



## From the Provincial

Dear Confreres,

### The Chapter

As was noted in the previous Circular our Provincial Chapter took decisions which set the direction and goals for our immediate future in the Province. It is the task of the Provincial Administration over the next four years to try and implement those decisions as faithfully as it can.

For completeness it is worthwhile mentioning again those significant Chapter decisions which provide the roadmap determining our mission. These decisions concerned our restructuring with the units of Asia and New Zealand; our prioritized ministries; professional standards and integrity in ministry; finances;

vocations and formation; and concerning the status and activities of three of our provincial committees – Ageing; Social Justice; and Marist Charism.

A confrere recently remarked that, “all Chapters are a blessing and each possesses its own authority and grace.” We need to keep this advice in mind and acknowledge its truth both in the case of our own Province and in the situation of New Zealand.

### NZ decision

The New Zealand Provincial Chapter’s decision not to adopt the process and timetable on offer for the restructuring of Asia, New Zealand and Australia, which Asia and Australia did accept, came as a surprise to many but in the big picture this is not a disaster from

which there can be no recovery.

The intention of the restructuring proposal presented to our recent Chapters was to animate the mission of the Society in Asia, New Zealand and Australia. This did not happen. A major deficiency of the proposal was that it was judged by some to be too absorbed with governance and organisational matters which in the end were found to be unworkable and frustrating. Mission was not enhanced by what was proposed.

A positive aspect of New Zealand’s decision for us is that it has jolted us into realizing that our Chapter was not solely about ‘restructuring’. It reminds us, as mentioned above, that our Chapter identified vital and concrete areas of life and mission that we must become involved in.

### Moving...

Any one of the overused clichés, ‘going forward’, ‘moving on’, or ‘moving forward’, aptly describe what must be driving us at this time. We must move on.

In ‘moving forward’ the Provincial Council does not want to see the impetus of our Chapter lost. The Council will organize two further regional meetings where the whole province is able to follow up on the Chapter in two key areas. One meeting will deal with professional standards matters and the other will deal with our finances and property.



Fourvière commitment

To get things rolling in a follow up on 'prioritization of ministry', in many respects the most important issue considered by the Chapter, the Provincial Council will hold a meeting of the Provincial Council and the Marist team in St Pat's in the near future to discuss how the province can support this key work of the Society.

#### **Fourvière**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July we celebrated the bicentenary of the occasion when young, recently ordained men from the seminary in Lyon, pledged to establish what would be the Marist enterprise. This key moment in the foundation of the Marists family deserved to be celebrated with gusto and in the company of all cousins sharing the Marist name. It was.

Over 250 Marists and supporters took part in our main Australian Fourvière celebrations held at Hunters Hill. Within the total number of those who attended there was a good representation from each of our four religious branches but the great majority of those present were lay Marists, many from the organizations of Marist Laity Australia and the Association of Marcellin Champagnat, a wonderful testimony to where and how our Marist enterprise is growing today.

#### **Statement of commitment**

In 1816 a pledge was signed by the young would-be Marists of their sincere intent for the future. In preparing to celebrate Fourvière here in Sydney this year each branch of the family was asked to present a statement of commitment which reflected where their particular group was today. It was to be an updating of the commitment made at Fourvière.

Following the Fourvière Mass a number of confreres and others remarked very positively on the Marist Fathers statement of commitment. This statement, with minor alterations to make it more relevant to our province, came from

the Council of the Society in Dublin three years ago (CS13).

Our statement is, we believe, a truthful, accurate expression of what we Australian Marists are committing ourselves at the moment. We acknowledge the reality of our 'dying' but until the final obsequies are required we are clear about how we want to live and what will animate us.

*As a Province we embrace wholeheartedly the reality of being a small and rapidly diminishing congregation in the Australian Catholic Church. As such we are challenged to become:-*

- *more focussed;*
- *more overtly Marist in spirituality and community life, in our identity and our mission;*
- *more international;*
- *more collegial;*
- *more open to working in collaboration with the laity;*
- *more courageous.*

#### **Beatitudes**

If, as individuals and as a corporate group, we regard these standards as our 'beatitudes', each of us must keep judging ourselves by them. As a province in following through on the leadership given to us by the Chapter we have to sincerely and continually examine to see if we truly are, focused and remain focused to our mission; if we are genuinely collegial; if we are international; etc. If we find the way we are living is not Marist in its identity, mission, and spirituality, then we are obliged to change ourselves.

#### **Our Future**

We are all eager to know what will happen now with regards any restructuring involving New Zealand, Australia and Asia. The General Administration may wish to make some intervention and if they do we will have to wait and see what that is.

For us over the next few years the question of personnel who can assume leadership roles in the

province remains a major concern. We have to keep this situation in mind and try to see it is addressed while adopting the cliché from many sports 'to play what is before us' rather than make predetermined plans of what we would like to do.

The Australian province because, according to our 'beatitudes', we want to be 'more international' and 'more collegial' definitely wishes to support collaborative ventures that are genuinely about mission. Listening to confreres, however, it is clear we are not determined to salvage 'restructuring' at any cost. Window-dressing and cosmetic projects that do not enhance mission are not worth pushing. Collaboration must give energy or it is not worth doing.

In summary, our province at this time is committed to following up on our Chapter decisions, consolidating our prioritized ministries, coming to some clarity around possibilities for restructuring / collaboration, at all times remaining faithful to our 'beatitudes' from CS13.

A mathematical equation:- Chapter decisions + statement of commitment = our future.

The next twelve months, leading up to the General Chapter, is a very important time for our province and for the whole Society. It is a time when we must hold up our province and Society in prayer and be listening attentively to the answer the Spirit gives to us. We Marists have had 200 years of grace and blessings and there is no reason why these should dry up today.

Fraternally

**Bob Barber sm**

Provincial



## Provincial Diary

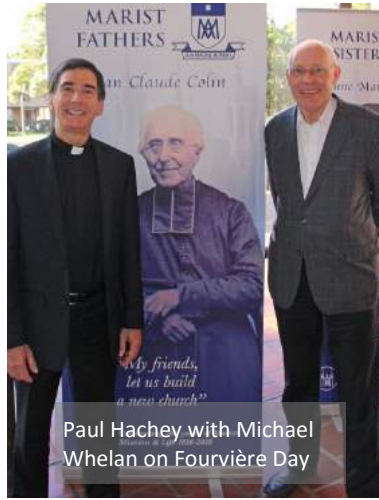
31 Aug – 3 Sept FMS Contemplative Retreat, Mittagong  
7 Sept Aged Care Planning Meeting  
12 Sept Woodlawn Jubilee Celebration for Paul Pidcock  
13 Sept Province Finance Committee  
16-30 Sept 2016 ARC Meeting, Rome  
20 Sept Provincial Council Meeting  
25-30 Sept Provincial Retreat, Kincumber  
2-7 Oct Provincial Retreat, Hunters Hill  
1-28 Oct Vicar Provincial Annual Leave

## Personnel

**Andrew Murray** has been engaged by the Oceania Province to do a Review of its secondary colleges in the light of the need to prioritise ministries. The work will take him to Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and Solomon Islands. He is to report at the end of November.

**Paul Pidcock's** 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination will be celebrated by the Woodlawn school community with an assembly and lunch on Monday 12 September. Paul has spent around 50 of his 60 years of ministry as a priest at Woodlawn.

**Kevin Bates** hit the magic 70 on 13 August, and the parish marked the occasion on the very day with a spectacular birthday party in the



parish hall. Our accompanying photo shows an amazing birthday cake in the shape of a circular keyboard with KB perched on top tickling the ivories.

**Fr Paul Hachey sm**, arrived in Sydney on 22<sup>nd</sup> July to begin his appointment to the Marist mission in St Patrick's, Church Hill. Paul has extensive experience as a Canon Lawyer working in the Tribunals and chancery of Atlanta.

The Province extends to Paul the warmest of welcome and trusts his new ministry will be a rewarding and happy time for him and of great spiritual benefit to the people of Sydney.

**Gerard Hall** led the annual retreat of the European Marist province at La Neylière, France following the busy weekend of the Fourvière celebrations. **Ray Chapman**, who was amongst the retreatants reported: *"Gerry has been giving a splendid retreat. It has been engaging and inspirational. Everyone is greatly appreciative of the depth and quality of his subject matter and his easy-going 'Aussie' style"*.

## Deaths

**Keith Shepherd** died on 2 July in Ryde Hospital, and was buried from Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill, on 8 July. Keith's brother, Reg, gave a eulogy at the commencement of the Mass, and we enclose Tom Ryan's homily with

this Circular. Bob Barber presided.

**Fr Sean Fagan sm**, d.15.7.2016, Dublin, Ireland.  
**Fr Ernest Moracci sm**, d.20.7.2016, Silverspring MD, USA  
**Fr Henri Drevon sm**, d.25.7.2016, St Genis Laval, France  
**Fr Jose Rodriguez sm**, d.3.8.2016, Madrid, Spain  
**Fr Vincente Flores Reyes sm**, d.6.8.2016, Mexico D.F., Mexico  
**Fr Francois Kerdroan sm**, d.13.8.2016, Noumea, New Caledonia.

**Lola Saliba:** Lola was the mother of Fred Saliba, the husband of Judy, formerly our Provincial Secretary. Lola died on 16 July, and was buried from Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill, on July 21. Jim Carty was the celebrant.

**Peter Garrett:** Terry Garrett's brother, Peter, died at Greenwich on 6 August. His Mass of Christian Burial was held at St Thomas' church, Willoughby, on August 11. Garry Reynolds was the celebrant, and several other confreres were also able to be present.

## Sick

**Paul Cooney:** Paul had further neurosurgery at the Mater Hospital on 28 July and was discharged on 1 August, traditionally observed as the birthday of all race horses, and a date dear to Paul's heart.

**Terry Arbuckle:** Gerry's brother, Terry, is in palliative care in



Wellington. Gerry travelled over recently to spend a few days with his brother.

**Melissa O'Neill:** niece of Tony King, is scheduled to have a mastectomy in Sydney on Friday 2 September.

## News

### Relocation of Marist Mission Centre:

The Marist Mission Centre office has been relocated upstairs to the front offices of the Provincial Administration building. At times the MMC staff may answer the Provincial office phone. The names of the two casual MMC staff are Mary Cahill and Margaret Walker.

**St Paul's, Traralgon:** our former school at Traralgon, now called Lavalla Catholic College, will be having its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations on the weekend 9-11 September. **Paul Sullivan** will be going down to represent the Province.

**Visitation: Fr Lote Raiwalui** left us on Saturday 13 August having completed his time with us for visitation of the Province. He was boarding an Air Fiji flight to catch up

with family and friends before heading back to Rome. We thank Lote for his time with us and getting to know us a little better.

**Herston Relocations:** Both **John Begg** and **Lou Molloy** are in the process of moving from Herston: John to a retirement complex at Chermside (see below – Provincial Directory – for address and contact details), and Lou to St Andrew's Village at Ballina (contact details yet to be finalised).

**News from the Men's Shed:** The old winery in the Villa Maria complex which for many years served as a workshop for Marists and in recent years has been used by the local Mens' Shed group under the auspices of the Hunters Hill / Ryde Community Services recently gained some very sophisticated machinery that cannot be used except under the guidance of a certified supervisor. This means Marists can no longer have access at any time and keys to the Men's Shed workshop are no longer available at Villa or Montbel. (There is a key kept in the Provincial Office if access is needed outside working hours of the shed.)

All Marists are welcome to use our own workshop, located in the double-doored garage, at any time. Bench saw, drill, and the usual tools are available for use.

Having the Men's Shed organisation making good use of a facility that was much under-used on our property is a great thing. Visit a group of men thoroughly enjoying themselves as they make toys and items for sale, as well as doing their own jobs, on a Monday or Wednesday. Terry Garrett does a great job with the men as our Marist Fathers liaison person with the Mens' Shed.

**Fourvière day in Sydney:** Members of all branches of the Marist Family recalled the promise of the Marist aspirants on July 23rd, 1816, to form the Society of Mary 200 years ago.

In Sydney a packed church of the Holy Name of Mary, Hunters Hill, celebrated the bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge on July 23. Kevin Bates sm presided and preached at the Mass.

Afterwards 250 Marists and supporters gathered in the Br





Emilian Hall at St Joseph’s College for lunch. During the buffet luncheon Mrs Maria Baden and Br Michael Green fms delivered addresses on ‘Mary’s work, Mary’s Way’.

**Visit of Japanese benefactor:** Mrs Maria Sachiko a long-time supporter of the Marists in Japan recently visited Sydney with her granddaughter, Akiko.

In 1955 as a young woman, Maria began working with and for the Marists in their Japanese mission in Takada. Over the years she has been deeply committed to helping victims of natural disasters and the very poor and destitute in Japan.

Earlier this year Maria organized a collection and commissioned two replicas of the beautiful ‘Our Lady of the Journey’ statue as a thank you from the Japanese Christians of Nara to the Marists of the Japanese mission.



Above, from left: Exchange of gifts, Villa Maria. Formators on the move. ‘So long, Fr Long!’

One is already proudly housed at Villa Maria and the other will be presented to the General House in Rome in early September.

**Formators' program:** Tony Kennedy recently passed through Sydney on his way from France to Fiji. In Suva he will continue work in the Marist Seminary until the end of the year.

Next year Tony will begin the year directing a Marist Period of Renewal, a 6-month programme



akin to a second novitiate, in La Neylière, France.

The purpose of Tony’s recent visit to France was to take part in a month-long Formators’ Workshop.

The workshop saw 18 formators from the nine formation houses around the SM world gathered to share their situations and experiences with the aim of ensuring better union and greater consistency in standards between the various formation houses of the Society.

**Fr 'Long' Mechavez,** Marist director of ‘Balay Pasilungan’ a centre for street kids in Davao, Mindanao, recently spent a few weeks in Sydney.

Following a guided retreat with John Thornhill, visits to many local Marist activities, and doing some networking and contact building to help his mission, Long has returned to the Philippines to his work with destitute and homeless youngsters.



MCC team en route for Bellambi (see p 6)

**Marist Charism & Culture - Holy Spirit College Bellambi Spirituality Days:** The Marist Charism & Culture (MCC) Team conducted its first Spirituality Day with all 115 members of Holy Spirit College, Bellambi staff on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

The MCC team comprised Glenn Roff, Kim Evans; and young ex-students Mitchell Brown (Bellambi), Claire Hatchman (Woodlawn), Krista Bleakley (Woodlawn) and Stephanie Ibrahim (Woolwich).

The day focused on 'our Marist past, present and future through the lens of the College community'.

The following day, the four young MCC Team members worked with the Bellambi Year 7 students - taking eight classes throughout the morning with a theme - 'Being Marist in Our School'. From all accounts the Year 7 students enjoyed the experience.

MMC are most grateful to Principal, Amanda Wilson, for hosting the days.

## Publications

Liturgical Press, USA, has accepted **Gerry Arbuckle's** latest book for publication (62,000 words): *Fundamentalism at Home and Abroad: Analysis and Responses*.

We are seeing something akin to a global epidemic of fundamentalism, e.g. right-wing, often extreme, movements in Europe, Trumpism in USA, Hansonism in Australia and radical Islamist groups.

The book examines the cultural factors behind them and offers pastoral responses.

**Tom Ryan** has had the following articles accepted for publication:

“ ‘Yes!’ And ‘Thou’ in Dag Hammarskjöld's *Markings: A Theological Investigation*’, *Irish Theological Quarterly*, 81 (2), 2016, 119-137.

“ ‘Jesus-Our Wisest and Dearest Friend’’: Aquinas on Moral Transformation’, *New Blackfriars* 97: 1071 (Sept), 2016, p. 575-510.

## Advertising

**2016 Retreats:** Retired New Zealand bishop Peter Cullinane will be leading our two Provincial retreats this year. Those booked for the retreats are:

[Kincumber Retreat \(25-30 September\) 12 participants + 1 retreat master](#)

Willy Melteras; Peter Somers; Paul Mahony; Colin Campbell; Terry Garrett; Peter McMurrich; Ron Nissen; Paul Glynn; Greg Ferguson; David Wilson; Andrew Murray; John Worthington;

[Hunters Hill Retreat \(2-7 October\) 21 participants + 1 retreat master](#)

Patrick Kervin; Bill Ryder; Syd Nugent; Chris Austin; Allan Connors; John Jago; Greg Ferguson; Jim Harding; John Thornhill; John Burke; Tony King; Bernie McFadyen; Robert Barber; Tom Ryan; Brian Wilson; Neville Byrne; Paul Pidcock; Bill Ryder; Jim Esler; J V Walsh; Brian Conaghan

### National Catholic Ministry Register:

around 35 confreres are now registered online for fast and efficient confirmation of their ministry status when ministering outside their home diocese. Some dioceses are requiring details of Working with Children number (or equivalent) and date of birth in addition to the National Catholic Ministry register details.

To head off problems, it is recommended that confreres provide the following information to dioceses they are visiting:

Name:  
Order:  
Name of Parish to visit:  
Date of Visit:  
Reason for visit:  
Date of Birth:

ACMR ID number:  
WWCC number (or equivalent):

And now the news you don't want to hear. While the overwhelming majority of dioceses are on board with the Catholic Ministry Register, you may still strike an odd diocese or two that might still insist on the former paperwork system (The diocese of Sale in Victoria seems to be one such).

Bad news for you, and bad news for the gnomes in the Provincial Office who have to process the documentation. But the bottom line is there isn't much any of us can do about it.



## Provincial Directory

**John Begg** has now moved from Herston to his new address: Poinciana Apartments, 158/27 The Boulevard. Chermside. Qld. 4032. and phone No: 07 3350 5813



## Currumbin

The self-contained flat at **Currumbin** is available for bookings for Marists and their families.

Bookings are made through the Provincial Office. Current bookings:

### 2016

17-24 Sept Tom Ryan  
29 Sept-3 Oct Provincial Education Forum  
5-11 Oct Gavin Foster  
13-31 Oct Peter McMurrich  
1-8 Nov Bob Barber  
9-25 Nov Tom Fulcher  
4-17 Dec Jim Hargrave  
31 December Michael Carroll

### 2017

1-14 January Michael Carroll  
16 July – 4 August Bob Barber

## Enclosures

- Homily for Keith Shepherd (Tom Ryan)

## JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for Justice,  
Peace and Integrity of Creation

### Congratulations, James!

More good news from Thailand and the graduates of the Marist-sponsored *'Bridge Program'*. Burmese Kachin student, **James Brangnu** (BP12-13, and ACU graduate 2014) has been offered a scholarship by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, Din Daeng, district, Bangkok.

The four-year UTCC program will offer James opportunities to further develop his skills in business administration.

### Bougainville

Marists have been involved with the people of Bougainville for much of their recent history. The following article by Daniel Fulton is well worth a read. Connect if you can...

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/billiondollar-mess-a-major-disaster-the-people-do-not-deserve-to-have-20160817-gguzli.html>

*Pictured right: Rusting trucks at Panguna mine, Bougainville.*

### Pacific Climate Watch

Also worth visiting...

[www.pacificclimatewatch.com.au](http://www.pacificclimatewatch.com.au)



*Clockwise from top:* 1. **Terry Garrett** in 'our' shed. 2. Aussies at La Neylière. 3. Fourvière dinner, Emilian Hall, St Joseph's College. 4. **Long Mechavez** with **Sr Margaret Purcell SM** (former superior-general). 5. **Paul Glynn** with **Maria Sachiko Yamoto** and grand-daughter, **Akiko** (and Our Lady of the Journey).

And also...

