



## From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

### An extraordinary Easter

As we continue to make sense of the current crisis for humanity across the globe, history and our Faith are important touchstones. The Spanish flu pandemic emerged at the end of World War I, killing more than 50 million people worldwide. In 1919 the virus reached Australia. A staggering 40% of the population was estimated to have been infected, with approximately 15,000 fatalities<sup>1</sup>. The crisis led to the closure of schools, churches, theatres, pubs, race meetings and agricultural shows, plus the delay of victory celebrations. The result was not only economic hardship, but significant interruptions in education, entertainment, travel, shopping and worship. Australian historian, Dr Peter Hobbins<sup>2</sup> sheds light on those times.

*Despite the disruption, fear and substantial personal risk posed by the flu, tens of thousands of ordinary Australians rose to the challenge. The wartime spirit of volunteering and community service saw church groups, civic leaders, council workers, teachers, nurses and organisations such as the Red Cross step up.*

*They staffed relief depots and emergency hospitals, delivered comforts from pyjamas to soup, and cared for victims who were critically ill or convalescent. A substantial proportion of these courageous carers were women, at a time when many were being commanded to hand back their wartime jobs to returning servicemen.*

This encouraging insight to the Australian character, that endures today in abundance among our Marist educators, also reminds us to be hopeful for an end to the current pandemic.

Pope Francis provides encouragement for us with his simple faith filled words. Speaking last Friday during what he termed an “Extraordinary moment of prayer”<sup>3</sup>, Pope Francis reflected on the familiar Gospel story in which Jesus calms the storm, as an allegory for the COVID-19 crisis. He said:

*The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities. It shows how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain, and strengthen our lives and communities ....*

*The Lord asks us, and in the midst of our tempest, invites us, to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering.*

*The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith.*

This coming weekend we celebrate Palm Sunday. It will be a Holy Week like none other experienced before. As schools across the country are operating alternative offsite learning arrangements, and with our Churches now closed, let us heed the call of the Holy Father and do all in our power to *awaken and revive our Easter faith*. The current storm will pass. Like our forebears in 1919, and as believers in Christ risen, may our actions and words be of hope for one another, our students and their families this extraordinary Easter time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F. Malloy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Dr Frank Malloy**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

1 <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/influenza-pandemic>

2 <https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2019/01/21/centenary-of-spanish-flu-pandemic-in-australia.html>

3 [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2020/documents/papa-francesco\\_20200327\\_omelia-epidemia.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200327_omelia-epidemia.html)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Principal** - Marcellin College Bulleen, VIC  
Applications close 22 April 2020  
Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

## Marist Prayer Resources

During this time of uncertainty, where many of us may feel more isolated from each other and our communities of prayer, we offer to you the following resource, *COVID-19: United In Prayer*. This resource consists of two components:

1. COVID-19: United in Prayer – *A weekly reflection that will enable us to pray as a global Marist family*  
[Access it here](#)
2. COVID-19: United in Prayer **Additional Resources** – *A series of prayers and reflections that will be built upon over the upcoming weeks.*  
[Access it here](#)

These resources contain prayers and resources for personal or small group use, where it isn't possible to meet in church or in larger association gatherings. These prayers have been designed to be used at any time, and can be downloaded, printed and shared with all people.

It is our intention and prayer that these may be of help to those who are struggling to find words at this difficult and stressful time, as well as enabling us Marists to come together in universal prayer and solidarity.



**Marist Mission and Life Formation Team**



# COVID-19 Novena Prayer Invitation

Dear Marist Friends

We are living through an unprecedented period. Not since World War II has there been such global dislocation of life. The pandemic is taking lives across the world. Pervasive fear and anxiety accompany it.

As an extended Marist community, we know that our response needs to be grounded in Jesus' message of compassion, courage and faith. "Fear not" he tells us repeatedly in the Gospels. We hold in our hearts and in our prayers those who are suffering, grieving, pining under the weight of pressure. We do what we can to alleviate distress and be of service to others, even if it is only staying in contact from a distance.

It's for this reason I invite us all to participate in a Novena of Prayer. If we start this Thursday 2 April, our last day of the Novena will be, appropriately, Good Friday. Traditionally the novena prayer is said at the same time each day over the nine days; so, communities, individuals and families can select a time that is suitable and say the prayer each day at that time.

The Prayer for the Novena is one composed by Pope Francis to Mary – who "shines continuously on our journey". Some weeks ago, the Pope suggested that during this period, we ask for the protection of Mary 'who has a proven track record of healing, protecting and watching over her people'. As Marists we can well understand the Pope's words and confidence in 'Our Good Mother'.

So, the invitation – over the next nine days, from 2 April to Good Friday, 9 April, is to take time to reflectively pray the COVID-19 Novena Prayer which is attached.


Do we expect miracles? No. Do we wish to express our sense of community, solidarity and faith? Yes. And if a miracle comes along...

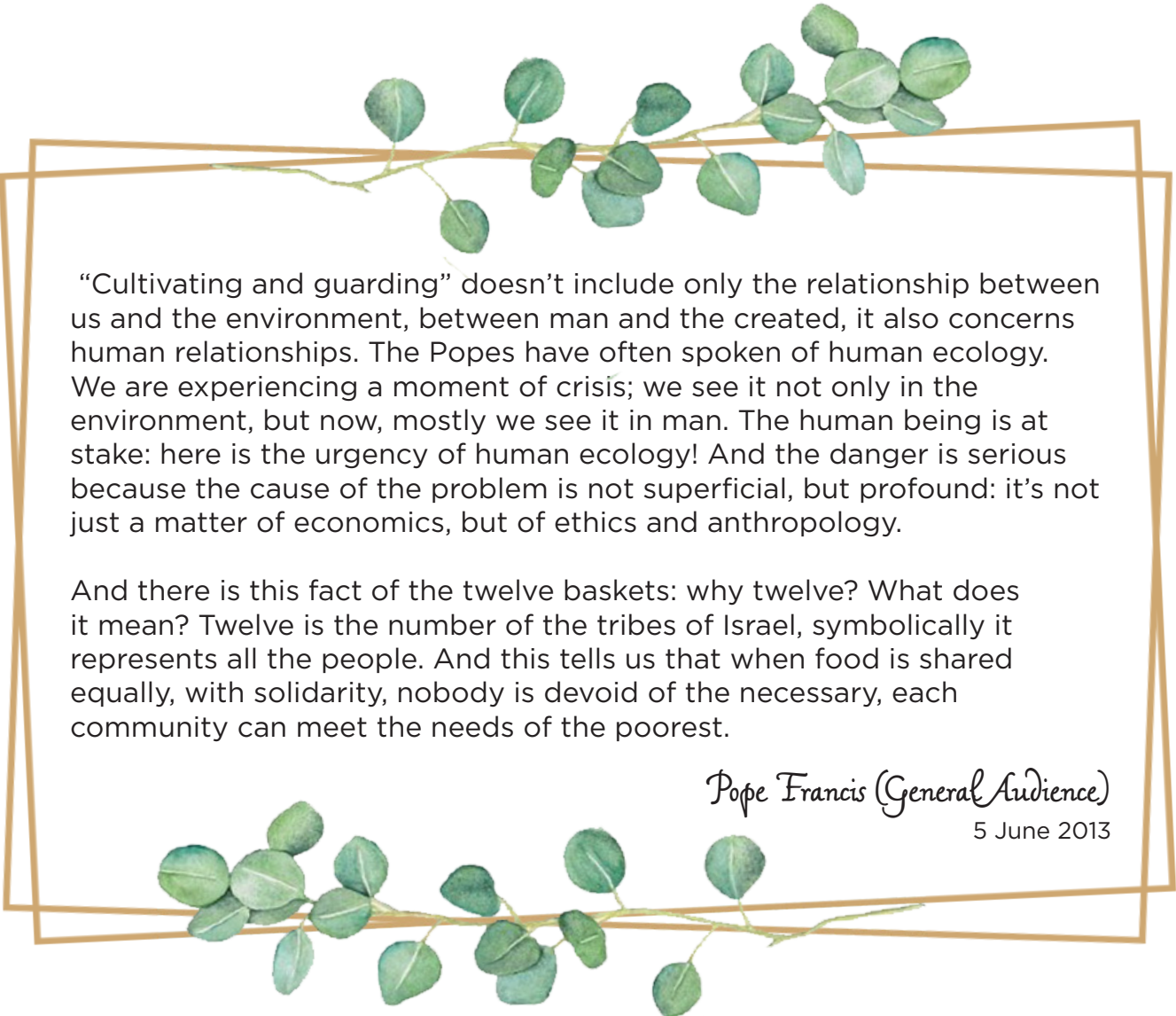
**Br Peter Carroll**

Leader, Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat

**Pope Francis**  
**Prayer for protection from Coronavirus**

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.





“Cultivating and guarding” doesn’t include only the relationship between us and the environment, between man and the created, it also concerns human relationships. The Popes have often spoken of human ecology. We are experiencing a moment of crisis; we see it not only in the environment, but now, mostly we see it in man. The human being is at stake: here is the urgency of human ecology! And the danger is serious because the cause of the problem is not superficial, but profound: it’s not just a matter of economics, but of ethics and anthropology.

And there is this fact of the twelve baskets: why twelve? What does it mean? Twelve is the number of the tribes of Israel, symbolically it represents all the people. And this tells us that when food is shared equally, with solidarity, nobody is devoid of the necessary, each community can meet the needs of the poorest.

*Pope Francis (General Audience)*

5 June 2013



In the Marist Way New Staff Formation Program at St Joseph's School, Northam with Br Joe Hughes (ex-student)

“We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.”

- Pope Francis  
**#PrayForTheWorld**





## Changing the world for Samphy

Samphy\* is 11 years old. He came to the LaValla School last October into Grade 1. Samphy has never been able to walk because of badly deformed lower legs and feet since birth. He was never able to go to school.

In December, the visiting surgeons operated on both legs and feet. After about 8 weeks in plaster, Samphy is now undergoing physiotherapy here at LaValla to strengthen his leg muscles and he is learning to walk. Currently, he has braces on both legs for support. When we receive new shoes that are being made, he will be able to dispense with the wheelchair and use a walker. We expect that in some months he will no longer need the walker.

- not his real name

We know that this is a challenging time for everyone, but AMS would like to acknowledge in a special way the incredible work being done at the moment by teachers and school staff. We applaud your efforts, under difficult circumstances, to ensure our young people are safe and that their learning can continue. Thank you!

The AMS team are currently working on some initiatives that can engage young people with our work and learning about the countries we work in. Please watch this space and keep an eye on our social media channels and we'll share more with you soon.

If Samphy had not come to LaValla, chances are he would never have had the opportunity of surgery and having the hope of being able to walk.

He is a very bright, happy boy, a delight to us all here. He works hard at his schoolwork, loves swimming and has a wonderful sense of humour.

Thanks to the support of you, Australian Marist Solidarity donors, Samphy and many other of our students (boys and girls) are able to have a whole new outlook on life and has many more opportunities for life.

On Thursday, 12 March, 2020  
Samphy took his first solo steps.

He was the happiest boy in the world!

Br Tony Burrows  
Executive Director,  
Marist Solidarity Cambodia



**Donate today  
and help us continue  
to support children  
like Samphy.**

**Donate at:  
[www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au](http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au)**

# MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Late March Update

## Connect.

### SYDNEY

Marist Youth Ministry held the first Super Connect on Friday, 6 March with thanks to Marist College Eastwood hosting the event. The focus of the presentation was on this year's Marist theme, **'One Wild and Precious Life'**.

One hundred and sixty-five students attended the gathering and after exploring the theme, the students discussed ways they could make a difference in 2020 to the lives of others in their schools. Students were also given an opportunity to personally pledge ways to help others from an individual point of view this year. We hope some of these great ideas come into fruition!

A big 'Thank you' to our 3 Young Marist Volunteers who helped with the organisation of the event as well as set up and clean up; Aiden Naine (Mount Carmel Varroville, 2019), Daniel (Parramatta Marist, 2019) and Monica Le (St Patrick's Dundas, 2019). The team and I really appreciate your support and are thrilled you wish to stay connected with the Marist family!

**Jeni Miller** Marist Youth Ministry NSW



### MELBOURNE

Over 30 Year 11 and 12 students gathered from four of our Marist schools to explore our Marist theme, One Wild and Precious Life.

Students and staff were privileged to hear a keynote address from Br. Michael Sexton fms, who spent time explaining how he has been called to live out his vocation as a Marist Brother. We express gratitude to Br. Mick, who shared his experiences in Algeria with a deep sense of love and compassion, and with such eloquence. Our students were enriched by his testimony which lead them perfectly into personal and group reflection on how they too, are called by God to live a wild life as His' precious creations.

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteer team and school staff who continue to make the effort to support the spiritual development of their senior students. We appreciate your support and we're looking forward to seeing how we can still support each other during this different time in youth ministry.

**Lachlan Scott** Marist Youth Ministry VIC

# MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Early March Update

## GAME CHANGERS

### Game Changers Commences, QLD

A number of schools across the QLD Region will be participating in the Game Changers program, starting from this year. Marist College (Ashgrove) and Trinity College (Beenleigh) have commenced their programs, with great early participation from students.

Already there is momentum building in Ashgrove, with students encouraging other students to sign up. Growing numbers is just a part of the story, the Game Changers meetings immerse students in a common experience of the Marist story. The program has already fostered genuine connection amongst the Ashgrove students, a great sign of things to come.

Game Changers will also be offered at OLSH (Alice Springs) and St Augustine's (Cairns) later in the year.

**Adam Burns** Marist Youth Ministry QLD



## *A word from Edwin*

During these next few months, MYM will continue to support our school community. Because we have cancelled or postponed our events for Term 2, we have worked hard to present some creative ways to be present among our Marist community:

#### **Socials:**

We are planning to support our students through this time, by posting daily on our socials and keeping our website up to date with engaging and relevant resources and news.



#### **Game Changers (GC) Sharepoint:**

We continue to build our resources for our Game Changers schools through the GC SharePoint, with a variety of resources for personal use and for use with the students.

#### **Online Youth Groups:**

We are currently developing a new manual, so GC Mentors can run Online Youth Group.

#### **MYM school visits:**

We will also give opportunities for our MYM staff to virtually visit GC Youth Groups.

*If you have any suggestions, comments or wonders, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.*

Kind Regards,  
**Edwin Bakker** National Coordinator Marist Youth Ministry