



# MARIST FATHERS AUSTRALIA DISTRICT CIRCULAR

AUG  
2023

## From the District Superior

Confreres,

Earlier in the year the Superior General wrote to the District members concerning a proposal for us to take on the Parish of South Brisbane. Fr John was very supportive of the project, underlining its potential as a missionary outreach for the District. Fr John invited the membership to submit their responses to the District Superior and Council, acknowledging that it remained a decision of the District.

The response to Fr John's letter was not overwhelming – six replies. Well-considered reasons were offered both for and against the project. While, “on site” in Brisbane there were confreres who strongly supported it and offered to take their part, either directly or in an auxiliary role.

After long and conscientious consideration, deliberation and discernment, the Council and I concluded that the District cannot support the proposal to establish a community of three or four to serve the Parish of South Brisbane in the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

The realities that faced the Chapter of 2021 in its decisions on the future of our present parishes continue to confront us. The necessity of having to fill some key roles within the District in the near future, even by the end of the year, makes it very evident that we are not in a position to guarantee the provision of Marists to the Archdiocese for the three to four years that the project would require.

Hopefully, the mission the Marists already exercise in Brisbane will continue. The Marists of Herston have provided for some time a significant service to the Archdiocese in their availability to assist its pastors in supplying at weekends, for their holidays, for sabbaticals, etc., as well as chaplaincies. A quite “hidden and unknown” work in support of the local Church.

The Superior General, on being informed of the decision, has written in response:

*“I want to thank you and your Council for giving the matter such serious deliberation. . . you entered into a serious process of discernment involving as many people as possible. I believe that the process in itself has been a*

*valuable example of good and synodal leadership. . .*

*“While the Brisbane proposal is not going ahead, I continue to hope the Marist District of Australia will have a vibrant, different future. . .*

*“It certainly seems to me that Australia is a dynamic and vibrant country where our mission and charism can contribute significantly to its bright future. . .*

*“. . . I also request that you continue to pray for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and of Mary to show us how we are called to continue to do the Work of Mary within Australia into the future. . .”*

## Jubilarians

Each year we recognise, honour and celebrate significant anniversaries of ordination of our clerical members and profession of our Brothers.

Traditionally, the “significant” anniversaries have been the Silver (25), Golden (50), Diamond (60) and, now and again, Platinum (70)! While local communities usually celebrated their local jubilarians at an appropriate time, the Province (of old) celebrated all jubilees at the one event, usually connected to the annual retreat at Hunters Hill.

This year we are commemorating the Platinum Jubilee of Ordination of **Paul Glynn**, 60 years of priesthood of **John Begg** and **Jim Carty**, and the Golden Anniversary of **James Collins**. It is also the 50<sup>th</sup> year of **Kevin Head**'s priesthood.

At this time it looks as if we might have only our Platinum Jubilarian Paul Glynn present for the Mass and Luncheon on Friday, Sep 29. John and Jim were able to celebrate together at Herston in July. Kevin was able to join confreres in New Zealand for his anniversary.

So, I take this opportunity, on behalf of the District, to congratulate our confreres on their significant anniversaries, to thank them for their years of dedicated service to God's People and their gift of themselves to the life and mission of the Society of Mary.

Tony

## District Superior's Diary

|                  |                                             |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sep 05</b>    | District Finance Committee                  |
| <b>Sep 14</b>    | Professional Standards & Safeguarding Panel |
| <b>Sep 19</b>    | District Council                            |
| <b>Sep 24-29</b> | District Retreat                            |
| <b>Sep 29</b>    | Jubilarians' Mass & Luncheon                |
| <b>Oct 17</b>    | District Council                            |

## District Council

At its July and August meetings the Council treated the following:

- Proposal to take on South Brisbane Parish
- Villa Maria Complex Strategic Plan
- Professional Standards matters
- MMC Quarterly Report
- Revision of MMC structure
- District Assembly 2024
- Leadership of Maryvale/Montbel
- Marist Charism & Culture Immersion

## Personnel

### Paul Hachey

Paul has been appointed to the position of Acting Judicial Vicar and Judge of the Inter-diocesan Tribunal of Sydney from Aug 01, 2023 to Jan 30, 2024

### Ron Nissen

The *SM Bulletin* announced in April that there would be spaces for SM Marists on the Marist Brothers' *Third Age* program at Manziana, Rome, Sep 23-Nov 19.

Ron reports: *'Br Michael Green, coordinator of the program and community leader at Champagnat House, Hunters Hill, has welcomed my participation and that of Ben McKenna too.*

*'Also, there will be an opportunity to finish some outstanding work in Rome of arranging and archiving files concerning the Colin Cause and the remaining imaging of places in rural France related to the Generalate of Fr Colin.'*  
Ron leaves on Sep 04, returning on Christmas Day.

## Publications

### Tom Ryan

A jury appointed by the International Academy for Intercultural Research has honoured the *International Handbook of Love* with the William B. Gudykunst Outstanding Book Award for 2023.

Tom Ryan has a chapter in the book, namely, 'Devotion: "Being Shore to the Ocean"'.  

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## Deaths

### Fr Michael Mullins

who died on Jul 10.



Many testimonials for Michael were received from around the world including the following:

From Joachin Fernandez SM:

*'With human sadness and Christian joy I received this morning the news that Fr Michael Mullins passed away and is now in the new home, God's home for his loved children and Mary's home for the members of her family.*

*'Many good memories have come to my mind during the many years Michael worked mainly as facilitator of meeting of different groups of Marists in different countries and of the members of the General Administrations.*

*If my memory is right, the first time I met Michael was at a meeting of formators in Rome in 1983 and the last one in 2001 again in Rome as he facilitated the members of the outgoing General Administration to wind up their mandate and to review their performance in view of future responsibilities in the Society of Mary. He did an excellent job.*

*'I thank God for his Marist life and for his contribution to the Society of Mary in accomplishing its mission. May he now enjoy the best rest prepared for him by our Lord and Mary.'*

From Ben McKenna SM:

*'It will take some time to absorb this and to recount all the good the Michael has done for the Society of Mary – at many levels – and for the broad Church in general.*

*He brought the human sciences to CTU when we were students – and enabled us to unpack and repack this crucial dimension – our humanity – into our formation.*

*'I always found Michael to be a challenging confrere: that was his nature: but his motives were always clear – for the good of the person, the good of the congregation, and the good of the Church.'*

## Information

### Fourvière

The **Marist Laity** took their turn to host this year's celebration of Fourvière on Sun, Jul 23. Beginning at Bradfield Park, Milson's Point, 70 'Marist camino' walkers crossed Sydney Harbour Bridge before lunching in the crypt of St Patrick's, Church Hill. Buses then took the group to a concluding event in the parish hall at Hunters Hill where 150 people gathered, including senior members of the Marist Family.



### Marist Charism & Culture Immersion

A very successful week-long MCC immersion program took place at Villa Maria from Jul 30 to Aug 04. 18 participants were drawn from the teachers, administrators and support staff from the former Marist Fathers schools of Bellambi, Burnie and Woodlawn, and the Marist Sisters schools of Merrylands and Woolwich.

After the Covid lull, the MCC team of **Greg Collis, Chris Comerford, Kim Evans, Glenn Roff** and **Gerard Hall** continue their significant ministry of instilling and sustaining the Marist spirit in the schools with Marist foundations.

## Calendar

**Sep 24-29:** District Retreat, Hunters Hill

**Sep 29:** Jubilarians' Mass and Dinner



*Chris Comerford leading an MCC session in Woodbury Hall.*

## JPICC Corner

District Committee for Justice, Peace  
and Integrity of Creation

### Q&A event for Sep 03

The Marist Family JPIC Committee held a hybrid meeting on Aug 05 to plan for a major event on Sep 03 at Hunters Hill featuring former TV host and commentator, **Kerry O'Brien**, in a Q&A style event concerning the Indigenous 'Voice' referendum.

MLA members continue to play an increasingly active role in Marist Family affairs, evidenced by the success of the recent Fourvière camino and celebration.





*Clockwise from top left:* Felling of Villa Maria leaning pines on Rocher Ave fence line. | **John Begg** and **Jim Carty** celebrating diamond jubilees on Jul 06. | Holy Name of Mary with mourners at **Michael Mullins'** Requiem, Jul 20. | **John Begg** and **Jim Carty** with Herston community. | Memories of **Tony King** during the Montbel Vigil, Jul 04. | Marking **Paul Glynn's** 70th anniversary, Montbel chapel. | **Gerard Hall** at APTO (Association of Practical Theology in Oceania) event in Brisbane. | **Mick Mullins** and **Billy**.





*Clockwise from top left:* **Luke Holohan** and **Michael Whelan**, Campion College academic centre opening, Aug 24. | **Tony Corcoran**, Champagnat House Assumption celebrations, Aug 15. | **Chris Comerford** and **Br Neville Solomon** at MCC immersion, Villa Maria. | **Maria Baden** at Fourvière event.... | ... with 150 attendees, Jul 23. | **Paul Pidcock** and MCC interviewers, Montbel. | **Kerrie Sanders** and a birthday hug for **David Wilson**, Aug 10. | MCC emblem, designed by **Bob Barber**.



## International



*Clockwise from top left:* Kiwi seminarian, **Hemi Ropata**, visiting from Rome. | Brazilian Marist, **Lauro Da Silva**, at Tamworth, guest of Paul Mahony and Marayong community. | From Nara, Japan, **Atsuko Arai** with young friends praying at the graves of **Tony Glynn** and **Syd Nugent**, Villa Maria mission cemetery. | Marists at World Youth Day, Lisbon. | **Michael Carroll** in Passau with **Alois Greiler**. | **Tony Kennedy** returning to *Casa di Maria*, Rome.