



Sesquicentenary

SCHOOL RESOURCES

Marist

ASSOCIATION OF
ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Contents

The following formation resources are designed to celebrate the Sesquicentenary of Marist Education in Australia

Prayer for Sesquicentenary Year.... page 4

This prayer can be printed on A5 card for the school community

School Assembly / Classroom Liturgy.... page 5

A resource to be used on or near the anniversary of April 8

A PowerPoint is an optional accompaniment to this liturgy

There is provision within this liturgy to include a brief mention of how and when the Marists first came to your school/college

*PowerPoint available **[HERE](#)** / Keynote available **[HERE](#)***

Sesquicentenary Student Classroom Prayers.... page 13

Four short student prayers for use in home rooms or at the start of the day during the week of the anniversary

*An optional audio file is also available **[HERE](#)***

School Newsletter / Parent Information Portal.... page 17

Historical information for parents and staff

Prayer for the Sesquicentenary Year

God of love
Your Spirit ignited the heart of
Saint Marcellin Champagnat
with a burning passion for God
and deep compassion for all people.

You called him and the early Marists
to bring this message of God's tender
and all-embracing love to the young
and especially those most in need.

Generations have been inspired
by his example of humility, simplicity
and audacious courage to form
good Christians and citizens through
the Catholic education of young people.

We pray with Mary
our guide and Good Mother
that you continue to bless us
and all committed to Marist education
with Saint Marcellin's spirit and heart that knew no bounds.

May it renew the whole Church in its mission
to make Jesus Christ known and loved, in Mary's way,
through spreading Your compassion and love to the ends of the earth.

Amen.



Sesquicentenary of Marist Education in Australia

School Assembly / Classroom Liturgy

Introduction

Reader 1:

Today we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the first Marist Brothers school in Australia. It was opened in the Marist Fathers parish at The Rocks in Sydney on April 8th, 1872 and was known as St Patrick's Boy's School. On that day, 139 boys were enrolled.

The Brothers who staffed the school had only recently arrived in Sydney after a six-week voyage from France by ship. These Brothers were all quite young, nervous about leaving their homeland, but were looking forward to starting the new school.

The leader was a 29-year-old Frenchman named Br Ludovic. His assistant was an Irishman, Br Jarlath aged 25, Br Augustine, aged just 21, was from Scotland and Br Peter, 25, another Irishman, was to be the cook.

With such a large number of students enrolled in what was a very rough part of Sydney at the time, the Brothers faced some challenging moments with the enthusiasm, and sometimes cheeky nature, of the boys.

Reader 2:

St Marcellin Champagnat would always encourage the Brothers to ask Mary, the mother of Jesus, to pray for them and the students in their care. St Marcellin believed, as we do today, that Mary, as our Good Mother, protects, guides, and encourages us in all we do in our lives.

During those first few weeks of the school when the Brothers were having a particularly difficult time with the students, they established an altar dedicated to Mary and asked the boys to decorate it with flowers.

During the month of May, traditionally a time when Catholics honour Mary, the Brothers and the boys prayed for each other and the new school. Within a short time, the boys settled down into a routine of learning. This story has become known as the 'May Miracle'.

Reader 3:

From these humble beginnings, more schools were opened in Sydney and before too long the Marists were asked to open schools in cities and rural areas around the country, in New Zealand and the Pacific. Today there are fifty-six Marist schools in Australia.

Aware of the need for secondary education, Br Ludovic encouraged his principal teacher, Brother Augustine, to found the first Marist Brothers' High School in 1875, also at St Patrick's.

The original school building no longer exists today, replaced by a tall office block. In 1962, the school's name, colours and crest were re-established at Dundas and today the school is known as St Patrick's Marist College.

Reader 4:

Local School Input

It is suggested that a brief story about the arrival of the Marists and/or the establishment of this school be inserted here.

The Marists first came to this area in [.....]

Prayers of Intercession

Reader 5: (Student)

Let us pray.

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

St Marcellin Champagnat never did travel far from his home region, yet his vision, for making Jesus Christ known and loved, was for people in “every diocese in the world.” Today, 150 years since the first four of his teaching brothers arrived in Australia, we pray for all the educators, staff, students and families of the fifty-six Marist schools spread across the continent.

May the inspiring and courageous example of those first brothers making Jesus Christ known and loved, strengthen us in faith and trust as we, in our turn, strive to meet the challenges of today.

Lord hear us.

R: Lord hear our prayer

Reader 6: (Staff Member)

As we celebrate 150 years of Catholic education through Marist schools in Australia, we recognise, remember, and give thanks for Marist educators whose commitment and dedication responded to the needs and fears, hopes, dreams and plans of so many young Australians.

Facing the future with hope, may we find ways of bringing to life the Marist theme for 2022, ‘Known and Loved – Dignity for All’ by our commitment to advancing the dignity of all in our school community. May we grow to truly know and love them – all of them – equally.

Lord hear us.

R Lord hear our prayer

Reader 7: (Student)

Mary, our good and loving Mother, you cared for Jesus, and you care for our wounded world with motherly love and affection. We ask you to pray for us. Be with us so that we may grow to be brothers and sisters of bright hope, always ready to look at this wonderful world with eyes of wisdom.

We thank you for being with us each day. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope for the integrity and goodness of all creation. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace in our world.

Lord hear us.

R: Lord hear our prayer

Reader 8: (Staff member)

As we celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Marist education in Australia, we are rightly looking forward to a bright and hopeful future. However, let’s not forget the important, generous, and sincere invitation from Indigenous Australians at Uluru in 2017 calling on all of us to, ‘walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future’.

Let us pray that we, and all Australians will actively and generously do our part in seeking the full and rightful place for Indigenous Australians in the life of our nation, and so do our part in making that 'better future' a reality for every person.

Lord hear us.

R: Lord hear our prayer

Final Prayer

Marist Sesquicentenary Prayer – Celebrating 150 years of Marist Education in Australia

Printed on A5 paper or card, or displayed on a screen for the school community to recite together.

Reader 9: (2 x Student Leaders to read alternate verses)

God of love
Your Spirit ignited the heart of
Saint Marcellin Champagnat
with a burning passion for God
and deep compassion for all people.

You called him and the early Marists
to bring this message of God's tender
and all-embracing love to the young
and especially those most in need.

Generations have been inspired
by his example of humility, simplicity
and audacious courage to form
good Christians and citizens through
the Catholic education of young people.

We pray with Mary
our guide and Good Mother
that you continue to bless us
and all committed to Marist education
with Saint Marcellin's spirit and heart that knew no bounds.

May it renew the whole Church in its mission
to make Jesus Christ known and loved, in Mary's way,
through spreading Your compassion and love to the ends of the earth.

Amen.


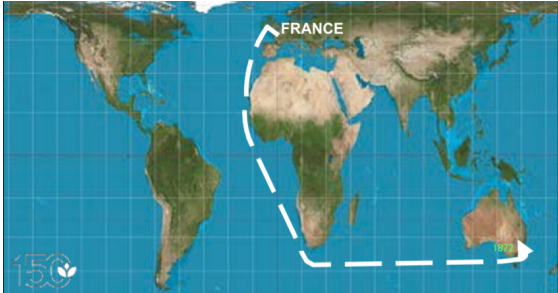


Mary, Our Good Mother.... **pray for us**
St Marcellin Champagnat... **pray for us**
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop... **pray for us**
And let us always remember... **to pray for one another**





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



Sesquicentenary of Marist Education in Australia

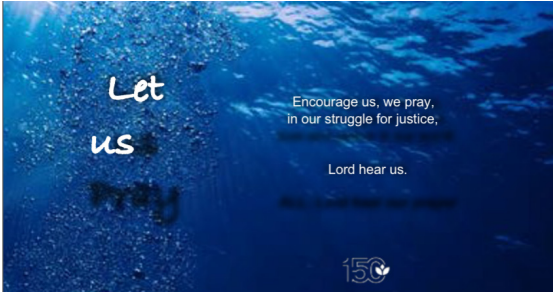
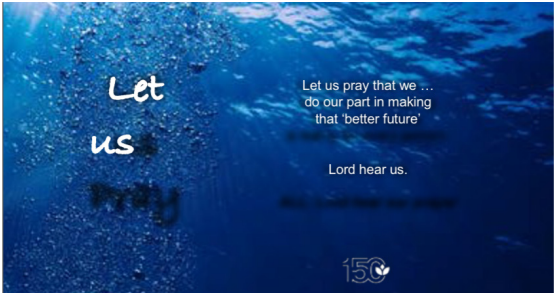
School Assembly / Classroom Liturgy


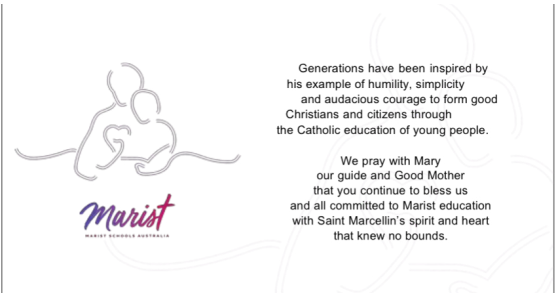

PowerPoint available [HERE](#) / Keynote available [HERE](#)

Content	Slide
<p>(SLIDE 1)</p> <p>Introduction:</p> <p>Reader 1: Today we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the first Marist Brothers school in Australia. It was opened in the Marist Fathers parish at The Rocks in Sydney on April 8th, 1872 and was known as St Patrick's Boy's School. On that day, 139 boys were enrolled.</p>	
<p>(SLIDE 2)</p> <p>The Brothers who staffed the school had only recently arrived in Sydney after a six-week voyage from France by ship. These Brothers were all quite young, nervous about leaving their homeland, but were looking forward to starting the new school.</p>	
<p>(SLIDE 3)</p> <p>The leader was a 29-year-old Frenchman named Br Ludovic. His assistant was an Irishman, Br Jarlath aged 25, Br Augustine, aged just 21, was from Scotland and Br Peter, 25, another Irishman, was to be the cook.</p> <p>With such a large number of students enrolled in what was a very rough part of Sydney at the time, the Brothers faced some challenging moments with the enthusiasm, and sometimes cheeky nature, of the boys.</p>	
<p>(SLIDE 4)</p> <p>Reader 2: St Marcellin Champagnat would always encourage the Brothers to ask Mary, the mother of Jesus, to pray for them and the students in their care. St Marcellin believed, as we do today, that Mary, as our Good Mother, protects, guides, and encourages us in all we do in our lives.</p>	

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<p>(SLIDE 5)</p> <p>Reader 3: From these humble beginnings, more schools were opened in Sydney and before too long the Marists were asked to open schools in cities and rural areas around the country, in New Zealand and the Pacific. Today there are fifty-six Marist schools in Australia.</p>	
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<p>(SLIDE 9)</p> <p>Reader 6: (Staff Member) As we celebrate 150 years of Catholic education through Marist schools in Australia, we recognise, remember, and give thanks for Marist educators whose commitment and dedication responded to the needs and fears, hopes, dreams and plans of so many young Australians.</p> <p>Facing the future with hope, may we find ways of bringing to life the Marist theme for 2022, ‘Known and Loved – Dignity for All’ by our commitment to advancing the dignity of all in our school community. May we grow to truly know and love them – all of them – equally.</p> <p>Lord hear us.</p> <p><i>R: Lord hear our prayer</i></p>	 <p>Let us pray</p> <p>May we grow to truly know and love them, all of them,</p> <p>Lord hear us.</p> <p>150</p>

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<p>(SLIDE 10)</p> <p>Reader 7: (Student) Mary, our good and loving Mother, you cared for Jesus, and you care for our wounded world with motherly love and affection. We ask you to pray for us. Be with us so that we may grow to be brothers and sisters of bright hope, always ready to look at this wonderful world with eyes of wisdom.</p> <p>We thank you for being with us each day. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope for the integrity and goodness of all creation. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace in our world.</p> <p>Lord hear us.</p> <p><i>R: Lord hear our prayer</i></p>	
<p>(SLIDE 11)</p> <p>Reader 8: (Staff Member) As we celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Marist education in Australia, we are rightly looking forward to a bright and hopeful future. However, let's not forget the important, generous, and sincere invitation from Indigenous Australians at Uluru in 2017 calling on all of us to, 'walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future'.</p> <p>Let us pray that we, and all Australians will actively and generously do our part in seeking the full and rightful place for Indigenous Australians in the life of our nation, and so do our part in making that 'better future' a reality for every person.</p> <p>Lord hear us.</p> <p><i>R: Lord hear our prayer</i></p>	

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<p>(SLIDE 12)</p> <p>Final Prayer:</p> <p>Marist Sesquicentenary Prayer – Celebrating 150 years of Marist Education in Australia</p> <p><i>Printed on A5 or displayed on a screen for the school community to recite together.</i></p> <p>Reader 9: (2 x Student Leaders to read alternate verses)</p> <p>God of love Your Spirit ignited the heart of Saint Marcellin Champagnat with a burning passion for God and deep compassion for all people.</p> <p>You called him and the early Marists to bring this message of God’s tender and all-embracing love to the young and especially those most in need.</p>	 <p>Marist Sesquicentenary Prayer</p> <p>God of love Your Spirit ignited the heart of Saint Marcellin Champagnat with a burning passion for God and deep compassion for all people.</p> <p>You called him and the early Marists to bring this message of God’s tender and all-embracing love to the young and especially those most in need.</p>
<p>(SLIDE 13)</p> <p>Generations have been inspired by his example of humility, simplicity and audacious courage to form good Christians and citizens through the Catholic education of young people.</p> <p>We pray with Mary our guide and Good Mother that you continue to bless us and all committed to Marist education with Saint Marcellin’s spirit and heart that knew no bounds.</p>	 <p>Generations have been inspired by his example of humility, simplicity and audacious courage to form good Christians and citizens through the Catholic education of young people.</p> <p>We pray with Mary our guide and Good Mother that you continue to bless us and all committed to Marist education with Saint Marcellin’s spirit and heart that knew no bounds.</p>
<p>(SLIDE 14)</p> <p>May it renew the whole Church in its mission to make Jesus Christ known and loved, in Mary’s way, through spreading Your compassion and love to the ends of the earth.</p> <p>Amen.</p> <p>Mary, Our Good Mother.... pray for us St Marcellin Champagnat... pray for us St Mary of the Cross MacKillop... pray for us And let us always remember... to pray for one another</p> <p>In the name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen</p>	 <p>May it renew the whole Church in its mission to make Jesus Christ known and loved, in Mary’s way, through spreading Your compassion and love to the ends of the earth.</p> <p>Amen.</p> <p>Mary, our Good Mother ... Pray for us. St Marcellin Champagnat ... Pray for us. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop ... Pray for us. And let us always remember ... to pray for one another.</p> <p>In the name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen</p>

Sesquicentenary Student Classroom Prayers

Prayer 1

Reader 1:

In our prayer this morning, let's talk about the word 'mission'.

We all know some of the characters in The Avengers, Superman, and X-Men, and they are all individuals with a larger-than-life mission. We are all accustomed to the typical mission of a hero saving the world or a spy defeating a villain.

In Marist schools we often talk about mission. But it is a different kind of mission. Jesus had a mission and that was to be our example of how to love one another. Loving others is the only way we can live our lives rightly and justly.

Reader 2:

God gives to each of us a unique mission and that is to see the people around us, especially the poor, marginalised and vulnerable, without judgement. We are asked to help them, meet their needs and find their God given gifts and strengths to move forward with life.

Perhaps we can find some time today to think about this simple question: What is my mission in life?

Like the mission of many Marists over the past 150 years, maybe your mission is to live a life of positivity, integrity, compassion and gratitude. To make the world a more meaningful place through developing authentic relationships with those around you.

In our day today, let us speak with and include someone not normally in our own group of friends so that they feel included and considered.

[pause]

Reader 3:

Let us place our trust in God, as together we pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

*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.
Amen.*

Mary, Our Good Mother.... **pray for us**
St Marcellin Champagnat... **pray for us**
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop... **pray for us**
And let us always remember... **to pray for one another**





Sesquicentenary Student Classroom Prayers *Prayer 2*

Reader 1:

In today's prayer let's remind ourselves, of what it means to belong.

You know how we always talk about belonging to a community here at school. And we talk about it being more than just a bunch of teachers and students teaching and learning in a common space. And beyond that we talk about belonging to a Marist community.

Well, community is about finding each other and a place we can call home; a place where we feel that we truly belong. A place where we feel safe and loved. It is a place where we can enjoy the gift of each other. It isn't a luxury or just a nice thing; community is essential to our well-being.

Reader 2:

As we celebrate having 150 years of Marists in Australia, we are really celebrating the presence of God in our lives, and we live this out in a community. We can't do this on our own, we need others with whom to relate and share our experiences of God.

Let us pray that every day, we can follow in the footsteps of Jesus and Mary and St Marcellin Champagnat: to help others in our community, to listen to them and support and encourage them because that's what it means to belong to a community.

[pause]

Reader 3:

We ask Mary, the mother of Jesus, who is our companion and guide to pray with us as together we say,

*Hail Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus
Holy Mary, Mother of God
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.*

Mary, Our Good Mother.... **pray for us**
St Marcellin Champagnat... **pray for us**
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop... **pray for us**
And let us always remember... **to pray for one another**

Sesquicentenary Student Classroom Prayers

Prayer 3

Reader 1:

In our prayer this morning, we ask ourselves the question: what does it really mean to be Marist?

For the past 150 years, here in Australia, people have called themselves Marist because they have shared a common belief. And that is a belief that they are loved, unconditionally, by God. Wow! Fancy being loved for being just who you are, no questions asked! It's a bit hard to believe, really. So how could God love us?

Here's the answer: God loves us, not because of what we've done or not done. God loves us because of who God is. When we doubt God's love for us, it's usually because we're taking our eyes off God and focusing on ourselves – our insecurities, shortcomings, and faults.

Reader 2:

But that's the wrong place to focus. God's love for us has never been primarily about us. It's always been primarily about God.

The scripture of St John says, "God is love." And because God is love, God is going to love us no matter how obnoxious, unlovable and undeserving we are of his love. How could God love us? Because God is love and loving us is what God does best.

That is what Marist spirituality is all about. It's knowing how much we are loved... always and forever.

Why not try this – the next time someone asks you to describe yourself, you say, 'I am loved by God.'

Let's keep those words in our heart as we travel through our day today.

[pause]

Reader 3:

Knowing we are loved by God, we pray together the words that Jesus taught us.

*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.
Amen.*



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And let us always remember... **to pray for one another**

Sesquicentenary Student Classroom Prayers

Prayer 4

Reader 1:

Today in our prayer we are thinking about Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

As Marists we take Mary as our model and live like Mary with the faith and attitudes of peace and love which were hers. Marists try to have the same presence as Mary did and be engaged fully in life in a simple, gentle, and humble way. The person who lives this way, even though they may go unnoticed, will be doing a great deal of good for others.

Although scripture says very little about her, we know that Mary was there amongst the first group of Christian believers, and we know she was there as woman, as mother and as a disciple or follower of Jesus.

Reader 2:

St Marcellin Champagnat was convinced that what was necessary to become a Marist was not great talent, or learning, or even great holiness. What was needed were Marist people who were prepared to set aside their own interests and plans in favour of those of Jesus and Mary. St Marcellin invites us to keep following in the footsteps of Jesus and Mary, to keep our eyes and hearts fixed on God, to love one another and to take a personal stand against injustice wherever we see it.

As Marists we hold Mary, the Mother of God, in a special place in our hearts and let us always remember to look after the dignity of everyone and everything in God's beautifully created world.

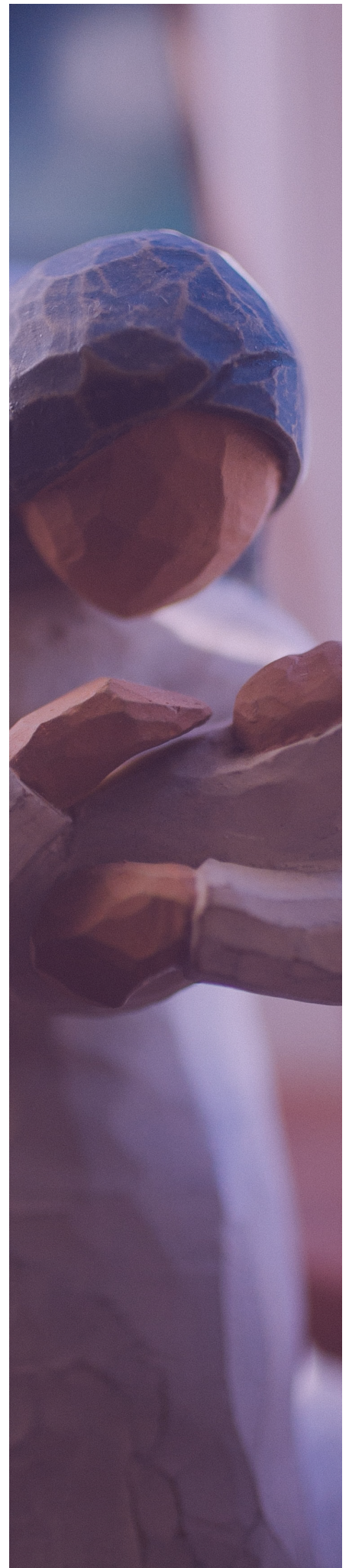
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We ask Mary, the mother of Jesus, who is our companion and guide to pray with us as together we say,

*Hail Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
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School Newsletter / Parent Information Portal ***A Legacy Built on Faith and Courage***

2022 marks 150 years of Marist Education in Australia. A time not only for gratitude and celebration as we reflect on this significant legacy, but also a time for planning how Marists can continue building a hope filled future for Catholic education in Australia. 150 years is a long time but in fact the Marists have actually been a presence in Australia for 185 years! Let's look at our Marist history.

St Marcellin was a prolific letter writer. As the work of the Marist Institute began to grow in France in the 1820s and 30s, Marcellin regularly wrote to communities and to individual Brothers with updates, advice and encouragement for their work. In a fascinating development in the 1830s, that was to have a lasting impact on Catholic education in Australia, a decision was made that the first place the Marists would travel to beyond France to spread their mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved, was Oceania. For the Frenchmen who took on this mission, they were literally moving to the other side of the world. But it was not only geographical isolation with which they had to contend. The other side of the world was really another world - the culture, the language, the diet, the lifestyle and the spirituality were all quite different.

Marcellin himself was keen to be part of this original mission but was convinced by some of his colleagues that he could do more by continuing his role in France. As the first group headed off in 1837, Marcellin waited anxiously to hear from them. A letter he wrote on 25 November 1837 to Br Sylvestre at the La-Cote-St-Andre Brothers community in France tells us that he did indeed hear from them while they were on their journey.



Above: Brothers' first school and house in Australia, St Patrick's, The Rocks

The letter states:

We have received a letter from our missionaries en route to Oceania. We will send you a copy of it in a few days. Fr. Bret died during the crossing to Valparaiso; the others are all well and very happy in their vocation. They are very eager to reach their destination. Zeal for the salvation of the people of those islands is one of their most outstanding qualities. Let us pray, dear brothers, let us pray for their salvation and that of those who are entrusted to us.

Interestingly enough, less than a month later, Br Michel Colombon, in December 1837, became the first Marist Brother to set foot on Australian soil. This was the start of a significant commitment by the Brothers to this part of the world. Between 1836 and 1858 thirty brothers came to Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, and the islands of Oceania to work as missionaries.

Then in 1872, four young Brothers, Ludovic (French), Peter (Irish), Jarlath (Irish) and Augustine (Scottish), stepped off the boat in Sydney at Circular Quay, with the specific goal of establishing the first Marist school at "The Rocks". The school opened on 8 April 1872 and the rest, as they say, is history.

The legacy left by these ground breaking Marists is very significant. It is a legacy on which a whole network of schools has been built, which of course includes our wonderful college here at [INSERT NAME]

As we continue to chart our course through very challenging times, where our faith and courage have never been more important, we can remember, with gratitude, the vision which began the Marist mission to Australia and the faith and courage of the people who made the vision a reality in their own very challenging times. It's now over to us to reimagine the Marist mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved, in the way of Mary, into the future.



Above: *The first Australian Brothers*