



From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

Vanuatu - Tropical Cyclone Harold Appeal

Whilst Australians are consumed with managing our response to the Coronavirus pandemic, and arrangements are being made for students returning to school in different ways and times in each State and Territory, our fellow Marists in Vanuatu are in urgent need of our support in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Harold. This Category 5 system made landfall on the island of Espiritu Santo with sustained winds of 200km/h on 6 April.

Australian Marist Solidarity has launched a national charitable recovery appeal for St Michel Technical College, which has been devastated by the cyclone. St Michel provides critical skills development for Vanuatu with both mainstream and vocational education pathways and has been supported by the Marist Brothers for 26 years. The school has 320 enrolled students from grades 7 to 12 and a further 80 enrolled in the vocational stream of the school. It has been seen as a beacon of hope on Espiritu Santo as it was one of the first schools established on the island.

Vanuatu is one of very few places on Earth with no confirmed cases of COVID-19. To prevent the coronavirus from being brought to Vanuatu, officials have banned foreign aid workers from entering the country to help with the recovery. Supplies that enter Vanuatu are being quarantined for three days and sanitised to ensure there is no remaining risk of coronavirus transmission.

Australian Marist Solidarity CEO **Rebecca Bromhead** said the situation remains critical and this appeal is vital to ensuring the local school is rebuilt.

“Supporting a remote community to recover from a cyclone like Harold is challenging at the best of times, but to do so in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic will require complex and sustained efforts. In times like these, the best chance for recovery is found in existing relationships and networks. Standing together in solidarity with our friends at St Michel will ensure the best possible future for the young people of Vanuatu, but we can’t do it alone. We need your support to be able to carry out vital rebuilding at the school as quickly as possible.”

For further information to support our fellow Marists please [CLICK HERE](#).

Saint Joseph’s College at Tenaru in the Solomon Islands has also suffered tragic loss due to the Cyclone. 28 passengers travelling on the MV Taimareho were swept overboard as large seas caused by the cyclone crashed over the boat. Among them were members of the Haiyasi family. Abraham Haiyasi is the Deputy Principal at St Joseph’s. Tragically Abraham’s wife, three sons, brother and house staff member perished. Abraham survived and is with his extended family.

Please keep Abraham and the Marist community at Saint Joseph’s Tenaru in your prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

NEW

THE VISION STILL HAS TIME

Living our faith in a time of chaos

REFLECTIONS BY
MARK O'CONNOR FMS

The vision still has its time,
presses on to fulfillment,
and will not disappoint;
if it delays, wait for it,
it will surely come,
it will not be late.
— Habakkuk 2:2-3

marist
ASSOCIATION OF
ST. MARCELIN BARRABANT

A RESOURCE BY
BR MARK O'CONNOR *fms*

THE VISION STILL HAS TIME

Living our faith in a time of chaos

This series consists of seven short meditations on our humanity, faith, seeking God, compassion, prayer and the state of our hearts.

We live in unsettled times. Crises and chaos abound. Whether it is the current pandemic and the stresses it has generated or the ongoing drama of how we reform our Australian Church, after the shame and trauma of the recent Royal Commission, we all sense the need for greater freedom and a deeper personal spirituality. In our inner lives it is so easy to lose our hope and joy as Catholics and Marists. Let us take courage in the hope that 'The Vision Still Has Time.'

Commences: Wednesday 6 May 2020

Duration: Seven weeks

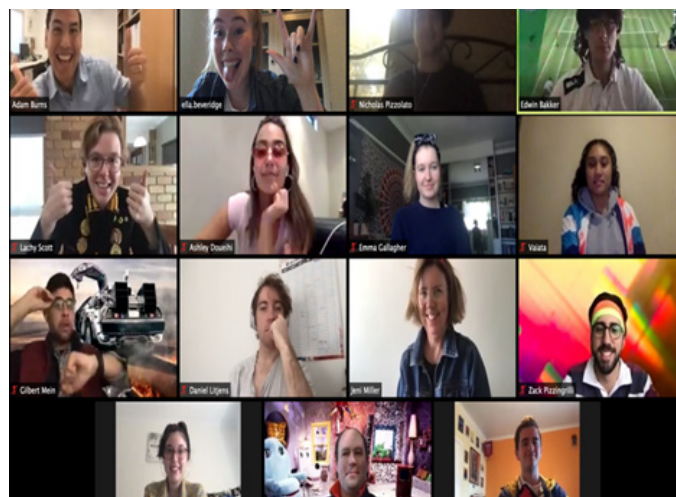
Mode: By subscription - each short meditation emailed weekly

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MAKING OUR VIRTUAL LIVES MORE HUMAN...

Searching for new ways to define what it is to be human is part of our DNA. As Marists we are 'called to build life-giving communities' (WFR123) and we do this with others, virtually, through all manner of Facetimes, Zooms and the occasional House Party. This year, 2020, will long be remembered for all the challenges and tragedy brought by the pandemic and as Marists we are well placed to make our virtual lives more human. We do this by our levels of meaningful connection, in communion, with each other.

COVID-19 is teaching all of us just how fragile our planet is and how interconnected we are. It is also forcing a new perspective about what it truly means to be human. It is an opportunity to increase our virtual bandwidth to include others, especially those who are suffering, and to realise more than ever that our *One Wild and Precious Life* is just that.



National Virtual Formation with Marist Youth Ministry



One Wild & Precious Life workshop at Marist College Bendigo on 13 March 2020

MARIST STAFF REFLECTION

Like many people of faith, I have been drawn to our Christian and Marist heritage as a way of trying to process what it is we are living and experiencing. In particular, I've gravitated towards the images and stories of hope throughout this crisis; Pope Francis defiantly presenting the blessed sacrament to the world in an empty St. Peter's Square; the story of Jesus' resurrection is the most powerful reminder of what can emerge from times of pain and anguish. As an educator, I've been particularly concerned about how this crisis will manifest in the lives of our young people however, while I sit in my office on the first morning of Term 2, I can hear the joy and excitement of our young people as they reunite with their peers. Most of all, I feel deeply proud and fortunate to be a Marist!

- James Gill, Director of Marist Mission, Sacred Heart College SA

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR "COVID-19 UNITED IN PRAYER" RESOURCES](#)

Dear friends,

Wishing you an Easter season filled with strength, hope and love. We are experiencing uncertain times and we reflect on the fact that the challenges we are currently facing, we are facing together as a global community. COVID-19 will impact all of us in different ways but our hope here at AMS is that you are healthy, well, connected and able to find joy in some of the smaller things.

As Marists and as Christians, Easter is a time of hope, light and new life. We carry this spirit with us, seeking to provide light in the darkness and to be an expression of hope for those who are suffering, both locally and globally.

We will launch our Vanuatu appeal on 1 May and look forward to providing you with more information soon. Thank you to everyone who has sent messages of support for the AMS team and our partners during these challenging times.

Please know that we are also holding all of you in our prayers and give thanks for the incredible work you are doing to support our Marist learners during these difficult times.

Yours in solidarity,
Bec Bromhead
CEO
Australian Marist Solidarity



KATILOSA | TIMOR-LESTE

A little good news! Helping the the most vulnerable people during the COVID-19 pandemic is not only the right thing to do, but the smartest thing to do.

Timor-Leste, as at 21 April 2020, has only 6 confirmed cases of Coronavirus. We have been informed by Mr Laurentino Guterres, Director of KATILOSA, that all public transport in Timor-Leste has ceased. However, this has not stopped KATILOSA staff conducting home visits to children and adults with disabilities. Having a disability in Timor-Leste does add to social isolation and having KATILOSA staff conduct visits, provides a connectedness that can offer them resilience in these challenging times.

While no physiotherapy is available to the children and adults due to safe distancing regulations, KATILOSA staff are able to check in on the well-being of clients and their families and provide advice on how to maintain therapeutic exercises and health during this period.

These visits are also an opportunity to educate children and their families about COVID-19 and to monitor their general health and help them access support if there is any concern about having contracted the virus.



VANUATU - TROPICAL CYCLONE HAROLD APPEAL

On April 6, 2020, Tropical Cyclone Harold made landfall on the island of Espiritu Santo as an intense Category 5 system with sustained winds of 200km/h. It is the world's strongest cyclone this year and the South Pacific's most powerful storm since Winston in February 2016, which brought catastrophic damage to Fiji.

Over the past fortnight, we have been busy communicating with our Marist communities in Melanesia following the devastating impact of Tropical Cyclone Harold. In Vanuatu there has been significant damage to both the Brothers house and the St Michel Technical College on the island of Espiritu Santo.

AMS will be focussing our end of financial year appeal on supporting the recovery and rebuilding efforts in Vanuatu

The appeal launched on 1 May, 2020. To view video click https://bit.ly/TCHRA_2020

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Early May Update

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to Term 2 2020. I hope you are doing well during these challenging times. The learning I have taken from this so far, is how adaptable the MYM staff are to these crazy times. Their creativity is mind blowing, their faith is inspiring and their commitment to MYM, the students and staff in our schools has been very encouraging.

As Marist Youth Ministry, we remain on mission, but with a shift in focus, from face to face to an online presence:

- **Online Connect Nights:** connecting our MSA Year 11 and Year 12 students together, invites to be emailed soon!
- **Online Game Changers Meetings:** these online meetings can replace the “normal” Game Changers meetings during Term 2.
- **MYM Visits:** an opportunity to invite MYM or members of Game Changers Ministry Team members to your online classroom, online Game Changers Youth Groups or organise a catch up with your student leaders.
- **MYM Tutoring:** we are piloting a new service we would like to provide schools with; Young Marist Volunteers tutoring MSA students who might be struggling with their learning.
- **MYM Corona Comforts:** a Spotify playlist compiled by our MYM RA's. Search for “MYM Corona Comforts” to find it

For our Young Adults we will be hosting an **International Online Exchange Evening**, with the aim to connect young adults from all over Australia and the world to connect celebrate being Marist.

Finally the MYM team continues to stay in touch through our **social networks:**

- **Meaningful Moments with MYM**, Fortnightly reflections by our MYM Regional Assistants.
- **Q and A**, various Marist questions answered by our MYM RA's and Young Marist Volunteers.



Please contact your MYM Regional Coordinator for more information. We also have further resources on our website: www.maristyouthministry.com

The MYM team would love to be of any assistance in any way possible at this time, so please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or wonders.

We appreciate your support and look forward working together during these unprecedented times.

Kind Regards,

Edwin Bakker
MYM National Coordinator

NSW UPDATE

Jeni Miller, Marist Youth Ministry Sydney

Online Tutoring Program

MYM's Young Marist Volunteers (YMV's) are a group largely of ex-students from our Marist schools. They are volunteering to help students with their learning at this time by offering online tutoring for free! Schools that these YMV's have graduated from have been the first to be invited to take part in the program. The following ex-students have volunteered to tutor students (see panel)

If you have students that would benefit from free online tutoring, please contact Jeni Miller.

First Online Super Connect

The Marist Youth Ministry team is excited to announce the launch of our first online Super Connect! We would love senior students from all our schools, not only in Sydney, but regional NSW and ACT to attend! **The Online Super Connect will be held on Friday, 12 June at 4pm.** The team will be leading fun activities to celebrate the feast day of St Marcellin Champagnat.

Jeni Miller will be in contact with all Faith Formators/Youth Ministers will all the details and consent forms.

QLD UPDATE

Adam Burns, Marist Youth Ministry Brisbane

As the new term has started with students learning remotely, as a MYM team we've had to seek new and different ways to engage students. Necessity is the mother of all invention, as they say, and this certainly has been a positive outcome of COVID-19. Online and virtual presence has always been crucial with the importance of social media amongst young people. But in this time of social distancing and isolation, it has become the main channel of communication. Ministry, of course, is not just communicating the Gospel, it's a witness; and our online interactions have sought to speak through the online noise and distraction.

One way we've sought to do this with students is in continuing to offer our Game Changers program. Unable to meet face-to-face, some groups have moved their meetings into the virtual space. In Brisbane, our approach has been to use an email format for the meetings, inviting students to find some space and time to engage in a self-led reflection and prayer.

As a result, our Game Changers groups are also thinking outside of the box in terms of their outreach and impact. For example, Marist College Ashgrove students are writing notes of thanks to members of the community. The note below is just one example of the ways in which students are engaging the broader community:

Dear Parents, Carers, and families

It is in times like these with COVID-19 forcing students to work from home, that it is you that we need the most. Your care, your love and your compassion does not go unnoticed during this time of need. We as students, not only need to be thankful and recognise your sacrifice while in lockdown, but instead need to be thankful in all time and aspects of life. Your care knows no boundaries, your love has no limits and your compassion is endless. Although we may not always show it, we love you and the work you do for us and it is extremely appreciated. You all have done an incredible job so far and we know that you will not slow down for us.

Thank You,

Sam

(Year 10 Student at Marist College, Ashgrove)

**GAME
CHANGERS**

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Next MSA Newsletter: 19 May 2020