

# Marist Laity Australia



## From our leader....

Dear Fellow Marists,

It has been some time since Marist Laity Australia (MLA) produced a newsletter and so we reconnect with you today and invite you to read on and contribute to future editions if you would like to share some news.



The onset of Covid has impacted greatly on people gathering and so our reflection days and pilgrimages have been halted over these years.

We hope that as we learn to live with Covid, MLA will again invite people to take part in reflection days and Marist Pilgrimages to France.

Thank you to all those that have faithfully attended our online prayers over the past years. Whilst none have occurred this year, we will hold a Fourviere' Reflection online, so keep your eye's open for the date and link.

The Committee are reworking the MLA Guidelines this year and reviewing the MLA resources presently held in the Colin Library at Hunters Hill, as we move forward to place all resources online.

We welcome the Worldwide Marist Laity Facebook page called Marist Laity Wmlc

and encourage you to add the link to your online options for news from our friends across the world.

Please see the link  
<https://www.facebook.com/maristlaity.wmlc.7>

I thank the commitment and dedication of the committee members who have remained faithful during these difficult times, Val Norris, Andrew Dumas Maria Baden and Cathy Larkin who joins us once more and to our Marist Family partners Michael Envision Marist Association, brother Peter Rodney fms, Sister Vicki Wilson smsm, Sister Fidelis McTeigue sm and father Paul Mahoney sm to ensure the Spirit of Mary is reflected and lived in a world crying out for compassion, peace, love and forgiveness.

Please enjoy the articles within and again we invite you to send articles you wish to share with others in future newsletters.

In the love and friendship of Mary who journeys with us and reflects so beautifully the love and faithfulness of a God who loves us beyond measure.

Go gently,

Margaret Woods.  
Coordinator of MLA



## From Gladstone Queensland

In September, 2019, four members of father Alik's Star of the Sea Gladstone Ukulele Group came to our parish to perform with our Ukulele group, and invited us to their parish to perform with their group. Last week, the long deferred tour became a reality when four members of our ukulele group and father Alik, the leader and founder of both groups, travelled to Gladstone to reciprocate the visit .



There's no describing the welcome, friendship, hospitality and conviviality of our Gladstone hosts. For the 4 days we were in Gladstone we were entertained continuously, taken on tours, treated to the most amazing meals, our gracious hosts continuously in attendance, their good humour and genuine affection so heart-warming.



A joint meeting with the Star of the Sea Marist Laity which father Alik had revived when he was working in the parish was also included in the tour. While now a diocesan parish, the "new" priests often join in the Marist Laity Meetings and father Ashwin, then in attendance, gratefully accepted a Marist Laity Pin which he immediately put on and asked for one for father Andrew, the Parish Priest and the Bishop, in the parish for Confirmations that weekend. The Marist Spirit

is alive and valued in Gladstone still and in good hands.

And the music! On this tour, we played, danced and sang each night away, all under the indulgent eye of our joint founder and leader father Alik. Honorary Tongans all, there was ukulele playing and singing, hula dancing, (very bad) Karaoke, guitar, drums, banjo, kazoo, even piano accompaniment by Father Ashwin.

We got to live the rock dreams of our younger selves, often to the bemusement of father Alik, his gaze occasionally betraying he might have had second thoughts about what he had created.

But the real rock star was father Alik. father Alik was recognised wherever he went- waitresses, diners in restaurants, joggers in parks. Even father Ashwin confided to us that he had looked forward to "finally" meeting father Alik "To match the face to the legend".

The four days over, the farewells were sad but softened by the promise of seeing our friends again in the next Gladstone/Hunters Hill Adventure already being planned by father Alik.



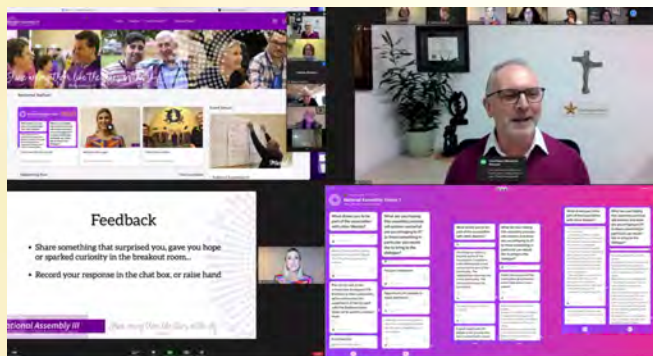
Rock On!

*By Jenny Bolster Marist Laity Hunters Hill*



## Champagnat Marists Assembling

As many readers will know, during 2022 the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat are taking part in our third National Assembly.



The theme is one of inspiration and deep mutual listening – captured in the title 'Known and Loved – that you may shine among them like the stars'.

Rather than a one-off event, this will be a process. It consists of two online forums and a hybrid online / in person gathering in late August. There will then be further meetings to synthesise findings and report back to our Council.

On 7 June, the first online forum was held, with participants from all over Australia and overseas. The aim was to encourage reflection by Members and others on their lives as Marists and on what draws them to be Marists. It was also to encourage articulation of their hopes from the Assembly process, to have their stories heard and to inspire ongoing engagement with the Assembly process.

There was input from various Members, including Young Marists, as well as Marist Ministries. There was also plenty of group discussion in virtual 'break out rooms' and a wonderful visual presentation by brother Tony Leon FMS.

The response has been very favourable, with much joy in connecting as Marist family and

enthusiasm for all that happens as part of our Marist life. We look to the future with humility, gratitude and trust in Our Lord – united in prayer with Mary, Our Good Mother.

Michael Evison  
Coordinator of Membership  
Marist Association

## The Other Half program 2022



The Other Half program has continued in 2022. Each month students from years 10 to 12 are invited to ZOOM with refugees living in Thailand and Burma. The focus for 2022 has been on dialogue. With each month focusing on a key area of dialogue. Such as "Active Listening", "Living with Difference" and "Body Language". It has been surprising to find a number of Australian students who aswell have their own story and history of struggles. Such as the Armenian genocide of 1915 and the struggle to become a Christian. It has been a powerful witness to listen to current refugees who are living under increased pressures. The Australian students themselves have led the sessions. This has provided a powerful witness of who we are called to be with both with the Mercy and Marist Charisms.



The Other Half program would love for other schools and refugees would get involved. If you are interested, or other aware of people who would like to get involved in this program, please get into contact with Andrew Dumas.

*Andrew Dumas*  
MLA

## Join our Facebook presence Are you a friend of Marist Laity Australia on Facebook?

Well, we would love you to be...

Please click on

<https://www.facebook.com/marist.laity.Australia>

Marist Laity Australia provides daily and weekly updates of not just news but content relevant to Marists across the world. Here are some of the items from our Facebook page.



## Fourviere Celebration Online Registration - July 24

Marist Laity Australia would like to invite you to join us on Sunday July 24 at 7 pm (EAST Eastern Australian Time) to celebrate Fourviere together via Zoom.

Please register here to receive the zoom link for the Fourviere celebration online.

Register here

<https://tinyurl.com/fourviere2022>

Have a blessed  
and joyous  
Fourviere,

Marist Laity  
Australia

