



MSA Newsletter

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

From Dr Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

As we enter this very last phase of the school year with all the attendant work and deadlines, the season of Advent once again draws our attention to prepare for the joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas time. Advent and the often hectic and stressful conclusion of the school year provide a challenging juxtaposition for Catholic schools. As Catholic educators we are acutely aware of our growing responsibility to connect everyone in our school communities in meaningful ways with the foundational elements of our Christian Faith. There is no better season in the Church's year to share the joy Christ brings to believers, yet Advent can become a bit lost in the midst of final assessments, marking, feedback, report writing, and the myriad end of school year accountabilities beckoned by education authorities and government.

A common conundrum that captures this tension is the naming of the final year whole school liturgy, which are universally celebrated across our schools. As a rookie REC I remember well the gentle admonishment of a Parish Priest when I presented the draft Mass booklet for the final liturgy of the year. In those days of Apple II E Computers and dot matrix printers, the Art teacher had generously used their calligraphy skills to create a beautifully designed cover page with the title "End of Year Mass". The kindly Pastor looked through the book and approved all within and then said gently, "That is a beautiful cover but we will need to change it. You left off Advent!" With bright crimson face and bald spot of similar hue, I hurriedly thanked him, found my Art teaching friend and urged them with bribes of sausage rolls and chips from the tuckshop to redo the cover page. The earnestness to thank God for the blessings and achievements of the school that year, had momentarily eclipsed the season in which we prepare to celebrate the essence of Christianity! May Advent 2017 be a special time of witness and celebration in your school community.

Tomorrow we will learn the result of the same sex marriage survey. The 9 November article in *Eureka Street* by Father Frank Brennan, titled "*Same Sex Marriage and Freedom of Religion*" is commended to you. Father Brennan highlights a number of anticipated legislative challenges that may be before our elected representatives in the New Year. The article can be found [HERE](#). As Catholic educators in Australia, it is important that we are clear on issues of religious freedom apart from those directly associated with same sex marriage. As Father Brennan points out, broader rights to religious freedom, including protection for churches as employers, reside in the existing Fair Work Act and the Sex Discrimination Act. Whether these existing provisions are robust enough is a question deserved of analysis. The United Nations Human Rights Committee in Geneva acknowledged in its most recent review of Australia's human rights performance, a lack of direct protection against discrimination on the basis of religion at a federal level. The chair of the Australian parliamentary inquiry, which will report on the status of the human right to freedom of religion or belief early in 2018 noted in October this year:

"There are a number of protections of this fundamental freedom in the Constitution in Commonwealth, State, and Territory legislation, and in common law. The effectiveness or otherwise of these protections, and whether Australia needs a more comprehensive legislative framework will be discussed in detail."

We look forward to the findings of this inquiry and broad discussion in parliament of possible amendments to existing legislation.

More immediately, in the coming days may our words and actions continue to build respect and understanding for everyone in our society. As Saint Marcellin urged the first Marists, let us be

"Good Christians and good citizens"

Yours sincerely,

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

14 Nov	ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR 2018 PROGRAMS OPENS	2 Dec	MSA Mass and Dinner - Melbourne
19 Nov	AMS Christmas Gathering - Marist Centre Melbourne	3-5 Dec	Student Leaders Gathering, Mittagong
24 Nov	MYM Super Connect - Marist College Eastwood	From 5 Dec	Marist Cricket Carnival
26-28 Nov	Student Leaders Gathering, Amberley		

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS

Tuesday 14 November

FOR
2018 PROGRAMS

SYDNEY MSA MASS AND DINNER

Over 150 guests attended the Sydney MSA Mass and Dinner held at St Joseph's College Hunters Hill on Friday 3 November 2017. 17 staff were awarded with Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Service to Marist Education.



BRISBANE MSA MASS AND DINNER

Over 60 guests attended the Brisbane MSA Mass and Dinner held at Marist College Ashgrove on Saturday 14 October 2017. 8 staff were awarded with Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Service to Marist Education.



MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



SOLIDARITY RETREAT, 15-18 October 2017

Eighteen participants from various Marist schools and ministries ventured over to Central Australia to partake in the annual Marist Solidarity Retreat. The retreat took place in Central Australia, spending significant time in the Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School in Santa Teresa. The four days provided an encounter of the living spirituality within the land; having opportunities to visit sacred indigenous sites, as well as hearing from local elders, brothers and students. Surrounded by red dirt and hauntingly beautiful mountain ranges, the group not only experienced a strong sense of connection with the land, but also that of Marist mission.



CARE FOR THE SOUL RETREAT

Our final Care for the Soul Retreat was recently held at the Hermitage Mittagong. Eighteen people joined us for a weekend of prayer and reflection. Many of those who joined us came from outside the Marist network so it was great to offer this opportunity to people from diverse backgrounds. Many thanks to the team of Brs Bill Tarrant, Bob O'Connor, Bryan Davis and Liz Anne Smith who helped to guide the retreat experience.

Four different styles of Retreats or Reflection days are being offered in 2018. Details can be found on the Hermitage website at

www.thehermitage.org.au

Br Bill Sullivan



YEAR 9 RETREAT DAY AT CARMEL COLLEGE, THORNLANDS

At the end of October, Caitie and Cameron from the Brisbane Marist Youth Ministry office ran the Year 9 Retreat Day at Carmel College, Thornlands. The day was focused on the 5 Marist Characteristics: Family Spirit, Presence, Simplicity, Love of Work, and In The Way of Mary. It was a fun day of animating the characteristics and helping the Year 9 students see how they can engage with Marist values in their daily lives. A highlight of the day was the Family Spirit activities that saw the students bond with their home rooms and complete different challenges.

The aspect that encouraged the team the most was the way the students engaged with the Presence characteristic. Through a session that involved input, media and activities, the students were able to articulate that being 'present' in their relationships was the key to building meaningful connections with others.

Our hope for the future for these students is that they would begin to explore their Marist Identity and to have their relationship with Jesus, faith and the Church strengthened.



AMS LAUNCHES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

On Monday the 6th of November AMS Launched our Christmas appeal in Brisbane.

On Monday night, Australian Marist Solidarity hosted a crowd of more than 80 guests at the Marist Centre in Brisbane for the launch of its 2017 Christmas Appeal.

Marist Solidarity CEO, Brother Allen Sherry, says "the event was attended by Australian Marist Brothers Province Leader, Brother Peter Carroll, as well as other Marist leaders from Oceania and local Marist Brothers, the Association of St Marcellin, MSA schools and Young Marists."

The event, which was hosted by Marist Solidarity Chairperson, Mr Peter Sheehan, also attracted some of the organisation's most influential donors, teaching staff, volunteers, supporters and friends.

The highlight of the event was the broadcast of a new 4-minute mini documentary which focuses on Maway, a former gang leader turned trainer who lives in the Village of Wai-lilli, Timor-Leste. During the event the 2018 theme for the MSA Schools Campaign was launched. The theme for 2018 will be Unlock Solidarity: Freedom to Learn and draws our attention to the plight of the children in the tea gardens of Bangladesh and the Marists new school and hostels there which needs support for phase 2 of their community.

A further Marist Solidarity Christmas appeal event will be held in Melbourne on Sunday 29 November, 5.30pm – 7.00pm, Marist Centre, 1 Dawson St, Brunswick VIC 3056.

Tony Skinner

AMS Communications Coordinator, Australian Marist Solidarity

Caitlin Humphrys
Brisbane Regional Coordinator - Marist Youth Ministry

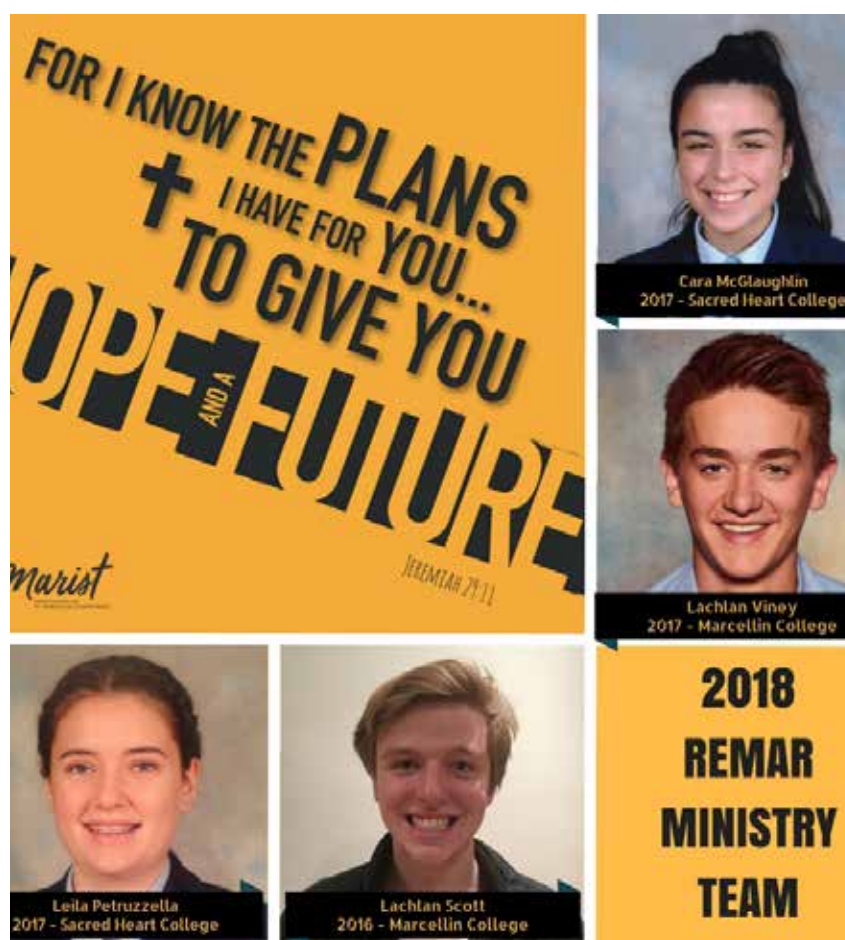
2018 Remar Ministry Team

Marist Youth Ministry proudly announce the 2018 RMT line up.

Please join us in welcoming these brilliant Young Marist's as they animate our Marist Mission and life across the country, bringing their gifts and talents to the Remar program.

Hi, I'm Cara! I have recently graduated from Sacred Heart College in Adelaide. I have joined the Remar Ministry Team because I want to keep contributing to the amazing Marist family spirit in the Remar community. I am most looking forward to meeting all the rowers from all around Australia. *Cara McGlaughlin, Sacred Heart College, 2017*

Hi I'm Lachy. I graduated from Marcellin College, Bulleen in 2016. I have joined the Remar Ministry Team because being present with young people and helping them with their personal growth inspires me. I am most looking forward to working alongside Lachlan, Cara, and Leila to form a strong Marist family with all we encounter! *Lachlan Scott, Marcellin College, 2016*



Hi I'm Lachie. I recently graduated from Marcellin College Bulleen I have joined the Remar Ministry Team because I am passionate about Remar and all that it has to offer. I am mostly looking forward to meeting and interacting with all the rowers and help them have a bit of fun! *Lachlan Viney, Marcellin College, 2017*

Hi I'm Leila and I have recently graduated from Sacred Heart College in Adelaide. I have joined the Remar Ministry Team because I would love to stay involved in the Marist community and be present with other young people through their Remar journey. I am most looking forward to getting to know the other RMT members and working closely with the rowers on camps. *Leila Petruzzella, Sacred Heart College, 2017*



Westmead Old Boys' Association

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26th October 2017

Fellow Old Boys and Friends,

I trust this communication finds you well and in good health.

A cordial invitation is extended to you to attend our next **Reunion Day** on **26th November, 2017** at the **Sacred Heart Church, 14 Ralph Street, Westmead**. The Mass will commence at **11am**, followed by a BBQ and drinks in the grounds and hall adjacent to the church. It is requested, that as guests we will observe and respect that parishioners maybe attending Mass.

In an aim to retain the Old Boys traditions, if there is an Old Boy who would like their children or grandchildren to be altar servers at the Mass, I would appreciate it if they would contact me prior to the reunion.

This year it has been 96 years since the first Old Boys' Reunion was held at St Vincent's in Westmead. I encourage you and any Old Boys you have contact with to attend. This will help to make it a memorable day and maintain the unique bond between Westmead Boys.

Further to our attempt to update the list of Old Boys in 2016, we seek your help by advising us of the location or whereabouts of any Old Boys from Westmead, especially if this letter is not reaching them. We thank you for your prior help in anticipation of your assistance.

Please inform other Old Boys of this arrangement.

We thank Marist180 (formally Marist Youth Care) for their generosity and continuing assistance with regard to our welfare and helping to maintain and organise our Reunion Day.

Kind regards

Ray Aquilina
President
Westmead Old Boys Association

Mobile Number: 0419 227 314