending this retreat?', one student responded:

"Yes! This was way more than expected, it helped me deepen my faith, take a step closer to finding my true relationship with God, I met some awesome people and just had great fun in general! The team and volunteers worked extremely hard to put this all together for us and we appreciate it so much!"
– Blue Rower, Sacred Heart College, Adelaide

Remar Ministry Team 2016

