



MSA Newsletter

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



From Dr Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past week there has been an enormous amount of attention in the media concentrating on Catholics in regard to the postal plebiscite on the legal definition of marriage. Appropriately at the time of writing five Australian Bishops have engaged quite publicly in the debate, in their important teaching and pastoral roles. That two are Marist educated might add encouragement to our own deep and prayerful reflection on the issue. Unsurprisingly three Jesuits have been widely quoted in the Fairfax media, in a manner so selective as to distort the balance of their constructive, sincere, and sensitive commentary.

Archbishop Tim Costelloe SBD, in his pastoral letter to the people of Perth clearly indicated his desire to “propose” rather than “impose” the Catholic position on the issue. The Archbishop of Adelaide, Phillip Wilson (St Joseph’s College Hunters Hill) invited all Catholics to exercise their right and duty as citizens to engage in this community discernment and to dialogue in a spirit of grace, calm reverence and respect, and with an absence of criticism, abuse or denigration of other people or their individual choices. Archbishop Wilson identified the debate as an opportunity for Catholics to witness our deep commitment to marriage in a way that might convince others by the depth of our faith and our respect for all. Bishop James Foley of Cairns (Marist College Ashgrove) wrote a pastoral letter on the topic, which identified the complex and personal nature of the issue. Bishop James emphasised the following:

The Jewish/Christian commitment is to care deeply for every person, especially those who differ from myself, (*The Good Samaritan [Lk 10/29-37]*) with the absolute primacy above all other Commandments of loving of God and loving of all others.

On these two Commandments hang the whole Law (including Lev. 18/22 and 20/3) and the Prophets also (Mt. 22/40).

In Christian speech there can be no place for *hate speech*.

Yet it is tragically paradoxical that *hate speech* may now be occurring on and around such *sacred ground* as deep loving friendships and particularly about that most sensitive and intimate of all human experiences: loving sexual expression!

It is such a pathetic irony that loving friendship would ever become a *battlefield* for hurting or worse hating.

In preparation for this postal plebiscite, we need to encourage one another to bring to bear on the issue an informed conscience, prayerfulness, deep reflection, and respect. One can be confident Jesus would ask nothing less.

Should the definition of marriage change, it will be essential for Catholics to engage with our elected representatives to ensure protections for religious freedom in Australia are not diminished in any way. Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney has clearly identified the importance of ensuring religious freedoms are not curtailed. This is a critical consideration for the ways in which we are able to conduct our Catholic schools in this country.

I encourage you to read and reflect on the information contained within key statements on this important issue by following this [LINK](#).

Yours sincerely

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

6 Sept	Marist Oratory Competition	11-12 Oct	Colloquium on Indigenous Students VIC
7-8 Sept	Marist Deputy Principals Meeting, Adelaide	13 Oct	Marist Leaders Next Gen 1 Sydney
8 Sept	Remar Red Helm Inservice VIC	14 Oct	MSA Mass and Dinner QLD
10-13 Sept	Footsteps2 - Mittagong	13-15 Oct	Remar Red Leadership Camp VIC
15 Sept	Remar Red Helm Inservice NSW	15-18 Oct	Marist Solidarity Retreat
6-8 Oct	Remar Red Leadership Camp QLD	22-25 Oct	Footsteps1 - Mittagong
8-10 Oct	Marist Boarding Conference, Kilmore	27-29 Oct	Care of the Soul Retreat Mittagong

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY: NATIONAL REMAR COORDINATOR

Marist Youth Ministry is inviting applications for the position of National Remar Coordinator commencing in 2018, based in Brunswick, Melbourne.

The National Remar Coordinator has primary responsibility for the delivery of the Remar program in Years 10, 11 and 12 throughout Australia and accepts responsibility for developing the organisational structures and personnel which enable and support the program.

Follow this [link](#) for further information.

SAVE THE DATE

Marist Schools Australia Mass and Dinner

14 October - Brisbane
3 November - Sydney
2 December - Melbourne



MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT, 16 - 19 August 2017

The Holy Spirit was clearly present during the Contemplative Retreat both in the August wind that swirled around us and in the participants who were moved by the silence and contemplative atmosphere they created. One participant commented that '...it was a gift to be given the time and space to encounter God in the quiet and personal time we were given.'

AWAKEN - PARKES

On 16-17 August, Holy Family Parish School, Parkes participated in two twilight sessions centered around this year's theme of Awaken. The school recently became a member of Marist Schools Australia so it was a perfect time to celebrate by sharing a meal and partaking in rich spiritual formation. There was a shared sense of community spirit as the staff explored the four Marist Bicentenary paintings and reflected on the highly significant work they do with their young students.

Photo: Judi Cannon, Rachael Jones, Julie Herring, Bev Berger



AWAKEN - CAMPBELLTOWN

In recent weeks St Gregory's College, Campbelltown participated in the Awaken spirituality program where staff celebrated both our Marist and Christian story. The day allowed for rich conversation about the life and spirit of their community, as well as exploring ways to continue to nurture and develop their young people. The culmination of the program were the creative artworks designed by each staff member, illustrating their gratitude and hopes for their own school community.

YOUTH OFF THE STREETS – KUYA CENTRE PHILIPPINES

The Kuya Centre for Street Children is located in Quezon City, Metro Manila in the Philippines. UNICEF (2016) reports that 1.8 million children in the country, more than 1% of its entire population, are “abandoned or neglected.” With most street kids being male, the Kuya Centre caters for boys between the ages of seven and fifteen. Girls are accepted in emergency situations and transferred to more appropriate facilities within a few days. Currently, the centre is called home by 30 young boys who were orphaned or abandoned. In a few cases some young boys have run away from home, however, where possible they were returned to their family.

The children in the Kuya Centre miss out on the things we take for granted in Australia, like education, food, shelter and someone to love and care for them and keep them safe. Many enter the Centre feeling desperately hopeless. The Centre offers the young boys the opportunity to take part in many programs and choose from a range of educational options. Regular schooling is offered to those of normal school age and attainment, accelerated education to older boys with low attainment levels, while evening classes are held for young adults.

The boys are surrounded by role models including Marist Brothers and lay staff, some of whom were past students. At AMS, we recently learned of one past student who lived his childhood collecting recyclable plastic and paper on the streets before enrolling into the Kuya Centre. Subsequently, he graduated from school before going on to complete a degree in pathology and later medicine. He is now the Centre’s on call doctor.

Education is the key to alleviating the future path out of poverty for these young boys. If you would like further information on AMS’s work in the Philippines or to support the Kuya Centre visit:

www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au

Tony Skinner

Communications Coordinator, Australian Marist Solidarity



REMAR GOLD RETREATS

VIC - 11-13th August | NSW – 25-27th August

‘You are the light of the world’ Matthew 5:14-16

‘Wherever the followers of Marcellin are present, working together in mission, this “family spirit” is the Marist way of communal living. Its wellspring is the love that Jesus has for all his brothers and sisters – all of humanity. Through this spirit we offer an experience of belonging and union in mission.’ – WFR 32.

The most recent Remar Gold Retreats sought to do just this, to ‘offer an experience of belonging and union in mission’. The retreats were a final gathering experience for Year 12’s to celebrate their Remar journey and provided a space to dialogue about how they can continue this Marist Mission post school as agents of change in the world!

Over 230 Gold rowers, Helms, Support Staff, Brothers and Young Marist Volunteers, came together from across the country at Phillip Island and Mittagong. The retreats were facilitated by the Remar Ministry Team, with the outstanding support of the regional Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney MYM teams, Marist Brothers and Young Marist Volunteers.

The rowers engaged in experiences of prayer, reflection and dialogue focusing on the theme of ‘being a witness in my community’. It was also a time where they could really think about the future and how the Marist values they have been formed in through Remar, can support them in their journey ahead. Some highlights of the retreat were Friday evening prayer – a story telling of Marcellin, Mary and Jesus; Caravel Showtime and workshops that focused on exploring prayer, ministry, community and leadership.



Schools from VIC, WA, SA, QLD and NT - Gold Retreat Phillip Island



Trinity Auburn and St Patrick’s Dundas - Gold Retreat Mittagong

Liz Wake

National Remar Coordinator

MYM Regional Coordinator, Melbourne