



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

You would have to be living under rock and be wearing a sleep-mask not to notice just how radically things are changing in the ways people receive and process news. Sure, newspapers are still being printed and some people are still paying money to read them, but they are older and fewer. And what they are buying are lighter, slimmer and racier. It's all a bit desperate and dateless. The death knells are sounding for some old mastheads which increasingly look like they are on life-support.

Others have been more agile in developing ways to work off multiple integrated platforms, especially online, and to think and act globally. Who would have thought, even just a few years ago, that here in Australia so many of us would be getting our daily updates from The Guardian or The Huffington Post or Al Jazeera? Then there are newer media groups with cleverer strategies such as Crikey or Shortlist Daily. Or others that package it all for you and present it to you just the way you like it, often generated by algorithms that play with all the data that they have trawled on you or that you have unwittingly provided for them – Google, Yahoo, Apple News, or Flipchart, for example. Increasingly, much of this comes to us in twitter-length grabs or just headlines. Analytical depth impossible.

There are, however, some glimmers of hope. One the sharper and more self-aware journalists often identified on the Australian scene is Waleed Aly. The week before last he gave the annual Andrew Olle Media Lecture in which he explored a lot of this. Did you catch it? Ironically enough, News Ltd covered it well. Google it. Mr Aly pointed to worrying trends in his industry, such as its being driven by the 'clickability' and 'shareability' of news items, or the way that 'viral content' was being chased and promoted by media companies to maximise their profits. And, indeed, profits are to be made. Just ask Donald Trump who, reportedly, already has his eyes on starting a new well-right-of-centre media empire when his current job bid proves to be unsuccessful.

What many media emperors play on is their realisation that it's not actually news that their readers and viewers want, but reinforcement of what they already know, or think they know. Whether they are right, left, centre or crooked, people like to have their securities bolstered, their fears confirmed, and their judgements applauded.

Although it has its detractors as being a form of iconoclasm – and I as an erstwhile teacher of English literature was one of them – *'critical discourse analysis'* gives us some basic questions to ask of any news item, and the medium in and through which comes to us: Where, when and how was this written? Who wrote it? For whom? Who stands to benefit from this text? Who loses? What are the silences in the text, the gaps?

There is a piece of news, a perennial piece of news, that should stand up well to such questioning if the reporting is genuine, whatever medium is used for its transmission. The Good News. The challenge for us who are educators is that it is we who are its medium. There may be other smart and effective media we can use to complement us, but they can never obviate the need for the News to be incarnated, lived in time and place. In me. For them.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

28-30 Oct	Care for the Soul Retreat, Mittagong
28-30	Remar Red Leadership Camp
31 Oct	Marist Centre Melbourne closed
1 Nov	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday VIC
4 Nov	Annual MSA Mass & Dinner, Sydney
6-9 Nov	Oceania Council meeting
7 Nov	AMS Christmas Gathering, Marist Centre Brisbane
7-10 Nov	Remar Red Embarkation, Assumption College

14 Nov	ONLINE REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR 2017 PROGRAMMES
14 Nov	AMS Christmas Gathering, Marist College Eastwood
20 Nov	AMS Christmas Gathering, Marist Centre Melbourne
21 Nov	Our Daily Bread, Marist Catholic CollegePenshurst
22 Nov	Our Daily Bread, Marist College Randwick
22 Nov	Association Council meeting
27-29 Nov	Student Leaders Gathering, Melbourne
1-3 Dec	Remar Red Embarkation, Sacred Heart College

BRISBANE MSA MASS AND DINNER



Br Neville Solomon & Betty McGrath

The first of the annual MSA Masses and Dinners was held in Brisbane on Saturday evening, 15 October. Thanks to Marist College Ashgrove for hosting another very enjoyable evening for leaders of Marist schools, members of the MSA Regional Council, Marists from other ministries, Brothers, Affiliates and Members of the Marist Association. A number of people received Awards for Outstanding

Service to Marist Education, including two departing Principals – Marie Martin from Marist College Emerald and Sharon Volp from Chanel College Gladstone. Others to receive awards were: Catherine Thompson (Trinity College), Czek Kersevani (St Augustine's College), Brett Toombs (St Augustine's College), Colin Connell (Lavalla Centre Rosalie), Janelle Doohan (Mt Maria College Petrie), Jennifer Elvery (Marist College Ashgrove).



NEW MLF TEAM MEMBER



A warm welcome to ANDREW DUMAS who will be joining the Marist Association's Formation Team next year, based at Marist Centre Sydney. Andrew comes to us from Marist Sisters College, Woolwich, where he has been REC and Assistant REC for a number of years. He is also the elected Co-Leader of Marist Laity Australia (a group of lay Marists with close association

to the Marist Fathers and Marist Sisters). Andrew has a two-decade long journey as a Marist, beginning with some time in discernment in Marist formation with the Marist Brothers in the late 1990s. Since then he has taught in several Marist schools, and has undertaken studies in Marist spirituality, theology, religious education and educational leadership. He has considerable involvement in faith formation, social justice initiatives and local parish. He will undoubtedly be a fine addition to the team. A warm welcome to Andrew!

MARIST WORLD COMES TO AUSTRALIA

The last fortnight has seen Australia host four major international Marist meetings.

- Between 12 and 15 October, the Marist Brothers' General Council met at Mittagong with the Provincial Council of Australia and the two District Councils of the Pacific and Melanesia.
- Between 16 and 21 October, the Australian Marist Solidarity team in Brisbane hosted a conference of representatives of Marist NGOs in the Asia-Pacific and the international Marist solidarity NGO (FMSI). See Page 4 for more details.
- Meanwhile, the Marist Centre Sydney played host between 17 and 21 October to the biannual meeting of the International Marist Finance Council.
- This week, also at the Marist Centre, there is a meeting for Business Managers from Marist Provinces across the Asia-Pacific region

All up, there have been almost forty-five international Marist visitors from twenty-two different countries, a number visiting Australia for the first time.



Young Marists with Br Emili and the General Council gathered at Mittagong

PRIME MINISTER OF FIJI VISITS PARRAMATTA MARIST



On 18 October, Prime Minister of Fiji, the Hon. Voreqe Bainimarama, paid a visit to Parramatta Marist High School. The Prime Minister is an ex-student of Marist Brothers, Suva.

Click [here](#) to read the media release.

MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



Marist Solidarity Retreat 16 - 19 October 2016

Last week saw participants come together from various Marist schools and ministries to embark on the Marist Solidarity Retreat. The annual retreat takes place in Central Australia, spending significant time in the Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School in Santa Teresa. The retreat provided an encounter of the living spirituality of the desert by visiting sacred indigenous sites and being guided by local indigenous elders. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience the vitality and passion of the growing Marist ministry of solidarity in the heart of our own nation.

ART AS PRAYER - JOHN BERNE SCHOOL

The John Berne School in Lewisham celebrated Art as Prayer on their staff day on the 11th October with a Visio Divina followed by some oil pastel on canvas art.

Photo left to right: Br Mark Paul, Katie Di Giorgio, Claire Pate, Nicole Arathoon, Kristina Allan, Phoebe Mitsak, Sandra Scott, Br Chris Hogan, James Le Huray, Dominic Wan and Melissa Painter.



OUR DAILY BREAD - St Thomas More Primary

The support staff of St Thomas More Primary School in Sunshine Beach gathered for two modules and the introduction to Our Daily Bread.

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 LOCATION

The Hermitage, Mittagong

DATES

28 - 30 Oct 2016

REGISTER AT:

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



AMS HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



During the week Sunday 16 to Friday 21 of October, the AMS team in Brisbane hosted a conference initiated by our Marist international solidarity offices (FMSI) in Rome and Geneva. Representatives of Marist NGOs and AMS project managers from Vietnam, Bangladesh, The Philippines, India, Cambodia, Malaysia and the Districts of Oceania and the Pacific attended.

The principal goals of the conference were to enhance further collaborative efforts across the Asia-Pacific region and to undergo professional training in communications, and project monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER).

The office co-ordinators of FMSI, Br Mario Meuti (Rome) and Br Manel Mendoza (Geneva) conducted the first two days around potential lines of collaboration in project and advocacy work and launching a document "What is Marist Solidarity". The communication sessions were conducted by Elouise Hahn (Communications Director of Loreto Ministries) and Michael Coleman (AMS). The CEO of AMS, Br Allen Sherry, conducted the MER sessions. A very productive exchange was also initiated by MVA's co-ordinator, Br Mark Fordyce around preparing host communities for immersions and volunteers.

The conference participants were generously hosted by the Marist communities of Ashgrove and Rosalie. The principal funder was Misan Cara, Ireland using an Irish Aid grant.

Kristen McLean
Comms Team AMS

YEAR 11 MARIST FORUM THE HERMITAGE MITTAGONG

On the weekend of 23-25 September, 52 students from 15 Marist Schools in NSW/ACT attended the annual Justice Forum at Mittagong. The theme for the weekend, *Agents of Mercy and Justice*, invited students to explore how they can be game-changers and advocates for justice and mercy in their local situation.

Guest presenters from Marist Youth Care (**Cate Sydes and MYC staff**), Catholic Earthcare and Australian Catholic Religious against the Trafficking of Humans – ACRATH (**Sr Noelene Simmons, sm**) were keynote speakers.

The Marist Youth Ministry team, Sydney, and Br Greg McDonald would like to thank Mr Matthew Watson from John Therry Catholic High School for giving up his time and working with us on the weekend to ensure the theme for the forum was achieved by all students.

Mrs Jenifer Miller
NSW/ACT Regional Coordinator Marist Youth Ministry



Mr Matthew Watson working with students on the Forum



Year 11 Forum at Mittagong