



5 August 2020

## HOUSE NAMES K-12 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

As you would be aware, a committee has been working on re-imagining the Marist Catholic College House names for 2021. The committee, represented by staff from each Campus, has undertaken an extensive process of consultation, forums and feedback. The values and qualities of the school community, along with the importance of the House system across K-12 were considered and suggestions for House names collected. As a result, the committee has recommended six new House names for Marist Catholic College K-12, 2021.

It has been acknowledged throughout the process that the existing connection and affiliation of students, staff and parents to the current House names is strong. The committee has attempted to ensure that the Houses recommended are in keeping with the history, heritage and traditions of the two schools, whilst ensuring the House names offer a balance of gender and acknowledge the local culture.

In ensuring our Marist heritage and that we are a Marist school, St Marcellin Champagnat founder of the Marist Brothers is firmly recognised as a patron of the College. In considering the House names, given her significant relevance to the North Sydney Parish and local area, the committee also recommended that Mary MacKillop - St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, be installed as a patron of the College.

The next steps in our House process now include developing:

- The values associated with each House
- A crest for each House
- A narrative for each House that connects the House to our K-12 College.

A process will be undertaken to allocate students to each of the Houses and will be managed separately at the St Mary's and La Valla campuses.

Please find attached the names of the Houses and key information about each one.

The Leadership Teams in both schools thank staff, students and parents for their support in this process.

Yours sincerely,

**Beverly Coffey**  
Principal  
St Mary's Campus K-6

**Brigid Taylor**  
Acting Principal  
La Valla Campus

**College Patrons  
St Marcellin Champagnat  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop**

**Houses 2021**

<p><b>Aquinas (Yellow)</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)</b></p> <p>St Thomas Aquinas was the great Doctor of the Church, St Thomas Aquinas, who lived in the thirteenth century. St Thomas Aquinas is known primarily as a brilliant theologian and philosopher and is the patron saint of universities and scholars. St Thomas Aquinas is an ambassador for education and serves as a wonderful role model for children. He was also a man of the heart and humility. He was a great servant to his community and was generous and tireless in his efforts to help others.</p>
<p><b>Barangaroo (Orange)</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Barangaroo Cammeraygal Woman 1700-1800's</b></p> <p>Barangaroo was a powerful Cammeraygal leader of the Eora Nation at the time of European colonisation. The first known written account of Barangaroo in 1790 described her as being in her early 40s, worldly, wise and freer of spirit than the settlers expected of a woman. Barangaroo was a strong lady who stood up for her people and for what was right. She was a strong independent woman who lived a sustainable, traditional way of life, even with the colonisation of the European settlers. In her life, Barangaroo was the embodiment of the Marist spiritual characteristics of simplicity and presence. Similarly to Mary, who was Jesus' first disciple, Barangaroo advocated for the Indigenous peoples' way of life until her death.</p>
<p><b>Chisholm (Blue)</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Caroline Chisholm (1808- 1877)</b></p> <p>Well known Catholic philanthropist, Caroline Chisholm provided outreach to vulnerable immigrants to the Colony, particularly women and children. She had energy, human sympathy, administrative ability of a high order, personal charm and dignity, a husband unobtrusively devoted to her work, and undying faith in the cause to which she had so unselfishly put her hand. Caroline Chisholm was a great pioneer, perhaps the greatest of women pioneers in the history of Australia and yet she died in poverty and obscurity. She Started a "home" for girls in New South Wales to give them a place of shelter and protection. This expanded to family support over time.</p>
<p><b>Fourvière (Purple)</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Fourvière (Lyon, France)</b></p> <p>Fourvière was the place where St Marcellin Champagnat and his companions made their pledge, promising to devote themselves and all that they had to the foundation of the Society of Mary. Fourvière House signals a "new beginning," but also calls students to respond to the Marist calling. This requires students to exhibit the characteristics of the Marist spirituality</p>
<p><b>O'Connor (Green)</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Mother Eileen O'Connor (1892- 1921)</b></p> <p>Eileen O'Connor, Founder of Our Lady's Nurse of the Poor (Brown Sisters), is touted to be Australia's next saint. On 10 October 2019 Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Colin Fisher published his edict to petition the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of Eileen O'Connor. Eileen was crippled by a fall that left her paralysed for years and in pain most of her life. Eileen was known for her unwavering devotion to Mary. She persevered despite opposition from Church authorities in the early years. Eileen and her nurses provided a compassionate service of care to the poor/sick in their own homes at a time when there was no subsidised health care.</p>
<p><b>Xavier (Red)</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>St Francis Xavier (1506-1552)</b></p> <p>St Francis Xavier was a companion of Ignatius of Loyola and one of the first seven Jesuits who took vows in Paris in 1534. He is credited for his idea that the missionary must adapt to the customs and language of the people he evangelizes, and for his advocacy of an educated native clergy. He was widely considered a saint, even before his death.</p>