



Dear Confreres

Although 2014 is well underway, as this is the first Provincial Circular for the year, I wish all confreres blessings and good fortune in themselves and in all that they are involved in during the remainder of this year. I pray the same blessings will be on us in all of our ministries as a Province.

The Provincial Council spent some time during our last meeting on planning for this year.

As a group a major activity that we will concentrate on over coming months is to reflect on what we meant at our last Chapter when we declared St Pat's, Hunters Hill, and the Mission Centre to be our ministries of priority in the Province.

We need to understand clearly what we mean by this and be able to articulate it. For our future it is imperative that we give this reflection as much energy as we can.

As you see from the information going out with this circular much of the load in this exercise will be carried by three committees but the Provincial Council wants all of us to be as involved in it as possible.

It would be good for all of us to enter discussions in the three "studies" being proposed through the lens of the Council of the Society report (Dublin 2013) of Fr Hannan that we have recently received.

Two other major areas and issues the Province will be engaged in this year is to look at our properties, and to look at the consolidation and growth of the Marist Charism Group we have established.

Properties and Marist Charism

Questions over our holiday properties and what we need to do about them is only part of the work on the plate of our Properties Committee. Work by the Marist Charism Group is still in its planning stage where a good foundation needs to be laid so

that it can grow later.

We have a Council of the Province scheduled for early June. The Provincial Council would like this to be one of the most important things we do in the Province this year.

It should be a major review and evaluation mechanism of how the Provincial Council and Administration are performing now and over the last 18 months, indicating where changes might need to be made.

Serious failures

The Royal Commission is a giant shadow that hangs depressingly high over the whole Church and our community at large these days. We as a Church must accept the shame and serious failures in our past and embrace fully what we must do for all the victims who have suffered.

This terrible issue is far from over for us and as much as we would like to see it finished it won't for a few years. We have to anticipate there will be times when we are under far greater pressure from the Commission than we have been up to this time. We must continue to give the Royal Commission our complete support.

I would dearly love to alleviate in some way the pain borne by many of our wonderful confreres who have never abused anyone and whose whole life and ministry has been the antithesis of abusing, but there is nothing I or anyone can do.

As a Church the shame and pain we accept will help the Church become the divine-human community God wants us to be.



The Ibis Crisis: see Province web site - February news

A model to imitate

In a period where the Province is diminishing in numbers and works, but where we want to keep going in our ministries, being positive, it is good to look at Mary, our Good Mother, to find a model to imitate.

I liked what Pope Francis said in *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 286. *Mary was able to turn a stable into a home for Jesus, with poor swaddling clothes and an abundance of love. She is the handmaid of the Father who sings his praises. She is the friend who is ever concerned that wine not be lacking in our lives. She is the woman whose heart was pierced by a sword and who understands all our pain. As mother of all, she is a sign of hope for peoples suffering the birth pangs of justice. She is the missionary who draws near to us and accompanies us throughout life, opening our hearts to faith by her maternal love. As a true mother, she walks at our side, she shares our struggles and she constantly surrounds us with God's love.*

Lent

Finally, a thought on Lent, which is beginning soon. May this be a special and holy time for all of us.

The other day I witnessed a Marist Brother being ribbed by some of his confreres because he doesn't talk about what he will give up during Lent. He talks about "more". His insight is great and I leave it up to you to see in your prayer where thinking about MORE, in terms of Lent, leads you.

Fraternally
Bob Barber sm



Chris Ketsore & Lou Molloy at Herston

Provincial Diary

Mar 04:

Provincial Finance Committee

Mar 12:

Marist Family Leaders Meeting

Mar 18:

Provincial Council Meeting

Apr 03-04:

Professional Standards Workshops

Apr 09:

ACM Religious Leaders' Meeting,
Coffs Harbour

Apr 11-May 02:

Marist Brothers' Pilgrimage: India,
Rome, France.

Appointments

John Worthington is appointed vice-superior of the Herston community for a period of three years as from Jan 01, 2014.

Personnel

Gerry Arbuckle, has accepted a request from L'Arche International for two years to work with twenty regional leaders in six sessions to assist the process of inculturation within vastly different cultures.

The first session of two weeks took place in Paris in February; later ven-

ues are Nairobi, and Kiev, in Ukraine.

The project follows Gerry's three year work with Jean Vanier on re-founding in the early 2000s. L'Arche is expanding significantly in Eastern Europe and Africa.

Lou Molloy: On Feb 02 Lou made a renewal of vows at St Joan of Arc Church in Brisbane in the company of a number of confreres, family and friends, prior to returning to living in Marist community. Lou has now taken up residence at Herston.

Chris Ketsore: Welcome to Australia, to Brisbane, and to the Herston community to Fr Chris Ketsore sm from the Oceania Province.

Chris will be studying this year at the Australian Catholic University while living at Herston.

Tony & Andrew Biddle: Tony and Andrew have been working side by side in recent weeks as Andrew gradually assumes the reins as Provincial Business Manager.

Andrew gave his first solo financial presentation to the Provincial Council on Feb 18, and came through with flying colours.



A journalist for the now defunct *Freemans Journal* once described Peter Le Rennetel sm as having “the Gladstonian faculty of investing figures with poetry, and even romance”; Andrew may well have a similar gift.

Paul Mahony: Paul has taken over from Garry Reynolds at Maryvale/ Montbel, and is working with the assistance of our new House Manager Margaret Ploskodniak.

Garry, meanwhile, is taking a well-earned break prior to joining the St Patrick’s, Church Hill, community at the beginning of July.

Kevin Kerley: Kevin will receive his OAM award insignia in a ceremony at Government House, Sydney, on Thu, May 01. Instructions to the recipients emphasise that all are to be seated for the 10.30m ceremony by 10am, and that “children under the age of ten, and babies, cannot be admitted”.

Gavin Foster has taken up chaplaincy duties at St Joseph’s college, Hunters Hill, which he will combine during 2014 with his CPE course work at United Theological college at North Parramatta.

In this he follows a long tradition of Marist Fathers being involved as

*Above: Father and Son.
Below: Paul Mahony and KK OAM;
Tony Kennedy leaves for Suva.*

chaplains at the school, going back to the 19th century and the early French fathers.

Not all chaplains, however, have been as congenial as Gav. During the first world war, for example, Fr Karl Flaus sm, a Metz-born Frenchman with particularly strong German sympathies, was our man on the spot at the college.

His propensity to take every available opportunity to spruik the invincibility of the German armies won him few friends.

The Marist brothers tolerated him for two rather tense years during which time his authoritarian manner and pro-German sympathies were apparently well to the fore.

Tony Kennedy

As part of the program of Marist-Asia Pacific collaboration Tony Ken-



nedey SM left on Jan 15 to join the Marist College formation community in Suva, Fiji.

As vice-rector Tony will share in the formation and administrative responsibilities of guiding twenty-five young Marists towards the priesthood in the Province of Oceania.

Tony was for three years on the staff of the Marist formation house in Auckland, NZ, and was in charge during 2009. He brings a wide range of pastoral, communication and leadership skills to his new role.

Deaths

Fr Marcel Mahe sm

d. Dec 16, 2013, Paris France

Bishop Soane (John) Foliaki sm

d. Dec 24, 2013, Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Fr Franz Herkenhoff sm

d. Dec 26, 2013, Meppen, Germany.

Fr Bryan Montgomery sm

d. Jan 02, 2014, Silverstream, NZ.

Fr Brian O'Connell sm

d. Jan 13, 2014, Silverstream, NZ.

Fr Peter Murray sm

d. Feb 15, 2014, Hull, UK,

Fr Bertrand Huot sm

d. Feb 21, 2014, Longueuil, Québec, Canada

Sick

Bob Barber: Bob experienced an infection in his leg on Feb 02, and has been receiving antibiotics to get the infection under control. He has been back at work for a couple of weeks.

Syd Nugent: Syd dislocated a hip on Feb 03, and was initially in Royal North Shore hospital until he was transferred to the Ryde Rehabilitation Centre.

It was there that he celebrated his 86th birthday on Feb 19 before returning to Maryvale/Montbel on Feb 24.

John O'Ryan: John required hospitalisation in Brisbane early in the new year while visiting family and friends.

On his return to Sydney he was admitted to Royal North Shore hospital with an internal bleeding issue.

On Feb 20 he transferred to Hunters Hill Private hospital for rehabilitation prior to returning to Montbel; however on Feb 27 he experienced a reoccurrence of chest pains and returned to Royal North Shore hospital.

Jim Harding: Jim had investigative surgery on Feb 20 at St Vincent's Private hospital in relation to a neck wound which has been refusing to completely heal.

Fred Limeburner & J V Walsh: Following lengthy stays in hospital, both Fred and J.V. have now rejoined the Montbel community.

News

Jubilarians' Mass & Dinner

This year's Jubilarians' Mass and Dinner will be held on Friday Oct 17.

It will be a standalone event, not connected to either of the Provincial retreats.

Retreats

There will be **two** Province retreats this year.

One will be organised by the Maryvale/Montbel community at Hunters Hill; a date is still to be finalised, but possibly around August/September.

The other will be at The Hermitage, Mittagong from Sep 07-12.

Further details for both retreats will be announced shortly.

Bong!, Bong!, Bong!

St Patrick's, Church Hill, now boasts an automated bell-ringing mechanism ensuring that the Angelus rings out daily at noon and at 6pm.

When the bell at St Patrick's was installed in 1878 it could be heard all over the parish, but there's a bit more competition these days.

Publications

Tom Ryan has recently had articles published as follows:

- 'Liturgy, Ethics and Reconciliation: Learning from Abraham Lincoln's Rhetorical Art', *The Australasian Catholic Record* 90:3, July 2013, 311-328.
- Series on 'Talking About Spirituality Today', Series of 10 articles, *Marist Messenger* (NZ), Nov 2012– Sep 2013.

Also recently published is a biography of Wally Fingleton by Mary O'Connor: Mary J Connor, [From Journalism to Eternalism: Walter Patrick Fingleton, Priest of the Society of Mary](#), privately published, 2013, copies from the author; 218 pp., photographs.

Two new publications from the General House have also been received and distributed:

- John Hannan sm, [Concilium Societatis Mariae 2013](#), N.181 – XIII,6;
- Francois Drouilly sm, [From the Logbook of a Spiritual Adventurer](#), privately published, 2013.

Doctoral Dissertation on the Natural Theology of Barry Miller

Ruben Pereda has recently been awarded a PhD from the Holy Cross University in Rome for his dissertation: [La teologia natural de Barry Miller](#). The author approached us several years ago for biographical information on Barry, and has kindly send us a copy of his dissertation as an expression of thanks.

Advertising

Passwords. One particularly insidious aspect of modern life is the need to remember passwords and pin numbers.

So, wishing to be ever helpful, from time to time we publish the user names/passwords for access to the members only sections of the General Administration and Australian Province websites:

General Admin:

- sm / colin

Aust Province:

We have three choices:

- newsletter / colin
- circular / colin
- sm / colin

(They all work.)

E Conference: From the Broken Bay Institute, a date claimer for the 2014 E Conference. "Pope Francis: Modelling the Ministry of St Peter", Wed, Jun 11, 10am-3pm.

The Council Discussed

Items on the agenda at the February Council meeting included:

- *Forward Planning in relation to St Patrick's, Hunters Hill site, and the Marist Mission Centre;*
- *Membership issues in relation to the Council of the Province;*
- *Proposed sale of Bilgola;*
- *Personnel Issues.*

Provincial Directory

The 2014 combined New Zealand-Australia Province Directory has been distributed.

Anyone who has not received their copy should complain bitterly to the Vicar Provincial and he'll fix you up. Here are a few updates which you might like to add to your copy.

In breaking news, **John Begg** has decided to rejoin the Herston community, where he will eventually take up residence in Unit 7.

Pius Jones phone numbers at St Theresa's, Abergowrie:
Office: 07 4780 8348
Residence: 07 4780 8335
(My mobile number is the same however reception is very poor here. Landline is better).

John Jago email: for some reason John Jago's email address has gone missing from the Directory. It is jagojohn@hotmail.com

Bob Barber's personal email should be bobbarber49@gmail.com and not as given on p.13 in the Directory.

The new Marist International Index, [Index 2014](#), has also now been distributed to members of the Province.

The allocation received is tight; we have received sufficient copies for each member of the Province to receive a personal copy, and a couple of spares, so generally it will not be possible to provide duplicate copies for offices and secretaries.

Other Provinces

(Very New) New Zealand Provincial Administration: The new New Zealand Provincial administration is now in place:

- Provincial, **David Kennerley**
- Vicar Provincial, **Neil Vaney**
- Assistant Provincial, **Paul Martin.**

Currumbin & Bilgola Bookings

The self-contained flats at **Currumbin** and **Bilgola** are available for bookings for Marists and their families. Bookings are made through the provincial office.

Current **Currumbin** bookings are:

Mar 04-10: Kevin Stewart (whole of upstairs and flat)

Mar 11-27: Garry Reynolds
Mar 28-Apr 05: Tom Ryan guests
Apr 06-12: Jim Hargrave
May 18-20: Provincial Council (all Currumbin)
Jun 27-Jul 21: Bob Barber
Sep 16-30: Peter McMurrich
Nov 04-24: Tom Fulcher
Jan 01-14, 2015: Michael Carroll

Current **Bilgola** bookings are:

Mar 14-16: Kevin Stewart (whole of Bilgola)

Enclosures

- Outline of Proposal to sell Bilgola
- Ministries of Priority Planning Outline



Meeting on Feb 07, the Committee discussed:

- A combined Marist JPICC event for 2014
- Aspects of homelessness—and the 'sleeping swags' project
- Update on '457' visas
- Update on the Bridge Program in Thailand
- Promoting the 'Carbon Fast' for Lent
- JPICC items on province web site
- Jim Carty's going to Christmas Island for Easter
- Sydney Alliance and its City Assembly on Mar 26
- Next meeting is Mar 22

