

From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

As we fast head toward the season of Advent and the final phases of the 2020 school year, it is a time for reflecting on these most challenging times.

There is a collective sense of hope in our schools especially with the recent promising news of developments for a vaccine to protect from COVID-19. There is also an acute sensitivity among many Marists to those who have been profoundly affected economically due to the pandemic. Our school communities have come together in extraordinary ways, to quietly and discreetly help many families in need with great dignity.

An important feature of Marist life in this part of the world is the close connections and relationships that exist among many developed and developing countries. Our Catholic tradition reminds us that in preparation for Christmas, Advent is a time to focus on our prayer life, giving to those in need and undertaking good works for the benefit of others.

Considering the serious economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Melanesia, South East Asia and the Pacific, urgent attention is drawn to the **Australian Marist Solidarity Christmas Appeal**. The annual promotion and support for this Appeal by our schools over many years is deeply appreciated. In the wake of the pandemic, a strong act of solidarity for 2020, would be a record year for donations from our Australian Marist schools to the AMS Christmas Appeal. Details of the Appeal are included in the newsletter. These same details have been previously sent by AMS directly to schools. Funds that schools provide will go directly to assist fellow Marists in extreme conditions close to Australian shores.

Last Friday marked a special moment in the history of the Marist Brothers in Australia. At Red Bend Catholic College, the Bishop for the Diocese of Wilcannia Forbes, Most Reverend Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE DD led a prayerful liturgy during which the local Catholic community recognised with gratitude to God, the generous service and considerable influence of the Marist Brothers in Catholic education throughout the central and far western districts of New South Wales over the past 94 years. At the end of 2020 the Brothers community at Forbes will close. The Brothers presence has long been a much appreciated feature of the vast Diocese, with communities in Bourke, Broken Hill, Parkes, and Forbes once serving local families in Primary and Secondary schools.

For much of its history Red Bend was simply known in the Diocese as *the College* and that title was synonymous with *the Brothers*. The presence of *the Brothers* in the minds of most local Catholic families has simply been a constant and deeply appreciated reality. *The Brothers* have always represented the prayerfulness, faith, beauty, artistry, intellect, wholesomeness, discipline, discovery and importantly the boundless opportunities a holistic, quality, Catholic education presents. The reputation of *the College* happily endures in the same way today with the committed lay teachers and staff.

Whilst recognition for the constant faithful work of so many Brothers was the dominant theme, Bishop Columba, Provincial Brother Peter Carroll fms and Brother Michael Flanagan fms, (the last Brother to be Principal), spoke enthusiastically of the future for Marist life in the Diocese and Australia, citing the many faith filled lay Marist men and women at Red Bend as examples of what exists throughout the country in ever increasing numbers.

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Below are some photos of the celebrations during which Brother Bernie McGrath and Brother Robert Hayes were recognised most fondly. Bishop Columba kindly hosted a dinner at his home in the evening in honour of the Brothers and presented to Brother Peter a beautiful icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the patroness of the Diocese.



Yours sincerely,

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

When thinking university studies in Melbourne, think **Maristhouse**



Marist House is a residential program for young adults who are studying at one of the many universities in and around Melbourne. Whether from the city or the country, Marist House provides young people with a safe, stable and supportive environment in which to engage with their tertiary studies.

Contact us to arrange a tour.

Webpage: <https://www.maristyouthministry.com/marist-house-fitzroy/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/maristhouse/>



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Red Bend Catholic College is currently seeking suitably qualified dynamic candidates for teaching roles in 2021.

Red Bend Catholic College is currently seeking candidates for the following teaching roles:

- English
- HSIE
- Religious Education
- PDHPE
- Mathematics
- Science
- TAS – Timber & Metal (VET Construction)
- Learning Support Teacher

Applicants should contact the Executive Assistant to the Principal for an application package employment@redbendcc.nsw.edu.au

The preferred applicants will be required to have NESA accreditation to teach in NSW and a NSW Working with Children Check. Red Bend Catholic College is committed to child safety through the Marist Schools Australia Child Safeguarding Standards. Successful applicants will be required to demonstrate a willingness to support the Marist and Mercy traditions of the College.



We all express gratitude toward others in different ways. Before COVID, we shook hands, we patted backs, we hugged and we kissed. Now we wave, we thumbs-up, we smile and elbow-bump. Angela Ryan, Assistant Principal of Religious Education at St Peter Claver College in Riverview Queensland, reflects below upon Marist Formation offered during COVID times and expresses her gratitude in the following words...

At the beginning of the year our staff participated in the **One Wild and Precious Life** staff formation program. Staff were asked what kind of world we want to leave to those who come after us. These are just a few of their reflections:

*A world empowered by love.
A world where wonder is nourished, and artistic expression valued.
A world where young people ask questions.
A world that is healing, connected and cared for. One where we care for each other, feel loved and love in return.*

The reflections show us what we already know inside ourselves. It is the heart that holds the most profound learnings and it is the heart connections that sustain all life.

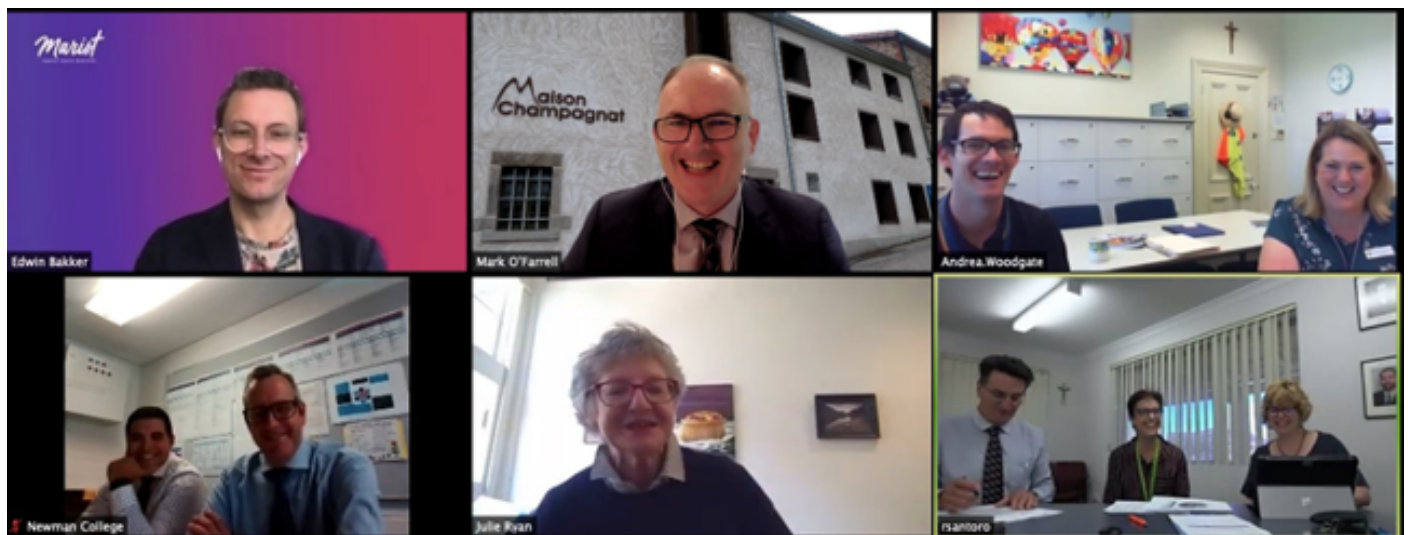
Our staff valued the **daily prayers and reflections** shared each morning; their themes and messages resonated powerfully. I genuinely looked forward to seeing this in my inbox each day. A wonderful gift during the peak of COVID-19. We were able to print these and share them with some of our elderly parishioners and I know many staff shared these reflections with their families.



Angela Ryan APRE, St Peter Claver College Riverview, Queensland

FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA...

The Western Australian Marist family connected across the Nullarbor with a gathering of Principals and Mission Leaders from Bunbury Catholic College, Newman College and St Joseph's College, Northam to review the year that has been, and to plan for 2021. We shared the news from each school of the vital work being done to build the mission of Marist Catholic Education for the young people of the West. The Marists have been a presence in the Western Australia since first arriving in 1913. There was much for which to give thanks. #MaristLife



Edwin Bakker (Marist Youth Ministry), Mark O'Farrell (Marist Mission and Life Formation), Lloyd Reidy (Religious Education Coordinator - St Joseph's, Northam), Andrea Woodgate (Principal, St Joseph's, Northam), Simon Martino (Leader of Mission and Identity - Newman College Perth), John Finneran (Principal - Newman College Perth), Julie Ryan (Marist Schools Australia Regional Director WA/SA/VIC), Michael Pepper (Principal - Bunbury Catholic College), Rose Santoro (Ministry Leader - Bunbury Catholic College), and Daria Smith (Marist Association Local Coordinator - Bunbury Catholic College)

AUSTRALIAN arist SOLIDARITY

A SMALL COIN, MADE TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Dear Marist friends,

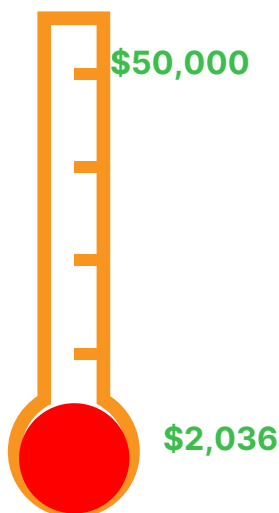
The Australian Mint has recently released a new \$1 coin, the 'Donation Dollar.'

On one side, the new Australian \$1 coin has an image of Queen Elizabeth II. On the back, it's stamped with a message: "Donation Dollar: Give to help others."

The coin, the first of its kind in the world, can be spent like any other money. But its intention is to be shared with people in need and we are asking our Marist friends and supporters to use this great new Aussie initiative to support the work of Australian Marist Solidarity.

If every Marist in Australia donates one dollar in Term 4, we can raise over \$50,000 before 31 December, 2020. Please consider a gold coin collection in your school, ministry or workplace and help us support vulnerable young people in our region to access education.

[To donate click here](#)



The old furniture needing replacement



The new furniture



The teachers and students raising funds

Marist College, Bendigo

Raising funds for new furniture

Kulugia Primary School has been identified by the then Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Baucau (FSJ), Madre Herminia, as the next school needing redevelopment in the district, after St. Terezinha's, Quelicai. This determination was made by considering the catchment area of students and the state of disrepair of the current structure. The school currently has 184 students aged from 6 to 11 years old.

The furniture in the current building has also been identified as an area of concern. In January 2020, staff from AMS visited Kulugia and confirmed the need for new furniture. There is not enough furniture for the students resulting in some sitting and working on the floor. The furniture that there is, is in a state of disrepair. The tops of desks have holes and deep cuts, making it difficult to write on them. Some of the desks are warped due to being exposed to rain. Chairs are damaged through wear and tear.

In early 2020, Marist College Bendigo approached AMS with an idea to supply new furniture to Kulugia. Bendigo staff and students had spent time during their immersion in Kulugia and had recognised the need for furniture. In October 2020, the new furniture was delivered and is ready for the students to use.

*Thank you Marist College
Bendigo!*

2020 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

BE PART OF OUR STORY OF HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS



Dear Marist friends,

We know that the current COVID-19 pandemic has increased the level of vulnerability for all our partner communities across the Asia and Pacific region. At AMS, we believe education is the most powerful catalyst for hope and wellbeing and that the long-term recovery of communities from the current challenges requires a continued investment in quality education for all.

This Christmas, we are asking those who have the capacity to give, to join our AMS circle of hope to ensure that safe learning environments are ready and learning can continue as quickly as possible for vulnerable children and young people in our region.

This year, we were overwhelmed with the support we received from you, our community of supporters, and we wish to share with you a short video on how your support has impacted the lives of the most vulnerable. [Watch here](#).

We believe that education provides the best catalyst for building brighter futures for vulnerable young people and their communities.

Below are examples of what we hope to achieve with your support in 2021:



CHRISTMAS DONATION GIFT CARD

Make a donation in lieu of a gift this Christmas and give vulnerable children a gift of hope.

A gift in lieu is where you make a donation on behalf of someone else. You will then receive this card to give to that person to let them know what their gift is. This is their Christmas present, a gift of hope, ensuring that vulnerable children and young people within the Asia Pacific region are able to access education.

This year, we thank Marcellin College Bulleen for their time and support in producing in this card.

ORDER NOW to give a gift in lieu, simply click on the card, then fill in your details.

The card will be sent to you, for you to write in and then give or send on to the recipient for Christmas.



01 ACCESS FOR ALL

Access to quality education for vulnerable children and young people

- Providing computer classes for vulnerable young people in Uai-Lili, Timor-Leste (*image above*).
- Investing in the education of young Burmese migrants in Thailand.



02 FACILITIES FOR THE FUTURE

Investing in infrastructure to ensure safe places for learning

- Installing water tanks to improve hygiene and sanitation in Bougainville.
- Building toilet blocks and communal spaces for a school impacted by climate change in Kiribati (*image above*).



03 RESILIENCE AND READINESS

Supporting community development activities that prepare vulnerable young people to engage with education

- Provide care and support for the girl children of females working in prostitution in the Philippines (*image above*).
- Empower and build the life skills and literacy of young people with a disability in Bangladesh.

To donate and be part of our story of hope visit:

www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Mid November Update

GAME CHANGERS QLD

Game Changers students at Marist College Ashgrove celebrated the first year of the program at the College. Over 20 students were involved in the program, with two groups (Yr 7 Le Rosey, Yr 10 La Valla) participating in 2020. In reflecting on the Game Changers experience, Year 10 students wrote:

"[Game Changers has] helped the boys understand themselves a bit more and helped us. We can't wait to do Game Changers next year and make lots of new memories"

"Thank you so much for the year. Game Changers has been one of the best things this year. Here's to many more amazing memories."

Adam Burns
Marist Youth Ministry Brisbane



Connect SA

On Friday November 6th MYM Adelaide was finally able to host their first Connect Night for 2020 between students from Sacred Heart College, Cardijn College and for the first time, Cardijn College-Marcellin Campus. The 26 attending Years 10, 11 and 12 students reflected on this year's Marist theme by creating social media art which represented what God hopes for us to experience with our own 'one wild and precious life'.

This was followed by a pizza dinner where students spent time connecting with fellow young Marists and shared a prayer centred around gratitude. We're so thankful for the opportunity to come together for a face to face Connect and look forward to many more in 2021. A massive thank you to Sacred Heart for hosting, all the staff from both schools who supported the event and of course the students for participating so enthusiastically!

Sara Petruzzella
Marist Youth Ministry Adelaide



@maristyouthministry
@maristgamechangers



Marist Youth Ministry
Marist Game Changers

**GAME
CHANGERS**

Next MSA Newsletter: 1 December 2020

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