

From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

As our Marist schools, ministries and communities throughout Australia celebrated the **Feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat** this week and last, there were two gatherings important to highlight for all Marist educators. First, on Friday 5 June, the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney, hosted a small group at Cathedral House in Sydney to honour a 30 year contribution by Brother Kelvin Canavan fms to the Australian Catholic University. During this time of celebrations for the life and inspiration of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, Brother Kelvin's leadership of Catholic education in Australia as a Marist Brother are most worthy of reflection.

Brother Kelvin was appointed a member of the New South Wales Chapter of the Australian Catholic University in December 1990, one month prior to the Australian Catholic University opening in January 1991. In his speech for the occasion, Archbishop Anthony referred to Brother Kelvin as a "Colossus" in the history of Catholic education in this country, citing his significant and strategic leadership from the late 1960s until the present day with Sydney Catholic Schools, the NSW and National Catholic Education Commissions, ACU and successive State

and Federal governments. Archbishop Anthony particularly noted three characteristics of Kelvin's leadership with which we Marists readily identify. First was his ability to form and maintain respectful and constructive relationships for the common good and education of all Australian children. Second was Kelvin's daunting capacity for work. Third was his personal presence with people and particularly those whom he mentored with such generosity over the years. On behalf of all Marist educators in Australia, congratulations Brother Kelvin. May we continue to long enjoy your astute guidance and advice.

The history of the Australian Catholic University and the Marist presence in Australia are inextricably linked. The initial invitation for the Marist Brothers to come to Australia stated quite clearly the desire for not only the conduct of schools but also teacher training¹.

Throughout the 1970s, novitiates originally established for the formation and education of teaching Brothers and Sisters were repurposed to educate Catholic lay teachers. Many of these institutions had their origins in the late 1800s, when religious orders and institutes became involved in preparing teachers for Catholic schools and, later, nurses for Catholic hospitals.



From L-R: Dr John Kyle-Robinson, Brother Kelvin Canavan FMS, the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney, Brother Tony D'Arbon FMS, Dr Frank Malloy

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Through a series of amalgamations, relocations, transfers of responsibilities and diocesan initiatives, more than 20 historical entities have contributed to the creation of the Australian Catholic University. The Provincial of the Marist Brothers is a Member of the company that owns and governs the University along with Bishops and other Leaders of Religious Institutes and Congregations.

The Marist involvement with ACU has included significant contributions from many Marists over the years. On Tuesday of this week, Brother David Hall fms, in his role as Professor and Dean of the ACU La Salle Academy, brought together and hosted leaders in Catholic education from across the country for *The Morley Review*. Named in this 200th year of Catholic education in Australia after Mr John Morley, the first teacher at the first Catholic school in Parramatta² Sydney, the leadership symposium was facilitated by Dr Michael Bezzina³. The theme of the symposium was captured as:

Celebrating 200 years of Catholic education

...REMEMBERING...

...IMAGINING...

The future of leadership in Catholic education

The discussions ranged widely over many relevant topics within the context of a *Synodal Church*, and there was a strong commitment from all assembled to work more effectively together in order to ensure talented and committed leaders continue to emerge in the service of our Australian Catholic schools.

As we remember and celebrate the life and contributions of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, let us ask him to especially pray for the leaders of our schools – past, present and future.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

1. Doyle, A. (1972) Marist Brothers in Australia 1872- 1972
2. The Marist Brothers were asked assume responsibility for the school in 1875, known today as Parramatta Marist High.
3. Both Brother David and Michael Bezzina are members of the Marist National Schools Council.

NOTICES AND NEWS

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CONTEMPORARY EXPLORATION OF MARIST SPIRITUALITY: RELEASE OF NEW MEDIA

Celebrating the Feast Day of St Marcellin Champagnat on 6 June, the Vocations Office of the Marist Brothers Province of Australia published three new short films on contemporary expressions of Marist spirituality in Australia.

Each film features people who have a strong affinity and commitment to the Marist charism, deepening their own relationship with Jesus in the Catholic tradition. The films are produced by Conor Ashleigh, a visual storyteller, communications specialist, and former student of St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton in Newcastle, New South Wales.

The three films, titled, "Meaning & Mission," "Community & Relationships," and "Faith & Spirituality," focus on the contextual understanding of the key elements of Marist life in Australia. Their reflections offer resonance with the greater stories of the Christian tradition in the Australian context. The pace and style of the storytelling invites reflection on the themes.

The film "**Meaning & Mission**," presents the perspectives where engagement with mission and personal meaning intersect. This is articulated by Anthony Mackett, a committed Marist and psychologist, who summarises this junction in this way, "[It is to] ...bring the Marist values into the way that I work. So... [there is] authenticity, making others to feel safe and comfortable, no matter what their concerns are."

"**Community & Relationships**" is a conversation about the natural spaces where Marists experience meaningful connections with other people, as well as the deeply relational nature of Marist spirituality, inspired by the early Christian communities and the first communities of Brothers in 19th Century rural France.

"**Faith & Spirituality**" explores the contemporary expressions of Christian faith, grounded in the Marist charism. As noted by Br David Hall, Marist Brother and Dean of the La Salle Academy at Australian Catholic University, one expression of a Marist faith perspective is, "...to live in the Marian way is to bring that God to birth in the world."

The films were released on the Marist Brothers' social media platforms via Instagram (@fmsbrothers: 'Marist Brothers Life Aus') and Facebook (@MaristVocations: 'Marist Brothers Life') on Friday, 4 June. Trailers of each of the films were progressively released during the week of 31 May, in the lead up to the Feast Day of St Marcellin, also known as Champagnat Day.

The films will also be located on the revamped Marist Vocations website (<http://www.maristvocations.com/>), which is to be launched during the National Vocations Awareness Week in August 2021. Additional materials for group discussion in secondary school and adult sessions will accompany this launch.

Links to videos:

[Meaning and Mission](#)

[Community and Relationships](#)

[Faith and Spirituality](#)

For more information, contact:

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MARIST COLLEGE BENDIGO RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

The Marist Mission and Life Formation Team contributed to the Conference by offering participants an opportunity to reflect on a model for evangelisation, as revealed in the encounter between Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40). The group of Primary and Secondary RE teachers explored the principles of evangelization through a Marist lens, gaining a deeper appreciation of the Marist tradition and how this permeates their classroom and the broader school community.



IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL PARKES

Above: Br Tony Leon enjoying a teachable moment about 'doing good quietly' at Holy Family Parish Primary School



Above: Red Bend Catholic College COVID Footsteps participants Sam Coote and Carmel Turner



Above: Red Bend Catholic College IMW Program: Back: Sumit Giri, William Lovett, Sam Rogers, Ari Summa-Kenny, Matthew Preeo, Peter Tenhave, Aleisha Ward, Kim Lawson, Hannah Graham, James Gough Front: Alex Denley, Caleb Hanrahan, Sandesh Pathak, Tahlia Harding and Kelly Price

POPE FRANCIS AND THE FUTURE CHURCH

MARIAN LECTURE 2021

with Christopher Lamb



Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat

Over 400 people ‘virtually’ gathered to hear Christopher Lamb, religious affairs journalist and Vatican expert, speak about the pontificate of Pope Francis and his battle to reform the Catholic Church. The title of his lecture was *The Post-Covid Church – Crisis or Opportunity?* Lamb also focused on three major characteristics of the Pope’s leadership; his role as a disrupter – to shake the Church out of its complacency; as a missionary – recalling the importance of the missionary simplicity of the Early Church; and as peacemaker – having the humility required to be a bridge-builder.

Brother Peter Carroll fms, Provincial of the Marist Brothers, Leader of the Marist Association and President of Catholic Religious Australia thanked Christopher for distilling the spirituality and pastoral theology of Pope Francis and noted, “*We are the Church, and we are really committed to the future of an outward looking, vibrant and inclusive Church.*”

What better way to reflect upon the lecture than by reading some comments from participants:

I deeply valued the insight given by the speaker into the issues confronting Pope Francis and the implications for the Church in Australia. My thoughts were moved to how relevant if not vital is our Association and our Marist schools to the rebuilding of the Church.

It sparked in me a thought to reconnect with my Parish.

The willingness for disruption, dialogue, and the prospect of increased inclusivity of women in the Catholic Church was a very refreshing approach to hear. The speaker’s theological knowledge was excellent and his ability to answer challenging questions in a factual manner is to be commended.

It is wonderful to see youth engaged in discussion on faith and social issues.



Above: Staff and Students at St Joseph’s College, Hunters Hill gather to watch the 2021 Marian Lecture



Above: A group gathered at Assumption College, Kilmore for the 2021 Marian Lecture



WORDS FROM THE CROSS

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Online Retreat
with Rev. Archbishop
Mark Coleridge

The reflections will focus on the seven last words of Christ which become our own words as we live through this time of crucifixion, looking beyond the darkness of Calvary to the morning light of Easter where we hear the Lord say, “Peace be with you”.



AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY

Double your donation at no extra cost

Thank you so much to the AMS supporters who have already contributed to Let Children Learn, our mid-year appeal to fund the expansion of St Joseph's College in Bougainville, PNG. We are excited to share that due to the generosity of one of our Marist families, **from Wednesday 9 June for a limited time any donation we receive will be doubled.**

This means that your gift will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000 – at no extra cost to you.

If you donate now, your gift will be doubled. For instance, if you give \$55, it will become \$110. This could pay for two new desks for year 11 students. If you give \$103, it will become \$206 – an amount that could fund a teacher's salary for two weeks.

At present, St Joseph's, situated in the town of Mabiri, only operates until grade 10. In fact, there are only four upper secondary schools in the whole of Bougainville, offering about 500 positions for an estimated age cohort of several thousand. By expanding St Joseph's to provide upper secondary education plus boarding for young people in Bougainville we will enable them to

complete their full education. This is a critical time for Bougainville, which is on the path towards independence from Papua New Guinea. With your help, we can provide the young people of this emerging country with the education and skills they need.



Happy Champagnat Day!

We have enjoyed seeing your photos of Champagnat Day celebrations on Sunday 7 June across Australia. Please keep sending them to us at communication@marists.org.au so we can share them in our next issue of Solidarity Matters.

Marist Regional Director (Queensland) Mark Elliott kindly presented us all with a lovely keepsake: an olive wood heart topped with three violets, symbolising the Marial virtues of humility, simplicity and honesty.

We marked the occasion at AMS with a lunch with the Marist Centre Brisbane team, which followed a Mass in our chapel.

Connect with us to find out more.

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- ams@marists.org.au
- @AusMSol
- (07) 3354 0600
- Australian Marist Solidarity
- @MaristSolidarity
- @AusMSol
- PO Box 273 Ashgrove West QLD 4060



MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

MYM QLD/NT

Marist Connect Night

On Friday 28th, over 30 students from four schools attended the MYM Connect Night. Things got loud as students competed in a number of high stakes games; resulting in marshmallows and Milo for all! **Connect Nights offer a safe and fun environment** for students to **network** and **participate** in a **larger Marist community** of students and young people. The next Connect Night will be offered online, and **all schools across the Region are invited to log on** – more details coming soon!

Yr 10 Regional Retreat

The Marist Centre Brisbane has been **buzzing** with the presence of Marist students. On Thursday 27th May, a dozen Year 10 Game Changers gathered for their Regional Retreat day. It was a day full of activities focused on how those students might **impact** and **influence** their **peers** and **school communities**. These discussions were grounded in the **themes of solidarity and justice**.



Yr 10 Regional Retreat



Marist Connect Night

MYM NSW / ACT

Wednesday, 2 June

The MYM Team thoroughly enjoyed this weeks 'in person' local Connect held at Marcellin College, Randwick! Thirty-five senior students from Marcellin College Randwick, Champagnat Catholic College Pagewood and Marist College Penshurst met and discussed the dilemma that social media plays in our life and how best to manage it using the 5 Marist characteristics.

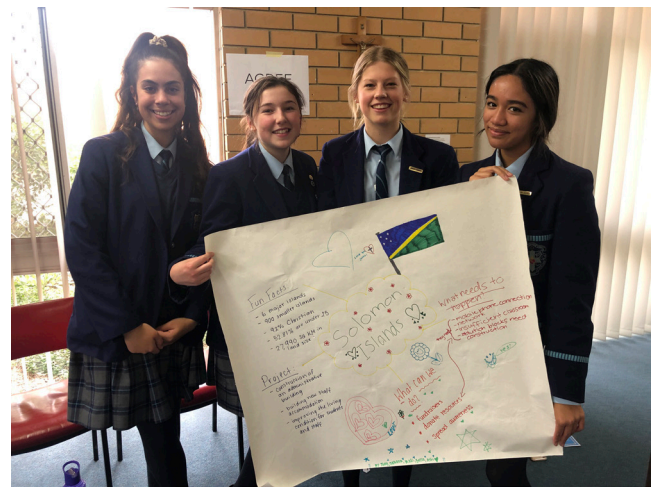


MYM ADELAIDE

Game Changers Retreat Days

Game Changers Retreat Days have **kicked off** for the year in Adelaide for the Game Changers in the La Valla and Hermitage Tracks at Sacred Heart College.

On 24th May, the Year 11s and 12s of the Hermitage Track took on challenges requiring **leadership** and **teamwork**, as they were brought closer together as a **Game Changers community** and discovered the importance of **supporting and trusting** those most important to them. These Game Changers are looking forward to continuing learning more about one another and **what they each have to offer to their community** as they look forward to their Solidarity Camp to Port Augusta.



The Year 9s and 10s of the La Valla Track were up next on 31st May. In learning more about the work of **Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS)**, these Game Changers considered the **impact** they can have on our **Marist family all around the globe** through their **words** and **actions**. The La Valla Track are excited to continue supporting AMS and all their 2021 projects as they take on plenty of **ministry opportunities** **throughout the rest of the year**.

Upcoming Dates

6th June - Young Adult Launch - Sacred Heart College

17th June - Connect Night - Cardijn College Marcellin Campus