



Marist

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

2022 National Assembly - MYM Report

21 schools involved in Game Changers
36 schools attend Connect Nights
43 schools attend Student Leaders Gathering / Summit

Number of students involved in...

Game Changers = 1,000 (across 80 youth groups*)

Marist Connect Nights = 300+ (across 16 events)

Student Leaders Gathering/Summit = 300+ (across 4 events)

**projected numbers as of 1 January 2022*

Number of MYM Staff

Full Time = 3 (BNE, SYD, MEL)

Part Time = 10 (BNE, SYD, MEL, ADL, PER)

OVER 65 EVENTS ACROSS AUSTRALIA

including events scheduled for Terms 3 and 4





GAME CHANGERS

Game Changers

Game Changers is a comprehensive Catholic youth ministry program for students in Marist Schools from Years 7-12. It seeks to form Christian leaders by making Jesus Christ known and loved among them. Highlighted by a strong sense of family spirit and community, regular meetings, faith formation experiences and service opportunities, students are invited to become game changers through their participation in the youth group.

During the three two-year tracks (Le Rosey, La Valla and The Hermitage), students engage in meetings on various topics (Jesus, Mary, Marcellin, Identity, Community, Ministry, Indigenous Spirituality, Vocations and Laudato Si).

In 2022, twenty-one Marist schools across Australia were engaged in Game Changers. The projected number of students involved was around 1,000, in 80 youth groups. However, due to COVID's impact on our school communities, it is expected that these numbers will be considerably lower.

Reflections from Marist Principals regarding the Game Changers' impact on their school community:

"A wonderful, authentic Catholic Identity formation program, helping students be actively involved with the faith life of the school community".

"Students tend to emerge as leaders in their year level and the College".

"A sense of positivity and involvement ripples through the community from the students".

"The development of mentors and students is evident as the program evolves".

This year has been about re-assessing how Game Changers can grow in our Marist school communities. The MYM team has developed additional meetings for the program furthermore, the meetings have been reviewed and adjusted to ensure examples, activities and stories are relevant and engaging to the students. A revised edition will be made available to the schools by the end of Term 4.

Though COVID has been identified as the main challenge school communities are facing to successfully implement Game Changers, students', Mentors' and Principals' support to the program has been inspiring and encouraging to MYM staff.

Game Changers Projects

Game Changers Projects serve as a template for primary schools to execute a specific social justice campaign in their community. Through Game Changers Projects, students build a sense of family spirit and solidarity over a school term by engaging in seven lunchtime or after school meetings. In these meetings, students will plan and execute a specific social justice campaign designed to meet a need within the local or wider Marist community.

MYM offers four different themed GC Projects (Water, Air, Earth, and Fire) aimed at Year 5 and Year 6 Students.

In 2022 three schools commenced GC Projects: St Patrick's Primary School (Kilmore, VIC), Newman College (Churchlands, WA), and St Joseph's School (Northam, WA).

The GC Mentors Pathway

The Mentors Pathway serves as the main platform for providing formation, skilling and equipping of school staff involved in the Game Changers program. The Mentors Pathway aims to build the capacity of faith leaders by assisting GC Mentors to implement Game Changers in Marist schools through moments of connection, reflection, formation, and application. For two years, Mentors will participate in twelve accredited modules, delivered in a Masterclass style by engaging professionals.

These Masterclasses are presented during the MYM Formators Conference (Term 1 and MYM Formators Workshops (Term 2, 3 and 4).

The 2022 MYM Formators Conference was attended by 73 Marist educators (compared to 54 in 2021 and 48 in 2020). A survey indicated that 94% of respondents acknowledged the Conference helped them grow as a Marist educator and 93% acknowledged the Conference inspired them on their personal spiritual journey.

Reflections from GC Mentors regarding the 2022 Conference and Term 2 Workshop:

"A moment to reflect on my own spirituality, and explore how to encourage others on their journey in a healthy way".

"An inspiring workshop that challenged me to think deeply about where I am at on my faith journey".



MYM Forums

The MYM Forums are a newly developed one-day MYM program to address one of the most critical needs for young people today: providing a space where students can gather and discuss matters of life and faith. Students are invited into a shared space of encounter and engagement, allowing them to dialogue with and consider the viewpoints of peers, facilitators, and guest presenters, as well as reflect on their commitment to being Marist in the way of Jesus, Mary and St Marcellin Champagnat.

The MYM Forums are hosted at various year levels for students in NSW, ACT and QLD but can be provided to each school to integrate in the schools' year level retreat days (PowerPoints, handbook, and journal). Each MYM forum has a theme, and presentations are embedded with the current Marist theme.

Marist Connect Nights


Marist Connects occur across Marist Schools in Australia. They are held once a term for both Year 11 and 12 students. Organised by the regional Marist Youth Ministry team, Marist students from a similar geographic location gather in the community and participate in faith formation and social justice opportunities. These gatherings allow students to meet other students from the wider Marist family in a fun and engaging way.

Student Leaders Gathering/Summit

The Marist Student Leaders Gathering is an annual event hosted by the Marist Youth Ministry on behalf of Marist Schools Australia. It provides a unique environment for student leaders to come together over a 3-day camp to explore the characteristics of leadership, in particular 'leading in the Marist way'. Gatherings are hosted in Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne.

MYM Around the Well

During the height of the Pandemic, the MYM Leadership Team decided to host regular moments of connection between MYM Regional Assistants and several youth ministers at schools. Presenters would facilitate workshops on relevant themes in a fun and engaging way, p. This was a great instrument to support the young people throughout the extensive lockdown periods. Now lockdowns are a thing of the past the MYM LT, is re-evaluating the how these Around the Well moments could assist Marist youth ministers across Australia.





Young Marists

Young Adults are actively engaged in Adelaide through a variety of social, formation, and ministry activities and in Melbourne through the Bread Run collaboration with the Exodus Community. The success of the recent Marist Young Adult Retreat at Mittagong has provided a refreshed momentum in this space, and we look forward to welcoming young adults to our upcoming events.

YA Retreat 2022

Eighteen Young Marists gathered from 1-3 July at the Hermitage in Mittagong for the annual Marist Young Adult Retreat. The Young Marists enjoyed a weekend of Marist hospitality and spirituality, with Justin Goulding providing thought provoking, insightful and engaging sessions. The feedback from the young adults has been encouraging and hopefully has set the scene for further locale initiatives.

Of those who responded to the survey about the retreat, 86% agreed, the retreat helped strengthening their faith, while all responded agreed the retreat helped them value their Marist identity more.

Some further reflections from the young Marists about the retreat:

"Profound thought-provoking and engaging sessions."

"They allowed opportunities for true connection, vulnerability, and growth."

"Knowing that I was surrounded by like-minded young people - made me feel less alone and gave me hope!"

"My takeaway is that God is all around us, and not distant AND that mission has a church, and everyone can contribute to this mission."

"I feel renewed in my passion and commitment to my faith journey!"





What will 2023 bring?

The plan is to see additional schools engage with the Game Changers program, so more students can experience the beauty and richness of the Marist spirituality. Furthermore, we aim to see an increase in the number of students on Marist Connect nights, the GC Projects and the MYM Forums. Besides ongoing local opportunities to engage young Marists, the MYM Leadership Team is planning another Young Adult Retreat in July 2023, considering how to young Marists can be involved in the World Youth Day (August 2023), and hoping to re-imagine an overseas Young Adult Immersion.

Thank you

On behalf of the MYM Leadership Team, the MYM staff and volunteers, I would like to thank the Marist Brothers for this unique opportunity to be engaged with the young people of Australia. Furthermore, I would like to thank the Marist Schools Australia Leadership Team, and staff, school Principals, teachers, and support staff for their ongoing support to the work we do with their students. Finally a word of thanks to all Marists who support us in prayers or any other way as we journey with our young people.

Kind regards,

Edwin Bakker

MYM National Coordinator

Marist

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