

## From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

### Advent - a time of preparation and hope

As we are all aware, throughout this year much of the Eastern region of Australia has been ravaged by a series of extraordinary flood events following record rainfall in many parts of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Earlier this year, Marists across the country rallied around their friends and colleagues in Brisbane and the NSW northern rivers in tangible ways that reflected the spirit and solidarity we share. Just this week the small town of Forbes in the Central West of NSW has been a constant on the national news as the worst floods in 70 years and possibly on record have engulfed the Lachlan Valley over the past three weeks.



As we approach the Season of Advent, familiar to us as a time of preparation for the joyous and hope filled celebration of Christ's birth, the staff and students of Red Bend Catholic College in Forbes are facing the immense challenges of the current floods with a sense of optimism, resilience, courage, ingenuity, and good humour reflecting an inspiring deep faith in God and one another.

Despite the College having to close twice in just a few weeks due to flood waters surrounding the campus and blocking roads throughout the surrounding districts, classes have continued online and in "learning hubs" established in Forbes as well as surrounding towns and villages in public libraries and halls in whatever ways possible with staff and students from those local areas.

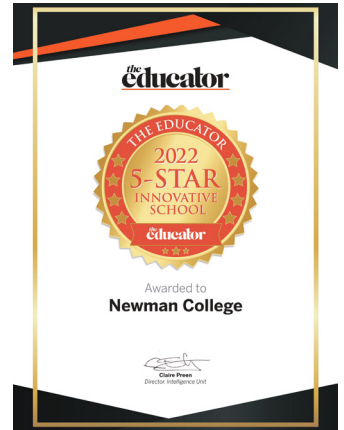
Under the calm and constant leadership of Principal Stephen Dwyer, the College community has flourished with hope at a time when despair could take hold. As we prepare for Christmas and reflect on the meaning of Jesus in our lives, may the good people of Red Bend Catholic College be present in your thoughts and prayers.

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## Newman College

Last week, Newman College in Perth was awarded the prestigious **5 Star Innovator Award** by *The Educator*, the respected Australian professional education journal (<https://www.theeducatoronline.com>).

Newman College was one of 50 schools nationwide from all sectors to be recognised in this way. The College's work in the development of middle leaders through their bespoke programme *Leadership Accelerator- Drive to Excel*, in collaboration with a range of leadership experts utilising psychometric testing and 360 degree feedback processes has been recognised for its efficacy and strategic impact on leadership development, and improved learning and teaching. Congratulations to all involved.



### A Prayer for Advent

*Lord Jesus,*

*Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.*

*We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.*

*We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.*

*We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.*

*We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.*

*We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.*

*To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"*

*Amen.*

*Henri J M Nouwen*



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dr Frank Malloy'.

**Dr Frank Malloy**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## Marist Schools Australia Board Report



At the recent MSA Ltd Board meeting, the issue of Cyber Security was discussed at some length. The Board commended schools for their ongoing attention in ensuring appropriate measures were in place in the management and storage of data. Professional external assessment of cyber security was also commended and encouraged.

*The Catholic Leader* featured Brother Michael Callinan recently. It asked him about his contribution at the Australian Catholic University as well as his journey in leading young people of all ages to Jesus through quality prayer and liturgical experiences. Brother Michael will conclude his ministry at the Australian Catholic University in December this year. In 2023, he will be taking up a role within Marist Schools Australia, as well as some further study.

# Awakening prayer lives is Brother's gift to students

By Joe Higgins

IT was the dreaded Friday-afternoon Study of Religion class when one of Marist Brother Michael Callinan's students raised their hand to ask if they could ditch the day's material to have a "prayer experience" instead.

"I thought, 'Here we go, they're just trying to get out of doing some work,'" Br Callinan said.

He played along with it and he was glad he did because it turned out to be a transformative experience.

The students took it seriously and soon the one who raised his hand was putting together rosters to manage the prayer leaders for each Friday afternoon class to follow.

Br Callinan said it meant the class had to move quicker through the set content but it all worked out perfectly by semester's end.

"To this day, I know that student," he said.

"He's someone who came from a faith-filled family; his family were both Catholic educators and leaders.

"It's one of those moments where, I'm so glad that request ... found a place to operate."

Br Callinan said Catholic schools were busy places with lots of pressure where chances to develop students' prayer leadership could be unintentionally overlooked.

He remembered his own first term as a teacher in the '80s.

"I remember feeling really exhausted at the end of it," he said.

“ I think you've got to understand God gives grace and provides opportunity and invites all the time. ”



**New challenge:** Marist Brother Michael Callinan is finishing up with campus ministry at Australian Catholic University after five-and-a-half years to assist his congregation in investigating and developing frameworks for improved experiences of prayer and liturgy in their 55 schools.

Photo: Joe Higgins

"I can understand, if you were not really attentive to what was going on inside yourself and you aren't saying a couple of 'no's' here and there, that whole area of (teacher) burnout is going to be a reality."

Br Callinan had graduated from Marist College, Ashgrove, with an attraction towards religious life.

Religious life had not been on the radar during his childhood and teenage years in South Africa but, with him returning to Brisbane for senior schooling, the Marists modelled to him something he had never experienced before.

With the calibre of their teaching and the influence of their Christian witness in his life, he became more attracted to the idea of being a religious brother than being a

teacher.

He was young when he joined. In his congregation, he was the last person to have joined straight out of school.

He was often asked if it was the right idea at the time.

His parents were happy for him and supportive in whatever path he took while his peers responded more with confusion than anything else.

"I think you've got to understand God gives grace and provides opportunity and invites all the time," he said.

"It's a matter of exploring that road and working out if it is God's will or not ... In the end it always works out the right way."

He studied teaching while in formation, forming his first connection with what

would become Australian Catholic University at one of its predecessor colleges in Sydney.

A good chunk of his teaching career as a brother was spent pioneering a now well-understood idea – developing the mission of a Catholic school as something more than just religious education in the classroom.

By his reckoning, Br Callinan was the second person to hold the position of mission director in a school in Australia.

He said it was ground-breaking to be saying more than 20 years ago that a Catholic school had a duty to form their students and staff.

The glue that holds all of our relationships together is the mutual recognition of the desire to be seen, heard, listened to, and treated fairly; to be recognized, understood, and to feel safe in the world.

When our identity is accepted and we feel included, we are granted a sense of freedom and independence and a life filled with hope and possibility. And when are given an apology when someone does us harm, we recognize that even when we fall short of being our best selves, there is always a way to reconnect. "I'm sorry" are two of the most powerful words anyone can utter.

(Donna Hicks, Ph.D., is the author of *Dignity: The Essential Role It Plays in Resolving Conflict*)

The International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation has come to an end and our Marist Pilgrims have left Rome and journeyed back home to their families, schools and regions to continue the great gift of the Marist Charism to each of us; to live and share their vocation.

The Forum was a process of reflection and discernment on the lay Marist vocation with approximately 100 people representing the Institute's Administrative Units.

Jess comments: We are looking forward to coming home and sharing our experience with you all as we continue to discern the Lay Marist Vocation over the next two years.

Pictured to the right: Br Michael Green, Nathan Ahearne, Matthew Pearce, Br Graham Neist, Mark O'Farrell, Jessica Bryant, with General Councillor, Br Ken McDonald and our Superior General Br Earnest Sanchez.



Two groups of Middle Leaders from Trinity College, Beenleigh participated in the first part of the Marist Middle Leaders program 'Infinite Mind - Sacred Heart' in May.

The second part of this program will be in mid November.

# Australian Marist Solidarity NEWS



## GIVE THE GIFT OF DIGNITY

Our 2022 “Gifts of Dignity” Christmas Appeal shines a light on the Training and Rehabilitation Center for the Blind in Vietnam. We will be telling the stories of the students at the center over the coming weeks. Upon graduation, 100% of students who attend the Center find sustainable employment or go on to own and run their own small business. The Center gives the opportunity for students to gain sustainable employment, returning a level of dignity and independence not previously had. Trung Nhi\* is a current student at the Center, here is her story.

*“There are four children in my family and my family situation is very difficult. My parents are farmers and we do not have a lot of money, it is very important that I can learn and support myself and my family in the future.*

*I am taking the traditional massage class at the centre, and I have been studying for a month now and I have learnt 18 basic tricks of traditional massage. I have learnt how to massage the head, neck, shoulders, nape, and upper and lower limbs. I feel very fortunate to be a student at the centre and to have such dedicated teachers. We are provided with everything we need including nutritious meals. I feel very happy to be at the centre because there are other people with disabilities whom I can share the joys and sorrow of life with.*

*I want to be able to get a job first to have money to take care of myself and then to take care of my family. I do not want to be a burden on my parents.*

*I wish that the visually impaired people in my hometown and visually impaired people in all parts of the country can have the opportunity to come to the Centre and study like me.”*

- Trung Nhi

In Vietnam attitudes towards those with disabilities include low expectations regarding their capacity to participate in society particularly economically which strips them of their independence and dignity.

The Training and Rehabilitation Center for the Blind was opened in 1997 and has given many visually impaired people the opportunity to study and find independence through sustainable work, granting them dignity.

Visually impaired students are recruited from all provinces of Vietnam, several of whom live in remote, mountainous areas and are from ethnic minorities. This means that the approach and training can be complex and encompasses many aspects such as the psychological state of the students, physical limitations, levels of sightedness, age and prior living conditions. Accommodations and meals are provided for all students so that they may stay at the Centre and devote their time to learning.



Students enjoying a meal provide with accommodation at the Centre

# Australian Marist Solidarity NEWS

Unfortunately, there are many young people like Trung Nhi on the waiting list to join classes at the Center, each of them facing their own daily struggles, often working in selling items at markets or lottery tickets facing hazardous conditions and theft due to their disability. AMS stands in solidarity with the students and staff at the Training and Rehabilitation

Centre for the Blind and it is only through your ongoing support they can continue to offer this life-changing education. Students are afforded an opportunity to break generational cycles of poverty and gain independence. In the spirit of hope and generosity, we urge you to give the gift of dignity this Christmas.

**YES! I will give the Gift of Dignity this Christmas.**

**Scan me to donate!**

\*names & details have been changed to protect the identity of participants



Trung Nhi - Student

As part of the Marist Sesquicentenary, schools taking part in the 'Day in the Life challenge' have been raising money so that vulnerable children can access education in Timor-Leste. There have been some phenomenal efforts this year and we are so close to our goal of 150K to celebrate 150 years of Marist education in Australia!

Thank you to the following schools who have made contributions so far: **Marist Catholic College Penhurst,**

**Marist Catholic College Kogarah, Marist College Ashgrove, Mt Maria College Mitchellton, Mount Carmel Catholic College, Assumption College Kilmore, Marist College Northshore, Newman College and John Therry Catholic College, St Patrick's Marist College Dundas, Sacred Heart College and St Teresa's Noosaville.**

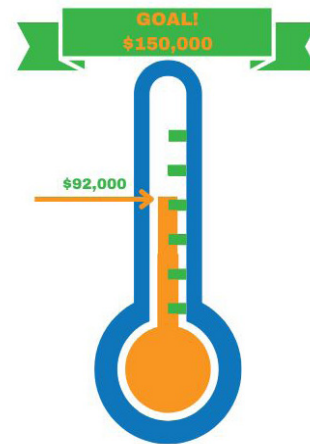
We are nearing the end of the year, a reminder to send your donations into AMS before the school year ends!



Students taking part in a traditional massage class.



Students taking part in acupuncture class.



**Make direct deposit donations to:  
Australian Marist Solidarity  
BSB 062 000 Account No 1628 5262  
Please email the details of your donation to:  
ams.accounts@marists.org.au**

## Connect with us to find out more.

 [australianmaristsolidarity.net.au](http://australianmaristsolidarity.net.au)

 [@australianmaristsolidarity](https://www.instagram.com/australianmaristsolidarity)

 [ams@marists.org.au](mailto:ams@marists.org.au)

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AUSTRALIAN  
**Marist**  
SOLIDARITY

# MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

## MYM QLD

The **2022 Marist Student Leaders Summit** gathered more than 70 students and staff from 14 school communities. The aim of the program was three-fold:

1. Students develop self-awareness of their leadership, where it comes from and why they have been chosen to lead.
2. Students develop their understanding of the Marist identity and mission, their belonging within the broader family of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat; and how this informs their leadership.
3. Students can demonstrate faith leadership and apply it within their school and community context as disciples of Jesus.

Feedback from students indicates that the 2022 iteration of the program certainly **achieved these goals**:

- To be **honest**, before this Summit, I did not even identify myself as a Marist. This Summit has opened my eyes to the strong family and legacy Marist schools have and made me realise our school needs to work harder to not lose this identity.
- Being a **Marist leader** focuses more on our key **connection to faith**, which was truly highlighted in this Summit.
- I am leaving Summit feeling **inspired** to do great and make a difference in the opportunity I have and the position I'm in.
- That **the Marist family is home** and full of knowledge and to draw from this knowledge and use our family spirit to help our schools.

The program was enhanced by a beautiful celebration of the Mass alongside College leadership and distinguished guests in the Marist Ashgrove Chapel. A highlight was the Summit Cup, a competition between school groups featuring trivia and performances, with the Mt Maria College (Petrie) earning the title of Summit Cup Champions.

Our MYM Brisbane team is grateful for the support of school staff, and for the collaborative contributions from AMS and members of the Marist Association.



# Thinking about accommodation for tertiary studies in Melbourne? Think *Marist House*

*Marist House* offers student residential programs for young adults, studying at one of the many tertiary institutes in and around Melbourne. Marist House provides '*a home away from home*' that is supportive, welcoming and hospitable for students who desire to belong to a caring community while completing their studies in Melbourne.



Marists have a long tradition in building community around young people to promote their education and full human growth. To find out about residential accommodation at Marist House visit <https://maristyouthministry.com/marist-house-fitzroy>

To enquire about available places for 2023 please contact: Br Frank McIntosh, fms  
e: frank.mcintosh@marists.org.au