

Marist Fathers' Australian Province

Information on Health and Aged Care



Our Vision

The Marist Fathers' Australian Province, in acknowledging the ageing of its members and its declining numbers, is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure suitable care for its sick and elderly members.

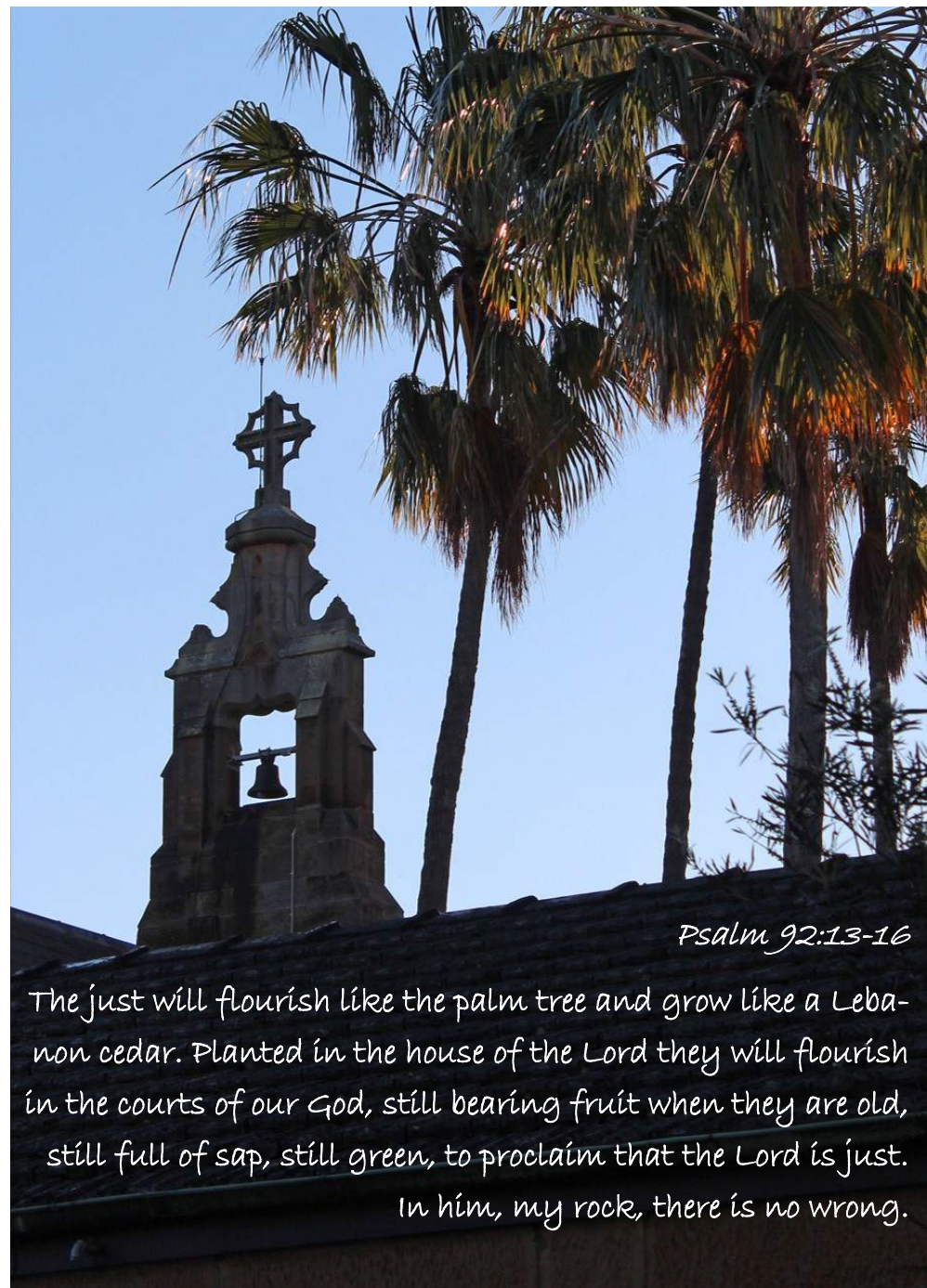
At first instance, the Marist Fathers seek to care for their sick and elderly confreres in one of their own communities. Special provision has been made for this with the establishment of the Maryvale/Montbel retirement community at Hunters Hill.

For older Marists or for a Marist who is suffering from an ongoing illness, some extra or specialized care may be required which cannot be provided at Maryvale/Montbel. In

this case, care will be provided, as far as practicable in accordance with the Marist's wishes, in a dedicated facility for specialised treatment or care.

Marists living far from than Sydney who require special assistance because of advanced age or an ongoing illness will be invited at first instance to move to the Maryvale/Montbel community. Alternatively, if they wish to remain in a particular geographical location, they will be assisted to find suitable living arrangements for provision of specialised treatment or care.

All Marists are encouraged to balance their life of ministry and prayer with appropriate personal health care including an awareness of the importance of diet,



Psalm 92:13-16

The just will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

exercise, recreation and the monitoring of personal medical condition which would include regular visits to health professionals.

Senior Marists

As the elders of the Province, senior Marists have a precious and irreplaceable role to play in supporting the Province's mission through their wisdom, their prayer, and their practical and moral support. They are custodians of the story of the Marist Fathers in Australia.

The lifelong gift of their lives to the work of the Marist Fathers continues into retirement from active, full-time ministry, and opportunities are sought for each Marist to contribute in ways that suit his interests, abilities,

and wishes.

With more time to give to his daily encounter with the Lord in prayer, and to his shared life with his confreres in community, the senior Marist continues to deepen and enrich his sense of vocation as a Marist.

His living circumstances, and the style of care available to him, allow him to remain faithful in prayer and engaged in community.

Old age, in particular, is a time of grace, in which the Lord will renew his call: calls us to preserve and transmit the faith, calls us to pray, especially to intercede; calls us to be close to those who are maybe in need ~ Pope Francis

Those involved in the health and aged care of a Marist

The Provincial...

is the leader of the Society of Mary in this part of the world, and is elected by his confreres and confirmed by the Superior General who is the head of all Marists throughout the world. The Provincial has the primary responsibility for the spiritual and apostolic animation of the Province and for the administration of Province resources. He keeps the spirit of union alive among Marists in Australia and co-ordinates their work. He has direct authority over all Marists in Australia, and houses and works of the Province. The Provincial is normally the designated next-of-kin for each Marist in the

Province. In the absence of the Provincial, the Vicar Provincial takes on this role.

The Provincial holds this responsibility in recognition that a Marist's membership of the Marist Fathers, confirmed and sealed publicly by perpetual vows (and not renounced), is a clear expression of his continuing will. This authorises the Provincial, acting in accordance with the Marist Constitutions, to make appropriate decisions in regard to on-going medical matters and funeral and burial arrangements, when a Marist is no longer able to do so himself. The family of the Marist will be appropriately involved with the Provincial in such decisions. It is the Provincial who is normally the nominated person to

During these later years,
if we are lucky, a clearer self-
awareness of our place in the
grand scheme of things may be
revealed.

After many decades, a pattern of
our consistent contribution
emerges, the abiding melody that
runs through the mix and mess
and mystery of our life's
decisions and choices.

These contemplative years are
never meant to be a slow and
slumbering slide into terminal
places.

They may, in fact, contain
epiphanies of a vital presence,
when we hold ourselves still,
'quivering with each moment', as
the mystic Rumi wrote, 'like a
drop of mercury'.

Such vibrant attentiveness,
uniquely in later life, is what the
mystics call 'the sense of heaven'.

Daniel O'Leary



carry out a Marist's wishes in an Advance Care Directive.

Designated Contact Person...

this is usually the Superior of the community in which a Marist resides, or the regional coordinator of Marists living in Brisbane. This person responds to calls from the Marist's family and friends and to matters communicated through hospitals and medical professionals.

Health Care Coordinators...

using existing providers, the Provincial will seek to establish Health Care Coordinators as needed for older Marists living in Brisbane, and for older Marists living in Sydney who are not resident at Maryvale/Montbel.

The Marist's Natural Family...

the family and friends of a Marist play an important role in his health-care needs. Every human person requires love, acceptance and affection in their lives at all times but especially when they are unwell or facing difficulties. A Marist's family provides this support in ways that no-one else can; this support is encouraged and welcomed during a Marist's illness. Every reasonable effort will be made by the community Superior or regional coordinator to keep the family informed of a Marist's medical circumstances and the care being provided.



Rembrandt: Simeon's Song of Praise (1631)

Legal issues relevant to a Marist's health care

Advance Care Directive

Sometimes called a "Living Will", an Advance Care Directive is a written statement in which a person indicates, prior to losing capacity, the type of medical treatment and personal care they would have chosen if they had been able to express their will. If a Marist has signed an Advance Care Directive, this should be used to determine the type of treatment a Marist receives.

Each Marist in the Australian Province is required to make an Advance Care Directive which is filed at the Provincial Office.

The Marist appoints the Provincial "for the time

being" as the person responsible (substitute decision maker).

Enduring Guardianship

An Enduring Guardian is a person given legal authority (in the presence of a solicitor) to make decisions for a Marist about health and lifestyle matters when and if the Marist becomes incapable of making these decisions for himself. A number of Marists have both a Health Care Directive and an Enduring Guardianship document. An advantage which the Health Care Directive has over Enduring Guardianship is that it can be signed without needing the presence of a solicitor, and can be made out to the "Provincial for the time being" without the need to nominate an individual person. Enduring Guardianship

documents generally need to be updated in the presence of a solicitor each time there is a changeover of Provincial.

Enduring Power of Attorney

This is a legal document which details the appointment of a person (or persons) to make decisions about a Marist's property or financial affairs if the Marist has lost the mental capacity to do so for themselves.

The Power ceases when the Marist dies, and these decisions pass to the competence of the executor of the Will. In New South Wales an Enduring Power of Attorney does not include healthcare and lifestyle decisions, whereas this option is provided for in Queensland.

Because Marists have

freely renounced the right to own property and to have personal finances, the situations where an Enduring Power of Attorney might be useful may be rare.

All that a Marist has had use of, or which he has obtained through his work or received as gifts, belongs to the Society of Mary. It may be that a Marist may wish to designate significant items for family, friends, or institutions, in which case this should be done in consultation with his superiors.



Rembrandt: Simeon's Prophecy to Mary

Prayer for our elders

Lord, our God, you have given our elder brothers, your faithful servants, the grace to maintain their hope in you through all life's changes and to taste and see your goodness. We bless you for the gifts showered on them for so many years. We pray that they may find joy in a renewed strength of spirit, that they may have good health and that they may inspire us by the example of their serene way of life. Amen

A Marist's Will

A Marist may choose any person to be his legal executor. Most Marists nominate the Provincial for this role. The original Will (or at least a copy) should be kept on file at the Provincial Office. A valid Will is of particular importance if the Marist has patrimony: finances and assets that belonged to him prior to his profession, or which he has subsequently inherited. These cannot be used or benefitted from by the Marist himself once he has been professed, and provision needs to be made through a Will for their appropriate redistribution.

A Marist's Funeral

A Marist's funeral is arranged (and usually paid for) by the Marist Fathers. Decisions as to time and place, details regarding Mass prayers and readings, and place of burial or cremation are made by the Provincial or his delegate, taking into account the express wishes of the deceased Marist and in discussion with his family.