

MARIST ASSOCIATION NEWS

FOR MEMBERS OF THE MARIST ASSOCIATION OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



Dear Marists,

Theravadan Buddhists have Vassa, Muslims have Ramadan, Judaism has the month of Elul and Christians have Lent.

All of these are periods set aside for the same purpose: to deepen spirituality and renew faith. Vassa is a three month period when the Buddhist monks, in particular, devote more time to meditation and study. The strict fasting of Ramadan is intended to renew the focus on prayer and involves the recitation of the whole Koran. Each morning, during the month of Elul, the shofar (ram's horn) is sounded as a call to repentance. It is a time of introspection, review and re-commitment. Lent has much in common with each of these: Christians are not alone in their search for holiness and commitment to a specific annual period of renewal. Renewal is a central part of our Christian tradition; it is something we undertake carefully and deliberately.

Renewal is imperative for us as Marists. In fact, it's a process in which we're currently engaged in a very serious way. The reason for the development and establishment of our Association is found in our conscious desire to renew our spirit and mission, and to ensure its continuing relevance. At one level, it's about the creation of structures and processes, and requires canonical and civil recognition. However, at a more fundamental level, it's about renewal in our own lives and the lives of our local communities. Membership of the Association indicates our belief in St Marcellin's vision and our

willingness to commit to it seriously. As Association members, we are required to explore how we can individually and collectively enrich and enliven our Marist way of expressing the Gospel of Jesus, and then take action to achieve this.

A fortnight ago, the Council met for two days to reflect on the hopes and ideas that emerged from last year's Mission Assembly and local gatherings. The material was rich and diverse and the dreams and yearnings that underpinned them - very encouraging. We spent considerable time shaping them into a plan of action; you might say a charter of renewal. This we will be presenting to you in the near future as an invitation to take up afresh, the call of St Marcellin to follow Jesus as Mary did and to serve young people in their need.

Our Marist journey is analogous to our Lenten pilgrimage. Our path is one of renewal and re-commitment and our destination one of hope, light and inspiration.

May you, your families and communities be blessed this Holy Week and Easter.

Br Peter Carroll FMS

STOP PRESS!

At its last Plenary Meeting, the General Council voted unanimously to establish the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat. On 3 March, the formal petition was submitted to the Holy See. We now wait expectantly!

BROTHERS' NEWS



PAUL CREEVEY

It was announced recently that Paul Creevey will finish his term as Principal of St Teresa's Catholic College, Noosaville at the end of Term 2 this year. Paul will have a short break before commencing pre-Doctoral studies at Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium in September.



JEFF CROWE

Jeff continues his study of Spanish in Spain. He has had an interesting time taking in historical sites and enjoying various aspects of Spanish Culture, as well as learning the language. Next month, he'll return to Rome where he will make final preparations for the programme he and another Brother are running to help prepare Marists for new international and inter-cultural communities of mission.



JOHN FURLONG

John continues to strengthen following his serious car accident in September last year. He is gradually returning to routine.



MICHAEL HAYNES

Michael will leave St Gregory's College, Campbelltown at Easter and move to Cairns where he will join the staff of St Augustine's College.



FRANK McINTOSH & ROBERT SPEARE

Frank and Robert are participating in an international programme concerned with Community Animation. It is being held in Manziana, outside Rome. Tony Leon has been helping to lead the programme.



CHRISTIAN ONUKWUFOR

Christian, a Nigerian Brother who is temporarily a member of the Province, has commenced ministry at Trinity Catholic College Auburn.



ROD THOMSON

Rod is currently on sabbatical. He has recently concluded a 30 Day retreat in the Ignatian tradition and is now undertaking a spiritual direction programme. In May he will join the Formation Team at the Tudella Novitiate in Sri Lanka.



PETER WALSH

Peter returned to Tudella, Sri Lanka in mid-February after a restful month-long break in Melbourne.



FONS VAN ROOIJ

Fons also had some time at home while he was sorting out Visa arrangements. He returned to Leuven at the end of February where he will continue to work on a special Marist Charism project at the University.



MICHAEL SEXTON

Michael is currently at home in Australia having a well-deserved rest and catch-up with family and friends. He will return to Algeria later in the year and continue his involvement in the Brothers' Third Age renewal programme, which runs annually from October to December.

A number of Brothers have recently been hospitalised for various reasons: Tony Butler, Norman Hart, Chris Hogan, Joe McCabe, Ray Mulvogue, Brendan Neily, Dacius Reilly and Roger Vallance. All have now been discharged and are returning to normal - some more slowly than others!

OCEANIA PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION MEETING

3-4 MARCH 2016 | SYDNEY

L-R Dan Dungey; Mark Kenatsi; Lucy Sinei; Liz Falconer; Anthony Clarke; Carl Tapp; Joe McCarthy; Pam Paton-Mills



The Oceania Partnership Commission (OPC) held a recent meeting on 3rd & 4th March in Sydney. Its membership comprises Anthony Clarke (Chair), Liz Falconer and Joe McCarthy (Australia), Lucy Sinei, Mark Kenatsi FMS and Ruth Hihiriuru (absent in photo) (District of Melanesia), Dan Dungey and Carl Tapp FMS (District of the Pacific).

The OPC has responsibility for the growth and formation of all involved in growing Marist life in the AUs of Oceania. Since it began, it has initiated a number of formation experiences. The most recent of these was a gathering in Brisbane last November to train lay Marists from throughout the region to return and be trainers of their own people. This was a follow up to a programme conducted in Rome earlier last year.

At each meeting, the OPC has recorded significant and encouraging steady growth of Marist life throughout the region.

The meeting gave most of its time to discussing Proposals from the General Council; matters related to initial and on-going formation; belonging and association; and the Life Project in Fraternity of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, as preparation for the Continental Commissions meeting to be held in October at Notre de l'Hermitage. A synthesis of the OPC's work will be sent to the Secretariat of the Laity.

MARIST YOUTH CARE PETE'S PLACE



Marist Youth Care operates Pete's Place, a small alternative secondary school specifically for young people who present with complex needs. Pete's Place offers a trauma-informed approach to educating young people who have mental health problems often associated with experiencing trauma and/or abuse early in their lives. Our staff are informed by current research, which indicates early and consistent trauma to a young person has a negative impact on their ability to learn; to maintain appropriate friendships; develop positive relationships with adults, including teachers; and to feel they deserve a bright future. Staff at Pete's Place are able to do this by being aware of each young person's individual needs and tailoring their lessons and interactions with the young person accordingly.

In 2015, 12 students graduated, completing their Year 10 ROSA and were applauded by approximately 80 guests. There were 13 Year 10s enrolled in 2015 – one moved interstate. This is an extraordinary success. The Year 10 students faced issues such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, intellectual disability, depression, complex trauma and alcohol and other drug issues. A number of these students have applied to complete Year 11 – in a similar smaller setting. A few have plans for TAFE. Throughout the year, many of these students developed skills around tolerance of their peers, self-reflection and emotional regulation. Many of them participated in Restorative Conversations to repair relationships.

To date, this year we have 12 students enrolled. We look forward to 2016 being a successful year in bringing about positive change in these students' lives.



L-R Megan Christie, Brendan Folkard, Arietta Compton, Daria Walker



MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

BR GREG MCDONALD | NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

Marist Youth Ministry Australia (MYM) has now entered its fourth year as a recognised national youth ministry organisation. Operating across the country with team members in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide, MYM is responsible for animating and facilitating a range of evangelisation and formation programmes for students in Marist Schools and young adults, aged 16-28.

Some of these events include: REMAR, Regional Student Leaders' Gatherings, Year 11 Marist Justice Forum, Year 12 Marist Vocation Forum, Young Marists Pruning Retreat (Mittagong), Year 12 Schoolies Immersion experience (Philippines), Lenten Café discussions, Exchange nights for Young Adults,

Connect Nights for Year 12, Marist Touch Football (Brisbane), Bread-run for needy families (Heidelberg West), various justice and environmental marches, Schoolies Immersion to the Philippines, National Marist Youth Festival, Word Youth Day and the International Gathering of Marist Youth.

As well as our Marist events, MYM has an involvement in the wider Church through participation at the biennial Australian Catholic Youth Festival and the Ignite Festival in Brisbane. Our Young Marists are well known and recognised at these events!

Almost the whole team gathered in early February for a four-day formation programme in Christian discipleship,

Marist spirituality and youth ministry skills. The event was held at the Passionist Retreat Centre, Templestowe.

We were fortunate to have guest presenters throughout the week including Ryan Gato and Paul Harris from the Mission and Life Formation Team and Joe McCarthy, Director of the Marist Association. Each person helped the participants to deepen their appreciation of what it means in their year of mission to follow Jesus as a disciple, in the way of Mary and spirit of St Marcellin. Fr Andy Hamilton SJ, presided at our Commissioning Eucharist.

Let's continue to pray for our committed and enthusiastic MYM team as they take up a new year of mission in making Jesus Christ known and loved.



MARIST STUDENT LEADERS' GATHERING MELB



MARIST STUDENT LEADERS' GATHERING BRISBANE



MARIST STUDENT LEADERS' GATHERING SYDNEY



MARIST SOLIDARITY PROJECTS IN THE PACIFIC

ASHLEY BULGARELLI | MSO BRISBANE

Marist Solidarity is continuing to strengthen ties with the District of the Pacific with more projects approved in the past weeks.

St Joseph's College, Samoa now has four active projects underway, including the restoration and upgrading of all classrooms and the restocking and refurbishing of the science lab. Marist Brothers' Primary School has been upgrading their drinking water system for their students.

Meanwhile, new computers were purchased for St Louis High School in Kiribati last year and the re-emergence of the Marist presence in Pago Pago,

American Samoa, will surely lead to a stronger relationship between Marist Solidarity and our Pacific Brothers.

Prior to Tropical Cyclone Winston, Marist Solidarity approved funding for two more projects in Fiji which focuses on vocations. Br Afaese, the Novice Director at the Pacific Novitiate at Lomeri, submitted a project to upgrade the facilities. This included a television to act as a projector for presentations (instead of hanging up a white sheet and shutting all the louvres!) and the planned installation of ceiling fans in the classroom. These simple upgrades will provide much needed relief to Afa and a better environment for the

novitiates and guests. Marist Solidarity hopes to implement this project in the coming months after the immediate relief efforts post Tropical Cyclone Winston.

To read more about what Marist Solidarity is doing, please visit our website:

<http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/>



CLICK ON THE FOLLOWING LINK TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SUPPORT FOR FIJI AFTER CYCLONE WINSTON:

<http://cathnews.com/archives/cath-news-archive/24352-need-pic-catholic-aid-groups-urge-support-for-fiji-after-cyclone>

COFFEE WITH A LOCAL COORDINATOR

Janelle Doohan

MT MARIA COLLEGE PETRIE | QLD | MARISTS

MARIST SPIRITUALITY //

How did you first get involved with the Marists?

My earliest recollections of the Marist Brothers stems back to my childhood. Having grown up in country NSW, the Marist Brothers were a big part of my education and they often visited my family on our farm. I was also blessed with two uncles who were Marist Priests so I was surrounded by the Marist Spirit!

Early in my teaching career, I was privileged to teach at Marist College Ashgrove under the leadership of Br Terence Heinrich. He made a very big impact on me and clearly emulated the Marist way through his 'strong mind and gentle heart' approach.

Is there an experience or event you have had in your journey as a Marist that stands out?

There are three experiences that stand out:

1. I recall a conversation with a parent which had a huge impact on me. The mother shared a story of her son's struggles prior to joining our school community. She expressed her deepest gratitude for the way in which our school community had embraced her son in a climate of acceptance and welcome. With tears in her eyes

she said that her son had for the first time in his school life, a real friend. Not only did he now have a real friend at school, but he had been invited to his house on the weekend. The mother said this had never happened before. Her son was 13. I felt very proud to be part of such an incredible community who are truly committed to welcoming all students with open arms, especially those most in need and helping them to reach their full potential in a caring environment.

So when someone asks me what it means to be Marist, I often reflect on that event. I believe that this is what we are doing, ensuring that Around the Same Table....everyone has a place.

2. Participating in the *Sharing Our Call* program opened my eyes to my calling as a Marist educator. In meeting many other Marists and hearing about their communities, I felt a great sense of shared purpose. I felt empowered to continue living out the call to be Marist.
3. As a participant on the *Marist Pilgrimage* last year, I spent a week at Notre Dame de l'Hermitage, the spiritual home of the Marist Brothers. I learnt so much about our Marist origins,

and reflected on the remarkable work Marcellin and the first community of Brothers did in developing their founding community.

What has surprised you most about working within the Marist organisation?

I recall feeling amazed at one of the first Marist conferences I attended. There was an unspoken common thread connecting people from so many states....a feeling of belonging. Whenever I am with other Marists, it feels like we have a genuine understanding of what we are being called to do. In so many ways it is often hard to put it into words... it just seems to be in our hearts.

I love that we don't try to complicate our mission. I love that we have a shared sense of purpose and continue to reflect on how we are meeting the needs of our communities in an ever changing world. I love that we always gather in prayer and keep at our very core the image of Mary who is our example of how to be and act Marist.

I love that every day I have the privilege of working alongside incredible students who teach me through many of their stories and struggles how to be patient, how to be truly present and genuine in



COFFEE WITH *Janelle Doohan*

helping them to reach their full potential.

I love that I work with the most committed staff.....who share in this incredible vocation too.

For you, what is one important value of being Marist?

Being open and welcoming to all who I encounter. Everyone has an important story and a place at the Marist table.

THE ASSOCIATION //

Who or what encouraged you to join the Marist Association?

I recall my conversations with Br Paul Kane about membership and how I wanted to continue to be a part of the Marist family. When I joined the Association, I felt this sense of renewed purpose and excitement about the future for all Marist communities. A future filled with great hope, new possibilities and no doubt, a journey into uncharted waters.

What do you wish people knew about the Marist Association?

It is an opportunity to gather with other like-minded people in a relaxed setting. It can be over a meal or a coffee. We take time to pray and discuss matters relating to our shared mission.

Interest in joining the Marist Association seems to be growing. Why do you think that is?

I believe that people feel that what we do as Marists matters. They see the work we do and the way that we do it and are drawn to being a part of a group who live the Gospel in a particular way, bringing hope into the lives of young people.

I also believe that people have been given a very genuine and heartfelt invitation to have a voice in the continued growth and development of the 'Marist Way'.

How do you think the Marist Association will grow and develop over the next five years?

I am imagining that there will be new projects underway, that we will be saying "Yes" like Mary, and acting with haste when required. Even though we may travel through uncharted waters, we know the Spirit will guide us.

AT HOME //

Tell us something about yourself: What do you like to do when you are not working?

I enjoy spending time with family and friends. Keeping up with my children keeps me very busy. With two daughters and a son, life is very full. Most weekends involve travelling to a sporting event or other activity. I love music, movies and all areas of performing arts.... And in the warmer months there is nothing better than walking along the beach, fish and chips and a glass of white wine.

What word/phrase (from the people who know you well) best describes you?

At work they may say something like....that I embrace whatever comes my way.....with compassion and care .

My family would say...When are you coming home?

HYMN FOR THE FOURVIÈRE YEAR // BLESSED MOTHER, TO JESUS

1. O Lord, we offer up
Our lives to you in love.
You know our deep desire
To glorify your name.

Inspire in us new vision
To build our world anew
A church that's close to people:
Church of love, Mary's heart,
for our times.

**Blessed Mother, to Jesus
It's our wish to give all.
Just like you, Holy Mary,
We will say ' Yes ' to God.
Let us go share your love.**

2. We make a promise Lord:
our mission to fulfill
Spreading the news that's good,
Goodwill and harmony.
Offering all to God,
With Mary by our side,
No single land passed over,
We will sing: God of life and of love.

3. As brothers of one home,
As sisters one in heart,
God's kingdom we will serve,
Remaining with our God.
Dwelling deep down within us,
Transform us for this world.
Offering humble service,
Out of love, sign of hope, for our world.

CLICK ON THE LINK TO LISTEN TO THE HYMN: <http://bit.ly/1QQ6QIM>

SOME NEWSLETTERS TO EXPLORE.....

**CATHOLIC ALLIANCE FOR PEOPLE SEEKING
ASYLUM (CAPSA)** | To subscribe to their monthly
bulletins, visit their website:
<http://capsa.org.au/monthly-bulletins/>

CHAMPAGNAT PARTNERSHIP NEWS | To view the
latest newsletter from the Champagnat Marists,
District of the Pacific, click on the following link:
<http://bit.ly/1LlhaDg>

L O C A L COORDINATORS' FORMATION PROGRAMME

9-10 MAY 2016

BRIS | SYD | MEL | ADL

A formation and enrichment
programme for Local Coordinators
and key leaders of our spiritual
family.

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

MAY-JUNE 2016

DETAILS OF DATES & VENUES COMING SOON

Will take place in regions throughout
Australia at a suitable time in the calendar
window of May-June. An opportunity to
welcome new members who have joined since
the November Regional Gathering in 2015,
and launch of the document:

'WE MARISTS'

Our Hopes & Priorities 2016-2018