

National Marist Bushfire Appeal Day

FRIDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2020

24 January 2020

Dear Marist Friends

“Her beauty and her terror” – these are the words that Dorothea Mackellar used to describe Australia in her poem *My Country*. Her depiction captures our current situation.

We’ve all been shocked (*horrified* is probably a more suitable word) at the extent, severity and devastation of the Australian bushfires; at their “terror”. They are unprecedented and have caused untold damage and suffering.

I know that as Marists we wish to support and stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who have been so badly affected.

It’s for this reason that we are having a **Marist Bushfire Appeal** on **Friday, 7 February**. This Appeal is for our entire network: schools, ministries, offices, Brothers communities, Association members and groups. One of our core Marist values is inclusivity and family; this is an opportunity for us to be broad in our outreach and focus.

Many of you may have donated already to one or other of the appeals. Some of you may have been actively involved in firefighting or supporting victims. You might wish to contribute to this Appeal also.

For simplicity and ease, we are directing all funds raised to the [St Vincent de Paul Bushfire Appeal](#). This means that if you wish to donate individually, you can receive the tax concession. The accompanying flyer provides information about our Appeal. The contact details for the SVDP are given in the hyperlink.

You are also invited to use the attached prayer as deemed appropriate, and particularly on Friday, 7 February. It has been adapted from that written by Father Tony Hill, Parish Priest of Euroa and Nagambie in the Sandhurst Diocese of Victoria and is titled *“A prayer in the face of the terror of bushfires”*. Attached also are prayers prepared by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference of which you are already possibly aware.

I ask you to consider this Marist Appeal and give what you can.

With prayers for many blessings for you and our nation at this time,



Br Peter Carroll FMS
Leader

Marist
ASSOCIATION OF
ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT