

Marist Fathers Australian Province

Provincial Circular

No 6 - Dec 2020



Brothers,

As we come to the end of an extraordinary year let us give God thanks for his blessings, in their many guises, upon our province, our communities, and on each one of us.

This time is for counting our blessings and many of those, even most of them, come by way of the love and concern, the care and work of our brothers and sisters. Over the last year as we coped with fires, floods, the pandemic, we became very aware of the commitment to the common good of so many of our fellow citizens: health care workers, doctors and nurses, police and fire-fighters, security people, bus drivers, shop assistants and many more. We have been reminded of how interdependent we are.

Within the province too, each of us have been able to live and minister, to survive and flourish, because of the dedication of our brothers and all those who work with us and for us. They deserve our gratitude. We need to express that gratitude not only at Christmas. It is good for us to take the opportunity throughout the year to give expression to our gratitude in word and action. Gratitude acknowledged can be life giving, affirming.



Gratitude for others, especially for our confreres, can enable us emphasise the positive and dilute the negative, it can be a guard against prejudice and jealousy, it can be the healing balm for hurts, an antidote to individualism.

Lord, you come to us through those who share our lives, open our hearts to recognise you.
(From the Morning Office for Monday in Advent).

At this time of grace, I wish to express my gratitude to each one of you, for all that you have contributed to the life and mission of the Society, for your work and prayer, for your fidelity and dedication which has allowed the province to continue to do the work of Mary in the midst of the Church.

May the peace and joy of this holy season be yours.

Tony

PROVINCIAL DIARY

Feb 16: Provincial Council

Feb 22-25: Provincial Chapter

CLOC

The monthly Zoom meeting of the General Administration with the Major Superiors of the Society in November discussed a Vocation year for the worldwide Society and ongoing formation. The December meeting gave its attention to the Financial Report of the General Bursar, John Harhager. Many of the members expressed again their difficulties in living under the influence of CORONA 19; two more French confreres have died of the virus.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

At its November and December meetings the council discussed among other things:

- Aquinas Academy
- MMC Report
- Future possibilities for the Villa Maria property
- 2021 appointments
- Chapter preparations
- Professional standards matters

APPOINTMENTS

Paul Sullivan's membership of the provincial council has been extended until the chapter has decided on the proposed changes to our governance structures and their approval by the Superior General.

Bob Barber – chaplaincy work with the two Lismore colleges of Woodlawn and Trinity. Bob will be residing with the Marist Brothers in Lismore.

Jim Carty – supply work in the Diocese of Lismore. At present Jim is acting pastor of Coraki – Woodburn – Evans Head.

CALENDAR

Christmas Break for Provincial Office: From 4pm, Wednesday, 23 December to 8am, Monday, 4 January 2021. The Provincial will be away from Sydney from December 16 to 30. He may be contacted in an emergency on 0448 986 963, otherwise contact the Vicar Provincial, Kevin Bates on 0425 333 129.

Provincial Chapter: Monday, 22 – Thursday, 25 February, 2021

Provincial Retreats 2021: September 12 – 17, at Ormiston, Qld; September 19 – 24, at Hunters Hill. *Bookings will be called early in the new year.*

INFORMATION

Significant anniversaries in 2021.

Ordination:

60 years: John Burke, Garry Reynolds, Bill Ryder

50 years: John Hopkinson, Ron Nissen, David Wilson, Aidan Carvill

40 years: Gavin Foster

Profession:

70 years: Jim Esler, Paul Pidcock, John Walsh

60 years: Tom Ryan

50 years: Paul Sullivan, Jim Collins

40 years: Michael Carroll

The provincial celebration for the jubilarians (60, 50 & 40 years of priesthood) is scheduled for Friday, 24 September.

PERSONNEL

Ray Chapman has been back in Australia for a few months. He is scheduled to return to France on February 5.

Pio Fong has been doing supply work in the Diocese of Brisbane. His moving to New Zealand, scheduled for the new year, has been held up because of visa matters. He now hopes to be taking up parish work in the Auckland Diocese in March.

Kevin Redmond is hoping to leave Ranong on February 15 and to travel to Chiang Mai for a 30 day retreat starting on Feb 18. He is scheduled to return to Australia on March 26.

Our Elders

Colin Campbell (98) after suffering a major heart attack is comfortable and cheerful, he remains in Royal North Shore Hospital receiving medication to alleviate pain.

Paul Glynn (92) has returned home from hospital and checking out the garden again.

Lou Molloy (91) is being provided with a good pain management plan for his incurable cancer. Lou is in good form and thanks all those who have been praying for him.

Deaths

- **Mrs Jess McMurrich**, mother of Peter who died on 26 November 2020
- **Fr Clive Birch** (Europe/England) who died on 1 December 2020
- **Fr Guy Wernert** (Europe/France) who died on 4 December 2020



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 are:

- **26 Dec 2020 – 12 Jan 2021:**
Michael Carroll
- **13 Jan – 23 Jan:**
Gavin Foster
- **24 Jan – 31 Jan :**
Ray Chapman
- **1 Feb – 14 Feb:**
Peter McMurrich
- **9Mar– 24 Mar :**
Bob Barber
- **1Oct– 31 Oct:**
Peter McMurrich



Christmas Greetings from all the members of the Provincial Office and MMC Staff



You are warmly invited to

A RITUAL OF LAMENT

Join us to acknowledge and remember those who have suffered past sexual abuse at Marist College and Marist Regional College.

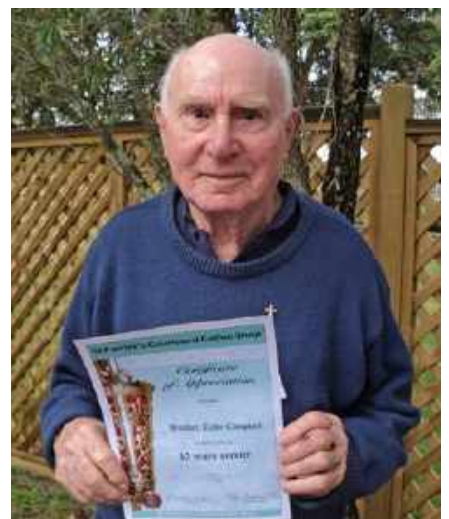
We gather together committed to the healing process and to reconciling our past with our hope for the future.

Saturday, 20 March 2021 at 11:00 AM
Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens
55 Breffny Road, Romaine, Tasmania
RSVP to comms@mrc.tas.edu.au





2020



Clock-wise from top right: Gavin became a true-blue Aussie; Charlie turned 80; Colin turned 98; Australians at La Neyliere Renewal; Jubilarian James; Salute to Peter; Covid congregation at Villa Maria; Kevin on way to Thailand; Jubilarian Kevin; at the Southern Assembly.

