



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

Have you ever felt like your life has superb cast of characters, with no shortage of interesting settings and events, but you just can't quite figure out the plot? Indeed, is there a plot at all, or is my life more akin to an incessant episode of Seinfeld?

Aristotle would have some questions for you. For him, good drama was all about the plot. And the mark of a good plot was that nothing could be omitted from it without diminishing the story. The ancient Greeks had an insight or two about drama.

Mary would also have some questions for you. If there was anyone whose life had no want of either characters or drama, it was she. But she got the plot. She had to work it out, we read in Luke's Gospel, as do we. It wasn't easy for her to do that; she had both questions and doubts. It cost her dearly. But she got it.

How did she achieve that? In two ways, Luke tells us: first, she said "YES!" and, second, she pondered it all in her heart. (Cf. Lk. 1:38; 2:51) Both were essential – a disposition of openness and trust to embrace the reality of life rather than some self-imagined ideal of it, and the giving of time and space to reflect upon all that happened, to be someone who contemplated. Aristotle's predecessor, Socrates, would have applauded her because, as we know, he claimed that the unexamined life was not worth living.

But Mary in her simplicity had the jump on the sophistry of the likes of Socrates and Aristotle. It was not knowledge per se that she sought. The fruit of her contemplation was, rather, faith, hope and love. Knowledge and science – the how of things – are worthy and wonderful and greatly useful, but the why and whither of our lives are of another order. Mary encountered the God of her life; that's where she figured out its plot. Maybe, indeed probably, she was a long way from understanding the how of life, but she learnt in her heart of its essence and purpose.

As the adage goes, God comes to us disguised as our lives. He did for Mary. He did for Marcellin. He does for you and for me. The challenge is to discern and come to know that Divine presence, and to tune in to it. It won't change what happens so much, but it will transform our response to it.

It's October again, the traditional month of the Rosary, that deeply meditative prayer that figures so strongly in our tradition. Perhaps it could be a means for us, as it has been for Christians for centuries, to enhance a Marian sense of contemplativeness. It takes time and space and practice to pray the Rosary. With the often frenetic pace of things, the relentlessness of a 24-hour news cycle, the anarchic intrusiveness of social media, and the plentiful sources of confusion and disillusionment that daily assault us, we have real need to look for opportunity to be contemplative. And to teach the young to be likewise.

Activity – even good and noble activity such as teaching – will not of itself lead us to be people of the faith, hope and love that we can be. We can tend to confuse busyness with purpose. Active we are called to be, and generously so. But let us be, as the spiritual wisdom of the ages tells us, contemplatives-in-action. As Mary and Marcellin have shown us.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

14 Oct	Marist Leaders Next Gen1, Sydney	28-30 Oct	Care for the Soul Retreat, Mittagong
15 Oct	Annual MSA Mass & Dinner, Brisbane	31 Oct	Marist Centre Melbourne closed
16-19 Oct	Marist Solidarity Retreat, Alice Springs	1 Nov	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday VIC
17 Oct	Our Daily Bread, Sunshine Beach	4 Nov	Annual MSA Mass & Dinner, Sydney
18 Oct	Marist Leaders Next Gen1, Forbes	6-9 Nov	Oceania Council meeting
20 Oct	In the Marist Way, Marist Youth Care, Blacktown	7 Nov	AMS Christmas Gathering, Marist Centre Brisbane
21 Oct	Our Daily Bread, Sale	14 Nov	AMS Christmas Gathering, Marist College Eastwood
23-26 Oct	Footsteps 1: Making Jesus Known and Loved, Mittagong	20 Nov	AMS Christmas Gathering, Marist Centre Melbourne

NEW MSA DIRECTOR APPOINTED



Congratulations to John Kyle-Robinson who yesterday was named as the next MSA Director for the Sydney Region.

John is currently the Principal of Trinity Catholic College, Auburn/Regents Park.

Read the letters to the [Marists in Australia](#) and to the [Trinity community](#) announcing John's appointment.

MSA 2017 PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS BROCHURES



The 2017 brochures have been printed and distributed to school Principals. Details can also be found on the MSA website and app.

There are several new items for 2017 which are described in the brochure, along with the more well-established ones. The theme for next year is built around the Marist bicentenary.

As usual, resources will be available to schools for the beginning of the year for those who want to use them to help to plan commencement Masses, staff days, and other events at the beginning of the new academic year.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY IN SOUTH AFRICA



For several years now, an inspirational project for refugee children has operated out of a Marist school in Johannesburg, Sacred Heart College, and an Australian Marist, Rebecca Bromhead, has been one of its leaders. Visit the website: www.three2six.co.za.

Marcellan College, Bulleen, has been among the local supporters of the "Marist Three2Six Children's Refugee Education Project", sponsoring a number of young ex-students as volunteers each year.

The Australian Government has just announced that it will be funding a 12-month position for an Australian volunteer (all expenses covered) to work with the Three2Six Children's Project from April next year. The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer role will help to fine-tune the Project's reporting processes and also set up systems to track how children cope and progress (academically and psycho-socially) after graduation from Three2Six to entry into mainstream education.

For more information visit:

<https://avid.avi.org.au/opportunities/10534693/>.

Applications close 21 October.

Also, please feel welcome to contact Rebecca directly:

326development@ischool.org.za

SEARCH ON FOR NEW HEAD OF ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

It was announced yesterday that Ross Tarlinton will be completing his tenure as Headmaster of St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, at the end of next year. Click [HERE](#) to read the letter to the SJC community.

The search process for the next Head of the College, to commence in 2018, will get under way this week.

ONLINE REGISTRATION
OPENS

Monday 17 November

FOR

2017 PROGRAMMES

MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



Next Gen1 Melbourne - 16 August 2016

Br John McMahon (Templestowe), Shona Maskelyne (Kilmore), Shane Lebbe (Traralgon), Kiera Guareschi (Sale), Robert Gill (Adelaide), Brenda Byrne (Noarlunga), Anne-Marie Taylor (Noarlunga), André Ockerse (Warragul), Luke Harris Noarlunga), Paul Herrick (Brunswick), Kendall Aglinskas (Kilmore), Jessica Flavell (Kilmore), Sarah Rossiter (Bulleen), Simon Abrahams (Bulleen), David Bellis (Bulleen)

MARIST LEADERSHIP

Thirteen Marist leaders gathered at the Marist Centre Melbourne on Friday 16 September, 2016 to discuss Marist leadership as it is today. Participants came from Marcellin College, Bulleen, Assumption College, Kilmore, Cardijn College, Noarlunga, Sacred Heart College, Adelaide, Catholic College, Sale, Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon and Marist Sion College, Warragul.

The program focused on 1. The diversity of leadership, 2. Marist leadership and 3. Paths to Marist leadership. The day was led by Paul Herrick and Br John McMahon. It involved presentations, small group discussions and forums on best practice. Our Marist Province is blessed to have such a competent group of young Marist leaders.



Kendall Aglinskas, Jessica Flavell, Shona Maskelyne, Kiera Guareschi, Robert Gill

CARE FOR THE SOUL RETREAT

The *Care for the Soul* retreat offers participants a quiet and reflective space away from the busy nature of daily life. A variety of input, prayer experiences, spiritual accompaniment and silence will be offered during the retreat. The retreat will conclude with the Eucharist on the final morning.

CONFERENCE DATES & LOCATION

The Hermitage, Mittagong
28 - 30 Oct 2016

REGISTER AT:

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

YOUNG MARIST FORMATION WEEKEND AT ST PATRICK'S CHURCH HILL

One of the important keys to the growth in Marist Youth Ministry is the ongoing formation of graduates from our Marist Schools, especially young adults who are drawn to becoming volunteers and those who have returned from an immersion experience, wanting to connect more closely with the charism as 'Young Marists'.

Our formation weekend, during September 17-18, saw 14 young Marists representing Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, the ACT, New South Wales and Queensland, gathered in the crypt of St Patrick's at Church Hill, Sydney; an excellent setting to introduce them to our Marist story! The weekend was based on the key themes in *Water from the Rock* with a focus on deepening an appreciation for Marist spirituality and living Mary's spirit through action and contemplation.

Sincere thanks to Ryan Gato from the Mission and Life Formation Team for facilitating the weekend, and to Tony Clark (MLF Director, Br Justin Golding (Lavalla 200> Project) and Jeni Miller (MYM Sydney) for presenting.

BUILDERS MAKE EXCELLENT PROGRESS ON NEW CLASSROOM BUILDING AT OSSU IN TIMOR-LESTE



Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS) is working with our project partners in Timor-Leste to develop schools and improve access to education for the very young population of this new nation.

Work to restore the school building at [St Teresinha Catholic Junior High School](#) in Ossu commenced on August 22. Since then, project builder, Mr Martin Rerebain, reports that his team have made excellent progress.

They have gutted the old building and are awaiting delivery of the new roof, which is being prefabricated off-site by East Timor Roofing, is being. The new rainwater tanks have been positioned and are currently being installed.

The new building will provide staff and the school's 450 students a significantly-improved learning environment in plenty of time for the start of 2017 school year.

Plans to develop the new building at St Teresinha's have been in progress for more than two years. They have involved the local community, including The Parish of Ossu and the Diocese of Baucau.

The project has been made possible thanks to the generous support of the Parish of Ossu's sister parish, the Catholic Parish of Burleigh Heads and the Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads on the Gold Coast, the Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools and German funding agencies Kindermissionswerk and Aid to the Church in Need.

Click visit our [website](#) to find out more and to support our efforts to advance educational opportunities in Timor-Leste.



In his evaluation, one young Marist wrote; *"I see nothing but hope for the future of Marists. With initiatives like Remar and Marist Youth Ministry getting young people from Marist Schools all across Australia to be connected, it entices me to become more involved in Marist Youth Ministry and the wider Marist family. As long as young people stay involved with this community, I feel nothing but optimism for the future of Marists all around the world."*

Br Greg McDonald FMS
National MYM Co-ordinator

