

---

# A REUNION OF ALBERTON OLD SCHOLARS

*Marist Brothers*

*Mt Carmel Girls' School*

*Sunday October 24, 2010*

A very successful reunion was held at the Marist Brothers Old School "Mt Carmel College" at Alberton on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

Over 400 Marist Old Scholars from Alberton, Thebarton, Norwood and elsewhere together with Sisters of St Joseph old scholars from "Mt Carmel Girls School" gathered to reminisce and remember and to say "Thank You" to the Marist Brothers and Sisters of St Joseph for the education and friendships that they gave us so unselfishly.

At the invitation starting time of 11.30am, it was estimated that over 150 people had already registered and were enjoying the company of their fellow old students – such was the enthusiasm for this reunion.

At 12.45pm Mass was celebrated in the school assembly hall by Marist Brothers Thebarton old scholar - **Fr Ron Davoren CP** and what a moving experience that was!

Once again after so many years we came together to worship our God as one voice like we did so many years ago when we attended school!

The first 2 hymns sung were modern and known to most of our congregation but when "Hail Queen of Heaven" was sung, it raised the roof and was sung with great gusto and with fine voices. Our Blessed Lord would have been so pleased!

After Mass while all were still present, a crucifix made from the floorboards of the

Penola School where St Mary of The Cross MacKillop taught school, was presented to **Sr Margaret Lamb** as a memento of their founder having been recognised by the church as a saint exactly one week earlier. It was very appropriate that this cross was given from the many people present at this reunion who had been taught by the Sisters of St Joseph so many years ago.

Lunch was served at 1.45pm and was enjoyed by all.

One question remains a mystery today. We had over 400 old scholars and friends attend the reunion and over 500 meals were served!

Around 3pm our MC **Denis Brien** called us all to order. **Br Jordon Redden** spoke of the Marist Brothers' past role in the school and he felt that education and the College was in good hands for the future. He thought that it was just wonderful that so many old scholars were present at this reunion and the Marist Brothers were delighted and thankful that a gathering such as this could take place almost 44 years later after the Marist Brothers withdrew from Alberton in December 1966 and handed the College over to The Sisters of St Joseph to run.

**Sr Margaret Lamb**, a Josephite nun, thought that this reunion was a wonderful event and she was so excited to have met and seen so many of her old students. She also commented that Catholic education was in good hands when she looked around. Sr Margaret concluded by asking the gathering to be most

---

charitable to the many refugees now arriving in Australia to make it their home.

Many prizes were then given out to those present. The ex-student who travelled the longest distance was an old scholar of Mt Carmel Girls School who drove down from Cairns.

**Brs Redmond Casey and Kevin Hoare** also collected prizes for travelling from Santa Teresa's Mission, approx. 80 kms from Alice Springs.

The prize to the oldest "student" went to a 92 year old woman who phoned up to ask if it was alright if she was to attend in her daughter's place as her daughter had died in very tragic circumstances the previous year.

We welcomed her with open arms and we made sure that this was a day for her to remember.

The day concluded around 4.30pm and was voted to have been a "huge success".

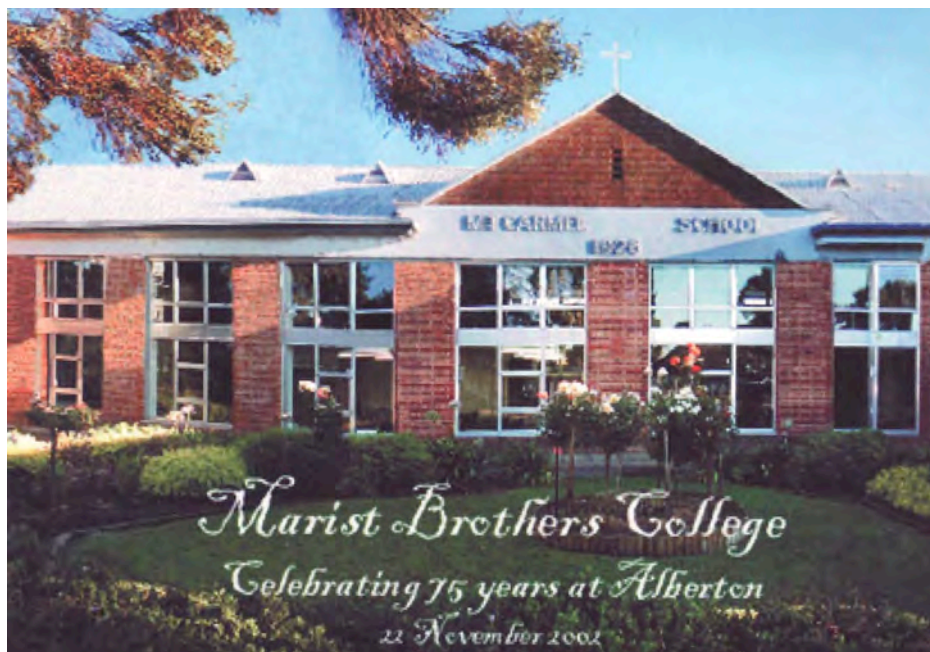
One further item that came from this reunion is that on the first Tuesday of June each year around 12 noon, all Marist Old Scholars together with ex students of "Mt Carmel Girls School" and their friends and partners are welcome to meet for lunch at The Alberton Hotel.

Instead of waiting for some old scholars to get the energy and enthusiasm to organise a reunion, all old scholars will now have a meeting place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of June each year.

The reunion committee hope that this will become an annual event and will continue for many years.

**Terry Cashin**

**A Marist Brothers' Old Scholar from Alberton.**



---

# *The Corporal Works of Mercy - Feed the Hungry*

**Br Mark O'Connor fms**

Douglas Coupland has recently written a wonderful study on the Canadian savant Marshall McLuhan (*Marshall McLuhan: You Know Nothing of My Work*). It's a great read and wonderfully insightful and witty.

McLuhan, who foresaw so much of what we now have upon us in the communications revolution of the 'global village', became a Catholic as a young man. Coupland comments: "Marshall, like most converts, quickly became hard-core. He went to Mass almost every day for the rest of his life. He recited the rosary. He was a firm believer in Hell. He was disgusted that other Catholics weren't Catholic enough"

Perhaps a bit unfair to some converts. And there was so much more to McLuhan. But it did remind me of Lord Acton's famous comment: *There is nothing so fearsome as one lone Calvinist in possession of the truth.*

The Catholic imagination is rightly very wary of such zealousness which often masquerades as 'orthodoxy'. Rather, it sees the need for 'right' doctrine to be complemented by living the virtues. It avoids a harsh judgementalism that would make God's forgiveness rare and abhors the need of some to go 'heresy hunting'.

No, it looks for the practice of the 'works of mercy – as a sure sign of the real presence of the Spirit in a disciple's life. Hence the

beautiful tradition of the seven acts of mercy – corporal and then spiritual.



*The Seven Acts of Mercy*

**Carravaggio**

Think of the wonderful painting *The Seven Acts of Mercy* - an oil painting by [Italian](#) painter [Caravaggio](#), circa 1607. It is housed in the church of [Pio Monte della Misericordia](#) in [Naples](#). Originally it was meant to be seven separate panels around the church however Caravaggio produces arguably his greatest masterpiece by combining all Seven Mercies in one composit. The angel at the center of Caravaggio's altarpiece transmits the grace that inspires humanity to be merciful.



One 'angel' of grace for our times was **Dorothy Day**. She embodied living out the corporal works of mercy especially 'feeding the hungry'. What was at the core of her charity and mercy?

In her own words :

*"We feed the hungry, yes," she said. "We try to shelter the homeless and give them clothes, but there is strong faith at work; we pray. If an outsider who comes to visit us doesn't pay attention to our prayings and what that means, then he'll miss the whole point."*

At the heart of what Dorothy did were the 'works of mercy'. For her, these were not simply obligations the Lord imposed on his followers. As she said on one occasion to the famous Harvard psychiatrist Robert Coles, "We are here to celebrate him *through* these works of mercy." That is why Dorothy Day would insist : "Those who cannot see the face of Christ in the poor," she used to say, "are atheists indeed." This means she believed that Christ has left himself with us both in the Eucharist and in those in need. "What you did to the least person, you did to me."

"Feeding the hungry" didn't mean emphasis on a crass materialism. Day's early followers tell the story of a donor coming into the Catholic Worker and giving Dorothy a diamond ring. Dorothy thanked her for it and put it in her pocket. Later a rather demented lady came in, one of the more irritating regulars at the house. Dorothy took the diamond ring out of her pocket and gave it to the woman.

Someone on the staff said to Dorothy, "Wouldn't it have been better if we took the ring to the diamond exchange, sold it, and paid that woman's rent for a year?"

Dorothy replied that the woman had her dignity and could do what she liked with the ring. She could sell it for rent money or take a trip to the Bahamas. Or she could enjoy wearing a diamond ring on her hand like the woman who gave it away. "Do you suppose," Dorothy asked, "that God created diamonds only for the rich?"

Dorothy "fed the hungry" because she lived the "little way." The phrase was one Dorothy borrowed from Saint Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower. Change starts not in the future but in the present, not in Canberra or at the Stock Exchange but where I stand.

Change begins in the ordinary actions of life, how I live minute to minute, what I do with my life, what I notice, what I respond to, the care and attention with which I listen, the way in which I respond.

As Dorothy once put it: "Paperwork, cleaning the house, dealing with the innumerable visitors who come all through the day, answering the phone, keeping patience and acting intelligently, which is to find some meaning in all that happens—these things, too, are the works of mercy, and often seem like a very little way."

Dorothy Day reminds us that we are [here](#) to follow Christ.

Christ has told us plainly about the Last Judgment. We will be judged on our readiness to let the mercy of God pass through us to others. "Love is the measure."



# *Marist Brothers Band, Bendigo - Celebrates 100 years*

*Br Des Hornsby, Bendigo*

While the Marist Brothers Band Bendigo no longer has any connection with the Brothers or with the schools, it still has a life of its own in the area.

In 2010 the Band has been celebrating its 100 years and is not about to change its brand-name. A formal dinner was held at the All Seasons Motel/Hotel on 20 November 2010 and the next day, Sunday, an informal gathering and lunch for families and supporters of the Band. They were entertained by a practice session none the worse for wear from the night before. In days gone by some of the Brothers had played in the Band.

A Book, "*Marist Brass - A Century of Music and March 1910 - 2010*", by George Flack marking the 100 years has now been launched recording the Band's personnel and

successes. A copy will be placed in our Marist Archives at Templestowe.

The Band retains the Marist Brothers College shield, the last one used before the amalgamation to form Catholic College Bendigo. The motto: "Vincit qui se vincit" means *"You are the real winner only if you are able to take control of yourself"*

This account is being written on St Cecilia's Feast Day 22 November 2010 when the Madonna reflection for the day bids us: ..... 'Let us take a moment today to find a piece of music that moves us and allow ourselves the gift to be moved. Take the song, listen to it and relish the feeling it brings.'

The Band has a website:  
[www.maristbrothersband.org.au](http://www.maristbrothersband.org.au)



---

# St Colman's College, Shepparton

**St Colman's Old Boys' Association**  
Diamond Jubilee Celebration  
Sunday July 10 2011

For those who connected with St Colman's College, Shepparton, Victoria, Australia: 1951-1983.

In 1984 St Colman's College and Sacred Heart College amalgamated to form the new Notre Dame College.

Marist Brothers would be very welcome to attend.

Many of the Brothers who taught at St Colman's have now gone to God .....

Brothers Bernard McGann, Macarius Joyce, and Denis Wright, in 1951; Egbert (Vincent) Daly and (Ray) Martin in '52, Canice O'Donnell, Terry Gleeson, and so on.

Contact:  
Ray McPhee, President  
P.O. Box 7310 Shepparton 3632.  
[raymcphee@iprimus.com.au](mailto:raymcphee@iprimus.com.au)



---

# *Marist Ex-Students gather at Newman College for their annual re-union*

**Br Noel Hickey fms**

On the Wednesday before Australia Day, Marist ex-students gathered at in the Champagnat Centre of Newman College Churchlands WA for their annual Mass at which deceased fellow-students were remembered. This year there were three co-celebrants: Fr Geoff Aldous (Subiaco), Fr David Barry OSB (Hunters Hill) and Fr Pat Rooney (New Norcia).



**Frs Pat Rooney, Geoff Aldous, David Barry OSB.**



After the Mass all adjourned to “Founders’ Court” for registration and a BYO barbeque (with former cricketer **Laurie Mayne** as chef).



**Br Bill Dillon and Bob Stanley**

A feature of the evening was the distribution of CD of John (Valerian) Braniff’s educational thesis written in 1984: **St Ildephonsus College New Norcia: An Educational, Religious and Social History**. Recipients made donations to the Gippsland Fires appeal: **Br Bill Dillon** from Melbourne was there to receive them.

Executive Secretary Ambrose Depiazzi welcomed about 130 ex-students from New Norcia, Northam and Subiaco. As well as the local community, **Brs Marius Woulfe and Redmond Casey** were special guests.





**Tom Scally, Br Redmond Casey, Neville McManus, Br Marius Woulfe  
at the *Evolution of Newman College* Plaque overlooking *Founders Court*.**



**Rob Twomey & Fran Moran**



**Br Noel Hickey & Leo Morgan**



**Tom Tranter & Bill Henderson**



**Br Max Middleton, Dennis Dwyer & John Hicks**

---

# *Ash to take up the Challenge*

**The Catholic Leader, 1 Feb 2011**

**By: Selina Venier**



**Brotherly support: Ash Higgins (left) with (from second from left) Marist Brothers Justin Golding and Pat Connell, and Gerard Barklimore and Daniel Lynch**

As New Year fireworks lose their glow Brisbane's Ashley Higgins will ignite another faith-filled pathway this month.

Turning 22 on Australia Day, "Ash" begins formation with the Marist Brothers among a community of 11 men in Melbourne.

Working as a campus minister at Mt Maria College, Mitchelton, for the past two years and as a member of the boarding staff community at Marist College, Ashgrove, the driven young man spoke of his motivation.

"My drive is derived from being a witness to the work of Jesus that surrounds my daily experience of the extraordinary moments of ordinary life," he said.

"(This is) what keeps me getting up in the morning."

From secondary schooling at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace, Spring Hill, Ash moved into aviation studies.

He said that being a commercial pilot was enjoyable but led to "a developing emptiness", and realised it "was perhaps a hobby rather than a career".

Positive Gregory Terrace experiences and influences were always at the heart of Ash's long-term decisions.

"I spent eight years as a student at Terrace and believe the experiences of faith development, service, ministry and especially community offered by the college (were) crucial in my adolescent formation and social outlook," he said.

"Throughout my time (there) the greatest inspiration to my life, my vocation and my future was Christian Brother Damien Price who continuously challenged, comforted and nurtured me through my adolescent and young adult years.

"It was Damien's words that first began to quench my thirst for religious understanding and identity as I faced a crisis in faith at 15 years of age about the perception and image of God. "More recently, for the past three years

---

discerning with the Marist Brothers - whether this journey is for me - accompanying me is Brother Tony Leon who continues to challenge and support the choices that I make in exploring what life has in store for me."

Admitting there have been "challenges" discerning his vocation, Ash said he "looks back ... (and has found his) journey has fallen into place with the Marist Brothers".

"There are a number of young men in various stages of conversation and formation and we gather twice throughout the year to share stories and common interest," he said.

"This has been a huge benefit to the energy that has formed around the idea of religious life as we share the journey together as companions."

After his 2011 postulancy Ash and others will then discern his entrance into two years of novitiate studies in Canberra.

The beaming young man of faith is hopeful he will "continue to make a difference in the lives of young people".

"Becoming a (Marist) Brother is about bringing my contemporary understanding of the Church to young people and journeying with the young people I will encounter," Ash said.

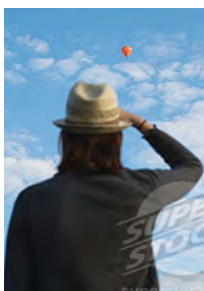
"It is about service - living out our faith in action - rather than talking about it."



A woman in a hot air balloon realized she was lost. She reduced altitude and spotted a man below. She descended a bit more and shouted: 'Excuse me, can you

help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago but I don't know where I am..'

The man below replied, 'You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude.'



'You must be an **Engineer,**' said the balloonist.

'I am,' replied the man, 'how did you know?'

Well,' answered the balloonist, 'everything you have told me is probably technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information and the fact is, I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip by your talk.'

The man below responded, 'You must be in **Management.**'

'I am,' replied the balloonist, 'but how did you know?'

'Well,' said the man, 'you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are, due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my damned fault.'



**VOLUME 42 \* No 1 \* February 2011**

**CONTENTS**

- 3. From the Acting Provincial
- 4. Province News
- 14. Marist Retreat in Adelaide
- 16. *Waltzing Matilda*: Canonisation of Mary MacKillop  
- St Mary of the Cross: Br Tony Paterson fms
- 18. *The Liturgy of our Wounds*: Br Mark O'Connor fms
- 20. Sudden death of Bishop Joe Grech
- 22. Reunion of Alberton Old Scholars
- 24. *The Corporal Works of Mercy - Feed the Hungry*:  
Br Mark O'Connor fms
- 26. Centenary of Marist Brothers' Band, Bendigo
- 27. Diamond Jubilee for St Colman's, Shepparton
- 28. Marist Old Scholars gather at Newman College
- 30. *Ash to take up the Challenge.*

