



From the provincial

Dear Confrères

The end of the year is fast approaching. We will soon be thinking about our Christmas card list and making our plans for the festive season. Advent is only a few short weeks off.



As one of the two great penitential and preparation seasons of our liturgical calendar, Advent must be for all of us a timely occasion to do some serious soul searching, praying, reconciling, and penance as we correct our course and keep our lives on track.

Advent & Pope Francis

May I suggest that for this Advent period we might make a special effort to try and hear what Pope Francis is saying to us. Through whatever means are at our disposal

let us tune in to what Francis is saying in his homilies and addresses. A year and a half into his pontificate the Pope's message has not become stale or monotonous but continues to be vibrant, challenging and always new.

This man is a gift to the Church and world, a genuine spiritual leader who can help us in our personal relationship with God and in our mission to help re-create our world.

Marist Youth Leadership

One important event coming up in the next two months is the MYL camp to be held at Woodlawn. This will be the fourth MYL program held at Woodlawn.

There is a paragraph or two about it elsewhere in this Provincial Circular. It is wonderful that this program which helps to form young people with a 'Marist' identity continues.

Our prioritized ministries

Over the last few weeks we have all

received a copy of the report produced by the Hunters Hill Precinct Committee; and the report produced by the St Patrick's Committee has been mailed out in the last few days.

These are two of the prioritized ministries selected by the province at the last Chapter, and the receiving of these reports is a key moment in seeing how we develop and live these ministries into the future. Again, on behalf of the whole province, I extend to the members of the two committees our sincere thanks on their excellent work.

So far there has been little feedback of the province on these reports but what has come has been very encouraging. The St Patrick's report has only been in the hands of confreres for a few days so it is understandable that there has not been a lot of discussion around it so far.

In the coming twelve months we will have plenty of opportunity to dis-





cuss these reports and to find ways of influencing our future developments.

Annual Review Consultation

The 8-day ARC meeting in Rome involving the leaders of all the Districts and Provinces with the General Council was held at the beginning of October. This is now the fifth of these meetings and as the participants get to know one another better, trust and sharing has increased.

The group is still not at that stage where we know one another really well and understand each other's situation intimately, but we are getting there. It is still up to the General Council to do a lot of the initiating.

Apart from questions to do with finance, probably the area that got greatest air space at the recent ARC was around the general topics of prioritizing of ministries and the naming of important ministries.

As Oceania and the districts have our younger confreres and is the place where future vocations will most likely come from, this is where we might expect to see the many new ventures of the Society take place.

Inner-City Centre Church network

There is certainly a great deal of interest in the ICCC network and St Patrick's is recognised as holding a

key place in this group. Hopefully we will see more tangible signs of ICCC being an active body among the ministries of the Society in the next year or two.

Recently a confrere suggested that we have nothing to worry about in the staffing of St Pat's in the future because as we begin to work in closer collaboration with other provinces, especially NZ and Oceania, they will be sending men to help us staff St Pat's. I am afraid that confrere from Disneyland doesn't really understand the situation at all. Every province and district in the Society is in the same boat as we are.

All have their own works to fill. If men are coming from NZ or Oceania to work in Australia there has to be an Australian or two going out to work in their homeland.

No models

ARC gave no push for major changes in the Australia – New Zealand relationship. There are no models of reconfiguration being presented to us for adoption.

The General Administration simply want us to keep working together in small ways and to cooperate together in things where we can.

Next year our two provincial councils will hold two joint meetings. In March the whole NZ council will be in Australia to work with us, and in September the whole Australian

council will go to Wellington.

Our financial situation

Finally, I mention a subject that you probably have never seen openly mentioned in the Provincial Circular before but, because of the seriousness of the matter, I believe we have a situation that should be known by us all.

Our current financial situation is not very healthy. Joe Hockey is not the only one with a few money headaches.

Over the last decade we have lived under the expectation that the sale of land we have at Gladstone would bring us a very healthy nest egg. We built Montbel and even contemplated extensions and renovations at Villa Maria and Lane Cove in these days.

The dollar signs before our eyes made us unrealistic in our views. Gladstone did not eventuate and if ever there is another boom in the north most of us won't be around to see it.

Today we have fewer men in ministries who are able to contribute to our provincial funds and, because of our aging, we have new expenses. These days we also have the worry of continuing and substantial sexual abuse pay outs. This is our biggest concern, particularly because there is no insurance cover for these matters prior to 1976.

We have no way of knowing what is on the horizon and how big that expense will be, but certainly it will be there and it will be Big!

At present we are preparing a budget for 2015 that has a serious deficit (approaching \$1million). Without bequests or some unexpected windfall in 2015 we will be seriously eating into our reserves, where our interest comes from.

Fraternally

Bob Barber sm

Provincial Diary

11-13 November

Maryvale/Montbel visitation (Vicar Prov.)

14 November

FMS Sydney Regional Council

18 November

Provincial Council Meeting

23 November

Holy Spirit Bellambi Deceased Memorial Mass

24-26 November

St Patrick's Visitation (Vicar Prov.)

28 November

St Patrick's, Church Hill, Christmas Gathering

2 December

Province Finance Committee Meeting

3 December

Lismore Diocese Aboriginal Apostolate Meeting

4 December

Visitation, Lismore

4 December

Province Committee for Ageing

10 December

Professional Standards Meeting, Parkville (Vic)

10 December

S&L Programme concludes

11 December

Province Towards Healing Panel

16 December

Provincial Council Meeting

Personnel

Gavin Foster: A warm welcome among us to Gavin, who has paid us the compliment of electing to join our Province. His transfer from the District of Asia took effect on 24 September; the transfer is 'permanent from the beginning' ie.



there is no 3 year *ad experimentum* period. Gav continues his ministry as full-time chaplain at St Joseph's college, Hunters Hill, and will continue to be a member of the Villa Maria community.

Tony Corcoran: The superior general recently announced the appointment of Tony for a 3rd term as secretary general of the Society. Congratulations to Tony on this reappointment. He will be back in Australia during November on annual leave and will be staying for some of that time at Villa Maria.

Jim Harding: Jim has moved from St Patrick's to Hunters Hill and is happy to be now a member of the Maryvale/Montbel community. Prior to his departure from St Pat's, Jim was easily the longest-serving of the St Patrick's team, having worked there continuously since 1990. We wish Jim a peaceful retirement at Montbel, and acknowledge the great contribution he has made at St Pat's over many years.

Luke Holohan: Earlier this year Luke was given approval *ad experimentum* to live on site at Campion college, Toongabbie, rather than with the community at St Patrick's, Church Hill. Last month, following a review, the arrangement was made permanent. Living on-site means that Luke will be spared the twice-daily commute between the city and Toongabbie. As with Jim Harding, it is timely to recognise the very significant contribution Luke has made to the work at St Patrick's over the period since 1997 when he was first

appointed there.

Bob Barber: Bob spent the first fortnight of October at the annual ARC (Annual Review Consultation) which was held in Rome. He returned on the evening of Monday, 13 October.

Kevin Bates attended his last provincial council meeting in October, and apart from having a busy parish to run, is now virtually a free man. The province owes Kev a vote of sincere thanks for his contribution to the Council over his four year term. **Paul Mahony** replaces Kev as a provincial appointment; his term is initially until the end of 2015.

Gerald Arbuckle: Gerry has returned from Loyola-Marymount University, Los Angeles, after delivering the annual Charles Casassa SJ Lecture on the theme: "*The Francis Factor*": *Anthropological Reflections on the Church*. He left Sydney for research in Oxford University on the weekend of October 25/26. While there he will give two lectures at Heythrop College, University of London, on *Maintaining Founding Values in Healthcare*.

Robert Hollow and Terry Garrett have both returned from their sabbatical programmes: Terry followed in the Footsteps of St Paul, while Bob followed a live-in programme at Hawkstone Hall, and spent time in Italy and Spain.

Deaths

Fr Blaise Buleban sm, d.27.8.2014, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Fr Philip Graystone sm, d.15.9.2014, Walsingham, England.

Fr Robert Kelly sm, d.15.9.2014, Westmeath, Ireland.

Fr Paul Laurent Boucher sm, d.18.10.2014, Sillery, Canada.

Fr John Peter Bradley sm, d.20.10.2014, Addington, New Zealand.

Mary Grattan-Smith: Paul Glynn's sister, Mary, died at home in Hunters Hill on 30 September, and was buried from St Peter Chanel's church, Woolwich, on October 7. A

number of confreres celebrated the Mass with Paul.

Michael Agius, father of Albert Agius, who was a member of the Province during the late 70s and early 80s, died on October 13 and was buried from St Patrick's cathedral, Parramatta on 19 October. Luke Holohan was the celebrant. Michael was aged 94, and is survived by his wife, Connie, Albert, and his three sisters.

Steve McNamara is one of our staff members at Maryvale/Montbel, and we offer our condolences to Steve on the recent death of his sister.

Sick

It's a cause for celebration that for the first time in living memory there is no-one in hospital, although **Tom Fulcher** is going to spoil the record a little by lining up for a hip replacement on November 10. Tom will spend several weeks after the operation in recuperation at Maryvale.

Tony Neylan has returned to Australia from France following his quadruple by-pass surgery there, early in September. He is making a good recovery, but will be cutting back on his commitments, including the work he has done over 10-12 years with the Young Adult ministry at St Patrick's.

News

2014 S&L Programme: This year's Spirituality and Life Programme, the fourth and last in the current series, got under way at Villa Maria on 6 October with 9 participants: another confrere was delayed by visa issues, but is now also in residence at Villa Maria. Paul Sullivan is once again the programme director and coordinator, assisted by Susitino Sionepoe, vicar provincial for the province of Oceania.

Jubilarians' Mass and Dinner: Bernie McFadyen was the presider for the Mass and Paul Sullivan was homilist. The dinner was held in the Villa Maria dining room, which was a



comfortable fit for the 45 confreres in attendance. The dinner was also an opportunity for members of the province to meet, and welcome to Sydney, confreres from Oceania and the District of Asia, here for the S&L programme. Paul Mahony kept things rolling as MC, and Bill Ryder proposed the toast to the jubilarians.

Verguet Book Launch: Alois Greiler and Mervyn Duffy have collaborated in the production of **Verguet's Sketchbook**, which is published by ATP press, and was launched in Aus-

tralia in St Patrick's crypt on Sunday, 26 October. The book marks a significant departure from the typical style of Marist publications, which are generally scholarly and don't have too many pictures.



Verguet's Sketchbook is a lavishly illustrated coffee-table production, based on the fascinating sketchbook in which Verguet recorded his impressions of the Pacific. This early Marist missionary witnessed the violent death of his bishop, Jean Baptiste Epalle, in 1845, and survived other hair-raising situations before returning to Europe and living the remainder of his life as a diocesan priest. There are a limited number of copies for sale from the Provincial Office at the very competitive price of \$32. First come first served...cash customers only...no money, no book....no free list

How Many?: Last month all dioceses and religious congregations in Australia were asked to co-operate in the compilation of a set of reliable statistics, establishing the exact number of priests and religious brothers who have lived and worked in Australia between 1950-2010. While the annual **Catholic Directory** provides a valuable resource for those compiling the statistics, it is not always totally reliable, and in some years was not published. Hence each diocese and male religious order was asked to furnish their own lists to allow comparison and ensure a more accurate final figure. In our own case our task was complicated by the number of New Zealand confreres who have worked in the province for various periods of time, and by the existence of personnel from the Oceania province living at Villa Maria until 1971. Our final figure was 262 priests, and 45 brothers. The figure for brothers excludes brothers from the Oceania province who were in Australia at Villa Maria, and sometimes at Armidale, exclusively for their formation.

Pidcock Performing Arts Centre: On Friday, 10 October, the Pidcock Performing Arts Centre was officially opened at St John's college, Lismore. Gerard Hall represented the Provincial. The new building, recognising Paul Pidcock's contribution to music and drama at the college over many years, is built on the site of an earlier building which housed the college bakery in the 1950s. The foyer of the new building features a period photo of Br Brendan O'Connell hard

at work producing the daily bread, and a re-creation of the original brick oven.

Closure of Macksville: Prior to coming to Sydney for the S&L programme, Paul Sullivan cleared and cleaned the Marist residence and prepared it for sale. As we go to press we may be close to a sale, but you can probably still see pictures of it on the "L.J.Hooker Nambucca Heads" website, under the category "Buying", then go to "Properties for Sale". Paul will return briefly at the end of the S&L programme for some Christmas commitments, which will bring to a close over 20 years of Marist ministry based in Bowraville and Macksville. Confreres will recall that the ministry had its genesis in a vision presented by Bern Ryan to the 1990 Provincial Assembly.

Peacock Calls Currumbin Home: In recent Provincial Circulars we have written about the white Easter bunny which mysteriously appeared on the Hunters Hill site in April, and continues to frolic in the grounds of Villa Maria and Maryvale/Montbel. A parallel refugee has turned up at Currumbin in the form of a peacock, probably an escapee from the nearby bird sanctuary. It can usually be discovered on the back decking of the upstairs house early in the morning, and makes its way to the front of the property by mid-morning. The bird often leaves a substantial calling card on the decking when it visits, and visitors to Currumbin might find they need the aid of a hose or a shovel to clear the decks. Its more prosaic distant cousin, the brush turkey, is still around, but loses out massively in the showmanship stakes.

Marist Youth Leadership Programme: Fr Mark Walls sm developed the MYL (Marist Youth Leadership) programme a number of years ago in New Zealand. With Kim Evans, (ex Deputy Principal of Woodlawn), Mark has now offered this program four times at Woodlawn for students completing Year 11 (or equivalent) and going into their final year of secondary education.

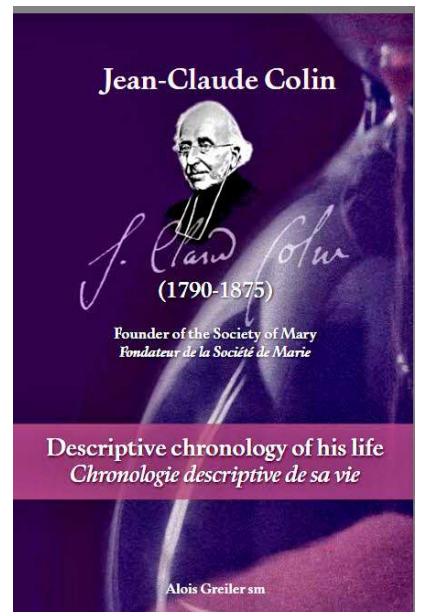
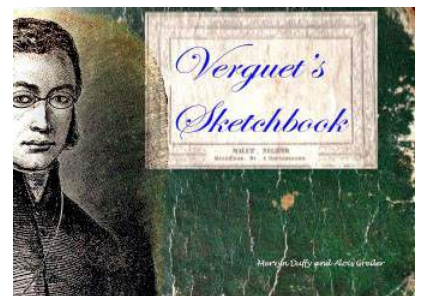
Participants for the five day MYL

come from our former "Marist colleges" of Bellambi, Burnie, Woolwich and Woodlawn. Each year it gets rave reviews from the participants, parents and experienced teachers who have seen many leadership programmes in the past. We thank Mr Chris Comerford and the Woodlawn community for backing this program and giving it a home. This year Chris Ketsore sm will join our evergreen Paul Pidcock sm and help out the team wherever he can. We keep the MYL kids and their safety in our prayers at this time.

Publications

Mervyn Duffy and Alois Greiler (eds.), Verguet's Sketchbook, ATF Press, Adelaide, 2014.

Alois Greiler, Jean-Claude Colin: Descriptive chronology of his life, presso la CSC Grafica, Roma, 2014. This book has been prepared as part of the material needing to be assembled for the Founder's cause. It is published side-by-side in French and English. We have been supplied with 20 copies; communities and individuals interested in seeing a copy should contact the vicar provincial.



Advertising

2015 Retreats: The retreat held at Mittagong in the second week of September was a hit with the participants and we have again booked 15 places for a retreat there in 2015, from 6-11 September. As for this year, it is anticipated that there will also be a provincial retreat based at Maryvale/Montbel in early or late September of next year.

Both the retreats this year were led by Br Bob O'Connor fms, who was greatly appreciated by both sets of retreatants. This year six confreres from other communities joined the Maryvale/Montbel confreres for the Hunters Hill retreat.

Bilgola Booking: All of Bilgola, including the flat, will be in use from **13-16 November this year** by the Marist Mission Centre.

Archdiocese of Brisbane: A recent circular received from the archdiocese of Brisbane indicated that the archdiocese will normally expect a month's notice from visiting clergy for submitting their Professional Standards declarations, and that visiting clergy performing ministry for a period exceeding one week will need to obtain a Queensland Government Blue Card before they go to Brisbane.

Diocese of Broken Bay: is seeking a parish priest from a religious congre-

gation for St Mary of the Cross Mackillop parish, Warnervale, for a period of at least 5-6 years. The parish was established in 2003. Located in Wyong Shire in a new housing area, and shares the site with Mackillop Catholic College. Anyone wanting further details can contact the vicar provincial.

St Vincent's Aged & Shared Services is requesting a Live-in Priest-Chaplain for the retirement Villa La Salle in Southport, Qld. There are approximately 100 residents including a small Community of the De La Salle Brothers. Unit, food and laundry provided. Enquiries can be made to Julie Walden, Divisional Mission Director, St Vincent's Aged and Shared Services, St Vincent's Health Australia or to our fellow-Marist Seamus McMahon who has acted as a fill-in chaplain at Southport.

2015 Provincial Assembly: Just a reminder for your diaries; there will be an Assembly of the Province in 2015: 27-29 October, 2015, in the Hunters Hill parish hall.

From the Province Business Manager

Andrew Biddle is coming to the end of his first year working for the Province. Congratulations to Andrew and Tony for the seamless transition which has occurred in the Business Manager's office, and to Andrew again for the manner in which he has so competently taken over the reins.

Andrew has the following timely reminders:

Bank Accounts: Marist Fathers Australian Province bank accounts are set up as trust accounts and therefore, they are exempt from fees. Can you please check your current statements to ensure this is the case?

Wills and Bank Accounts: A recently deceased Marist left everything to the Province. Unfortunately, he had two accounts in his own name and not in the name of the Marist Fa-



'The Hermitage', Marist Brothers, Mittagong



Br Robert O'Connor FMS
at Maryvale



thers Australian Province. Since his death, we have been trying to close these accounts and access the funds. We are still waiting for a probate clearance. It has been costly and time consuming for the Province and unnecessary.

It is a timely reminder that if you have bank accounts other than Marist Fathers Australian Province accounts, then you may like to consider closing those accounts and transferring the funds to an Australian Province account. This will ensure that if circumstances develop where you are unable to operate the account (death or illness), the funds can be easily accessed.

Further, if accounts and term deposits are not in the name of the Marist Fathers Australian Province and they earn substantial interest they are required to be declared to Centrelink and the Australian Taxation Office. Marist Fathers Australian Province accounts are exempt from income tax. If you are unsure about anything related to your bank accounts please contact me.

Provincial Contributions: Some community and individual bank accounts are holding substantial amounts of money. You may like to consider giving a Provincial contribution to help others in less fortunate positions. At the present time one entity in a less fortunate position is the Provincial Fund itself, which is experiencing some tightness in available funds as we move towards the end of our financial year.

The Council Discussed

At the Provincial Council meetings in September and October the follow-

ing issues were discussed:

- *ARC Meeting, Rome;*
- *Professional Standards issues;*
- *Villa Maria Precinct Report;*
- *St Patrick's Church Hill Report;*
- *Personnel Issues;*
- *Manager for Herston;*
- *Provincial retreats;*
- *Reconfiguration;*
- *Fourviere Bi-centenary celebrations;*
- *Sesquicentenary of Villa Maria Monastery;*
- *Closing and sale of Macksville residence;*
- *2015 Assembly;*
- *Marist Mission Centre;*
- *Marist City Network Churches;*

Other Provinces

New Zealand: The Highden farm is soon to be sold. The Society retained the farming business when it sold the Highden mansion and associated buildings, but soon there will be a complete break with the property which was the place of novitiate for generations of New Zealand Marists, and also Australian Marists at various points in our history.

Bilgola & 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:

(Tom Fulcher had the flat booked in November but has now cancelled his booking because of hip surgery)
Dec 14-31 Jim Hargrave

Booking of Currumbin Upstairs 29 November – 2 December, 014, incl.: For Fr Mark Walls sm and team conducting the Marist Youth Leaders camp at Woodlawn in early December. All upstairs area is booked – not the flat.

2015

Jan 1-14 Michael Carroll
Jan 15-Feb 15 Tom Ryan

April 8-12 Jim Hargrave
April 23-28 Tom Ryan
May 10-13 Provincial Council: All Currumbin
July 3-31 Bob Barber
Sept 14-30 Peter McMurrich
Oct 1-31 Ray Chapman

Booking of 3 rooms Currumbin Upstairs 17-19 January, 2015, by Kevin Bates, Michael Whelan, and John Worthington for 50th anniversary reunion.

Booking of 2 rooms Currumbin Upstairs 26-30 January, 2015, by Stephen Truscott and Ben McKenna for reunion.

Booking of all Currumbin (flat & upstairs) 10-13 May, 2015, for Provincial Council evaluation and planning meeting.

The self-contained flat at **Bilgola** is available for Marists to book for an extended holiday, a retreat, or an extended period of study. Bookings are made through the provincial office. Current bookings are:
Nov 13-16 Marist Mission Centre: All Bilgola
Dec 10-21 Gavin Foster

2015

Jan 1-31 Ray Chapman

A decision has been made to sell Bilgola and we are currently doing some preliminary work as to the best way to do this and establishing the most opportune selling window. We will continue to take bookings for the flat, but on the understanding that at some point, probably early next year, the property will be on the market.



JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation



Top: As Australia and NZ focus on World War I and Anzac centenaries, the combined Marist Family JPICC committee (pictured at one of its regular meetings) is preparing for an Aug 2015 event recalling the 'Forgotten Wars' against indigenous peoples on our own shores. | Above left: 2011-12 and 2013 graduates of the Bridge Program have begun recruiting for BP14-15, a fourth program leading to ACU's 2015 online studies course on the Thai-Burma border. | Above right: Members of the province JPICC committee attended the ACMRO (Migrants & Refugees) conference at ACU, North Sydney.

And also...

ANY OFFER WELCOME

FOR SALE

45 25 968

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION!

- Child friendly backyard
- Exquisite water views – perfect for selfies
- Far-reaching PA system
- Unlimited street parking and friendly neighbours
- Air-conditioned (some rooms)
- Only 32 flights of stairs
- Teachers included
- Vendor desperate for quick sale

ENQUIRE WITHIN



Left: School leavers' sign at Marist Sisters' College, Woolwich. Above: HNM feast day Mass, Villa Maria. Below: Barbecue collusion, Villa Maria?

