

The Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat Australian Conference

CELEBRATING OUR MARIST BICENTENARY

On 2nd January 1817, Marcellin Champagnat welcomed two young men into a house which he had rented in the town of La Valla where he was assistant pastor. Their names were Jean-Baptiste Audras and Jean-Marie Granjon. They became the first Marist Brothers, and the date became known as the Foundation Day. Later that year, these two Brothers began to teach the young people of La Valla, thus beginning the first Marist school. In 2017 we celebrate the bicentenary of these events, and we look forward to beginning the third century of Marist life and mission, the responsibility for which in this country is now taken up by the members of the Australian Conference of Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat.

During the year, the Marist Association will continue to support Marist schools and ministries through its various teams and through the normal suite of programmes, resources and events which are provided by these teams. Additionally, there are several initiatives that are being taken to help Marist communities around Australia celebrate their Marist identity and belonging in the context of the bicentenary:

The theme

Each year we choose a theme around which to build some resources and programmes. The theme for 2017 is:

AWAKEN
MARISTS 200>



Marist 200 lapel badges

Lapel badges are being commissioned that will be suitable to be worn by staff and students during the year. Schools, ministries and communities may consider a ritual for the handing-out of these at the start of the year. Some resources will be made available to assist them with this.

Journey of the bicentennial paintings February-September

Four pieces of art have been commissioned from iconographer Michael Galovic for the bicentenary. The four subjects of the paintings are:

- Marcellin attending the dying child
- The pledge of Fourvière
- The table of La Valla
- The 'May miracle' of 1872

The first three are the international Marist annual themes we have used for the three-year lead-in to the bicentenary. The fourth commemorates the first Marist school in Australia at St Patrick's, Church Hill, and its transformative influence on the young students who attended.

These paintings will make a national journey, being hosted by Marist communities **between February and September**. The journey will begin in Central Australia where the paintings will be ritually welcomed to country and blessed. They will then move in two pairs – one starting in Cairns in the far north, and one in Perth in the west. The paintings will be passed from

one Marist community to another, spending four or five days in each, and all four finally arriving in Mittagong to coincide with the arrival there of a group doing a Marist “camino” from St Patrick’s Church Hill. Throughout the eighth month journey, school communities will receive the paintings and gather around them, with prayer and educational resources made available to help them to do this.

A detailed itinerary will be finalised in upcoming months.

***Awaken!
programme***
All year

The signature staff workshop programme for 2017 will adopt the theme for the year, and will help Marist schools and ministries to enrich their understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and an apostle of the Gospel, in the Marist way today.

***Marian Lecture
Series***
May

During May, we have invited to Australia Dom Mark Patrick Hederman OSB, the Abbot of Glenstal, to give a series of evening talks and to lead some other seminars and workshops. It is hoped that the “Marian Lecture Series” will become an annual feature of the Australian Catholic Church calendar, put on by the Marists of Australia and offered broadly to the Australian Church. The “Marian lecture” will be an evening event to which will be invited members of the Association, Marist staff and senior students, clergy, leaders of Catholic education and Catholic agencies, and members of the Church. The theme that Dom Mark Patrick has chosen for the inaugural Marian Lectures is: ***Everyone’s Baptismal name is Mary***. The dates for the lectures are: Brisbane – **Tuesday 23 May**; Sydney – **Thursday 25 May**; Melbourne – **Tuesday 30 May**; Gippsland – **Thursday 1 June**. There is a series of other events planned, including a colloquium for Marist Principals on **Wednesday 31 May**.

A full itinerary of the visit of Dom Mark Patrick will be circulated in upcoming months.

Feast of St Marcellin
June

It is envisaged that most schools and Marist communities will, as is customary, do something significant for the Feast of St Marcellin on **Tuesday 6 June**. Some print and electronic resources will be made available to assist with Masses and other services and/or gatherings that may be organised for this day. These resources will be aimed at celebrating what it means to be an Australian Marist today. Marist schools which are close to one another may opt to organise a collective event on 6 June.

***Marist Youth
Festival***
July

The biennial national Marist Youth Festival (aimed at post-school Young Marists and senior school students) will be held in Sydney (at St Joseph’s College) between **30 June and 3 July**. It will also take the theme of Awaken!

***Bicentenary
Celebrations***
August

On **Saturday 12 August** all Marists will be invited to attend a celebratory Bicentenary Mass and Luncheon. There will be three of these organised centrally by the Marist Association and the Brothers’ Province (in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne). While all Marists will be welcome to come to one of these, other cities and regions are encouraged to organise gatherings on the same day in their own places. A common Mass will be celebrated and resources provided.