

Marist Fathers Australian Province

Provincial Circular

No 2 - Apr 2021



From the Provincial

Confreres,

Sunday 25 July will see the celebration of the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The theme chosen by Pope Francis is "I am with you always" (cf. Mt 28:20) which is a way of expressing the closeness of the Lord and the Church to every older person.

"I am with you always", the website for the *Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life* explains, is also a promise of closeness and hope that young and old can mutually share. Not only are grandchildren and young people called upon to be present in the lives of older people, but older people and grandparents also have a mission of evangelisation, proclamation and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their faith. This also applies to each of us, elders and "youngsters", as members of the Australian Province and the wider Society.

The recent Chapter declared "The Chapter acknowledges the importance of the on-going care of our ageing members and recognizes the contribution of our senior confreres to the mission of the Society and their prayerful presence in our midst. We commit ourselves to continue to address their health, human and spiritual needs. To that end, we support the reactivation of the Health and Aged Care committee".

Following on for the chapter decision, the council and I have moved to have such a committee established as soon as practicable.

The **primary task** of the Aged Care and Health Care Advisory Committee will be to provide professional and practical advice to the Provincial on the holistic care of our ageing Marists.

This will involve an understanding of the spiritual, health and living needs of our confreres keeping in mind their life commitment to the Society of Mary and her mission. A holistic approach involves the whole person attending to the psycho-social and human needs which go beyond mere health care and living arrangements.

The role of the Committee will be:

- To assist the Provincial in the oversight of the health and aged care policies in the Province.
- To offer advice on best practice policies concerning aged care and health related issues.
- To offer advice on access to aged care facilities and resources.
- To engage with the Provincial in the ongoing review of the health and aged care within the province.
- To respond to requests for advice from the Provincial.

It is proposed that the Committee have a membership of five: two with expertise in aged care, the local leader of Maryvale/Montbel, two members of the province (preferably one drawn from our seniors cohort and one from the general membership).

The Advisory Committee will function within our overall aged care ministry made up of four entities with their clear and distinct roles:

Provincial - The leadership of the Provincial in an ageing and rapidly diminishing Province is critical. His pastoral care for each member of the province, assisted by the local leadership, is especially significant. The importance of his visitation of confreres is a way of engaging with them in a meaningful way concerning their health and aged care issues.

Health Care Coordinators in Brisbane and Sydney – who report to the provincial and when appropriate to local leaders.

Montbel/Maryvale Management Committee – whose primary task is to oversee, monitor and implement the effective day to day coordination of the health and aged care needs of the residents and other confreres linked to this community.

Local Community meetings – in which the care and well-being of the aged and infirm community members (residential and non-residential), especially their community life, are addressed.

Tony.

Provincial Diary

Apr 28-May 5: Visitation of Brisbane
May 10 – 28: Visitation Sydney.
May 18: Provincial Council meeting.
Jun 1: Provincial Finance Committee meeting.
Jun 2: Maryvale/Montbel Management Committee meeting.
Jun 9: CLOC meeting.
Jun 10: Professional Standards Panel meeting.
Jun 15: Provincial Council meeting.

CLOC

At the commencement of the April meeting of CLOC the new General Assistant, Fr Christian Abongbung (Africa) was introduced to the major superiors assembled on Zoom.

The meeting paid particular attention to future planning for La Neyliere and the venue for the international novitiates in 2022 and 2023.

Provincial Council

At its March and April meetings the council treated among other things:

- A review of the Chapter
- The present status of the Chapter declarations and decisions now before the General Administration.
- The visitation of Maryvale/Montbel
- The Ritual of Lament, Burnie
- Establishing a Health and Aged Care Committee
- Current Professional Standards matters
- Sale of Currumbin
- Gladstone property
- RPD Report for 2020
- MMC Report
- Report from Ron Nissen on his ministry in Communications and the Cause of Fr Colin
- Marist Charism and Culture Committee future plans

Appointments

Fr Kevin Redmond to St Patrick's, Church Hill until he takes up his membership of the Marayong pastoral team.

Calendar

Provincial Visitation: The provincial intends to continue visitation in May.

Provincial Retreats 2021:
Sep 12–17, at Ormiston, Qld;
Sep 19–24, at Hunters Hill.

Jubilarians' Celebration:
Fri, Sep 24.

Information

Ritual of Lament

Frs Paul Pidcock, Garry Reynolds and

Michael Whelan, joined Kathleen Fleming and the Provincial at the Burnie Ritual of Lament on 20 March. The whole event and every part of it went very well, dignified, prayerful and respectful for all concerned, in beautiful surroundings. The excellent planning of Marist Regional College and its Seek the Truth Committee ensured that the day was "contained": ritually, emotionally and even geographically, so providing a "safe" environment for a very significant moment in the lives of all concerned.

The province has received a copy of Tony Corcoran's address. The testimonies of the three survivors can be viewed on YouTube "Ritual of Lament" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juanDK3Z6hl>.

Let us pray that the ritual contributes to healing and reconciliation, an ongoing concern for all of us.

Sale of Currumbin

As the province has been informed, the Currumbin property is up for sale. The on-site auction is scheduled for Sunday, 23 May at 10.00am. An alternate holiday venue nearby more suitable for ageing members of the

province, one on more level ground and closer to amenities, will be provided soon after. Those who have the unit booked for later in the year should be able to keep that booking for the new venue.

Colin Cause Network

Ron Nissen reports that the development of this group has been a significant step in the promotion of the *Fama* of the Founder. All provinces and districts of the Society and the General Administration are now represented. As well, Justin Taylor acts as a consultant and advisor. The Network (*pictured below*) has met in five one-hour Zoom meetings since August last year, the last one being in March. Ron is the coordinator of the group.

Personnel

Ray Chapman has returned to Europe to re-join the Marist community at La Neyliere.

Kevin Redmond has survived quarantine and has taken up residence at St Pat's.



Our elders

Tony King recently celebrated his 95th birthday and **Paul Pidcock** has joined the naughty nineties.

Jim Esler has now moved up to the position of doyen of the province at 98 years and 5 months. Jim continues his extraordinary fraternal ministry of writing regularly to the novices and students of the Society. (Pictured, right, with now-ordained Casa di Maria students in 2018.)



Deaths

Colin Campbell

A message from **Bishop Jean Bosco Baremes** of Vanuatu:

"A great Marist! Always going a hundred miles an hour - well he seemed to be always moving fast. We were under his care and indeed he taught us how to cook and love porridge. Some of us still cook porridge today, just the same way he taught us. In the Novitiate, he taught us the SM Constitutions. Colin, thank you for your life as a Marist - doing simple things with greatness. You are in Christ's Peace now!"

From **Fr Ben McKenna**, Assistant General:

"When I arrived in the Solomon Islands in the early 1980's Colin had left there, but he had become a living legend, and was often referred to in terms of his hard work and generosity in all things. When I arrived in Tutu in the late 1990's Colin had also left there, but he was also a living legend: he had helped establish the Tutu Farm: and whatever he built, he built it to endure."

"Colin became famous in Marist College Suva, as bursar, where he taught the seminarians to eat porridge for breakfast - a habit he himself attributed to his longevity - and gave them a love for Vegemite, spreading a love for the Aussie flavor around the Pacific."

"One time Colin shared with me his vocation story: how the People of

Bougainville saved his life in the second world war, behind enemy lines, and restored him eventually to the Aussie troops. This is when he prayed for the Grace to be a Religious and to return to the Pacific to serve these people. A Grace he received and lived out so well.

"May he rest in peace, and pray for us to be able to complete our Journey as we as he did."



- **Fr Ipolito Bakaua Teburea** (Oceania, Fiji)
Died on 5 March 2021
- **Br Marty Williams** (New Zealand)
Died on 11 March 2021
- **Fr John Hand** (Europe, Ireland)
Died on 15 March 2021
- **Fr Peter Blanchard** (USA)
Died on 17 March 2021
- **Fr Helmut Funke** (Europe/Deutschland)
Died on 25 March 2021
- **Br Colin Campbell** (Australia)
Died on 18 April 2021

Currumbin bookings



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

Apr 30-May 3

Dylan Hatobu

May 10-17

Tom Ryan (Family)

Jun 20-Jul 3

Gavin Foster

Oct 1-31

Peter McMurrich

Please ensure if you stay at Currumbin you leave the place neat and tidy. It is the responsibility of those that use the facility to take care of it. On a number of occasions, the property has had to be cleaned by the people entering rather than those that have enjoyed the facilities. This is particularly the case with the flat – if you use it, before you go you should vacuum it, clean the bathrooms, clean benches, mop down tiled areas, and dispose of garbage and perishables.

The upstairs section of Currumbin is for the exclusive use of professed Marists. The exception is for approved group use eg. Marist Charism Group planning meeting, with advance notice.

JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for
Justice, Peace and
Integrity of Creation

Andrew Dumas (Marist Laity Australia) has begun a variant of *'The Other Half'* program with Australian and Burmese refugee youth meeting monthly on Zoom.

Wilai Foundation's *'Australian Camino'* (Portland, Vic to Penola, SA) is scheduled for September. **Jim Carty** has commenced training for the event.

Marist Family JPICC meets on Zoom in May.



*Clockwise from top left: **Bob Barber's** Requiem, St Joseph's College. | **Maryanne Knoblanche** and artist, **Jade Jackson**, at blessing of indigenous cross, Villa Maria. | **Paul Pidcock** and **Kerrie Sanders** sharing birthday celebrations, Montbel. | Piper at **Br Colin's** funeral, Villa Maria. | **Br Colin's** vigil, Montbel. | New Assistant-General, **Christian Abongbung**, Montbel, 2010. | Anzacs at *Domus Australia*, Rome. | **Ben McKenna** visiting *Casa di Maria*, Rome. | Interment of **Bob Barber's** ashes, Villa Maria cemetery.*

