



# 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 is the moral basis for an educator to use punishment as a means of achieving his or her ends? Is there one? No doubt, some ethicists and moral theologians would be able to provide us with possible principles, or even mount some arguments that favour it. Did you know there's a whole field of study called penology?

But they could be standing on thin ground.

The heart-sickening footage of the treatment of children in the Northern Territory's juvenile justice system which was aired two weeks ago now has rightly unsettled us. It should have. It has also embarrassed and shamed us as Australians. Spit-hoods, uninhabitable detention cells, restraining chairs, verbal and physical abuse, psycho-emotional torture. Really? It was extreme stuff. Pavlov treated his dogs better.

"That'll learn you," spat out one of the correctional officers as he brutally threw Dylan Voller into his cell. Leaving aside the obvious comment about the guard's moral authority as an educator being ironically undermined by his own poor grammar, let us go to some deeper questions and issues: What is Dylan actually learning? What is he learning about himself? About his worth and his rights? About his personhood? About how the world works? About justice? What are the values he is being taught?

It is salutary for you and I as Marist educators to recall that it was his abhorrence to an incident of physical violence by his own teacher that had a defining influence on what Marcellin Champagnat came to imagine good teaching should be. For the Founder, there was no circumstance where a teacher should strike a child. None. But the Founder's convictions went further than that. For him there was no justification for a teacher ever to act angrily or capriciously towards a young person, or to speak harshly, or to instil fear, or to be vengeful, or to run a class or a school on a command-and-control basis. All of this reflected immaturity and insecurity on the part of a teacher.

For Marcellin, the means of teaching young people were not to be punitive. Nor retributive. Nor prompted by deterrence. The starting point was love; the means were respect, example, affection, inspiration, reward, affirmation, calmness, understanding, patience, kindness, humour, and life-giving relationships. *The Teachers Guide* published in 1853 is replete with words such as these. What should love look like for a Marist educator? Marcellin directed his first Brothers to 1 Corinthians 13.

While it is easy for us to condemn the cruel treatment inflicted on some young offenders in correctional facilities, it may be more unsettling for us to self-evaluate some of the underpinnings of our own student management practices. To what extent are they punitive rather than restorative? To what extent blindly consequential rather than truly educative? To what extent personal rather than dispassionate? To what extent informed by knowledge and understanding of child and adolescent emotional and mental development? To what extent founded on the basic Christian anthropology of goodness at the heart of every person, and the Christian teacher's duty to nurture that?

Good questions to revisit from time to time. And most especially when confronted with young people who are most broken, needy and challenging in their behaviours.

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP...

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|-----------|--|-----------|---|
| 12 Aug    | Strategic Plans and Complispace PD day for IT Staff in Marist schools: St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill | 17 Aug    | A Theology of Mercy: Beenleigh                        |
| 12-14 Aug | Remar Gold Retreat, Victoria   | 19 Aug    | MYM Connect: Eastwood/Macarthur                       |
| 14-16 Aug | Oceania Council meeting  | 19 Aug    | Our Daily Bread: Forbes & Parkes                      |
| 14-17 Aug | Footsteps 1: Making Jesus Known and Loved, Mittagong   | 21 Aug    | MSol Eyes on India Photographic Exhibition: Melbourne |
| 15 Aug    | Our Daily Bread: Kogarah   | 22-23 Aug | MSA Regional Council meeting, Melbourne               |
| 15-16 Aug | Our Daily Bread: Beenleigh   | 24-26 Aug | Being Marist Conference: Melbourne                    |
| 17 Aug    | Marist Oratory Competition: Peshurst   | 25 Aug    | MSA Regional Council meeting, Brisbane                |
|           |  | 26 Aug    | MSA Regional Council meeting, Sydney                  |

### BROTHER MICHAEL TO FINISH AT END OF 2016



The Leader of the Marist Association, Brother Peter Carroll, recently announced that Brother Michael Green will be concluding his tenure as the founding National Director of Marist Schools Australia at the end of this academic year, after seven years in the role. Read Brother Peter's announcement [here](#).

### 2016 ANNUAL MSA MASS & DINNER DATES



All involved in leadership and support of Marist Ministries are invited to the Annual MSA Mass & Dinners. These are the dates and venues for 2016:

More information will be forwarded to Principals.



- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Brisbane  | Saturday, 15 October 2016<br>Marist College Ashgrove        |
| Sydney    | Friday, 4 November 2016<br>St Joseph's College Hunters Hill |
| Melbourne | Saturday, 3 December 2016<br>Marcellin College Bulleen      |

### PILGRIMAGE APPLICATIONS CLOSE THIS WEEK!

HURRY!  
HURRY!  
HURRY!



Applications for next year's Marist Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Rome, and the founding Marist places in France need to be received by this Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August.

The pilgrimage will be led by Brother Michael Akers, Ms Liz Falconer, Brother Michael Green and Father Gary Perritt CP.

Information and application forms are with Principals. Staff of MSA schools who are interested should speak with their Principal in the first instance.

Other members of the Marist Association should feel welcome to contact the Director of Formation, Mr Tony Clarke [anthony.clarke@marists.org.au](mailto:anthony.clarke@marists.org.au).



### MARIST SOLIDARITY PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION MARIST CENTRE MELBOURNE

Australian Marist Solidarity invites you to **Eyes on India**

Join us for an insight into our Marist projects in India as seen through the lens of Photographer Conor Ashleigh.

Sunday, 21 August 2016  
5.30pm to 7.00pm  
Marist Centre Melbourne  
1 Dawson St, Brunswick

RSVP Monday, 15 August 2016  
[tracey.doublet@marists.org.au](mailto:tracey.doublet@marists.org.au)  
(03) 9389 3100

[www.australianmaristsolidarity.com.au](http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.com.au)

# MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



## National Faith Formators' Conference 24 - 26 August 2016

The delegates at the Marist National Faith Formators' Conference held at Marist Centre Brisbane and Marist College Ashgrove. The theme of this gathering was "Growing a Contemplative Culture in a Marist School: Praying as Marists" where Archbishop Coleridge emphasised the vision of schools being places of prayer and Dr Maeve Louise Heaney facilitated the process for the faith coordinators. Experiences in finding God in liturgy and music were explored. Faith leaders imagine and create nurturing ways and means to bring forth a contemplative culture.

## OUR DAILY BREAD, IN THE MARIST WAY AND THE THEOLOGY OF MERCY, SANTA TERESA

The staff at Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School, Santa Teresa recently were involved in a number of programs: Our Daily Bread, In the Marist Way and the Theology of Mercy. It was a privilege for two members of the MLF Team to be involved in the Marist Community and the school for a week. The Team is very grateful to all for the welcome into community in this special land.



Marcus Williams, Br Daniel, Bernadette Christensen, Elaine Gorey, Viv Pettit, Anne Standen



## Our Daily Bread, In the Marist Way and the Theology of Mercy 18 - 22 July 2016

Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School, Santa Teresa

Thecla Palmer, Veronica Wallace, David Parish, Br Paul, Mary McPhee, Polly Crawford, Justine Colley

## MARIST SOLIDARITY RETREAT

In October 2016, the Marist Solidarity Retreat is being held in Santa Teresa. This is a 3-day program where participants encounter the living spirituality of the desert and witness the Marist ministry of solidarity in Central Australia. The retreat offers a rich experience of indigenous culture and provides spaces for reflection upon our world and our individual faith journeys.

PROGRAM LOCATION  
Santa Teresa

TIMES & DATES  
16 - 19 October 2016

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

## YEAR 11 LEADERSHIP DAY RED BEND COLLEGE FORBES

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, the MYM Sydney team supported the Year 11 students from Red Bend Catholic College as they begun their discernment process of choosing their future school captains. During the day long interactive presentation the qualities of Servant Leadership was explored as we are all called to use our gifts to be leaders like our models Marcellin Champagnat, Our Lady and Jesus.

## 14 VISUALLY-IMPAIRED STUDENTS QUALIFY AS MASSAGE THERAPISTS IN VIETNAM



[Australian Marist Solidarity](#) and its funding partner Catholic Mission are providing vocational training opportunities to visually-impaired young people and adults in Vietnam.

In Hanoi, where it is estimated that more than one million people are affected by vision impairments, Brother Geoff Kelly—an Australian Marist—works as a co-director for some of the job training programs at the Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind (TRCB).

Brother Geoff has reported that 14 visually-impaired Vietnamese adults, from across the country, recently completed a three-and-a-half-month massage training course.

He says that blind massage therapists are highly regarded in Vietnam because of their so-called 'seeing hands' and the extra-sensory touch they develop as a result of being blind.

Students that completed the course were referred to the centre by regional chapters of the Vietnam Blind Association (VBA).

Qualified students have now returned to their home provinces, where they are working—with support from the VBA—to establish their own small businesses.

Next month, 15 new students will begin an intensive computer-training course at the TRCB.

AMS is a major supporter of the TRCB programs, which continue to provide opportunities for visually-impaired and blind people to gain job skills that will enable them to generate income for their families and themselves.

Please visit our [website](#) to find out how you can support Brother Geoff's ongoing work at the TRCB.



*Dom McDonald and Anthony Mackett presenting to the Year 11 students*

## YOUNG MARIST VOLUNTEER TRAINING DAY

MYM Sydney held its second Volunteer Training Day on 21<sup>st</sup> July. We welcome and are grateful to our four new volunteers pledging to support MYM and making Jesus known and loved! A big 'Thank you' to Dom McDonald for bringing the evening to a perfect end by cooking us all a delicious dinner and dessert!

*Jeni Miller  
Sydney Region MYM Regional  
Coordinator*



*L-R: Tom Alice, Monica Gonzales, Faith Richa & Gerald De Los Santos*