

FAQs – Marist Brothers

What are the Marist Brothers?

The Marist Brothers are an international religious institute of the Catholic Church. They were founded by the French Catholic priest St Marcellin Champagnat in 1817.

How do the Marist Brothers fit within the Catholic Church?

Whilst a part of the broader Catholic Church, the Marist Brothers operate as a distinct entity with its own structures and rules. As a result, there are differences in the way that Marist Brothers operate and live compared to other distinct Catholic entities, such as Dioceses and other religious congregations.

How does the Australian Province of the Marist Brothers fit with the Marist Brothers internationally?

Marist Brothers worldwide are headed by the Superior General in Rome who is supported by a Vicar General and a General Council currently made up of six Councillors General. Provinces around the world - including the Australian Province - work with and report to the Superior General.

Are Marist Brothers the same as Priests?

Whilst there is a commonality in our Catholic traditions and faith – and the shared response to the call of God to serve - Marist Brothers are distinct in their formation, vows, life and community compared to that of a Diocesan priest for example. The key difference is that a Priest is ordained whereas Brothers, who take religious vows of their respective congregation, are not.

Are the Marist Brothers part of a Diocese?

The Marist Brothers Province in Australia operates as an independent entity to the Diocesan structure but has long standing and obvious connections within the broader Catholic Church and its governance structure.

How many Marist Schools are there?

There are 55 schools in the Marist network, however only 13 of those are either owned or part owned by the Trustees of the Marist Brothers. These are independently managed and governed through [Marist Schools Australia](#).

Are Marist Schools still run by Marist Brothers?

The Provincial and Provincial Council of the Marist Brothers have no direct role in the governance or management of any of the 13 schools still owned or part owned by the Trustees of the Marist Brothers. These are independently managed and governed through [Marist Schools Australia](#) which is headed by a National Director and three Regional Directors who are lay people.

Those remaining 42 schools which have historical or identity connections are owned and operated by other Catholic Church authorities, mostly Diocesan or Archdiocesan.

Do Marist Brothers make decisions about the operation of Marist Schools?

No. [Marist Schools Australia](#) manages and governs the 13 schools still owned or part owned by the Trustees. Marist Schools Australia is led by a National Director and three Regional Directors, who are all well qualified and experienced lay people. They have direct oversight of these 13 schools. The National Marist Schools Council, composed of highly experienced educators, offers policy and management advice to the National Director.