



*Marist*

ASSOCIATION OF  
ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAIGNAT

**PROGRAMS  
AND EVENTS 2024**



Title: 'Urtakwerte Atywerrenge Anthurre' (Very Sacred Heart)

Artist: Kathleen Kemarre Wallace

Location: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church,  
Alice Springs, NT.

Discover: Artist and artwork details via QR code link



Dear Marist Friends

*First Light – Reveal the Spirit* is the 2024 theme for the Marists of Champagnat.

I should point out that the process of determining the theme takes some months. A myriad of ideas are assembled; then follows a process of dialogue and discernment, consultation, and consideration.

Then there's a second process to determine the image that will accompany the theme. The purpose is to provide a visual representation of the theme that captures attention and special dimensions of the intended message. Colours and overall design are crucial. Simplicity is favoured. This year the image is a photograph, consciously selected because of what it depicts about the theme.

The final phase involves creating the programme that will present the new annual theme. Concepts are arranged and sequenced. Resources are designed and collected. Prayers and reflection periods are introduced. Discussion processes are incorporated. The elements are pieced together to create a whole presentation that will bring alive the theme as a meaningful formative experience.

You can imagine this entire process takes significant time and requires considerable creative energy. I congratulate the Mission and Life Formation Team on First Light. I won't comment or elaborate on the theme, since Tony Clarke has provided a rich introduction in the pages ahead. Let me say, I believe everyone who experiences the First Light – Reveal the Spirit programme will be touched and their faith, reawakened.

Of course, there is much more on offer for 2024 than First Light. There are the regular offerings of Footsteps and Footsteps II, In the Marist Way, and Hermitage Retreats. Some are virtual experiences; some are residential opportunities. Offerings cover the needs of school leaders and staff, Association members and others who wish to immerse themselves in Marist spirituality.

Take up and read this booklet. Select for yourself, or your staff, what you believe will be most helpful as you seek to deepen your commitment to Marist mission, life and spirit. I pray that 2024 will be a year that reveals the spirit to you.

Brother Peter Carroll FMS  
*Provincial and Leader of the Marist Association  
of St Marcellin Champagnat*



## FIRST LIGHT *Reveal the Spirit*

In a classical rabbinic story, the teacher asks the disciples: “When do you know it is dawn?” One says, “when you can distinguish a white thread from a black one.” “No,” says the teacher. “When you can see the outline of a tree against the horizon,” ventures another. “No,” says the teacher — to this and all other efforts to answer the question. Finally, he says, “when you can look into the eyes of an ‘other’, a stranger, and see a brother or a sister, then it is dawn. Until then, it is still night.”

The theme FIRST LIGHT invites us to recognise the world as the place in which we discover God. God’s Spirit is in Creation. The first words of God were “Let there be light” (Gen 1:3), and with that our world dawned into existence. We can recognise and experience God’s Spirit through the beauty and goodness of everything that the world holds and reveals, the spring buds on a tree, the warmth of the sun on your face, the sharing of a meal at a soup kitchen on a winter’s day, in the eyes of a stranger. *Everything* reveals the presence of God (1 Cor 10:26).

At times God’s Spirit can appear in dramatic bursts of light – through the brilliance of an electric sunrise that makes you fall momentarily still – when you recognise that the earth is indeed ‘charged’ with the glory of God!<sup>1</sup> Often though, it may appear without much fanfare; a small act of kindness, an unexpected word of affirmation from a classmate, a healing gesture of forgiveness. For the prophet Elijah, God’s Spirit was experienced in the hush of a gentle breeze (1 Kings 19:12).

Sometimes it may be revealed in the darkest night when the weight of the world feels heaviest. Even the smallest light within us can shine brightest in the darkest times (2 Cor 4:6). We find further encouragement in the words of St Paul who reminds us that “everything brought into the light becomes light!”. Everything can be *transformed* into light.

This light is the dwelling of the Holy Spirit within each one of us, and if we can recognise the goodness and beauty within, it helps us to see it in others. It is said that we don’t see

things as they are, but we see things as we are. Eckhart Tolle wrote: “You do not become good by trying to be good, but by finding the goodness already within you, and allowing that goodness to emerge.” Through an awareness of the goodness within ourselves – God’s Spirit breathing through us, – we too are transformed, and we become a gift of God’s light for the world. We are changed, and the world is changed by us.

Saint Marcellin Champagnat believed that God’s Spirit was always present and at work in the world, inspiring his mission and giving strength to his purpose. It is this gift of the Spirit that we as Marists want to share with others, the young, our colleagues, the stranger – of bringing people into the joy and freedom of the light of Christ – the Source of all Light:

*“I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life.”* (Jn 8:12)

We pray that the Holy Spirit illuminates our minds and hearts to recognise and know God’s presence in the breath-taking and ordinary encounters of our life. We pray that our lives will be transformed by God’s Spirit, making known the presence of God in the world and within us:

*“You are the light of the world... let your light shine.”* (Mt 5:14-16)

When do you know that it is dawn?  
How is God’s Spirit being revealed to you?

Tony Clarke  
*Director, Mission and Life Formation*

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<sup>1</sup> *God’s Grandeur*, Gerard Manley Hopkins



## Image Reflection

God is revealed uniquely to each of us and just as the light falls on each rock in this 80-metre chasm, so too the Holy Spirit illuminates and reveals God's presence to us – in the world and in each one of us.

The light and passageway of Standley Chasm draws you in, like a natural cathedral, but also invites you to look around the corner and explore further. The photographer, Nick Psomiadis describes the scene... the sheer cliffs glowing in sunlight, a spectacular scene to behold as the sun passes over the chasm.

It took Nick three days to achieve this photograph because the chasm only receives light directly at a particular moment. You can notice the presence of light as the narrow vista changes colour at dawn, but the full strength of the sun is only at an appointed time of the day.

The notion of visibility and invisibility is central to Aboriginal thinking and rays of light that rouse the spirit is central to their spirituality. Standley Chasm is known traditionally as *Angkerle Atwatye*, meaning 'Gap of Water' and is a place of deep cultural significance to Western Arrernte people as a sacred site of women's dreaming and birthing.

The chasm was later named after Ida Standley, the first school teacher in the West MacDonnell Ranges. For fifteen years, Ida Stanley was the only government teacher in Central Australia and helped to give Aboriginal children a basic education. Ida was highly respected and described by the press as the 'beloved lady'.



# STAFF SPIRITUALITY PROGRAM 2024

The National Staff Spirituality Program invites participants to reflect upon the presence of God as revealed in the world and to be transformed by the Spirit for the evangelising mission of making Jesus known and loved.

*“You do not become good by trying to be good, but by finding the goodness that is already within you, and allowing that goodness to emerge. But it can only emerge if something fundamental changes in your state of consciousness.”*

These words from Eckhart Tolle express the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the importance of becoming aware of the light within us. Through this awareness, we are transformed and spiritually gifted to be God’s light for others.

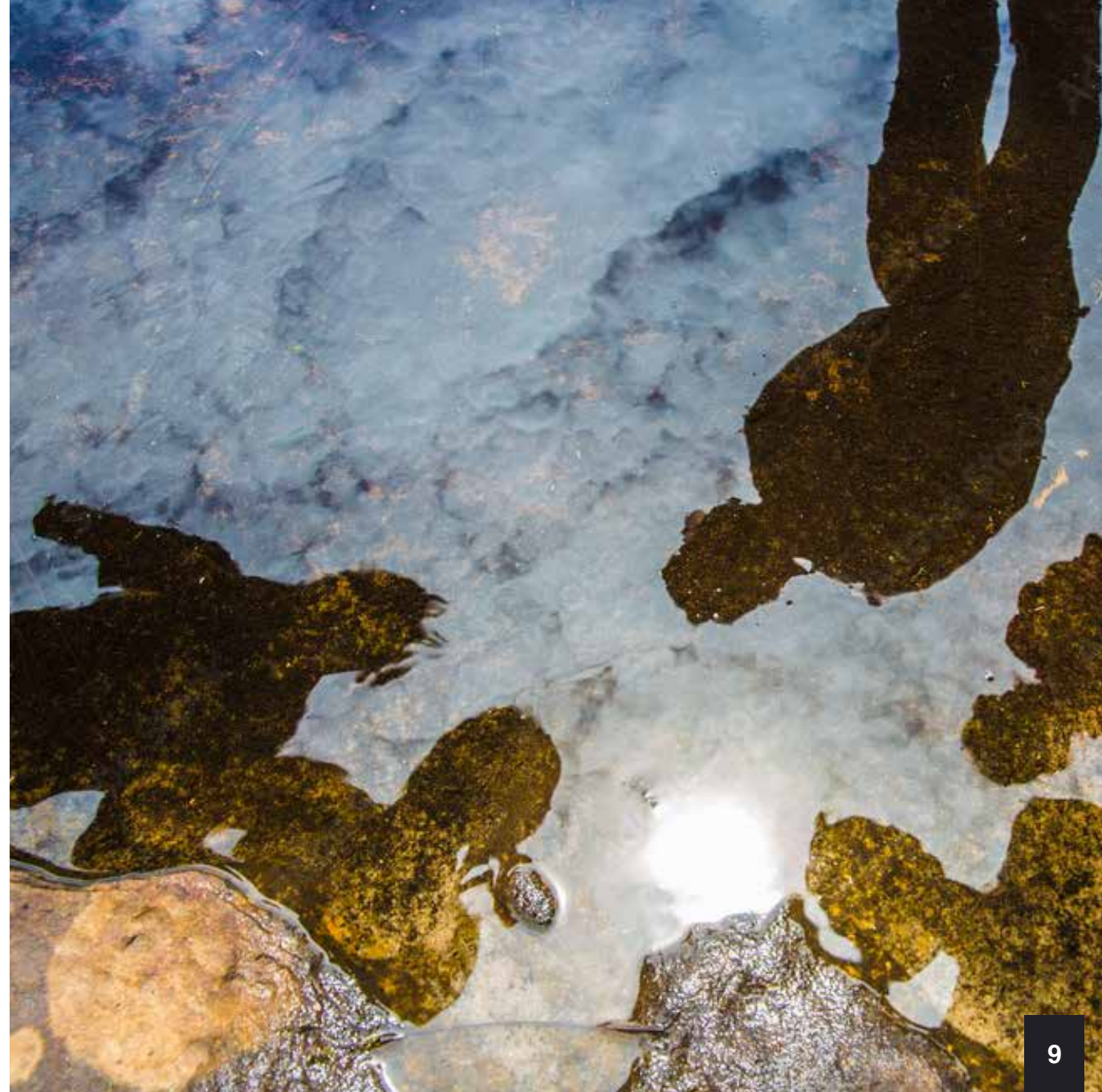
## Participants will:

- Grow in an understanding of the Holy Spirit as God’s presence in the world
- Deepen an awareness of the Holy Spirit, recognising its wisdom, power, healing and beauty
- Discover ways that the spirit is revealed through encounter and relationship
- Explore ways that the Holy Spirit is a gift to be shared with others

## The program provides opportunities to:

- Enter more deeply into the human experience of the world through art, environment and society
- Facilitate contemplative reflection to invite participants to be open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Examine the example of discipleship contained in the scriptures with particular reference to Mary Magdalene’s encounter of Jesus
- Discern how Catholic educators assist students to encounter the inner world of the Spirit

**Contact:** Tony Clarke | [tony.clarke@marists.org.au](mailto:tony.clarke@marists.org.au)



# THE 2024 MARIAN Lecture

## **The Jewish Jesus: Why It Matters**

*Internationally renowned scripture scholar Professor Amy-Jill Levine will explore the Jewish context of Jesus and what message His words and actions have for us in the Church today.*

**Date:** 7 May 2024

**Time:** 6:00pm-7:30pm (AEST) Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne

5:30pm-7:00pm (ACST) Adelaide and Alice Springs

4:00pm-5:30pm (AWST) Perth

### **Professor Amy-Jill Levine**

Amy Jill Levine (“AJ”) is Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace (Hartford, CT, USA) and University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies Emerita and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies Emerita, at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN, USA).



**Contact:** Mark O’Farrell | [mark.ofarrell@marists.org.au](mailto:mark.ofarrell@marists.org.au)

## **PROFESSOR AMY-JILL LEVINE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

### **SYDNEY 6 MAY 2024**

#### ***Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi***

Amy-Jill Levine explores Jesus’s most popular parables, revealing their hidden depths, exposing their misinterpretations, and showing how they can still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later.

Venue: Australian Catholic University Level 18, Tenison Woods Building, 8–20 Napier Street, North Sydney

Time: 9.00am-2.30pm

Cost: \$90 (inc. morning tea and lunch)

### **BRISBANE 13 MAY 2024**

#### ***Signs and Wonders: A New Light on the Miracle Stories of Jesus***

Amy-Jill Levine explores selected miracles of Jesus in historical and theological context. For each miracle, she will explore not only how past witnesses would have understood the events, but also how contemporary teachers can draw meaning from Jesus’s words and actions.

Venue: The Cyprian Pavilion, Marist College Ashgrove

Time: 9.00am-2.30pm

Cost: \$90 (inc. morning tea and lunch)

### **MELBOURNE 14 MAY 2024**

#### ***Women who walked with Jesus – a message for all in the Church today***

Amy-Jill Levine will focus on the women in the New Testament who walked with, followed and supported Jesus in his public ministry and what their role has to say to women and men in the Church today.

Venue: Leadership Centre Melbourne

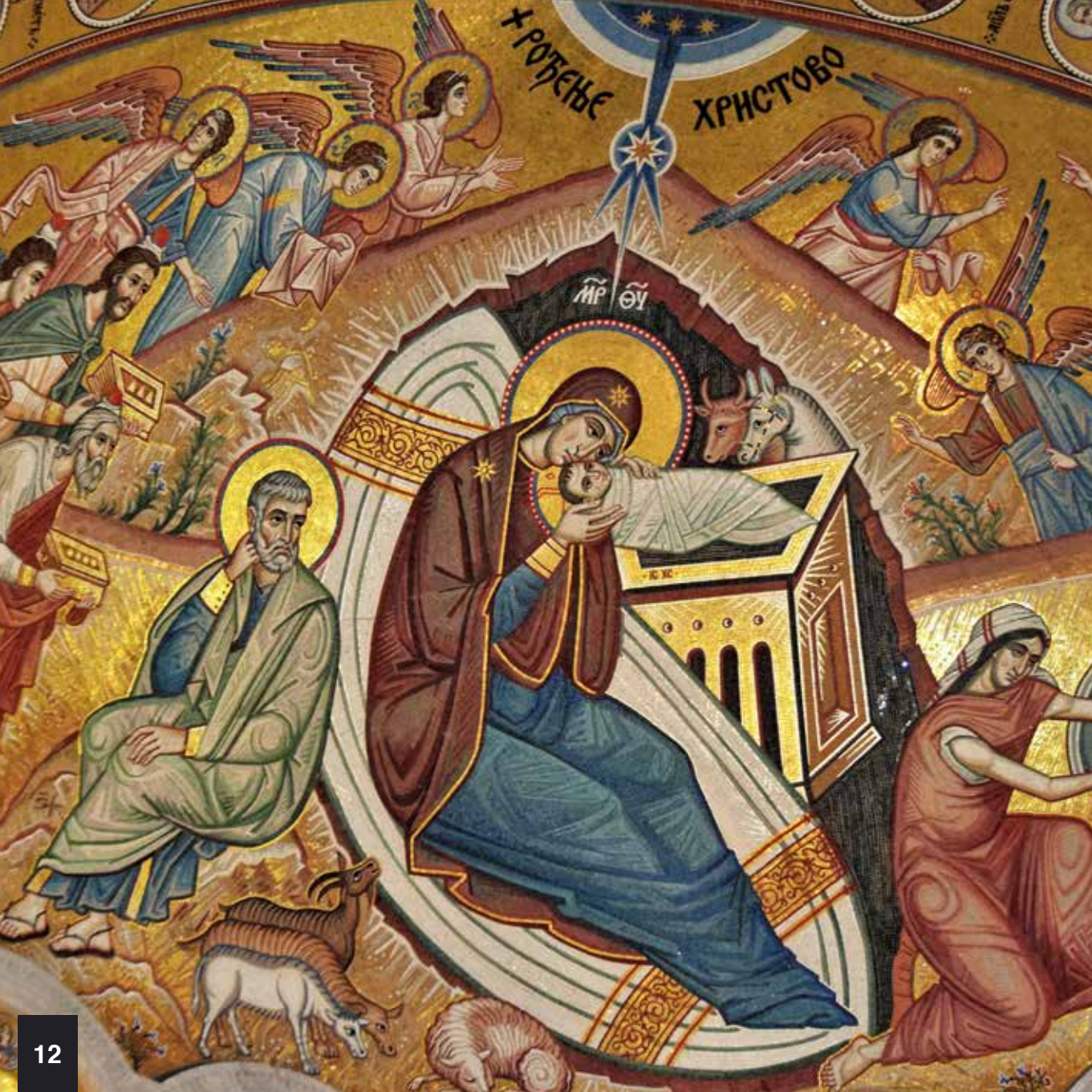
Time: 9.00am-2.30pm

Cost: \$90 (inc. morning tea and lunch)

### **OTHER SPEAKING EVENTS**

Amy-Jill will be offering other speaking events during her visit in Adelaide, Gippsland and Auckland, New Zealand.





## MARIST ASSOCIATION REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Regional Gatherings aim to strengthen the connections between members of the Marist Association in geographical regions across Australia and grow the spiritual family. Participants will have the opportunity to share their experience of Marist life and explore ideas and resources for nurturing the Marist Association. The format and content of gatherings will be determined by the local groups in the region and may consist of a shared meal, spiritual input and time for reflection and prayer. The Marist Mission and Life Formation Team are available to provide resources and support Local Coordinators in the facilitation of Regional Gatherings.

**Contact:** Mark O'Farrell | [mark.ofarrell@marists.org.au](mailto:mark.ofarrell@marists.org.au)

## MID-WINTER *Retreat*

*(For Association members, school and ministry staff)*

**BISHOP GREG HOMEING OCD | \$670.00**

Our annual retreat offers a time of insight and renewal through a process of quiet reflection, spiritual reading and quality input. In 2024 the retreat will be facilitated by Bishop Greg Homeming OCD, Bishop of Lismore. The focus will be on Prayer, a topic in which Bishop Greg has considerable expertise. Bishop Greg is a member of the Discalced Carmelite Order, a reform of the ancient Carmelite order, and has held numerous leadership positions within the order prior to being ordained a bishop in 2017.



**Date:** 10-12 July 2024 | Commences 10.30am and finishes 1.30pm (AEST)

**Venue:** The Hermitage, Mittagong

**Contact:** John Hickey | [john.hickey@marists.org.au](mailto:john.hickey@marists.org.au)

## ANNUAL MOMENT OF RENEWAL

Each year, the Moment of Renewal provides a simple way for members of the Marist Association to remember in each other's company our desire to be a vital faith community, remain attentive to the God of all life, nurture our spirituality, and draw on our mission imagination to serve and foster connectedness and communion. Marist Association Local Coordinators choose the most appropriate context for the ritual to be carried out. Three suggested dates (or a convenient time close to these dates) are:

|                  |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>6 June</b>    | Feast Day of St Marcellin Champagnat |
| <b>23 July</b>   | Fourviere Pledge                     |
| <b>15 August</b> | Feast of the Assumption              |

Resources are made available to Marist Association Local Coordinators.

**Contact:** Mark O'Farrell | [mark.ofarrell@marists.org.au](mailto:mark.ofarrell@marists.org.au)

## GROWING MARIST LIFE PROGRAM

This new program aims to support the life and vitality of Marist life and mission. It will connect Marists who are seeking an encounter to grow and nurture their vocation, leadership and identity as a member of the Marist spiritual family.

The three sessions will provide participants with formation to deepen their understanding of co-responsibility for mission, and strengthen their identity as Marists who are committed to growing the local life of the Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

**Date:** 29 February, 21 March, 16 May

**Register:** Online

**Contact:** Mark O'Farrell | [mark.ofarrell@marists.org.au](mailto:mark.ofarrell@marists.org.au)

## SPIRITUAL *Accompaniment*

### Available for one-to-one spiritual accompaniment

|                         |                                                                                                |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mrs Andrea Grant        | <a href="mailto:andrea.grant@marists.org.au">andrea.grant@marists.org.au</a>                   |
| Brother Robert Aitken   | <a href="mailto:robert.aitken@marists.org.au">robert.aitken@marists.org.au</a>                 |
| Brother Darren Burge    | <a href="mailto:darren.burge@marists.org.au">darren.burge@marists.org.au</a>                   |
| Mrs Elizabeth Lee       | <a href="mailto:elizabeth.lee@visionandaction.com.au">elizabeth.lee@visionandaction.com.au</a> |
| Mrs Chris McCabe        | <a href="mailto:chris.mccabe08@gmail.com">chris.mccabe08@gmail.com</a>                         |
| Brother Mark Needham    | <a href="mailto:mark.needham@marists.org.au">mark.needham@marists.org.au</a>                   |
| Brother Robert O'Connor | <a href="mailto:robert.oconnor@marists.org.au">robert.oconnor@marists.org.au</a>               |
| Brother Tony Shears     | <a href="mailto:tonyshears@hotmail.com">tonyshears@hotmail.com</a>                             |
| Brother Bill Sullivan   | <a href="mailto:bill.sullivan@marists.org.au">bill.sullivan@marists.org.au</a>                 |
| Brother Bill Tarrant    | <a href="mailto:bill.tarrant@marists.org.au">bill.tarrant@marists.org.au</a>                   |

**Cost:** As discussed and negotiated with Spiritual Accompanier

**Contact:** Tony Clarke | [tony.clarke@marists.org.au](mailto:tony.clarke@marists.org.au)

### Available for Professional Supervision for Principal and School Leaders

Mrs Elizabeth Lee: Supervisor, Australasian Association of Supervision AAOS  
[elizabeth.lee@visionandaction.com.au](mailto:elizabeth.lee@visionandaction.com.au) | <https://visionandaction.com.au/>

Dr John Lee: Supervisor, Australasian Association of Supervision AAOS  
[john@inspiringeducators.com.au](mailto:john@inspiringeducators.com.au) | <https://inspiringeducators.com.au/>

**Cost:** As discussed and negotiated with the Professional Supervisor

**Contact:** Regional Directors, *Marist Schools Australia*



# Hermitage RETREATS

## CARE FOR THE SOUL | 2 NIGHTS | \$430.00

How do we nurture the Spiritual in the midst of our daily routine? This silent retreat offers participants a quiet and reflective space away from the busy nature of daily life. A variety of input, prayer experiences, individual spiritual accompaniment and silence is offered during the retreat. This retreat is an ideal place to start if you have never experienced a silent retreat. The Eucharist is offered on the final morning of this retreat.

**Date:** 23-25 August | Commences: 5:00pm and finishes 11:00am (AEST)  
**Contact:** John Hickey | [john.hickey@marists.org.au](mailto:john.hickey@marists.org.au)

## CARE FOR THE SOUL – GIFT OF THE MYSTIC WITHIN | 3 NIGHTS | \$545.00

This is a guided silent retreat with accompaniment. It would be an advantage to have previously experienced a silent retreat though this is not essential. There will be daily input, Eucharist and a variety of prayer experiences offered. The writings of some of the mystics will be explored during this retreat. Much of the final day will be unstructured to allow participants the space to consider what has been offered during the retreat time.

**Date:** 2-5 May | Commences: 5:00pm and finishes 11:00am (AEST)  
**Contact:** Andrea Grant | [andrea.grant@marists.org.au](mailto:andrea.grant@marists.org.au)

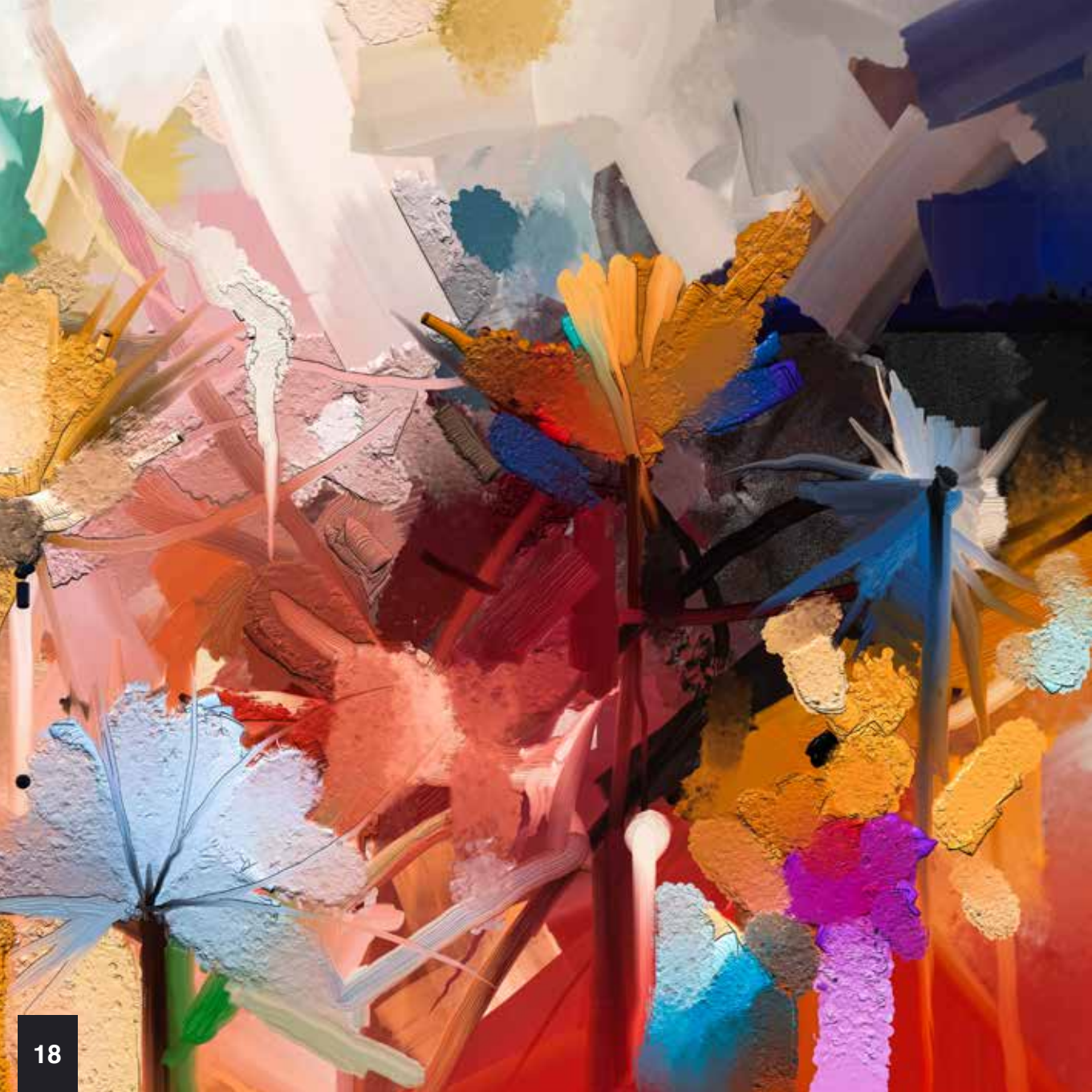


## PRIVATE RETREATS

The Hermitage offers a variety of retreat experiences including those tailored to individual circumstances. If you would like to participate in a personal retreat please contact The Hermitage. Spiritual direction is available during these retreats for those wishing to consider this. Prices may vary according to retreat requirements. Individual Hermitage Cottages are available for retreatants and a variety of catering packages are available for these retreats.

Venue: The Hermitage, corner of Old South Road and Bong Bong Road Mittagong. Mittagong has a train station, the trip taking two hours from Sydney with a change of train at Campbelltown station. It is a slightly longer trip from Canberra. A detailed map giving directions to our property can be found on the website. Visit: [www.thehermitage.org](http://www.thehermitage.org)

**Contact:** The Hermitage | (02) 4872 1911 | [office@thehermitage.org.au](mailto:office@thehermitage.org.au)



# Staff PROGRAMS

## IN THE MARIST WAY: NEW STAFF FORMATION PROGRAM | \$60.00

This program introduces staff to the story, spirituality and pedagogy of Marist education in the contemporary Catholic school. It is an initial formation program designed for staff who are new to Marist schools. Participants will explore the Marist mission as a mission of the Church and gain an insight into the charism of the founder, St Marcellin Champagnat.

### Dates:

|             |                       |        |                       |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| 24 January  | Perth                 | 6 May  | Sydney East           |
| 15 February | Canberra              | 9 May  | Hunter                |
| 4 March     | Northern Queensland   | 20 May | Macarthur             |
| 12/13 March | Gippsland             | 20 May | Melbourne 2 (Bulleen) |
| 14 March    | Central West          | 20 May | Brisbane              |
| 18/19 March | Central Victoria      | 22 May | Bendigo               |
| 20 March    | Melbourne 1 (Kilmore) | 22 May | Sydney West           |
| 25 March    | Adelaide              | 6 June | Riverina              |

**Contact:** Paul Harris | [paul.harris@marists.org.au](mailto:paul.harris@marists.org.au)



## FOOTSTEPS: MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN AND LOVED | \$750.00

A three-day residential program for staff who have been in Marist schools and ministries for two years or more. It explores Marist charism, identity, pedagogy and spirituality.

Footsteps provides an opportunity for participants to strengthen their understanding and practice of Marist pedagogy using core documents, formation processes and community building. This understanding is enriched through gaining a greater appreciation of the Marist story and charism of St Marcellin Champagnat. It also provides a platform for participants to enrich and deepen their own faith journey through exploring contemplative practices of Marian spirituality.

All Footsteps programs are held at The Hermitage, Mittagong, NSW.

### Footsteps 1:

18-21 February  
16-19 June  
8-11 September

3-6 March  
18-21 August  
20-23 October

### Footsteps 2:

26-29 May  
4-7 August

**Contact:** Mark O'Farrell | mark.ofarrell@marists.org.au  
or Paul Harris | paul.harris@marists.org.au

## MARIST SOLIDARITY RETREAT | \$720.00\*

This three-day retreat provides an opportunity for participants to encounter the living spirituality of the desert, the heart of our nation. Participants are introduced to indigenous culture and will experience periods of deep listening in the natural environment.

Spending time with the local community of Santa Teresa, participants gain an insight of how the Marist story is being lived there.

With a rich background of desert environs, this retreat provides an opportunity for solidarity with the land, its people and the Marist mission in Central Australia.

**Date:** 13 -16 October 2024 | Commences 1:00pm and finishes 10:30am (ACST)

**Venue:** Alice Springs

**Contact:** Paul Harris | paul.harris@marists.org.au

*\*airfare to Alice Springs not included.*

## ECOLOGY OF THE HEART RAINFOREST TO THE REEF RETREAT | \$780.00\*

This three day retreat provides time and space to reflect on the exhortation of Pope Francis to see creation through the eyes of the creator. Nurturing and transforming creation is a command God gives not only at the beginning of history but to each one of us. Participants will be challenged to respond to this sacred task as we journey through the rainforests of Far North Queensland and the wonder of the Great Barrier Reef.

Stewardship starts from a position of humility. Through prayerful listening, learning, walking and reflecting, participants will engage with the deep springs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture as we travel from the rainforest to the reef. As this retreat involves journeying through natural environments, a reasonable level of fitness is required.

**Date:** 3-6 September 2024

**Venue:** Seville Mercy Conference Centre, Cairns  
(Daintree Rainforest & Great Barrier Reef)

**Contact:** Tony Clarke | tony.clarke@marists.org.au

*\*airfare to Cairns not included.*



## MARIST PILGRIMAGE | \$14,500.00

The Marist Pilgrimage is an annual formation experience offered to Australian Marists. It is a 20-day experience which invites participants to take a journey of the heart to the sources of our Christian and Marist tradition and life. It begins in the Holy Land to underscore the Christian foundation from which the Marist project is sourced before visiting our General House in Rome. We then experience the spiritual connection of being in places significant to the life and works of St Marcellin Champagnat in France. The possibilities for spiritual and intellectual growth are endless as we walk together as Christian disciples and Marist pilgrims. It is an opportunity to help change our consciousness and perception of our spiritual identity and the presence of God in our daily work and ministry.

**Venue:** Holy Land, Rome & The Hermitage, France

**Date:** 7-26 April

**Contact:** Tony Clarke | [tony.clarke@marists.org.au](mailto:tony.clarke@marists.org.au)



## MARIST MIDDLE LEADERS PROGRAM – 'SACRED HEART INFINITE MIND'

This program is designed for both teaching and non teaching educators who hold positions of Middle Leadership in Marist schools. It is an opportunity to explore and deepen their leadership capabilities within the Catholic schooling context, as well as mapping their professional and vocational growth as educators. It draws upon the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST) to build upon their understanding of teaching and leading in a Marist school.

This program is practical, future-oriented and provides spaces for ongoing reflection, learning and action. Based on the three Marist Virtues of Humility, Simplicity and Modesty and the writings of St Marcellin Champagnat, these interactive sessions will engage with contemporary research and practice, enabling participants to explore their sacred role within the school community.

**Date:** By request

**Mode:** Face to face – 2 full days (6 sessions)  
with an option of a follow up day (3 sessions)  
or in a modification of afternoon sessions

**Contact:** John Hickey | [john.hickey@marists.org.au](mailto:john.hickey@marists.org.au)

Brother Tony Leon | [tony.leon@marists.org.au](mailto:tony.leon@marists.org.au)







*“You do not become good by trying to be good, but by finding the goodness that is already within you, and allowing that goodness to emerge. But it can only emerge if something fundamental changes in your state of consciousness.”*

*Eckhart Tolle*



## LITURGICAL MUSIC LEADERS' WORKSHOP | \$80.00\*

This one day workshop is for staff members charged with responsibility for leading liturgical music in school communities, and will explore the specific Marist style of liturgical music leadership along with practical ways of implementing it within a broad range of school communities. Participants will be guided through methods for making effective and appropriate liturgical music choices, and will investigate the range of resources and scores available in the genre.

Consideration will be given to band size and composition, cyclic training of students for liturgical music leadership, vocal leadership, choral support, and the integration of liturgical music into school orchestral repertoire and practice schedules. This workshop heralds the beginning of a network in which collaboration is promoted to assist any school across the network of MSA schools with uplift in their liturgical music capacity and delivery.

**Date:** 13 March

**Time:** 9:00am - 3:00pm (AEST)

**Venue:** Marist Centre Sydney, Suite 5.01, 247 Coward St, Mascot NSW

**Contact:** Brother Michael Callinan | michael.callinan@marists.org.au

\*airfare and accommodation not included.

## FORMATION OF RETREAT STAFF

This two-hour program aims to build the facilitation and formation capacity of retreat staff in designing and delivering student-based retreats.

The material presented in this program is influenced by Marist spirituality and is based on the philosophy that provides retreatants with an opportunity to gain a deeper sense of self, to build relationships with others, and to grow closer to God.

**Date:** By request

**Contact:** Brother Tony Leon | tony.leon@marists.org.au

## PARENT FORMATION

In Marist schools, the faith formation of young people is integral to the mission of the Catholic school and life of the Church. Recognising that parents are the first faith formators of their children, these resources assist both parents and schools in their mutual work of fostering student spiritual formation. The following opportunities explore Marist values and spirituality, whilst encouraging engagement with the school community.

Program and Resources include:

**Year 7 Parents Orientation Program** | A 40-minute Year 7 Parent Orientation Program

The program explores the Marist story and traditions, how being Marist supports the educating community and its faith life and provides an opportunity for Year 7 parents to build relationships with each other.

**A Series of School Newsletter Articles for Parent Formation**

A series of eight Parent Connect newsletter articles for schools to send to their new parents, perhaps accompanying the regular school newsletter, to help continue the Marist formation of parents.

**Contact:** Andrea Grant | andrea.grant@marists.org.au



## COUNCIL AND BOARD FORMATION

Throughout Marist schools and ministries, many generous people give their time in order to support the governance and leadership required to meet the needs of those we serve. Whether in a governance or advisory capacity, it is critical that all Board and Council members are familiar with the Christian Marist story and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching to inform their work.

Council and Board Formation resources include:

### **Online Modules for Individual and Group Reflection**

45-minute online modules which may be facilitated for use by individuals or with whole Council or Board groups covering topics including:

- The Marist Story
- Catholic Identity and Marist Spirituality
- A Marist Approach to Ministry
- Faith Leadership and Discernment

### **Prayer Reflection Resources for Meetings**

A resource pack of 15-20-minute reflections for use at council and board meetings.

### **Selected Texts and Resources**

A collection of selected texts and resources for use in extended council reflection opportunities.

- Optional overnight retreat opportunities will be offered every two years for members and their partners

**Contact:** John Hickey | john.hickey@marists.org.au



## SPIRITUALITY HUB

The Marist Formation Team provides for the service of animation, formation and support of those leaders and staff involved in the various Maconnects visitors to formation resources in one click. The easy to navigate and searchable website is constantly refreshed with new content, recordings and links to:

- Programs and Retreats
- Bookings
- Conferences and Events
- Theme Resources
- Online Courses
- Prayers and Reflections
- Marist Tertiary
- Accompaniment and Supervision

Visit [maristformation.org.au](http://maristformation.org.au) or scan here:



## BESPOKE PROGRAMS

The Marist Formation Team team offers bespoke programs that are specially designed to meet the needs or interests of a particular school community or ministry. Some of the bespoke programs developed include:

- What it means to be Marist?
- Marist Pedagogy
- Spirituality Programs for School Officers and Services Staff
- Contemplative Practice for Daily Life

**Date:** By Request

**Mode:** Face-to-face and online

**Contact:** Tony Clarke | tony.clarke@marists.org.au



# ONLINE *Modules*

## THE ART OF READING AND PRAYING SCRIPTURE

A series of four one-hour e-learning modules examining different methods of reading and praying Scripture. Each module focuses on a distinctive methodology to interpret and pray the Divine Word of God. The modules will concentrate on selected Scripture passages from both the Old and New Testaments.

This program aims to help people understand and experience how God speaks to us through Sacred Scripture and gain the necessary skills and insights to effectively interpret and pray with the living and active Word.

**Mode:** Online | **Register**  
**Contact:** John Hickey | john.hickey@marists.org.au

## FULL OF GRACE: MARY FOR US TODAY

A series of four one-hour e-learning modules that examine the significance of Mary in the Christian tradition. The modules explore how Mary has remained a religious symbol of enduring power in Christian imagination for over 2000 years, as well as learning of her prophetic influence for our times.

This course aims to help participants gain a deeper understanding of the person of Mary and offers opportunities to contemplate the role she played within the faith life of the early Christian community.

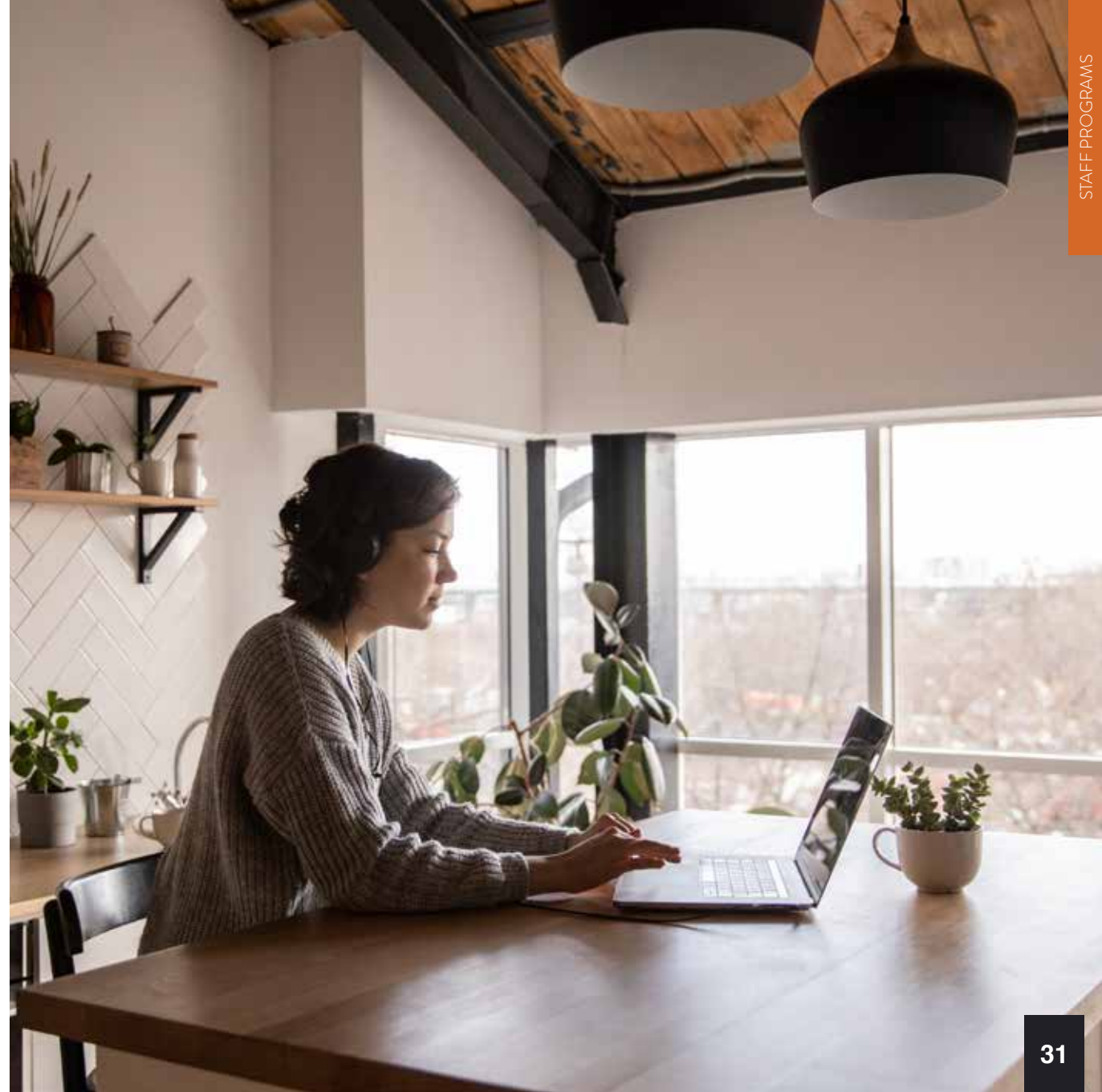
**Mode:** Online | **Register**  
**Contact:** Andrea Grant | andrea.grant@marists.org.au

## OUR LIVING MARIST SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

A series of four one-hour modules exploring the rich Marist spiritual tradition and heritage of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. The modules focus on the spiritual history that comes to us from the life and works of Champagnat from Lavalla to the Hermitage.

The program aims to help participants study and reflect on key Marist sources to gain a deeper appreciation of Saint Marcellin and our spiritual heritage. Participants will learn how our contemporary expressions of Marist life are in conversation with our past.

**Mode:** Online  
**Contact:** Mark O'Farrell | mark.ofarrell@marists.org.au





# MARIST TERTIARY Education

## TERTIARY, DIOCESAN, MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA AND PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

A number of Marist programs have university recognition and are also recognised by dioceses and state-based professional and educational bodies for meeting annual professional learning requirements.

The following programs have been recognised by Australian Catholic University (ACU), University of Notre Dame Australia (UNDA), and Broken Bay Institute BBI – The Australian Institute of Theological Education at the Masters level (AQF level 9):

1. Footsteps 1 - Making Jesus Christ Known and Loved
2. Footsteps 2 - Making Jesus Christ Known and Loved
3. Marist Pilgrimage & Study Tour
4. Marist Educational Leadership
5. Leadership from a Marian Perspective

### Graduate Certificate Unit in Marist Methodology

This series of 12 two-hour modules are taught for staff in Marist Schools in South Australia as part of the University of South Australia's Graduate Certificate Course. It is a collaboration between the university, Catholic Education South Australia and the Marists and is held in Adelaide. The course aims to help teachers apply Marist pedagogy in their professional practice, serving to promote the flourishing of life for every child and the flourishing of the human community in light of the Catholic Christian understanding of the human person (or Catholic Christian Anthropology (CCA)).



### Marist Educational Leadership\*

This is a Postgraduate Masters level course offered annually for people studying at university, for those seeking accreditation with a Catholic Education authority, or for those who simply wish to learn more about Marist Leadership. The program focuses on educational leadership from a Marist perspective, internationally and nationally, at both the system and school levels. It addresses the Marist enterprise within the context of the Catholic Church and local cultures.

In 2024, this course will be offered in person at the Marist Centre in Mascot. The chance to come together face to face for the first time in 4 years will be an invaluable opportunity for those seeking to develop their leadership skills in a Marist environment. For those seeking Tertiary Recognition, there will be additional online commitments and course work.

**Date:** 20-21 June 2024 (accreditation components to be completed by 1 December 2024)

**Cost:** Option 1 - Two-day program \$390.00\*\*  
Option 2 - Two-day program  
PLUS Tertiary Recognised online component \$1,600.00\*\*

**Mode:** Marist Centre Sydney

*\*Course requires a minimum of ten participants to run*

*\*\*Cost does not include travel and overnight accommodation*

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

John Hickey | [john.hickey@marists.org.au](mailto:john.hickey@marists.org.au)  
W: [www.mte.org.au](http://www.mte.org.au)



# MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA *Biennial* CONFERENCE

27 - 31 JULY 2024

Every two years the Marist Schools Australia Biennial Conference brings together Australian educators from 19 Australian dioceses, situated in seven states and territories. Each conference is intentionally focussed on enlivening the provision of high quality, contemporary evangelisation and Catholic education in the Marist tradition drawing on the annual Marist theme which in 2024 is **First Light** – “*You are the light of the world... let your light shine.*” (Mt 5:14-16).

Specifically, the Conference will explore:

- Catholic Indigenous Australian insights and perspectives on Christian spirituality
- The imperative for Catholic education to identify, value, and explain robust measures of student growth to students, parents, the wider community and Australian governments

The 2024 MSA Biennial Conference will take place in Central Australia, at **Alice Springs** with a pre-conference (optional) program on Saturday 27 July and the formal program from Sunday 28 July – Tuesday 30 July 2024.

**Date:** Pre-Conference Program (full day tour) Saturday 27 July, 8.00am-5.00pm (ACST)  
Conference begins Sunday 28 July 2.00pm (ACST)  
Concludes with *Conference Dinner Under the Stars* Tuesday 30 July 10.00pm (ACST)  
(Depart Central Australia Wednesday 31 July)

**Mode:** In person

**Contact:** John Kyle-Robinson | john.robinson@marists.org.au  
Mark Elliott | mark.elliott@marists.org.au



## MSA PRINCIPALS' REGIONAL MEETINGS

Marist Centre Sydney - Tuesday 12 March  
 Marist Centre Brisbane - Wednesday 13 March  
 Marist Centre Melbourne - Friday 15 March

## MSA ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE

**Date:** 19-21 May 2024  
**Venue:** The Hermitage, Mittagong  
**E:** john.robinson@marists.org.au

## MSA ANNUAL MASS AND DINNER

|                  |            |                                          |
|------------------|------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Melbourne</b> | 12 October | <b>E:</b> darren.mcgregor@marists.org.au |
| <b>Sydney</b>    | 18 October | <b>E:</b> john.robinson@marists.org.au   |
| <b>Brisbane</b>  | 26 October | <b>E:</b> mark.elliott@marists.org.au    |

## GOVERNANCE-FORMATION RETREAT DAY - *Continuing to consolidate our governance*

For Board Members, Chairs of Regional Councils, Chairs of College Advisory Council.

Led by Professor Brother David Hall, Chair of MSA Ltd Board, and Dr Frank Malloy, MSA National Director, with Guest presenter Professor Amy-Jill Levine.

**Date:** Wednesday 8th May  
**Venue:** Marist Centre Sydney  
**E:** Sally Dillon | sally.dillion@marists.org.au



## CARNIVALS AND COMPETITIONS

**Basketball:** 24 - 28 March 2024 - Trinity College Beenleigh  
**Netball:** 17-19 June 2024 - St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas  
**Marist Oratory:** 28 August 2024 - Parramatta Marist High School  
**Cricket:** TBA

## Marist Connect Nights

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| <b>NSW/ACT</b> |              |
| Connect Night  | 20 March     |
| Connect Night  | 19 June      |
| Connect Night  | 18 September |
| Connect Night  | 30 October   |
| <b>QLD/NT</b>  |              |
| Connect Night  | 16 February  |
| Connect Night  | 10 May       |
| Connect Night  | 2 August     |
| <b>VIC</b>     |              |
| Connect Night  | 14 March     |
| Connect Night  | 20 June      |
| Connect Night  | 5 September  |
| <b>SA</b>      |              |
| Connect Night  | 6 March      |
| Connect Night  | 19 June      |
| Connect Night  | 10 September |
| <b>WA</b>      |              |
| Connect Night  | 13 March     |
| Connect Night  | 12 June      |
| Connect Night  | 4 September  |



## Student Leaders Gathering

### NSW/ACT

17-19 November

### QLD/NT SUMMIT

26-28 October

### VIC

22-24 November

### WA/SA

27-29 November

## Marist Forums

### QLD/NT

Marist Youth Forums 7/8 9 August

Marist Youth Forums 9/10 17-May

Marist Youth Forums 11/12 23-Feb

## Senior Students Forum

NSW/ACT 24-26 May

## CONTACT INFORMATION

QLD/NT  
NSW/ACT  
VIC/SA/WA  
National

justin.golding@marists.org.au  
jenifer.miller@marists.org.au  
andrea.grant@marists.org.au  
edwin.bakker@marists.org.au

## National MYM Formators Pathway (online)

MYM Formators Conference (full day) 23 February

MYM Formators Workshop Term 2 (90 min) 9 May

MYM Formators Workshop Term 3 (90 min) 2 August

MYM Formators Workshop Term 4 (90 min) 17 October

MYM Formators Mentors Induction (half day) 15 November



# GAME CHANGERS PROGRAM

## Game Changers Program

### VIC

Year 5/6 Retreat 9 August

Year 7/8 Retreat 26 July

Year 9/10 Retreat 31 May

Year 10 La Valla Leadership Camp 25-27 October

### NSW/ACT

Year 7 Retreat (Metro) 25 October

Year 7 Retreat (Regional) 1 November

Year 8 Retreat 10 May

Year 9 Retreat 5 April

Year 10 Retreat 8 March

Year 11 Twilight Retreat 28 August

Year 10 La Valla Leadership Camp 16-18 August

### QLD/NT

Year 7/8 Retreat 16 August

Year 9/10 Retreat 24 May

Year 11/12 Retreat 29 February

Year 11 Twilight Retreat 3 May

### SA

Year 7/8 Retreat 27 May

Year 9/10 Retreat 25 March

Year 10 La Valla Leadership Camp 25-27 October

### WA

Year 7/8 Retreat 14 August

Year 9/10 Retreat 1 May

Year 10 La Valla Leadership Camp 25-27 October







Australian Marist Solidarity, or 'AMS', is the international development agency of the Marist family in Australia. Our mission is to partner with communities in the Asia-Pacific region to facilitate access to education for young people in need. There are many ways that you can engage with the work of Australian Marist Solidarity.

### GENERAL GATHERINGS

Join us for the following in-person and online gatherings so that we can thank you for your contributions, update you on some of our exciting plans and share stories of impact from our inspiring partner communities.

|                           |                               |                  |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| AMS Virtual Program Visit | 20 March, 12:00 – 1:00pm AEST | Register here    |
| AMS Sydney Gathering      | June, details to be confirmed | Watch this space |
| AMS Adelaide Gathering    | June, details to be confirmed | Watch this space |
| AMS Virtual Program Visit | 7 August, 1:00 – 2:00pm AEST  | Register here    |
| AMS Melbourne Gathering   | November, details TBC         | Watch this space |
| AMS Brisbane Gathering    | November, details TBC         | Watch this space |



### STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

|                                 |                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| AMS Teacher Briefing            | 21 February, 3:00 – 4:00pm AEST | Register here |
| AMS Student Ambassador Briefing | 6 March, 12:00 – 1:00pm AEST    | Register here |
| AMS Student Ambassador Workshop | 17 July, 1:00 – 2:00pm AEST     | Register here |

Students are also welcome to join our Virtual Program Visits (above) or we are happy to provide a recorded version of the sessions if the time doesn't suit.

### REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS

The AMS Regional Working Groups report to the AMS Fundraising and Community Engagement Board Sub-Committee and the MSA Regional Director. Nominated members meet once a term to receive an update from AMS and share ideas and experiences.

21 February, 4:00-4:30pm AEST  
15 May, 4:00 – 5:00pm AEST

31 July, 4:00 – 5:00pm AEST  
23 October, 3:00 – 4:00pm AEST

If you would like to participate in your Regional Working Group, please speak with your Principal.

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

At the time of publication AMS will likely offer the following programs in 2023. If you are interested in participating please register your interest by emailing us at [ams@marists.org.au](mailto:ams@marists.org.au) and we'll keep you updated as plans progress.



#### IMMERSIONS WORKSHOP

(4-5 MARCH IN BRISBANE)

An opportunity for immersion coordinators from Marist schools to come together, receive formation and participate in a range of workshops around the design, planning, delivery and ongoing lived experience of cultural immersion programs.

#### ENCOUNTER TIMOR-LESTE

(1-7 APRIL, TIMOR-LESTE)

An opportunity for Marist adults to visit with and learn from Marist communities, ministries and partner programs in Timor-Leste. Priority will be given to school staff who wish to prepare for immersion programs.

#### MYM ENCOUNTER TIMOR-LESTE

(PROPOSED FOR NOV/DEC 2024)

An opportunity for Marist young adults, particularly those who missed out on participating in a school-based immersion program due to COVID, to visit with and learn from Marist communities, ministries and partner programs in one of Australia's neighbours.

# ONLINE REGISTRATIONS

Registration and payment for Marist staff programs and courses are to be made online. Places are only confirmed when payment has been received. Payment can be made through credit card or invoice request.

## TO REGISTER

Go to: <https://www.maristformation.org/bookings>  
Online registrations will be opened **9 November 2023**.

 [register@marists.org.au](mailto:register@marists.org.au)

Enquiries about bookings and payment for staff programs should be directed to Marist Registrations at:


 Call 02 9218 4007

## THEME RESOURCES


To access our Marist Formation Theme resources, please visit:  
<https://www.maristformation.org/theme-resources-2024>

## MARIST CENTRES AUSTRALIA

### BRISBANE

Marist Centre  
142 Frasers Road,  
Ashgrove QLD 4060  
 07 3354 0600

### SYDNEY

Marist Centre  
Suite 5.01, 247 Coward St,  
Mascot NSW 2020  
 02 9218 4000

### MELBOURNE

Marist Centre  
1 Dawson St,  
Brunswick VIC 3056  
 03 9389 3100

To access our Marist Association website, please visit  
<http://www.maristassociation.org.au>



## MARIST DAILY PRAYER APP

The Marist Daily Prayer App is designed to provide a framework for daily prayer for men and women seeking to pray in a contemplative, Marial way.

Download today from:



*The Australian Conference of the Marist Association acts in the name of the Church in four broad areas of ministry.*

## Marist Schools Australia

... is a family of 56 schools which draw on Marist spirituality and Marist educational practice to help them to shape their identity and mission as Catholic schools. Of these schools, 13 are solely governed by the Association and the rest are conducted in various partnership arrangements with dioceses and parishes. MSA schools, which help to educate over 40,000 young Australians, are grouped into three geographical Regions. Each Region is led by a Director who is advised by an MSA Regional Council.

## Marist Youth Ministry

... is a ministry aimed at young people aged between 12 and 25. MYM supports school-based and young adult programs. The principal school involvement is through the six-year Christian leadership program known as Game Changers. A suite of post-school opportunities include prayer and worship, service and solidarity, forums and festivals, together with a range of local and international volunteering opportunities. MYM operates in all MSA regions, with Regional Coordinators and a number of part-time MYM assistants and volunteers.

## Marist 180

... is the social welfare arm of the Association. Marist180 has a range of programs and services that connect with and support young people and families in most critical need. It is headquartered in Western Sydney with a presence in Orange, Newcastle, Canberra and Brisbane. Marist180 provides skills training and services for Aboriginal engagement, homelessness, family preservation and refugee settlement. They also provide Intensive Therapeutic Care for young people living in Marist180 out-of-home care.

## Australian Marist Solidarity

... is the Association's agency for aid and development work through Asia and the Pacific Islands. Australian Marist Solidarity, a registered NGO, works with the people in this region through projects that empower local communities to take their own path to development, with an emphasis on redressing poverty through the provision of education. It also offers educational and support services for MSA schools involved in solidarity and immersion projects, and is the base for Marist Volunteers Australia.

These ministries are currently supported by a number of Association-level teams and services: the MSA Leadership Team, the Mission and Life Formation Team, the Coordinator of Membership, the Business Services Office, the Professional Standards Office, Marist Music, and The Hermitage at Mittagong – the national Marist retreat and conference centre.





[maristformation.org.au](http://maristformation.org.au)