



From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

Our schools are unapologetically Catholic in inspiration and in nature. We aim to provide the best education possible to every child who attends one of our schools. Believing as we do that, in the words of Gerald Manly Hopkins “the world is charged with the grandeur of God”, we recognise that every aspect of human knowledge and activity, to the extent that it is truly human, reveals something of the mystery of God and of God’s creative intention for the world.

Because it is our firm intention to educate the whole person, and because we believe that education is for life and not just for a job, we also acknowledge and insist that an education which sidelines or excludes the mystery of God from consideration is an education which can only ever be less than complete. By leaving God out of the process, we are indeed selling our children and young people short and leaving them with a limited and distorted understanding of what it means to be a human person living his or her life to the full.

*For the Catholic school to achieve its objectives, it needs people who are committed to this faith-filled vision, confident in their understanding of the Christian faith as it comes to expression in the Catholic tradition and eager **to do their best to help their students grow in their own understanding of the presence of God at work in their lives.** This Framework for Formation for Mission in Catholic Education has been developed to assist our teachers and other staff in their understanding of the awesome responsibility they have accepted, mindful of the old Latin tag: “nemo dat quod non habet” – no one can give what he or she doesn’t have.*

Archbishop Tim Costelloe SBD 2017

These inspiring words are from the foreword to the Framework for Formation for Mission in Catholic Education and were written by Archbishop Tim Costelloe as Chair of the Bishop’s Commission for Catholic Education in 2017. The Framework was produced by the National Catholic Education Commission for all in Catholic education with responsibility for staff faith formation. It is commended to all Marist educators and school leaders for reflection and can be accessed [HERE](#).

Anyone involved with Marist education in this country understands staff faith formation is a priority, evident these past three decades. During this time, Marists have made a sustained and determined effort to provide quality faith formation experiences to literally tens of thousands of teachers and staff members working in Marist Schools throughout Australia. Detailed evaluation of each programme contributes to their ongoing evolution and response to needs. The ultimate goal is to strengthen the work of our teachers **to do their best to help their students grow in their own understanding of the presence of God at work in their lives.** This emphasis is not abrogating responsibility for learning, rather it fulfils and complements the desire to educate the whole person and meaningfully integrate faith and life. In Saint Marcellin’s words – “to make Jesus known and loved”. This important work would not be possible without the financial support of the Australian Province of the Marist Brothers, as it is largely through their contribution as well as that of our partners in Catholic education, that the Mission and Life Formation Team exists.

continued next page

As we enter the seventh month of the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the Marist Mission and Life Formation team has continued unabated, albeit differently. The following statistics provide a snapshot of their work, which illustrates an interest and commitment to spiritual development many would find surprising in a secular country such as Australia. Participants from 19 different Dioceses have largely accessed these opportunities online throughout 2020.

DESCRIPTION

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

In the Marist Way - orientation program for staff new to Marist schools

300 staff members

One Wild and Precious Life - staff spirituality day

2,800 staff members

The vision still has time - seven part reflection series written by Brother Mark O'Connor

300 online subscribers

COVID-19 United in Prayer - daily prayers for all Marist school communities

All Marist schools, ministries and communities
- a community of over 50,000 people

Champagnat Week resources and Champagnat Day Celebrations - prepared to assist schools in celebrating the feast day of Saint Marcellin

1,000 YouTube views

The Art of Reading and Praying the Scripture - 4 one hour online learning modules

300 participants

Mid-Winter Retreat - online two day retreat in school holidays led by Father Chris Monaghan

100 participants

Your attention is drawn to an important notice in this week's newsletter from Australian Marist Solidarity. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are continuing to present increasing challenges for many of our Marist friends and colleagues throughout Asia, Melanesia and the Pacific. **You are being invited to contribute to AMS through Workplace Giving (also known as payroll Donations or deductions).** Details are provided on the next page.

The Marist Youth Ministry Team has been extremely creative and continued to hold a range of events during COVID-19, some of which are described in this newsletter.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Want to make a difference while you are at work?

Dear friends,

Our Marist schools and their generous contributions are one of the key reasons that AMS was established. Our origins are found in a desire to provide a more formal linking point between Australian Marists and the communities that we support, particularly in our region of Asia-Pacific. An important objective was also to make these donations tax deductible – an attractive selling point for many of our supporters.

Many of you have already made a donation at one time or other to support an AMS project and a few of you are already signed up to monthly giving through our website donations page. We have refined this even further and established a formal Workplace Giving program and we are thrilled to share this with you now.

Through Workplace Giving (also known as Payroll Donations or Deductions), employees can nominate an amount to donate each pay period through their company's payroll deduction system. From as little as the cost of a cup of coffee each pay, you help vulnerable young people in our region reach their brightest potential. At the same time, you can reduce your tax. From Australian Marist Solidarity's perspective, it reduces the administration costs associated with processing donations and provides a regular and reliable income stream that helps us with planning the work that we can commit to each year.

Please consider whether you might be able to make a regular contribution to ensure that young people in our region can access education and reach their brightest potential.

There are five easy steps for organising your payroll donation:

1. Check with your employer and confirm they support Workplace Giving.
2. [Download the Workplace Giving Form](#) and give the completed form to your payroll manager.
3. Instruct your payroll manager to deduct your nominated donation amount from your pre-tax salary each pay period.
4. Ensure your payroll manager has the correct bank account details for them to transfer your donation:
 - Account name: Australian Marist Solidarity
 - BSB: 062 000 Acct: 1628 5262
5. Request the payroll manager to forward the authorisation form to us.

To find how you can Workplace Give [click here](#).

“ Australian Marist Solidarity is the not-for-profit international development agency for the Marist Brothers Province of Australia and the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat. Its vital work supports education and community development activities primarily across Asia and the Pacific. Workplace Giving is a simple and effective way of making a regular contribution to ensure that vulnerable young people in our region are able to access education. ”

Br Peter Carroll FMS
Provincial

*Aaloka is 11 years old, she comes from the Tea Garden Estate in Bangladesh. Marists in this area are providing much needed access to education for young people like her. Aaloka's favourite subject is English.

Australian Marist Solidarity supports the St Marcellin School which provides free education and boarding to tea garden children that enables them to break the cycle of poverty and rise above the bonded life that they were born into.

Women working in the tea fields must work quickly and delicately to pick the top tea leaves from the bushes. The work is strenuous and poorly paid. St Marcellin School seeks to break this cycle of indentured labour and provides access to education for some of the most marginalised children.

**name changed to protect identity*



The statement, *To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia*, encourages us, as faith communities, to make mental health a priority. 30 August is Social Justice Sunday. *"This is a timely message in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic is affecting many members of our parishes, schools and communities,"* Bishop Brady, Bishop Delegate for Social Justice, Mission and Service, said.

"The personal feelings of anxiety and despair we all share at this time provide an opportunity to become more aware and active in fostering the mental health of all [especially the young people in our care]."

Let our Marist communities continue to be places of welcome and inclusion.

"Let us follow Jesus in drawing near to those who are experiencing mental ill-health and acknowledge that they are members of the Body of Christ – 'they' are part of 'us'. Only then can we say 'we are all in this together'. Only then can we 'live life to the full'."

GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE INNISFAIL: ONE WILD AND PRECIOUS LIFE TWILIGHT RETREAT



Marcelle Foster, Elizabeth Sutton, Brenton Pappas and Jess Squarci

On Tuesday 4 August, in Innisfail in North Queensland, the staff of Good Counsel College Innisfail participated in *One Wild and Precious Life*.

It proved to be a great afternoon of sharing, quiet time, prayer, some fun and precious insights on living positively at this difficult time in our history. Thanks so much to Elizabeth Sutton, Acting Principal, and the entire teaching staff for their full participation in a most entertaining and enjoyable experience of true Marist community.

THE ART OF PRAYING SCRIPTURE: A TESTIMONIAL

I enjoyed the Art of Praying Scripture Module; it was great to be reminded of the range of ways that we can pray and of the importance of the imagination and the notion of dialogue in prayer. I learned a great deal in the modules which focussed on art and found the commentaries really instructive.

I found myself reflecting on the modules afterwards and for some reason was particularly struck by the passage about Moses and the burning bush and what he was being called to do. The question about what I was being called to do really resonated. So thank you, Moses, for the inspiration. From here, I'm going to make an effort to use a variety of these types of prayer with staff and to encourage my colleagues to undertake the course themselves.

- Jill Fitzsimons, Marcellin College Bulleen



MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Mid August Update

What's happening in Melbourne?

This year has undoubtedly been a testing year for all of us. The Marist Youth Ministry team in Melbourne has also faced these unforeseen challenges provided by the year of 2020. The team left Marist Centre Melbourne somewhat six months ago, and what an (online) journey it has been since then! After having comfortably settled into our home offices and reflecting, the team were able to count their blessings. Upholding positive perspective given the circumstances was not always an easy task but we knew that as Marists, we needed to find a way to be present with those around us. This saw the adaption of many of our plans and programs, in order for them to fit the online world. Since then, MYM Melbourne has hosted **young adult online events, an international exchange night, student connect nights and the Remar Gold Online Experience**, with many more online events to come!

Like most of us over the past 6 months, MYM Melbourne has experienced disappointment, yet has continued to display such great acts of perseverance and ambition. This year has given great opportunity to peek into the future of MYM and Game Changers. Not just in hope for a calmer 2021, but the predicted growth of MYM as a whole, after the 2020 experience. The Melbourne team have worked tirelessly to create new, worthwhile content for the Game Changers program. Gathering (online) weekly, the team have been able to develop meeting books, retreat day programs, camps and additional resources that will enhance the Game Changers experience further.

Like many of us, MYM Melbourne has overcome the obstacles of 2020, striving to be the best we can be for those we serve. We pray that when the difficulty passes, we are all one step closer to being the people we are called to be. The last few months have been the perfect reminder of just how 'wild and precious' our lives truly are.



MYM Victoria and South Australia Online Connect

This event for senior school students is being held this Friday 28 August! We're so excited to see everyone there, and celebrate the joys of our 'One Wild and Precious Life'. I'm envisioning this will be an event full of sunshine, rainbows and flourishing happiness!

Ella Beveridge, Marist Youth Ministry Melbourne



@maristyouthministry
@maristgamechangers



Marist Youth Ministry
Marist Game Changers

**GAME
CHANGERS**

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What's happening in Sydney?

Term 3 Super Connect

One hundred and ten students from 12 Marist schools across NSW and the ACT joined the MYM Sydney team for our Term 3 Super Connect on Friday, 21 August. Students joined us online either as individuals from home or as a group from their school. The theme was 'Fan or Follower' and students were invited to wear their favourite team's colours. Students were asked to reflect on what it means to be either a 'fan' or follower' of Jesus. Using St Marcellin Champagnat as a role model, students were invited to be a follower of Jesus, someone who actively engages with others, in the way of Mary, authentically seeking to create a sense of family spirit with others through presence and simplicity.

Well done to Miss Emma Kent, teacher from St Gregory's College, Campbelltown, who won the quiz on Australian sport! The representative from St Greg's was able to obtain a slight lead from a very close 'battle' with the following schools:

Marist College Canberra, Trinity Catholic College Auburn, St Patrick's Dundas, Reb Bend Catholic College, Forbes, Marian Catholic College, Griffith, Marist North Shore, Champagnat College Pagewood, Marist Parramatta, Marist Penshurst, Marcellin College Randwick and last but not least Mount Carmel Catholic College, Varroville!



Marist 180 Collection

The MYM Sydney team, along with Dee Martin from Marist 180, were thrilled to collect items donated to Marist 180 from Cerdon Catholic College, Merrylands on Wednesday, 19 August. In a joint project of collaboration, after attending the MYM Super Connect in Term 2, students responded to call to collect items for the clients from Marist 180. I am sure their Founder, Jeanne-Marie Chavion would be proud!



Standing: Ms Michelina Shinella, teacher from Cerdon College, and Dee Martin, from Marist 180
Sitting: Jeni Miller and Ashley Doueiri from MYM Sydney

MYM Sydney visit to Mount Carmel Varroville

A big 'Thank you' to Mr Igor Pletikosa, for organising our visit to Mount Carmel.

It was great to catch up with the 2020 Student Leaders and discuss how they have adapted to the 'new normal' in their role as leaders this year. Well done to Jayden, Emma, Jordan and Beyonce for being so flexible, creative and thoughtful!

The team really enjoyed leading Year 10 students in 'Christian Leadership' lessons. The students were so authentic in their answers to some tough situations. We were also felt so blessed to be a part of your Taize prayer at lunchtime too!

Jeni Miller, Marist Youth Ministry Sydney



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Next MSA Newsletter: 8 September 2020

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