



Marist Fathers

Australian Province - Provincial Circular

No 2 - 2018
May

From the Provincial

Eastertide is a time for all Christians to experience profound joy.

This joy is not merely a sense of pleasure. It is something far deeper that is not related to the absence of the trials and difficulties that are a normal part of our life.

It is known to us only because we have faith. It is a grace we understand when we feel Christ greeting us, as he did to the disciples in the upper room, with the words: "Peace be with you" (Mk 24:36).

May Easter serenity and joy be the grace uppermost in the lives of all our Marist confreres at this time.

Major events

Two months ago, in our last Provincial Circular we were looking forward to the first of a number of major events to take place in our province this year, our Extraordinary Chapter to decide if we remain a province or what structure would best suit as we move forward and how we would (s)elect our next provincial.

The Chapter has come and gone with delegates appearing to be quite happy with the outcome.

The process went smoothly and decisions, especially in the two big matters – status of the province and (s)election of our provincial – having strong support in their adoption.

Regarding our status as a group the Chapter agreed that we should remain as a Province at least until the next Provincial Chapter in 2020.

Alternative models

Over the next two years the provincial administration has been mandated to thoroughly investigate alternative models, such as Delegation, or District, or something else, and to present options to the 2020 Chapter.

The current administration accepts that while this important work must begin now the major examination of options and preparation for 2020 Chapter will be the responsibility of the new administration from January 2019.

It is possible the next administration may decide to adopt a completely different approach to investigating options and planning what is presented to the 2020 Chapter than what we do this year.

This year the five members of the Provincial Council will be a core group who will meet for two hours every two months to investigate some prepared topics.

Special expertise

It is envisaged that people with special expertise around this area of basic changes to religious life structures, for example, canon / civil lawyers and religious who have been involved in this experience, will be invited to take part in these exchanges with the core group.

Regular feedback from our ad hoc research group this year will be given to the province through Provincial Circulars, etc,

Selection process

The Extraordinary Chapter decided to change the method of selecting our provincial from direct election by the



Chapter at prayer



province to a process of consultation of the Province followed by discernment and an election by the Provincial Chapter.

We have already begun this process and will complete it when the Chapter reconvenes on the 4th and 5th July. Please keep this most important matter of electing our next provincial in your prayers over the next two months.

Great models

Senior confreres are truly capable of being great models for us. Recently we witnessed two of our men deciding to move from the security and regularity of living in the community at Montbel to go to a nursing home; two others moved from their current digs to be in the same nursing home; two or three others are very open to making similar big changes when the opportunity comes up.

These confreres are giving all of us a very powerful and inspiring example of courage and big-heartedness.

None of us likes to break the status quo where we feel very snug and comfortable. When one is older and everything takes a bit more effort, change is especially challenging.

This is why we can identify courage, as shown by senior brothers, as a great gift (grace). A grace we should all pray for.

“More”

Over the last couple of years we have kept reminding ourselves of our “more” commitment from CS13 in Dublin and adopted by the province at Fourvière 2016: to be – be more focused; more overtly Marist in our mission and spirituality; more international; more collegial; more open to working in collaboration with the laity; and more courageous.

Perhaps it is significant that a call to courage is the last of our stressed traits.

One senior confrere recently shared a

little insight that puts a different slant on things and strongly underlines courage. Through the Divine Office he was used to praying the ‘trusting’ psalms, which go along the lines, ‘keep me safe O God, You are my hope’.

“Still our hope”

In our confrere’s prayer his stress went to the second part of the prayer and turned the initial part on its head. His insight is, even when God does not guarantee safety – he is still our hope!

To stress above all that God is our hope, is something truly incredible, is truly courageous.

Thirty and forty years ago when we were men living in a time of wonderful expansion and growth we weren’t challenged much.

Today we are living in a time of contraction and dying and either we don’t have the tools to help us deal with this new set of events or we can’t see how we need to act, and we are required to ‘hope in God’.

We have to become conscious of God giving us safety, security and prosperity. We have to live – ‘hoping in God’. That is our only way.

Let us pray for one another. Let us pray that all the things on the agenda of our province at this time be blessed.

Faternally

R. Barber sm
Provincial



Provincial Diary

May 3

Province Professional Standards Panel

May 5

Combined Meeting of Australian Bishops & Religious Leaders

May 6

Bicentenary Mass at St Patrick’s, Church Hill

May 7-8

Annual Provincial Fund Audit

May 13-15

Provincial Council Planning Meeting, Currumbin

May 15

Provincial Council Meets with Brisbane Marists

May 16

Provincial & Vicar Meeting, Lismore

May 24-31

Provincial at Gladstone

June 5

Province Finance Committee

June 8

Provincial at Champagnat School Mass, Varroville

June 17-21

Provincial & Vicar Attending MAP Meeting, Ranong

June 24

Provincial at Care Souls Retreat, Mittagong

June 26

Provincial Council Meeting

Appointments

Ray Chapman appointed Guardian of Currumbin for three years as from 1/1/2018. Ray takes over from Charlie Randle, and we thank Charlie for his oversight of Currumbin in recent years.

Gavin Foster reappointed vice-superior of Villa Maria community for a further period of three years as from 1 June, 2018.

Michael Rego appointed a member of the Maryvale/Montbel community as from 1/7/2018.

Personnel

Pio Fong, from the Oceania Province, will be coming to Australia shortly with a view to eventually joining the Australian Province. Pio was most recently in Australia for an extended period in connection with the 2013 Spirituality and Lifestyle Programme and has previously studied here at postgraduate level.



Above: Maryvale/Montbel community farewell to John Jago, leaving for Marsfield (see below).

Below: Commodore Mahony commissions the new colony of Marists at Marsfield, April 2018

His Temporary Work Visa was recently granted, and we look forward to welcoming Pio to the Province in early June.

Maryvale/Montbel: In recent weeks John Jago and Bill Ryder have moved from Maryvale/Montbel to a new aged care facility at Marsfield (Southern Cross Residential Aged Care, 16 Vincentia Street, Marsfield, NSW 2122). At the same time, Brian Conaghan has also moved there from his accommodation at Eastwood, as has J V Walsh from Waitara.

Deaths

Fr Francois Vuillemin sm, d.5.3.2018. Toulon, France.

Fr Jean Henaff sm, d.9.3.2018, Noumea, New Caledonia

Br Eremondo Eliseo sm, d.9.3.2018, Suva, Fiji

Fr Brian Quin sm, d.24.3.2018, Silverstream, NZ

Fr Austin Horsley sm, d.10.4.2018,



‘Unable Seamen JJ, BTK, JV and Connie don’t seem to have oars or an outboard’

Hull, UK

Fr Joseph Schwaller sm,
d.15.4.2018, Rustroff, France.

Fr Andres Caire sm, d.21.4.2018,
Claveria, Mexico.

Mrs Asinate Tonu Kolofo'ou died in
Tonga on 5 March. She is the mother
of Oceanian Marist, Alaitini
Kolofo'ou, who works out of
Belmore as a Tongan chaplain in
Sydney.

Guenael Melteras, Willy Melteras'
brother, died suddenly in Port Vila
on 9 March. He worked as an air
traffic controller and was well
known in the Church and wider
community. He attended Willy's
ordination in Holy Name of Mary
church in 2013.

Maria Rego, Michael's mother, died
in Brisbane on 17 March, and was
buried from Holy Family Church,
Indooroopilly on March 23.

Kevin Conaghan, brother of Brian,
died 24/25 March in Sydney and was
buried on Easter Tuesday, April 3
from Our Lady of Fatima church at
Kingsgrove.

Agnes Kado, Fred's mother, died in
Fiji on 28 April. Fred returned to Fiji
on 1 May to preside at the funeral
on Friday 4 May.

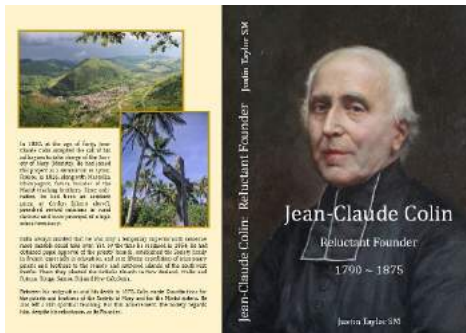
Sick

Jim Esler suffered cracked ribs as the
result of a fall at Maryvale in the first
week of April. After several days in
hospital he transferred to Hunters
Hill Private hospital for
rehabilitation.

Jim says he is in good spirits, but
realistic as regards the limitations
which his health issues will place on
him in the future.

Personnel

Terry Garrett made the Sydney
Morning Herald's "Column 8" on
April 30, with a quip cashing in on
the current negative publicity being
endured by the financial industry
sector.



Terry's suggestion was: "If you own
a gun you can rob the bank; if you
own a bank you can rob everybody".

Gavin Foster was away in the
Philippines during the recent school
holidays with an immersion group
from St Joseph's college (*see photo
above*).

He returned on 26 April and was
back into the fray on May 1 with the
beginning of Term 2.

Patrick Muckian: welcome to Pat,
who is visiting our Province for the
first time. Pat has been working for a
number of years as a member of our
Asian District, based in Davao.

He hit the ground running on
Sunday, April 29, when he preached
at 12 Masses at St Patrick's on
behalf of the Marist Mission Centre
appeal.

Pat is currently staying at Villa Maria
before returning to Ireland for leave.

Peter McMurrich spoke at St
Patrick's in the crypt on Sunday 29
April on the history of the church
and parish, the first of a series of
monthly "Conversations" in
association with the 2018 St

Patrick's anniversary year.

News

Election for Provincial: voting
papers for the election for Provincial
were sent out on 28 April.

Following on from the Chapter in
March, the selection/election
process used for choosing the
Provincial has changed from a three-
stage direct election process to a
two-stage process, consisting of a
ballot of members of the Province
and then choice of the Provincial by
the reconvened Chapter on 4-5 July.

Biography of Founder: The much-
anticipated biography of the
Founder by Justin Taylor (Jean
Claude Colin, Reluctant Founder)
took a further step closer to
publication early in April when Justin
met with Ron Nissen and ATP
executive officer, Hilary Regan, at
Villa Maria, to thrash out layout and
publication details (*see photos
above*).

The book is expected to be available
in the second half of this year.

St Patrick's Bi-Centenary: On
Sunday, May 6, St Patrick's was due



to celebrate the first of two significant anniversaries; in this case the bi-centenary of the leaving of the consecrated host with the laity of Sydney by Fr Jeremiah O'Flynn.

The date coincides with the annual meeting of the Australian bishops in Sydney, so the entire Australian episcopate will be on deck for the commemorative Mass.

Later in the year, in September, the 150th anniversary of Marist care of the parish will be celebrated.

St Dympna community

Michael Whelan advises that St Patrick's will be providing a special place of hospitality for survivors and victims of sexual abuse.

Each second Saturday at 7pm in the crypt there will be a simple paraliturgy, including the opportunity for individuals to be prayed over for healing.

The gathering will be under the patronage of St Dympna, patron saint of the sexually abused and those with mental or emotional distress.

Kevin Bates has written a reflective hymn for the new community. The hymn gives voice to the pain of those who have been wounded.

The first gathering will be 12 May. Michael says: 'All welcome! Just turn up. Participate as you feel inclined.'

Bilgola Visit: On Saturday 28 April, Br Colin, Garry Reynolds and Andrew Murray went down to Bilgola at the invitation of the new owners, Peter and Judy Howarth.

They have kept all the buildings and renovated them simply and tastefully. Drainage has been improved and the basement is now habitable.

They have set the rooms up to accommodate their married children and grandchildren and have comfortably had nineteen family members staying at the one time.

Peter and Judy are interested in keeping the spirit of the past alive and are religiously sensitive. For instance, they have kept crucifixes in a few places.

They would be grateful for copies of any photographs of life at Bilgola in the good old days.

If anyone has photographs, you might scan them and email them to Andrew Murray. (*First submission below*)

IT Ministry Proposal: A meeting of a number of confreres involved in academic ministry was held at Hunters Hill on 14th April to discuss the possibility of offering short on-

line faith education courses.

Two others were contacted by phone hook-up and three others offered written contributions to the discussion.

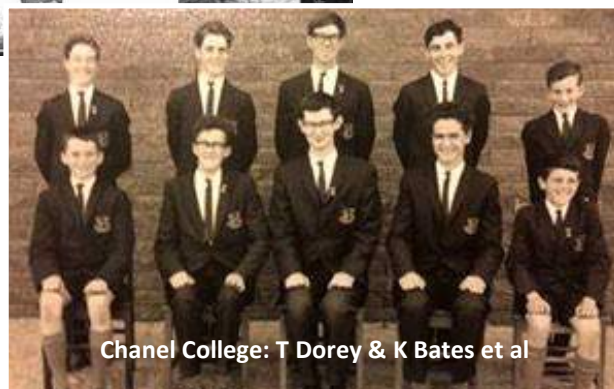
The group decided not to pursue the idea further in its present form because there are already a number of very good courses being offered on-line in the same area as our men could offer; it would be adding a heavy workload on our men who are already busy; the high level of IT expertise needed would be expensive if it had to be outsourced. Many of our confreres already have a lot of material available on webpages.

Others will look to seeing how they can do the same. Later, it might be worth looking at ways of getting materials that are already prepared by Marists available to confreres in Australia and MAP in a convenient and user-friendly way.

Chanel College Anniversary

celebration: This year marks the 60th anniversary of the foundation of Chanel College, Geelong, which operated as a Marist school from 1958-1970.

On the initiative of old boy Gavin Podbury, a reunion was held on Saturday 28 April. Jim Carty and



Kevin Bates attended along with around 150-200 former students and their partners.

The day commenced with a Mass in Holy Family church, Bell Park, at noon.

Stage two of the day consisted in a visit to the former New Chanel site, where the principal of the current Baptist school and the two school captains showed the visitors around; stage three of the day saw the participants at the Old Chanel site for a picnic lunch and a masterly and evocative talk from Frank O'Neill.

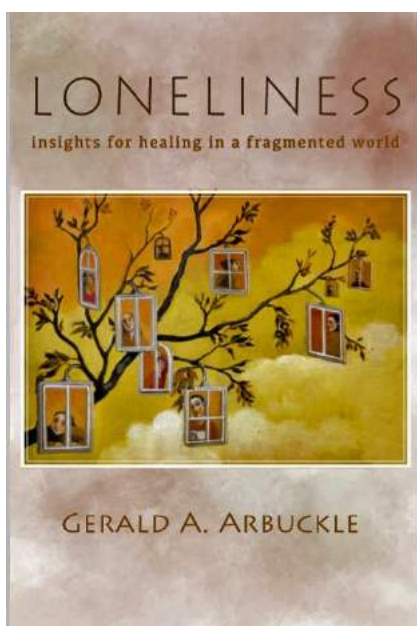
The old Chanel site is now a public park, with several of the original buildings maintained and used as public amenities.

Jim Carty described the reunion as "A timely event, celebrating 12 quite extraordinary years, warmly acknowledged by all who attended the day".

Publications

Gerald Arbuckle will be back on the bookshelves in October this year with his new title, "Loneliness: Insights for healing in a fragmented world".

The book will be published by Maryknoll, New York, and Orbis Books, and the publisher has chosen an arresting cover illustration.



Advertising

Province Retreats: This year, once again, there will be a retreat based at Maryvale/Montbel, running from 19-24 August.

The other retreat will be held this year in Brisbane, at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre at Ormiston. It is now confirmed for 4-9 November.

Tom Ryan has kindly agreed to lead the retreats, which will have as their theme: Abba Father: our Hope and Guide in Uncertainty and Darkness.

Booking forms will be sent out later in the year, but potential attendees might like to mark their diaries. Numbers on the Brisbane retreat will be capped at 20.

Provincial Assembly: An Assembly of the Province has been called for September 25-27 at Hunters Hill.

The Preparatory Committee is: Kevin Bates, Michael Whelan, Michael Mullins, and Peter McMurrich.

The Assembly will focus on the issue of child sexual abuse and the Royal Commission. The venue will be the Hunters Hill parish hall.

Invitations will be sent out in a month or two, but in the meantime, you might like to put the dates in your diary.

Jubilarians Mass & Dinner: The Jubilarians' Mass and Dinner will be held on the evening of Thursday, 27 September, at the conclusion of the Provincial Assembly.

Jubilarians are:
Ordination 60 Years **Gerald Arbuckle** (Z) 16.7.1958;
Ordination 50 Years **Kevin Stewart** 6.7.1968;
Ordination 40 Years **Paul Cooney** 3.6.1978, **Bernard McKenna** (O) 9.12.1978, **Stephen Truscott** 25.5.1978;
Ordination 25 Years **Paul Pearce** 23.10.1993.

Invitations will be sent out later in the year.



Provincial Directory

Please note the following changes of phone numbers for Maryvale/Montbel:

- Chris Austin 02 9844 2262
- Neville Byrne 02 9844 2269
- John Thornhill 02 9844 2244
- John Worthington 02 9844 2249

Please note that the following confreres are now at: **Southern Cross Residential Aged Care** 16 Vincentia Street, Marsfield, NSW 2122: John Jago, J V Walsh, Brian Conaghan, Bill Ryder

Province Website

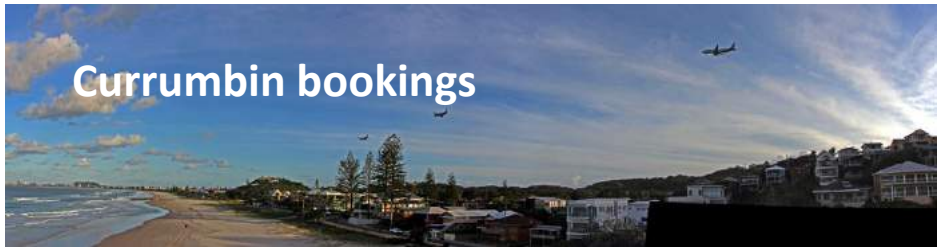
Members' access

The access code to the Province web site 'Members' page has been changed to:

Username: **sm**
Password: **colin**

This is the same as the International Marist web site. The change follows the recent and continuing upgrading of the web site.





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:

April 21-May 11

Ron Nissen

May 12-17

Provincial Council, All Currumbin

June 1-30

Ray Chapman

July 15-21

Kevin Stewart

Aug 31- Sept 15

Peter McMurrich

Sept 16-23

Jim Hargrave

Sept 24-Oct 11

Tom Fulcher

Oct 15-Nov 4

Bob Barber

Nov 9-17

Tom Ryan

Nov 18-26

Peter McMurrich (family)

2019

Jan 14-Feb 7

Peter McMurrich

NB: The whole of Currumbin is booked for use by the Provincial Council for its annual planning meeting from **May 12-17** inclusive.

Neat and tidy

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.

JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Worldwide consultation

Our JPIC committee has recently requested the General Administration to support a worldwide consultation of Marists to ascertain the range and level of JPIC involvement internationally.

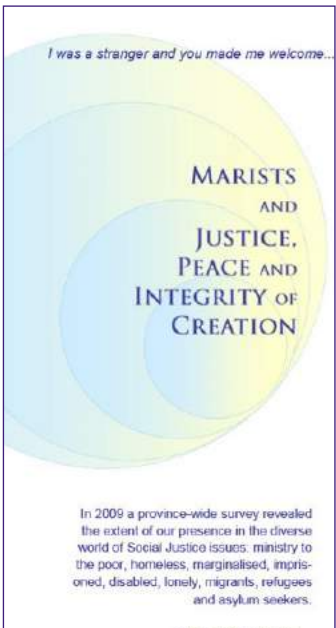
The suggested process would be modelled on our province survey of 2009, with the establishment of a regular blog similar to the Inner-City blog set up by Fr Kevin Duffy.

New look Bridge Program

Coordinated by a small team of BP graduates, a new program has now begun. Its focus continues to be assisting young Burmese students to access tertiary education.

It's web site is:

<https://bridgeprogrambp.wixsite.com/bridgeprogram>



And also...



Clockwise from left: Marist Charism & Culture interview: **Jim Esler** at Maryvale | Montbel music, with lads from St Joseph's College | St Peter Chanel party at Paddington: Aussie-Tongan-Brazilian affair | The long and the short of it: **Paul Pidcock** with **Bishop Paul Martin**, Christchurch





*Clockwise from top left: **Hayden Kennedy** and fellow students, **Hemi Ropata** and **Seremaia Turagabeci**, in Auckland | March birthday boys | **Kevin Head** (NZ Marist Messenger) in Sydney | Tête-a-tête, Villa Maria bird bath | Distraction at prayer, Chanel House | **Bishop Paul Donoghue** at Montbel*

