



From the District Superior

Confreres,

Congratulations to Paul Sullivan and his team on a worthy celebration for the 75th Anniversary of the Marist Mission Centre. A sincere thanks to all those who have served the Centre over those years as it supported the international missions of the Society of Mary.

Let us acknowledge with gratitude: Fr Sam Marsden, whose desire to bring the liberating word of the Gospel to the people of Japan, triggered the beginnings of MMC, in the Marist Mission League; the Directors Frs Michael O'Halloran, Ron Nissen, Jim Carty, Sr Vivien Goldstein, Frs Kevin Stewart and Paul Sullivan, the members of staff and committees, and the many volunteers who served over the 75 years. But they would have had nothing to do if there had been no generous donors. We have been blessed by legions of donors, whose generosity has enabled the establishment, growth and sustenance of Christian communities in Asia, Oceania, Africa and South America.

In his letter to MMC for the occasion, the Superior General writes:

Writing personally and also on behalf of the world-wide Society I would like to express our prayerful congratulations and gratitude to you, Father Paul, and to all who work and contribute in any way to the life of the marist Mission Centre, both now and over your long history.

The Society of Mary is called to be truly missionary and ready to carry out the works of mercy anywhere and at any time (Const. 12) . . . You have been faithful, generous and hard-

working towards supporting the Marist mission – and other missionary works also – for seventy-five years. Today we give thanks to God and to everyone involved for this faithfulness.

Now the outreach of the Centre is vast and complex. This network requires excellent professional accompaniment which has always been a hallmark of the Centre.

On a more personal note. I am very grateful for the support we receive for our mission on the Thai-Burma/Myanmar town of Ranong . . . from its beginning the Centre has been an enormous encouragement and of vast practical assistance to this mission. I know that there are many other people working on the cutting edge of mission in different parts of the world who would have similar stories to tell. MMC continues to be a wonderful source of grace and support.

May you continue to grow from strength to strength.

Pray for me,

Tony.



District Superior's Diary

- Nov 12: District Council
- Dec 03: District Finance Committee
- Dec 10: District Council
- Dec 12: Professional Standards and Safeguarding Panel

District Council

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

- Professional Standards matters
- Draft Constitution for MMC Ltd
- District Assembly 2024
- Future of Herston
- Villa Maria Complex update
- Future Financial 'Roadmap' update
- Parish Priest Hunters Hill
- Marist Laity Conference report.

MAP Meeting

The recent meeting of MAP in Auckland, Oct 20-23 dealt with the following:

- Reports from each member unit.
- Cooperation in ministry and possible future governance of the MAP region.
- Pros and cons of International formation.
- Protocol matters and Professional standards
- Preparing for the General Chapter Sep 2025
- Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope – Is there an opportunity here for an initiative for the MAP region?

The next meeting will take place in Davao, Philippines from Jun 15 to 17, 2025.

Jubilarians

Extracts from Ray Chapman's toast to the jubilarians on Oct 4.



As you know, we celebrate five jubilarians this year: Seamus McMahon and Bernie McFadyen (60 years), Paul Sullivan (50 years), Paul Hachey (40 years) and Michael Rego (40 years). We know that justice cannot be done to their rich and enduring legacy in just a few, simple words; there is so much more to each of them than what a few comments and observations can convey. However, we'll

venture where angels fear to tread and hope that we can at least in part, go some way to acknowledge the wonderful contribution they are making to the mission of the Society of Mary worldwide and to the District of Australia.

Seamus McMahon

Seamus began his priestly ministry at St Anne's, London in 1964 and then moved to Bougainville in 1966. He worked there for nine years before transferring to Fiji where he worked as a parish priest and spent two years at Pacific Regional Seminary as lecturer, spiritual director, superior and parish priest. He came to Australia in 1992 and has worked in Gladstone, St John's Wood/The Gap, Caloundra until his current appointment as chaplain at St Vincent's Care facility at Keperra.

Wherever Seamus has gone, he has endeared himself to the local people. No doubt his Irish accent has helped in this regard! He is a very popular priest and indeed, is loved by many. He is a keen sportsman and has a genuine talent for golf. But in addition to his interest in sport, he has a greater interest in people and a capacity to outreach to others. In this regard, he is outstanding and exemplary. This commitment and dedication to pastoral care, particularly of the aged, is well known and greatly appreciated by the residents and their families.

When I contacted Seamus recently to prepare this presentation, he wrote that his life "has been a joy and naturally a struggle. I have been blessed beyond measure. I have learned it's (due to) Amazing Grace... So often I was lost (and) blind - but always loved."

Bernie McFadyen

Bernie entered the Society in 1958 immediately after high school. Shortly after his ordination in 1964 he was invited to begin teacher training with the Marist Brothers at Dundas before being appointed to Woodlawn in 1966. He stayed in education for twenty years and made a significant contribution in that field. He then moved into parish ministry, working in Brisbane, Burnie (twice), West Sunshine, Gladstone, and St Patrick's, Church Hill.

Bernie has always been a diligent and conscientious confrere. Working with him at St Patrick's, I was always impressed with his willingness to work without regard for himself. He was extremely generous and positive. He was always willing to go out of his way to help others. More recently I've come to appreciate his deep interest in and love of Scripture. His homilies reveal this love, and his words obviously flow from his deep commitment to prayer and closeness to God.

Over recent years a series of problematic health issues have proved to be a great challenge to him. He has stoically endured their discomfort and, with the help of greatly appreciated professional help, patiently managed to reach a calm and peaceful resignation. It is a testament to his inner strength and spirituality.

Paul Sullivan

Immediately after ordination, in 1975, Paul was appointed to Woodlawn and taught there for two years. He then turned to formation work and was in charge of the postulants before undertaking overseas study in Manila in 1979. He returned to take up a post on the formation team at the seminary at Villa Maria.

His ministry then turned to pastoral care by working with the St John of God Brothers as a chaplain at Richmond, NSW, and then to Darwin in 1990 as the director of an Alcohol Awareness and Family Recovery program. He undertook



that role for twelve years. For the next eleven years worked in the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry on the north coast of NSW. He recalls that that as a particularly moving time: "Sitting on the earth with Aboriginal people at the cutting edge of their pain and grief was a blessed experience for me." Following a sabbatical in 2015 he took up residence at Haberfield and has been Director of the Marist Mission Centre since then.

Over the years, Paul has been a member of several provincial and District committees. He has been exposed to the on-going diminishing realities of the District and the shadow side of our shame and pain. Still, he is a man of hope. He says that "overall – my trust is in the unique gift of our Marist Spirit and Charism, the Scriptures and the people of God."

Paul Hachey

His pastoral experience includes three years as an assistant parish priest and four years teaching Religious Education at Marist School, Atlanta. In pursuit of qualifications in Canon Law, he was awarded a Licentiate in Canon Law and a Masters in Canon Law through the University of Ottawa, Canada, in 1991. He worked in the Marriage Tribunal in Atlanta and as a Judicial Vicar in the Provincial Court of Appeals until 2016.

For three consecutive years, Paul travelled to Suva to help the provincial administration of the Oceania province to deal with a number of canonical matters. On his way to Suva, he would call in and stay with the community at St Patrick's. He was greatly impressed with the ministry undertaken there, and so he applied to take a permanent appointment at St Patrick's, Church Hill. He has worked at St Patrick's since 2016 and continues to make a significant contribution to the pastoral team. Looking back, he believes it was the Holy Spirit who was leading him to full-time ministry at St Patrick's.

Paul is a very genuine and caring confrere. He is always willing to go out of his way to help others and his sense of

hospitality and welcome are legendary. They arise out of his deep, passionate and lived spirit of Marist fraternity. We in the Australian District and the people of St Patrick's are grateful for Paul's presence among us.

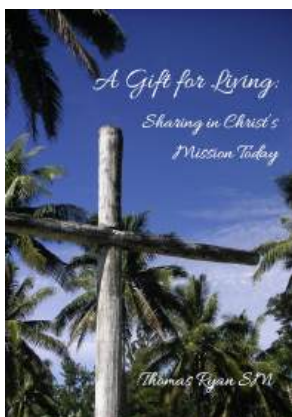
Michael Rego

Following his priestly ordination in 1984 Michael was appointed to the parish of Belmont in Western Australia for three years. He then moved on to Villa Maria parish, Hunters Hill, for two and a half years. While in Sydney he worked for some months at Mount St Margaret's hospital, Ryde. Michael then took a sabbatical at Fordham University, USA, and Louvain, Belgium. On his return to Australia he worked in the Armidale diocese on supply for a short time and then was appointed as an assistant priest at Ashgrove in 1994. In 1995 Michael began chaplaincy work at Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital in Brisbane. He worked there for eight years before moving to Villa Maria Hostel at Fortitude Valley in 2003. He did wonderful work at Villa Maria and excelled in this form of ministry. He was well-known for his compassion and generosity. Currently he enjoys serving as assistant priest in the parish of St Joseph's, Tweed Heads.

Michael is a charming man and an asset to the Society. Wonderfully conscientious, intelligent, and totally devoted to pastoral care, especially of the sick and aged, his sense of humour and generosity are greatly appreciated by those with whom he comes in contact. In addition, his sincerity is beyond question.

To each of our jubilarians we say: 'thank you'. Thank you for the two hundred and fifty years of Marist priestly ministry that you have carried out for and in the service of God's people. What a remarkable grace! Thank you for the way that you have touched our lives and made us richer. To each of you we offer our heartiest, fraternal congratulations and thanks, and upon each of you, we pray God's richest blessing. We are proud of you!





Publications

Tom Ryan

E-book: *A Gift for Living: Sharing in Christ's Mission Today*. MMC
Website: <https://maristmissions.com>

Gerald Arbuckle

Article: "Have Catholic Healthcare Ministries a Future?"
- *The Australasian Catholic Record* 101/4 (2024): 428-446.

Gerry's purpose is 'to explain the contemporary and sometimes conflicting models of healthcare impacting Catholic healthcare ministries; and to highlight the urgent need for these ministries in these turbulent times to clarify their mission in more precise ways. This mission, based especially on the demanding message of the Good Samaritan

Deaths

... of Marists in September- October

Fr Joseph Pusateri (USA)

who died on Sep 14.

Fr René Mélignon (Europe / France)

who died on Oct 29.

parable, with its emphasis on a preferential option for people who are poor, must be the driving force in all decision-making'.

Calendar

Christmas Break

The District Office will be closed from Wed, Dec 25 to Wed, Jan 01.

District Superior Handover: Jan 31, 2025.

JPICC Corner

District Committee for Justice, Peace
and Integrity of Creation

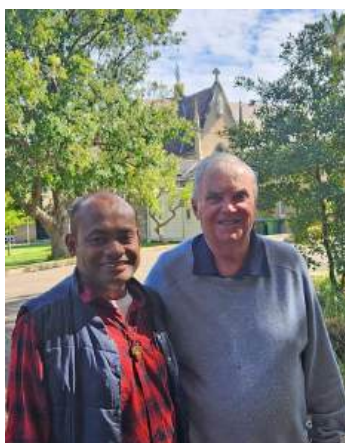
In recent years the District (formerly Provincial) JPIC Committee has been instrumental in establishing and developing a parallel group for the **Marist Family**. At the Oct 12 meeting of the latter group, **Fr Jim Carty** handed over the leadership role to **Sr Grace Ellul SM**, chosen unanimously by the Committee. Thank you, Fr Jim and Sr Grace!



From left: Jim Carty SM, Cathy Larkin (MLA), Laurie McCane FMS, Grace Ellul SM, Kevin Stewart SM, Margaret Tisch SMSM, Ron Nissen SM. Inserts: Andrew Dumas (MLA) and Paul Mahony SM.



Above: The District Assembly, including **Bishop Gregory Homeing** (top left) and facilitator, **Paul Bullen** (right).
Below: Holy Name of Mary Eucharist in Villa Maria grounds | ... and soiree in VM lounge room.



Above, from left: **Steve Truscott** and **Michael Moore** at Assembly time. | **Petero Matairatu (Tutu)** and **Brian Wilson**. | **Michael Jacques** and **Aidan Carvill** (Herston). | **Gerry Arbuckle** and **Robert Hollow** with his motorised scooter.



*Left: Marist Family leaders meet. Below: **Gavin Foster** with award from the Marist Brothers. | Marist Charism & Cultural planning group, from left, **Gerard Hall**, **Andrew Biddle**, **Chris Agnew** (Holy Spirit College, Bellambi), **Annette Reen** (St John's College, Lismore), **Greg Colles** (committee), **Sandra Iverson**, (Holy Spirit College, Bellambi), **Caroline Morizzi** (Marist Sisters' College, Woolwich), **Loretta Parker** (chair), **Lisa-Maree Browning** (Cerdon College, Merrylands) and **Chris Comerford** (committee).*



*Above: **Petero Matairatu** and rellies with kava at Villa Maria. | **Samu Tukidia** (left) and confreres in Villa Maria's back dining room. Left and below: **Floyd Gatana** goes bush. A day out in Kanangra-Boyd National Park.*



International



Above: Clinton Kube ordained at Bambili. | Final profession celebrations and cake, Rome.
Right: Six Marist deacons in Rome with Tony Kennedy, Larry Duffy and Roque Rebito and Archbishop Paul Martin.



Above: Marist Charism & Culture pilgrim group at the General House with Ben McKenna... and at Casa di Maria, Rome, with Tony Kennedy and community.
Right: Seminarians with confreres and Sr Teri O'Brien at Bon Repos, France.
Below: Marist Mission Workshop, Thailand, with Ben McKenna. | Petero Matairatu and Knights of Fr Colin at Tutu, with visiting novice master, David Sanchez.

