

Marist Fathers

Australian Province - Provincial Circular

No 6 - 2018
Dec

From the Provincial

Dear confreres,

We are well into our Advent season but before it all ends with the celebration of our Saviour's birth there is still enough time for us to reflect on this wonderful season and take an important lesson or two from it.

During Advent we do not simply remember the wonderful past events surrounding God's Chosen People who waited with great longing for the coming of the Messiah, we are called to re-enact them, to re-live them. As the people of Israel encountered in stages the coming of God among them so do we.

Three great figures

There are three great figures in the Advent liturgy: Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Mary.

Isaiah, himself convinced of the imminent appearance of the Anointed One coming to restore creation according to the Father's design strives to convince others of the wonderful changes coming to us.

The Baptist, who stands in the Jordan and cajoles listeners to repent and prepare themselves for their coming salvation, is also speaking to us.

Our Advent focus as Marists

Mary is the final prominent figure in the Advent liturgy. She is preparing in faith for the birth of her child, our Saviour. It is Mary that we, as Marists, can focus on in our Advent.

In all those unknowns that

surrounded Mary she "pondered all these things in her heart".

She, a poor, simple, shortly to be unwed mother would have been aware of the hardships, the negatives, and all the discouraging circumstance confronting her.

Living the wonder

She pondered. Notwithstanding all the difficulties surrounding her Mary believes and lives out the wonder of what her Son brings and she is moved to sing her "Magnificat".

Perhaps the key words in Mary's hymn of praise are:

The Almighty has done great things for me; holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

How blessed we would be if only we possess that same faith-filled confidence when we 'ponder in our hearts' the message that our Lord is coming and the Father loves us.

All too often we can become discouraged.

It is very easy to see thing in a negative light. We are declining in numbers as a group.

Due to our aging we are not able to achieve the remarkable feats we once achieved. In our society at large the Church and people of the Church are loathed, perhaps by a majority of the population.

Our witness and our message proclaiming the Kingdom does not get traction with the young people of today.



The 'Negatives' about our situation today are so numerous and prominent it would not be difficult to fill the rest of this newsletter piece with 'bad news'.

Sing our Magnificat

However, let us be like Mary. Let us acknowledge the greatness that God is able to achieve through us. Let us sing our Magnificat.

Our talents, our ministries and our lives cannot be ignored. We are not skiting when we do this, we are acknowledging the truth. We are worth plenty and the Father will use us.

There are many good things going on in our province and these will continue.

'A great group of blokes'

I am finishing my term as provincial in two weeks. If there is one final message I would like to leave you with it is that you are a great group of blokes.

Mary, our Mother, I am convinced, is very proud of us individually and as a group. That is not to say we couldn't be better, but let us own our blessedness. After all, it does come from God.

I am pleased to be finishing as provincial. There is nothing that I would silently like to hang around for and try to achieve. I am very happy to leave everything up to our new leadership team.

If I have failed or hurt anyone in the province in any way during the last six years, I am sorry.

Thank you's

There is a hand-over ritual in a few weeks where I will get to say my 'thank-yous' but because many will not be there I would like to make a very brief comment here.

To all confreres of the province, I extend sincere thanks for the honour you gave me in allowing me to serve you as provincial.

I realize that I wasn't up to the task in many ways but I would have been a whole lot worse if I did not have outstanding support around me.

Peter Mac stands head and shoulders above all those I am indebted to for supporting me and keeping me from making too many blunders. I also acknowledge the men I have worked with on the Provincial Council over the last six years.

I acknowledge too our province business manager, Andrew Biddle, and to Tony who gave him such good grounding in the trade.

Next stage of our journey

To Tony Corcoran, all the best. With the rest of the province, I am so pleased that you have agreed to serve us through the next stage of our journey.

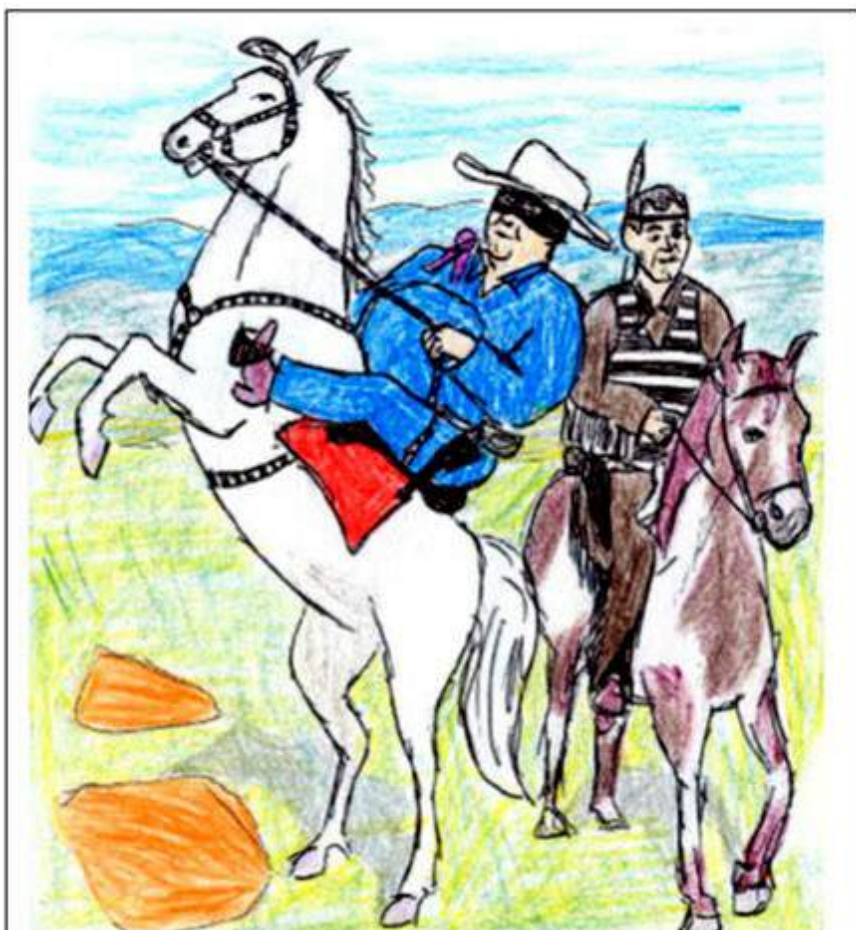
You are the right man for the job and with you at the tiller things don't look so bad at all for our forward journey.

A Happy and blessed Christmas to all.

Faternally

R. Barber sm

(Departing) Provincial



It's time to get out of here Tonto Mac.

No, Kimo Sabi Paleface Bob. I decided to stay and work with the new Paleface Tony.

Okay Tonto Mac. I'm on my way. Hi Ho Silver, Away!



Provincial Diary

22 Dec – 2 Jan 2019

Provincial Office closed

15-16 January

Provincial Council Planning Meeting

1 February

Liturgy and Meal, Provincial
Handover, Montbel

14 February

Professional Standards Panel

19 February

Provincial Council

Appointments

Michael Whelan appointed Parish Priest/Superior at St Patrick's for a second 3-year term commencing 1 January 2019

Bernie McFadyen appointed Vice Superior at St Patrick's for a second 3-year term commencing 1 January 2019

Gerard Hall appointed Superior at Paddington for a second 3-year term commencing 1 January 2019

Michael Carroll appointed Superior at Herston for a further 2-year term commencing 1 January 2019

Gavin Foster appointed Superior at Villa Maria for an initial term of 3 years as from 1 January 2019.

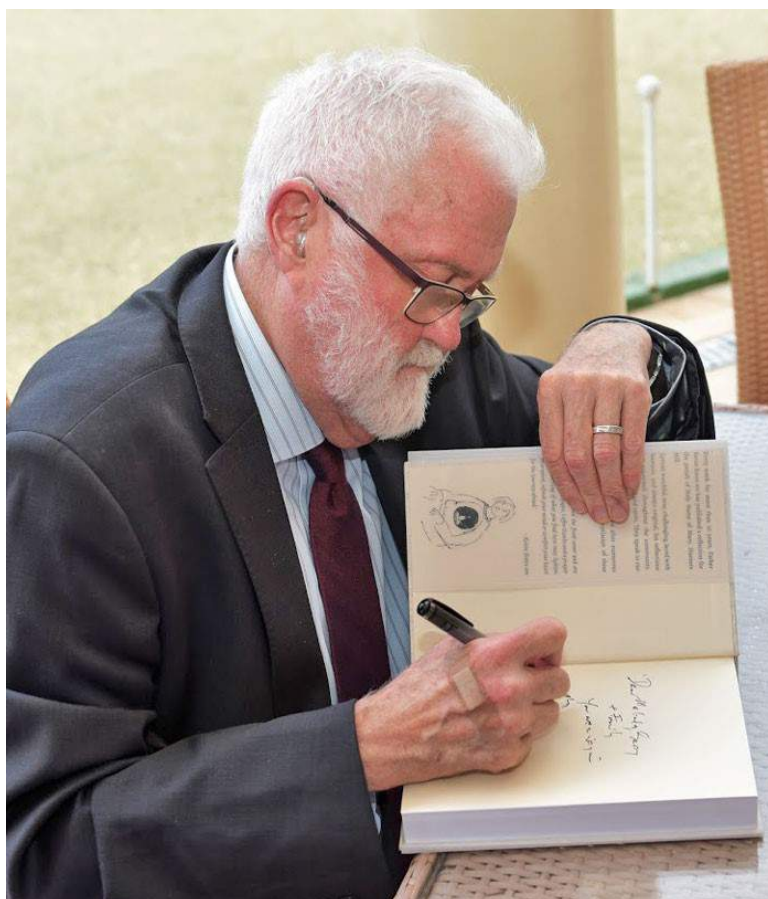
John Worthington appointed Vice Superior at Maryvale/Montbel for an initial period of 3 years as from 1 January 2019.

Michael Mullins appointed Superior at Haberfield for a second 3-year term as from 1 January 2019.

Gerard Hall reappointed member of the Formation and Vocations Committee for a further 2-year term commencing 1 January 2019

Gavin Foster reappointed member of the Formation and Vocations Committee for a further 2-year term commencing 1 January 2019

Kevin Redmond reappointed



member of the Formation and Vocations Committee for a further 2-year term commencing 1 January 2019

Paul Mahony reappointed member of the Formation and Vocations Committee for a further 2-year term commencing 1 January 2019

Personnel

Paul Pidcock had a wonderful and richly-deserved farewell at Woodlawn on Sunday 25 November, with around 500 well-wishers attending the Mass in the College chapel and mingling afterwards in the College grounds.

Paul has spent an incredible 57 years at Woodlawn: 52 years as a member of staff there, and another 5 years previously as a student. His years at Woodlawn were only broken by the aberration of a 7-year posting to Marist College, Burnie.

Local media outlets were on hand to record the event and interview the man of the moment.

Provincial-elect Tony Corcoran presided at the Mass, joined by Peter Slack, Frank Devoy and Bing Monteagudo from the diocese; and Marist confreres Kevin Redmond, Andrew Murray, Garry Reynolds, Gerard Hall, Peter McMurrich, and John Worthington. Paul will be joining the Maryvale/Montbel community in January next year.

Kevin Bates' new book, *Glimmers of Grace* was appropriately launched at The Hunters Hill Club on the evening of Tuesday 27 November.

The book is a selection of Kev's much-admired weekly reflections which have appeared over the years in the Hunters Hill parish bulletin.

The club was packed for the event, and as well as being an occasion for launching the book, the night was also a public recognition by the parish of appreciation and affection for Kev.

Copies of the book are available from the parish office.

Willy Melteras Willy has applied for and received an indult of excommunication until the end of 2020, to enable him to work *ad experimentum* as a priest in the archdiocese of Sydney, with the view to eventual incardination.

He has received a temporary appointment to the parish of Rockdale in Sydney for 6 weeks; after this he will be given a more permanent posting.

Willy has been engaged in a process of discernment for some time now, as to the most suitable context and manner in which he can serve God's people.

We are grateful for Willy's contribution to the parish of Hunters Hill in the time since his ordination in 2013; the people of the parish will remember him with affection and appreciation.

We wish Willy every blessing as he embarks on this new direction.

Tony Corcoran has been spending a few weeks connecting with family members on the north coast and has now returned to Sydney.

He will be living at Villa Maria in 2019.

Deaths

Fr Alexandre Rodet sm,
d.14.11.2018, Ste Foy-les-Lyon,
France

Brian Ferguson: Greg Ferguson's twin brother, Brian, was buried from

St Mary's Church, North Sydney, on 9 November. Brian's date of death was 2 November.

Br Ray Mulvogue fms, d.14 October while travelling by train in the United States. The Mass of Christian Burial was held at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, on 15 November.

Ray, when superior at Marist College, Ashgrove, was a good friend of our confreres living in Brisbane.

He was an expert in gerontology and was for a time a member of the Province's Aged Care Committee.

Br Terry Heinrich fms, d. 20 November at Randwick. The Mass of Christian Burial was held at St Joseph's College on 29 November. For the last 20 years Br Terry was the driving force behind La Valla School, a non-formal education project in Cambodia for physically disabled children.

The Marist Mission Centre and a number of confreres have had close links with Terry and La Valla.

News

Provincial Handover: confreres are invited to pencil their diaries for Friday, February 1, when there will be a liturgy and meal to mark the transition in the Provincial Administration.

The liturgy will commence in the Montbel chapel at 5.30pm, following by the meal: an opportunity to thank Bob Barber for his years at the helm,

and welcome Tony as the new Provincial.

All Souls Day: a number of Sydney Marists joined the Hunters Hill confreres on All Souls Day for the traditional Office for the Dead.

This year the Office was prayed simultaneously at 5.30pm in the Villa Maria cemetery and the Montbel chapel.

Afterwards Montbel hosted a very enjoyable barbeque meal.

National Redress Scheme: the Redress Scheme was one of the recommendations of the recent Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse.

Getting it off the ground has been a slow and complex process, involving buy-in from the State and Territory governments, and hundreds of non-government institutions.

The Provincial Council made an *in-*





Redlands Bay retreatants

principle decision earlier in the year to join the scheme, and at its November meeting decided to commence the process for signing on as a participant.

Once our application has been submitted, approval as a participant will take 3-6 months, and perhaps a little longer with the Christmas-New Year break.

Provincial Retreat: the second of the Province's annual retreats took place in Brisbane at the Santa Theresa retreat and spirituality centre, Redlands Bay, from 4-9 November. Tom Ryan was again the retreat leader.

The venue was a superior facility, offering excellent accommodation, separate free- standing Mass and Blessed Sacrament chapels, and creative interweaving of a bush setting with artistic statuary and religious motifs.

As Michael Carroll would say, another example of why Queensland is the leading State in the Commonwealth.

If we go there next year, make sure you book early.

Mass for Deceased Bellambi Ex-Students and Staff: this year's Mass (St Paul's, Holy Cross College, Holy Spirit) was held on November 25.

Over 100 relatives and friends of deceased Bellambi school community members attended, including a good representation from the Sisters of St Joseph.

Always a moving gathering, this year it was especially the case with many coming to remember and pray for Paul Cooney.

Advertising

NSW Working with Children Check:

As of 15 June 2018 there have been important legal changes to the Working With Children Check (WWCC).

In particular, everyone who holds a Check is now legally required to update their contact details, including any name or address changes, within three months – just like your driver licence.

And like your licence, penalties will apply for people who don't update. Updating your details is simple – go to www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/check and follow the directions.

Aged Care Review ("Care of the Aged: A Review of Health and Ageing"):

at the end of August Andrew Murray completed his study on ageing in the Province, commissioned by the Provincial and Council, and co-authored with Marist Brother, professor-emeritus, Tony D'Arbon.

As the Provincial Council considers the recommendations and their implementation, communities and individual members of the Province are invited to submit any comments or reflections on the Review and its recommendations.

Mail or email to: Aged Care Review, Locked Bag 5002, Gladesville, NSW 1675.

From the Business Manager:

Many thanks to individuals and communities who were able to send a Provincial Contribution this year.

Your contribution together with our invested money goes to assisting the Province in the following ways:

- Assistance with older confreres who can no longer work;
- Assistance with extremely high medical/pharmacy bills that cannot be supported individually;
- Assistance in purchasing/gaining access to aged care facilities;
- Assistance in putting money aside to assist you in your retirement;
- Assistance for our ongoing apostolates which are not self-funding;
- Assistance with the maintenance and upkeep of our buildings.

Colin calendars for 2019

Contact Ron Nissen if you'd like your own copy of the Colin calendar for next year.

Ron guarantees the authenticity of all photos, except the front cover. A dull day in the Bugey mountains has been tweaked with blue sky and fluffy clouds from Walgett, NSW.



Provincial Directory

The combined New Zealand-Australia Provincial Directory is currently being prepared. If you are aware of any errors or omissions in the 2018 version, please alert the Vicar Provincial.



Enclosures

- Recommended Stipend rates 2018-19



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:

Dec 14-28
Peter McMurrich (family)

2019
Dec 29-Jan 14
Michael Carroll
Jan 15-Feb 7
Peter McMurrich
Feb 16 -March 3
Jim Hargrave
March 7-16
Fred Kado
Sept 15-30
Peter McMurrich

Nov 2-17
Bob Barber Family

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 Provincial Council wishes to restate the policy on the use of the upstairs section of Currumbin. The understanding has been since the house was opened that it is for the exclusive use of professed Marists.

The exception is for approved group use, eg 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

Capacity building
Students of MMC Hostel, Maera Moo refugee camp, Thailand, (*pictured top right*) will benefit from the ‘capacity building’ visit of **Bridge Program** and **ACU** graduates, **James Brangnu** and **Dingo Keidar**, who will be journeying soon to the remote camp during their university break.

Blog coming soon
The General Administration has approved our JPICC proposal for an international blog site. **Ben McKenna**, our JPIC man in Rome, will oversee the site. Trial items are being prepared in Australia, featuring Donato Kivi’s environmental initiatives in Fiji. The blog address will be announced before long.





Marist JPIC Blog

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation ministries throughout the Marist world

And also...



Above: Brazilian Catholics of the Rockhampton area gather to thank and farewell **Paul Mahony** after twelve years of monthly visits and ministry. Right: **Paul Glynn** celebrates Mass with Nara Catholics, remembering Tony Glynn and deceased confreres. Paul was invited to join in the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the church in Tomigaoka.



Left: Brisbane-based confreres gather on Oct 29 at the home of lay Marists, **Kevin and Trish McGrory**, celebrating the 1824 anniversary of the first Marist priests' community at Cerdon. Below: The 'million dollar view' from Marian House, Woolwich. The Marist Sisters have moved after 110 years. Further below: Sydney's **Sudanese Catholic community** adds colour and song at Holy Name of Mary church.

