

Marist Fathers Australian Province Provincial Circular

No 5 - Oct 2021



From the Provincial

Confreres,

Kevin Medilo has emerged from quarantine and is now in the Parish of Marayong learning the ropes from Mons Ron McFarlane and being initiated into the life of the Diocese of Parramatta. At the beginning of November, he will be joined by Kevin Redmond, and so the Society's *Omnes Gentes* mission will begin. It is hoped that the third member of the community, Floyd Gatana (Bougainville), will join them soon, once all requirements for his visa are addressed.

Kevin Medilo from the District of Asia is the leader of the mission. Since his ordination in 2003, Kevin has served in his own country of the Philippines and in the mission in Ranong, Thailand. He has recently completed his studies in Rome in the area of Interreligious Dialogue. We are

familiar with our own Kevin Redmond's work in schools and parishes, especially as parish priest of Gladstone. Recently, he also worked in Ranong, as he prepared for joining Marayong's international community. Floyd Gatana from Oceania, after completing his studies in Rome, was ordained priest in Bougainville in May of this year.

As we welcome our confreres and wish them well in this new venture, let's revisit the letter that the Superior General wrote to the Province in September 2020, introducing the plan for establishing the new Marist mission community (named an "omnes gentes mission") in the diocese of Parramatta, accepting the invitation of Bishop Long to respond to the needs of his people, especially among the youth and those with migrant backgrounds: 'The name "omnes gentes" derives from the opening words ("Omnium gentium salus ...") of the Brief of Gregory XVI of April 29, 1836, when

he approved the Society of Mary and commissioned the fledgling Society to undertake the new mission in Oceania.

'Bishop Long has made it clear from the beginning that we are being invited primarily because of our particular Marist charism rather than from, for example, an urgent need for clergy. He is clear that the Marists have a fine reputation in Australia (including the diocese of Parramatta), New Zealand, Oceania and Asia and that he, as well as his Vicar General, Monsignor Chris de Souza, and the people of the diocese, are inviting us to bring back that same community Spirit of Mary to their diocese. These younger Marists are walking in

your own footsteps as well as all the Marists who have gone before us in Australia and beyond.

'This is a new initiative in Australia for us as Marists. After consultation with your own leadership, we are trying a new administrative approach. This "omnes gentes" Mission will be directly under the administration of the International Society. The Province of Australia will be free of any day-to-day administrative responsibility even though our young confreres will need all the fraternal support you can offer. However, we hope that one of you will agree to mentor our confreres in our new venture.

'Confreres in Australia, let's hope this new mission will build on the wonderful Marist tradition in Australia, Oceania and New Zealand going back for almost two hundred years. These young Marists will need all the support and encouragement you can give them. I wholeheartedly ask you to give them a warm Aussie welcome, help them along their way as much as you can especially when they are struggling (and they surely will struggle a lot sometimes) and mentor them as only older and wiser brothers can.

'Let's pray together that this new Work of Mary in Australia will bear abundant fruit.'

Tony.



Provincial Diary

Nov 2 – Health and Aged Care Committee
Nov 12 – Safeguarding Training
Nov 16 – Provincial Council
Nov 22-25 – Catholic Religious of Australia: National Conference
Dec 1 – Jubilarians' Mass and Dinner
Dec 7 – Provincial Finance Committee
Dec 8 – CLOC
Dec 9 – Professional Standards and Safeguarding Panel
Dec 14 – Provincial Council
Dec 18 – 31 – Christmas break

CLOC: October

- Distribution of SM Bulletin
- Vocation Year
- Preparation for the 2022 Council of the Society.

Provincial Council

At its September and October meetings the Council treated the following:

- Advancing the Decisions of the Chapter – the future of the Villa Maria Complex.
- Current Professional Standards matters.
- Marist Mission Centre: development of new structures.
- Draft budget for 2022.
- Future directions for Prioritised Ministries: St Patricks and Hunters Hill.
- Appointments to Provincial Finance Committee, MMC Advisory Committee.

Appointments

Pius Jones after a number of years in dedicated service in education, especially in schools in Northern Queensland, Pius has been appointed to the Herston community for relief and supply work in the Brisbane Archdiocese, as from April 1, 2022.

In the meantime, for the first three months of 2022, Pius will have a holiday and a period of renewal at Douglas Park.

Michael Whelan has been re-appointed by the Archbishop of Sydney as Parish Priest of St Patrick's for a further three years from January 1, 2022.

Michael will be on sabbatical leave for the first six months of 2022.

Peter McMurrich has been appointed Administrator of Church Hill for the six months of Michael's absence.

Calendar

Provincial Retreat 2022:

Fr Paul Chandler O.Carm, who presented the retreat for our northern brothers in September, has agreed to give the 2022 Provincial Retreat at Hunters Hill next September.

This will be the only retreat offered for 2022.

Jubilarians' Celebration:

The Mass and dinner scheduled will take place on Wednesday, 1 December, 2021, at 5.00 pm.

A registration form will be sent out later for confreres to indicate their intention to join in the celebration of the significant ordination anniversaries of John Burke, Garry Reynolds, Bill Ryder, John Hopkinson, David Wilson, Ron Nissen, Aidan Carvill and Gavin Foster.

Marist Vocation Year

The Marist Vocation Year will be launched on November 15.

The goal of the Marist Vocation Year is to encourage Marists to reflect on the mystery of their own vocation and their call to personal holiness.

The aim is also to identify and share creative forms of vocational ministry that can inspire young people in the

discernment of their own vocation.

The Marist Vocation Year would involve the participation of Marists at different levels, locally and globally, through reflections, inputs, online seminars and workshops.

A vocations novena, Nov 6 to 14, will precede the start of the year. More information on the year's activities will arrive later.

Information

Provincial Election

The votes for the provincial election have been posted to Rome unopened, to be counted by the Superior General.

Status of the 2021 Provincial Chapter Declarations and Decisions.

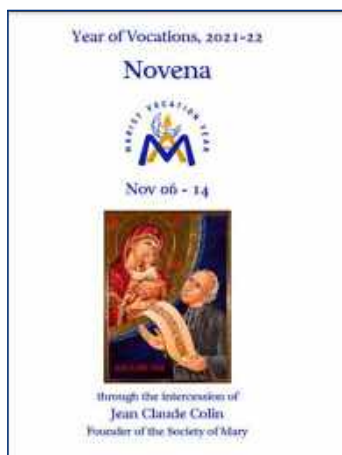
In accordance with Const. 174, the Declarations and Decisions of the Chapter were submitted for approval by the Superior General in March of this year. As the decisions on **governance restructures** and associated **statutes** were a novel proposal for the Society, the General Administration chose to refer the matter to the Congregation for Religious before giving further consideration to its approval. The Congregation has yet to respond. We therefore still await the approval of these fundamental matters.

Register of Benefactors

The province has previously been informed of the intention to draw up a register of benefactors to be held at the provincial office. For this we need the participation of all in drawing it up. Members are invited to give some thought. Since our invitation in the last circular, the office has received no responses. Your nominations of benefactors, who have been significant in their support, both financial and otherwise, to the life and mission of the Australian Province, are most welcome.

Please send to the provincial office your nominations with the following information:

- House/Ministry
- Name of benefactor
- Period
- Nature of contribution



Deaths

Fr Georges-Julien Côté (Canada) who died on 24-08-2021.

Fr Franco Pecci (Europe) who died on 29-08-2021

Fr Kevin Kerley (Australia) who died on 29 September 2021



A tribute on behalf of the people of Bougainville and the Province of Oceania by Fr Justin Ratsi SM:

'On behalf of the people of Bougainville and the Oceania Marist Province, I would like to pass on to you, the Marist Province of Australia and to the family of late Fr Kevin Kerley our sincere and deepest condolences in losing someone so dear to us.

'There are many things for which late Fr Kevin will be remembered. What I will never forget are the following: the most memorable one is his great love for the people of Bougainville and always putting himself on the line for the people especially in the Bougainville Crisis. He was a very dedicated person to all those whom he took charge of in his missions to the rural areas of Bougainville. Fr Kevin was honest and straightforward. He was interested in everything that was happening around him. He could listen to the radio, read the newspaper while the TV was on. He used to carry around a pair of scissors to cut off news from the papers he read, especially news about the Bougainville Crisis.'

Fr Justin gave thanks for the wonderful contribution Kevin have made in the lives of the people of Bougainville, the Society of Mary, and other places where Kevin served the Church with great zeal.

Health and Aged Care Committee.

After a couple of COVID-19 postponements, the members, who were announced in a previous circular, will gather for the inaugural meeting and orientation on Tuesday, 2 November.

Synodal Journey

The Synodal Journey in preparation for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, October 2023, was officially launched by pope Francis on October 10. CICALSAL, the "Congregation for Consecrated Life etc", has issued an invitation for religious to involve themselves in the synodal process. In response to CICALSAL's request for religious involvement, CRA has devised a simple, flexible process for inviting religious in Australia, individuals and communities, to participate in the synodal journey. See CRA webpage: www.catholicreligious.org.au/synodal-journey.

CRA 2021 National Assembly ONLINE Registrations for the online 2021 CRA National Assembly, Monday 22 to Thursday 26 November 2021, are now open. The theme, **Embracing Mission – Interculturality and Prophetic Leadership**, will focus on religious life within a Church and society comprised of diverse people, different cultures, ages, beliefs, countries of origin, theologies, genders, ordained/lay. "How can we broaden our vision so that interculturality is a positive force in our congregational lives and in the service of the mission?" Some sessions will only involve leaders, however, the principal presentations will be open to all religious (for a fee of \$100). All information is available on the CRA website, including a full program Enquiries: events@catholicreligious.org.au.

Personnel

Our Elders

The COVID-19 restrictions for aged care facilities are being lifted very slowly. Our men in the Southern Cross Aged Care, Marsfield, may be visited under certain conditions including booking in with the facility (phone:

1800 632 314). At present it is only permissible to visit one man per visit.

David Wilson is recuperating at home in Montbel after a very long stint in hospital.

Publications

SM Bulletin

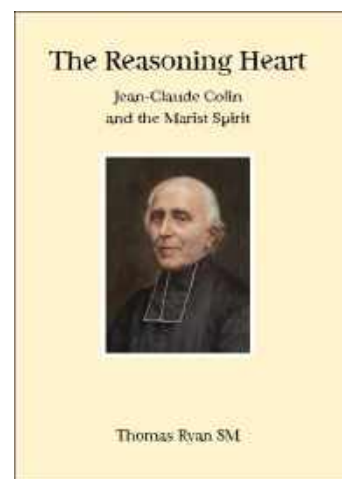
If you do not receive the weekly SM Bulletin from the General House by email and you wish to do so, contact Sophie Janssens, secretariat@maristsm.org, and give her your email address.



Tom Ryan: The Reasoning Heart – Jean Claude Colin and the Marist Spirit. ATF.

Tom explores the affective dimension of Jean-Claude Colin, the founder of the Society of Mary.

Colin's thinking is well documented as the result of many years of research by Marist scholars, and Tom brings considerable expertise in the psychology of affect.



From **Gaston Lessard sm:**

'We might wonder what a 19th century French priest, virtually unknown outside the Society of Mary, which he founded, might offer to contemporary reflections on the morally good life and the guidance of conscience.

In the case of Jean-Claude Colin (1790 –1875), the answer is: Quite a lot. Thomas Ryan, in *The Reasoning Heart*, shows that what Colin left behind (from collected oral remarks) proceeds from a coherent approach.

This approach was formed, first, from Colin's own experience in country parishes and as spiritual guide to young men and, second, from his reading of St Alphonsus Liguori (not as yet widely known) and his attention to Roman maxims, such as 'The supreme law is the salvation of souls'.

The heart of Colin's approach is found in his treasured phrase: to "think as Mary, to judge as Mary, to feel and act as Mary in all things". Thomas Ryan develops these themes in masterly fashion, drawing on previous studies of virtue-based ethics and the role of the emotions in the moral life.

This beautifully written book comes at an opportune moment as the Catholic Church tries to reformulate (even reform) her moral teaching in a world that rejects severity and condemnation from an institution whose own moral failings are only too evident.'

Holiday Accommodation

As a twelve-month trial the provincial administration will assist members of the province in obtaining holiday accommodation by way of **rental holiday apartments** at a time and place of their choosing.

Guidelines for booking serviced accommodation:

- The cost of renting the apartment needs to be consistent with the values of our Marist religious life.
- Confreres planning their holidays will contact the provincial administration nominating the intended holiday location and be assisted in finding suitable accommodation, arranging the booking and paying for the accommodation.
- Provincial financed accommodation covers the period of annual leave, i.e. a maximum of four weeks. These may be taken together or in shorter periods according to need.
- Living expenses, holiday allowance and travel are normally provided by the individual's community or himself.
- Family members are not included under this arrangement – unless a cost sharing arrangement is negotiated prior to the booking.
- Road trips: arrangements for covering the cost of accommodation on a road trip may be negotiated with the administration.

JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for Justice,
Peace and Integrity of Creation

Newest member of the Marist Family JPIC Committee is **Sr Mary Farrelly SM** who joined the Zoom meeting on Sep 18. Mary brings years of experience working in the outback of Central Queensland including amongst indigenous people.

The September meeting included discussion on the plight of Asylum Seekers from Afghanistan and on Pacific climate issues.

Committee members continue to provide international JPIC Blog items.

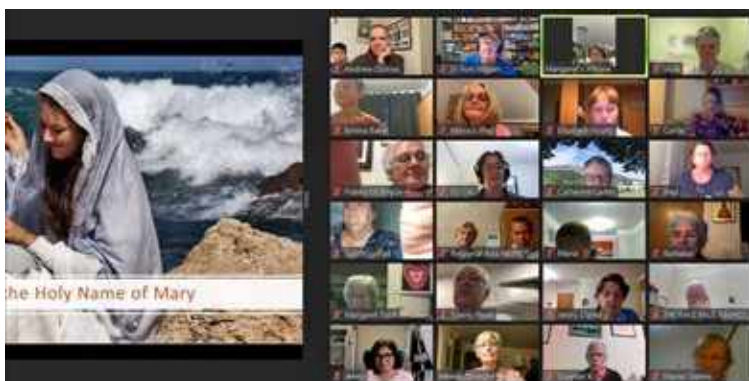




Clockwise from top left:

- John Hopkinson during Golden Jubilee celebrations in Bolivia
- Rome: Ben McKenna with Marist Sisters including fellow Aussies, Grace Ellul and Vivienne Goldstein
- Ormiston retreat group. Fr Paul Chandler O Carm seated in centre
- Steven Hoyos (centre) 21st birthday celebrations at Paddington
- Kevin Kerley laid to rest in Villa Maria's mission cemetery
- Tom Ryan presents the Sydney retreat with Zoom and phone options
- Charlie Randle and rainbow at Ormiston





Clockwise from top left:

- Cool Cats at St Patrick's
- Gate for Rocher Street entrance, Hunters Hill
- Villa Maria's pandemic food supply
- Holy Name of Mary Zoom from Marist Laity
- Bishop Bernard O'Grady OP and Paul Mahony at Montbel Sunday lunch