



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

From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues

Most who have worked in Catholic schools can speak of experiences with families and children new to Australia. This past week, the Australian Catholic Church has placed a purposeful focus on Migrants and Refugees. Recalling Pope Francis' words,

the presence of migrants and refugees – and of vulnerable people in general – is an invitation to recover some of those essential dimensions of our Christian existence and our humanity that risk being overlooked in a prosperous society. That is why it is not just about migrants. When we show concern for them, we also show concern for ourselves, for everyone; in taking care of them, we all grow; in listening to them, we also give voice to a part of ourselves that we may keep hidden because it is not well-regarded nowadays.¹

Many would remember the upheaval centred around the Cronulla riots in Sydney, December 2005. At the time, I had the privilege of being Principal of Holy Spirit College, Lakemba, a coeducational secondary school of approximately 1100 students. The suburb of Lakemba and those surrounding it were at that time, and continue to be, home for many recent migrants and refugees. Among the students, 97% spoke a language other than English at home. Nine out of 10 of the parents were born overseas, hailing from 73 different countries.

The anger of “the mob” at the Cronulla riots was directed at minority groups and especially those in NSW Police parlance, “of middle eastern appearance”. In the days following the riot there were a few acts of violence directed at Catholic Schools in the southwest of Sydney and I recall a general feeling of fear in the community. In one instance, bullets were fired into the front of a Primary school one evening.

It was not until after the Christmas holidays that the impact of those turbulent few weeks became clearer to me. As the students returned from their holidays, their joy at being back at school was obvious to all the staff. It quickly became apparent that a number of families had felt so anxious due to the rhetoric of hate and the violence based on race, they had chosen to not venture too much away from their own houses. The usual trips to the local swimming pools or a day at the beach had not happened or were far less frequent.

As the new school year commenced, in conversations with parents at the time, the memorable sentiment among them was gratitude. Whilst conscious of the uncertainty and effects of the discord in the broader community, collectively we had not understood the depth of feeling among our migrant and refugee families. The sincerity of their expressions of gratitude were humbling and to a degree perplexing. Our understanding of their appreciation was best realised in a statement from one mother who simply said,

"We are grateful to the teachers because they are Australians who make us feel this is our home too."

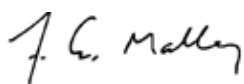
Father Frank Brennan SJ, made the following reflections for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Reiterating Pope Francis' insistence that 'It is not just about migrants', Fr Brennan suggests,

"How we welcome migrants and refugees affects all of us and helps to shape the sort of society we want to be, and the sort of people we want to be. We cannot establish God's kingdom here and now, but we can do more to make our homes, our local community, and our nation more welcoming to those who come to our shores. Continuing to enjoy the fruits and benefits of secure and peaceful lives in our homes in the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit, let's open our hearts and take some extra practical steps individually and collectively to provide a home for those who deserve more than the closed door of our fear and isolation. Let's always call to mind what it would be like for us if we were on the other side of the door, knocking, or if we were on the other side of the national border, pleading. Remember, in the kingdom of God 'some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last'".²

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Among our Marist schools we have scores of migrant and refugee families, who due to the generous daily work of teachers and school leaders, feel a sense of welcome and importantly experience belonging. May we Marists continue to strengthen in word and action, our response to the call of Jesus with our most vulnerable neighbours.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

1. Message from His Holiness Pope Francis, the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2019.
2. Homily Reflection by Fr Frank Brennan SJ for Migrant and Refugee Sunday 2019 Sunday, 25 August 2019

NOTICES AND NEWS

COMING UP...

28 Aug	Marist Oratory Competition	29 Sep - 17 Oct	Marist Pilgrimage
7 Sep	MSA Mass and Dinner - Brisbane	18 Oct	Marist Connect - Eastwood
8-11 Sep	Footsteps1 - Mittagong	20-23 Oct	Marist Solidarity Retreat
13-15 Sep	Remar Red Leadership Camp - VIC	25 Oct	MSA Mass and Dinner - Sydney
28-30 Sep	Year 11 Justice Forum - NSW	27-30 Oct	Footsteps1 - Mittagong

Click Here



to Volunteer

Bridge Builders Launches New Web Page!

Marists across Australia are welcome to visit the new **Bridge Builders web page - now live!**

This program offers both short and long term engagements in Australian or international communities.

The Culture of Encounter is the primary value - this is a Marist program with an emphasis on sharing the life of our global family. It will offer you a world of opportunities!

All Marists are welcome to apply - gap year students, Young Marists, tradespeople, teachers and professionals on sabbatical, young adults or the Grey Army of retirees. See the new web page for details.



www.msa.edu.au/volunteers



CATHOLIC COLLEGE SALE

Applications are invited for
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
Student Learning and Wellbeing

Catholic College Sale is a co-educational Secondary College governed by The Bishop of the Diocese of Sale and the Provincial of the Marist Brothers. The College is located in the thriving and beautiful regional city of Sale approximately 200 kilometres from Melbourne.

The College is seeking an enthusiastic, student centred, achievement focussed leader for the position of Deputy Principal.

This is an excellent opportunity for a committed Catholic educator who might be aspiring to Principalship to join a high functioning Leadership Team and be part of exciting developments at Catholic College Sale as the College transitions to a one-campus College in 2021.

Further details regarding the position are available at: www.ccsale.catholic.edu.au/events/employment



For an application pack contact Eva Brennan via eva.brennan@marists.org.au or (03) 9389 3165. **Applications close 5.00 pm on Wednesday 25 September 2019.**

FINDING GOD IN EVERY SITUATION



We read in Water From the Rock that “Like Marcellin, we can find God in every situation. Our faith does not limit the experience of God to moments of prayer or ‘sacred’ places. We can experience God’s love in all of our life. From this viewpoint, the world is no longer considered an obstacle and becomes instead a place of encounter with God, of mission and sanctification.” (WFR #64)

L to R: Jenny Swasbrick, Chris Rea, Andrea Elgueta, Sam Worley, Dominic De Van Der Scheuren, Jenny Norhte, Darren Anderson, Kelly Murray, and Chris Roga - La Valla College, Traralgon

At the start of this term, staff from various schools across the nation took time to engage with this notion of the world being a place of encounter with God through their engagement with the Holy Today program. Every school has their own very unique context but all could relate to this universal theme.



L to R: Allison McCartan, Sharon Wills and Kathy Biancuzzo - Newman College, Perth



L to R: Natalie Cambodia, Kristina Allan, Tanja Dunne, and Nicole Arathoon - John Berne School, Lewisham

The Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat invites suitably qualified applicants for the position of Marist Formation Team Member.

Location: Marist Centre Sydney (Mascot) or Marist Centre Melbourne (Brunswick)

Employment Type: Full-time (secondment possibilities can be negotiated)

Commencing: January 2020 or earlier by negotiation

The Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat is seeking an experienced school or ministry leader, educator or formator to join the Marist Formation Team.

The Marist Formation Team provides for the service of animation, formation and support of the various Marist Ministries across Australia. The team works with ministry leaders, educators and others, to provide a variety of faith formation opportunities tailored to meet the specific needs of their local context and community.

This position invites a creative, passionate and open response to reading the signs of the times in order to bring the Gospel alive in fresh and engaging ways. It invites enthusiasm and professionalism in the collaborative design, preparation and delivery of a suite of formation programs.

For an application package, including a Position Description, please contact **Lindsay Franko** at lindsay.franko@marists.org.au

Closing date 6 September 2019

To be considered for this position, you will:

- be a person of faith with a genuine desire to engage and form others in a relationship with Jesus Christ;
- have a strong commitment to the Catholic faith in practice and lifestyle, witness and modelling;
- be a person with experience in the area of adult faith formation and spirituality;
- have accreditation to teach Religious Education, and the completion of a Master of Religious Education or Theological Studies would be an advantage;
- have some background/experience with Marist spirituality and/or the Marist educational mission, or is open to embracing the Marist way;
- have some awareness of contemporary issues in the Church and their implications for spiritual formation;
- be creative, innovative and enjoy producing work to the highest standard;
- be articulate and comfortable in public speaking;
- be able to make effective use of adult learning strategies;
- be flexible in approach to working hours and open to domestic travel across Australia;
- be resilient, show initiative, and can work independently;
- be competent in utilising emerging technologies for communication.

AUSTRALIAN Marist SOLIDARITY



The latest edition of
Solidarity Matters is out
now

Solidarity Matters features the latest news from our project partners throughout Asia and The Pacific, where we are working in global solidarity to improve development and, importantly, education outcomes.

We feature the opening of phase 2 of the redevelopment of the Abafala Catholic Primary and Junior High School.

Our story from the Philippines, highlights how AMS is working with The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions to empower and educate girls from the semi-nomadic indigenous tribe, The Manobo Dulangan.

In Cambodia, we report that, recently twenty-four students with disabilities, and little access to formal

education in the rural provinces of Cambodia prior to coming to LaValla School, completed their graduation and celebrated.

In other news, Br Allen Sherry says farewell as CEO of Australian Marist Solidarity and thanks all our donors and partners.

To receive a copy of Solidarity Matters or to subscribe please email leigh.holohan@marists.org.au or phone us on (07) 3354 0600.

AMS Operations and Timor-Leste Projects Co-ordinator

Michael Coleman will conclude his time at AMS on Friday, 30 August, and take up a position as a Senior Systems Business Analyst at the Catholic Education Office in Brisbane.

Michael's connection to AMS dates back 12 years given his volunteering and part-time employment during studies. During his 7 years full time employment Michael's presence has been a great gift to the AMS team, our project partners overseas, especially in Timor Leste, and to staff at the Marist Centre Brisbane.

Michael's work has been marked by a high level of professionalism and he is renowned for this thoroughness and attention to detail. He has driven

several innovations in the office including the CRM which has digitalised our office systems.

The AMS board has recognised Michael's competencies by appointing him 3 years ago as AMS Board Secretary where he has been diligent in compliance requirements required of an international Marist NGO.

Congratulations to Michael on his significant new position and many thanks for shaping AMS over these years in terms of our mission as a Province ministry.

Br Allen Sherry
CEO, AMS



Media Enquiries:

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Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Australian Marist Solidarity
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YEAR 11 VOCATIONS FORUM

Seven Marist schools attended this year's Year 11 Forum on the weekend of 16 – 18 August. For the first time the theme of 'Vocations' was explored as an alternative to the usual 'Social Justice' theme. Students explored what it is to be called by God looking at three parts of Vocations; the universal call to sainthood, call to either religious, married or consecrated life and finally, the call to action in our daily lives. Students were given three 'keys' to unlock their personal vocation by answering three key questions; does it bring you joy?, what are your personal gifts/talents? and is it a genuine service to the world?



After listening to five panel members outline their personal stories and journeys to their chosen vocation, students had the chance to bond with other students by taking part in the thrilling 'Marist Chase' and then be entertained by the talent of others at the Marist Eurovision later that evening.



Some recorded feedback from students include:

I was able to learn that the discernment for my vocation is not instantaneous process, but it can be long. There is no rush and it will come naturally.

I am feeling God in my normal life – prayer and life are less separate.

More aware of what makes impact on my everyday life and I feel more grown more as an individual.

I have learnt more about the actions of being a Marist and how to apply this to my life.

My highlight at the Forum was Friday's evening prayer where we sat as a collective around the candles and prayed the Rosary.



Thank you for this experience and allowing us to connect further with our faith and bring us closer to our peers and wider community.



Jeni Miller
Regional MYM Coordinator NSW/ACT



INVITATION

An opportunity for Young Men 18-35 to come away to a quiet place and discern how God is calling you to *thrive* through the gift of your life and vocation.

We invite you to join us in an experience of sharing brotherhood, prayer and community together over a weekend in the beautiful surrounds of the Marist Hermitage in the Southern Highlands of NSW.

RSVP: Monday 2 September
Note: Transport subsidies are available.

DETAILS

Date: Fri 6 to Sun 8 September 2019
Venue: Marist Hermitage, 843 Old South Road Mittagong
Cost: \$40
Contact: Brother Greg McDonald
m: 0407 492 022
e: greg.mcdonald@marists.org.au
f: [facebook.com/MaristVocations](https://www.facebook.com/MaristVocations)