

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW MARIST PRAYER APP GOES LIVE

A new online resource for daily prayer has been launched by Australia's Marists.

Deputy Leader of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat, Joe McCarthy, said that expects the free app will have wide appeal both for Marists themselves and more widely to all people who are attracted to a Marian way of praying.

"We think that this app will complement other excellent daily online prayer resources by offering something that is distinctively Marian," said Mr McCarthy.

"As Marists, we look to Mary to be the model both for our spiritual lives and for the way of doing ministry and community," said Mr McCarthy. "We seek to be contemplatives in the heart of the world."

Mr McCarthy, who leads a team that provides pastoral care and spiritual formation for Marists, believes that the primary users of the app will be the 700 Australian members of the Marist Association, but he expects that it will be taken up by many others both here and internationally.

"The original Marist dream was that the Church would be re-vitalised by its turning to Mary," explained Mr McCarthy. "As modern-day Marists, we want to find new expression for that, and to share it with all in the Church."

New forms of Marist life are beginning to flower all over the world, Mr McCarthy said. "The Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat is an important dimension of that, and the main one for us here in Australia."

He explained that the primary purpose of the Association is to nurture the spiritual life of individual members, encourage community among members, and grow committed and well-formed Marists to lead and govern Marist schools and other ministries into the future.

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“We have been greatly heartened by the strong take-up in membership of the Australian Conference of the Marist Association,” Mr McCarthy said. “Among our members are just over 100 Marist Brothers, and more than 600 others who are mainly lay people, but also include priests who are attracted to the Marist way, including two bishops.”

“In ecclesial terms, this is new ground,” he said, “a shared space for all Marists to contribute to Marist life and mission, and to be co-responsible for its growth and integrity into the next generation.”

The Marist Daily Prayer app was launched on Monday 27 March by the current Leader of the Marist Association in Australia, Brother Peter Carroll, who also occupies the role of Provincial of the Marist Brothers.

The Prayer App is designed to encourage a contemplative prayer experience, featuring each day an intention, the Gospel of the day, Gospel commentary, a question to ponder, and an opportunity to blog a response to the question “where has the Spirit drawn you in today’s prayer?”

The app is freely available to download on Android and Apple devices at GooglePlay and the Apple App Store. Search for “Marist Daily Prayer”

ENDS.

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Photo opportunity: 11.00am, Monday 27 March
Marist Centre Melbourne, 1 Dawson Street, Brunswick

(Photos supplied on request)