

new lands

Greetings. The past month has been historic for us Marists in Australia. Not only were we the object of the scrutiny of the Royal Commission, we were given the 'green light' from the Superior General to set up our new Association and our 'parent' relationship to the District of Melanesia came to an end.

Our Australian Marist relation with Melanesia began with the appointment of 3 Brothers to Marau in Solomon Islands in 1938. After the war, the Brothers returned to the Solomons and also to Bougainville. There was a community of Australian and Chinese Brothers in Rabaul in the 1950s. In 1959, two Brothers from the Melbourne Province headed to the East Sepik in Papua New Guinea. In all, some 100 Australian Brothers have served in Melanesia over the past 76 years. Now is a moment of transition for two reasons: Br Jean Marie Batick is the first Melanesian leader of the Brothers in that part of the world and he was appointed by the Superior General not by the Provincial of Australia.

[A new relationship has begun.](#) Part of this change is Ken McDonald finishing as District Leader after 9 years. [Thank you Ken](#) for all you have given in this role.

It is a time for us to give thanks for the Brothers who pioneered "the missions", who established education in tough circumstances, who encouraged young men to follow them as Brothers, who learnt how to empower local people to lead. It is time for us Australians to pray for God's blessing on Jean Marie and his band of Brothers as they continue Marcellin's dream.

A letter of invitation has been sent to Marists connected to ministries and administrative Centres to take the first steps in joining the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat. We asked school leaders to assist us in personalising the invitation, (so please be patient if you are in a school) and this will take place at a suitable moment this Term. The letter of invitation is on page 5. It is meant to be read in conjunction with material that can be viewed on the

[invitation website here.](#) If you want to express an interest and are not in a Marist ministry, contact Joe McCarthy at joe.mccarthy@marists.org.au.

This initiative of forming a public Association is unique in the Marist world. The Association needs the support of the Brothers Institute and so we approached the Superior General formally. Br Emili wrote back on July 4,

In response to your letter of 21 May 2014, I wish to inform you that the Council has studied your proposal for the initiative to create a Public Association of Christ's Faithful within the Province of Australia as a pilot project for the Institute.

In the first place, the Council wishes to congratulate you for all the excellent work you have put into the preparation of this initiative, in a very serious and profound way, and attempting to give the most adequate response in your context.

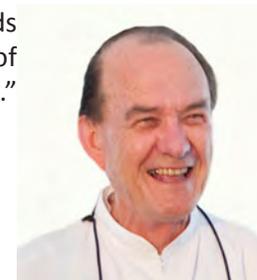
In addition, the Council gives its support to your request to be able to

use the term "pilot project"; to use the name of the Superior General in the documents, and to speak of the project publicly to the Bishops of Australia.

This is wonderful, encouraging news.

Finally, thank you for your faith and support as we Brothers face the Royal Commission. The hearing will continue some time in early August. I felt it important to send out a message to the Brothers, our colleagues and friends and am very happy that most of its content made its way into the public media. The [full message can be viewed here.](#)

"Mary, dawn of the new times, be with us, inspire us, and help us to nurture these new seeds of life as we move in faith and hope towards the third century of our Marist Institute."
(Br Emili)



Br Emili has informed us that **Br Tony Leon** has been appointed as Director of the Brothers Today Secretariat as from next October. Tony has been working in the Secretariat since January. There will be another Brother appointed to the Secretariat as well. These appointments follow the election of Cesar Rojas, current Director, as Provincial of Norandina. We congratulate Tony on this appointment, knowing that he will continue to bring his love of our vocation, his enthusiasm and creativity to his new responsibility.

Br Chris Wills has also been re-appointed to his position as Director of the Secretariat for International Collaboration for Mission for a further three years. Our thanks to Chris for accepting to continue in this role.

Br Brian Etherington and **Br Michael Herry** recently travelled to East Timor to run short courses in English and music for our aspirants and postulants there. Apart from the formal lessons, the candidates enjoyed the opportunity of getting to know other Brothers from the Australian Province. Another 'guest' presently in Baucau who is also making a big impression on the young men with his energy and interest is **Br Benet Bourke**. He was present on the final

night of the course when the candidates demonstrated their new found skills in a mini-concert. Benet travelled there with Helen Peters who has a long-standing connection with health initiatives in the Bacau area. Two other Australian Marists – **Br Tony D'Arbon and Peter White** - were also recently in Bacau to assist with the Masters in Education program being followed by a number of lecturers at the Marist Teachers' College.

2014 is a special year for four of our senior men who turn 90. Two have already celebrated this milestone - **Virgilius Carroll, Vince Shekleton** -and two more this month - **Dick (Marius) Woulfe and Kevin Hogan**. Leo McVeigh would have been in the group. Our best wishes to each of them

Sharon Williams will join the Australian Marist Community Pastoral Team on a part time basis for the remainder of the year. She is currently employed as a part-time teacher at Marist College Peshurst, and actively involved in the local Marist group there. She will replace **Marian McKinley** who has returned to Ireland with her family. We are grateful to John Finneran, Principal of Peshurst, for encouraging Sharon to take up the role and allowing for her secondment.

The Team now consists of Joe McCarthy, Gail Coates, Br Paul Kane, Br Graham Neist, Sharon Williams.

At its last meeting the Province Mission Council endorsed the appointment of Mr **John Cameron** as Chair of the Board of Marist Youth Care. John retired at the end of 2012 from Australian Catholic University where he had held senior positions since

1998. He is an ex-student of Marist College Eastwood and is the secretary of the Old Boys Association. He is happy to be engaged in a Marist project, especially one as socially meaningful as MYC. We are very grateful to him for this voluntary service. We also thank **Professor Anne Cummins** who accepted to be Acting Chair last year when Br Anthony Robinson could no longer continue for health reasons.



Connor Bradley, Kath Richter, Br Hubert Williams, Paul Herrick, Gail Coates, Br Paul Kane, Joe McCarthy, Br John Dyson (front row) Tracey Doublet, Mira Fraser, Br Doug Walsh, Sophie Fenaughty, Marian McKinley

Mira Fraser, who has worked in the position of Reception and Administrative Assistant at Marist Centre Melbourne, has returned to New Zealand to take up study in Social Work and be closer to family. The Marist family wish her every blessing in her new ventures. Mira has been replaced by **Tracey Doublet**. Tracey is known to the Marists through living close to the Exodus community in West Heidelberg, and having boys at Marcellin College, Bulleen. Tracey comes to us with a wealth of experience, including a background in graphic design and working in a Parish setting in Melbourne. A warm welcome to Tracey!

PROJECT
NEW MODELS
OF ANIMATION,
GOVERNANCE AND
MANAGEMENT

New Models of Animation, Governance and Management (AGM)

I can well imagine that such a title does not grab people! But is important nonetheless.

This is a project of the General Council. In short, the GC is trying to plan for how we as an international Institute should be organising itself for today's world. Structures that have served us well at both international and Province/ District levels may have to change to take account of our changing circumstances – e.g. the number of Brothers, our diversity, the inclusion of lay people at all levels of Marist life and mission, the challenge of providing new initiatives for the most vulnerable children and young people. You know that we have been working on our own structures in the new Province and so have something to contribute.

A group (including Peter McNamara) was appointed to work with a company to canvass thoughts from Province leaders around the world. They have been holding regional meetings. The one for Oceania takes place at Mittagong August 22-24. Prior to this gathering, our visitors will meet separately with people from the Province and two Districts. Before and after the gathering, the visitors will have the chance to visit some communities, schools and other ministries.

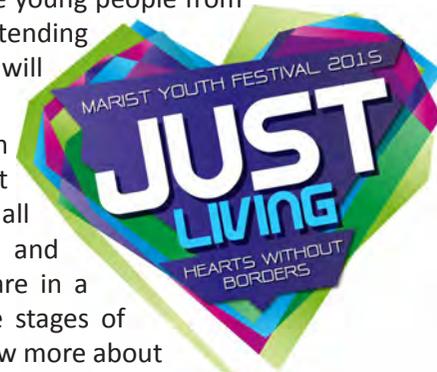
Those who are really keen can see [the project outline at our Institute website here](#)



Marist Youth Festival

HELP NEEDED! From 12 -15 January 2015 we will be hosting the Marist Youth Festival 2015, a justice festival for approximately 300 post school young adults. Some young people from our Marist schools will also be attending with their teachers. The festival will be held in Sydney.

It is a large undertaking which will need the help of a significant number of volunteers to do all kinds of jobs prior to, during and following the festival. If you are in a position to help for any of the stages of the festival, or would like to know more about volunteering at it, please contact Carole Wark at carolewark1@gmail.com



building the Marist Association

The pebble has been dropped into the water...and information about the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat is spreading ever outwards...

At **Marist College Emerald** Br Neville Solomon and two members of the AMC Pastoral Team met with Staff and members of the local Parish to learn about and discuss the reasons behind the formation of this Marist Association. There was also conversation around what joining would involve. The evening concluded with a shared meal in the College's Staff Room.



On Friday we were fortunate enough to celebrate Champagnat Day Mass with staff and students of the College. Our sincere thanks go to Marie Martin, Principal, and Bobby Bracken, Assistant Principal/ Religious Education and all at Marist College Emerald for their warm welcome and wonderful hospitality.



Our Lady of Sacred Heart Catholic College Alice Springs

In June Paul Herrick and a member of the AMC Pastoral Team visited Alice Springs to talk about the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat. The haunting colours of the countryside and the warmth of the welcome we received really helped to make our visit a very enjoyable one. Our sincere thanks to Br Matthew Green, Principal and RE/FD Coordinators Megan Nertney, Br Tony Caddy and Kieran Curnow for making the time to meet with us.

An invitation to consider joining the Marist Association is being extended to all of the Australian Marist Community. It will take a little while to get the invite out to all. Those connected to our Marist ministries will receive the invitation through these ministries. However there are many others who consider themselves part of the AMC who are not directly connected to a Marist ministry. If this is you - you will find your invitation on the following page. We want the invitation to reach anyone who would like to consider joining the Marist Association so you can help us by passing on the invitation included in this volume of NewLands to anyone you think might be interested.

For further information about the Marist Association see [our invitation website here](#)



building the Marist Association



Dear Marists,

A new epoch begins in Australia for Marists in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat. His dream lives on in a new Association as well as in the Marist Brothers!

This is indeed a special moment for Marists in Australia.

By means of this letter I am inviting you on behalf of the Provincial and Mission Councils to consider joining the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat. The very first step is for you to indicate an expression of interest. This is a "head and heart" step, open to your response to how the Spirit is working in your life in terms of your Marist connection.

We will be a group with a common purpose but with a wide spectrum of motivation. As Marists, we are all committed to making Jesus Christ known and loved among the young, especially the most neglected. The Association brings together those who are moved to answer the question, "What is the Spirit asking of us Marists in today's Church and society in Australia?"

Some will join for deeply personal, spiritual, even vocational reasons; some will join because they want to play a part in ensuring a future for a charism that has inspired actions and projects over generations for

vulnerable children; some will join because they simply feel at home within the Marist family and they want to belong and be known to belong to the core group of Marists in our country; some will join because they have known themselves to be Marist most of their lives as former Brothers and trainees, as Affiliates; some will join as young Marists because they want to engage in Marist ministry and explore faith, relationships, life's meaning and commitments with other young Marists for a time.

The Association will need stability and reliability, and a capacity for formation, leadership and governance. These are already features of the engagement of Marists over decades, not just the Brothers. We know that in joining the Association we are making a commitment to be there in some way for one another in decades to come. To adapt one of St Marcellin's phrases, "Let it be said of Australian Marists what was said of the first Christians, 'See how they love one another.'" Love takes time!

Responding to this invitation now is an interim step. It gives us all a measure of who is interested and how many we will be in the immediate future. It also means that you will be consulted regarding the key documents that are being drawn up.

More information can be obtained on [our invitation website](#), through Province Ministry Leaders, Marists

School Principals, Regional Directors of Marists Schools Australia, members of the Australian Marist

Community Pastoral Team

Joe McCarthy, Gail Coates, Sharon Williams, Br Paul Kane, Br Graham Neist. This Pastoral Team has the special responsibility of assisting individuals and local groups in the discernment step prior to applying. We will all learn a lot in the coming months about how to do this well, respecting personal questions and rhythms.

Please note that there is no urgency in responding to this invitation. Each school, ministry and community will work with it when they can, as will each Marist. This is a standing invitation to consider joining, with no cut-off date! Please feel free to pass this invitation on to others who you think may be interested.

"He (Marcellin) gave us the name of Mary." May she be our companion and guide.

Br Jeff Crowe on behalf of the Provincial and Mission Councils, Province of Australia
June 2014

District of Melanesia Assembly and Chapter

Nearly 50 people gathered for the District Assembly and Chapter in Port Moresby last week. The Assembly gathered Lay and Brother Marists from all across the District – PNG, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and MAPAC. Brothers Jeffrey Crowe, Michael de Waas, David McDonald and Siasio loane participated as representatives of the Institute and other Oceania Units.

A very important part of the Assembly was a thank you and celebration for all that Br Ken McDonald has contributed to the District over the last thirty years and especially in leading the District over the last nine years. Ken handed over leadership of the District to Br Jean Marie Batick. Jeff Crowe offered thanks to Ken on behalf of Province of Australia and the Oceania Region. Jeff also congratulated the Marists of the District, assured them of the Region's support and observed that the occasion marked the conclusion of a process begun at the Concurrent Chapters in 2010.

The Assembly was a great gathering and prepared the Brothers for the Chapter that immediately followed. The Chapter focussed mainly on the life of Brothers and the communities within the District and the delegates elected the new District Council joining Br Jean Marie in the leadership of the District.

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Br Ken McDonald



Br Jean Marie Batick



Brs Stanley Bakere, Rodney Pauru,
Mark Kenatsi, Jean Marie Batick and
Clement Pekubei



Living the Joy of the Gospel

LECTIO DIVINA & MASS WITH
CARDINAL LUIS ANTONIO TAGLE

Tuesday 5 August, 6pm - 8.30pm
St Patrick's Cathedral

Come and be uplifted! Gather for an evening of prayer, music and reflection at St Patrick's Cathedral. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle (Archbishop of Manila, Philippines) will lead a Lectio Divina (slow, contemplative praying of the Scriptures) and Mass, with music by the Filipino community. All welcome. No RSVP required.

For more information, visit the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation website: www.cam.org.au/evangelisation



Mary Full of Grace

Mary said 'yes', but what are we saying 'yes' to in our own faith life?

With Mary as our guide, how do we 'trace the spirit' of justice and tenderness in the joys and sorrows of our life?

RETREAT DAY
SATURDAY 16 AUGUST
9.30am - 3pm
Genazzano FCJ College
301 Cotham Road, Kew

In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis invites us to 'recover and deepen our enthusiasm ... that delightful and comforting joy of evangelising, even when it is in tears that we must sow. He emphasises that to really listen to God we must first learn to contemplate; stop to converse with him, and give him space in prayer.

Join us this August as we, like Mary, make space to 'ponder in our hearts' the traces of God's Spirit and be renewed in the joy of gospel!

With reflections and music by:

- Bishop Robert Morneau (USA)
- Dr Suzanne Mulligan (Ireland)
- St Joseph's Malvern Parish Choir

And experiences of:

- A Walking Rosary
- Lectio Divina
- Love's Body Photographic Exhibit
- Labyrinth
- Praying with Icons

For the full program, visit www.cam.org.au/evangelisation

This is a free event but RSVP is essential for catering purposes. RSVP by 8 August to the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation: (03) 9926 5761 / evangelisation@cam.org.au



Living the Joy of the Gospel

CATECHESIS WITH CARDINAL
TIMOTHY DOLAN

Sunday 17 August, 3pm - 6pm
Genazzano FCJ College (301 Cotham Rd, Kew)

Be challenged and inspired by the jovial Cardinal Timothy Dolan (Archbishop of New York, USA) as he shares his experiences of seeing the Gospel in action on the streets of New York. With special performances by young musicians: Siveolie Bryant and Evergreen. All welcome. No RSVP required.

For more information, visit the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation website: www.cam.org.au/evangelisation



CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP FORUMS FOR
ALL PRIESTS, SCHOOL PRINCIPALS &
ARCHDIOCESAN AGENCY LEADERS

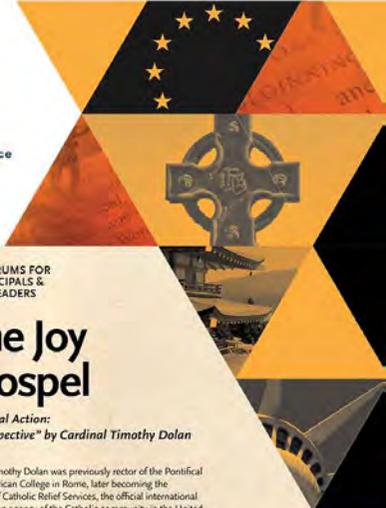
Living the Joy of the Gospel

Global Perspectives for Local Action:
"The North-American Perspective" by Cardinal Timothy Dolan



Cardinal Timothy Dolan was previously rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, later becoming the chairman of Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. He later served as President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and is currently a member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization and the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

• • •
Date: Monday 18 August 2014
Time: 10.30 - 12pm
Venue: Catholic Leadership Centre (Cnr Hoddle St & Victoria Pde, East Melbourne)
RSVP: Free. Limited seating available. Contact the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation: (03) 9926 5761 / evangelisation@cam.org.au



These are available in Melbourne -
for further information go to <http://www.cam.org.au/evangelisation>

ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE FOR EVANGELISATION

