

Marist
ASSOCIATION OF
ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

FEAST OF ST
MARCELLIN
CHAMPAGNAT

RESOURCE
BOOKLET

2021



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CONTENTS

Association Theme Reflection
4

Daily Classroom E-Prayers
5

Student Prayer 1
10

Student Prayer 2
11

Student Prayer 3
12

Student Reflection Activity 1: A Place for Everyone
13

Student Meditation Activity 1 (Primary): Recognising God in My Day
14

Student Meditation Activity 2 (Secondary): Recognising God in My Day
15

Student Activity (Primary/Secondary): A Marcellin Prayer Moment
16

Class Liturgy 1 (Primary/Secondary): My Marist Promise
19

Class Liturgy 2 (Secondary): Marcellin as Our Model
26

Staff Reflection 1: To See or Not to See
29

Staff Reflection 2: Giving Freely of Ourselves
31

Staff Prayer: Breathing the Spirit of Life
32

Mass of Saint Marcellin Champagnat 2021
34



breathe

the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)

In this moment of history we could not be more aware of how connected we are. An unknown virus spread from a largely unheard-of city to affect every human being on the planet. Pope Francis has been repeatedly reminding us that everything is connected (Laudato Si). I think we can say this realisation is now evident.

Perhaps nothing connects us more intimately than our breath. All life depends upon it and the exchange we have with our breathing green planet. With the average person taking an average of 20,000 breaths each day this subconscious activity can be easy to forget — until we can't do it anymore. It then becomes a powerful symbol of 'life'.

There are some powerful images in Scripture capturing this image of breath as the source of life. The Book of Genesis describes God breathing into the nostrils of human beings the 'breath of life' to make them 'living' beings (Gen 2:7). Breath is also used to express the presence of God, and for Elijah, he experienced God in the sound of a gentle breeze or 'gentle breath' (1 Kings 19:12 cf. Timothy Radcliffe, 'Alive in God', p.266). It is often an evocative image of the Spirit (the Hebrew word for 'spirit', ruah is also the word for breath) and it was at Pentecost that Jesus breathed on the disciples saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit". The Holy Spirit is the Spirit who gives life. It unites, connects and pervades all that is: "The Spirit of life dwells in every human creature and calls us into a relationship with the Divine" (Laudato Si, 88). St Paul speaks of its power and proclaims that it is through Jesus Christ that the Holy Spirit gives life and freedom: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free" (Rm 8:2).

Richard Rohr describes the profound intimacy of our breath and the holy. To breathe is to experience the Divine...the ruah of God: "A rabbi taught this prayer to me many years ago. The Jews did not speak God's

name but breathed it with an open mouth and throat: inhale-Yah; exhale-weh. By our very breathing, we are speaking the name of God and participating in God's breath. This is our first and our last word as we enter and leave the world (Rohr, On Being, p.65)."

As we breathe-in, we feed and nourish our physical bodies and nurture our inner life. But we can't hold our breath. After being fuelled by the breath of the love of God we are compelled to breathe out, to give life to others and creation (Ezk 37:1-14). We are challenged to take up Pope Francis' invitation to become more consciously guardians of creation, as well as our brothers and sisters in humanity. Perhaps the moment has never been so urgent to take care of our planet and each other as we face together the uncertainty of a growing pandemic and its impact on the deterioration of life through social isolation, chronic loneliness, snowballing anxiety, economic uncertainty, and the loss of livelihood and life: "The virus of social injustice is as big a challenge as the medical response to COVID-19" (Pope Francis, August 19).

So in this year of the Plenary Council let us be conscious of our need to be attentive to the Spirit of life in discerning our way forward to be a source of fresh air as a Church for the world. May it be an opportunity for us to invite the Spirit of Jesus to enliven, energise, empower and unite us: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us! (Lk 4:18). Let us give thanks that we have been breathed to life God and share in Elihu's prayer of gratitude: "The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life." (Job 33:4)

Anthony Clarke
Director - Marist Mission and Life Formation

DAILY CLASSROOM E-PRAYERS

Five short e-prayers based upon the Marist Characteristics to be used at the beginning of the day – one for each day in the week leading up to June 6 – the Feast of St Marcellin.

They can be displayed on the classroom smart board or student devices.

The teacher or a student can read from the screen or the script.

MONDAY - FAMILY SPIRIT

<https://marist-schools-aust.squarespace.com/family-spirit>

Let us always remember that we live our lives in the Holy presence of God.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Connected breath.

As in a good family, we share life with its successes and failures, we set clear standards of honesty, mutual respect, and tolerance. We show that we believe in their goodness and forgive each other.

Saint Paul says: “There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. We were all baptised by one Holy Spirit. And so, we are formed into one body.” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

Pope Francis tells us: “Families are the first place where the values of love and fraternity, togetherness and sharing, concern and care for others are lived out and handed on.” (Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti)

Saint Paul describes goodness and love as fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5)

Tais are woven fabrics created by women in the homes of Timor-Leste.

Weaving strengthens the links between generations and creates leadership opportunities for women of all ages.

Each of us have ‘common threads’ that unite our families, communities and our nation.

One common thread between the people of Timor-Leste and Australian Marists is our faith in God as Catholics.

To ponder: Why is interconnectedness important to being a Marist?

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mary, Our Good Mother, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Marcellin Champagnat, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| And let us always remember, | <i>To pray for one another</i> |

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



TUESDAY - PRESENCE

<https://marist-schools-aust.squarespace.com/presence>

Let us always remember that we live our lives in the Holy presence of God.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Awareness of breath.

Marcellin wanted every young person to know that God loved them, was active in their life, and to become aware of God's presence.

St Paul says: "We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

Pope Francis tells us: "We have the freedom needed to limit and direct technology; we can put it at the service of another type of progress, one which is healthier, more human, more social, more integral." (Pope Francis, Laudato Si')

Saint Paul describes self-control and joy as fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5)

All this technology we have, it's just an illusion, of community, companionship, a sense of inclusion.

This digital world, where we are heard but not seen.

We spend hours together, without making eye contact.

Give people your love, don't give them your like.

Go out into the world, leave distractions behind.

(Gary Turk 2016)

To ponder: To whom could you pay closer attention to?

Mary, Our Good Mother,

Saint Marcellin Champagnat,

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop,

And let us always remember,

Pray for us

Pray for us

Pray for us

To pray for one another

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



WEDNESDAY - LOVE OF WORK

<https://marist-schools-aust.squarespace.com/love-of-work>

Let us always remember that we live our lives in the Holy presence of God.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Breathe Out.

Marcellin wanted to transform the world through cultivating habits and virtue.

The prophet Micah says: "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, and to love kindness and mercy, and to humble yourself and walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

Pope Francis tells us: "Kindness ought to be cultivated; once kindness becomes a culture within society it transforms lifestyles and relationships." (Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti)

Saint Paul describes kindness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit.
(Galatians 5)

Orange Sky Laundry helps provide the basic human right of clean clothes and conversation for the homeless.

The most valuable part of their vans are the chairs that they use to sit and have a chat with the people having their clothes washed.

To ponder: How can you build a culture of kindness at your school?

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| And let us always remember, | <i>To pray for one another</i> |

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

THURSDAY - SIMPLICITY

<https://marist-schools-aust.squarespace.com/simplicity>

Let us always remember that we live our lives in the Holy presence of God.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Breathe in.

Marcellin was honest about his abilities and taught the Brothers the importance of contemplation and action.

Psalm 46 says: "Be still, and know that I am God."
(Psalm 46:10)

Pope Francis tells us: "2020 gave us a chance to develop new ways of living, already we can see how the earth can recover if we allow it to rest: the air becomes cleaner, the waters clearer, and animals have returned to many places from where they had previously disappeared."
(Pope Francis, September 2020)

Saint Paul describes peace and patience as fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5)

To know me
Is to breathe with me
To breathe with me
Is to listen deeply
To listen deeply
Is to connect

(Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann – Senior Australian of the Year 2021)

To ponder: What would living more simply mean to you?

Mary, Our Good Mother,
Saint Marcellin Champagnat,
Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop,
And let us always remember,

*Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
To pray for one
another*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

FRIDAY - IN THE WAY OF MARY

<https://marist-schools-aust.squarespace.com/in-the-way-of-mary>

Let us always remember that we live our lives in the Holy presence of God.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Spirit of Life.

Marcellin was guided by the Holy Spirit and looked to the example of Mary his Good Mother, the first disciple of Jesus who said 'Yes' to God.

In the Gospel of St Luke, Mary says: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid; for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed; because He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name." (Luke 1:46-55)

Saint Paul describes faith and gentleness as fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5)

Marist Youth Ministry invites you to meet new people, develop leadership skills and deepen your faith. To discover more about yourself and others and to perform acts of community service.

To ponder: How can you be a Game Changer in the world today, doing good quietly?

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mary, Our Good Mother, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
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| Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| And let us always remember, | <i>To pray for one another</i> |

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



STUDENT PRAYER 1

Spirit of God

Spirit of God, You breathed life into us and placed us in a garden.
Remind us of our place as Your creatures at home in
Your creation.

Forgive us when we forget our connection to the earth, and our
dependence upon the goodness of Your world.

Lord have mercy.

R: Lord have mercy.

Spirit of God, You were born into this world, and made your
earthly home in Nazareth.

Help us to know and love the
people and places where You have set us.

Forgive us when we fail to care for our
homes, our communities, and our planet earth.

Christ have mercy.

R: Christ have mercy.

Spirit of God, You wish to grow in us Your
love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness and gentleness.

Forgive us when our roots are shallow, and our hearts are restless.
Enable us to find our home in You, and in the places to which You
call us.

Lord have mercy.

R: Lord have mercy.

Spirit of God, You breathed over Your creation and made it live.
You painted nature into beautiful colour.

You stirred seas and rivers to song.

You fashioned the planets and forged the stars.

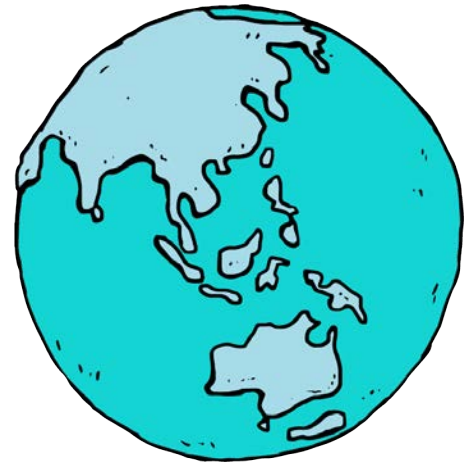
Help us rejoice in the good gift of Your creation.

Christ have mercy.

R: Christ have mercy.

Mary, Our Good Mother,
Saint Marcellin Champagnat,
Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop,
And let us always remember,

*Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
To pray for one another*



STUDENT PRAYER 2

Breathe in Us

Breathe peace, Lord.
Quiet the winds but stir up your church, send us out to work for justice.

Breathe courage, Lord.
Help us to stand up for the rights of those who are voiceless.

Breathe justice, Lord.
Soften our hard hearts, equip us with your love and new energy.

Breathe community, Lord.
Open our eyes to see in the other a brother or sister.

Breathe awareness, Lord.
Help us step outside ourselves in a spirit of solidarity and belonging.

Breathe mercy, Lord
May we accompany others in faith without judgement.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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STUDENT PRAYER 3

A Breath Prayer (Meditation)

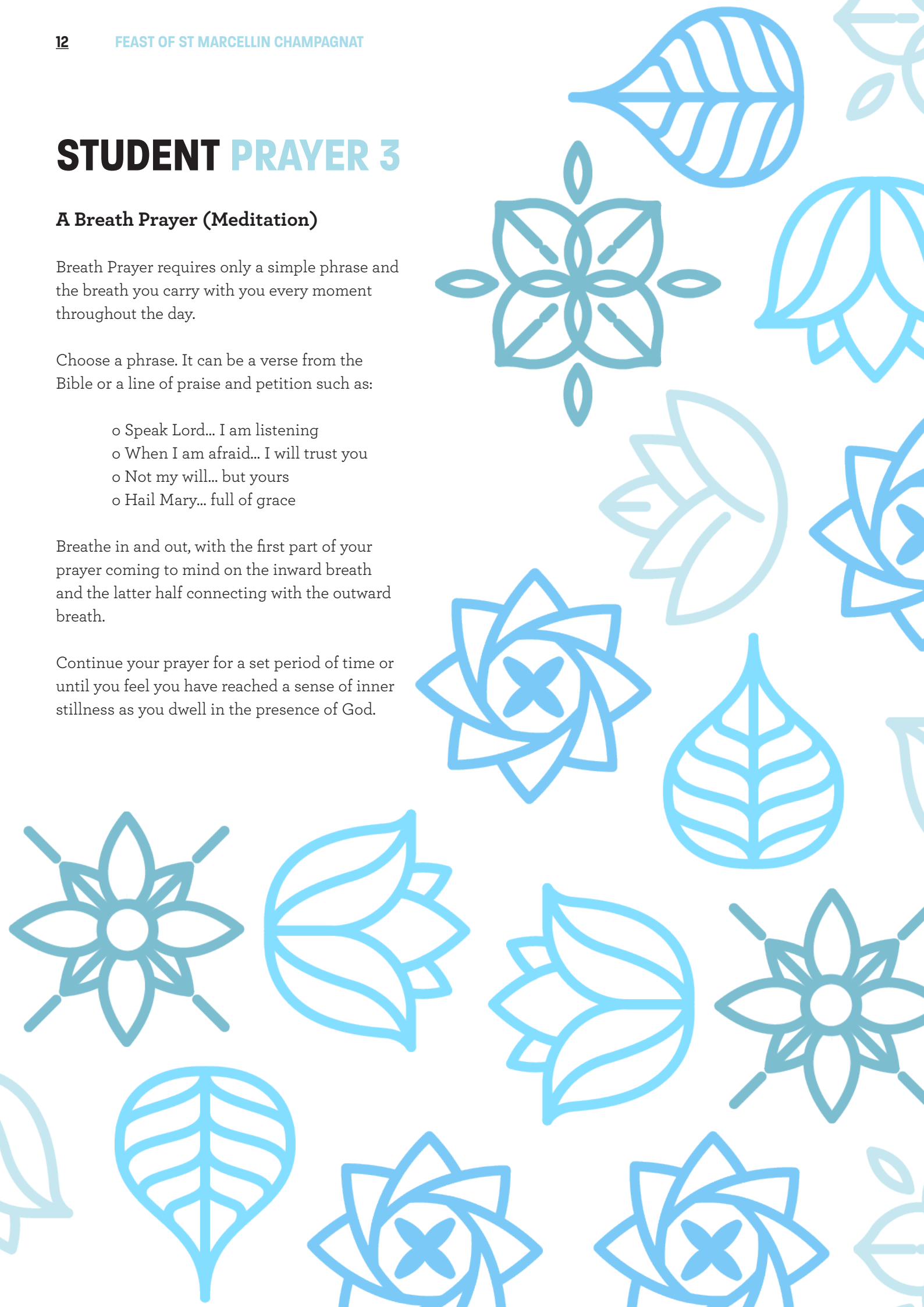
Breath Prayer requires only a simple phrase and the breath you carry with you every moment throughout the day.

Choose a phrase. It can be a verse from the Bible or a line of praise and petition such as:

- o Speak Lord... I am listening
- o When I am afraid... I will trust you
- o Not my will... but yours
- o Hail Mary... full of grace

Breathe in and out, with the first part of your prayer coming to mind on the inward breath and the latter half connecting with the outward breath.

Continue your prayer for a set period of time or until you feel you have reached a sense of inner stillness as you dwell in the presence of God.



STUDENT REFLECTION ACTIVITY



A Place for Everyone

The table at La Valla is an important symbol for Marists. It is the table Marcellin built with the first brothers and used each day together. It symbolises family and the relationship that unites us as Marists – simply and powerfully.

It was this family spirit that Marcellin wanted to be the distinguishing feature of Marist schools. Marists have used this table as a symbol for developing our relationships with one another, developing our culture in Marist schools and wanting the best for each other, because good families are built on love.

There is a place for everyone at the table. Marists sit side by side at the table. Around the table people gather to speak, laugh and be together. These simple moments of sharing are very important in being truly present and getting to know each other.

Activity and Reflection

- o Draw the La Valla table
- o Draw the people in your life that are sitting at the table. They can be family members, friends, teachers. Include yourself and if you like, include St Marcellin who is now part of your life as a Marist student.

- o Add plates on the table and on the plates write words to represent the values that are important in your relationship with each person at the table.

(Some quite music could be played as students complete the activity)

Concluding Prayer

Gracious God,

We thank you for the great gift of our family, our friends and our teachers who are part of our life. May we continue to learn from the example of St Marcellin who created a family spirit where everyone was welcome around the table. With the table at La Valla as our symbol may we, too, continue to act with kindness, generosity compassion and support for all in our Marist family.

Mary, Our Good Mother,
 Saint Marcellin Champagnat,
 Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop,
 And let us always remember,

*Pray for us
 Pray for us
 Pray for us
 To pray for
 one another*

STUDENT MEDITATION ACTIVITY 1

Daily Examen Prayer - Recognising God in My Day

Our Founder, St Marcellin Champagnat, was a man who knew that he was in the presence of God every minute of the day. While he was a priest and therefore would have celebrated Mass every day, he was aware that God was also to be found in all other aspects of his life.

“Marcellin sees God in all things and believes all things come from God. He experiences God’s presence in both the tranquillity of the Hermitage (where he lived with the Brothers in the countryside) and in the noisy street of Paris (where he sometimes had to go for work). For him, every place and circumstance was an opportunity to meet God.” (Water From the Rock: Marist Spirituality #63)

So perhaps the best place to look for God is right in front of us.

- o Can we be like St Marcellin and find God in our everyday lives?
- o How can we do that?

As part of St Marcellin’s prayer life, he would use the ‘Daily Examen’ developed first by St Ignatius of Loyola and now used by many people around the world to reflect on 5 aspects of their day. We are going to adapt this, creating the **Examen Hand Prayer**.

Steps to Follow to create the Examen Hand Prayer:

1. Each student draws or traces their own hand on A4 paper.
2. Separately on each finger, the students write the words - **breathe, grateful, forgive, pray, tomorrow**.

Note: The detail and depth of what the students will write/draw on each finger of their hand cut-outs will be based on the ages and abilities of the children present.

Guided Meditation Teacher Script - read slowly

as students draw/write on the page around the handprint (gentle music playing in the background). Teacher pauses between each part of the examen.



BREATHE

Draw an image of wind or breath. Breathe in God’s love and then, breathe out, filling the space around you with that love. What words do you think of when you hear “breathe” and “God”? (pause)



GRATEFUL

Draw a smiley face. Write a few words to remind yourself to think about the joys and delights of this day. Ask yourself, what am I most grateful for today? (pause)



FORGIVE

Let your mind wander, this time noticing what you have not done so well today. Perhaps you were short tempered with a friend, deliberately left someone out, ignored someone who needed help. Write a word or draw a symbol of this. In the quietness of this moment, say sorry and ask God for help to not make the same mistakes again. (pause)



PRAY

Draw two hands together in prayer. Write some words to remind you of what to pray for. You might simply choose one feature of the day. You might talk to Jesus about your actions and feelings and ask for direction, share a concern or express your thanks. (pause)



TOMORROW

Draw a sunrise. Write some words about what you are looking forward to. (pause)

STUDENT MEDITATION ACTIVITY 2

Daily Examen Prayer - Recognising God in My Day

Duration: 20 mins

Instructions: Teacher reads through the mediation slowly allowing time for the students to reflect.

Our Founder, St Marcellin Champagnat, was a man who knew that he was in the presence of God every minute of the day. While he was a priest and therefore would have celebrated Mass every day, he was aware that God was also to be found in all other aspects of his life.

“Marcellin sees God in all things and believes all things come from God. He experiences God’s presence in both the tranquillity of the Hermitage (where he lived with the Brothers in the countryside) and in the noisy street of Paris (where he sometimes had to go for work). For him, every place and circumstance was an opportunity to meet God.”
(Water From the Rock: Marist Spirituality #63)

So perhaps the best place to look for God is right in front of us.

- o Can we be like St Marcellin and find God in our everyday lives?
- o How can we do that?

Let us start with paying attention to what’s in front of us. When we are distracted, it is difficult to concentrate on what we are doing or who we are talking to. But when we are attentive to people and the events going on around us, we start to notice things – and quite possibly, notice what’s happening for us as well. So, take a few minutes to reflect on what has been happening for you so far today.

These few steps can be our prayer:



BREATHE SLOWLY

Take a few moments to sit still, close your eyes and take several deep breaths.



GRATITUDE - SAY THANKS

What are you grateful for today? From the time you got up this morning, what things, big and small, are you grateful for? Take a few moments to allow your mind to wander through your day looking for the positives. It could be as simple as getting a lift to school, a pleasant conversation with a friend, a breakthrough in understanding something challenging in class. Hold these moments close and say thanks to God for them.



ASK FOR FORGIVENESS - SAY SORRY

Breathe slowly. Let your mind wander through the day again, this time noticing what you have not done so well today. Perhaps you were short tempered with a friend, deliberately excluded someone, ignored someone who needed help In the quietness of this moment, say sorry and ask God for help to not make the same mistakes again.



TOMORROW - A BRAND NEW DAY

Tomorrow learns from today! Take a few moments to imagine what tomorrow will look like. Pray for the ability to take your learnings from today into tomorrow, particularly into any situations which you think might be difficult or challenging.



BREATHE DEEPLY

For one last time so you may leave this moment calm, refreshed and committed to bring positivity to the rest of your day and into tomorrow. Promise yourself to practice this awareness, like Marcellin did, again sometime soon.

STUDENT ACTIVITY



Painting of Marcellin Lost in the Snow with Br Stanislaus - by Goya

A Marcellin Prayer Moment - Lost in the Snow

Marcellin had a strong devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus. He often called on her to pray for him and his work, and for help in times of difficulty.

One such time, he was visiting a small village, about twenty kilometres from his home parish of LaValla. He had come to see a sick Brother. As Marcellin and his travelling companion, Br Stanislaus, began to return home, the weather turned. Snow was falling and the wind was becoming quite strong.

After two hours of walking, and as the darkness grew, they became hopelessly lost. St Marcellin and the young Br Stanislaus were on the verge of exhaustion. If they stopped, they would surely die in the freezing cold.

In their desperation, St Marcellin and Br Stanislaus

asked Mary to pray for them as they recited an ancient prayer, the Memorare (phonetically pronounced “mem-or-rar-ray), asking for Mary’s help and protection.

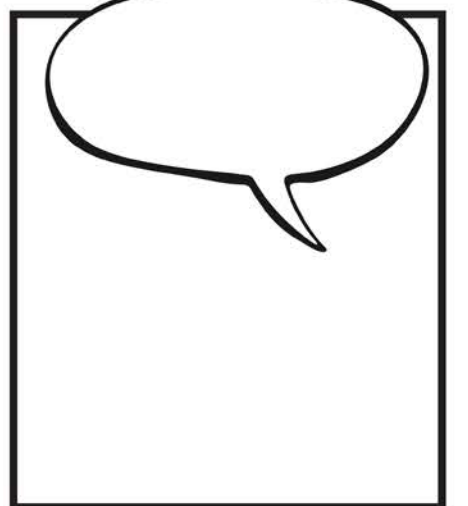
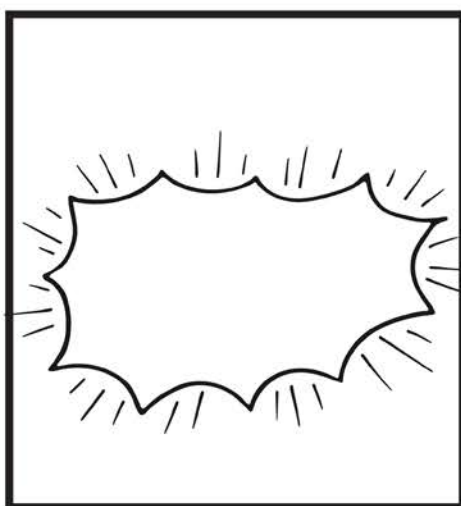
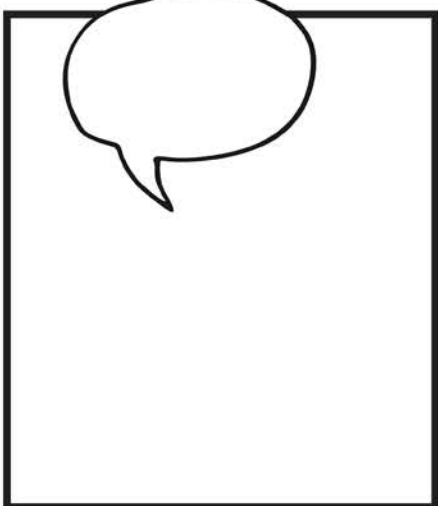
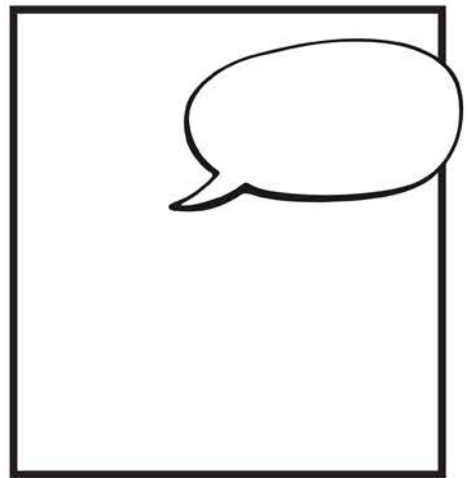
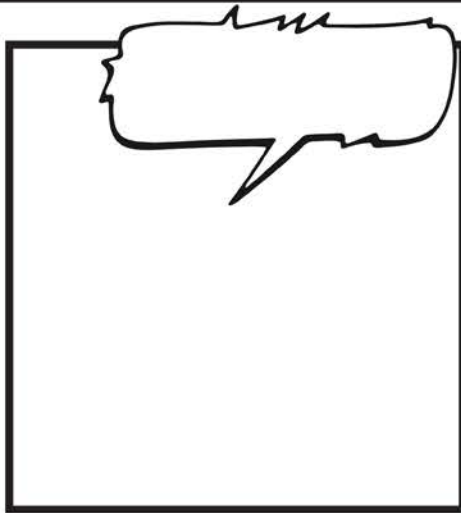
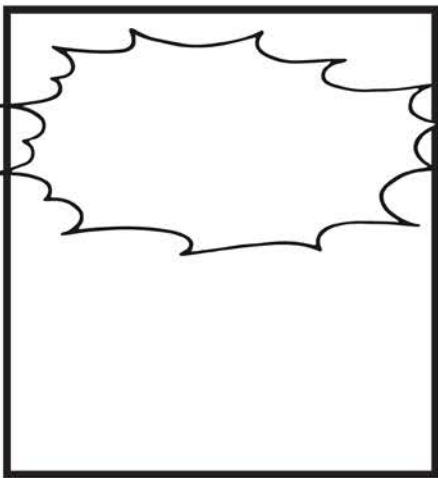
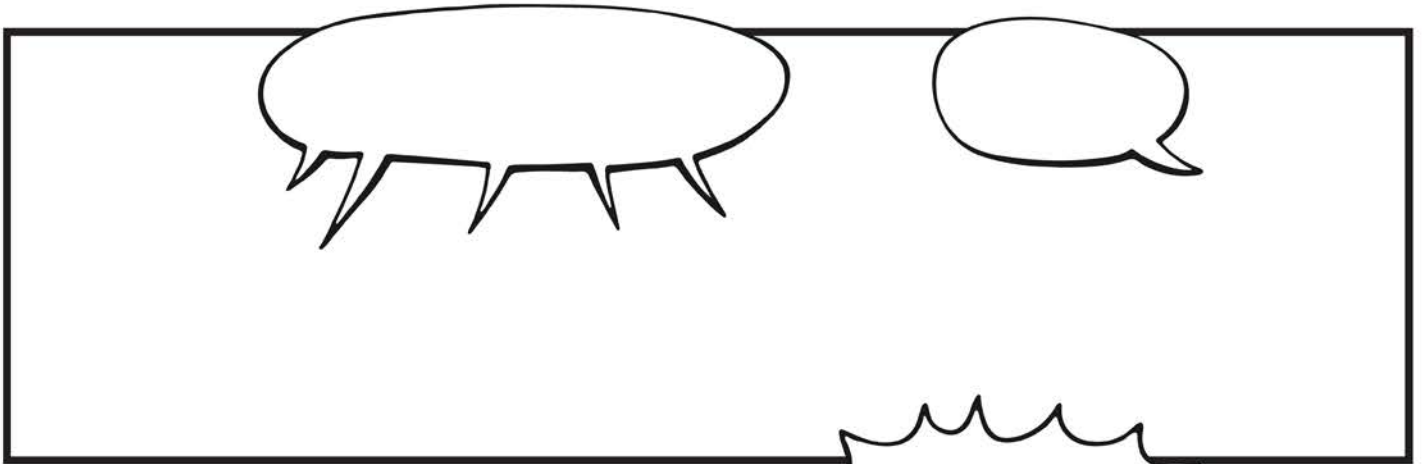
Just as they finished the prayer, they saw light from a farmhouse through the snowstorm.

A light!
A house!
They were saved!

For the rest of his days, St Marcellin saw this event as an example of the power of prayer, and Mary’s love and protection in his work and life.

Cartoon Activity

Using the story you have listened to, draw some cartoon sketches retelling the story. Colour the sketches and use captions of people speaking in the story.





Closing Prayer with Students

1. Ask students to write their own special prayer to Mary to place around the classroom/sacred prayer space.
2. Pray the **Memorare** with the class to finish the activity.

The Memorare

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone
who fled to your protection,
implored your help, or sought your
intercession was left abandoned.

Inspired with this confidence,
I fly to you,
O Virgin of virgins,
my Mother;

to you do I come;
before you I stand, sinful
and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my prayers,
but in your mercy hear and
answer me.

Amen.

CLASS LITURGY 1

Duration: 30-40 mins

Resources: Readers, card (template) / pen / audio equipment

My Marist Promise

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reader: Saint Marcellin showed kindness, service, and community spirit to others because that is what Jesus asks us to do. As Christians, we believe that God lives inside every human being. By showing kindness and service and community spirit to others, we are doing that to Jesus.

Reader: Let us read these words of Jesus from the Gospel of Matthew.

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel of Mathew (25: 35-40)

And Jesus said, “for I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

Then the people will say to him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’

And Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

Leader: We have just heard how any act of kindness or service to another person is an act of kindness or service towards Jesus. For our reflection, we will think about our own experience of receiving these gifts, and then make a pledge or promise to make an action that we can do for someone else.



Instructions: While the leader reads, pausing for a minute between each question, students silently write their answers on side one of the page. (Template 1)

Gentle background music can be playing.

1. Think of an experience when someone showed kindness to you. Write a word or two describing how that made you feel?
2. When was a time that someone did something good for you (service) without asking. Write a word or two describing what they did?
3. Where have you seen an example of community spirit recently? (such as at school, your parish, local neighbourhood). Write a few words describing this example.

Students share in pairs or leader takes some responses without comment.

Leader: We have thought about how we have received or seen these acts of kindness, service and community occurring. You are now invited to make a pledge or promise of how you can share your own spirit of kindness, service or community and complete side two of the card.

Instructions: Students are given a few minutes to write their promise on the card.

“I give my Spirit of Kindness – Service – Community – by”

Students are encouraged to write their first name or initials to give ownership to the statement.

Once enough time has been given, invite students to read their promise, then place it at the base of a sacred space that has been set up in the classroom.

Song

“Count on Me” by Bruno Mars

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yc6T9iY9SOU>

Leader: Thankful for all the good gifts that we have in our lives, we take these promises and place them before God as we say the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples...

Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Marist Litany:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mary, Our Good Mother, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Marcellin Champagnat, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Mary of the Cross MacKilllop, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| And let us always remember, | <i>To pray for one another</i> |

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Alternate / In Addition to My Marist Promise

Connecting with Sharon Williams' *Breathe: the Spirit of Life* artwork 'Creation and the Universe', we can use the idea of how God's Spirit flows through creation through kindness, service and community.

Using the circles based on the *Breathe* art work, (Template 2), students can write their promise on the back of these circles and share it in as they sit in a circle.

These circles can then be pasted on a window in the classroom with the design facing the outside and the words facing the inside. Alternatively, they can come up with the large design (Rainbow serpent, Marist M, a Cross...etc) and paste the promises there to form part of the work.

This will be a nice connection with the year's theme as well as a long-term reminder of their promises.

Another possible activity is to have a **KINDNESS/SERVICE** circle.

Students are to sit in a circle with the teacher.

Each student will have a hard book/folder to rest on their laps as well as a marker/texta.

The students are given a cut out large circle (Template 3) and each student is to write his/her name in the centre.

The teacher asks the students how they can be kind and serve each other with kind words. The teacher will need to be firm in telling the class that everyone is to write kind words only - no jokes or teasing. This is a sacred prayer/moment. Each person needs to initial their contribution/words.

On instruction from the teacher, each person is to pass the circle to the person on their right for all to have the opportunity to write a word to acknowledge how this person is kind to the class. (eg: always greets me each morning, invites me to play handball at recess, shares her lunch with me when I have none... etc)

The teacher instructs the change when he/she thinks the group is ready.

When each person receives their circle back, provide a silent moment for each person to read their circle. Perhaps a moment of sharing how the words on their circle affects them?

Connect how this is like the Spirit of God, flowing through the group, creating, nurturing, and helping each person to grow and become who God made them to be.

Ask the students to imagine that if this type of Spirit can flow through each of them onto others everyday...what type of class/school/ country/world we would live in.

Connect this back to Marcellin and describe that in history, there are some men and women who allow themselves to have the Spirit of God flow through them in serving others. In the Catholic Church, we call these people Saints.

How did Marcellin Champagnat allow God's Spirit to flow in him?

Closing Prayer:

Loving God,

Jesus tells us to love one another and by being kind in both our words and actions, is how we can love others. Sometimes this is not easy, but with Saint Marcellin as our guide, and Mary as our model, we can let God's Spirit work through us.

Amen.

Marist Litany:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mary, Our Good Mother, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Marcellin Champagnat, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| And let us always remember, | <i>To pray for one another</i> |

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



TEMPLATE 1

My experience of
KINDNESS
SERVICE
COMMUNITY



I give my spirit of

KINDNESS

SERVICE

COMMUNITY

by...



TEMPLATE 2



TEMPLATE 3



CLASS LITURGY 2

Duration: 30-40 mins

Resources: Readers, card (Template 3) / pen / audio equipment

Marcellin as Our Model

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this sacred land. We acknowledge the elders, past and present, and the emerging leaders of Aboriginal Australia.

Reader 1: The feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat celebrates the connection we have at our school, to the global Marist family. St Marcellin started primary schools in the country areas of France over 200 years ago to give an education to children who would not normally have received that opportunity. Today, there are Marist schools and other Marist ministries in over 80 countries. To be Marist is to be a follower of Jesus, and we live this way in the Catholic tradition.

Reader 2: Like Saint Marcellin, Pope Francis continuously calls all people, particularly Christians, to live their lives in the way that Jesus told us to; “to love God and to love people”. Jesus used the parable of the Good Samaritan to teach people that every single person is important to God and it is our duty to care for each other, even those people we do not know or do not like.

Reader 3: Pope Francis reminds us that God’s Spirit flows through each of us through acts of kindness, service, and community spirit; these are the ingredients of living a good life. Saint Marcellin is a model to all Marists because he lived his life this way encouraging others, including us, to do the same today.

Song

“Follow You” by Leeland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vg2b4kKDM8k>

This song inspires us to be followers of Jesus by showing kindness to those in need.

Reader 1: Saint Marcellin was a follower of Jesus, and God’s Spirit flowed through his words and actions. As Marists, we can look to St Marcellin as a model of how God’s Spirit can flow through each of us by what we say and do for others, by our kindness, acts of service and a community spirit.



Reader 2: Saint Marcellin showed kindness, service, and community spirit to others because that is what Jesus asks us to do. As Christians, we believe that God's Spirit lives inside every human being. By showing kindness and service and community spirit to others, we are doing this to Jesus.

Reader 3: Let us hear from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, what Jesus says about kindness, service, and community spirit.

Reader 4: A reading from the Holy Gospel of Mathew 25: 35-40

And Jesus said, "for I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Then the people will say to him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

And Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: The following two stories are examples of how Saint Marcellin is our model of kindness, service and community spirit.

Instruction: One or both of the following two stories can be read silently or by a student.

A written response is suggested using Template 3.

St Marcellin as Our Model: Gifting Discarded Clothing

Reader: At the beginning of each winter, Marcellin had all the discarded clothing in the house mended, packed up and sent to the Brothers stationed in the mountains who were responsible for distributing it to the poor. When it was pointed out to him that the repairs cost a lot and that it would simplify matters to send them as they were, since the poor were well able to do the mending themselves, Marcellin replied: "I agree that it would be simpler, but would it make the poor happier? And would our charity towards them be greater, acting this way? That is what I have reservations about. If you pass on these clothes as they are, some of the poor will not bother to mend them, and having worn them for a couple of days, will then get no further use out of them; others won't have the thread or the material needed. It is better to spend a little more here and to have the task properly done." - *From "Life of Joseph Benedict Marcellin Champagnat" by Br John-Baptist Fruet, France 1856, p515*



St Marcellin as Our Model: Helping a Person in Need

Reader: One day, Marcellin was summoned to a sick person and hurried to the address, where he found a poor unfortunate man lying on a thin bed of straw, with only a few rags to cover him with. Moved to deep compassion at the sight of so much suffering and such great poverty, he first of all spoke a few sympathetic words to the sick man; then he ran home and told one of the Brothers to go at once to the sick man's place, taking along a new mattress, sheets and blankets. The Brother pointed out that there was no spare mattress. "What!" Marcellin said, "not a single one in the house?" "Not one," came the reply, "and you may remember Father, that I gave away the last one only a few days ago." "Well," Marcellin said, "take the one from my bed and see that he gets it at once." It was not unusual for Marcellin to deprive himself in order to help the poor or to cater for the needs of his Brothers. - *From "Life of Joseph Benedict Marcellin Champagnat" by Br John-Baptist Fruet, France 1856, p510*

Question for a written response: How did St Marcellin show kindness, service, and community spirit in these two stories?

(Responses are taken or shared)

Closing Prayer:

God of all life.

Let your Spirit breathe in us, to show kindness and service to others.

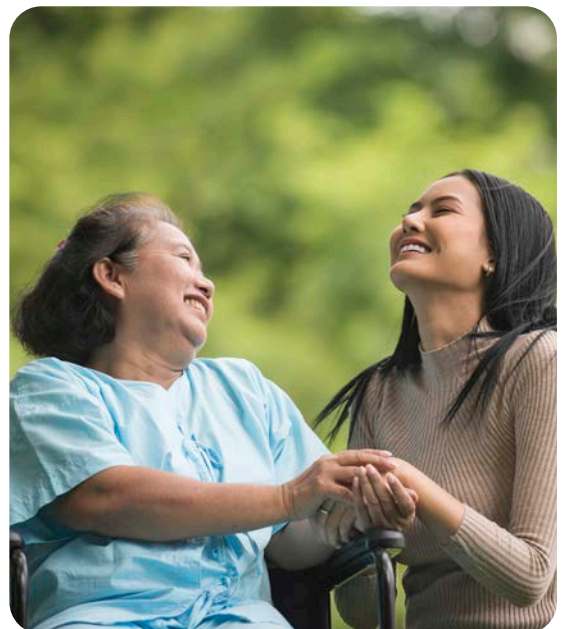
Like Saint Marcellin, may we live our lives with a strong sense of community, knowing that what we do for other people, we are doing for you.

Amen.

Marist Litany:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mary, Our Good Mother, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Marcellin Champagnat, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| And let us always remember, | <i>To pray for one another</i> |

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



STAFF REFLECTION 1

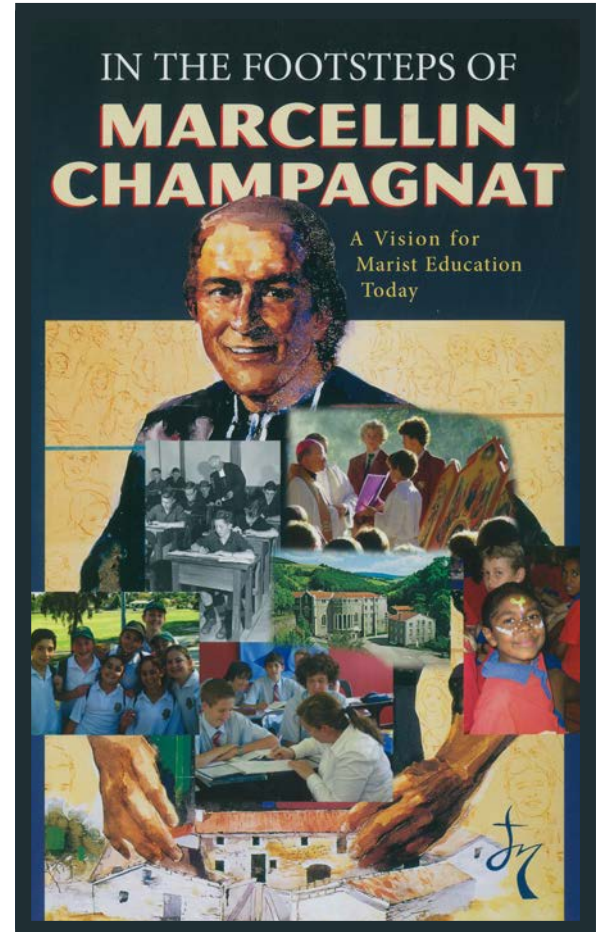
“To See or Not to See” - Opening our eyes and hearts to the needs of our time as Marcellin did in his time

The image of Marcellin Champagnat on the cover of *In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat: A Vision for Marist Education Today*, features a smiling, vigorous looking person with sleeves rolled up ready to get involved in the concerns and issues of the day. As a man of the earth, he was actively and fully involved in building, construction and gardening at the same time as he motivated, formed and mentored the young men of the region who became the first brothers.

He didn't hold back and didn't mind getting his hands dirty. As a young priest, Marcellin saw the needs around him and was moved by the needs of the poorest people, especially children. His first response was to inspire some young men to become 'brothers' and with them he set about founding schools in deprived rural hamlets and villages. While this required sensitivity and tact, he went at it with determination in the face of the civil and religious dramas of his time in the aftermath of the French Revolution.

In the world of our time it is relevant for us to ask: “Do I see and feel the same urgency and determination, as Marcellin showed, for doing my part in response to the impact of disastrous events brought about or made more severe by climate change?”

Events such as the 2019, 2020 bushfires in Australia, rising sea levels in crowded coastal areas of Asia and the Pacific, cyclones and storm events, extensive destructive coral bleaching events on the Great Barrier Reef due to rising ocean temperatures, are some of the many examples of climatic and environmental emergencies that demand we look at, feel moved by and choose how to act in response to the needs of our world.



Take a time of silence to ponder. Deliberately be still... now imagine what it must be like to be driven from your home and from safety by the latest climate driven crisis.

Pope Francis is a great leader in doing this. Five years ago was his landmark letter, *Laudato Si', on care for our common home* and now, this year, in the introduction to a Vatican publication: *Pastoral Orientations on Climate Displaced People* (30.03.2021) the Pope urges us, “to **see** the tragedy of prolonged uprootedness that causes our brothers and sisters to cry out, year after year.” The Pope wants us to be sharply aware of the indifference of societies and governments to this tragedy. He wants us to see, to care, to reflect and to act.

He wants us to be aware of our own feelings so he challenges us with a question based on a famous line from Shakespeare's Hamlet. The Pope replaces "to be, or not to be? That is the question" with: "**To see, or not to see?**"

Now we can ask ourselves:

Do I see that "**the climate crisis has a human face**"?

To what extent do I believe, "**it is already a reality for millions of people all over the world.**"

(pause)

As we celebrate St Marcellin Champagnat as an inspired leader and founder who responded strongly and effectively to urgent needs of people in his time, how can we Marists promote awareness of the issues and the long-term impact of climate change? Ask: "What better time than now for us to **open our eyes** to the reality of the impact that the climate crisis is having on human existence?"

Certainly we need to recognise that these issues are challenging. However, we can learn from Marcellin's best diplomatic responses to the difficult issues he faced. May we be inspired and encouraged by him, to be involved and responsive, rather than simply waiting for others to act.

Let us join with Pope Francis whose prayer is that we see what is needed and trust, that with the help of the Holy Spirit, we see what to do and willingly act.

Pause for a quite moment of personal prayer.

Mary, Our Good Mother,
Saint Marcellin Champagnat,
Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop,
And let us always remember,

*Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
To pray for
one another*



STAFF REFLECTION 2

Giving Freely of Ourselves

Pope Francis writes in his 2020 encyclical Fratelli Tutti (Sisters and Brothers All):

139. There is always the factor of “gratuitousness”: the ability to do some things simply because they are good in themselves, without concern for personal gain or recompense. Gratuitousness makes it possible for us to welcome the stranger, even though this brings no tangible benefit...

140. Life without fraternal gratuitousness becomes a form of frenetic commerce, in which we are constantly weighing up what we give and what we get back in return. God, on the other hand, gives freely to the point of helping even those who are unfaithful; he “makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good.” (Mat 5; 45.) Consequently, all of us are able to give without expecting anything in return. As Jesus told his disciples: “Without cost you have received, without cost you are to give.” (Matt 10:8.)

To ponder: How can I practice gratuitousness today?

(pause)

At the end of his life in 1840, Marcellin Champagnat wrote:

“The command I leave you, is to love one another, as children of the same Father who is God, of the same Mother who is Mary. Having but one heart and mind, forming but one family, united in the same ideals, you are to work in your community solely for the establishment of God’s kingdom, finding the strength and vitality needed for this task in your fraternal union..”

To Ponder: How are we working with one heart and mind to build a family in our ministry today?

(pause)

A PRAYER ADAPTED FROM POPE FRANCIS IN FRATELLI TUTTI

Lord, Father of our human family, you created all human beings equal in dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice and peace in our Marist family.

Move us to create healthier communities and workplaces and more dignified spaces without division, anger and resentment.

May our hearts be open to all peoples. May we recognise the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects and shared dreams.

Gracious God, teach us your graciousness. May we continue to offer ourselves freely without expecting something in return.

Amen.

Mary, Our Good Mother,
Saint Marcellin Champagnat,
Saint Mary of the Cross MacKilllop,
And let us always remember,

Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
To pray for
one another



STAFF PRAYER

Breathing the Spirit of Life

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Intentions:

○ Holy Spirit, breathe within us the fullness of life, helping us grow in relationship with the young people in our care.

○ Holy Spirit, inspire our 'yes', like Mary's 'yes', to whatever it is you are calling us to be.

○ Holy Spirit, open our hearts to be caring guardians of your creation.

We Pray:

Loving God,

We give thanks for the gift of Your Spirit.

Be present with us that we may find new ways of being present in the world.

Inspired by our Marist spirituality, we celebrate the gift of St Marcellin Champagnat and we rejoice in the gift of relationship with you.

Amen.

We Read:

"The Spirit is the author of the Scriptures." We read in 2 Timothy 3:16 that "all Scripture is God-breathed" and in 2 Peter 1:21 that "people spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." And from Genesis 1:1-12, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters". - From "Five Truths about the Holy Spirit" www.ligonier.org

We Reflect:

The Breath of God is the agent in creation. It is not the immateriality of the Spirit that is in view here, but rather God's power and energy; the picture is of God's energy breathing out creation, as it were, breathing the world into existence, putting the stars into space. The Spirit is the irresistible power by which God accomplishes God's purpose. - From "Five Truths about the Holy Spirit" www.ligonier.org

Poem of Lament:

It's 3:23 in the morning
 and I'm awake
 because my great-great grandchildren
 won't let me sleep.
 My great-great grandchildren
 ask me in dreams
 what did you do while the Planet was plundered?
 what did you do when the Earth was unravelling?
 surely you did something
 when the seasons started failing?
 as the mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying?
 did you fill the streets with protest?
 what did you do
 once
 you
 knew?

- Excerpt from "Hieroglyphic Stairway" by Drew Dillinger

We Respond:

As brothers and sisters sharing in Life, we want to grow in care for our planet and all creation. With others, we foster the hope that all humankind will come to appreciate the world as our home, where nature is delicately balanced. This requires our living together in an atmosphere of reverence, mutual respect, justice and participation. - *Water From the Rock: Marist Spirituality #122*

We Pray:

Creator God,

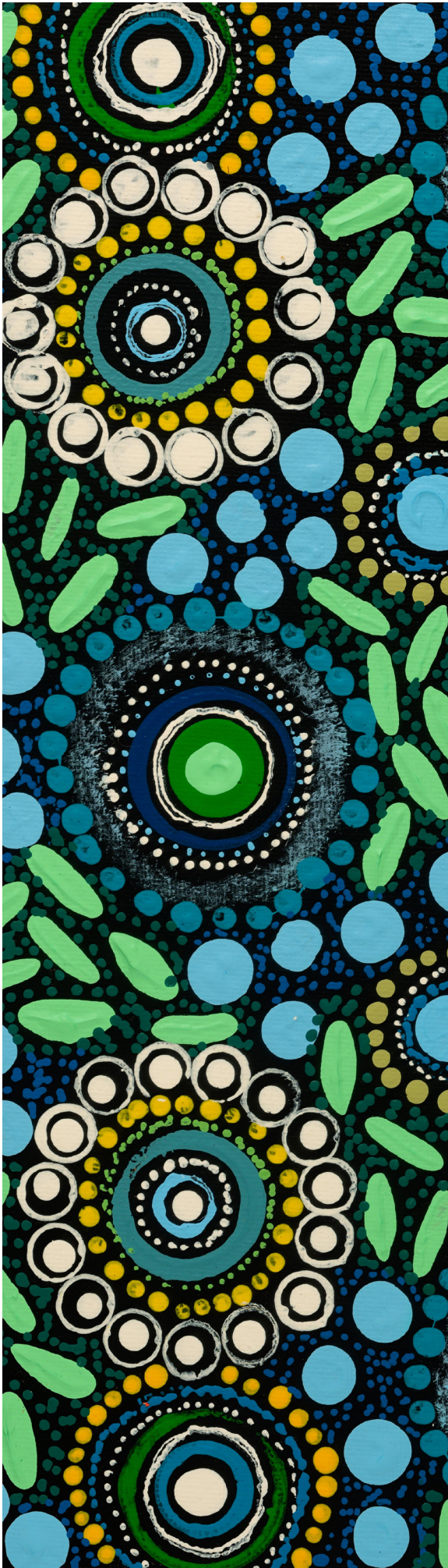
You are with us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit as we gather in the name of St Marcellin Champagnat. Help us to discern Your Spirit in the world around us. Let us find joy in the world that You have created. You are the breath of all that lives. As we think about our local Marist community and the glory of the natural world, may we respond to You in love for our neighbours and for Your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Marist Litany:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| Saint Marcellin Champagnat, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| And let us always remember, | <i>To pray for one another</i> |

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



THE 2021 MASS OF SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Solemnity

Acknowledgement of Country:

As a Marist family, we pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this sacred land, the [_____] people, we acknowledge the elders, past and present, and the emerging leaders of Aboriginal Australia.

Introduction:

The feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat celebrates the connection we have here at [name of school], to the global Marist family. St Marcellin started primary schools in the country areas of France over 200 years ago to give an education to children who would not normally have received that opportunity. Today, there are Marist schools and other Marist ministries in over 80 countries around the world. To be Marist is to be a follower of Jesus, and we live this way in the Catholic tradition.

As we begin our celebration, we recall how St Marcellin listened to and was guided by the Holy Spirit in his heart, giving him the strength and inspiration to care for the young people of his time. We know that this same Spirit is alive in each of us, and we pray that through our words and actions we, too, can make a difference in the lives of others today.

Let us stand as we begin our celebration.

Collect/Opening Prayer:

Holy Father, you have revealed the commandment of the new law through your Only Begotten Son, and shown us how to put it into practice by the inspiring example of Saint Marcellin; grant us, we pray, the grace to persevere in loving all our brothers and sisters as he taught, and to lead our world to the knowledge of the truth of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

First Reading (Sirach 24: 28-31):

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

I, wisdom, poured forth rivers.
 I, like a rivulet from her stream, channelling the waters into paradise,
 said to myself, "I will water my plants, my flower bed I will drench";
 and suddenly this rivulet of mine became a river,
 and this stream of mine, a sea.
 Thus, do I send my teachings forth shining like the dawn,
 to become known afar off.
 I shall penetrate the lower parts of the earth,
 and I shall look upon all who sleep,
 and enlighten those who hope in God.
 Thus, do I pour out instruction like prophecy
 and bestow it on generations to come,
 and I shall continue in their descendants forever.
 See, I have worked not for myself alone, but for all who seek instruction.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (112: 1-9):

Happy the one whom the Lord instructs,
 Who greatly delights in God's commands.
 Their posterity shall be mighty upon the earth;
 The upright generation shall be blessed.

R: Happy the one whom the Lord instructs.

Wealth and riches shall be in their house;
 Their generosity shall endure forever.
 They dawn through the darkness, a light for the upright;
 They are gracious and merciful and just.

R: Happy the one whom the Lord instructs.

Well for the one who is gracious and lends,
 Who conducts their affairs with justice;
 They shall never be moved;
 The just one shall be in everlasting remembrance.

R: Happy the one whom the Lord instructs.

An evil report they shall not fear;
 Their heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.
 Their heart is steadfast; they shall not fear
 Till they look down on his foes.

R: Happy the one whom the Lord instructs.

Lavishly they give to the poor;
 Their generosity shall endure forever;
 Their horn shall be exalted in glory.

R: Happy the one whom the Lord instructs.

Second Reading (Acts 1:12-14; 2:44-47 NRSV):

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The Apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 5: 3):

Alleluia, Alleluia.

How blessed are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs.

Alleluia.

Gospel (Matthew 18: 1-7,10 NRSV):

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

(congregation makes a small sign of the cross on their forehead, lips and heart)

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling block comes!

Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer of the Faithful:

Presider: Guided by the Holy Spirit in our lives, we pray, as a Marist community, for the needs of our world.

Reader: For Pope Francis and all leaders who serve in our Church; that God's Spirit is always present in their lives, guiding their decisions and actions.

In God's Spirit we pray.

All: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Reader: For world leaders and leaders in our community; that peace and justice be central to their policy making and that they continually strive to find better ways of caring for our environment.

In God's Spirit we pray.

All: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Reader: For Marist communities in Australia and around the world; that through the example of Saint Marcellin, the spirit of service and love be lived and shared with each other.

In God's Spirit we pray.

All: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Reader: For people who are suffering due to physical or mental illness, loneliness, or family breakdown; that the Spirit of God breathes new life into their hearts to give them courage, strength and healing.

In God's Spirit we pray.

All: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Reader: For the needs of our local community; that we grow in awareness and find ways to reach out in care of others and all of creation.

In God's Spirit we pray.

All: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Presider: Heavenly Father, send your Spirit to heal and strengthen all who hear your word, and bring peace and courage into our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and Saviour. Amen.



The Liturgy of the Eucharist:

The Preparation of the Gifts

Father, all powerful and ever living God
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks,
and to praise you for your gifts
as we contemplate your saints in glory.
Like a loving parent,
you always watch over us, your people.
You gave us Mary as our Good Mother,
first among the believers, a just and simple woman.

You gave us Marcellin Champagnat,
a man who truly reflected your loving faithfulness
in his commitment to serving you and your people.

His life was a living witness of the ideal
that he presented to his first followers:
to become a Brother means to strive to become holy.

Through Christ, the angels of heaven offer their
prayer of adoration as they rejoice in your presence
forever.

Prayer After Communion:

Nourished with the Body and Blood of your Son we
pray, O Lord, that we who celebrate the great work
that you have accomplished in your Church through
Saint Marcellin, may be strengthened by the power of
this Sacrament and inspired to undertake ever greater
apostolic works. Through Christ our Lord.

