

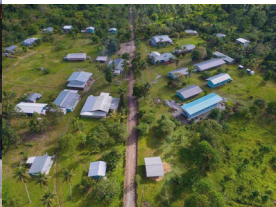
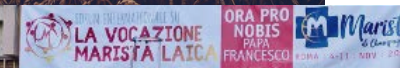
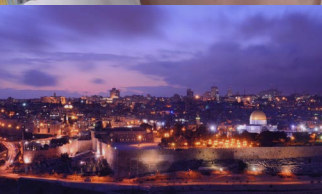
CHRIST *life*

Newsletter of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat (Australian Conference)

VOL 124 **19 APRIL 2023**



Marist
ASSOCIATION OF
ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



Change of Address or Workplace:

Marist Association Members

If you have recently changed workplace/school/community or address, would you please email marist.association@marists.org.au with your new details.

Thank you!

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EDITORIAL

Seeking Expression to 'Journeying Together'

Daniel Lynch

'He is not here, for he is risen, as he said he would' (Matthew 28:6)

On Thursday, 13 April 2023, in the days immediately following our journey of the Easter Triduum, the Oceania response to *Enlarge the Space of Your Tent*,¹ the Working Document for the Continental Stage of the Synod of Bishops for a Synodal Church,² was released. The Oceania discernment on the working document was drafted by a writing and discernment group which synthesised reports from the four bishops conferences and the local Eastern Catholic Churches of Oceania.

To date, the journey of the global Synod has involved millions of people around the world in a consultative process around the question:

'How does this 'journeying together,' which takes place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one), allow the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to Her; and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?'

In these days of Easter I was struck by the words we heard from Matthew's Gospel at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday: 'He is not here, for he is risen, as he said he would' (cf. Matt. 28:6) as I considered what the journey of

synodality, a defining emphasis and hope of Pope Francis for the Church, might mean for us as a Marist Association as we seek to give concrete expression to 'journeying together' on mission, in a synodal way with young people to make Jesus Christ known and loved.

The following themes from the Oceania discernment provide a further invitation to prayerfully discern the rich offering that the Marist Association continues to make on the synodal journey we have been called to by Pope Francis.

Mission

Unsurprisingly, the Oceania response identified 'Mission' as a key priority.

As the Marist Association, how might we be called to give witness to, or deepen our existing commitment to, a number of the following priorities which found resonance across the discernment undertaken in Oceania?

a) *Finding ways of more effectively engaging the whole People of God in their baptismal invitation to participate in God's mission (Pacific).*

b) *Making a transition from a "maintenance" to a "mission-focused" Church (Australia, 69).*



1. <https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/common/phases/continental-stage/dcs/Documento-Tappa-Continentale-EN.pdf>

2. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SXpg3hzM4ggeZVGDfCFN3Yi0tQ4BWR9/view>



I considered what the journey of synodality, a defining emphasis and hope of Pope Francis for the church, might mean for us as a Marist Association

c) Inviting and encouraging all Catholics “to accept their baptismal call to evangelise and proclaim God’s love in unity with others” (Australia, 69).

Formation

As an Association, we have continued to be identified and known for the emphasis and wide-ranging reach, resonance and impact of our formation programs. It is no wonder that the Oceania discernment identified formation as ‘essential’, with a particular emphasis on:

a) Assisting the baptised to participate in a synodal Church as courageous missionary disciples.

b) Ensuring that formation addresses the reality of people’s lives by offering insights into Scripture, Church teaching and Catholic Social Teaching.

c) Prioritising formation resources for ecological conversion and specific resources for the formation of young people.

d) Ensuring that there is an adequate emphasis on formation for lay leaders.

As a Marist Association, we are uniquely placed with respect to our ability to continue to make active and provocative contributions to the hopes, yearnings and aspirations of



the voices from our part of the world to the ongoing need for formation as we walk this journey in synodality.

Young People

With great interest, and with my own background in ministry to young people in Catholic education, I was drawn to the following observations which were offered in the Oceania response with respect to young people. Specifically, the Oceania discernment highlights:

a) Listening and “investigating how the faith needs of young people could be met and how youth could be better formed and provided with platforms that allowed them to utilise their skills and passions” (Australia, 76), in a language they can understand (New Zealand, 47).

b) Accompanying young people in discerning the gifts and talents “that they can offer for the growth of the Church” (Pacific).

c) An increased focus on “a union of family, parish and school to work together” to enrich the Catholicity within Catholic schools (ECC, 20).

Each of the above speaks deeply to the living tradition of Marist spirituality and its expression in the form of our Marian presence and attentiveness to the needs of young people, particularly the vulnerable and those displaced on the margins of society. Indeed, the Oceania discernment offers an



Each of the above speaks deeply to the living tradition of Marist spirituality and its expression in the form of our Marian presence and attentiveness to the needs of young people

encouraging reminder of the unique place within the life of the Church that we continue to recommit ourselves to anew, as we place young people at the centre of our efforts.

Marists witnesses, accompanying each other on the path of Synodality

‘He is not here, for he is risen, as he said he would’ (cf. Matt. 28:6). As we continue to respond to the question posed for the global Synod: ‘What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?’, may we, as Marists of Champagnat, called to give unique expression and witness to an evolving paradigm of synodality in both the Church and the Marist Association, continue to commit ourselves to the

aspiration of making Jesus Christ known and loved in our own time and place as people known for their Easter joy.

Daniel Lynch

Association Councillor

A Journey with

Miriam of Nazareth



Our Model, Guide and Jesus' First Disciple

Br Robert O'Connor FMS

Presenting to a group of local parishioners some years ago I was struck by a question that came from one of the group – admittedly one of the more senior members - as we unpacked some of our understandings of who Miriam of Nazareth was for Catholics and for our Orthodox sisters and brothers and a growing number of even some reformed church members.... “When did Mary become a Roman Catholic, Brother?” An honest and heartfelt question showing clearly how little growth many have had even in our modern times of research and study of Marian Studies.

“Though represented in many ways, rarely is Mary [Miriam] shown as ‘the young oriental Jewish mother’ which she was. There’s nothing out of the ordinary in her becoming a mother at such a young age in the Jewish context of her time and we know from meagre references in her life that she kept contact with Jerusalem: she and Joseph went there annually [Lk. 2:41]....and being of the family of David, she had some roots that may have impacted in Jesus’ early years; especially the first five years when the mother was responsible for the raising of the child; thereafter Joseph would have had considerable input into raising Jesus and ‘teaching’ him...”

From S. Ben-Chorin, ‘A Jewish View of the Mother of Jesus’ in CONCILIUM, #168, October 1983



The question arises how to RELATE to her – that is “to live her way” or as one of the early Marists Jean Claude Colin used to say ‘to think, feel, judge and act as Mary did!’ Traditionally the church adopted the patronage model – our intercessor before the throne of God; but this patron-client relationship is not found in the New Testament or the early Christian centuries. It developed after the church was officially established in the late Roman empire under the influence of a civil patronage system...and earlier patterns characteristic of scripture and the age of the martyrs situated Mary and the saints not between God and those on earth but along side their sisters and brothers in Christ in one community of mutuality...the companionship model which leads to compassionate ministry... the Cana story then directing us to recognise the many who “have no wine...or water or rights, adequate shelter etc.

From Elizabeth Johnson, ‘The Many Faces of Mary’.



This month we meet:

Tanja Kosovski

This month we meet **Tanja Kosovski**, Pastoral and Stage Coordinator at The John Berne School, Sydney. Tanja is a Member of the Lewisham Association Local Group, which is based at the school. She has been teaching in Marist schools for over 10 years.



Marist

Meet a

“

Tanja learned about St Marcellin Champagnat while working at Marcellin College Randwick, then at the John Berne School. She felt a strong connection to the values and principles of the Marist communities there.

Tanja enjoys very active pursuits, so [watch her video](#) to get to know her better...

Being a Marist has given me a deeper sense of purpose and meaning in my work as an educator



Meet a **Marist**

Tanja Kosovski
Lewisham

Marist
SCHOOL OF THE SACRAMENTS
LEWISHAM

[Watch Tanja Kosovski's 'Meet A Marist' video](#)



REFLECTION

A Moving Easter Experience

'The Holy City'

Br Michael Flanagan

One practice I always follow at Easter is to listen to, and immerse myself within, the beautiful hymn "The Holy City" ... written in 1892 by Frederic Weatherly, with music by Michael Maybrick. It is based on this verse from the Book of Revelation: "I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." (Revelation 21:2) The three verses of the song describe in turn, a crowd cheering Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, His crucifixion on Good Friday, and the eventual 'New Jerusalem'... a metaphor of the Kingdom of universal peace and harmony, which is foretold in Isaiah 2:4...'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.'

Before reading the rest of this reflection, please listen to [Stanford Olsen singing The Holy City with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir...](#) . (He is dressed in a tuxedo styled suit.)

It is such a moving experience to hear this magnificent hymn it's hard to know where to begin to share some thoughts.

“

It is such a moving experience to hear this magnificent hymn

I'll use this version of Olsen's to make two specific reflections:

a) *The line "the shadow of a cross appeared upon a lonely hill" (second verse) always makes me think of those of us who are suffering, especially the people of Ukraine, Syria, Turkiye, Myanmar...and a dozen other places wracked by war and destruction, hunger, disease, poverty, homelessness and hopelessness. The "shadow of the cross" falls across many lives every day. I remember a vivid image of the early days of Russia's obscene war in Ukraine of a family (mum, teenage boy, young girl) their bodies*

lying in a street. They had been fleeing the invasion but were hit by a mortar shell and killed. A shadow fell on them that day. In one sense or another we are crucified daily on some type of cross, maybe of our own making, maybe not. We have all experienced when our lives have darkened, and the cold and chill made us shiver in fear or anxiety or dread. This is part of the complexity of being a human being: we do well to think on it and be aware of the crosses in our lives and in the lives of all of us.

b) *An unusual thing occurs in the video around 3.25 minutes: one of the leading Opera singers in America stumbles over his words, and falters in his singing. As a true professional he recovers enough to complete the hymn...but the question remains: What happened?*

It's impossible to give a definitive answer but a plausible one is this: Olsen is overcome by the extraordinary truth contained in the lines of the third verse that he was

singing at the time: *'I saw the Holy City, beside the tideless sea; The light of God was on its streets, the gates were opened wide; And all who would might enter there, and no-one was denied...'* While we assent intellectually to the Easter message, its not until it dawns on us in a deeply personal way that it does apply to "me" in all my dustiness, struggle and doubt. No one was denied.

Its worth reading the comments below the video... they come from a different Christian tradition, but they are full of faith and joy. Two examples express more clearly the point I'm making here:

"Wonderful. Stanford Olsen's emotion during the last verse is very touching, he was feeling the truth and the joy of what he was singing..." and, *"My heart always breaks open when I hear this part: And all*

“

What is ageless is our sheer wonder at the magnificent love our God has for us

who would might enter, and no one was denied. It's the deep, deep created longing to be home with God, the longing for the lost paradise that we share, I believe... God bless Stanford Olson for the longing and the faith he expresses."

I'm in danger of showing my age, but I believe this hymn to be a masterpiece both musically and spiritually.

What is ageless is our sheer wonder at the magnificent love our God has for us and the fantastic promises He makes to each one in the Mystery of the Easter story. Also ageless, in most people of goodwill, is the longing for a world in which nations will not learn war anymore. Come the day.

Br Michael Flanagan FMS

Marist Brother and Member of Marist Centre Sydney Local Group

PS. [Jeanette MacDonald](#) sang this hymn in the 1936 film *San Francisco*; its on [YouTube](#) and its well worth a visit.





MINISTRY

Reconnecting with New Caledonia

Opportunity for Cultural Exchange for Australian Marists

Br Neville Solomon

After Covid and an earlier hiatus, it was good to finally make contact with Marist schools in New Caledonia in February 2023.

Alain Pitot and I spent a week visiting the Marist Brothers there and conducting a short course of orientation in Marist spirituality and pedagogy to teachers new to Marist education within the Catholic Education system in New Caledonia.

Alain has recently retired from his leadership roles at Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) and was the inaugural Principal of St Theresa's College Noosaville, which is an ongoing member of Marist Schools Australia.

With both of us in post school retirement, it was quite simple for us to visit and spend time re-learning the local culture and being part of the Brother's community life, especially their prayer and parish life in Paitia, a town about forty minutes from the capital of New Caledonia, Noumea. Another

feature of the visit was the chance to reconnect with the Marist Missionary Sisters (SMSM) who have a number of communities in New Caledonia and conduct a retreat/conference centre not far from the Brothers' house in Paitia. The Centre at Mont Mou is happy to receive visitors and has up-to-date facilities for accommodation and conferences.

150 Years Celebration

This year the Marist Brothers in New Caledonia celebrate 150 years of official engagement in the French autonomous region. Marists were actually engaged in the region of the Pacific from 1836 when the first group of missionaries arrived on Futuna Island close by. Despite the tragic death and martyrdom of St Peter Chanel in 1840, the Pacific region developed strong Marist connections.

Education Builds Future

The Marist Brothers in New Caledonia were convinced that education was a great way of building the people

for the future. Thus, today, five schools remain within the Catholic education sector in the autonomous region carrying the history and distinctive style of Marist education and spirituality.

Invitation to Cultural Exchange

New Caledonia is a short two hour flight from Brisbane, so it is hoped that teachers and students will once again reconnect with their Marist friends in cultural and language exchanges, especially around the celebration of 150 years of Marist life to be held on the weekend 30 September/ 1 October 2023.

Please let me know if you can be part of that. Your community may wish to take advantage of the conference facilities and accommodation I referred to above at the SMSM Centre Mont Mou.

Br Neville Solomon FMS

neville.solomon@marists.org.au



2023 Online

Marian Lecture

A REVOLUTION OF TENDERNESS



A conversation with moral theologian and ethicist, Dr Medi Volpe.

You are invited to join Medi as she takes up what it means to be a Christian in the 21st Century through being revolutionaries of love and tenderness in living our daily lives.

Medi is Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics, Durham University, England, and Director of Research at Wesley House, Cambridge. She is a researcher, author and mother of four children, including a daughter with Down Syndrome. Her writing brings contemporary theological themes into conversation with voices from the classical Christian tradition.

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MARIST180

Sharing and Promoting First Nations Children's Programs

Patrick O'Reilly

Marist180 provides a range of programs and services in support of First Nations children, young people and adults. Our Daramu and Mudjin Byala teams attended the **Mounty Yarns** event on March 24, representing and promoting Marist180. Our staff engaged with other services and community members, to advocate and provide service information about the Daramu and Mudjin Byala programs, and Marist180 as a whole.

Mounty Yarns

Mounty Yarns is a youth-led project, that gathers the stories, expertise, and knowledge by and with Aboriginal young people with lived experience of the criminal justice system and the impact it has on them and their families.

Mounty Yarns is an initiative of Just Reinvest NSW (JRNSW). JRNSW supports Aboriginal communities to develop their own solutions for change, making them safer and more just. Their goal is to reduce Aboriginal People's



Marist180 provides a range of programs and services in support of First Nations children, young people and adults

interactions with the criminal justice system. JRNSW do this by creating stronger and safer futures through both community-led initiatives and state-wide policy and legislative reform, redirecting funds away from systems that harm people, towards communities with high rates of contact with the justice system.

Mounty Yarns facilitated the event at Kimberwalli, and

organisers were pleased with what was a highly interactive and well attended event, which included the provision of free food (food trucks, sausage sizzle, etc), and activities for everyone to participate in, including touch football, laser tag, face painting, to name a few.

Agencies from the Mount Druitt area attended the event to bring awareness of the wide range of services and supports that are available to everyone. An Art Exhibition was open to all, displaying artworks that were created by community members, and a real highlight was performances by Aboriginal rappers Barkaa and Kobie Dee, as well as local youth rappers.

Patrick O'Reilly

Director Mission and Identity
Marist180



Some of the Marist180 Team who attended: Jessica Beale-Education and Youth Justice Caseworker, Daramu. Alajah Wright-Education and Youth Justice Caseworker, Daramu. Matt Norris-Education and Youth Justice Manager. Tony Moran-Cultural Coordinator, Intensive Therapeutic Care. Arthur Frail-Education and Youth Justice Caseworker, Daramu. Kayla Bird-Education and Youth Justice Caseworker, Mudjin Byala. Shannon Thorne-Senior Manager Social Inclusion.



FORMATION

Called into the Harvest

Nathan Ahearne

For those blessed with a stable income in Australia, it's easy to forget about where the flour came from for that muffin we just purchased with our overpriced cappuccino. In a globalised supply chain, we've seen what can happen when part of the process breaks down, as it did recently in war-torn Ukraine. Containers full of grain sat in shipping docks, unable to be sent to countries who rely upon this important food source. Food is seasonal, it must be harvested at a particular time, and it has a use-by-date.

A first century Palestinian audience would have understood these basic farming principles and the importance of 'paying the labourer' (Matthew 20:1-16). Matthew uses the word 'harvest' three times in verses 37-38 of Chapter 9 to imply a sense of urgency for the harvesting. When the crop is ready, it must be harvested, or it will go to waste. In a similar way, he is saying that the time is just right, because the kingdom of heaven is at hand, today.

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Many will hear but fail to listen and even fewer choose to respond

Earlier in Matthew's Gospel he writes, "*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest*" (Matthew 9:37). Later in his Gospel, Matthew continues this explanation: "*many are called, but few are chosen.*" (Matthew 22:14). Hearing and responding to the call are our responsibility and we are reminded in Hebrews 3:15, if today "*you shall hear his voice, harden not your hearts*". Many will hear but fail to listen and even fewer choose to respond.

In most instances, when it comes to planting and

nurturing faith, families are the primary producers, the initial formators and witnesses of faith to their children. "*Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents*" (CCC 2226).

It takes a large village community to help with the reaping, harvesting and transformation of God's love into something new: a source of life, given and broken, shared for others. We believe that each person is created and called by God for a purpose, a vocation. When we respond to this call in our lives, we take part in the process of bringing forth life, of harvesting, transformation, and the eventual return to the earth.

Pope Francis suggests that the harvest will only be plentiful when we have cultivated kindness as part

of the process. He said, “*once kindness becomes a culture within society it transforms lifestyles, relationships and the ways ideas are discussed and compared. Kindness facilitates the quest for consensus; it opens new paths where hostility and conflict would burn all bridges.*” (Fratelli Tutti, 222-224).

We need to aerate the soil of our hearts, remove the weeds, and make room for future growth. We also acknowledge those forces that are beyond our control, those environmental factors which can severely affect the harvest. These external threats come in different forms; some may experience a drought in prayer life, for others it's the sudden and devastating impact of flood or fire (the loss of a loved one), and for many of us, we fight those insidious pests and diseases which quietly threaten the harvest (the little distractions of life).

In her book, *The Time is Now*, Joan Chittister speaks of being at a crossroads with three choices ahead of us. The first is the road that quits and heads in another direction, the second invites us to crawl into a cave and wait for the storm to pass and the third is the road of the prophets, a call to uncommon courage. As described in the title of Robert Frost's poem, this third option is the road less travelled. It takes courage to respond to the call to go into the harvest, but it will make all the difference.

Nathan Ahearne

Mission and Life Formation

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We need to aerate the soil of our hearts, remove the weeds, and make room for future growth



AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY

St Joseph's Mabiri, Bougainville

Milika Nation

St Joseph's Mabiri and the Marist Brothers share a long history, with the original college first established in the village of Rigu 1949 by Marist Brothers who had been in Bougainville since 1941.

During the Bougainville conflict (also known as 'the crisis') between 1988-1999, it was estimated that 10,000-15,000 deaths were a result of the crisis. The original St Joseph's school in Rigu was burnt to the ground along with most buildings on the island. While many Brothers chose to remain in Bougainville during the first years of the conflict, the region became increasingly unstable and therefore, they were made to evacuate to the Solomon Islands through the naval blockade imposed by the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Government.

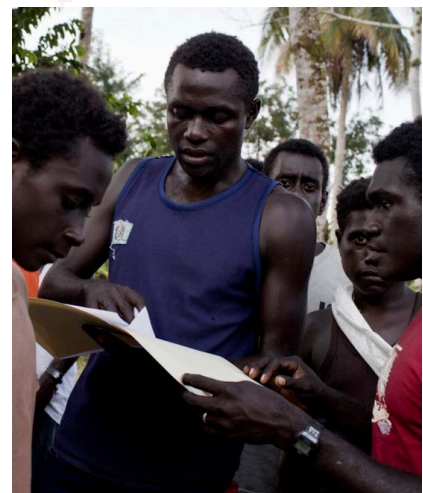
Steadfast in their mission to support education in Bougainville, the Marist Brothers returned towards the end of the conflict in 1999 and rebuilt St Joseph's College in the village of Mabiri. The new school was purposely developed to educate ex-



Aerial view of St Joseph's College Mabiri.

combatants and other young men of the crisis generation, many of whom over the years of the crisis had their learning come to a complete halt.

Marist Brothers were at the forefront of peace and reconciliation efforts in the area, pioneered by Brother Pat Howley, who facilitated reconciliation through restorative justice practices due to the collapse of the western court system.





Over the past year, AMS and St Joseph's have worked closely together to prepare St Joseph's to welcome its first Year 11 students in 2024. Thanks to the contributions of Australian Marists, we've been able to complete a new dormitory and classroom. Work is underway building teacher housing, ensuring the computer classrooms have strong solar power, and installing hydration stations around the school to increase student access to clean water.

Today, St Joseph's College is a legally registered education institute with the Department of Education in PNG, the Division of Education in Bougainville, and the Catholic Education Agency. The school offers access to kindergarten, elementary and primary school to 264 boys and girls, and lower secondary and vocational education to a further 393 boys and young men. This is a total school enrolment of 657 students, including boarders.



The Lord's Prayer in Tok Pisin

Tok Pisin is the local dialect in Bougainville and is classified as an official language of Papua New Guinea (PNG). It is derived from English, German, Malay, and other local languages within PNG. Use the translation below to recite the Lord's Prayer in Tok Pisin. [This video](#) can assist you with your pronunciation.

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN TOK PISIN

Papa bilong mipela olgeta
"Father who belongs to us" = Our Father

Yu stap long heaven.
"You are in heaven" = who art in heaven.

Oi! santaim nem bilong yu i kamao.
"We make your name sacred" = Hallowed be thy name.

Mekim kingdom bilong yu i kamao.
"Make your kingdom come" = Thy kingdom come.

Mekim ol hatim tok lo yu - lo graun,
"Strengthen us to follow what you wish on earth" = Thy will be done on earth.

olsem ol i bihainim yu long heaven.
"Also as it is followed in heaven" = as it is in heaven.

Tude, givim mipela kaikai inap long tude
"Give us food enough for today" = Give us this day our daily bread

Na pogivim rong bilong mipela
"Forgive the wrongs of us" = forgive us our trespasses

olsem mipela i pogivim ol narapela manmeri i mekim rong long mipela.
"also we forgive others doing wrong to us" = as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Sambal long mipela long taim bilong traim
"Stand by us in time of temptation" = Lead us not into temptation

Na rausim olgeta samting nogut long mipela... Amen.
"And remove all bad things from us" = But deliver us from evil.

End note:

AMS is proud to be supporting our program partners as they continue to provide opportunities in education and skills training to young people who are in need. Together with your donations, AMS and our program partners can provide support for those who would often be denied their right to an education. As Marists, we are called to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Asia-Pacific.

"There is a unique destiny for each person. Each one of us has something to do here that can't be done by any one else" - Ronald Rolheiser OMI, To Be Born Is To Be Chosen

Your support means that young people can pursue a life of dignity and prospects. When you give to AMS, your donations support programs that transform the lives of vulnerable young people. [See our website](#) for details of workplace giving, one-off and monthly donations, and giving through wills and bequests.

Milika Nation
AMS Communications

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MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Doing Good Quietly with Hands and Heart

New MYM Regional Assistant in South Australia

Kristy Allison

Hi there, my name is Kristy Allison and I am excited to introduce myself as the new Marist Youth Ministry Regional Assistant for South Australia, taking over from Cara McGlaughlin. My journey as a Marist began through my education when Marymount College amalgamated with Sacred Heart College in 2018. This is when I first learned about the story of Marcellin Champagnat, his ideologies and our community practices. Throughout my final three years of education at Sacred Heart College at Somerton Park, I became heavily involved with faith life at school. You could always find me ready to help organise a fundraising event or saying an opening prayer at a school Mass as a 'Mission Captain' throughout my Year 12 experience in 2021.

Last year I became a part of the Young Adult community for Marist Youth Ministry, which continued my faith formation as well as allowing me to connect with other like-minded individuals. It was ultimately my trip to Phillip Island, Victoria, in October last year which encouraged me to pursue my current position as a Regional Assistant for Marist Youth



Kristy Allison was a special guest for the ArchD radio show.

Ministry. I was invited to be a volunteer for a Year 10 camp through the school program for young Marist students called **Game Changers**. Seeing the energy, the insight and the sense of family spirit that these students from Victoria and South Australia brought to this camp in the name of Marcellin Champagnat was extremely inspiring and led me to apply for this role. In the short time I have had this position, it has already been so rewarding and the relationships I have built grant me so much joy.



Kristy Allison with other young Marists at the Young Adult Launch.

Being a Marist to me means doing good quietly and leading from within the pack. Marcellin Champagnat was not a man who boasted. He radiated humility, with a gentle heart that cared deeply for others, all the while upholding the adoration of Mary. This is something which resonates significantly with me and has helped guide me into my future career path as I study my second year of Speech Pathology at university. Being able to use my hands and heart to do good within our society like Mary and Marcellin both did inspires me, and I believe that this is truly what being a Marist is all about.



The first Connect Night for 2023, for Year 11 and 12 students in Adelaide.

I have extremely enjoyed this role so far and have had many fantastic experiences already this year! In early February, I was fortunate enough to fly to Melbourne and stay in Chelsea, to meet with the Marist Youth Ministry Southern Australia team. Here I connected with the other Regional Assistants from Melbourne and Perth, as well as meeting with our Marist Youth Ministry National Coordinator, Edwin Bakker, and our Senior Leader for Formation and Youth Ministry, Andrea Grant. Having three days to collaborate, create and reflect was amazing and I am extremely grateful for this opportunity.

On Sunday 26 February, I held our Marist Youth Ministry 2023 Launch to kick off the year.

This afternoon was a fantastic opportunity to connect with other like-minded young adults who have a passion for social justice through hands-on ministry in the community! On 21 March, I hosted our first Connect Night of the year with Year 11 and 12 students from Cardijn College and Sacred Heart College. This was an incredible evening as we explored what it means to be 'gratefully created' and 'gratefully called'. The students enjoyed having time to reflect and give thanks for special people they have in their lives and the opportunities they have in their school communities.

Podcast Guest for ArchD

During March, I also was lucky enough to be featured on the



Being a Marist to me means doing good quietly and leading from within the pack

ArchD radio show and talked about all things Youth Ministry and my experience being a young person in the Church. If you are interested in listening to this, then click this [link to the podcast](#).

I am excited for the events planned for Term 2 and look forward to continuing to provide young people the space and community to explore their faith through the Marist spirit!

Kristy Allison

Regional Assistant
Marist Youth Ministry
South Australia



Leila Petruzzella, Aisling McCorry, Sara Petruzzella, Liv Carver and Cara McGlaughlin at Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park.

Five Young Marists headed to World Youth Day feature in 'Southern Cross'

'Five young Adelaide Marists are anticipating the faith event of a lifetime as they prepare to attend WYD in Lisbon, Portugal, later this year.'

[Read interviews](#) from Leila Petruzzella, Aisling McCorry, Sara Petruzzella, Liv Carver and Cara McGlaughlin as they speak to Southern Cross (an Archdiocese of Adelaide publication).



SECRETARIAT OF THE LAITY

Secretariat of the Laity

News from the Extended Secretariat of the Laity International Forum for the Vocation of Lay Marists

Nathan Ahearne

Igniculus: Montagne Stories Today - Ophelia Marcelino, Philippines

“Igniculus: Montagne Stories Today” brings back the memory of the encounter of St. Marcellin with the dying boy Montagne, an experience that changed him and consequently gave his life a deep sense of meaning and purpose.

The video series captures these transforming real-life experiences instrumental to the discovery of one’s gift of vocation to be Marist. This is a concrete initiative to nurture and generate Marist life, which is shared as a testimony that the grace of Marcellin Champagnat is truly relevant for us today and always.

[Watch Ophelia’s story here.](#)



INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON
**THE LAY MARIST
VOCAATION**

WELCOMING, NURTURING, LIVING AND SHARING OUR VOCATION.
“YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL PROSPER” (JOEL 3,1)

Many Regions, One Mission



Mark O’Farrell, third from left, joins other Marists at the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation in Rome.

A few years ago Pope Francis used the term ‘We’ in relation to the common journey we are all on as humans towards building a world grounded in justice and peace, with no one excluded, to ensure that the “We” is stronger than the single individual. This was a theme at the recent

International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation in Rome I attended representing my home province of Australia. The forum opened my eyes to a much bigger ‘We’ in our Marist world. Marists from all over the globe coming together for a week to build bridges, share stories



and unite in our common experiences of bringing the Marist mission to birth in our different places. It was huge!

One of the Marists I met was Bao Nguyen, a young Marist Brother from the Marist District of Asia (MDA) living in Vietnam. He spoke of the joys and challenges of being Marist in a non-Christian country and we shared many stories of the diversity and similarities about our two regions and got to know each other well walking, eating good food and of course that essential ingredient, coffee!

I remember meeting him on the first day and his boundless energy struck me when a group of volunteers were being collected to do some jobs, a typical Marist 'invitation'. Before I knew it, Bao was climbing onto the roof to hang our Forum banner. I remember laughing and thinking this is different to Australia, no work safety practices here. In that moment Bao reminded me of a young Marcellin, he simply

rolled up his sleeves and got into the work. Before long the banner was blowing in the wind ready to greet our new arrivals; **Global Marists of Champagnat, Welcome to Roma!**

In lots of ways the photo and story is a good example of **'the work'** we were engaged in during the forum and the work that continues through each of us beyond the forum. What remains for me are these bonds of friendship and two overriding messages I believe that connects all Marists, our sense of mission and family spirit. These were on show throughout the Forum in the many symbols we experienced. What started as a group of two from Vietnam and Australia with our banner task had others helping and joining from Africa, Brasil, and Spain and PNG. It was the Marist family in action at a moment's notice calling on others to help us. Many hands get the job done.

Our closing Mass in the General House chapel was

full of colour, displaying maps of our Marist world on the altar with a simple candle attached to each. It's a beautiful image of our work as an offering to God that Mary and Marcellin watches over. What connects Bao and I, and all other Marists around the 80 countries, is 'the work', the **mission** we are all engaged in. Part of this work is how we support and collaborate with each other across regions. This is vital. The candle represents the light that Christ brings and reminds us our work is ultimately in God's hands. Like the first Marists, Bao spoke of a dream, a project, to connect our two regions in this work. I, too, trust in the providence of God, like Mary did at the Annunciation, and this project will unfold this year as we work together to bring it to life.

'We Marists' are a large, rich and vibrant global family with many strengths and talents that, united, is a powerful force for good in our world. When the Marist family collaborates and connects, our simple aim is to share and support each other across and within regions in our combined mission to bring the light of the gospel to those to whom we minister. I hope this year brings much of this connection and sharing that enlivens each of us that proudly calls themselves a Champagnat Marist and walks in the footsteps of our founder to work across regions and borders to 'look beyond'.

Meanwhile, since November the Marist family has expanded in my region through the new Star of the Sea Province, a province largely of eleven island



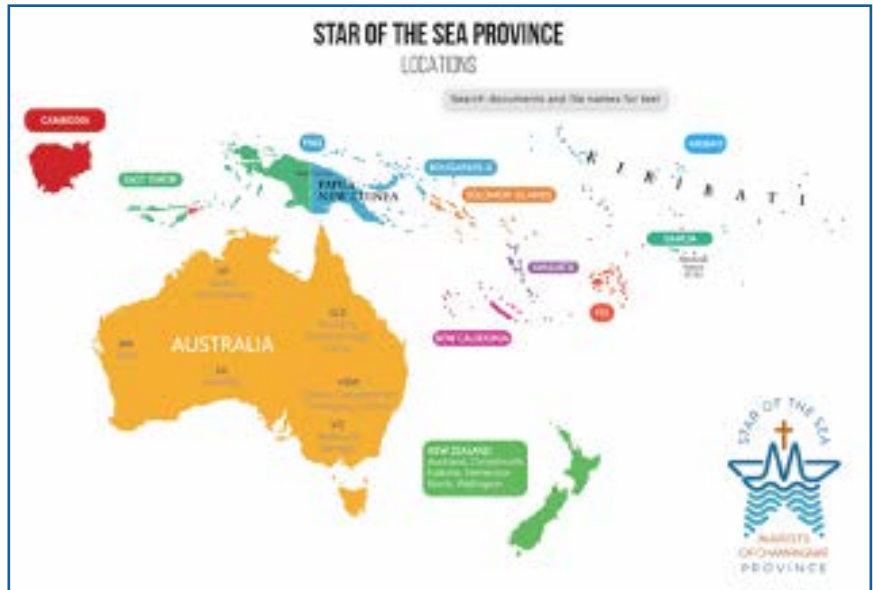
nations with much geography and distance north to south and east to west. Like Asia, it is a large province of many isolated areas where Marists minister. Star of the Sea has connections already to Boa's region of Asia through work in Cambodia in a school for victims of land mines and opening educational opportunities for children in rural villages in Pailin. As well, many Australian Brothers have been involved in supporting Formation ministry in Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Mark O'Farrell
Assistant Director
Secretariat of the Laity
Sydney Australia

Marist District of Asia (MDA), who are we?

I am Br. Bao Nguyen, a young Vietnamese Brother who has been with the Marist Brothers since September 10th, 2010. I still remember vividly how I came to know the missionary Marists who came and lived in my little parish in my hometown for a good period of time. Their simplicity and trust in the Providence is inspiring not only to the young people like me, but also to many lay people who happen to come to know them. Fourteen years have passed, many missionary Brothers have concluded their contracts and returned to their home Provinces, and a few have deceased, leaving their hopes and dreams behind. They also inspired a good number of young men who have now professed as Marist Brothers and begun their search for Marcellin's spirit in their own lands.

MDA is present in seven countries where the Catholic faith is in the minority, although we have worked with many good-hearted



Br Bao Nguyen, Vietnam.

people who are from other faiths, however, they all come to witness the Marist spirit in various ways and are captivated to share Marcellin's dream with us. Nevertheless, there are still significant challenges to get anywhere close to what we would like, insufficient knowledge about Marist, and a growing distance between the Catholic faith and the faith of other religions. As a result, the future groundwork of a lay movement has proved to be quite different from that of other regions with a longer Marist presence.

We must admit that we cannot do what other Marists in other countries with a long and rich history of Marist

presence do; we cannot afford to do what other countries with Marist school systems where laypeople work full-time do. However, looking beyond regions and the richness in diversity that we uphold in different cultures and faiths, there is great hope that Marists from MDA and other Marists from other provinces can work more closely in pursuing what Marcellin was able to see when he stood on that mountain looking over the valley in which the foundation of Marists around the world are presence.

Br Bao Nguyen
Vietnam

Social Media

Connect through our social media [Facebook Group](#) and discover more about the [International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation](#) .

Nathan Ahearne
Oceania Representative
Extended Secretariat of the Laity
nathan.ahearne@marists.org.au



COMMUNITY AND FAITH

The Way of the Cross

Liz Wake

Each time I walk the **Way of the Cross** through the streets of West Heidelberg, I am deeply moved. Moved by the willingness of the community to share roles in reading scripture, to retell the most vulnerable of stories, to speak out against injustice and the simple, yet powerful way that we pray and sing together. In recounting the story of the last hours of the life of Jesus – his passion - we recognize where Jesus suffers today and reflect on what he might be passionate about today. We focus particularly on places and situations of strife, hardship and suffering, globally, within our country and locally. One sharing focused on being supported in darkness, a local sharing of advocacy and support in family violence.

For those unfamiliar with the **Olympic Village Exodus Community**, this is a place of significant disadvantage, where the local residents have, and continue to experience, powerlessness, injustice and institutional abuse. Life on the margins here in our own back yard. Br Harry Prout (Exodus Coordinator), Br Doug Walsh and Br Barry Lamb live in community here and I have the privilege to currently work as Program Coordinator. A real

Marian presence supporting the provision of opportunities for education and volunteering amongst the marginalised and powerless.

As we walk **The Way of the Cross** it is these volunteers together with local Christian churches that help to retell Jesus' passion through a uniquely local lens. Joined by a number of Melbourne Marist Association members, people are invited on arrival to 'pitch in' and read scripture, carry the cross and cloths, place the crown of thorns and hammer

nails. The drum beats as we walk streets that are lined with public housing, telling its own story. This year our MC's were Grace Wake (Marist Youth Ministry) and Gilbert Mein (Melbourne Marist group). The soulful voice of Fiona Dyball led us on the journey with... 'Watch and pray', 'Walk with Me', 'Who Will Speak', and 'Jesus, Remember Me'. Moving, powerful, sacred.

Liz Wake

Exodus Program Coordinator
Melbourne Marist Group





MARIST ASSOCIATION

LOCAL GATHERINGS

Rosemeadow

Gavan Martyn

On Tuesday 14th March sixteen staff and School Support Officers gathered with Br Bill Tarrant for our Local Association Gathering. We welcomed five new participants to the Gathering. The theme of the Gathering was the **2023 Marist Theme** *Created and Called - a revolution of love and tenderness*.

Br Bill Tarrant supplied the prayer and reflection '**Instruments of God**' and staff completed individual, pair, and whole group reflections. We were asked to consider many questions during this time including "How has God breathed through my presence this year?"

We started the meeting with a report from Anastasia and Jonathan, who recently participated in the *Footsteps 1* program. The aim of their feedback was to encourage others to participate in the Footsteps programs in 2023/2024.

We then moved onto the activities provided by Mission and Life Formation in the Staff Formation Workshop, viewed the 2023 Theme trailer, and read "Where Heaven and Earth meet". The groups also received their (first ever!) homework task with the **Journal Reflection** that they will bring back to the group in the Term 3 Gathering. We also conducted a meditation activity based on the Mark Rothko artwork.

We spent some time outlining the work of the Marist Ministries, including Australian Marist Solidarity initiatives this year, such as the



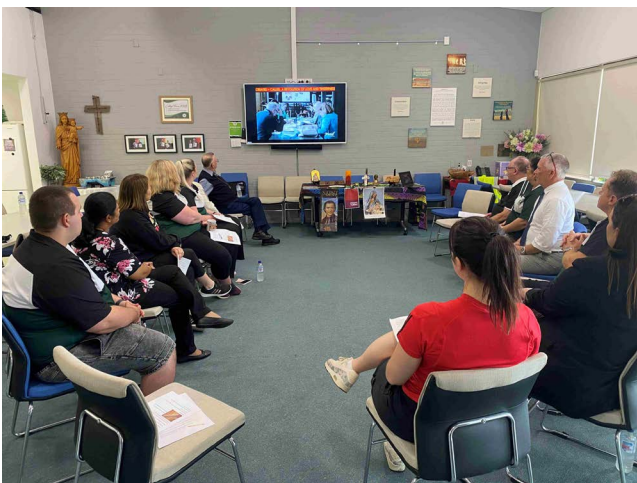
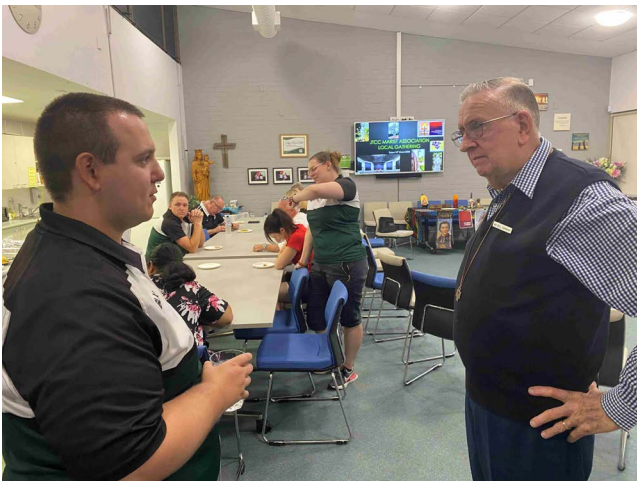
Powerpoint presentation for the Rosemeadow Local Gathering in March.

fundraising for the *Called to Solidarity with Marists in Bougainville* campaign, the new AMS Student Ambassadors, our plans to go to Vanuatu in 2023 and 2024 for our immersion and also about an upcoming meeting with Marist 180 later this term.

We finished the Gathering in good voice with a prayer litany and the *Sub Tuum*.

At the end of the Gathering Ashley Hume spent time with some of our new participants in making their own *Created and Called* image to take back to their desks or prayer spaces.

Gavan Martyn
Local Coordinator, Rosemeadow





LOCAL MARIST ASSOCIATION GATHERINGS

Sydney City Marists

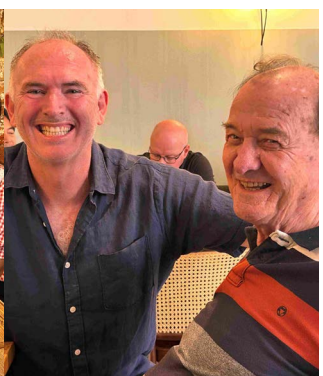
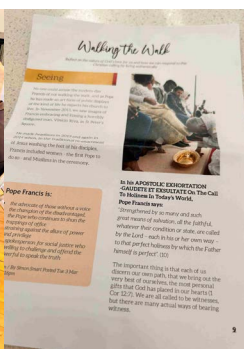
Mark O'Farrell

A very warm spring day in Sydney did not deter Sydney City Marists from gathering around the table in inner city Glebe for the March Marist Association catchup; some time for quality reflection followed by lunch and refreshments! Br Michael Callinan lead us beautifully in a *Created + Called* theme reflection entitled "Walking the Walk" which encourages us to reflect on our presence and impact in our workplace, neighbourhood and world, showing

that God's love for us is the catalyst that calls us to respond and live authentically.

Great to catchup and see everyone and look forward to hearing from Dr Damien Freeman at our next gathering on Sunday 16 April talking about the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

Mark O'Farrell
Member, Sydney City Marists





MARIST ASSOCIATION

LOCAL GATHERINGS

Sydney City Marists

Marists discuss The Voice to Parliament

Br Michael Callinan



The Sydney City Marists group recently enjoyed a fascinating morning with Dr Damien Freeman from Australian Catholic University. Damien is a writer, lawyer and philosopher, educated at the University of Sydney and Magdalene College, Cambridge, who practices his Jewish faith. As part of his commitment he co-founded 'Uphold and Recognise' almost a decade ago, a non-profit organisation committed to the twin imperatives of upholding the Australian Constitution and recognising Indigenous Australians in the Constitution.

Damien is connected with many people whose support and healthy critique of The Voice to Parliament is featuring in Australian media in recent weeks, including Fr Frank Brennan, Prof. Greg Craven and Mr Julian Leeser MP. This, along with Damien's intricate knowledge of the many complex issues that sit in the background of 'The Voice', made our discussion about such an important topic all the richer. All those present expressed their gratitude for the stimulating conversation which is helping each of us to come to a decision about the upcoming referendum.

Br Michael Callinan FMS
Co-Local Coordinator, Sydney City Marists



ARCHIVES

Admired as a Teacher

Revered as a Religious, Loved as a Friend

Br Michael Flanagan

Vincent Ignatius O'Connor

Br Ignatius was born in North Sydney on the 19th of July, 1896 and entered the Juniorate at Hunters Hill in 1908. He made first vows in 1915 and became Br Ignatius; there followed 11 years as a staff member of the Novitiate and Juniorate, the last three and a half years as Director. From the beginning he was obviously a remarkable and gifted Brother.

Brother Ignatius was on staff at St Joseph's from 1926 to 1931, and obtained degrees in Arts and Economics at Sydney University. Appointed as director of Marcellin College at Randwick from 1932 to 1937, he achieved remarkable success in expanding the school through significant building projects during the depression.

After visiting Europe in 1939, Brother Ignatius continued his work in 1940 as the founding director of the new college at Ashgrove. The clearing of the recreation ground and sports oval and construction of the school's swimming pool was completed under his leadership in the first year.

However, the college was only open for two years before the grounds were commandeered by the Australian Army in 1942. The boarding students were evacuated to Eagle Heights where several guest houses were rented for accommodation and a building was purchased for the new school.

Ignatius suffered a stroke in 1944 which left him bed-ridden for the remainder of his life. He did not return with the senior students to Ashgrove in 1945 after the military occupation of the college had ended but remained with the community at Eagle Heights until his death, at the age of 52, in 1949.

A remarkable and gifted Brother no doubt. Ignatius was an intelligent and committed student and became a dedicated and hard-working Director of schools. He drove others hard, but the times called for this; to establish two of the Brothers' main Colleges...one during the Depression and the other during the War must have taken enormous energy and perseverance. It also took its toll on him and there can



Br Vincent Ignatius O'Connor.

be little doubt that his life ended too early as a result of his onerous responsibilities in desperate and difficult times.

Ignatius could have become a significant person in many varied fields of life, but he chose to be a Marist Brother. Our choice of way of life is not as crucial as our dedication to the choice we made and the energy and soul we put into the work we are asked

to do. Ignatius certainly put his all into the demands of being a Brother and the tasks assigned to him. In the pic attached is a young man staring into the future with confidence and hope, even a hint of quiet joy. For one who died so young to be remembered as an admired teacher, and respected religious and a loyal friend is fulsome praise indeed.

What a gift Vincent was to all of us!

“If Our Lady wants to cure me, she can do it here just as well as in Lourdes.”

**Br Oswald Wall
(1903 - 1965)**

John Wall, the younger brother of Br Venantius, was born near Waihi (NZ) in 1903. He did his initial training as a Junior in Mittagong and received the Habit in 1922.

On his return to New Zealand, he had teaching appointments in Auckland, Napier and Wellington, with a four year appointment in Fiji from 1928. He went to Greymouth in 1934 and two years later became Director, an office that was to be repeated in 1952 and which endeared him to the Coast community – they erected two stained glass memorial windows in the Brothers’ chapel in the late 1960s.

Br Oswald was appointed Director of Palmerston North in 1942 and then of Xavier College. His final appointment to Greymouth in 1964 was short-lived: cancer was diagnosed, an operation in



Br Oswald Wall.

Greymouth Hospital was undergone, but it was too late, and Br Oswald retired to Auckland where his death occurred within 12 months.

From the outset Br Oswald was a successful school man, endearing himself to his pupils by his obvious interest and sympathy, but it was during his long period of Directorships that his real qualities shone: his dealings with the authorities, planning with various committees and relations with parents were always marked by a great sincerity of purpose that won him the cooperation from all sides. Above all he was a community man and he was never happier than when with his community. Towards the end his faith took over and he looked forward without apprehension to his death. To a benefactor who wished to take him to Lourdes his reply was an epitome of his lifelong faith: “If Our Lady wants to cure me, she can do it here just as well as in Lourdes”. He died in 1965 assisted by his brother, Fr Frank Wall, S.M., and surrounded by his

family, including Br Venantius, his brother, and a number of confreres. He was buried at Tuakau in the Juniorate cemetery.

Br Michael Flanagan FMS
Province Archivist

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From the outset Br Oswald was a successful school man, endearing himself to his pupils by his obvious interest and sympathy



Administration Office

a: Marist Centre Melbourne
1 Dawson Street, Brunswick VIC 3056
p: 03 9389 3100
e: marist.association@marists.org.au
w: www.maristassociation.org.au

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