

Dear Parents,

The Feast Day of our founder, St Marcellin Champagnat, provides a welcome opportunity for us to reflect on the deepest calls of our Marist mission, to 'go to the margins' and 'be a beacon of hope in a turbulent world' to ensure that every child can claim their right to education.

2023 is a particularly special year for our Marist community in Asia and the Pacific as the first year that Brothers communities in 11 countries come together as one Province. This will see Marists in Australia, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Fiji, Samoa, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Bougainville and Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and New Zealand working even more closely together to provide quality education for our young people.

Our Australian Marist community has a proud history of supporting vulnerable young children to access education across our region. The Marist Brothers were amongst the very first catholic communities to support young people in the Pacific region. They have left legacies of schools and programs transforming lives and communities through the power of education.

Each year through our Marist international development agency, Australian Marist Solidarity, we work with local grassroots communities to support thousands of young people across the Asia Pacific region to access education and reach their brightest potential.

We invite your family to be part of this community of change-makers this Champagnat Day. There are a number of ways that you could contribute, including:

1. **Learn**

Explore and learn more about our diverse and inspiring Marist communities in the Asia Pacific region through the education materials provided on the AMS website (www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au) or encouraging your student to engage with immersion or virtual exchange opportunities.

2. **Volunteer**

AMS is always looking for professionals who are willing to contribute their services as pro bono advisors or on one of our governance bodies. Please email ams@marists.org.au if you are interested to find out more. There is also a wonderful Marist international volunteer program, Bridge Builders. Find out more at <http://www.maristassociation.org.au/international-volunteering>

3. **Donate**

Every contribution to AMS ensures that the dream of education becomes a reality for even more of our young neighbours. Please scan our QR code below to support our work.

Thank you for your consideration and Happy Champagnat Day.

Yours in solidarity,



Dr Frank Malloy
National Director
Marist Schools Australia



Ms Rebecca Bromhead
CEO
Australian Marist Solidarity



Your gift can transform a child's life!