

# Being Marist

#15

WEST CENTRAL EUROPE

# Happy Easter



## Dear Friends!

We are living in a very troubled world at present with the war in Ukraine and many people struggling to survive with the high cost of living. I enjoyed being back in Hermitage in early March with Aisling and following the footsteps of Marcellin with 17 teachers from Ireland, Germany and Scotland. In February we celebrated the 200 anniversary of Marcellin and Stanislaus getting lost in the snow and turning to Mary for help. We also salute the contribution of the Marist Brothers to education in the town of Athlone. The Mass to celebrate the departure of the

Brothers on the 26th February was a fitting tribute to 140 years service. The legacy lives on in Marist College. For us Marists in West Central Europe we look forward to new opportunities as we join Hermitage province in October.

I love Easter time. The feeling that we have left winter behind and longer days of daylight lie ahead. The flowers and vegetation begin to grow again and there is a sense of new life. The story of Jesus's death and resurrection is a story that amidst the despair of the passion of Jesus new life came into being. We need to have a sense of hope that despite the challenges, we

have the resilience, grace and support of one another to move forward and experience a more fruitful life. As we celebrate Easter may we be imbued with a new sense of hope for the future. May we continue to enrich the lives of those we meet and work with so that their lives are better. We very much appreciate all you do to live the Marist spirit wherever you live and work. Wishing you all and your families many blessings this Easter.

**P.J McGowan**  
Chair of Mission  
Council





The province pilgrimage to l'Hermitage was a very special few days. Marists from Ireland, Scotland and Germany travelled to St Chamond to walk in the footsteps of Marcellin. Each day bringing new encounters, friendships, discussions and reflections on Marist pedagogy and Marist spirituality.

Having taught the Marist history and values for many years as part of St Joseph's College, Dumfries I was really glad to be able to be part of this pilgrimage. Meeting with other schools from the province and sharing ideas around the table just as the first brothers had done all those years ago made me emotional as we followed in their footsteps reflecting not only on



## Province Pilgrimage to l'Hermitage 2023

our role within the Marist family but also on the role of every pupil and family who we serve. Being able to be part of this group of staff not only gave me lots of practical support and ideas but also reaffirmed my Marist identity.

Thank you again for a wonderful experience,

**Suzanne Stoppard**  
St Joseph's College, Dumfries

Thanks very much for a very special weekend. My head is still swimming a bit after the whole thing but it was a very valuable experience. I think it was the right time for me to come. Despite having been involved in promoting the Marist vision for a number of years I needed fresh impetus to re-invigorate me in my role and I genuinely feel that.

I really enjoyed speaking to Aisling and PJ and I had a very enjoyable chat with Paul too. It was good to spend time with the guys from St Mungo's on the Journey home.

I made time over the weekend to pray in the big chapel and it was a very moving experience. I have always felt like a Marist, but I felt very affirmed in my vocation especially during those quiet times of prayer with St Marcellin in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Despite the shortness of our stay I felt very at home in the community.

**John-Paul Cecil**  
St Johns RC HS Dundee





# St Johns RC High School Newsletter



So far, this year we have been working to show our Marist values throughout the school in many ways such as, creating a club at lunchtime for our new S1's to feel more included within the school. At the start of the school year, we displayed the value of **Family Spirit** by providing games for the S1's like online quizzes. Which gave them a place to rely on for eating their lunch. This was and continues to be extremely popular and the S1's now know that they can talk to us if they see us in the corridors!



At Christmas time our school ran a Christmas Fayre to raise money for the India village project. At this fayre, the school's Marist Leaders had two stalls which managed to raise £235 in total. At these stalls we made chocolate and sweet flower bouquet inspired raffles along with a hamper, for the Marist value of Family Spirit.

For the Marist value of Simplicity all the Marist Leaders organised a pancake day in order to celebrate the start of Lent. This was extremely successful as we managed to sell out every pancake made. We raised £58 for SCIAF.

For the upcoming term to plan to organise a «sleepout to help out» within the school for all S4 pupils. This will consist of an overnight stay and a 24hr fast to raise awareness and money for homelessness. As the S4 pupils have had visitors educating us on homelessness at a young age. Therefore, we would like to raise money in order to support this issue.

In order to create a safe and comfortable environment for our new S1's we plan to create a worry box that will be available to all S1's. The S1 pupils have a choice for their worries to be anonymous and every week we will make our best effort to support all pupils who choose to voice these concerns.



Marist Education  
WEST CENTRAL EUROPE

## Irish Marist Brothers Patron Commission

A new Irish Patron Commission has been formed to begin a process of handing over patronage of the Irish schools to a new body. Part of the brief of the Patron Commission is to review possible suitable options and to make recommendations to the Irish Marist Brothers Trust.

From October 2023, the Marist Brothers in Ireland will form part of the District of West Central Europe (with Scotland/UK, The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany). The District will be under the jurisdiction of the Province of L'hermitage.

It is intended that the Commission work with the Mission Council and the Director of Marist Education to promote Marist Characteristic spirit in the schools. The Commission will develop a Spirit Charter which will outline and expand what it means to continue the Marist Brothers charism in our schools and put structures in place to support the ongoing implementation of the ethos.

**We look forward to seeing what the future holds**



# Marist Leadership in Moyle Park College Dublin

The Moyle Park College Marist Leaders have been keeping very busy between charity fundraisers and events for our First Years.

We wrapped up our October midterm with our annual Halloween Hangout



*Daily Announcements for College Awareness Week over the intercom - (Desmond Peprah - 1st year)*

event. All proceeds from the costume day were donated to BELongTo (Irish LGBTQ Charity).

The Marist Leaders set up the canteen space and ran a day of events including Kahoot quizzes, dance parties and Halloween Bingo!

A fantastic day was had by all!

Our charity focus continued as we prepared for the annual Stand Up week celebrations. Our events included a whole school quiz, non uniform day, LGBTQ themed subject lessons and a bake sale. We managed to raise €1,575 for BelongTo. We will be inviting representatives from BelongTo to come into school for a presentation ceremony.

This week we are focusing on College Awareness Week and giving a hand with Parent teacher meetings. The Marist

Leaders help to set up the hall, welcome parents and students, host a colouring table for younger siblings and help with the car parking.

These Parent teacher Student meetings give us an opportunity to help out and live the «Family Spirit» and «Presence» values.

We spoke about our experiences at L'Hermitage to our Marist Core team this week. Each of us wrote a reflection on either, «A highlight of the trip for me was..», «A Marist Value that resonates with me», or «A lesson I learned..».

It has been a busy 2022 - we look forward to seeing what 2023 has in store for all at MPC!



*Stand Up Week Quiz winners 6.5 won a pizza party for their class*



*Brothers Bryan (Marist Leader ) and Séan (1st Year) helping at the Parent Teacher Student meetings*



*Stand Up Week Cake Sale - We raised 1757 Euros for BelongTo!*



Stand Up week PingPong Tournament for the First Years! (Sean Whelan - 1st Year)



Our weekly meetings take place on Tuesdays in the Art Room with Ms Ellis. Our Chairperson and Secretary role rotates on a termly basis. We have found this has been working very well. Matthew O'Neill is our current Chairperson.



Marist Leaders who travelled to L'Hermitage presenting their reflections in our sacred space to the Marist Core Team



Speech and Drama workshop for Stand Up week (Marist Leaders - Senan and Callum Gore are acting in a rendition of Red Riding Hood!)



# Marist Leaders Marist College Athlone

**Marist leaders played an important role in Athlone recently at a thanksgiving celebration to salute the contribution of Marist Brothers in the town.**

The departure of the Marist Order from Athlone after almost 140 years was marked at a special mass at St. Marys Church celebrated by parish administrator Fr. Patrick Murphy and several priests who were involved in the Marist. Marist Leaders attended the mass held on Sunday, February 26th and represented the school and Marist education in a very poignant way. The Marist Order initially founded a national school for boys in the town and then a secondary school, the Marist College, which continues to thrive today. Although the Marist Brothers are no longer in Athlone, their legacy is very strong and this is evident through our Marist Leaders who represents the shoots of a new era. Thank you to Marist Leaders Donal McDermott and Killian Redmond for the fabulous music during the mass.

Leaders at Marist College Athlone recently connected once again with another Marist School in Mexico. In an effort to stay connected with the wider Marist global network of schools a live call between Marist College, Athlone and Instituto Queretano, Mexico was organised. Marist Leaders got to share aspects they love about their own school and compare with those in Mexico. Both schools discussed upcoming events in their respective schools such as Science and sporting events. The live call was held on Ash Wednesday so the catholic symbolism and traditions of this significant day were interestingly compared by both groups. Both groups of students enjoyed the call and shared social medial accounts



to keep connected until more virtual meet-ups are organised in the future. Thank you to Ms Perla and her class of Junior High students for coming into school early to accommodate the time difference.

Application Process for new Marist Leaders has started. Transition Year and 5th Year leaders are presenting the programme to 3rd year classes in an effort to encourage students to apply for the programme. We look forward to welcoming another group of leaders next year.

Year 2 leaders were involved in school presentation evenings and parent teacher evenings over the last number of months and have represented the school excellently. We are also preparing for our annual Marist Leaders end of year trip after Easter.



*Shelia Flanagan was made a affiliated member of the province at the mass for the departure of the Brothers from Athlone in February having given 43 years service to the Brothers.*



# Marist Leadership at Saint Mungo's Academy, Glasgow

During the month of February, we focused on the preparation of our activities for Lent. This involved preparing a lesson for the R.E department in our school; capturing key aspects of our Marist values. This was delivered to our first-third year students over the Lenten period and a series of spiritual reflections were also distributed to all form tutor classes.

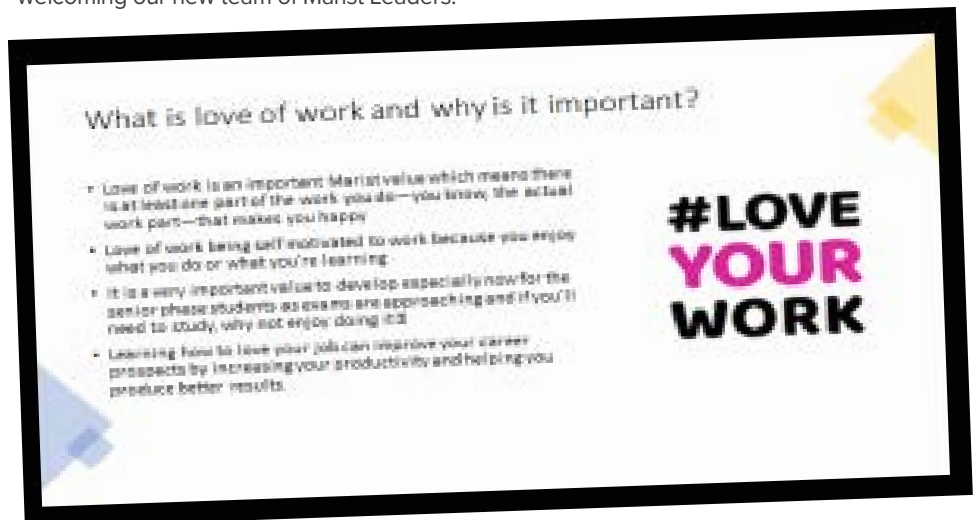
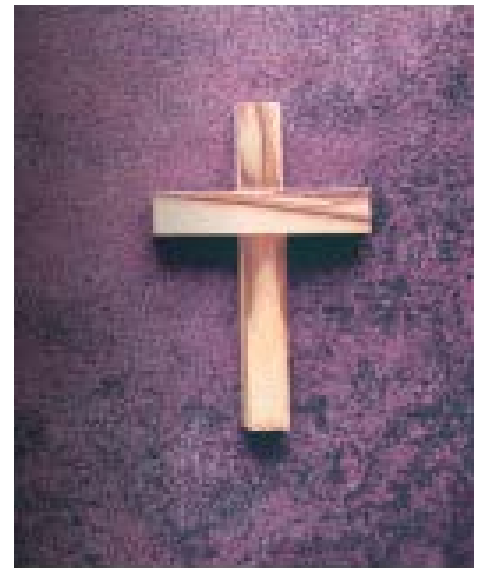
Our PowerPoints have been created around our Marist values and we have enjoyed sharing these with staff and students across the school community over the course of Lent. Some examples...

We have also planned to build on our link with Riverside Care Home and share our celebration of the Easter season with them! Being a member of the Marist Leadership community has also allowed us to participate in various initiatives such as: facilitating primary school pupils at the Glasgow Schools Forum conference in Glasgow City Chambers. Here we supported young students to participate in group discussions and collaborative learning tasks related to education.

We also had the opportunity to participate in the Scottish Government consultation on creating a safer environment for women and girls in Scotland. We shared our views with one of Glasgow City Council's councillors and were commended on our contribution to this national consultation.

These experiences have helped us to work effectively as a team and build confidence as individual contributors.

We are looking forward to the next chapter of our journey as Marists at Saint Mungo's Academy, as we begin recruiting and welcoming our new team of Marist Leaders!



# Marist Leaders

## St Josephs College, Dumfries, Scotland



### ■ Year 1 Leaders:

As the academic year got underway, we were keen to get on with our planning for the various ways in which we would be highlighting our Marist Values within our school community. As Christmas approached, we focussed on the value of «Family Spirit» and supported the annual Christmas Carol Service by providing a place of sanctuary (free from the stress of shopping and wrapping!) for the parents of our school community. In the lead up to the event we spent time designing and making tree decorations which younger members of our wider school community could spend time decorating. We also organised a «Hot Chocolate Bar» with snowman poop marshmallows and a festive film. As our younger members departed for the evening we gifted them a bag of «Reindeer Food» to light the way for Santa's sleigh. In the most recent term we have been focussed on our «Love of Work» and have been developing plans for a homework club to support our junior school. At the request of our Pupil Council, many of our Marist Leaders have volunteered to support the learning of pupils across the curriculum in areas of Science, Maths and English – all areas in which we feel that we have the necessary skills to support. In the absence of any junior support classes, we have offered to host a support club on Wednesday's after school. This term we have been working on a social enterprise project in which we undertake a challenge to create a profitable social enterprise project within our own school. We have founded a charity shop called «Twice New» which intends to tackle the issues of child poverty and textile waste. We are about to embark on study leave for our forthcoming exams, but we have lots of ideas to work on when we return to school!

### ■ Year 2 Leaders:

As the festive season approached, we turned our thoughts towards those for whom Christmas is a time of great struggles. With this in mind, and with our goal of raising some «Family Spirit» within our school community, we organised a «Big Christmas Quiz» for the S1 pupils. We charged pupils entry to the quiz in which they participated as teams of 6. We had several rounds, and the winning team were treated to some Amazon gift cards. We raised a total of £311 which we donated to our local Shelter charity who work with homeless people. After a very busy term marking prelims, creating assessments, and doing yet more marking (and teaching!) we wanted to show our thanks to the staff in our school, who have worked tirelessly this academic year to support us in being prepared for our examinations. We set up a lunchtime brunch where invited staff to sit together, have a break from the stresses and be treated to a variety of sweet treats – the chocolate fountain was particularly busy! Next term we will be hosting a «No Tie» day to raise money for charity in honour of one of our friends, and fellow member of our school community, who sadly passed away very suddenly in October 2022. He was famous for never wearing his tie, and this is our tribute to his memory and the legacy he has left behind.





# Marist Westerhelling

I write this text with mixed feelings.

Feelings of saying goodbye and of looking forward to new life. December was my last month as a (permanent) companion of the House of Silence. The past year has made it clear to me that I am called to move on. After 15 years of the House of Silence. That's a big change.



places and be our shelter when we are not in houses. We feel called to let go of fixity and certainty. To be able to be open to whatever comes our way next.

It was not easy for me to acknowledge that I need to let go of Westerhelling. The House of Silence is a second home for me. A precious place

that I was able to make possible together with Thomas and fr. Jacques and where I was able to be and work with my heart and soul. Where we welcomed so many people together.

I look back on that with gratitude.

Fortunately, the House of Silence will continue to exist. Thomas, together with some other companions, will continue to

receive and accompany guests.

I am happy about that and feel confident about this.

The part of the garden that I had the pleasure of building has been enthusiastically taken over by the garden club that has settled on the Westerhelling since this year. I am also grateful for that.

I remain connected to the Westerhelling. In thought. Specifically, I also hope to be an occasional substitute in the House of Silence when someone is ill or wants to take time off. After all, I still find the work very beautiful and valuable.

Hereby I would also like to express my thanks to the Marists. In the Netherlands and beyond. Without the Marists there would have been no House of Silence. Thank you that the preciousness of the House of Silence is recognised and supported. My wish is that this will continue.

**A warm greeting, Annelieke**

## Around the Labyrinth

### Ash Wednesday 23, Westerhelling

Westerhelling is a place where your experiences are allowed to flow as they come, or where you remember that is life. So too during «Around the Labyrinth» on Ash Wednesday evening, 22 February.

Beforehand, I had been looking forward to Ash Wednesday. I was planning to fast during Lent. My fasting would mean that I would restrain myself from scheduling appointments in the evenings, leaving more space for creative activities or whatever came to mind. So for me this year, Ash Wednesday was mostly about marking the beginning of Lent - or at least I thought so.

With a full head, I arrived. At the door, I was welcomed in an atmosphere of attention and silence. Through the windows I could already see the warm glow of the fireplace, near which I sat down on a meditation bench. I felt small: I am quick to feel that I am not allowed to be there as I am, and I felt the same then. During the evening,

this changed. We lit candles while saying a word. Everyone chose something appropriate; for me it was «small». I was allowed to feel small and express that! That was the beginning of the connection with myself that evening.

Many beautiful things were shared. The warmth, the light and crackling of the fireplace, Taizé music, a poem by Rilke, candles, singing and especially a lot of silence. There was a visualisation centred on waiting, patience. We wrote on notes what stopped us from trusting. My head was too full to surrender to the visualisation, but the beauty of Westerhelling is that you experience that there is no programme to be completed, but that everything is an invitation or reaching out - I experienced that it is totally okay not to be able to participate fully, and this in itself gave me a sense of lightness.

Singing, holding candles, we walked through the garden to the labyrinth in the



dark. In the dark, the path of the labyrinth was difficult to follow, even though it was marked with lights. This gave me a sense of connection with the

group; in this darkness, I followed the trail of the person in front of me, and the person after me followed me. The connection was strengthened when «around the labyrinth» we threw the notes into the fire pit and used the ashes to paint each other's faces. Meanwhile, there was singing in a circle. In me, the fullness in my head had now given way to openness and joy, and I gladly surrendered to what could emerge in the group.

Surprisingly, the Ash Wednesday theme mostly passed me by that evening, even though it had emerged in such a creative way in ritual action, song and text. In retrospect, that evening turned out to be not about marking the beginning of Lent as I had thought beforehand, but about connecting with life in myself, people, in a place where you are allowed to flow.

**By Louise Oomen,  
Aswoensdag Westerhelling**



# Marist Youth Gathering Into the Deep – Lisbon | 26 - 31 July 2023

**The International Gathering of Marist Youth (IGMY) will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, from July 26th to July 31st, 2023, prior to World Youth Day (WYD).**

An International Preparatory Commission chosen from the 4 congregations has been working on this proposed gathering. Under the motto « INTO THE DEEP », 200 young from the 4 Marist congregations will gather in Portugal.

Marists in Lisbon will welcome young people taking part in

the WYD to foster our family spirit and to support all the Marists participants with a place to call «home» during that time. A Marist Youth Festival on the 31st of July open to all Marist participants.

The Province of West Central Europe have the privilege to send six young adults from Ireland, Scotland Germany. Each young person has been involved in Marist Youth Ministry in their local area and would like to learn more about how they can continue to do so as Marist adults.

Our Coordinator for the event is Ciarán

McDermott from Ireland. A past pupil and Marist Leader in Marist College Athlone, Ciaran has participated in many Marist events including the Marist Youth Gathering in Guatemala, Marist Animators program and he also was a member of the coordination team of the Marist Youth Gathering in 2022. Ciarán will be organizing the preparation for this team alongside Aisling Demaison, Director of Marist Mission.

My name is Ruth Black and I'm a first year studying English and Philosophy at the University of St Andrews.



I first became involved with the Marists when I was a Marist Leader at my High School, St John's in Dundee Scotland. The two years I spent on the programme were very transformative for me. Visiting L'hermitage and working with other Marist leaders in my school to implement innovatives to help promote the Marist values was very rewarding.

Being a Marist for me, means having family of people to help support each other and the wider community. It is being part of something much greater than yourself with Mary and the Church at the center.

I'm looking forward to attending the Marist International Youth Gathering as I think meeting Marist youth from around the world will help to strengthen my understanding of the values and how to implement them and in turn help me to get closer to Our Blessed Mother.

I would like to use my knowledge from the experience to help strengthen my own and others Marist roots in Scotland.

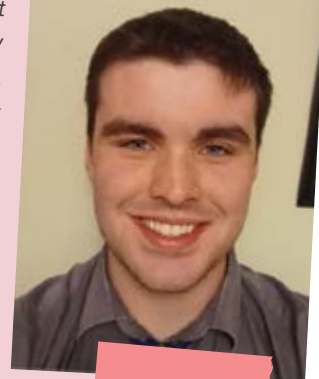
**Ruth Black – Past pupil St Johns  
RC HC Dundee Scotland**



Hello, my name is Laura, I'm 21 years old and a former Marist student in Germany. At the moment I'm in nursing school and still active in the Marist community in form of helping and refugee children and their families and just have a good time with them. I'm really looking forward to the Marist gathering in Lisbon, since this will be the first international gathering i will be attending and I'm excited to hear about the ways, people around the world express and spread the Marist way of living.

**Laura Schneider –  
cmi Alumni Mindelheim**

As the dreaded Leaving Cert draws near, I've come to understand that my time in secondary school education is coming to a close and a new chapter is about to open. I have no doubt that being Marist will play a large part in that new chapter. During my time in the Marist Leadership Programme, I have come to many epiphanies regarding mentorship



and guidance. Skills that you can't learn from reading a book or listening to somebody else's story. I know that these skills will serve me throughout my life in many invaluable ways. Just as I thought that my «swan song» with the Marist was coming, I got offered an opportunity to attend the «International Gathering of Marist Youth» in Lisbon this coming July. I was shocked needless to say, and I have no doubt that this will bring many more learning opportunities to me just as the voyage to l'Hermitage in France had done.

**Michael White.  
Marist Athlone**



Hey! My name is Lilianna Piotrowska, but my friends call me Lila I am a first-year university student at the University of St Andrews, studying Classics and English in hopes to progress to study law after my undergraduate degree. I am a girl that loves everything pink, cat related and music, but I also love the Marist program. In high school, I was a Marist leader and had the opportunity to visit L'hermitage back in 2019, I found my visit to be an incredibly formative experience and something that I still till this day, reminisce about not to mention all the work my fellow Marist leaders and I did to help our school community. Therefore, the reason why I would like to go to the Marist international youth conference is because I am keen on developing my skill set now as a young adult and discovering all the different pathways and opportunities that are available to continue my journey with the Marists but also just to help others. Therefore, upon my return from Lisbon, I hope to become more aware and empowered as a young adult in what I can achieve as an individual, but also just what a group of people can achieve on a larger scale to impact the world in a positive way and I think that encapsulates what being a Marist is all about; always have the Marist values on the forefront of your mind and treat people with compassion and kindness.

**Liliana Piotrowska**  
**St Mungos Academy Past Pupil**  
**Glasgow Scotland**

My name is Ciarán McDermott, I am the co-ordinator of the West Central Europe group attending Into the Deep in Lisbon this summer. I was part of the first Marist Leadership program in 2016, and ever since have continued my Marist journey through youth gatherings both within West Central Europe and beyond. I was fortunate enough to have gone to «Weaving Life» – the previous international youth gathering in Guatemala. Here I learned the true magnitude of Marist work done globally; it was certainly an experience that I think will stay with me for the rest of my life. Since then I have been involved in facilitating the Marist Leadership retreats to l'Hermitage, and was on the co-ordinating team for the European Marist Youth gathering in 2022.

I am really looking forward to attending Into the Deep this year to meet more amazing Marist people, and undoubtedly hear some fascinating stories of the work they do. I am always amazed and inspired by the work of Marist people all around the world, and hope that we can learn from them and bring back some tips and tricks to our province to continue to expand and grow the Marist Youth of West Central Europe.



**Ciarán McDermott**  
**Athlone, Ireland**



Hi! My name's Angelika and I'm a first year student at the University of Glasgow where I study Classics/Sociology. I became involved with the Marists in 2019, during my 4th year at St Mungo's Academy which is when I attended the first meeting at L'Hermitage, France. Ever since then, I was involved in several projects with fellow Marists in my school to teach other students about the five Marist values (Although we didn't have as much progress as we would have liked in S4 and S5 due to Covid-19). To me, being a Marist is a great opportunity for me to build my leadership skills as I managed to develop greater confidence which led to me taking on other leadership roles during my senior phase in school. The reason why I want to attend the Marist International Youth Gathering is simply because I want to be involved within that community once more as when I left secondary, I was convinced that my Marist journey was done which saddened me quite a bit due to many missed opportunities. When I return from this gathering, I hope to feel a reconnection with the Marist organisation and maybe somehow continue to be involved and spread what I've learned throughout my own community back home.

**Angelika Konieczko**  
**St Mungos Academy Past Pupil**  
**Glasgow Scotland**

*Into the Deep - Lisbon*  
 26 - 31 July 2023

## Marist Accompaniment Programme



Sharing our journey with others enhances the faith life of any believer. One way of doing this is through accompaniment. In today's world there is a yearning for this personal style of accompaniment, which enables the other to make sense of their relationship with God and its place in their lives.

Following on from our Province Gathering in Guardamar in June 2022, which was based on the theme of accompaniment, Marists in the province were invited to participate in the program launched in 2023. The primary aim of the program is to skill Marists to accompany and nourish other Marists faith journey and ministry work. Participants on the program represent Ireland, Scotland, Germany Belgium and The Netherlands.

Led by Darren Burge, Vice Provincial of the Marist Brothers Star of the Sea Province (Oceania) and supported by Aisling Demaison, Director of Marist Mission in West Central Europe. The program is currently online sessions until May 2023 and this will prepare participants for the three-day residential program in The Netherlands. The residential program will deepen the accompaniment skills learned and will focus on the practical application of them in a school or project. Each participant will be accompanied in their work as an accompanier for two years following the program.

We are very excited for what this journey holds for all involved.



## Marist St Patrick's Day



It was a very special St Patrick's Day in Dublin this year with visitors from Marist provinces around the world. Br Pat McNamara, Br Dan O» Riordan from USA and Br Peter Carroll from Australia joined the celebrations following their meeting of Provincials in Rome. It was an extra celebratory occasion as the Marist High School marching band from Chicago was participating in the St Patrick's Day parade in Dublin. A very happy Marist St Patrick's day all round!





# Champagnat Global

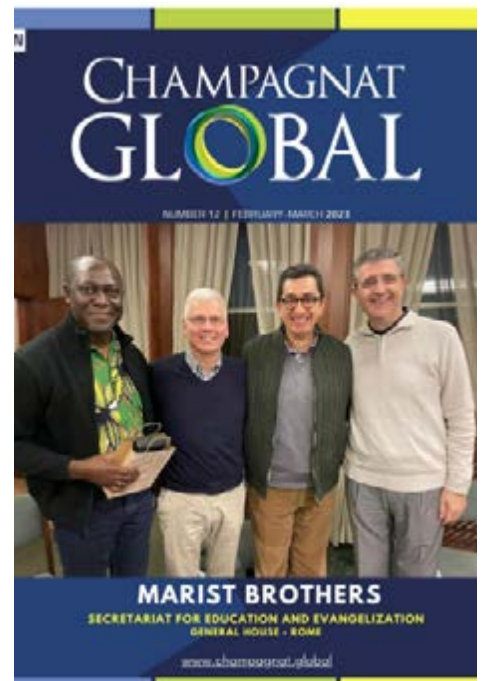
Champagnat Global is the network of more than 600 Marist schools in 80 countries across 5 continents. It has been growing from strength to strength.

Excitingly our own province of West Central Europe has become very involved and we

have seen connections with Mexico, South Africa, Brazil, Spain and many more countries. It is such a joy to see students and teacher connect, discussing varying topics and learning more about each other as part of the same Marist Family.



A wonderful afternoon of Marist Global connections with Marist College Athlone Ireland and Instituto Queretano Marists Mexico



Link to put in Document

READ ME HERE





# L'Hermitage Province Conference February 2023

**This February members of the Province of West Central Europe attended the annual conference of the province of Hermitage in Notre Dame l'Hermitage France. Among those who attended from West Central Europe were; Provincial Robert Thunus, Chairperson of the Mission Council PJ McGowan, Director of Marist Mission Aisling Demaison and Member of the Mission Council Albert Andre.**

made between schools. Many of which have now developed into common projects and virtual connections amongst students. We are excited to reach October 2023 when our connection as a district of the Hermitage province will be formalized and we begin our journey together.



A key theme in the conference was welcoming the province of West Central Europe into the Hermitage province. Along with the welcoming spirit there was very informative sessions from Emili Turu and Ben Consigli on Marist Leadership and Spirituality. In true Marist spirit the sense of family spirit and bonding developed, and many connections were



# Impressions from Marist South Africa



## Dear Marists of Champagnat!

The Champagnat Global conference in Mexico 2022 was an eye opener for me. The sheer size of the Marist world is impressive – St Marcellin would be proud of us. Approximately 80 delegates attended the 9-day program, and we were kept busy from 07h00 to 22h00 almost every day. Here are some of the highlights and aha moments that I had.

- The number 1 goal of Champagnat Global is connectivity and collaboration. Each school needs to find at least 3 ways to connect and / or collaborate in 2023. Teachers, teaching, students, classes, exchanges.
- Champagnat Global is not about bureaucracy. It is simple, straight to the point and connect directly with who you need to connect with. Remove unnecessary steps. Not too many steps. Not so many metaphors e.g. «I am the light» – speak plainly. Not too many levels of communication.
- The platform is called Agora and is easy to navigate [www.champagnat.global](http://www.champagnat.global) and [www.Champagnat.org](http://www.Champagnat.org). Please sign up and ask your community to sign up too (teachers, students, parents, alumni etc).



## Champagnat Global

This initiative is to improve connectivity between our schools and encourage cross learnings, exchange programs, shared classrooms and much more collaboration between us. We have approximately 600 schools on all continents and 27 universities in 10 countries. I urge all of you to visit their website and subscribe to the monthly newsletter at <https://champagnat.org/en/contact-us/> (scroll to the bottom of the page to subscribe) and Champagnat.org. Feel free to join in the various special interest groups and of course post any pictures that may be of interest to the international community.

Sincerely Yours, Mark Bussin  
Marist Schools Council Director. South Africa



# Marist Interview

## Vroni Hörmann. Mindelheim Germany

■ My name is Veronika and i'm 21 years old. I live in Mindelheim in the Province West Central Europe where I am training to become a Carpenter.

■ I attended the Marist school in Mindelheim for eight years and wanted to go to Bolivia as a volunteer afterwards with Cmi, sadly that didn't work out because of the pandemic. I still felt very connected the Marist community though, so i've been doing voluntary work since I graduated.

■ Most of that work has to do with children and young people. In the last few years, we created informative weeks about specific topics, for example racism or poverty. And on fridays we offer a Kids Programm in the refugee home in Mindelheim.

■ An interesting fact about me that not many people don't know about is that most of my clocks go a few minutes fast. That's my trick to be on time for appointments.

■ There are many people in my life that i admire a lot. But i think who inspires me the most are the young people around me taking action to fight against climate change although we as a generation have so little possibilities and sometimes get a lot of hate for pointing out injustice.

■ An accomplishment that i'm proud of is being brave enough to apply for the place to train in carpentry. I never really worked with my hands until i was 20 and it's very male dominated, but i just

went for it and now i'm sure it was the right decision.

■ As a Marist, i feel like i'm at home in the whole world. Because every place can feel like home when there are people who you connect with and who are there for you. And for me, that's a big part of the Marist spirit.

■ I think my friends and family would describe my as a calm person that rather likes to listen than to talk. My hobbies vary from social work to music and climbing, so they probably would say i'm versatile too.

■ An event that influenced my life and the person i'm today is when i left my friends and family for a year to work on a farm 700 km away from home. It was the first time i was responsible for myself and had to deal with whole new surroundings and people, and that really made my heart and inner strength grow.

■ In my free time i love playing the guitar or the piano, that always calms me down at the and



of the day. And i'm really grateful for my friends and family, so i spend as much time as possible with them.

■ As i'm only starting my work in the Marist Mission, there have been many small highlights to date. For example it's always inspiring to get to know other Marists from around the world that i've never met before. It has always been easy to connect because of the values we share as a community.

■ **My vision for the Marist Europe is a community full of liveliness that radiates hope for the future. I hope we can go on doing our part for making the world a better place.**



# Happy Easter

TO ALL THE MARISTS  
AROUND THE WORLD!

May the renewal of life at Easter  
bring new blessings of love,  
hope, peace, good health and happiness to you  
and your loved ones.

Embrace the renewal of life!

