



Meeting and Other Prayers  
for use in  
Champagnat Marist Schools

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## Resources on the District of the Pacific website

- Champagnat Spirituality Resources  
<http://www.maristbrothers.org.nz/spirituality/champagnat-spirituality-resources/>
- Champagnat Marist Prayers  
<http://www.maristbrothers.org.nz/spirituality/prayers-for-champagnat-marists-2/>
- Review of the Day  
<http://www.maristbrothers.org.nz/spirituality/review-of-the-day/>
- Family Prayers  
<http://www.maristbrothers.org.nz/spirituality/family-prayers/>

# 1 Prayers at the Start of the Year

## **Blessing for the New School Year**

May the Lord bless us in our searching questions,  
For this is the pathway to our enlightenment,  
Our wisdom, our way to the future.

May the Lord bless us in our personal gifts,  
For these are God's present to the world,  
Through which we enrich, and ennoble  
And take our world to the future.

May the Lord bless us in our reflections,  
For these are the seeds of our plans.  
They seek nourishment to bring life to the future.

May the Lord bless us in our vision,  
For this is the inspiration  
To fire our hopes, and reflections  
And our belief in the future.

May the Lord bless us in our leadership,  
For this is the opportunity given us to  
Enable and inspire, and take others to the future.

May the Lord bless us in our decisions,  
For these are the steps,  
Our 'yes' to faith in life and our confidence in the future.

May the Lord bless us today  
And throughout this New Year.  
Father, Son and Spirit. Amen.

Source: Spiritual Formation Resource: Marist Ministries Office, Sydney.

## **Prayer for the New School Year**

God of new beginnings,  
we rejoice in the opportunity to gather in your name  
as this school year begins.  
Each time we come together  
we know we are in your presence  
and that you will help us both with our vision  
for the future and with the practical matters at hand.

We ask that the work of this meeting  
be of service to you, our students, our staff and our community.

We pray that the reflections and deliberations undertaken here may bring us closer together in serving you and others.

Guide us to serve you in what we do each day,  
so that we do not hinder the purpose of this meeting  
and the coming of your Kingdom.

We make this prayer through your son, Jesus,  
our source of life. Amen.

Based on a prayer by Br David Hall FMS

## **2 Marian Prayers**

### **Hail Holy Queen (Modern)**

We greet you, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy;  
our life, our sweetness and our hope.  
To you do we turn for help in our poverty and need.  
With you we pray when life seems difficult and we are struggling.  
Turn, then, most willing advocate,  
your eyes of mercy towards us.  
And when we come to eternal life show us your Son, Jesus,  
O compassionate, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

### **Marial Prayer at Easter time**

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia!  
+ For he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia!  
Has risen as he promised, alleluia!  
+ Pray for us to God, alleluia!  
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!  
+ For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia!

Let us pray:

Lord God, as you brought joy to the world through the resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
your Son, grant that through his Virgin Mother, Mary, we may come to the joys of eternal  
life.

We make our prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **The Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help,  
or sought your intercession was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence,  
I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my mother.  
To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions,  
but in your mercy hear and answer them. Amen.

### **The Hail Mary**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### **The Angelus**

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.  
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.  
Hail Mary...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R. Be it done unto me according to your word.  
Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made Flesh.  
R. And dwelt among us.  
Hail Mary...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.  
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Lord, fill our hearts with your love, and as you revealed to us by an angel, the coming of  
your Son as man.

So lead us through His suffering and death to the glory of His resurrection, for He lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **To Jesus through Mary**

Mary, the coming of Jesus into your life  
sent you out on service  
to your cousin Elizabeth in her time of need.

At Pentecost, you drew the disciples  
together in patient hope,  
waiting expectantly for the Spirit's coming.  
With them, you received the outpouring of courage and clarity.

You chose Marcellin as your disciple  
and you choose us now to carry the message of Jesus to our  
schools, families and community.

You give us your name,  
to show us that you walk the path with us,  
and share with us your concern for those in need.

Be present to us, active with us.  
Led us to Jesus in whom we place our trust  
and can dream our dreams. Amen.

### **Mary's Song of Praise - The Magnificat - A modern version**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit exults in God who engenders freedom;  
freedom to ask, how can this be done ?  
freedom to search for new ways of doing things.

Freedom to be his handmaid,  
to serve God by building the kingdom.

The Almighty has done great things for me;  
the All-loving expects great things of me.  
God asks me to proclaim the power of his love,  
and thereby disarm the proud of heart.

To impel rulers to listen,  
that they may discover the plight of the lowly.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
by avowing that all nations and all races are blessed  
for God's hand has made them,  
his heart has touched them.  
God, who is mighty, has done great things in them,  
God who is love expects great things of me.

God asks me to extend his freedom to the rich,  
to rid them of the shackles which their wealth has forged,  
to invite them to fill the hungry with good things,  
to persuade them not to go away empty,  
but to feed their starving spirits with the joy  
that comes from sharing.

Thus, will the mercy he has promised  
to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants flourish.  
Thus, will all nations, all races, all generations  
learn to call me and each other blessed. Amen.

**Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary** - Based on the *Prayer of the Church in Asia*, John Paul II.

Virgin Mother of the Saviour and Mother of us all,  
look tenderly on the Church of your Son planted in our soil.  
Be our guide and model as we continue  
your Son's mission of love and service through education in our land.

You fully and freely accepted the Father's call  
to be the Mother of God;  
teach us to empty our hearts of all that is not of God,  
that we to may be filled with the Holy Spirit.

You pondered the mysteries of God's will  
in the silence of your heart;  
help us to discern the signs of God's powerful hand.

You went quickly to visit Elizabeth to help her in her need;  
obtain for us the same spirit of zeal and service in our evangelising task.

You sang the praises of the Lord;  
Lead us in joyful proclamation of faith in Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

**Prayer to Mary, Mother of God** - Based on the prayer of Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*.

Mary, Virgin and Mother,  
show us what love is and whence it draws its origin  
and its constantly renewed power.  
To you we entrust this school as part of the Church  
and its mission in the service of love.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
you have given the world its true light,  
Jesus, your Son - the Son of God.

You abandoned yourself completely  
to God's call and this became a wellspring  
of the goodness which flows forth from him.

Show us Jesus.  
Lead us to him.  
Teach us to know and love him,  
so that we too can become capable of true love  
and be fountains of living water  
in the midst of a thirsting world. Amen.

### **3 Prayers on Champagnat Marist Themes**

#### **The Montagne Event**

God of courage,

In the Montagne experience You inspired Marcellin Champagnat with a vision of Marist education, to reach out to young people in human and spiritual poverty.

You called Marcellin to see, to judge and to act.

He responded to you call in faith.

Relying on your providence to provide the resources necessary to accomplish the task.

Increase our faith to respond to the Montagne's in our lives.

Mary our Good Mother and Ordinary Resource,

We pray that this school may be authentic

In its mission to make Jesus known and loved.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Saviour and friend. Amen.

#### **Champagnat Marist Charism**

God of the journey

You have pitched your tent in our midst.

You have gifted us with the vision of Marcellin Champagnat

Your servant and our brother.

You continually call people

To experience the richness of Marcellin's charism

To be at the service of young people.

You call us forward in hope as we seek

to find new ways to make Marcellin's charism real in our world.

As we explore together the Marist vision

Help us to respond to the urgings of your Holy Spirit

To be faithful to the vision handed on to us

And to respond creatively to your call today.

#### **Champagnat Marist Vision**

Loving Father, we praise and thank you

for your presence and action in our lives.

We thank you for those saints

who continually reveal to us your love.

In Jesus, you have shown us the depth of your unconditional love.

In Mary, our Good Mother and Ordinary Resource

you give us an example of someone who said "Yes"

and through her response, you entered our human condition.



In Marcellin Champagnat, you show us a person of deep faith who overcame adversity and failure to establish a vision of education at the service of poor and marginalized young people.

We pray in thanksgiving for those people who continue this vision and respond to the challenge to build up your Reign in our midst. Amen.

### **Building the Kingdom of God**

Loving God,  
we come before you accompanied by St. Marcellin Champagnat and sharing the Marist vision entrusted to us.

We know what we are about.  
We plant seeds which one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted in the hearts of the people of our communities.

We know we cannot do everything  
and we sense being liberated in accepting that.

We hear your call, Loving God to do something and to do it as well as we can.

We are workers, not master builders.  
We are prophets for a future not our own, not seeing the end results.

We ask St. Marcellin Champagnat that we may have *hearts that know no bounds*.

We lift our hearts to you in prayer with Jesus and our Good Mother Mary, in solidarity with all those in need at this time. Amen.

### **Marcellin's Vision**

God of rock,  
in Marcellin Champagnat you give us a firm foundation,  
guide and support in our work of education.

We ask you loving God to give us  
the courage, determination and zeal  
that Marcellin showed in establishing  
the first Marist schools.

May Mary be for us as she was for Marcellin,  
the one who inspires our mission.

May we learn from her how to accompany  
with love, perseverance and discretion,  
the young people who are confided to our care.  
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus  
who teaches us about your love. Amen.

### **Champagnat Marist Mission**

Loving God, source of life, we thank you for your many gifts,  
and we ask you to bless us with a renewed commitment to the work of Marist education  
as we gather at this time.

Our mission and philosophy recall our foundations - the Gospel and our Marist founders.  
The Gospel proclaims the freedom and wholeness that you desire for all people.

In our Marist founders, St. Marcellin Champagnat and Br. François Rivat, you give us the  
example of people inspired by your unconditional love.

We find inspiration in them as people of faith and audacity.  
May their example keep alive in us the spirit of creativity and vision,  
which builds up your kingdom.  
Bless all who work under the banner of Mary, our Good Mother, with joy and peace. Amen.

### **Champagnat Marist Education**

God of unconditional love, source of life,  
we thank you for your many gifts,  
and ask you to bless us with a renewed commitment to  
the work of Catholic education as we gather for this meeting.

Help each one of us to use the most effective ways  
of extending your compassion to all.  
Bless all those who work in the name of Marist with joy and peace.  
Keep alive in all of us your spirit of creativity and vision  
which brings us all to a better world.

Give us time to build strong communities and friendships,  
wisdom to know our gifts and our goals,  
and generosity to reach beyond ourselves to those in need.

May all who work with us grow to a deeper awareness  
of the importance of their presence,  
and remind us all to express our appreciation  
of the service of each one.  
We make this prayer through Jesus your son. Amen.

### **A Prayer for Boards or Staff**

Loving God, we ask your blessing as we engage  
in this work of Champagnat Marist education.  
Be our near companion.  
Spread the road before us with beauty and adventure.  
Give us, on the journey, a heart wrapped  
in wonder that we may see your presence in all things and in all whom we meet.

You call us to serve you and your people  
in the midst of a busy world.  
When we struggle, help us.  
When we stumble, hold us.  
When we fall, lift us up.  
Give us hearts full of your love.  
Strengthen us to share this love with those whom you have called  
to share the journey.  
We make our prayer through Christ, your Son. Amen.

### **Champagnat Marist Spirituality**

God of the journey,  
You have pitched your tent in our midst,  
You have gifted us with the spirituality of Marcellin Champagnat,  
your servant and our brother.

You continually call people to experience the richness of Marcellin's spirituality and to be of  
service to young people particularly the marginalised.

You call us forward in hope as we, Brothers and Lay Marists  
together seek new ways to live out Marcellin's vision in our world.

As we explore the richness of Marist spirituality,  
help us to respond to the promptings of your Holy Spirit,  
to be faithful to the vision we have received from Marcellin  
and to respond with audacity and creativity to your call to us today. Amen.

### **New Hearts for a New World**

We praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
You inspired Marcellin Champagnat  
to labour for your Kingdom and to make Jesus known and loved  
in the circumstances of the people of his time, especially the poor.

You gave him Mary as his ordinary resource and model of unbounded "yes" in responding to  
your call with courage and strong resolve.

You bestowed upon the many generations of brothers and lay men and women the same zeal to work in bringing Christ-life to birth in this constantly changing world.

We give you thanks for your abundant blessings on our Institute in the many aspects of its life and mission.

We are grateful that the Marist charism has grown to be ever more relevant with the passage of time.

We rejoice in the numerous men and women who continue to share and keep alive Marcellin's dream of bringing young people closer to Jesus and Mary.

As modern-day Champagnats, we recognize the challenges you set before us in the realities of the world and of the young.

Endow us with the wisdom to see clearly the way in which you are leading us so that we may continue to be signs of your loving presence today. Amen.

#### **Prayer for the Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat**

Loving God, as we celebrate the feast of St Marcellin Champagnat we give thanks for the life of this extraordinary man which has touched so many people around the world.

Marcellin brought hope and the promise of a bright future to so many young people of his time.

He and the early brothers understood each person as an expression of the wonder of God to be loved equally.

We pray that our Marist school might be a place where all relationships are marked by respect and care, and that we have a special concern for those who are troubled, alone, in need, or who have lost faith.

We are called to be modern-day Champagnats for each other, Marists whose hearts are transformed by Jesus' love. Like Marcellin, may our imitation of Mary's faithful discipleship offer strength and encouragement to our brothers and sisters. Amen.

**A Champagnat Marist Creed** - Marist International Mission Assembly, Mendes

We believe in the continuing relevance of St. Marcellin's charism.  
We believe in our shared mission as Marist educators.

We believe in our vocation to minister to all young people,  
with a special love for the poor and excluded.

We believe in our mission to lead young people to life-giving values,  
to build a better world, to make Jesus Christ known and loved.

We believe that, as Mary did for Jesus, to educate young people  
we must first love them and love them equally.

We believe in the value of the integral education we offer in our schools.  
We believe in the significance of our hopeful and creative presence  
among young people in all our places of ministry,  
especially among those most neglected.

**Renewing the Vision**

God of surprises, You call us to go in haste to new lands.  
Deepen our awareness of your all-encompassing love for each of us.  
Do not let fear or love of the familiar become barriers to our moving to new lands.

Help us to recapture the vision that drove the early Marists.  
Help us to look beyond our own needs  
and to see the world through the eyes of the poor child.  
Help us as we seek to implement this vision in our school  
and as we try to meet the needs of our students.

Let us be surprised by you, God of surprises,  
surprised by real freedom, love, joy and peace.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Mission of Champagnat Marist Education**

Gracious God of mercy,  
as we gather for this meeting we are mindful  
that we are the carriers of the Spirit's dream  
to bring new life to those entrusted to our care.

For the mission of Jesus and the educational ministry of the Church, we give thanks.

For the example and vision of St. Marcellin Champagnat and those who have journeyed  
before us, we give thanks.

For the joy of serving your people, especially your young, we give thanks.

For the bonds that unite us and for the issues that challenge us, we give thanks.

God of mercy, be present with us as we begin our meeting.  
Bless us with clarity and wisdom, courage and strength  
that we may carry out the tasks entrusted to our care and direction.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### **Go in haste to New Lands**

God of mystery and new beginnings,  
you challenge us to go in haste to a new land.

Like Abraham, our father in faith,  
may we journey into the unknown with confidence.

May your Holy Spirit:  
Guide our deliberations.  
Challenge our thinking.  
Renew our vision.  
Continue to lead us,  
so that we may carry your Word of hope and be  
messengers of your love and peace in our places of work,  
our homes and our communities.  
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### **Champagnat Marist Mission**

Our mission and philosophy recall our roots,  
both Gospel and Marist,  
and reflect our commitment  
to our ministry of Catholic education.

The Gospel, calls us to that wholeness that God wants for all people.  
In Marcellin we are inspired by a man of faith,  
a man of action with a preference for the poor.  
A man who relied deeply on the Providence of God,  
a man who was innovative, collaborative, inclusive.

Our mission is that of Jesus,  
the one who listened, touched and restored.

Gracious God be with us gathered here.  
Fill us with your creative energy.  
Hear us. Guide us. Shape us.  
We ask this in the name of Marcellin  
Your faithful servant and Jesus our brother. Amen

### **Marcellin our Guide**

Loving God, you have given us Marcellin as our guide.  
From him we can learn lessons in seeing you in other people.

Marcellin saw the real worth in the many young people  
of his time who were neglected, who were trapped in physical, mental, emotional and  
spiritual poverty.

He became aware that you were calling him through these young people to realise the  
dignity of each person, no matter what their circumstances.

Gracious God, we ask for this same grace.  
That we may understand that we can bring out the God  
in people by treating them with the dignity they deserve.  
We ask this through Your Son Jesus, our brother. Amen.

### **A Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Gracious and loving God:  
For the mission of Jesus - we thank you.  
For the educational ministry of the church in this school community - we thank you.  
For the joy of serving your people - we thank you.  
For the bonds which unite us - we thank you.  
For the issues which challenge us -we thank you.  
For the hope which enlivens us - we thank you.

We ask your blessing, O God,  
as we gather at this time for the work of Champagnat Marist education.

We need your steadfast presence.  
In our questions and fatigue, grant us clarity and support.  
In our vision, give us zeal.  
In our weakness, we ask that you accept us.

Bless us now, in all things good and human.  
For what is yet to come, we pray in thanks. Amen.

### **A Credo of Champagnat Marist Mission**

We believe that God entered decisively into human history  
by embracing the goodness of humanity in the burden of its sin, in the person of Jesus  
whom we now experience as the Christ  
in the concrete circumstances of our society, history and culture.

That Jesus is God-with-us, *Emmanuel*, revealing that women and men are images of God  
who are called to manifest the Divine presence and compassion in our world.

That God continues to be in solidarity with all people,  
especially with the poor, the oppressed, the marginalised,  
and those who stand with them.

That the spirit of the Risen One fashions us into a people called to be Church, to continue  
the mission of Jesus, like Mary and Marcellin, in order to create a future where the world  
will be God's dwelling place fit place for all people.

You are the God of the poor and marginalised who did not cling to your divinity, but  
emptied yourself out of a desire to be with us and lead us to ultimate wholeness in yourself.

We stand with you, Jesus Christ, and identify with the goodness, holiness and beauty of this  
world, rejecting the powers of sin and destruction.

Yes you are God's sacrament, God incarnate, God-with-us, *Emmanuel*.

### **Walking the Champagnat Marist Mission**

Our Marist mission makes its own demands.

The burden of the mission can at times be heavy  
for all associated with it.

We wonder if it would not be easier for all concerned if we settled for a more comfortable  
existence for a path less demanding.

Yet the growth to freedom,  
the life lived with meaning,  
the social identity we have with humanity,  
the hopes we have for all creation,  
the search for love and human fulfilment carry for us promise  
as well as struggle.

Being called to Marist mission is not a private gift  
or an individualised task.

Mission is a public call within a community  
who form a partnership with one another  
under the guidance of Mary and Marcellin,  
to cooperate with God's continuing work of creation in our world.

To walk the Marist mission is a walk of faith,  
interacting with a community  
and ready to welcome the other  
in the midst of all the events and interactions of each day. Amen.

### **Champagnat Marist Vision**

God of inspiration and dreams,  
We thank you for your presence in our lives.



You inspired Marcellin to meet the educational and spiritual needs of children and young people in their rural isolation.

You inspire us today to meet the educational and spiritual needs of the students committed to our care. Give us the same audacity and vision that you gave Marcellin.

Mary our Good Mother and Ordinary Resource, if this work of education should fail, it is not our work that fails, but yours, for you have done everything for us.

Bless us Good Mother, bless this school and all who work, study and dream here. Amen.

#### **A Champagnat Marist Litany**

- Mary, our Good Mother and Ordinary Resource, you who have done everything for us,

*Be with us, Good Mother and bless our school and families.*

- Marcellin Champagnat, our Founder, in whom the Spirit inspired the charism and mission of the Marist Brothers,

*Keep alive in us your charism and bless our passion to make Jesus known and loved among today's youth.*

- You our martyred Brothers in Oceania, China, Spain, and Africa,

*Help us to be faithful and to acquire limitless generosity.*

- All you who have worked with the Marist Brothers because you were attracted to the charism of Champagnat,

*Allow many others to discover this charism and to serve the Lord and young people with joy.*

#### **A Champagnat Marist Declaration**

Love is God's powerful word spoken to us in Jesus' life, passion, death and resurrection.

It bends and changes, forms and transforms our lives so that we may receive love and in turn be loving.

As people of the Church today,

in the footsteps of Mary and Marcellin with faith and prophetic boldness we commit ourselves anew to search for ways to express God's love particularly in the quality of our relationships with each other.

May we en flesh the Marist values of

*Presence*

*Simplicity*

*Family spirit*

*Passion for our work*

*In the way of Mary*

in collaboration with all people of goodwill  
who make the Gospel live in today's world. Amen.

### **Champagnat Marist Charism**

God of unconditional love we come with confidence  
bearing your promise in our lives,  
as we ask for gifts to help us,  
in our task of continuing the ministry of Jesus  
through the example and vision of Marcellin Champagnat.

For the gifts of PRESENCE and SIMPLICITY  
to have the energy and insight to fashion an environment in our work places where  
presence and simplicity thrive,  
through just practices and respect for the dignity of each person.  
We ask: *God of love, give us the gift of PRESENCE and SIMPLICITY*

For the gift of FAMILY SPIRIT  
to stand with all creation, to wait for conversion,  
for growth, for transformation and for completion.  
We ask: *God of love, give us the gift of FAMILY SPIRIT*

For the gift of a PASSION FOR OUR WORK  
to be willing to go the extra mile, to wash feet,  
to heal wounds and to strive after excellence.  
We ask: *God of love, give us the gift of a PASSION FOR OUR WORK.*

For the gift of ACTING IN THE WAY OF MARY  
to be gentle with the mystery of each other's uniqueness.  
To stand on holy ground and acknowledge the value of all creation.  
To respond to your call in faith.  
We ask: *God of love, may we ACT AS MARY DID.*

### **Champagnat Marist Charism and Values**

Gracious and loving God,  
we ask you to enlighten and strengthen

the women and men whose leadership serves our school.

Give us vision and courage to respond  
to the issues and needs around us.

In our commitment to Marist education  
bless our desire to live out our Marist values  
that respect the sacredness of life,  
and affirm the value and dignity of each person.  
May our *Presence* be a sign of your presence.  
May our *Simplicity* be genuine and sincere.  
Let our *Family spirit* be experienced by all  
who enter this school.  
In the *Passion for our work* may  
we strive after excellence.  
Enable us *in the way of Mary* to  
have a practical concern for the poor  
and promote justice and fairness in all we do.

We make this prayer through Jesus,  
who comes to bring Your love into our world. Amen.

**A Champagnat Marist Prayer** - St John's College, Hamilton, New Zealand

Loving God, we gather in your name,  
and ask that your Spirit be with us -  
a Spirit of wisdom and courage, of gentleness and peace.

Be with us in all that we do and help us to make our gathering  
a truly Catholic and Marist opportunity,  
living a family spirit, promoting the love of work,  
being present to one-another,  
doing everything in a spirit of simplicity, and in the way of Mary.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name,  
and through the intercession  
of Mary, our Good Mother,  
of Marcellin Champagnat, and of all the saints. Amen.

**A Champagnat Marist Blessing** - Based on a song by Br Michael Herry FMS

May the Marist spirit, the spirit of Mary, live in our hearts and in our lives.  
May the blessing of Mary's prayerful spirit be on us.  
May the blessing of Mary's loving service be on us.  
May the blessing of Mary's courage be on us.  
May the blessing of Mary's patience be on us.  
May the blessing of Mary's spirit of praise be on our lips and in our hearts.  
May the blessing of Mary's union with Jesus be ours.

## 4 Prayers on Champagnat Marist Spirituality and Charism

God's Presence and Love ✕ Trust in God ✕ Love of Jesus and His Gospel ✕ Presence  
Simplicity ✕ Family Spirit ✕ Love of Work ✕ In the Way of Mary

### God's Presence and Love

Lord of life,  
Your presence in creation  
assures ongoing vitality to all that is;  
all life is in you, all life is from you.

You drew Marcellin Champagnat into intimacy  
by giving him a lively sense of your presence  
in the Eucharist.  
In you Lord, Marcellin lived and moved and had his being.

Marcellin we ask you to share with us  
this sense of God's presence,  
this awareness that God surrounds us  
and fills creation with the immensity of his love.  
Share with us your sense of Mary's presence  
and of her dynamic guidance and support.

You cherished the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist  
as the simplest and easiest way of  
entering into the mystery of God's love.  
Help us to respond generously to the challenges  
we face in this school. Amen.

### Trust in God

Creator God,  
you inspired Marcellin Champagnat  
to trust you in all things.  
Strengthen us who follow in his footsteps  
that we may grow in openness to you  
and in acceptance of ourselves and others.

Enable us to drink more consciously  
from the "Water of the Rock",  
and the charism that you have gifted to the Church.

Continue to inspire us to be faithful to  
your evolving mystery within our lives,  
your evolving presence within our world,  
your promise of the fullness of life and resurrection.

Gift each one of us  
to share your Good News  
with the people who come into our lives,  
and may we continue to experience your Good News in and through them.  
We ask this in confidence through Jesus our brother. Amen.

### **Love of Jesus and His Gospel**

Gracious God, give us a deep love of your Word  
that it may become for us, food for our heart.

Your loving presence in Mary and Marcellin  
made them open to You in the experiences of their lives.  
This awareness allowed them to find you  
always and everywhere.  
All events for them became divine events,  
revealing your presence, grace and love.

As with Mary and Marcellin,  
allow us to listen attentively to your Word  
and be aware of the signs of our times,  
so that we can make you present in the world. Amen.

### **A Prayer of Presence**

God of bricks and whispers,  
Sometimes you pull us up abruptly  
To reassess our priorities and values.  
Help us to order our time and priorities;  
To make time to listen to those with whom we live and work.

Help us to be more sensitive to those around us  
So that we don't need a brick  
To make us aware of their needs and concerns.

May we be aware of your subtle  
Presence in the lives of others,  
The events of our world, in time and seasons.  
Make us most attentive to your whisper deep in our hearts. Amen.

### **Champagnat Marist Presence**

God of love, in the death of Jesus on the Cross,  
you give us the supreme example of your unconditional love.

We thank you for all you have done through Jesus,  
and we ask you to help us comprehend more fully the wonder of his love.

As we seek to implement our vision for this school,  
speak to us,  
inspire us,  
challenge us,  
that we may have a greater awareness of your Kingdom,  
a deeper appreciation of your unconditional love,  
and a clear sense of your purpose.

We ask this in the name of Jesus  
who came that we may have life  
and have it to the full. Amen.

### **Presence**

Loving God, You call us to love,  
a most fragile and precious action.  
You challenge us to love unconditionally as You love.  
Even when we fail to love others as you love us  
You encourage us to extend a welcome to others.

In Mary You give us an example of someone who was prepared  
to go the extra mile when her cousin Elizabeth was in need.

In Marcellin Champagnat You give us an example of someone  
who seeing the desperate needs of his time responded to the challenge.

Marcellin was aware that each child needed to be loved.  
He realised the importance of accepting each person  
and allowing them to develop into who You intended them to become.

May we accept the challenge before us,  
to strengthen the Family Spirit in this school. Amen.

### **Family Spirit**

God of family, you have gifted us through Marcellin Champagnat with a vibrant family spirit.

May we make this school a place where each person can share their successes and failures,  
where honesty, respect and tolerance  
are practised as well as preached and taught.

May we assist each student to discover their innate goodness and to develop their talents  
for the good of the whole community.

May we build a family spirit that promotes trust,  
and a willingness to be open to others.  
We ask this through Mary, mother of Jesus and our mother. Amen.

### **In the Way of Mary**

Lord, in experiencing your loving presence,  
Marcellin felt a powerful urge to live the way of the Gospel as Mary did.  
Through the 'Montagne experience' you moved Marcellin to respond to the crying needs of  
his times by gathering together the first Brothers to evangelise young people in need.

May we, too, feel the power of your loving presence,  
may we too know the call to live as Mary did,  
may we learn from Marcellin to think as Mary thinks, feel as she does, love with her,  
and do, as she would have us do.

Marcellin, we ask you, to refresh in our hearts  
the spirituality that was given you,  
the charism that inspired you,  
so that we may continue to build up the reign of God. Amen.

## **5 Prayers on the Calls of the XXII General Chapter**

### **Chapter Prayer**

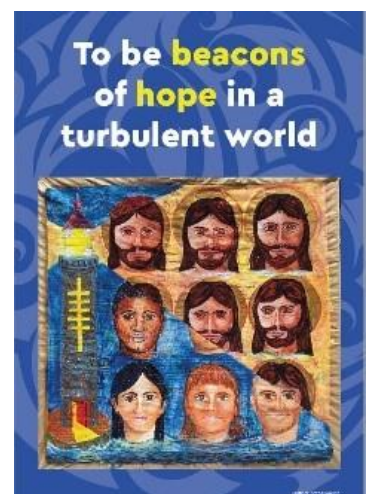
Jesus the Christ, we rejoice that you are transforming us  
and sending us out as a global charismatic family,  
to be a beacon of hope in this turbulent world,  
and to be the face and hands of your tender mercy.  
Inspire our creativity to be bridge-builders,  
As we continue to journey with children and young people on the margins of life,  
and to respond boldly to emerging needs. Amen.

### **As a global charismatic family, a beacon of hope in this turbulent world**

Jesus, we thank you for transforming us  
and sending send us  
as a global charismatic family  
to be a beacon of hope in this turbulent world.

You continue to call us to relate to others  
in a fundamentally new way,  
to listen to your Word and put it into practice,  
with urgency and without excluding anyone.

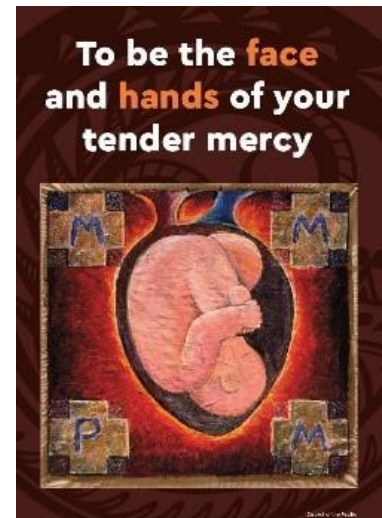
At this time of new beginning  
we pray for the strength and fortitude  
to be faithful to this endeavour. Amen.



## **2. To be the face and hands of your tender mercy**

Lord Jesus,  
you continue to call us to discover God's love  
in the ordinary events of life.  
You have promised us your Spirit in our lives.  
It is this same Spirit that urges us to be prophets of mercy  
and of being brothers and sisters to all.

Give us your grace at this time  
of a new beginning  
that we may respond to your call  
as Marcellin Champagnat did,  
with courage and audacity. Amen.



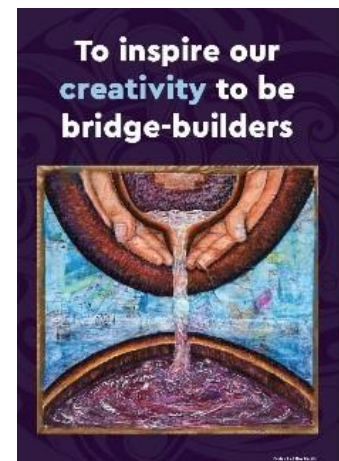
## **3. Inspire our creativity to be bridge-builders**

Lord Jesus,  
like Mary at Cana, we feel challenged  
by the needs of the world around us.  
you call us to be aware of the signs of the times,  
to face current challenges,  
without falling into the temptation  
of "answering questions that no one is asking anymore".

You call us to be a prophetic reminder  
of the common dignity  
and fundamental equality of the entire People of God.

You call us to move away from a culture  
shaped by "ego-s"  
and to adopt a culture shaped by "eco-s"  
(ecology, ecosystems, an economy of solidarity, ...).

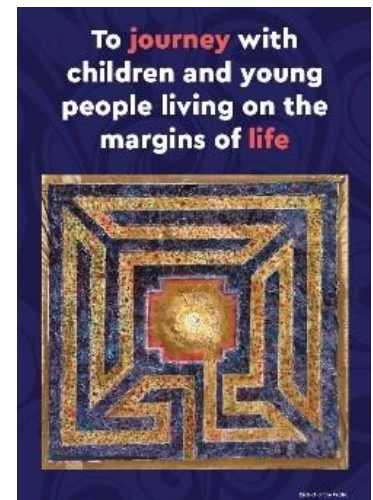
You call us to be agents of change, bridge-builders, messengers of peace, transforming the  
lives of young people through an education that integrates awakening faith and living by  
Gospel values. Amen.





#### **4. To journey with children and young people living on the margins of life**

Lord Jesus, we search for you,  
like Mary, in the caravans of life,  
in the tumult of our cities,  
and in the masses of displaced people  
who are seeking a better future for their children.  
You call us to open the eyes of our heart  
and hear the cries of children  
and young people,  
especially the voiceless and homeless.  
You encourage us to be creative in giving resolute  
responses to their needs and to empower those who have  
no voice.



You challenge us to be present in more significant ways  
among the children and young people on the margins of the world.

May we have the courage and audacity of Marcellin to respond  
as Mary would have us respond as we seek to journey with children and young people living  
on the margins of life. Amen.

#### **5. To respond boldly to emerging needs**

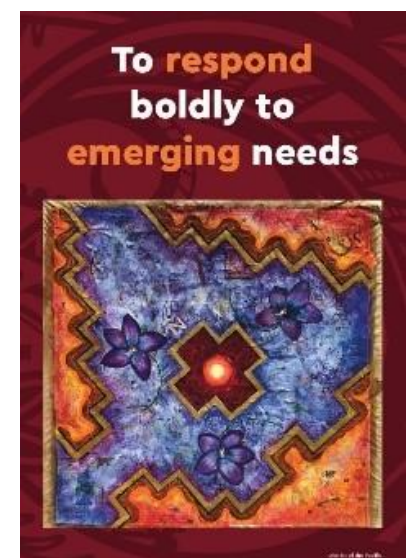
Lord Jesus,  
you went through life doing good  
and yet many of your contemporaries interpreted your actions  
narrowly, simply because you were from Nazareth, a  
carpenter,  
and the son of Mary.

Today, too, you continue to challenge us  
to abandon old paradigms  
and to re-imagine ways of helping people  
see the love of God in today's world.

You call us to undergo a change of heart  
and to be flexible in our structures,  
with all the risks entailed,  
so that we can move to the peripheries  
in defence of the poorest and most vulnerable.

May we make a firm commitment to promote  
and defend the Rights of the Child.

Awaken in us and those with whom we live and work an ecological awareness that engages  
us in caring for "our common home". Amen.



## **6 Prayers for the School Community**

### **A Prayer for our School Community**

Loving God, we pray for the students of this school.  
Give them inquiring minds,  
listening ears and receptive hearts.  
May they come to know you in a loving school community.

We pray for those who teach and work in this school.  
Give them enthusiasm and patience,  
love and a sense of humour.

We pray for the principal  
and those who lead this school,  
give them strength, courage and vision.

We pray for the Board of Trustees.  
Open their hearts to your wisdom  
so that the words they speak,  
the choices they make,  
the decisions they take  
may all be according to the mind of Christ.

We pray for our families and friends,  
may they work to build up a true partnership  
and a living sense of community.

In Jesus, you gave us a model of your new creation  
as he advanced in wisdom, age and grace.  
Grant wisdom and openness to each of us,  
teachers and learners all.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Divine Teacher. Amen.

### **A Prayer for our School**

In this school may we,  
Find a sense of Church, community, and communion.  
Hear a call to loving kindness, compassion and unity.  
Know a time for believing, supporting, and upholding.  
Recognise a feeling of openness, integrity, and truthfulness.  
Expect a movement to encourage, include, and forgive.  
Experience a house of prayer, people, and God.  
Inhabit a haven for the weak, the peacemakers, and the Spirit.  
We ask this Creator God through Jesus our brother. Amen.

### **A Prayer of Service**

Gracious God,  
we thank you for calling us together to serve  
the students confided to our care.  
We thank you for the opportunities  
you give us to create with you.  
Our world is not perfect and so there are many occasions  
in which we can help to build up your kingdom.  
A kingdom of justice and peace, of truth and love.

We thank you for the opportunity of being  
in solidarity with our students,  
to provide opportunities for growth,  
to support their creativity,  
to experience their brokenness,  
to challenge their values  
to cultivate their generosity.

St. Marcellin reminds us that if we wish  
to educate young people we must love them.  
We ask that we may have the wisdom and patience,  
the courage and perseverance,  
to love, guide, support and challenge our students as you need us to.  
We ask this through the intercession of Mary and Marcellin. Amen.

### **Bearers of God**

Loving God,  
may our faith in you enable us to give birth to you  
in our words and in our actions.

In imitation of Jesus you ask us to do your will.  
May we do so knowing that our call  
as Champagnat Marists is to be 'Bearers of God'  
to our families  
to our students  
in our relationships  
in our work places  
in our time and in our culture.

Mary our Good Mother,  
help us to bring God to birth  
in our own lives and  
in the lives of our students.

In making Jesus "known and loved"  
may we see the face of God in all whom we meet. Amen.

**Let us build a school** - Based on the hymn, *All are welcome*. Marty Haugen. Distributed by GIA Pub.

Let us build a school that acknowledges the sacred;  
where each student and teacher  
can hear about and experience God's love.

Let us build a school where each person's dignity and mana  
are acknowledged and respected.  
Where all are named and have a place,  
their dreams and visions heard;  
their stories taught and claimed as words within the Word.

Let us build a school where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and brick,  
to heal and strengthen, to reconcile and forgive,  
to serve and teach and to live the Word we proclaim.

Let us build a school where prophets speak.  
Where all of God's children are able to seek,  
and dream God's reign anew.

Let this school be a place where the love of God,  
through Jesus is revealed in time and space.  
Let this school proclaim from playing fields and classrooms,  
Chapel and gymnasium, laboratories and library,  
staffroom and offices that: All are welcome in this school.

## **7 Prayers for Meetings**

### **A Prayer at the Start of a Meeting**

God of love, we thank You and praise You for Your goodness to us.  
Through you we live and move and have our being.

Be with us as we meet to govern this school.  
Guide us in our deliberations.  
Support us in addressing our challenges.  
May we be open to the opportunities placed before us.

We ask Your blessings on our school community:  
students and parents, teachers and staff, trustees  
and the parish communities.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **A Meeting Prayer**

God of love, we thank you for the many gifts present in those gathered here.  
As we begin our meeting  
we ask that you enlighten and strengthen  
the women and men upon whose leadership  
our Marist educational ministry depends.

Give us vision and courage  
to respond wisely to the issues and challenges  
that face us at this time.

In our commitment to Marist education  
bless our desire to live out values that  
respect the sacredness of life  
and affirm the mana and dignity of each person.

May we be mindful of these values as we meet  
so that our discussion and decision-making  
may reflect a spirit of compassion  
and promote responsible stewardship.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus,  
and his follower, Marcellin. Amen.

### **A Blessing before a Meeting**

God of justice,  
may each of us here present,  
receive a blessing  
as we begin this meeting,  
for all that may be required of us,  
that Your love may drive out fear,  
and that Your peace and contentment  
may be in our hearts,  
and through us,  
may spread over the face of the earth.

The blessing of God,  
Giver of Life,  
Bearer of Pain,  
Maker of Love,  
Creator and Sustainer,  
Liberator and Redeemer,  
Healer and Sanctifier,  
be with us and all whom we love now and forever. Amen.

### **Guidance of the Holy Spirit**

Father, we pray for the guidance of your Holy Spirit  
as we meet to govern this school.

In planning for the future, give us vision,  
in matters of finance, give us prudence,  
in our decision-making, give us wisdom,  
in our dealings with students and staff, give us love.

Help us in all things to honour your name,  
to advance your kingdom,  
and to carry out your will.

We make this prayer in union with  
Saint Marcellin, your servant,  
and in the name of Jesus, our brother. Amen.

### **A Prayer for Trustees, Boards or Governors**

Be present with us, O Holy Spirit,  
for it is in your name  
that we are specially gathered together  
as Trustees of this school.  
Come to help us in our affairs,  
and be pleased to enter into our deliberations.  
Instruct us in what we should do.

Let it be you, first of all,  
who inspires our suggestions.  
May you, who loves justice,  
let us not offend against justice or charity.

Grant also that we may act intelligently  
and in harmony with your holy will,  
so that we may act as one with you,  
God forever and ever. Amen.

### **A Meeting Prayer**

Jesus shepherd of the flock,  
you love and care for us  
and our school community.  
Bless and protect us,  
and the children, families and teachers of our school.

We ask that the work of this meeting may  
be of service to you and to others.

We pray that our deliberations and decisions undertaken at this meeting may bring us closer together in serving you and others.  
Guide our deliberations so that our decisions are in accordance with your will.

We make this prayer Jesus in your name, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer for a Meeting 1**

Spirit of the Living God,  
With faith and hope we trust in Your presence as we meet.  
Give us a vision of Your plan for our salvation.  
Grant us patience to listen to reports, to consider decisions which will keep us moving forward.  
Help us to support one another for the common good.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Prayer for a Meeting 2**

Father, we seek the guidance of your Holy Spirit in the business which is before us.  
In planning for the future, give us vision;  
in matters of finance, give us responsibility;  
in dealing with people, give us love.  
Help us in all things to honour your name, to advance your kingdom and to carry out your will. Amen.

### **Prayer for a Meeting 3**

Lord God, creator of all,  
remind us now of your guiding presence.  
We ask your blessing on the work of this meeting.  
Open our minds to the ideas and opportunities before us.  
Guide our decisions with your wisdom.  
We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **A Prayer for a Finance Meeting**

God, our heavenly Father,  
You provide and sustain us in life.  
You gave us Jesus, our priceless treasure.  
May our counting and recording procedures promote good stewardship.  
Help us to fairly share our resources with others.

May we respect all matters of confidentiality  
and do all in Your spirit of generosity. Amen.

**A Prayer for Administrative or Board Meetings**

Almighty God, Ruler of the Universe,  
by Your power we live and move and have our being.  
We are gathered here today to serve You  
and conduct the affairs of (name the facility).

Give us knowledge and strength to do Your will,  
with a proper balance of eternal values  
and our present needs.  
May we accept our responsibilities and act with courage,  
considering the feelings of other people.  
Grant us a sense of justice and stewardship both now and forever. Amen.

**A Prayer for a Leadership Meeting**

Holy Spirit of Wisdom,  
You refresh us with Your life-saving power.  
You have entrusted us with a share in leadership.  
Help us to share ideas and plans with each other.  
Keep us kind and courteous to one another.  
Give us insight to the work at hand  
that we may further Your causes and benefit many people.  
Help us to resist any temptation to dominate,  
control or to forget the needs of all.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A Prayer for a Planning Meeting**

Triune God, You are a community of persons.  
In your mercy and grace we gather to plan (mention specific plan).  
Give us unity of heart and mind to consider the tasks  
and challenges before us today.  
Send Your Spirit of Insight to open our imaginations  
and to prepare for what lies ahead.  
May we trust and share our convictions with enthusiasm.  
May Your kingdom come, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**A Prayer for Guidance and Wisdom**

Lord look lovingly on this group gathered here.  
During this meeting as we discuss and deliberate  
on issues of importance to this (name the facility)  
help us to be guided by your Spirit.



May we be wise in our discernment, balanced in our judgement,  
fair in our decisions and visionary in our planning.

Though we may, at times, have differing views  
may we listen to one another and be guided by our common goals.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit**

God of all wisdom and love, source of all that is good,  
send us your Spirit:  
to teach us your truth,  
to guide our actions and decisions,  
to raise us beyond the limits this world imposes.

We pray for the wellbeing of this school,  
for our students, staff and families.  
We ask that you bless and guide our work,  
that everything we do is undertaken for the furtherance of your kingdom of unity and love,  
justice and peace. Amen.