



## From the Provincial

Dear Confreres

Since the last Provincial Circular, I had the privilege of attending the annual 10 day ARC meeting in Rome with the GA and the major superiors from all around the SM world.

I have also been able to do a "sort of" retreat with the confreres at Hunters Hill under Bishop Peter Cullinane of New Zealand.

I used the latter to help me process a great deal of what had occurred in and around the ARC meeting.

### 'Conversations'

The ARC meeting this year had a slightly different format. Two and half of the days were allocated to "conversations", the opportunity for members of the GA to meet one-on-one with the major superiors, and for interest groups (eg MAP members) to get together.

It was a successful innovation but kept us working quite hard. Meeting

up with Marists from around the globe is a great blessing because when you meet them you realize that we really have some great confreres.

### One important outcome

Between ARC and the retreat I rushed to get out to confreres in the Province a letter with news from ARC regarding one important outcome of the Rome meeting many would have been most interested in, "where are we now the SM restructuring"?

I thought it important to get this news out before it became stale or before some aspects of it filtered through the unreliable rumour channels.

I am sorry the letter contained so little detail but at this stage there is little detail to share.

Pat Devlin, Superior of the Asia District, and I through Skype contact are working on the instructions given us by the General Administration during ARC and we will have a presentation ready for

our respective Councils in November.

### A working paper

With feedback from the Councils, with Peter McMurrich and Chris Ganzon joining the working team, we will produce a paper for discussion by all confreres in the Asia / Australia units in early 2017.

"Reconfiguration" must not become the bogey man that dominates our existence over the coming year.

It must not sap all life and energy out of us and prevent us living out and growing the Marist life and mission that was inspired by our last Provincial Chapter.

### General Chapter 2017

Over the coming months we also have to prepare for the General Chapter of the Society, from 17<sup>th</sup> Sept to 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2017.

We can begin by praying and asking the Lord for a deep and true conversion in our Marist life; we can



ARC final session

share thoughts and our opinions with our confreres to do with our Marist life; and we can submit our prayed-over thoughtful suggestions to the Pre-Chapter Committee.

This is surely going to be one of the most important General Chapters in the history of the Society of Mary.

### **'Choosing life'**

At this Chapter we have before us the classic invitation issued by Moses to the people of Israel: "I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life". (Deut 30:19)

"Choosing life" for Marists, both at the international level and at our Provincial level, means getting back to living our Marist life in a realistic and genuine way.

How does choosing life translate for us in Australia? We can ask the question, what is the thing that really kills our Province?

### **Individualism**

The spirit of 'individualism' has been extolled in this Province by many as a virtue and strength for the last 50 years. However, I maintain it has not given life to our Province as a whole.

It has helped some individuals but has hurt us as a whole.

A big reason for us being in our current situation where we lack a number of vibrant communities of a few confreres living together as brothers, and of having next to no corporate works, is because so many of us choose to 'do our own thing' as opposed to 'being in a team'.

Is it any wonder that we have not been able to attract vocations over the last 30 years? What young man would want to hitch his wagon to our train?

### **Getting focused**

It is never too late to turn things around. Over the coming months and years we have to *get focused*; live more *overtly as Marists* in spirituality and community life; *be*

*international; work collegially; work with the laity; be courageous.* (CS 13) This is the real challenge before us.

In the light of these 'beatitudes', that were mentioned in the last provincial circular, I encourage everyone to actively participate in the planned regional meetings over the next six months.

### **Crucial issues**

The November regional gathering will address the crucial issues of finances and sale of property and next year we will need to attend to the question of reconfiguration in the light of ARC.

In the process of these meetings the Council and I are inviting all confreres to accept ownership of our future and participate in the life of our province.

Is the future of the Society of Mary all doom and gloom? Certainly not. In the last month I have heard on a couple of occasions a very strong message of hope coming through.

It came from John Hannan, citing Br Sean Salmon FMS at the ARC meeting, and it came again in the last conference of our retreats given by Bishop Cullinane, citing Cardinal Godfried Danneels from 25 years ago.

### **Message of hope**

I would love all confreres to be as encouraged by their message of hope as I was.

Hope is like being in a big black hole – but you can see the light at the end of the tunnel and it is very possible to get to that light, to get out of the hole.

Being in the hole is where we are. Perhaps, as Br Séan would suggest, 'It may be God's blessing that we are in our present place because this can be purifying for us. It is from here that we can be regenerated and grow anew in that light we are heading towards.'

Let us work together to see the light, choose life and together address all that is facing the province.

Faternally

**Bob Barber sm**  
Provincial.



## **Provincial's Diary**

### **2 Nov**

Prov Council & St Pat's Marists

### **4 Nov**

Marist Schools Aust Mass & Dinner  
Villawood Det. Centre, priests' mtg

### **9 Nov**

Visit Lane Cove Cty

### **11 Nov**

Brisbane meetings

### **15 Nov**

Prov Council Meeting

Development HH property Mtg

### **18 Nov**

FMS Reg Ed Council Mtg

### **20 Nov**

Mass Deceased – Bellambi HSC

### **23 Nov**

Aged Care Plan Mtg

### **25 Nov**

MSA appreciation ACU Nth Syd

### **6 Dec**

Finance C'ttee Mtg

### **20 Dec**

Prov Council Meeting

## Personnel

**Kevin Bates**, has been reappointed Parish Priest of Holy Name of Mary Parish, Hunters Hill, by Archbishop Fisher for a period of 3 years from the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2017 on the recommendation of the Provincial Council.

**Michael Carroll**, has been appointed Chaplain to Royal Brisbane Hospital and St Andrew's Hospital by Archbishop Coleridge from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2017.

**'Alik Langi**, has been reappointed as Superior of the Marist Community, Gladstone, by the Provincial Council for three years from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2017

**Paul Mahony**, has been reappointed as Superior of the Maryvale/ Montbel Community, Hunters Hill, by the Provincial Council for three years from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2017

**Kevin Redmond**, has been reappointed Parish Priest of Star of the Sea Parish, Gladstone, by Bishop McCarthy for a period of 3 years from the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2017 on the recommendation of the Provincial Council.

**Michael Whelan**, has been reappointed as the Director of the Aquinas Academy for three years by the Provincial Council from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2017.

Thank you to the above confreres for their willingness to accept these appointments / reappointments.

Following the Provincial Chapter's recommendation that the Province's Formation Committee and the Vocations Committee should become one, the Provincial approached **Gavin Foster, Gerry Hall, Paul Mahony, and Kevin Redmond** to be part of the new Province Formation and Vocation Committee from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2017. The Province thanks them for accepting their nomination.

**Garry Reynolds** has agreed to a request of the Provincial Council to

be a contact support person for aged confreres in the north who are not residents of Herston. Garry will initiate contact with those confreres from time to time and would be very happy for them to "ring him" at any time

### **John Hopkinson**

Australian confrere, John Hopkinson sm, will be taking a home leave during Jan 2017.

John will arrive just before Christmas to have the festive season with his sisters in the south before heading north for his R & R.

This will also be a time of celebration for Hoppy and his Australian friends who have supported him on his journey as 2017 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John's service as a Marist missionary to the Church of Latin America.

Congratulations John and may the celebrations be suitably wild and fitting.

## Deaths

**Fr Clifton Moors sm**, of the USA, professed in 1952, passed away in Lawrence, on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**Mrs Olive Burrows**, mother of Ian, who regularly does repair and maintenance work for us passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept, at 93 years.

**John Reynolds**, brother of Garry passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> September. The funeral was at Adelong on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept. A couple of confreres were able to be with Garry for the funeral.

**Fr Patrick Coyle sm**, professed in 1938, passed away in Daly City, California on 8<sup>th</sup> September. Fr Pat was 101 yrs.

**Terry Arbuckle**, brother to Gerry, passed away in Wellington on 18<sup>th</sup> September. Gerry was able to be in New Zealand when Terry passed on.

**Sr Moya Catherine Ryan**, Carmelite Nun for 64 years, and sister to our late confrere Bernie, passed away in Melbourne on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct.

**Sr Mary Murray smsm**, passed away at Plumpton on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Sr Mary had worked as a nurse and midwife in Bougainville, PNG and Bangladesh.

**Sr Patricia Stowers**, smsm, former Superior General (serving two terms) passed away in Lyon, on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

**Fr Kevin Burke, sm**, Professed in 1961. Passed away in Hull, UK, on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

## Sick

**Paul Cooney** is in good spirits and felling well since his radiotherapy on his hip. He is now back on a regime of immunotherapy that his doctors are monitoring.

**John Burke** spent some days in SAN Hospital, Wahroonga in mid-September for observation over a chest complaint.

**Br Jeff Crowe FMS** is currently in Rome where he is suffering from a thrombosis condition in his legs which is potentially very dangerous.

## News

### **Chapter decisions**

The Secretary General has informed the Province that our Provincial Chapter declarations and decisions have been approved by the superior-general with the advice of his council.

### **Fr Hans Zollner SJ interview**

The Provincial Council and our Province Professional Standards Committee highly recommend a 50 minute interview with Fr. Hans Zollner SJ, Vice- Rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.



A psychologist, psychotherapist, President of the Centre for Child Protection at the Gregorian, and Member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, Fr Zollner gives an excellent interview.

He speaks about how the Church is responding to the sexual abuse issues as well as matters raised by confreres at the 2015 Assembly and in our recent regional meetings.

The interview, by Fr Thomas Rosica of the Salt and Life Television series, can be found on CathNews or using the link <https://shar.es/1EjeeQ>

### MCC Pilgrimage

In the last week of September ten pilgrims from Marist Schools established by the Marist Fathers and Marist Sisters in Australia set out on a two-week pilgrimage to Marist places in Rome and France.

The pilgrimage is part of the Marist Charism and Culture program and this first pilgrimage involved the principals of Woodlawn (Chris Comerford), Bellambi (Amanda Wilson), Burnie (Adrian Drane), and Ann Ireland (Marist Sisters Woolwich).

It is hoped these leaders, with an enhanced knowledge of Marist roots and heritage, will be more able to impart the Marist ethos and traditions to their respective college communities.

Accompanying the college leaders were Tour Leaders, Glenn Roff and Kim Evans, Vicky Evans (Trinity College, Lismore), Peter Ireland (Sydney Cath Education Office), Caroline Thompson (Directory Mercy Partners), and chaplain / humble Marist guru and guide, Gerry Hall.

The pilgrims spent some days in Rome (4 days) retracing the footsteps of Jean-Claude Colin in that city.

A highlight was the warm welcome of the Monteverde community and



MCC pilgrims at Monteverde



Gerry Hall with Sr Teri O'Brien



Ray Chapman & Gerry Hall at Fourvière

International Theologate where they shared the Eucharist and around meals had the opportunity to meet Marists.

The more extensive visit to Marist places in France (4 days at La Neylière, 3 days at Belley and Lyon) was ably guided by Ray Chapman and Sr Teri O'Brien sm with great use made of the excellent pilgrimage booklets prepared by Ron Nissen.

Based at La Neylière and Belley, visits were made to the most significant Marist places associated with Colin, Champagnat, Chavoïn and Chanel. Highlights included the celebration of the Eucharist at the Le Puy and Fourvière shrines as well as La Neylière, Coutouvre and Cerdon. Finally, there were visits to Ars and Taizé.

For the pilgrims, long after other details become blurred, Tony Corcoran's warm welcome to the General House and his enlightening tour of the Monteverde archives and chapel; John Larsen's invitation to visit the vibrant International Scholasticate; Donato Kivi (Rome) and Ray Chapman (France) assistance as guides; the hospitality of the La Neylière community; and Sr Teri's dynamism, enthusiasm and historical knowledge, will long remain fond memories.



Bp Peter Cullinane at Kincumber

### Provincial Retreats – 2016

Bishop Peter Cullinane, emeritus Bishop of Palmerstone North, NZ, led the two Province Retreats this year.

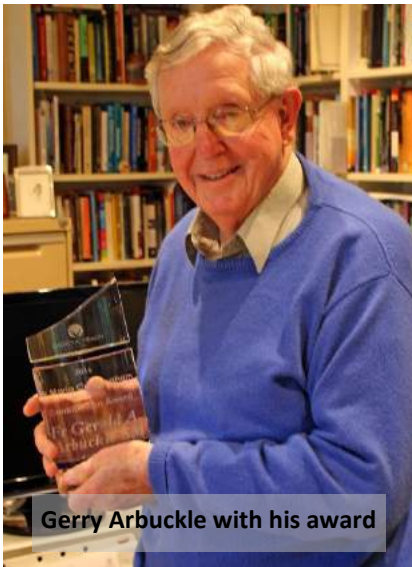
The first, attended by 12 confreres, was held at St Joseph's, Kincumber from 25 – 30<sup>th</sup> Sept and the second, attended by 18 confreres, was held at Maryvale/Montbel, Sydney, from 2 – 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.

From all accounts this was a good retreat with plenty of 'solid stuff' in the conferences that all who participated enjoyed.

### Marist Mission Centre

Mrs Anne Martinus has been employed by MMC as a Project Finance Officer.

Her role is part-time (3 days per week) and she began on 18<sup>th</sup> October.



Gerry Arbuckle with his award

'Aliko Lange came down from Gladstone for MMC's second appeal for the year at St Pat's on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

There was a very pleasing response from the good people of St Pat's who gave \$5,543 for the appeal.

**Gerry Arbuckle's award.**

Congratulations to confrere Gerald Arbuckle on receiving from Catholic Health Australia, the peak body for Catholic health care in Australia, its highest annual award.

The Maria Cunningham Lifetime Contribution Awarded was presented to Gerry at the association's annual Conference on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

The citation for this award recognized Gerry's "lifetime's dedication to Catholic health and aged care in Australia and North America" ..

**St Peter Chanel's, Woolwich**

Confreres and Hunters Hill parishioners were informed in early October that the Provincial Administration were investigating, with planning company RPS, a possible subdivision of land at St Peter Chanel's Woolwich.

St Peter Chanel church sits on the front of a 5,248 m<sup>2</sup> block and when purchased by Fr Claude Joly sm on 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 1890 he wrote to the Superior General – "the site then has been bought in our name. It is big enough to allow part of it to be resold if that became useful.....". That time has come.

Next year the Marist Fathers will have been involved in the Hunters Hill/Woolwich area since 1847, 170 years.

As we decline in numbers we need to look at ways to care for Marists in retirement years and to support the ongoing Mission of the Society.

Over the coming months we are beginning the process to place before Hunters Hill Council the subdivision of the Futuna Street, Woolwich property.

The concept being considered is to sell the north facing part of the site for Seniors Housing.

Being close to the Church, bus stops and still on the Woolwich peninsula this concept could be attractive to senior parishioners of Hunters Hill.

These plans do not include any alteration to the services provided

by St Peter Chanel's as part of the Holy Name of Mary parish.

**Our Lady of the Journey – Rome.**

During September a second replica statue of *Our Lady of the Journey* from the church in Takada has been presented to the Marist Fathers.

The first replica was given to the Australian Province in thanks for their contribution to the Marist mission in Japan.

The second was given to the General House at Monteverde in recognition that the Japanese SM mission that truly was an international SM mission.

The Rome replica was blessed and mounted on an attractive stand in a prominent place in one of the main corridors of the General House during the ARC meeting of General Council and major superiors from around the Marist world.

Tony Corcoran was largely responsible for the tasteful and appropriate treatment of this lovely statue in Rome.

Acknowledging our lack of class in Sydney a more dignified stand has been commissioned and the statue will be given prominence at Villa Maria.

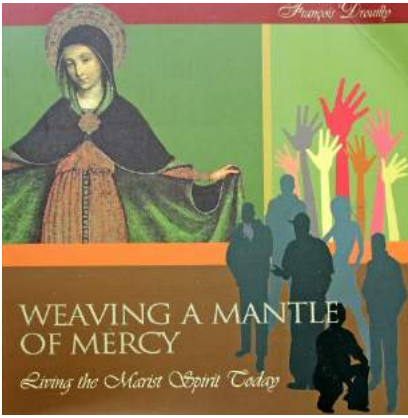
**Woolwich Staff Day**

Bob Barber and Ron Nissen helped present a staff development day for Marist Sisters' College, Woolwich, on Oct 10.

After a reflection on Marist







beginnings, Bob and Ron became guides for the Villa Maria property in a 'chapel walk' from Holy Name of Mary church to St Joseph's and St Peter Chanel chapels.

## Publications

### **Weaving a Mantle of Mercy: Fr François Drouilly sm**

Copies of *Weaving a Mantle of Mercy: Living the Marist Spirit Today*, by French Marist François Drouilly arrived and were distributed to communities in mid-October.

Through a number of stations, – sixteen in all which included, Prayer, Obedience, Community, Crisis, Mercy, - François asks us to interiorize and own what it means for me as an individual to be "Marist".

Once again François Drouilly has given us a Marist/spiritual treasure.

Anyone in our larger communities who did not receive a personal copy, but would like one, please contact the Provincial Office. There are a few still in stock.

### **Forum Novum, Vol 18 Dec 2016**

The latest edition of *Forum Novum* is available on the Society's website: [www.maristsm.org/en/forum-novum.aspx](http://www.maristsm.org/en/forum-novum.aspx).

This edition is dedicated to the bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge and aspects of our Marist History and Spirituality.

Contributors to this edition are: (Fourvière) Gaston Lessard sm,

Faustino Ferrari sm, John Hannan, (Marist History and Spirituality) Lionel Roos-Jourdan, Ed Keel sm, Alois Greiler sm, Tony Kennedy sm, Merv Duffy sm, and Roland Lajoie sm.

### **Punter's Corner**

There is an event in Melbourne on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> Nov that generates some national interest. As a special treat for dear readers we have 3 guest tipsters with some advice for you (even before the field is finalized!)

Nose-a-Nag Nev: Bondi Beach  
3-way turf-talk Ryder: Qewy  
Bernborough Glynno: Jameka  
(Remember: Gamble responsibly!)

## Advertising

### **BBI – The Australian Institute of Theological Education**

For those not too long in the tooth to be thinking of updating themselves in areas of theology BBI is now recognized as a Higher Education Provider and can confer recognized degrees.

The four new degree areas that BBI will be offering are: Leadership and Theology; Religious Education; Theological Studies; Governance and Canon Law.

A number of brochures available from the Province Office for courses /programs that are available in 2017. If something takes your interest you can contact the office for details.

### **Marymount Mercy Centre, Castle Hill**

Formation of Formators, 12 Feb – 6 Aug.  
New Life Program (6 month) 12 Feb – 6Aug; (3 month) 12 Feb – 13 May; 10 Sept – 3 Dec

### **Vitality, Strathfield**

Origin – Wellness program (3 month) 13 Feb – 12 May; 22 May – 25 Aug; 4 Sept – 8 Dec;

### **Heart of Life Spirituality Centre, Box Hill (Vic)**

Programs for Formation of Spiritual Directors (Full -time and Part-time)

### **Douglas Park (MSC's)**

Refreshing our Hearts in Contemp. Prayer & Living (Sabbatical Prog) 29 Dec 16 – 24 March 17;  
30 day Retreats (either: Life's Journey Experience; Sp Ex of St Ignatius; Prayer with a Mystic) 29 Jan – 2 March; 2 Aug – 3 Sept; 29 Dec 17 – 30 Jan 18.

### **St Joseph's Centre, Baulkham Hills**

Retirement for Mission Sabbatical 3 March – 8 April



## Province Directory

**Lou Molloy** has now moved from Herston to his new address:

Unit 39 St Andrew's Village  
150 Florence Price Place  
Ballina, NSW, 2478  
Ph. 02 6681 1144



## 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:

**2016**  
**13-31 Oct**  
 Peter McMurrich  
**1-8 Nov**  
 Bob Barber  
**9-25 Nov**  
 Tom Fulcher  
**26 Nov – 3 Dec**  
 Gerry Hall  
**4-17 Dec**  
 Jim Hargrave  
**31 Dec**  
 Michael Carroll

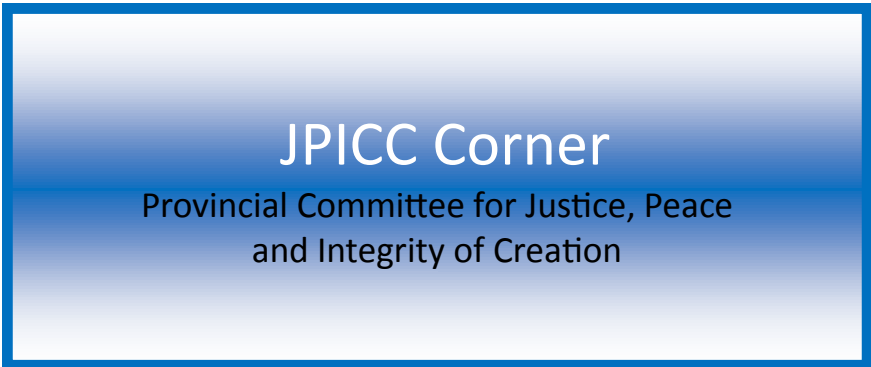
**2017**  
**1-21 Jan**  
 Michael Carroll  
**22 – 26 Jan**  
 Gavin Foster  
**4 – 6 Feb**  
 Sec. Ed confreres

**26 Mar – 8 Apr**  
 Jim Hargrave  
**16 Jul – 4 Aug**  
 Bob Barber

## Web site passwords

**Society of Mary (Rome)**  
 Log-in: 'sm'  
 Password: 'colin'

**Australian Province**  
 Log-in: 'newsletter' or  
 'circular'  
 Password: 'colin'



### Pacific Climate Watch

JPICC recommends the 'Pacific Climate Watch' web site, monitoring much of what is happening to our Oceanian neighbours.

Fourteen religious congregations in Australia (including us) are now contributors to PCW. Go to: [www.pacificclimatewatch.com.au](http://www.pacificclimatewatch.com.au)

### Bridge Program for Myanmar

At its October Advisory Committee meeting MMC approved funding for a Youth Development program in Myanmar based on the Bridge Program.

BP graduate from 2012, **Saw Chit Min** (pictured) will coordinate the project, assisted by Ron Nissen.

### BP2016 concludes

Ten young Burmese refugees are celebrating the ending of their 20-week Bridge Program course. Pictured at Maesot, Thailand, are some in their signature BP shirts.

BP16-17 commences in November. Over twenty applicants are likely to participate.





And also...



*Clockwise from top left:*

- Villa Maria parishioners with 'Mary, undoer of knots'
- **Hayden Kennedy** at Brisbane's 'Ignite' conference
- MCW staff on their 'chapel walk'
- **Paul Sullivan** and alumni at Traralgon's 60th anniversary
- Holy Name of Mary feast day Mass, Villa Maria grounds
- Our Lady of the Journey installation at Monteverde, Rome
- **Glenn Roff, Vicki Evans** and MCC pilgrims at Bon Repos, Belley.

