



Provincial Circular

Marist Fathers Australian Province

Vol: 4 /2012

Dear Confreres

In mid-June I joined in the celebration of my niece's Confirmation in Canberra. The celebrant was Bishop Pat Power who has recently announced his retirement as auxiliary bishop of Canberra-Goulburn. Bishop Pat, now 70, told the congregation at the end of Mass that he hopes to be able to keep doing Confirmation ceremonies if the new Archbishop, whoever he may be, wishes him to. He lamented the quite negative "spin" that the media had put on his retirement.

Many of my family were present and a number of us shed a tear as Bishop Pat preached his homily and conducted the laying on of hands so movingly. Little did most know that it was his tenth Confirmation ceremony in the past five days. Yet his manner could not have been more generous, personal, humble and inspiring. What a wonderful human being.

My encounter with Bishop Pat taught me a number of things:

1) Even though our work often involves us with large groups of people,

if we are at peace in ourselves and allow God to work in us, we can still engage deeply and personally with people. A large congregation, a full lecture room, or a one-to-one encounter can each be a powerful context for us to be about the Father's business.

2) The work that many of us do, eg: the confessional at St Patrick's or morning Mass in a parish, may at times seem repetitive and a burden. Yet, so much of the good people do in life is of this type: parents caring for their children, a teacher correcting exams, a farmer sowing wheat, a Bishop confirming 12 year old children. What gives meaning and transcendence is our faith in God and God's love coming through in that moment.

3) A further learning is how unnuanced much media coverage can be. Here was a saintly man, loving and beloved, being portrayed in the media as "quitting the Church",

which was clearly untrue. Whatever issues the Church needs to face at this time, because we live in a world of instant media coverage, with much of the media wanting to coverage "bridges that fall down, rather than bridges that stay up", the process of dialogue and a collegial approach to change becomes incredibly difficult. Institutional openness will be a prerequisite for successfully charting the waters ahead.

Paul Cooney
Provincial
12 July 2012

Provincial's Diary

June

- 19 Provincial Council
23-24 75th Anniversary, St John's Wood/The Gap Parish
25-29 Catholic Religious Australia Conference Adelaide

July

- 2-6 Provincial Chapter, Hunters Hill
22 Fourviere Celebration, Hunters Hill
24-26 Visitation St Patrick's
30 Towards Healing Panel

August

- 1-3 Visitation Gladstone
21 Provincial Council

Personnel

Pat McCabe

In early June Pat McCabe took up full time-residence in "Minnamurra", 14 Clements Street, Drummoyne, a facility run by Presbyterian Aged Care. This is the same home where JL Walsh resides.

Bob Barber

Following the election undertaken throughout the province over the last few months, the Superior General has announced that Bob Barber will become the Australian Provincial of the Marist Fathers on 1 January

2013, at the completion of Paul Cooney's term as Provincial.

Congratulations, Bob, and best wishes from us all.

Deaths

John Bettridge:

John ('Jack') Bettridge SM died peacefully on 11th Jun, at the Little Sisters of the Poor, Randwick, NSW. At 92, Jack was the oldest Marist priest in Australia at the time of his death.

Following his studies at Toongabbie and Ste Foy-les-Lyon, Jack was ordained in France in 1949. After obtaining a licentiate in Theology and doctorate in Canon Law in Rome he returned to Australia in 1953. Over the next seven years he taught Canon Law at Toongabbie, was secretary to the Apostolic Delegate, and established an information centre at St Patrick's. Jack then transferred to the Oceania Province and for the next 13 years worked in Noumea, New Caledonia. From 1973 until 1997 Jack worked in Boston, USA. He then returned to Australia to retire. He lived first at Hunters Hill and for the last ten

years in the loving care of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Randwick.

Twenty-two priests concelebrated at Jack's Requiem on 15th June in Holy Name of Mary Church, Hunters Hill. Paul Cooney, presided at the liturgy and the homily was preached by Paul Glynn. Jack's sister, Mrs Joan Ludeke, presented the eulogy while younger family members offered readings and prayers.



Jack Bettridge sm is buried in the Villa Maria cemetery, 15th June 2012

Jack's final resting place is in the missionaries' cemetery at Villa Maria.

Paul Glynn's homily at Jack's funeral is included as an appendix with this Provincial Circular.

Michael Cumpston

Michael Cumpston, husband of Pauline, the youngest sister of the late John Ryan, passed away at his home in Eureka on 27th June.

Mrs. Kath Leech

Kath Leech, the mother of Barry Leech, died peacefully on 2nd June. Barry, originally from New Zealand and a former Marist, is now the parish priest of Tenterfield in NSW.

Ms. Joi Heywood

Joi Heywood, who was a former team member on the staff when John Worthington was parish priest of Annerley-Ekibin, and who subsequently became John's quasi carer after his stroke seven years ago, passed away after a short battle with cancer on 21st June. John, with a dozen Marist and diocesan priests attending, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial for Joi at St Martin's, Eight Mile Plains on 27th June.

Mrs. Rosina Fogarty

Rosina Fogarty, the sister of John Burns, died in Murwillumbah on 3rd July. Her funeral Mass in the Sacred Heart Church, Murwillumbah on 9th July was attended by a number of confreres.

Mrs Peg Clayton

Peg Clayton, who was bursar at Marist Regional College, Burnie for many years and looked after the Marist community finances as well, died recently in Burnie.

May all the departed rest in peace.

Sick

Chris Austin

Chris Austin returned to Hunters Hill on 2nd July, after seven weeks as a patient in Royal North Shore hospital. Chris will reside at Maryvale for the time being while he continues his recuperation.

Chris had been very ill. Initially doctors were unable to diagnose his condition and he grew progressively weaker. Chris underwent two operations while in RNS. He had been suffering from a severe form of diverticulitis.

Keith Shepherd

After surgery to remove kidney stones and a period of recuperation at a private hospital, Keith is now back at Maryvale and much fitter than he was previously.

John Jago

John is suffering from a form of spondylitis which causes extreme pain in his lower back.

John Burns

John recently underwent three bouts of surgery on his eyes. John reports being able to better see now than he had seen for years.

News

**Provincial Chapter
Hunters Hill
2nd-6th July 2012**



Members of the Provincial Chapter 2012



Paul Cooney (Aust), Pat Devlin (Phil), Susitino Sionepoe (Oc), Ben McKenna (Oc), Phil Cody (NZ), Bob Barber (Aust), Brian Cummings (NZ). MAP 2012 Delegates.

The Provincial Chapter was held in the Hunters Hill parish hall from Monday 2nd July to Friday 6th July. Eighteen elected delegates, the Provincial, with observers from the General Administration, Oceania, New Zealand and one Australian confrere who was an observer, made up the Chapter.

The Pre-Capitular Committee were complimented and thanked for the very good job they did in preparing the Chapter. Things went very smoothly.

Tuesday 3rd July was a workshop day designed to allow other confreres to join the Chapter members in working through aspects of the Socie-

ty's Review of Government discussion. Seven confreres took advantage of this opportunity. Mr Andrew Dumas, co-leader of Marist Laity Australia, joined the participants for the final session of the day and to meet socially afterwards.

Dr John Honner did an excellent job as the facilitator of the Chapter. Peter McMurrich was elected the Chapter's President.

A Chapter committee was appointed to prepare a brief report of the Chapter that will be sent to all in the Province. Decisions and recommendations made by the Chapter are being sent to the General Administration for ratification

before they are communicated to the Province.

MAP Meeting Sydney 12th-14th June

The annual meeting of the leaders of the three Pacific provinces and the district of the Philippines was held in Sydney from 12 – 14th June. The participants were very happy with the outcome of the gathering.

A communique was prepared for all confreres in the Asia-Pacific area reporting on the meeting.

Among the key matters discussed was the MAP Ongoing Formation Spirituality &



Andy Murray assists magician Joel during the MAP dinner at Villa Maria. A section of the Marists from around Sydney who joined the MAP delegates for the dinner at Villa on 13th June.

Lifestyle Program held at Hunters Hill from Oct-Dec 2011, and planned for the same time this year.

There will be a sub-meeting of MAP when the major superiors of the group meet in Rome in October during the annual ARC meeting.

The MAP meeting next year will be held in New Zealand.

Ron Nissen working on the Founder's Beatification Cause

During May Ron Nissen visited Rome and France on work related to the founder's cause for beatification. In Rome, Ron was able to consult with members of the General Administration and have briefing sessions with Carlo-Maria Schianchi, Postulator of Fr Colin's Cause, Craig Larkin and Justin Taylor as he gathered materials that will eventually go onto the Colin web site. Ron spent time exploring the parts of Rome visited by Fr Colin before undertaking a couple of weeks in the footsteps of Fr Colin in France. With the help of Sr Terrie O'Brien, a Canadian Marist Sister who works as a Marist historian, Ron made a number of discoveries and took many photos of sites important in the story of Fr Colin.

Tom Maloney honoured

A Blessing and Naming Ceremony was conducted on Saturday, 19th May at Marist College, Ashgrove to mark the Father Tom Maloney Way, the John Nunan Athletics Precinct and Matthew Hayden Oval, honouring three men who made significant contributions to the College.

the boys - as he had been known to say on many occasions - "on their pilgrimage of life." He was a character. A storyteller. A conversationalist. A confidante. A sports coach. A traveller. He was also an umpire - he of the sunburnt finger as he signals yet another dismissal - LBW. The most remarkable



Matthew Hayden, former Australian cricketing great, honouring the late Fr Tom Maloney sm

Pius Jones officiated at the ceremony in the College Chapel at which Matt Hayden spoke beautifully about Tom as "a very special priest".

The following was written in the handout at the ceremony regarding Tom.

FR TOM MALONEY, SM

Fr Tom retired from the Chaplaincy of Marist College Ashgrove in 1987. During his time at the College Fr Tom was a constant, priestly witness and symbol encouraging

thing about Fr Tom's ministry was his devotion to the sick and the dying.

De Montfort sisters retire

At an afternoon tea celebration in the crypt of St Patrick's, Church Hill, Sydney, on June 23, Sisters Judy and Jill de Montfort SMSM were honoured and thanked as they retired from the St Patrick's team.

Sr Jill had a 15-year role on the pastoral staff of St Pat's where she had led a very suc-

successful RCIA program. Sr Judy worked for 12 years on the team, for the most part as director of the now-famous Courtyard Coffee Shop.

The two sisters will remain involved in the St Patrick's worshipping community

Men's Shed's first day



Some of the men who were in the Men's Shed on its first official day

Over the past twelve months a group has been working towards the establishing of the Hunters Hill-Ryde Community Services sponsored Men's Shed located in the scenic grounds of Villa Maria monastery in the old workshop / winery building. The results of the hard work of many came to fruition on 25th June when 18 local men arrived bright and early for the Shed's first official day of business.

The Men's Shed in the Villa grounds is a member of the national Australian Men's Sheds Association. The arrangement between the Marist Fathers and the Men's Shed group will be reviewed

after twelve months.

CAMERA DETECTED PENALTY NOTICE

From 1 July 2012, penalty notices such as speeding fines, issued to companies will be five times the amount applicable to an individual. Companies are required by law to nominate the person

responsible for the vehicle at the time of the offence. This ensures demerit points are applied to the right person.

As well you may be required to at-

tend court to provide information to confirm the identity of the person you nominate.

All are urged to keep records of car usage with:

- day
- date
- time used

in order to be able to provide confirmation of identity in court.

This also applies to cars generally used by the same person but who may lend it to another.

Advertisements

Q and A in St Pat's Crypt

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council the Aquinas Academy and Catalyst for Renewal are holding a program entitled "Q & A in the Crypt" focusing on the question, "What does it mean to you to be a Catholic?"

The session for May was held on Sunday 27th with guest speakers Prof. Greg Craven and Sophie Kearns.

On **June 24th** the speakers/panellists were Catherine Harris AO, and Michael Whelan sm. On **July 29th** they will be Geraldine Doogue AO and Peter Jones AM. On **26th August** they will be Robert Fitzgerald AM and Sr Anne Derwin rsj. The final session will be on **30th September** with Deirdre Grusovin and Frank Brennan sj AO.

Each sessions run from 1.45 – 2.45 pm. It is not necessary to book and entry is free.

Currumbin & Bilgola Flats

The self-contained flat at **Currumbin** is available for bookings for Marists and their families. Bookings are made through Judy Saliba at the Provincial Office. Current bookings are:

17 -28 Jul B Barber
30 Sep-12 Oct P Cooney
17 Oct-7 Nov T Fulcher
8-19 Nov T Ryan
20-30 Nov P McMurrich

The self-contained flat at **Bilgola** is available for Mar-ists to book for an extended holiday, a retreat or an extended period of study. Bookings are made through the Vicar-Provincial. Current bookings are:

1 -31 Aug P Kervin

2013

2 -16 Jan T Kennedy

Enclosures

1. Death Notices

Fr Angel Saiz sm

Fr John Bettridge sm

Fr Raymond Carr sm

Fr John C Ward sm

2. Memorial Cards

Fr Ronald Josephs sm

Fr Walter Fingleton sm

3. Catholic Religious

Australia

Recommended

Stipends

4. Fr Jack Bettridge

Homily

Directory

John Hopkinson

New email addresses:

johnehopkinson@bolivia.com
(for personal matters)

cempac@bolivia.com
(for ministry/pastoral matters)

Bernie Ryan

Change of Address:

Marist Community
PO Box 421
Macksville NSW 2447

Peter McMurrich

A mistake has been found in the 2012 Directory. Peter's email address is:

**pmcmurrich@
stpatschurchhill.org**

There was an "h" missing.

Anniversaries

June

5 Fr Herbert Massey
1970
5 Fr John Glynn
2004
6 Fr Francis Huault
1911
10 Fr Elie Bergeron
1957
11 Fr John Bettridge
2012
12 Fr Peter van Mechelen
1985
14 Fr Joseph Herring
1936
16 Fr Thomas Heffernan
1969
16 Fr Philip Callaghan
2005
18 Br Theodore Carron
1941
18 Fr Wilfred Radford

1996

19 Fr Matthew O'Sullivan
1936

20 Fr Timothy Minehan
1981

22 Fr Claude Palmer
1985

22 Fr John Ryan
1994

27 Fr Francis Vincent
1962

28 Br Brendan O'Connell
1979

28 Fr Maurice Scully
2002

JPICC Corner

*Provincial Committee for Justice, Peace
and Integrity of Creation*

The *Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee's* report to the provincial chapter listed the group's five foci for 2012.

Maintaining a user-friendly, regularly updated JPIC web page on the Province web site.
Support for the 'Bridge Program' in the Thai-Burma border camps preparing students for
ACU online tertiary studies.

Post-release programs for Prisoners.

Issues of homelessness.

The plight of Sabian Mandaean.

On the province web site the JPICC has continued to highlight the plight of Burmese ethnic groups suffering despite the 'cease-fire' and peace talks of recent months.

Ron Nissen reports the ACU has accepted five of the Bridge Program participants into its 2012-14 online program

