

# Marist Fathers Australian Province

## Provincial Circular

No 4 - Aug 2020



### From the Provincial

Brothers

The upcoming assembly and chapter will be significant steps in our journeying forward together as we seek to enable our Marist mission to continue with the personal and pastoral flourishing of each one of us.

What the province has to decide upon with regard to our governance, as well as our corporate ministries and internal provincial organisation, needs to relate to our present and future realities and challenges. Our community meetings have already given us the opportunity to do this through expressing our opinions and listening to each other.

Hopefully the assembly will continue that opportunity as we prepare a foundation for the chapter.

#### **The Assembly: an event of synodality**

As in all our common work, these meetings can be a proclamation of the Gospel, a witnessing to the fraternity, peace and joy of discipleship. This will be especially the case if our work together are expressions of synodality.

To be an event of synodality, our assembly needs to be characterised, first and foremost, by listening.

Our gathering can be a reflection in miniature of a synodal Church which as Pope Francis says is a Church which listens, which realizes that listening "is more than simply hearing". "It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn", "all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit."

The 2018 document, *Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church*, of the International Theological Commission, reminds us that "Synodal dialogue depends on courage both in speaking and in listening."

"It is not about engaging in a debate where one speaker tries to get the better of the others or counters their positions with brusque arguments, but about expressing whatever seems to have been suggested by the Holy Spirit as useful for communal discernment, at the same time being open to accepting whatever has been suggested by the same Spirit in other people's positions, 'for the general good' (1 Corinthians 12,7)." § 111.

#### **The significance of the Assembly for the Chapter - the value of consultation**

That same document underlines the importance of the work of an assembly and its contribution to the decision-making role of a chapter.

It refers to the different but reciprocal tasks of the assembly and the chapter: "There is to be no distance or separation between the community and its Pastors (in our case – the chapter). . . but a distinction between tasks in the reciprocity of communion. It is necessary to distinguish between the process of **decision-making** through a joint exercise of discernment, consultation and co-operation, and **decision-taking**", which is within the competence of the chapter (Cf. §69).

"The consultation that takes place in synodal assemblies is actually different (from the usual

understanding of consultation in e.g. civil law), because the members of the People of God who take part in them are responding to the summons of the Lord, listening as a community to what the Spirit is saying to the Church through the Word of God which resonates in their situation, and interpreting the signs of the times with the eyes of faith."

"In the synodal Church the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on taking pastoral decisions which correspond as closely as possible to God's will. So, in coming to formulate their own decisions, Pastors (in our case, the chapter) must listen carefully to the wishes of the faithful (confreres)." §68.

By the time we all meet in assembly (in whatever form that may take) the short-list for the second stage of the chapter elections will have been published. Those potential members of the chapter will therefore have the chance to prepare themselves well to take decisions by having first listened with open minds and hearts to their confreres gathered in assembly.

May the Spirit be with us in these coming days of grace.

Tony.

## Provincial Diary

**Sep 28-Oct 2:** Provincial Assemblies

**Sep 8:** Provincial Finance C'ttee

**Sep 15:** Provincial Council

**Sep 16 & Oct 7:** CLOC

**Oct 20:** Provincial Council

## Provincial Council

At its July and August meetings the council gave its attention to the following:

- 2021 provincial retreats
- Preparations for Assembly and Provincial Chapter
- Marist Charism group
- Professional Standards matters
- Sale of properties: Lane Cove and Currumbin
- Omnes Gentes community, Marayong

## Calendar

Provincial Assembly

- Sydney, Sep 28-29
- Brisbane, Oct 1-2.

Provincial Chapter: Nov 10 – 13

**CLOC** (combined leaders' online consultation)

The Provincial has now participated in two Zoom meetings with the General Administration and the Society's major superiors – CLOC.

The first was an introductory session, each major superior sharing on how he was coping, particularly with the effects that the pandemic was having on his unit and his confreres.

The second session centred on the question: *what ministries will your unit have in 20 years' time?* As expected the older provinces predict a significant decrease in the number of active men with only a few ministries. Units from the developing world are hopeful of future vocations.

It is evident that whatever developments that do take place will depend upon the cooperation of the Society as a whole.

## Jubilees

Congratulations to **Kevin Kerley** who celebrates his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood on September 6.

The communal celebration of the 2020 jubilees, originally scheduled for the time of the Assembly, has been postponed until a later date, possibly at the time of the Chapter.

## Personnel

Congratulations to **Gavin Foster** who has recently become an Australian citizen.

**David Wilson** and **Jim Carty** will be taking up residence at Maryvale/Montbel at the end of August.

## Information

### 2021 Provincial Retreats.

The retreat preacher will be Fr Brian Cummings sm of New Zealand, and the retreats available at two venues:

- Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston, Qld – Sep 12 – 17, 2021.
- Maryvale/Montbel, Hunters Hill, NSW – Sept 19 – 24, 2021.

### Professional Standards & Safeguarding

A safeguarding initiative that resulted from the Catholic Professional Standards (CPSL) audit of the Marist Fathers, was the development of a *Code of Professional Conduct*.

The Code was developed in consultation with the Professional Standards Panel, endorsed by the Provincial Council and meetings were held last month in Sydney and Brisbane to discuss the document.

Thank you to all those who attended and participated in these meetings. The strong response by members provides further validation of our commitment to fostering a culture of safeguarding of children and adults at risk in the Province.

Thank you also to those confreres who have already signed the *Code of Professional Conduct* and provided a copy to the administration office.

If you have yet to provide the signed

Code, please note the document can be accessed via the safeguarding page on the Marist Fathers website:

<https://maristfathers.org.au/safeguarding> or email [profstandards@maristfathers.org.au](mailto:profstandards@maristfathers.org.au) and Kathleen will send a copy to you.

### CPSL Impact Report

Earlier this month CPSL published its 2020 Impact Report. This report marks 18 months of service delivery for CPSL, and presents data on the services and supports offered to date as well as feedback on the impact of those services across the Church in Australia.

The report provides information on the emerging trends from the audits conducted with the 13 Church authorities who have participated in an audit and the 10 audit reports which have been published on the CPSL website.

The report notes that the CPSL audits conducted to date have revealed consistent commitment of leaders to the process and an emerging and strengthening child-safe culture.

For more information you can view the Impact Report at <https://www.cpsltd.org.au/news-and-media/cpsl-impact-report/>

### National Child Protection Week: 6-12 September 2020

This year National Child Protection Week will celebrate its 30th year with the theme:

*Putting children first...* this means always prioritising the safety and wellbeing of children.

The Catholic Church in Australia will observe Child Protection Sunday on **13 September 2020**. Child Protection Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts.

Liturgical resources will be available on the ACBC website from early September and can be located at: <https://catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday>

## Deaths

**Fr Sydney John Nugent** died peacefully on 8 August at St Anne's Nursing Home, Hunters Hill, after a number of months of slow decline in health.

His funeral mass took place on 17 August under the restrictions of social distancing because of COVID-19. Present was a large group of Syd's family, many coming from the Riverina district of NSW. They were joined by representatives of the Japanese Catholic community together with friends and confreres.

In his eulogy Jim Carty described the extraordinary enthusiasm, determination, and hard work of Syd over his 40 years of ministry in Japan.

His first appointment in 1972 was to Kuzu, a property in the south of Nara city. Over the 20 years he served there Syd built a new church, extended the kindergarten, rebuilt the aged care home, established a cemetery, offered land for a respite care house for disabled children and their parents and land for the building of a refugee camp for Vietnamese boat people.

He then moved north to Suzaku where, among his many works, he set about building an exemplary aged care facility which he named Santa Maria - when he left Japan there were 500 people on the waiting list.

On his return to Australia in 2012, in spite of growing old and less agile, Syd continued in ministry, at St Patrick and also at Matt Talbot Hostel every Tuesday, up until last year.

During his address, Jim read out in Japanese a tribute from Paddy O'Hare:

*On hearing the sad news of Syd's death, I share the sadness of many people in Australia and Japan, joining with you in prayer and offering my condolences especially to Syd's family, his Montbel community and anyone from Japan who is present.*



*Over many years his energy, example and enthusiasm contributed so much to the growth of the Church and of our community. He will be long remembered by countless families and people he supported, guided and accompanied through ministry in kindergartens, homes for the elderly, working with refugees and many others.*

*I suspect that the departure of the Marists perhaps affected Syd more than the rest of us and caused him much sorrow and disappointment which is now being transformed as the Lord welcomes him with words such as "Come, Syd, with all those blessed by my Father, what you did for all those brothers and sisters of mine, you did to me. Come now into the fullness of the kingdom you believed in and which has been prepared for you". Syd, Rest in eternal Peace.*

Syd was cremated at the Macquarie Park crematorium. His ashes will be interred at the Villa Maria cemetery and at the Junee cemetery in his parents' grave.

**Fr Jim LaCrosse (USA)** who died on 7 Jul.

**Bishop Luis Sebastiani Aguirre (Peru)** who died on 10 Aug.

**Fr Dennis Steik (USA)** who died on 20 Aug.



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

Assuming current restrictions on domestic travel have been lifted, the current bookings are:

*If border circumstances allow:*

**Sep 30-Oct 7** Gavin Foster  
**Oct 8 – 30** Peter McMurrich  
**Nov 2 – 30** Bob Barber (Family)  
**Dec 6 – 12** Jim Hargrave  
**Dec 26-Jan 12** Michael Carroll  
**Jan 13 – 23** Gavin Foster

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, e.g. Marist Charism Group planning meeting, where the usage is notified to confreres well in advance.



## JPICC Corner

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

#### Monday Blog

From Rome, Ben McKenna continues to send out the Australian province-initiated Monday Blog on JPIC issues.

The familiar Blog icon is often seen on Facebook pages as well as on the Blog itself <https://jpicblog.maristism.org/> and on our Province website's JPIC page: <https://maristfathers.org.au/jpic-2020>

During 2020 Ben has uploaded twenty-nine Blog pieces, several of which were authored by Jim Carty on

Australia as well as Pacific and global issues.

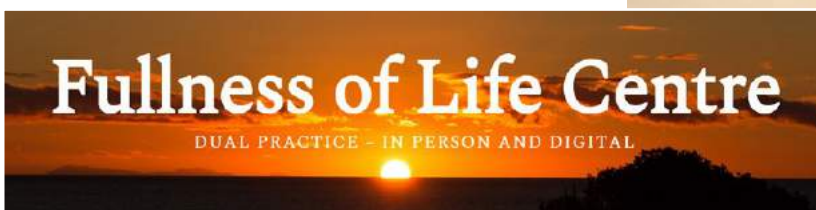
The Blog is easily accessed through the Province's JPIC page, which has further related items including several reflections from Kevin Bates.

The website is currently attracting over ten thousand visits monthly.

Membership of the Province JPIC Committee continues with **Jim Carty** (convenor), **Kevin Bates**, **Paul Mahony**, **Ron Nissen** and **Kevin Stewart**.



**1:** Gerry Hall and House of Welcome friends with local parish priest, Fr Gerry Kalinowski, welcoming Larissa Ferreira da Cruz into the catechumenate at Paddington. **2:** John Begg and Pio Fong in the Herston kitchen. **3:** Steve Truscott and Celia Joyce preparing for new workshops at Fullness of Life Centre, Perth.





**4: Syd Nugent's** Requiem Mass live-streamed from Villa Maria church for friends in Japan. **5: Jim Carty, Paul Glynn** and Japanese Catholic leaders at the cremation ceremony, Macquarie Park.



**6:** Villa Maria's ongoing collection of 10-cent items for the poor.

**7: Michael Jacques** with **John Larsen** and confreres at the closing of the Colinian Renewal Program at Fourvière.

**8 & 9:** Major superiors and General Councilors at the first combined leaders' online consultation (CLOC), monthly Zoom sessions replacing ARC this year.



# Interface Theology

## Interface Theology



---

### Volume 5, Number 1 2019

Rethinking Education for Leadership

*Duncan Reid*

The Resurrection of Christ as a Saving Act: The Witness of Religious Art

*Brian Johnstone, CSsR*

The School of the Cross: German Marists in World War II and After (1933 to 1950)

*Alois Greiler, SM*

Two JOC Theologians from Lille: Pierre Tiberghien and Palémon Glorieux

*Stefan Gigacz*

---

Price \$22.95 + \$5 Postage and Handling

---

## Interface Theology

Email:

TOTAL AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: +61 08 8232 2093