



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

I'm not sure that I get relics entirely. Or, even less, like them.

Bits of bone, congealed blood, preserved pieces of clothing. When the boys from Marist College Penshurst were visiting the Marist General House in Rome a few weeks back, the element of the beautifully decorated Chapel of St Marcellin that most caught their attention seemed to be the decent hunk of the Founder's yellowed bone housed in a golden reliquary. All a bit macabre. More voodoo than spirituality. Perhaps. Certainly, some of the more bizarre devotions of various cultures and periods of history could be easily criticised on that score. But, like many practices, there can be good reason and value found when the baby is rescued from the bath water. Let's look for the baby.

We won't find it in magic, and we probably won't find it in smoke and incense, or anything that smacks of adoration of inanimate objects. We could, at the other end of the credibility spectrum, start to get into a theology of incarnation, or sacramentality, or rejection of dualism, or the place of the communion of saints, and so on. That would all be fine, but I suspect that's not what has sustained the continued place of saints' relics in our tradition.

It's a little more grounded than that, in my experience, not too far from the same reason that we carry a picture of a loved one in our wallet, or we have photos of family members and events in our lounge rooms and on our desks, or tend and visit graves. We want to be reminded, to keep those special people in our minds and hearts. We want to be mindful and to remember. And that mindfulness and memory are sacred to us.

This month of November – the time of Autumn in the northern hemisphere – is traditionally given over to remembering those who have died, and to praying for and with them. Many of our schools have tangible and engaging ways for students and staff to do this, such as the writing of names in a special Book of Remembrance in the school chapel, before-school or lunchtime Masses or Prayers of Remembrance, and the opportunity for students to take part in simple lighting of candles. We have already had the Solemnity of All Saints, the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed (often dubbed "All Souls Day"), and at the end of this week most schools will do something for Remembrance Day. Whatever rituals or strategies be used, they all help us to educate young people in the importance and place of remembering.

But perhaps we in the South have the better of it, because our November comes in the fullness of Spring. Memory, good memory, is something that gives us life. More than simple nostalgia, it is part of who we are and who we are becoming. It puts us into an everlasting story that has a past, a present and, most importantly, a future – a forever-ness. All good memory is an expression of the God who was, who is, and who is to come. It was not for nothing that Jesus' injunction at the Last Supper was to "do this in remembrance of me". There is great richness in that simple statement that we recall at every Eucharist, and then echo in the Acclamation of Faith.

Maybe relics will help young people to a deeper understanding of this compelling faith that we share. Maybe they'll miss the truth in what may seem to them outré and odd. But let's never forget to teach them how and what and why to remember.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

14 Nov	ONLINE REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR 2017 PROGRAMMES	1-3 Dec	Remar Red Embarkation, Sacred Heart College
14 Nov	Marist Solidarity Christmas Gathering, Marist College Eastwood	3 Dec	Annual MSA Mass & Dinner, Melbourne
20 Nov	Marist Solidarity Christmas Gathering, Marist Centre Melbourne	4-7 Dec	Student Leaders Gathering, Sydney
21 Nov	Our Daily Bread, Marist Catholic College Penshurst	5 Dec	Marist Solidarity Christmas Gathering, Sacred Heart College
22 Nov	Our Daily Bread, Marist College Randwick	15-17 Dec	District of the Pacific Assembly, SHC, Auckland
22 Nov	Association Council meeting	15 Dec	NT, WA final day of school
27-29 Nov	Student Leaders Gathering, Melbourne	16 Dec	QLD, ACT, SA final day of school
1 Dec	In the Marist Way, Marist Youth Care Blacktown	20 Dec	NSW, VIC final day of school

BRING THEM HERE

Some MSA schools have initiated ways to publicise the Australian Catholic Bishops' advocacy for bringing to Australia the asylum seekers and refugees who are still held in Nauru and on Manus Island PNG. The Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat aligns itself with all the Church is doing in this regard. In the words of Archbishop Denis Hart, President of ACBC, "enough is enough". MSA member schools who become involved in this campaign do so knowing that they have the full support and encouragement of the Marists. Click [here](#) to read Archbishop Hart's statement and other material.

WELCOME TO PETE'S PLACE

At Friday night's MSA Mass and Dinner, a Certificate of Membership was presented to the latest MSA member school – *Pete's Place*, Blacktown in western Sydney. A special school run by Marist Youth Care for especially needy adolescents, Pete's Place had for several years operated as a programme under the auspices of The John Berne School. It is now operating as a stand-alone school, governed by the Board of Marist Youth Care. The Certificate of Membership was presented by MSA National Director, Brother Michael, to Marist Youth Care CEO, Cate Sydes.

MSA MASS AND DINNER IN SYDNEY

Over 170 Marists attended the second of the three annual end-of-year MSA gatherings on Friday evening. This time it was the turn of the Sydney Region, the event hosted by St Joseph's College and the Marist Parish of Hunters Hill. The occasion brought together MSA Principals, members of leadership teams, members of various Marist councils and boards, leaders of other areas of Marist ministry, and teams from the Marist Centre Sydney who support them. Special guests included fifteen people who were honoured for their outstanding service to Marist education, along with their colleagues and members of their families. As always, it was inspiring to hear the citations read for those receiving the awards – reflecting years and decades of exceptionally generous and committed education and care of young people.

The names and schools of the recipients for the Sydney Region were:

- Br Paul Bailey (St Michael's Primary School)
- Laurie Hicks (Marist College Canberra)
- Brian Coates (Marist College Canberra)
- Helen Peters (St Joseph's College)
- Eunice Dumas (St Patrick's Marist College)
- Michael Wondracz (St Patrick's Marist College)
- Lorraine Gudgeon (Parramatta Marist High School)
- Wendy Breen (Marist College Eastwood)
- Jennifer Dove (Marcellin College, Randwick)
- Brother Michael Hill (Marist College North Shore)
- Joan Matthews (Mount Carmel Catholic College)
- Nina Hreszczuk (Mount Carmel Catholic College)
- Gerard Lobo (Trinity Catholic College, Auburn/Regents Park)
- Br Tony Vaughan (Trinity Catholic College, Auburn/Regents Park)
- Julia Lederwasch (St Francis Xavier's College)
- Peter McNamara (MSA Consultant)
- Br Michael Green (National Director, Marist Schools Australia)



Katie Lynch, Br Michael Hill, Tony Duncan, Rick Grech, Anthony Munro, Carolyn O'Brien



Magdy Habib, Helen Peters, Lesley Maher



In a pleasant surprise at Friday's dinner there were ten members of the 2016 Marist Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Rome and France.

MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



FOOTSTEPS 23 - 26 October 2016

The end of October saw 30 participants come together from across the country to participate in the Footsteps programme held at The Hermitage, Mittagong. During these days they explored our Marist identity, spirituality, and pedagogy, whilst deepening their own appreciation of their personal call to faith. Inspired like Marcellin, they embraced Jesus' message of being agents of change and creatively discussed ways of bridging our faith within a contemporary world.

CARE FOR THE SOUL RETREAT

Our most recent 'Care for the Soul' Retreat took place last weekend with ten participants and four team members. This retreat was led by Br Bill Sullivan and Br Bill Tarrant, with Sr Gail Reneker and Ms Liz Anne Smith acting as our Spiritual Directors. The retreat is offered in a spirit of silence and offers a variety of input, prayer experiences and the Eucharist. Feedback from the participants include: "Thank you for the sensitivity and presence of the team. The flow of the weekend was very life giving."



Liz Anne Smith, Therese Harding, Gary Griffin, Katie Lynch, Daniel Lynch, Br Bill Sullivan, Caroline Morizzi, Sr Gail Reneker, Cheryl Klimko, Rochelle Downs, Br Bill Tarrant, Matthew O'Connor, Gary Quinn, Liam Duncan



OUR DAILY BREAD - Catholic College Sale

In a beautiful seascape environment, staff of Catholic College Sale worked collaboratively in the programme *Our Daily Bread - Art as Prayer and Scripture as Prayer*. Great presentations were presented creatively by staff to staff.

MSA 2017 PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS BROCHURES

Online registration for 2017 programmes opens



MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER

The 2017 Programmes and Events brochure can be found on the [MSA website](#) and app.

GATHERED AS COMMUNITY! REMAR RED LEADERSHIP CAMPS

One of the gifts of Marist life and mission is community and witnessing in our young people the value of *Family Spirit*. The recent Remar Red Leadership camps were a beautiful example of Yr. 10's from across our Marist Schools connecting as a *Marist community, a Marist family*. Over 300 students, staff, Brothers and Marist Young Adult volunteers came together for the three camps to explore what it means to be part of a *Christian Community*.

Through session inputs, games, prayer and Eucharist, the rowers explored each of the four spokes of Remar:

Leadership, Faith Development, Service & Ministry and Community

Great fun and reflection was had and we thank all those involved in supporting the Remar Ministry Team in delivering the program.

'Whatever the members of a community do – working, struggling for justice, serving society, praying or sharing meals and relaxation together – we recognise the blessings of God. We are blessed with the gift of life and with companions for our mission and our life's journey. We proclaim, not just what God has done for each one of us, but what God is doing for us together, as family and community.'
WFR 106.

Liz Wake

National Remar Coordinator
Marist Youth Ministry Regional Coordinator

ST PATRICK'S MARIST COLLEGE SUPPORTS YOUNG CHILDREN IN INDIA



The Marist Nursery and Primary School is located in Vizhalanmedu village on the outskirts of the district of Trichy, India. Established in 2015, it now provides pre-school and primary education for 70 boys and girls from the surrounding 28 villages. Their latest addition to the school—a central multipurpose covered podium—is now well underway.

Earlier this year Mrs Angela Hay, Principal of St Patrick's Marist College, and Mr Matthew Paton, Director of Mission, led an immersion group to this remote community. Following this immersion, the St Patrick's Marist College community raised the funds needed to complete this stage of the school's development plan.

Stage one of the development plan included the ground floor, completed with five classrooms, one library, one staff room and one school office. The second phase of the project saw the completion of the first floor with six classrooms and one audio-visual room.

The new multipurpose covered podium will serve as a space for students to take their noon meal instead of using the school veranda or corridor. It will also give the school a space for their annual day celebrations, sports day, daily school assembly and prayer meetings.

The Marist Nursery and Primary School is gradually being equipped with necessary facilities in order to provide quality education and a better learning environment for the children of this disadvantaged region.

Thank you to the St Patrick's Marist College community for the support and show of solidarity with these young people. We must also thank all those who have supported our many projects across Asia and the Pacific.

For more information, visit us online:

www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au



Red Leadership Camp NSW 29-30 October 2016



Red Leadership Camp VIC #2 14-16 October 2016

Thanks to our supporters, this year we've distributed
\$912,985 to 92 PROJECTS in 17 COUNTRIES

