

Marist Laity Australia



Simplicity

Flexibility

Inclusiveness

Celebration of Fourviere 2017



The church was full of song as we gathered for this year's Fourviere' Celebration. These words from Canticle of the Sun summed up the very joyous mass MLA hosted this year for all branches of the Marist Family to attend.

The celebration reflected the strength that lay in combining the arms of the Marist Family. Marist Laity hosted the mass but with wonderful support from our MLA team. I'd like to thank the committee members Maria Baden, Andrew Dumas, Sr Fidelis, Br Mark, Sr Patricia and Father Paul Mahoney for their continuation in making the day memorable. As too other MLA members Barbara Ashwell and the local MLA group with Josiane Espinosa , Jen Bolster, Cathy Gallo, and the many Hunters Hills MLA members that supported the celebration.

The Word was highlighted by a Japanese procession for the gospel sing a tradition Japanese song and Kiribati infant children

throwing rose petals. This was followed by each of the priests receiving a shelled lay to wear as they celebrated Mass.



Father Paul received and read the Gospel and Maria Baden shared thoughts for the homily which reflected the strength that lay in the bonds between the branches: the uniqueness of the founder' charism

After the homily all in the church made the Marist re-commitment to Mary to en flesh the spirit of Mary in all we do, act and say as we live our lives. Fr Kev Bates lead the congregation with the lovely hymn More than Memories which challenged us to



use our "imagination, faith and courage to constantly begin again" ...as we celebrate this anniversary.

One highlight of the mass was the ex-students from Kiribati dancing to a hymn in the Kiribati language that speaks of saying 'YES' to the invitation by Christ to follow him. How appropriate!!..A truly Marian response! The students added a great deal of colour and energy to the mass; bring joy to the hearts of many!



THANK YOU TO ALL that made the event memorable and to ALL those that attended, as Fr Kev wrote in his hymn..."So Mary help us listen where God's Word may best be born!"



With Mary we Advance!

Warmest Regards

Margaret Woods
Marg Woods (MLA Coordinator)

Fourviere

By Maria Baden

The visitation is such a beautiful story. I find it so ALIVE and visceral. Mary hurries, Elizabeth cries out loudly, babies leap and all seems blessed!!

Today, face to face visits are often replaced with technology. Visit us on Facebook. Visit our website. Can you imagine if Mary had sent an email or a text message to Elizabeth instead of actually going to the Judean hills to Elizabeth's house? No, the physical encounter with the other can never be replaced.

We had a visit last week down at Kiama. I belong to a little group called Kiama Welcomes Refugees. Some are Catholic, some UC, Anglicans, a Baha'i couple, a Quaker and several others not affiliated with any religious group.



As tradition has it, we gathered after mass in the Marist Fathers' Hunter's Hill Refectory for a delicious afternoon tea with the sounds of a guitar instrumental by a young student from Eastwood Marist, James. He was a delight and extremely talented!



Last week we hosted 50 refugees from Granville. After many months of negotiation with Miriam, the woman who runs the organisation, we finally settled on a date for their visit.

Originally, we wanted to offer a few days of respite for them in our homes because these refugees are living in limbo. They are on bridging visas or TPVs. A cloud hangs over them as they await news from the Australian government – will they be sent back to their countries or will they be allowed to settle in Australia, a land “with boundless plains to share”?

But Miriam was hesitant: legal requirements; police checks on us; the psychological vulnerability of these people who have seen and heard what most of us here never have! We would have to be in-serviced by case workers to prepare us with the stories and situations of these refugees.

So an interim plan was adopted. They would all come down on a coach and we would give them lunch, a walk along the beach and of course, the famous Kiama Blowhole!! It’s a beautiful place, the South Coast. Nature is evident wherever you look. This is its power – a power to bring beauty, awe, peace and joy to those in need.

Why am I telling you this story? Because it has Marist connections!

So, our little KWR group inherited a heap of mattresses and furniture from a local motel which was closing down and shortly after that, a restaurant closed down and gave us all their tables, chairs, cutlery crockery etc. Luckily, we were able to store all this in an unused warehouse.

But, we don’t have refugees in Kiama! It’s still very Anglo!

And then, Jim Cartey SM popped into my head! He began the House of Welcome many years ago, helped by Marist Sisters, Gail Reneker, Grace Ellul and Therese Campbell. So I rang ...Yes we need mattresses. Yes, we need tables and chairs. And here I was, delivering stuff to a house at Hector St. Sefton, which I had visited several times when the Marist Sisters lived there. And now, thanks to the sisters generosity, refugee families have a roof over their heads!

Mary goes to Elizabeth’s house; The House of Welcome; we are wanting refugees to stay in our homes for respite; the Sisters’ house at Hector Street has become a home for refugees.

It seems to me that the house, the home, the domestic is the place where help and support and love of the other are most naturally found.

Mary goes where and when she is needed – to the house of Elizabeth who is in her 6th month. And it is in this house where Elizabeth’s prophetic utterance, a LOUD utterance, is cried: Blessed are you and blessed is the fruit of your womb...and blessed is she who believed there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord”.

And likewise, Mary’s prophetic utterance in the Magnificat!

The place of prophecy, in the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth, seems to be the beginning of a series of events that happen in Luke’s Gospel and in the life of the early

church, the domestic church, the church in people's homes. Prophecy, the proclamation of the Word, finds its matrix in the home. Both the home at Nazareth and the early church, the home churches, are focal points of Marist spirituality.

Back to our visitors last week!

It was truly wonderful!

It was LOUD, chaotic, with lots of little kids LEAPING AROUND!! There was too much food. And then, the walk along the beach – the brilliant blue of the Pacific ocean, the soft blue of the sky, the lighthouse and the blowhole.

In the joy and excitement of the visit, I think we all felt a sadness as the bus took off back to Granville. Yes, just for one day, we were all "lifted up" and "filled with good things", but what will the future be for these men, women and children refugees?

"Mary, Bearer of Hope to the world, pray with us".

Bicentennial Mass

On Saturday August 12 a celebration was held in St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta to mark 200 years since the foundation of the Marist Brothers and the Marist Dream – that all the dioceses of the world would be Marist. This bicentenary mass was celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long, Bishop of Parramatta and Fr Bob Barber SM, Provincial of the Marist Fathers and Priests from the local Church. Br Peter Carroll, Provincial of the Marist Brothers and Leader of the Australian Association of St Marcellin Champagnat gave the occasional address and recognised Brothers' significant Jubilees. Marist College Eastwood was well represented in the mass student choir; and by staff and parents. Congratulations to Sean Cullen (702), Jayden Scott (905) and David Cumiskey (1004) who were the lead cantors and did an outstanding job.



What effect does a Marist to Marist immersion have?

By Emily Hunt

From my immersion experience in December 2015, I have innumerable memories which have remained with me since the trip, particularly from our time at Balay Passilungan, with it being really difficult to say goodbye to the boys when returning home. One of the most amazing experiences was having dawn mass in the women's prison and then being able to watch their dance performances, and it was also wonderful to share liturgy with and spend time with the Marist Sisters. I also really enjoyed our beautiful afternoon of reflection at the Shrine of the Holy Infant Jesus of Prague. One of the most challenging and eye opening moments of the immersion for myself, was visiting the Bajao community and seeing the conditions in which they lived, while contrasting this with the immense joy of the children as they played with each other and participated in various activities with us.

The immersion provided me a new perspective of the world and profoundly affected me, with this being made more pronounced by our return on Christmas morning. I struggled with returning to my family and participating in the gift giving of the holiday, with the memories of Davao so fresh in my mind. I reflect on my experiences on Davao frequently and am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to go.



Girls Orphanage

By Sophie Woodbury

There have been exciting updates in the past weeks that will see the Marist Sisters possibly take permanent control over of a home for girls in the poverty-stricken city of Davao in the Philippines. The center is called 'Balay Banaag,' and is a pre-existing home for the children of women who are sexually exploited. The center is currently managed by the Talikala, which Sr. Sheila of the Marist Sister's explains is a Cebuano word meaning 'chain'. She details 'it is a symbol of women bonding together to set free the chains of oppression and exploitation that are chained in prostitution.'

The girls' centre does much needed work in Davao in aiding the children of oppressed women gain support and education. It is estimated by the UN Children's Rights & Emergency Relief Organization that 1.8 million children in the Philippines are either abandoned or neglected. According to their Facebook Page, Balay Banaag aim to provide a place where vulnerable children can 'enjoy their survival, protection, development and participation rights.' The Marist Sisters will take over from current management in the coming weeks, with Sr Lilibeth and Sr Edna volunteering until December. It will then be discerned by the Marist Sisters whether they can continue running the center as part of their permanent ministry.



**Please support
their work by contacting
<http://www.maristmissions.com/>**

Marist Mission and Life Formation

By Andrew Dumas

Since January 2017 I have been part of the Marist Mission and Life Formation Team or



MLF team for short. The MLF team's goal is to serve staff within 54 Marist schools and other Marist ministries from across Australia in adult spiritual formation.

The MLF team conducts seven Footsteps retreats purely for staff each year. This is a very popular program, as by November of the preceding year these retreats are booked out. Footsteps provides a 4 day live in-retreat at Mittagong where participants form community, pray together in a contemporary and dynamic Marist style, participate in input sessions and workshops which are extremely engaging, whilst each session is quite different and explores the Marist story from its foundation to how Marists live this out in their community today.

Towards the beginning of the year, MLF run a series of induction programs called "in the Marist Way". These sessions start with a light meal, explore the foundations of Marist Spirituality and pedagogy and people have a chance to engage with their neighbour. This year the MLF team have also run an adult day program themed "Awaken". This program has explored the theme of Awaken from a personal, Christian and Marist context. On October 21 in Sydney the Awaken program will be conducted at St Patrick's Church Hill. You are very welcome to attend and experience this highly enriching program.

Formation should be about our mission. During the Marist Schools Conference in August this year Dr Kevin Lenehan said "**the purpose of church mission in the past eighteen centuries was to expand and spread out. However, today the churches mission is not to expand, but rather, to go deeper**". Largely in Western culture, we have lost a sense of our own spiritual soul and regular care. We normally run around very busy in our jobs and homes. We lose touch with the source of stillness and places in our lives where we can be spiritually nourished.

What I have learnt this year from MLF is how adult spiritual formation is critical to our mission. The MLF team have also taught me about how to present professionally. And the fact that Marcellin Champagnat had a receding hairline... Even though many of the more recent paintings have shown otherwise.

Throughout the year, several Marists in other countries like Sri Lanka and Ireland have tapped into the creative work of the MLF team. I encourage anyone from across the world involved in adult spiritual formation to book a session in mid November 2017. In America many Catholic organisations, like the Jesuits, prioritise adult spiritual formation of the laity by placing significant time and money into their formation. I encourage anyone involved with adult formation to see what the MLF are doing as this will enhance what you do.



Your invitation to

AWAKEN

Reflection Day

St Patricks

Church Hill

October 21

10 am to 2 pm

marist laity australia



Tea/Coffee Provided

BYO Lunch

Cost by donation

call or sms to rsvp on 0417 682 822

St Patrick's Church Hill Helping the Homeless



A while ago it came to our attention that while there were resources available for the homeless at the other end of town, there seemed to be little available around our area, especially on the weekend. So began our breakfast for the homeless. We have an average of seventy guests come to enjoy a very healthy three course breakfast. Coffee, tea, cereal, yoghurt, juice for starters. This is followed with soup, toast, bacon, leg ham, eggs, toad-in-the-hole, hash browns, baked beans, fried rice, pasta, mushrooms, roast potatoes and gourmet sausages. Of course a dessert of bread pudding, fruit and ice cream is really important. There are usually many frills as well because people are extremely generous and bring in many treats. Breakfast is not the only things we provide - swag backpacks, clothes, socks, shoes, toiletries and many other accessories are provided.

This is all possible because of a brilliant team of helpers who arrive at 5 00am to cook, set up and get the BBQ ready . Most impressive is the fact that many schools help with goods and service. Our Marist school at Cerdon sends two teachers and three Year 11 girls each week. They come laden with all kinds of goodies for the guests. Other schools have contributed in other ways, e.g. by raising funds for our kitchen. Much of the food is donated on a weekly basis. There are times

when we may have six Marist Fathers wander through the breakfast area to say hello to the guests and be available.

We have learned so much from these guests – they give us more than they receive.

Some of the Schools...

Daniel and Lulu arrived before 7 00am with a massive amount of clothing for our guests. The gloves were all distributed in the next 5 minutes to our very grateful guests. So too, the beanies which were snatched up very smartly.

Thank you to the **Punchbowl Catholic School** for your generosity.

St Paul the Apostle Winston Hills arrived with boxes of socks for the homeless

Boys from St Aloysius, Kirribilli are ready to serve in all ways – chatting to the guests, making toast, washing up and cleaning up.

Girls from Cerdon College, Merrylands need to arise from slumber at 4 00am (OUCH) in order to arrive at St Pat's to serve. Typical of Marist girls they come in smiling and ready to jump in where ever they see the need.



*The Bar BBQ chefs
Father Bob SM , provincial of the Marist Fathers
and Father Brian S.M are two of our regulars.*

Feeding the homeless at St Patricks



Requiem of Lay Marist Tony Warren

By Maria Baden

Tony Warren, husband, father, friend. A man of the earth, a hard worker, a loving Christian, a true Marist.

I will miss his regular phone calls from Gladstone, his many visits to Sydney to be part of our Marist Laity events, and his inspiring dedication to Mary and the Marist way.

He was our faithful Marist liaison in Gladstone for many years, writing articles for our newsletters and keeping us connected as Marists. His beautiful daughters have given permission to quote from the eulogy they delivered at his funeral.

"To speak of the life of Tony Warren is a tough ask. How to summarise the man we love as our Dad and who was loved and respected by so many of you throughout his generous, eminently useful and faith filled life.

Tony Warren's story began on 8th November 1932 when he was born at Monto Hospital. His proud parents, Myra and Darcy worked a 1000 acre dairy farm on Monal Creek. Dad always shook his head when he told us how the month he arrived their cream cheque was for a mere 19 shillings.

Dad had fond memories of his childhood on the farm. They swam and fished the waterholes and when the creek flooded they went down with pitchforks and speared the eels that swarmed through.

Tony's love of Australian Bush Poetry was passed on from his parents. He could recite many a verse of his multitude of favourites. Dad was also a wonderful storyteller.

Dad was joined by brother Max, and sisters Zeita and Carmel while on the farm then Christine arrived after the family relocated to George Street, Bundaberg.

Tony's education started at the Clonmel State School, 5 miles from the farm. Dad had great respect for his teacher, Mr Cahalane, who presided over the one room schoolhouse. Dad

recalled that each year the scholarship class would study and read aloud 'We of the Never-Never' by Jeannie Gunn. The younger students loved to listen in rather than doing their own study and it remained one of Dad's favourite novels.

At the age of 11, Tony commenced study as a boarder at Nudgee College Junior at Indooroopilly. While there, he received the sacrament of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation. This was the start of a life of faith, a faith which continued to grow throughout Dad's life. Tony excelled in his education and he completed his Senior Examination with Distinction in 1949.

Tony's first employ was with Atlas Insurance Company in Brisbane. When he started work in the city he quickly realised that, like Clancy of the Overflow he didn't 'suit the office'. He took up a cadetship with a Land Surveyor and on completing his studies was accepted by the Board.

After obtaining his Surveyor's Licence Tony joined an oil and mineral exploration company. He felt privileged to work in much of Northern Australia, from the Kimberleys to Cape York and also in the Gulf of Papua.

Tony loved the bush and working in it. Being single and somewhat bush crazy, in 1959 he found himself undertaking to complete the boundary survey of the Weipa Bauxite Lease – an area of some 2400 square miles. It took 5 years and Dad loved every minute of it. What he achieved there will never be repeated, all in a landscape that even today is considered remote and inaccessible.

Another major assignment was the laying out of the plant for the Comalco Aluminium project in Gladstone. Tony arrived in Gladstone in 1964 and experienced the impact of 1000 construction workers arriving in a town of some 7000 people. Dad quickly became involved in the Star of the Sea Parish, where Fr John Smith was at the helm. A firm friendship between the two ensued. Among many projects around the growing parish, Dad worked with Fr John on the purchase of the land for Chanel College. The Parish Spring Fair was another of Dad's involvements. If you ever wondered why it was so difficult to win a prize

when Tony was working the clown stand, I'm afraid you're going to have to keep on wondering. Fortunately good deeds outweighed his wicked sense of humour and he was rewarded one day sitting in this very church. Here Tony met his match and fell hard for the fair Patsy Philps. They were married here on 13th May 1972. They moved into 12 Brunke St in August 1973, just a month before Elizabeth was born. Tony slipped joyfully and lovingly into the role of Husband and Father. Over the next 5 years Tony and Patsy welcomed Jennifer and Anne into their lives and Tony suddenly found himself to be a 50 year old father at the Kindy working bees- and given the number of times he mentioned this story, I suspect he was terribly proud of it.

Our childhood was a happy one. We attended the newly-opened St John's primary school and then Chanel College. Our family were regulars here at mass and we became accustomed to Mum and Dad being heavily involved with school and church activities. We are unaware of how many kindnesses Mum and Dad extended however it is not unusual for us to be told stories of their influence many years after the event. Their 15-year involvement in the Marriage Encounter movement gave them much joy and priceless friendships.

As a father Dad was loving but firm. We lost count of the times we heard Dad tell us "You don't have to like it, you just have to eat it, or do it, or wear it" -whatever the case may have been. Being in a household of females Dad did like to remind himself -"Blessed art thou amongst women".

Our holidays were often camping adventures where Dad relished using his bushman skills. We have so many happy memories. Dad once apologised that we couldn't afford overseas holidays, but there was no need for an apology. Our family camping holidays were the best we could wish for.

Tony and Patsy enjoyed just over 30 happy years of marriage before Patsy's sudden passing in January 2003.

To say the loss of Patsy was a severe blow to Tony is an understatement. He suffered the loss of his beautiful girl deeply. He managed to get on with living drawing much strength from his deep faith. He continued his unwavering support of his

family, the Star of the Sea Parish, and the Marist Laity.

Dad was a very proud Poppy to seven grandchildren. The kids loved going fishing or yabbing with Poppy and will always treasure the woodworking he did for them. Dad loved working with his hands, restoring furniture and crafting new.

Tony demonstrated his love for Patsy, us girls and others in the numerous little jobs he undertook. Any job that needed doing in the Parish got his full attention. Although perhaps not the day he was digging fence posts next to the Hall and hit the phone lines quickly followed by the gas main. The envelope full of dial-before-you-dig stickers sent by a helpful nephew were received with good humour.

Dad had a genuine care and concern for everyone he met; and when he saw a need, he believed it was his calling to act. He did not see his numerous tasks as chores but as joys. One of his more famous 'joys' was lighting the bonfire for the Easter Vigil. It was a delicate balance with a finely honed secret recipe of woodshavings and split timber to achieve a spectacular fire without setting the priest's vestments alight.

Dad truly lived his Catholic faith in a real and practical way. He prayed everyday and attended daily mass as often as he could. Dad had a close association with the Marists and endeavoured to live the calling to be Marist by following Mary's example of being faithful to the Lord and having trust in him. Mum and Dad were introduced by Sr Doreen McCosker to Marist Laity and together founded a group here in Gladstone.

Dad's health started to decline significantly last year and, following a stroke in December he came to live in a nursing home in Brisbane close to his family. Dad could no longer be the man of action he had been his whole life. We were grateful to have him near us but it was a time that he found very hard with his new limitations. He was looking forward to the next big adventure.

Tony Warren it seems to me your life's work was helping others. It was a busy life filled with

purpose, love, hard work, family, great friends, church and a few red wines.

Dad we will dearly miss you. We will miss your presence in our lives more than can be said in words. We are so very proud of you and what you have achieved with those capable hands, indomitable spirit and your big big generous heart. The man you have been, together with our wonderful Mum has made us the women we are - thank you Dad. We will continue to be inspired by you and are so blessed to have had you in our lives.

Dad it is time to rest now. Be with mum. We love you."



Left Fr Bernard McFadyen SM and Right Lay Marist, Tony Warren, after installing the icon / opposite: the Coburn painting of St Peter Chanel.