



Co-Curricular  
at Marist

# Faith Formation



#BeMarist



## Co-Curricular in the Faith Formation Domain

As a Catholic and Marist school, Faith Formation is a major domain within our co-curricular program. We have an extensive and growing range of Faith Formation groups and activities available to our boys in Years 4 to 12, many of which are based on the Gospel value of service. The College fosters a culture of service as this is an integral part of the Marist ethos. Students participating in Service, exemplify the Marist commitment to 'doing good quietly'. Their combination of strength and gentleness is the key to all that our boys achieve through their service.

Our Co-Curricular Faith Formation programs challenge the boys to reach out beyond their own needs in service of others, allowing them to put their faith into action. Boys develop leadership and life skills that enable them to be good Christians and citizens. Awareness and a social conscience develops as the students work to support those in need, especially the marginalised.

Partnering with international NGO's and volunteers from various charities and organisations, students gain valuable leadership and management experience. Involvement in Co-Curricular Faith Formation activities allows students to stand in solidarity with fellow students, teachers and those in need and put into action our Marist ideals of presence, family spirit, simplicity and love of work, in the Way of Mary.

The following summarises the extensive range of Faith Formation and service activities that operate outside lessons, enabling students to volunteer their time, passion and energy to serve others in the local, national and global community.

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 MaristFaithFormation  
 @mccformingfaith

# Faith Formation Groups

## Marist Youth Ministry

Peer to peer ministry plays a central role to the Faith Formation program of the College. Boys in Years 9 and 10 can nominate to be trained to deliver Youth Ministry in elective ministry classes. Students in the Year 11 and 12 Youth Ministry teams provide a variety of activities and events throughout the year that foster and mentor younger students through their Faith Formation.

Senior students design and deliver youth mentoring to the younger boys, lead or co-lead team meetings, small faith sharing groups, liturgies, prayers and worship.

The Year 12 Marist Youth Ministry team attends the CSYMA Lead Conference each year. This is a great opportunity for boys to meet others, prepare themselves for the coming year of Youth Ministry, deepen their faith, and develop a stronger understanding and skill base for Youth Ministry.

Year 11 and 12 students in MYM facilitate the Brothers Together program, and assist with:

- Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday Liturgies
- Crossroads Lenten Prayer – Lunch time Youth Group
- Way of the Cross – Community Reflection, Good Friday
- ACTIV8 – Social inclusion sports program
- Year 7 Induction days
- Altar Serving and Ministers of Communion
- College Assembly Prayer
- Year 10 Reflection Days

Marist College Canberra is a member of Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia (CSYMA) and some Marist Old Boys continue their ministry work as members of the CSYMA National Student Team.





## Faith Formation Groups

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### Marist Justice and Solidarity

As Marists we stand in solidarity with our local, national and global community. Within our College, Marist Justice and Solidarity is a group that is committed to promoting an awareness about issues of social justice, peace and human rights. The group consists of students from Year 7 through to Year 12. Marist Justice and Solidarity aims to provide a credible voice on these issues within our Marist College community, with a desire to make a difference by advocating changes for a more just society – locally, nationally and globally.

Marist Justice and Solidarity takes local action by supporting HOME, which, as the name implies, provides a home for the most vulnerable in our community. Students hold an annual King of the Court Competition and proceeds go towards our Lenten appeal in support of MSOL – Marist Solidarity. Students coordinate events throughout the year to raise awareness and funds for key organisations including Rice day and the World Vision 40 Hour Famine.









## Faith Formation Groups

### St Vincent de Paul at Marist

The Marist College Canberra St Vincent de Paul Society Conference works to provide direct charity to support those in our local community. Students in Years 7 to 9 can be involved in Mini Vinnies whilst Year 10–12 students coordinate our Senior Vinnies program.

Projects and activities include:

- Vinnies kids camps
- Annual doorknock
- Winter appeal
- Carnival canteen fundraisers
- Christmas appeal
- Night Patrol



### Groundswell

Groundswell is a Year 10 Servant Leadership program that enables boys to develop and facilitate ministry programs for younger students. The program works on a range of activities including hospital and nursing home visitations, charity fundraising and a gardening service for the elderly and local parishes. Through their participation in Groundswell, students have the opportunity to attend Parish retreats and Catholic Youth Festivals. The Groundswell program promotes student leadership and develops skills of project management.

### Stewardship Group

The Marist College Stewardship group are a collection of students concerned about the future of the global community. This enthusiastic and passionate group take real action to protect our environment and promote sustainability.

Stewardship projects and activities include:

- Community garden project
- Clean up Australia Day
- Earth Hour
- Renewable energy research and advocacy
- Catholic Earthcare workshop
- Australian Youth Climate Coalition
- RSPCA Million Paws Walk and cupcake bake







## Faith Formation Activities

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### Red Cross Blood Bank

Senior Marist students who are passionate about saving lives act as Youth Ambassadors for the Red Cross. These ambassadors promote blood donation and help coordinate blood donation days for Senior Marist boys aged 16 and over.

### Cooee Project

The aim of the Cooee Project is to generate solidarity between our students and those who are learning to speak English as a second language, including indigenous Australians and students living overseas in Marist schools. Regular Skype conversations are held between the groups of students at Marist and our partner schools.

The project helps students build confidence in relating to each other, and provides our students with an opportunity to use their language skills in a Service capacity. The program works to break down the borders between young people and helps them discover more about the world they live in and the role they play in it.



### OFFcuts

OFFcuts is a Faith Formation group involving students in Years 7 to 12, that gather after school each week in the workshop, to construct toys for children living in poverty. The toys that the boys build are sent to communities around the globe and are given to children who would not normally receive a gift for Christmas. Boys combat poverty while learning valuable design and woodworking skills.



### Student 2 Student Reading Program

The Smith Family Student 2 Student Reading Program is a literacy program where Marist boys in Years 7 to 10 assist other young people to learn to read. This program works by matching students who need to improve their literacy with peer mentors from Marist College. Our student reading mentors receive training and give their time once a week to listen to their reading buddy.

### Running Club

Marist students and staff raise money for various charities by competing in a variety of charity running events including the Canberra Times Fun Run, the Mother's Day Classic and the City2Surf Canberra. This is a popular and enjoyable way for students to combine two of their loves, staying fit and active whilst serving the community at the same time.



ENGAGEsports  
MARIST COLLEGE CANBERRA



## Faith Formation Activities

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### Life Stories

Life stories is a recent initiative in the Faith Formation domain, open to students in Years 7 to 12. Marist students visit residents in local nursing homes each week and spend time listening to their wisdom and life stories. The purpose of this program is for students to learn to be present, listen and share with senior members of the community. Friendships are formed and stories and history is recorded.

### ENGAGE Sports

ENGAGE Sports is the dream of two Year 9 Students who wanted to start a Sports Inclusion program at Marist for students on the Southside of Canberra. ENGAGE Sports provides disabled students from neighbouring schools with an enjoyable experience of sport and also interaction with our Year 7–10 students at Marist. ENGAGE Sports helps students gain a greater appreciation for the diversity within our community and an improved ability and understanding of how to engage and interact with people who have special needs. Modified equipment is used to facilitate games including Bocce, Soccer, Volleyball and Air Hockey. This is a highly energetic and enthusiastic service group of Marist boys who take charge to organise fun and dynamic activities, which also keeps the students active and healthy.

## Faith Formation Gatherings

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### Canberra Marists

Canberra Marists is a group that allows all past and present members of the Marist community to stay connected with the Marist way. Canberra Marists hold several social and spiritual events throughout the year including Young Marists Exchange Nights, Christmas Carols, Lenten and Advent Prayer Groups, Immersion Evenings, Masses and liturgies and wine and cheese tours to the Hermitage in Mittagong. Canberra Marists also participate in College Masses, Champagnat Day and the Good Friday liturgy – The Way of the Cross. All members of our community are welcome to join Canberra Marists and invite friends and family to these events.

*[maristc.act.edu.au/community/canberra-marists](http://maristc.act.edu.au/community/canberra-marists)*



## Student Expectations

It is expected that each student in Years 4 to 12 will be involved in at least one co-curricular activity throughout the school year. Student involvement in co-curricular programs is highly valued at Marist and students are encouraged to try a range of diverse activities during their time at the College.

**Please note:** The Co-Curricular program at Marist is dynamic and the list of activities on offer at the College can alter due to the interests and commitment of the student body.

## Contact

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[maristc.act.edu.au](http://maristc.act.edu.au)

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