

# Marist Fathers

## Australian Province

Provincial Circular Apr 2017

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### From the Provincial

Dear Confreres

#### New life

During this wonderful season of Easter it is hope and joy that dominate our prayer and day to day living.

While the resurrection of Christ and the new life won for us in the pascal mystery certainly look to the future and the fulfilment of God's plan for our world, the hope that we have in this season is definitely grounded in the here and now.

During Lent we went through some dark times and became more aware of our inadequacies and sin. With Christ we reached the climax of that hard reality on Good Friday. Through this experience and then that of Easter Sunday we have come to a new way of being as 'sons in the Son'. While we believe that there is more to come for us, for now, we are full of hope and joy for all God has done for us.

#### Men of hope

Easter reminds us that as men of hope we remain firmly convinced that in spite of difficulties, and what at times may appear to be insurmountable problems before us, it is always God who is in control. We are all part of God's plan and our role is confidently, with a hope-filled disposition, to work with God to bring his plan to fruition.

#### Inviting...

Having just celebrated the feast of St Peter Chanel, and prior to that having taken part in our traditional novena for vocations, we are reminded that we must be active in our vocation recruitment. If God is willing and inviting young men to join us we have to do our bit too.

Assistant General Fr Alejandro Munoz, through the *SM Ministries: Youth and Vocations Forum*, is giving us a good lead in this area. Pay the site a visit.

If you know of someone who is asking questions or showing some interest in sharing our Marist life please pass the word on to Gerry Hall who is coordinating vocations for us these days.

#### Positive actions

Two months ago we reminded ourselves of the shameful and terrible revelation that the sexual abuse of young people in the Church had occasioned in our lives. Since then some grace has come to us in positive actions suggested by confreres through ways for us to respond to this situation. Already some of these suggestions have been taken up and others will follow. It is important we take up these invitations when offered.

The ritual of healing organized by the team at St Pat's which took place on the vigil of Palm Sunday and recalled throughout Holy Week was a powerful public event which, while humbling, was a moment of grace.



## Asia

A sincere thanks to all those confreres who participated in a second round of regional meetings as part of our discernment in response to the specific proposal where the Australian Province would reconfigure and unite with the District of Asia. Earlier regional meetings had already given a good indication of the province's thinking but, with this issue being so important, we wanted everyone to hear what the confreres in Asia and those from the other regions in our province were saying before a final decision was taken.

Our decision not to go ahead with the latest restructuring proposal presented to us was very clear. A good majority of our men could not see the rationale or benefits for a structural reorganization of the two units.

## Greater cooperation

Just as clear though, was the call for there to be much greater cooperation between our province, Asia and the other units in the MAP zone.

There is already important cooperation going on between our Marist units but this must increase. The key that allows this to happen will involve a radical change for some of us in the way we see and do things. Any "us / them" element that we have in our current outlook will have to give way to seeing ourselves more and more as "one" SM, and the many decisions we will one day take will be taken from this position.

In the past when we were numerically much stronger and younger than we are today it was important that a unit focussed on its own patch but today because of our diminishment we cannot work alone. In the Society we need to work together and support each other in mission.

The Superior General, while expressing his disappointment that we had decided not to adopt the structural reorganization as set out

in the proposal, was pleased that there was solid commitment within all the units of MAP for greater collaboration. He was adamant that MAP, as a group, must agree to adopt at least one concrete project that we are all involved in.

Although we are declining in number 'Mission' must always be front and centre in who we are and what we do. It is a false assertion to say that our main obligation today is to 'look after our aging confreres', implying that this in some way is our principal focus. We certainly see caring for all our brothers as a key part of our ministry but we cannot say this in any way supersedes what we find in our Constitutions, especially nos. 8 - 14.

## Council of the Province

Discussed during our regional meetings was whether there was still a need for us to hold our planned Council of the Province this year in view of the fact that the restructuring with Asia proposal was not going to proceed. We decided to go ahead with the Council of the Province meeting because we need to continue discussion and planning for our future. Our main agenda point at the Council of the Province will be to discuss aspects of effective governance of the province in the future.

## General Chapter

Just as all are encouraged to participate in discussions around our Province's future we must all get involved in the work of our General Chapter of the Society to be held in Rome in Sept-Oct. As our Society deals with its current reality and has to discover how we may be called to re-focus and re-structure in order to meet our future means, this will be one of the most important Chapters in our history. Prayer and, if needed, getting in either individual or collective postulata to the preparatory committee, is required of us all.

## Brothers' Bicentenary

The Marist Brothers, with whom we have so much in common, have

many things going on this year as they celebrate the bicentenary of their foundation. Please keep them in your prayers and wherever we can we should join with them in their celebrations this year.

## More...

It is worthwhile recalling once again our Statement of Commitment (Fourvière 2017): We are to become: *more focused; 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; and more courageous.*

Faternally

Bob Barber sm





## Provincial Diary

### May 4

Book Launch of Intentional Faith Communities, Polding Centre

### May 6

Bishops' Meeting with Religious Leaders, North Sydney

### May 11

Province Professional Standards Panel

### May 15-16

Provincial Council Meeting, Currumbin

### May 16

Meeting of Provincial Council with Brisbane Marists

### May 21

Mother of God Parish, Ardeer (Melbourne) 50th Anniversary Mass

### May 23

St Patrick's Planning Meeting, Church Hill

### May 25

FMS Marian Lecture, North Sydney

### June 5

MSA Regional Council, Mascot

### June 6

Province Finance Committee

### June 9

Professional Standards Meeting, Parkville

### June 10

Council of the Province

### June 12-13

MAP Meeting, Wellington

### June 14-15

Visit to Formation House, Auckland

### June 20

Provincial Council Meeting

### June 23-25

"Care for Soul" Retreat, Mittagong

## Appointments

**Aidan Carvill:** appointed superior of the Herston community for 12 months as from 1 January 2017

**Charles Randle:** appointed vice superior of the Herston community for 12 months as from 1 January 2017

## Personnel

**Andrew Murray** will be attending the Melanesian Association of Theological Schools annual conference as keynote speaker, 11 – 13 July 2017, at Bomana.

**Gerald Arbuckle** has the book launch of his new publication, Intentional Faith Communities in Catholic Education, on May 4 at Polding House in Sydney, and is also a speaker and panelist at the annual Broken Bay E Conference on 10 August. The topic is "Gospel Leadership in Times of Chaos", and he will be sharing the lectern with luminaries such as Prof. Massimo Faggioli, former Premier Bob Carr, and Paul Kelly, editor in chief of The Australian.

**Paul Glynn** left for New Zealand on April 21 for this year's Eucharistic Convention to be held in Auckland over the Divine Mercy weekend. Paul spent much of the convention time making the Sacrament of Reconciliation available to participants, encouraged, as he says,

by **Pope Francis'** invitation to celebrate this sacrament well and in the spirit of the Divine Mercy devotion.

**Justin Taylor**, Marist confrere, and biographer of Jean Claude Colin, was in Sydney midway through March, enjoying the hospitality and company of the confreres at Maryvale/Montbel.

On Mar 16 he gave a talk to Hunters Hill Marists and others from around Sydney. Whilst in Sydney Justin examined pictorial resources to provide visual enhancement for the Marist Founder's definitive biography.

The book is likely to be published in 2018. Justin returned to Auckland, NZ, on Mar 18 to resume pre-publication work.

## Deaths

**Br Edward Jones sm, d. 8.3.2017, Wellington, NZ**

**Fr Piet van der Aart sm, d.21.3.2017, Terneuzen, Netherlands.**

**Fr Nicolas Wagner sm, d.23.3.2017, Bourail, New Caledonia.**

**Betty Mahony**, Paul's mother, died in Tamworth on 25 February and was buried from St Nicolas church, Tamworth, on 6 March.

**Etienne Melteras**, Willy's father, died in Vanuatu early in March; Willy was able to return home for the funeral.

**Harry Ryder**, Bill's brother died in Townsville on 1 Apr; Bill attended the burial in Brisbane on Apr 7.

**Sr Imelda Gain RSM**, who was on the staff at Marist College, Burnie, died early in April.

**Shirley Campbell**, Br Colin's sister in law, died on 8 April and was buried from Holy Family church, Maroubra, on 19 April.

**Carmen Testa**, a tower of strength in the West Sunshine parish, died in Melbourne on 11 April.



## Sick

**John Thornhill** had surgery for a skin graft on his leg at the SAN Hospital, Wahroonga, on 3 March.

**J.V. Walsh** was admitted to Royal North Shore hospital on 3 March and was receiving medical attention for several days.

**Charlie Randle** spent a couple of days in hospital following a loss of consciousness on March 16. He has bounced back, and was in good form when he visited Sydney over the Easter period.

**Syd Nugent** was in Royal North Shore hospital for a period of time from 20 March, recovering from a chest infection.

**Kevin Bates** had hip replacement surgery at the Mater private hospital at North Sydney on 3 April, and following a couple of weeks of rehabilitation at Hunters Hill Private hospital, he is now back at home, but still in recovery mode for a little while yet.

## News

**Tables from the Shed:** The Villa Maria community has a set of new circular dining room tables, crafted by members of the nearby Men's Shed. Opened in the monastery grounds five years ago, the Shed attracts local men on Mondays and Wednesdays, producing a range of handicrafts, and providing a context for companionship and conversation.

### **MCC immersion success:**

Enthusiastic feedback from the Marist Charism & Culture immersion event confirmed the success of the initiative for school personnel to share Marist vision and values. The latest Immersion Experience was held at Villa Maria, 5-9 March, and was led by Glenn Roff, Kim Evans, and Gerard Hall.

The fifteen participants were from Marist-founded schools: **St John's College**, Woodlawn, NSW, **Holy**



Left: 'Knights of the round tables' from the Men's Shed.

Below: Glenn Roff leads an MCC session in the Woodbury Hall



**Spirit College**, Bellambi, NSW, and **Marist Regional College**, Burnie, Tas.

After their five-day gathering at Villa Maria, participants were unanimous about their positive experience. The next immersion will be held in late July.

**Council of the Province:** There will be a Council of the Province meeting on Saturday 10 June. The date was originally set when it was envisaged that a Council of the Province meeting would be useful in assisting the Provincial and Council to make a final decision as to whether to proceed with the amalgamation proposal with the District of Asia.

However the feedback from the regional meetings held earlier in the year was so clear as to enable the Provincial Council to decide by April that we would not be proceeding. It was nevertheless decided to continue with a meeting of the Council of the Province. Among

other things, there are some important governance issues which need to be addressed.

Attending the Council will be: Provincial, Vicar Provincial, Gary Reynolds, Paul Sullivan, Gavin Foster (all *ex officio*), and Michael Whelan, Bernard McFadyen, James Carty, Paul Mahony, Gerard Hall, Andrew Murray (all elected). Gerard Hall will be attending as both an elected member and also representing the Formation/Vocations committee.

The other committee with *ex officio* representation is the Finance committee, but according to Marist legislation, only professed Marists can be members of the Council, which precludes the attendance of Tony Biddle, who is currently Finance committee chairman. However, Andrew Biddle will join the Council meeting at an appropriate point to give a financial report.

## Oceania Province Finance

**Committee:** In the first week of May the Finance Committee of the Oceania Province is holding its annual review meeting at Villa Maria, hosted by Brian Wilson. Most of the participants will be flying in from the Pacific on the weekend before.

The visitors are not coming empty handed, bringing pizzas and red wine for a convivial gathering with the members of the Villa Maria community on the evening of Monday 1 May.

**High Spirits:** the elves and goblins working in the Provincial Administration building were in high spirits last week with the arrival of the team from Higgins Painting to re-paint the buildings on the Hunters Hill site. An alluring whiff of paint stripper and metho wafted through the Provincial offices, causing a lift in energy levels and an increased levity of spirit.

When they were last here, the corporate motto of Higgins Painting was the somewhat unfortunate "Whatever it Takes", evoking associations with the Melbourne Mafia; this time round they've adopted the move conservative "Better Painting Management", and we all feel a little safer.

## Marist Inner City Churches

**Network: Michael Whelan and Sr Fidelis** have taken to the skies to attend a gathering of representatives from 1-5 May in London. From NZ **Kevin Conroy** left during the week accompanied by a parishioner of St Mary of the Angels church in Wellington.

**Paul Sullivan** has asked for a little space to say a special word of thanks to Charlie Randle and Chris Ketsore for supporting the Marist Mission Centre annual 'bike ride' appeal. This year the appeal was called: 'Cycling for Children' and was directed to upgrading facilities and resources at the primary school and parish conducted by the Marist Fathers at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Kanosia, PNG.



The bike ride raised \$44,361 and plans are underway to upgrade facilities at the school. The local Marists are most grateful.

Congratulations to Charlie and Chris.

## Publications

**Gerry Arbuckle** has a second book coming out later in the year. The details are: Gerald Arbuckle, [Fundamentalism at Home and Abroad](#), Liturgical Press, Collegeville, 2017. A pre-publication blurb describes Gerry, for better or for worse, as a "veteran cultural anthropologist".

**Tom Ryan** has contributed a chapter to a book for publication this year: 'The Positive Function of Shame: Moral and Spiritual Perspectives' in E. Vanderheiden, C.-H. Mayer (Eds.), *The Value of Shame: Exploring a Health Resource in Cultural Contexts* (Springer International Publishing AG 2017).

## Advertising

### Jubilarians' Celebration 2017 - Mea

**Culpa:** apologies to Lou Molloy who was inadvertently left off the list of jubilarians for this year. The complete list is:

#### 60 years

J V Walsh 4.1.1957  
L .Molloy 13.12.1957

#### 50 years

C. Austin 1.7.1967  
A. Corcoran 19.8.1967  
J. Jago 19.8.1967

#### 25 years

A Kennedy 1.8.1992

If Lou was susceptible to conspiracy theories, he may think that someone is out to get him. Last year we accidentally disenfranchised him in the initial consultation for the Council of the Province election, and now this latest glitch. Just a reminder that the Jubilarians' Mass and Dinner this year is at Hunters Hill on Friday 10 November, with the Mass commencing in Holy Name of Mary church at 5.15pm. Acceptance forms will be sent out within the next month or so.

**Provincial Retreats:** Dates and arrangements for this year's Provincial retreats are as follows: Sunday November 5- Friday November 10 at Maryvale/Montbel; Sunday November 12 – Friday November 17 at St Joseph's Retreat and Conference Centre at Kincumber.

Booking forms and further information will be sent out later in the year, but those interested might like to pencil in the dates in their diaries. Both retreats will be preached by **Fr Michael Fallon MSC**, who will speak on St John of the Cross.

### Prayers and Rituals relating to Child

**Sexual Abuse:** If any confreres have come across prayers or rituals relating to Child Sexual Abuse, Peter McMurrich would be happy to receive copies; we would like to provide some resources for use in the Province later in the year.

### Payment of stipends for Mass

**supply:** confreres providing supply in parishes and who live in a Marist community should receive their cheque made out to their community rather than made out to the individual. Payment for supply work is not personal income, and to treat it as such is contrary to the taxation laws.

**Travel Insurance:** The Province has an arrangement for comprehensive travel insurance with CCI, so you don't need to organise other insurance cover when you are travelling overseas. But you must notify Andrew Biddle of your trip so



that he can register you under our policy for the time you are away. The policy also covers domestic air travel, but specific notification is not required for domestic travel.

### **Mother Of God 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

Members of the Province, and especially those who have worked in West Sunshine, are invited to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations on Sunday 21 May, starting with Mass at 10.30am.

When the present church was blessed and opened, Jack Flannery was the parish priest of West Sunshine, but John Ryan was largely responsible for the church construction and for the pastoral care of the Ardeer area.

The Ardeer section of the West Sunshine parish was transferred to the parish of Albion in 1974. The anniversary celebration on May 21 will also recognise the presence of the Brigidines in the Ardeer area for the last 60 years.

Individual invitations have been sent to Marists with a history in the area –the RSVP is to (03) 9311 3091 or [caalbion@netspace.net.au](mailto:caalbion@netspace.net.au). If you're going, don't forget to arrange your professional standards clearance in good time.

**National Broadband Network:** this continues to be rolled out progressively. When it's coming to a street near you, you will get a letter about signing on. Andrew suggests you contact him as soon as you receive your letter, and discuss your best option for a provider.

There is a website where you can find out when the NBN is coming to your suburb ([http://](http://www.nbnco.com.au/connect-home-or-business/check-your-address.html)

[www.nbnco.com.au/connect-home-or-business/check-your-address.html](http://www.nbnco.com.au/connect-home-or-business/check-your-address.html)). The website tells us that the NBN is coming to Hunters Hill sometime between July – December, 2018.



### **Provincial Directory**

**John Hopkinson** – The email address published for John in the latest Provincial Directory, with the “superhero” host, is a dead duck. This is the second year running that John has been a victim of a stuff-up with his address in the Directory. His current email address is: [johnhopkinson@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:johnhopkinson@yahoo.com.mx)

Please note **J V Walsh's** new address:

J V Walsh  
28 McAuley Place  
Waitara NSW 2077  
Ph 1800 551 834  
Room details: NC 04W

### **Provincial Council**

Provincial Council meetings for the remainder of this year are:

**May 15-16 at Currumbin**

**[MAP 12-13 June, NZ]**

**Jun 20**

**Jul 18**

**Aug 15**

**Sep 12**

**[General Chapter 20 Sep – 11 Oct]**

**Oct 17**

**Nov 21**

**Dec 19**

### **Other Provinces**

#### **New Zealand – St Mary of the**

**Angels:** St Mary of the Angels church in Wellington, closed for several years for earthquake strengthening, has reopened just in time for the Easter ceremonies. The earthquake reinforcing cost 10 million dollars, yet a visitor would see very little that looks different.

All the work done is “behind the scenes”, and the church has been literally taken apart and rebuilt according to the current earthquake resistance codes. It is now reputed to be one of the safest places in Wellington during an earthquake.





## 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:

**May 7-10**

Michael Mullins

**May 13-17**

Provincial Council – all of Currumbin

**May 18-Jun 19**

Garry Reynolds

**Jun 23-Jul 4**

Ray Chapman

**July 5 - 5**

Gavin Foster

**Jul 16-Aug 4**

Bob Barber

**Aug 25-Sep 9**

Peter McMurrich

**Sep 20-Oct 12**

Tom Fulcher.

## Web site passwords

### General Admin

Login 'sm'

Password 'colin'

### Australian Province\*

Login 'newsletter' or 'circular'

Password 'colin'

*(either combination works)*

*\*Our 'Members only' section gives easy access to Provincial Circulars, Superior-General's letters and other goodies*

## JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

### Bridge Program success

Congratulations to Thae Thae, Thoo Lei and Hay Mann (*pictured right*) BP-ers from 2016 and 2016-17 who are amongst the forty young Burmese selected by Australian Catholic University from two hundred and fifty applicants for their 2017-18 course on the Thai-Burma border.



*Right:* BP-ers from the two groups celebrate the end of their programs in Maesot, Thailand.

*Below:* MMC-funded 'Bridge Program in Myanmar Project' is now under way with its first lot of assignments and Skype group video chat sessions.





And also...



*Clockwise from top left:*

- 'House of Welcome' community, Rosalie
- Br Colin Campbell's 95th birthday, Montbel
- Kevin Redmond at La Neylière
- Marist Charism & Culture group, HNM church
- Paul Glynn's persimmon crop: 'forbidden fruit'
- Tony Kennedy and Tony Corcoran in Rome: front-liners on the preparatory committee for the General Chapter

