

"Tuck in time and prayer"

I like tuck in time. Anyone with kids I think would say the same. It's that moment in the day when the night meal is done, the bright colors of pyjamas have paraded from the bathroom, and the kids are in bed. It's the formal sign off before a glass from the carry over Shiraz from last night can be poured. Each of my three kids has their own ritual for tuck in. Daniel likes ten flaps of the donna and one for good luck. For Alannah it is the moment where she debriefs the day, usually focusing on the part that had

a significant emotional attachment to it, good or bad. For Tess, it is always a book – or two if she can get away with it. There is comfort for each of them in their ritual. Daniel smiles as the one for good luck lands around his neck. Alannah enjoys you lying close as you ride the roller coaster of the encounter with her. Tess loves to smell the pages of the book as if she commits all of her sense to the story.

But something else is common at tuck in time. It is in the comfort of this ritual that their spiritual insight is somehow heightened. Perhaps the same goes for adults as we lift our weary legs into bed and our head rests onto the pillow - a moment of truth about how we have spent the day, the words we have said to others, the decisions we have made, and to what extent we have allowed the Spirit inform our efforts. Certainly for kids it is a spiritually

fertile time, which I am convinced goes beyond keeping mum or dad in their clutches for a few more minutes.



My father-in-law's anniversary just passed, he died five years ago. So there has been some chat about Bob, and how we miss him; how he used to cut the vegemite sandwiches into small triangles; and how he loved to change voices according to the characters whenever

reading children stories. With this in mind, tuck in time recently provided two prayers that I am still sitting with. As I walked out of Daniel's room last week, he called me back and announced, "Dad, you know how people talk about heaven being far away or out there somewhere....well I think it is right here, right next to us." He was gesturing with his hands, drawing an imaginary boundary just centimeters from his body. It led to an interesting chat about what we mean by afterlife. Have you recently tried talking to a 10 year old about this! On another night, Alannah asked, "Dad, is God in your heart?" I mumbled something about that being one really helpful way to think about God. Then she asked, "Bob is still in my heart too, isn't he." It was a statement, not a question, to which I again mumbled something about people living on in others. As I walked out, Alannah said quietly, "It's good that Bob and God



it's up
to us
now ...



are together”.

My kids have led Kath and I into using tuck in time as a time for prayer. I know that this is a traditional time of prayer as well, but I like the fact that the kids have led us to this space – we have not imposed it on them. They have taught us that a ‘review of the day’ is a good way of noting the life encounters where God’s was revealed. They have taught us to savor life, to smile at what is good, and to embrace the inner journey that comes with our bodily beings. It has been a gift.

At the AMC Forum held in Mittagong in August, when participants were invited to name what they hope the emerging Marist Association would ask of them or offer them, one of the

clear themes articulated was prayer life. There was a thirst for resources to pray with and a connectedness to mission to pray for. People want membership to the Marist Association to tap their spiritual life, to encourage and inspire their sense of vocation and provide a community of like-minded and like-hearted people to celebrate what it is to be Marist.

Let’s hope and pray that when the Marist Association comes into being, that this is indeed how it impacts on us, and that in response, we can all step into a new space of shared responsibility for Marist mission. Might I suggest that our own ‘tuck in time’ is a regular place for a simple prayer.

Melbourne Marists Too!

The Marist Centre Melbourne recently played host for the second gathering of its Core Group, with the name 'Melbourne Marists Too'. The name stems from the fact that Marcellin College has an existing Core Group called 'Melbourne Marists'! It was a simple night that began with soup and rolls, which then led into a prayer and some engagement with the Nairobi Mission Assembly materials on spirituality.



MMToo 1: (L-R) Br Greg McDonald, Julia Wake, Peter McNamara and Br Gerry Rush



MMToo 2: (L-R) Br Dennis Cooper, Br Pat Connell, Carolyn Young and Sophie Fenaughty



MMToo 3: (L-R) Br Michael Herry, Br Gerry Rush (obscured), Bruce Houghton, Br Greg McDonald, Julia Wake, Br Rod Thomson, Br Peter Carroll, Br Pat Connell, Br Doug Walsh, Sophie Fenaughty, Br Dennis Cooper, Liz Wake, Br Michael Green, Peter McNamara (obscured), Carolyn Young



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Marcellin College Staff in the Chapel working through the Nairobi material - Melissa Mackellin looking at the post-its containing key words and phrases from the Water from the Rock material



at Newman College in front of the most informative and interesting wall of history - picture of Br Terry Orrell, Bernie Boss and Br Peter Carroll

In early October Br Peter and Gail Coates visited **Newman College** - the Brothers at Churchlands were most hospitable and the picture of Brothers was taken after sharing a wonderful evening meal;



It was great catching up with a fellow pilgrim , Aaron Beach, Principal of **St Mary's College, Casino**. We enjoyed visiting the College and the College farm and were impressed by all the many activities that they are involved in here. Picture Shane Weekes (REC), Aaron Beach (Principal), Gail coates and Br Paul Kane.



It was lovely to catch up with Br Julian Casey and Br Justin Golding in **Lismore**. Picture of Gail, Carmel Warnock and Br Paul Kane - taken in Br John Hilet's office!



In September Br Paul Kane and Gail Coates visited **Emerald and Gladstone**. Emerald was a real Marist oasis . The college has the most beautiful Sacred Space and the Marist characteristics done in stain glass are truly exquisite . Even further afield was Gladstone, it was good to meet with and talk to those in our Marist Family who are so far away. Picture of Gail and Sharon Volp, Principal Chanel College.

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Happening in the Marist World ...



The Oceania Partnership Commission (Oceania Lay Commission) has a Charter that states how it will promote, support and develop a spirit of communion between the relationship of all Marists involved or connected to Marist mission and life, Lay and Brothers, in the Oceania region. [\[read more\]](#)

Interview with Br Jean-Marie Batick

29/10/2013: Solomon Islands



The International Commission Brothers Today met in Rome from 4 to 11 July. On this occasion, we spoke with some of its members. We present today a conversation with Br Jean-Marie Batick, of the District of Melanesia.

[\[read more\]](#)

In our next volume ...

- ▶ Update on Marist Volunteers Australia
- ▶ Information on the Advent Prayer book

Secretariat of the Laity Newsletter

Once again, this Newsletter aims at collecting the outbreaks of life emerging in the Institute that express the communion among the lay and Brothers. This communion was also discussed at the Conference. Regarding our vision of a future for the Institute, we spoke of the communion among lay and Brothers as a recognizable aspect of the Marist life and mission. Also, about brothers and lay sharing significant spaces of fraternity, spirituality and mission. That future revealed communities of brothers and lay, open and simple and living and spreading a strong spirituality. [\[read more\]](#)

Brother David McLeish died earlier this week and his funeral and burial are from Marist Ashgrove today (Friday 1st November 2013)



Born: Fairfield, NSW, March 20, 1939

Entered Novitiate: 1970

2012 Community: Ashgrove

An only child, I grew up in the Sefton Parish and graduated from St Patrick's Strathfield. After working for the NSW department of Mineral Resources 1955- 1969 I entered the Postulancy-Novitiate in 1970. My degrees were in Arts, Educational Studies and RE. I taught mainly Years 9-10 at Eastwood, Maitland, Enoggera (where I was Principal), Campbelltown, Riverview, Grafton and Emerald.