



MSA Newsletter

A newsletter for Member Schools of Marist Schools Australia published fortnightly during term time



From Dr Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues

“Happy Feast Day!”

This salutation was heard around the country last week during Masses celebrated in playgrounds, school halls, Chapels, Parish Churches, and even Cathedrals. And what a Feast it was in this 200th year of Marist education! Our Catholic Liturgical Calendar is replete with Feasts. I have a close friend named John, who was raised in what he describes as a very strict Methodist family. He has often said that his father disapproved of too much festivity and always warned, “drinking could lead to dancing!” John married a Catholic girl and describes Catholicism as “the fun religion” due to our exhaustive celebrating of Feast days. When I first heard him say this some 25 years ago, I was ready to defend against the perceived insult until it became clear the comment was in fact a most sincere compliment.

Certainly the word “Feast” conjures visions of excess and generosity. A feast is not a meal. A feast is an extravagance, a party with abundant food, drink, laughter, and noise. Often the detail of conversation at a feast is less memorable than the spirit that existed among those gathered. This sense of abundance is at the very heart of our Feast day celebrations in the Church, as we celebrate and recognise the abundance of the Holy Spirit evident in someone’s life. In the recent Marian lecture series, Dom Mark Patrick Hederman urged Marists in Australia to be the abundant presence of the Holy Spirit for the Church and society today as Saint Marcellin was 200 years ago. He also urged Marists not to become “cultish”. When we speak of Church, Marist, Marcellin, and even Mary, our words must point to Jesus and illuminate Him.

Last Tuesday the universal Church paused to reflect on how the life, work and ongoing inspiration of Saint Marcellin Champagnat points us to Jesus. One of the more striking messages this Champagnat Day came from Bishop Terry Brady who was addressing the boys and staff from Marist College Eastwood at their 80th anniversary Mass in St Mary’s Cathedral. Bishop Terry in his homily explained simply that Saint Marcellin, the Brothers and all Marists, since their foundation were first and foremost, great friends of Jesus. Terry urged the boys to truly consider Jesus as friend, to work on that relationship, be in his presence, and not forget or take for granted the one friendship to rely upon whatever challenges life presents.

Yours sincerely

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

13 June Marian Lecture Perth
 17 June AMS Mid Year Gathering, Marist Centre Melbourne
 18-21 June Footsteps2: Making Jesus Christ Known and Loved
 21 June Remar Red Caravel Day Western Australia
 23 June Remar Gold Helm Inservice Victoria
 23-25 June Care for the Soul Retreat - The Hermitage, Mittagong
 23-25 June Remar Blue Retreat Western Australia

30 June-3 July Marist Youth Festival
 21 July Remar Gold Helm Inservice NSW
 30 July-1 Aug Marist Schools Biennial Conference
 3-5 August Care for the Soul Retreat
 11-13 August Remar Gold Retreat VIC
 16-19 August Contemplative Retreat
 25-27 August Remar Gold Retreat NSW

2017 MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA *Biennial Conference*

PLACES FILLING QUICKLY - REGISTER NOW!
<http://msa.edu.au/registrations/>

Registrations for the MSA Biennial Conference on 30 July – 1 August are filling quickly with over half of the conference capacity booked.

Under 30 places available!

Registrations close 10 July.

Onsite accommodation is booked out. For further accommodation options and other information, please refer to the MSA website at this address - <http://msa.edu.au/accommodation-options-1/>

NEWMAN COLLEGE CHURCHLANDS WA

On Wednesday 7 June, Newman College hosted the annual LifeLink Day launch for Primary schools. Newman College welcomed student and staff representatives from 73 of the 93 Primary schools in the Archdiocese of Perth.

Each student at every Primary school within the Archdiocese was asked to prepare a single heart that would be brought to the launch and placed on the ovals at Newman College in recognition of each of the 34,000 people assisted by LifeLink. The Year 4 and Year 5 students assisted in placing each of the hearts into one large heart on the ovals at Newman College.



SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER - MARIST LEARNING ZONE (MLZ)

We are seeking to appoint a Senior Project Officer in the Marist Learning Zone (MLZ) Program which is designed to cater for secondary school age students who are experiencing difficulty with their school attendance.

The position of Senior Project Officer (MLZ) is being created as part of the strategic partnership between CEDP and Marist Schools Australia. It represents the staffing contribution to the Marist Learning Zone project due to **commence in Term 3, 2017**. The position will provide oversight of the operation of the Facility, Program and all other staff at MLZ Buildings located at the Aengus Kavanagh Centre, Mt Drutt.

Application closing date: 15/06/2017

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

ST GREGORY'S COLLEGE CAMPBELLTOWN NSW

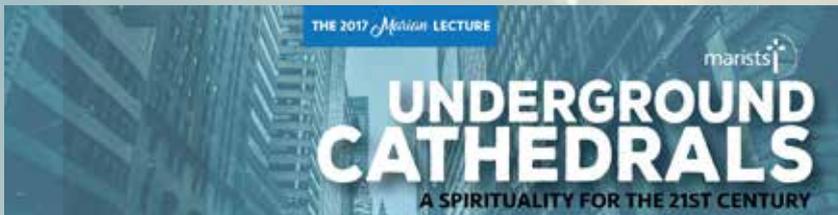
As part of the Champagnat Day celebrations, St Gregory's College Campbelltown commissioned world renowned artist, Matteo Charles, to paint a portrait of Marcellin as part of the homily.



In less than three songs Matteo turned a black, blank canvas into the masterpiece you see. The 1500 people in attendance were mesmerised by his work. The College now has a contemporary painting that will be displayed and a reminder to all present Champagnat Day 2017.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ce6QodLZh3o>

MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



Marists and friends came together at various locations across the country for the inaugural Marian Lecture with renowned speaker Dom Mark Patrick Hederman from Glenstal Abbey in Ireland. Mark Patrick's topic, Underground Cathedrals, explored the ways that the Holy Spirit is moving in the world today.



Much like what drove St Marcellin and the co-founders of the Marist project, Mark Patrick encouraged those present to listen to and accept the invitation of the Holy Spirit to where it may be leading us. He pointed out that over 95% of the leadership and work of Marist projects (worldwide) is in the hands of lay people. Among these are many who identify themselves as Marist in both their spirituality and their professional practice. He affirmed that the 21st century church needs to have a 21st century approach. He concluded his talk with the following: "Two hundred years ago St Marcellin Champagnat responded creatively to the mysterious Spirit of God. Opening our imaginations to that same Spirit, often at work 'underground' in the depths of our souls, is our only future".



MARIST YOUTH FESTIVAL



We are just over two weeks before Awaken, our Marist Youth Festival which commences on Friday June 30 at St Joseph's College Hunters Hill. This special bicentennial event for senior students and young adults promises to be a great celebration of Marist life and mission, not to mention the terrific faith and justice workshops, guest speakers and keynote presenters who will join us.

If your school is yet to finalise your registrations and payments please contact Br Greg asap. Thanks to those schools who have generously got behind MYF17 and are supporting the event not only with students but staff supervisors. These events can't run without the support and goodwill of our Marist staff.

FROM THE FIELD - AMS CEO IN CAMBODIA

Highlighting the need for the Community Village in our End of Financial Year Appeal

Ten minutes before the home study time starts at LaValla School in Cambodia 97 students are seated in primary school class groups working on assignments. Any Australian visitors receive an invitation to assist with English and check work. It's a little competitive for the visiting tutor's attention, and one soon forgets all students have a physical disability. Likewise at sport, prosthetic's are thrown on the side of the swimming pool, or students discard their apparatus in preparation for Paralympic Volleyball.

Once primary school years are completed for the majority of students in 3 years of accelerated learning, many are aged 16 to 20 by Year 7 in secondary school. I visited the site of the Marist and local Khmer project in response to secondary school needs - a community village site for independent living in small houses with a garden patch. The land has been cleared, a drainage system put in place and a security wall constructed. Many donors are assisting in this phase of development, which is the construction of buildings due to start in September 2017.

Words like courage, resilience and joy don't adequately capture this AMS project's spirit and it is wonderful to experience young people being freed of their dependence on others through quality Marist education with a difference.

To find out more about the project please follow this link:

[MSC Community Village](#)



Tony Skinner

Communications Coordinator, Australian Marist Solidarity

MYM AUSTRALIA HOSTING BRAZILIAN YOUNG MARIST



MYM welcomed its newest team member last week with the arrival of Matheus Silva from Brazil. Matheus (pictured right side of St Marcellin) is volunteering in Australia for twelve months having worked in Marist Youth Ministry in the Province of Brazil Centro-Sul. He is the first youth minister to come through the

international Marist volunteer program - CMI (Collaboration for Mission International) led by Br Chris Wills in Rome. We hope that during his 12-month stay he will be able to experience some of the amazing and varied places across Australia in which our Marist mission operates. Welcome Matheus!

YOUTH SURVEY



As part of the local and international discernment and conversation on young people in the Church, a number of young adults in MYM have been invited to complete the survey for the upcoming Synod in 2018.

Br Greg McDonald

Marist Youth Ministry National Coordinator