

Bishop, and Bernie McFadyen each spent 11 years on the staff at the college as well as some years in the parish.

Former Marist Regional College students who have gone on to the priesthood are **Fr Bernard McKenna** (1978), **John**



Girdauskas (1983), **Michael Jacques** (1988) and **Kevin Redmond** (2005).

In the time the Marists have been in the parish there have been seven popes and four Tasmanian Archbishops.



Our fore-fathers worked under trying conditions with little funds, to provide places of worship and education for future generations. The Marists have helped us build on that foundation. Today we have excellent schools and churches.

Members of the Marist Order have baptised, confirmed, ministered to, married, anointed, buried and educated many people in their 57 years in the Burnie-Wynyard Parish. They have prayed, worked, cried, laughed, dined, anguished and rejoiced with us.

The Society of Mary members promise to undertake all ministerial works in parishes, schools, hospital chaplaincies and foreign missions while stressing the virtues of the Virgin Mary. They have fulfilled that promise in this parish. To them we owe a debt of gratitude.

As they come to the end of their ministry in the Burnie-Wynyard parish we pray God will guide them as they follow in the footsteps of the founder Jean-Claude Colin, who has Mary as his model.

And let us remember as we face the future of the Burnie-Wynyard Parish:

"In every ending, God calls us to new beginnings."

PARISH VISION STATEMENT:

To be a welcoming, caring parish where God is alive in each of us. To go forward with commitment, courage and love. To fulfil the needs of ALL the people.

Acknowledgements

Stella Maris News 1959 - 1971

**Heritage and Memories
Portrait of Australian Marists
1845-2001**

In Touch Magazine 1982 - 1987

**A History of the Star of the Sea Church
by Sally Innes-Wayling**

**St Mary's Star of the Sea
Church Archives**

The Star 1999 - 2013

November 2013

Marist Ministry Burnie-Wynyard Parish



1956 — 2013

Assistant Marist Priests appointed to Burnie-Wynyard Parish 1956 - 2013

1956	<i>Vincent McCabe, John Gorinski</i>
1957	<i>Vincent McCabe, John Hill</i>
1958-1960	<i>Vincent McCabe, Leon Dowden</i>
1961	<i>Leon Dowden, Peter Hannah, Con Hooymayers, Pat McCabe</i>
1962-1964	<i>J V Walsh, Allan Russell</i>
1965	<i>Anthony Loft, Allan Russell, Brian Conaghan</i>
1966	<i>Allan Russell, Brian Conaghan</i>
1967-1968	<i>Denis Donovan, Brian Conaghan</i>
1969	<i>Denis Donovan, Brian Conaghan, Des Bruton</i>
1970	<i>Denis Donovan, John Hyde</i>
1971	<i>John Ryan, Ted Kelly, John Hyde</i>
1972	<i>David Wilson, Ted Kelly, John Hyde</i>
1973	<i>J V Walsh, Ted Kelly, John Hyde</i>
1974-1975	<i>J V Walsh, Denis Donovan, John Hyde</i>
1976	<i>J V Walsh, Denis Donovan, Tom Ryan</i>
1977	<i>Tom Ryan, Denis Donovan</i>
1978	<i>Tom Ryan, Denis Donovan, Laurie Whiting</i>
1979	<i>Tom Ryan, Bernard McKenna</i>
1980	<i>Bernard McKenna, Laurie Whiting</i>
1981	<i>Ron Josephs, John Hopkinson</i>
1982	<i>Paul Cooney, Jim Soorley</i>
1983	<i>Paul Cooney</i>
1984	<i>Paul Cooney, Albert Agius</i>
1985	<i>Maurie Walsh, Pat Kervin</i>
1986	<i>Chris Carlile, Pat Kervin</i>
1987	<i>Chris Carlile</i>
1988	<i>Chris Carlile, John Burns</i>
1989	<i>John Burns</i>
1990-1991	<i>Peter Eastwick</i>
1992	<i>Michael Carroll, Paul Pearce</i>
1993	<i>Michael Carroll</i>
1994-2003	<i>No Assistant/s</i>
2004-2006	<i>Garry Reynolds</i>
2007-2010	<i>Ron Josephs</i>
2011-2013	<i>Fred Kado</i>

Australia. After studies in Ireland he joined the staff of the Marist Seminary in Auckland New Zealand from 2007 to 2009. He took up his position as parish priest in the Burnie-Wynyard parish at the commencement of 2010. His assistant for the first 12 months was **Fr Ron Josephs** who left the parish at the end of 2010 for retirement in Sydney. Sadly he passed away in February 2012. **Fr Fred Kado** replaced *Fr Ron*.

Sr Kathlyn O'Brien left Burnie in March 2011, ending 110 years of the Sisters of Mercy's presence in the parish. Each of the Catholic schools in the parish have had new facilities constructed and renovated and blessed in recent years by Archbishop Doyle and Fr Tony.

A conversation was initiated about the future of the Burnie-Wynyard parish in October 2011. With the decline in the number of available priests, limited finances, increasing need for maintenance of our properties and growing numbers of aging parishioners, Fr Tony sought the views of parishioners about the way forward. A range of views were received and these were further discussed at a parish assembly in March 2012.

The historical significance of the Star of the Sea Church and the original Stella Maris Primary School building were recognised when they were added to the Tasmanian Heritage Register in 2013. St Brigid's Church and Presbytery in Wynyard and St Joseph's Church in Yolla were already listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

Our parish celebrated the centenary of St Brigid's Church in 2012. A number of events were held throughout the year to

commemorate such a significant occasion. To name a few: there was a pilgrimage to the Star of the Sea Church at Stanley; a mass was held to celebrate the many marriages that have taken place at St Brigid's Church along with a photo display attracting numerous comments about the changing fashions; and parishioners attended a centenary dinner. It was a special time of community.

In December 2012 it was announced that the Marists Fathers would withdraw from the parish at the end of 2013. This called for a further parish assembly in May 2013 to explore the way forward as there will be only one parish priest to minister in the Burnie-Wynyard area.

Archbishop Adrian Doyle retired and Bishop Julian Porteous was installed as the 11th Archbishop of Hobart in September 2013. One of his first decisions was to appoint Fr John Girdauskas as the next parish priest. Fr John will take up office on January 1, 2014. As an indicator of the times, he is also responsible for the West Coast parish.

In 2014, Fr Tony will join the staff of Marist College in Suva, Fiji, (the formation house for the Marists in the Pacific) and Fr Fred will join the team at St Patrick's Church Hill in Sydney.

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Since Marist College opened its doors in 1959 many Marist Fathers and Brothers have served our local community. In that time 54 priests, 9 brothers and some seminarians were on the staff of the College.

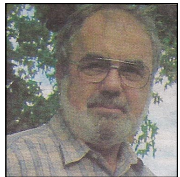
Br Jim Purcell (37 years) and *Fr Geoff Till* (16 years) spent the most years on the College staff. Fathers *John Burns*, Jim

Archbishop D'Arcy retired in July 1999. He died in 2005. Archbishop Adrian Doyle was installed in August 1999. The Sisters of Mercy celebrated 100 year's presence in the parish and Sacred Heart Church, Somerset celebrated its centenary in 2000. St Joseph's Church, Yolla celebrated 75 years in 2002.

Due to a spate of vandalism Fr Robert installed a security system to the church and presbytery at Star of the Sea and it was the first time the church doors were locked in the daytime. He also installed the electronic bells. He celebrated 10 years of his ordination while in Burnie.

The framework for combining the Burnie and Wynyard parishes had been laid down when Fr Robert left for his new appointment in Blackall, Qld, at the end of 2002.

2003 - 2009



FR JIM CARTY sm held the fort until **FR BERNIE MCFADYEN sm** returned at the end of April 2003. He faced the mammoth task of

combining the Burnie and Wynyard parishes. That took place on November 27, 2005 and Archbishop Adrian Doyle

officially blessed the new parish of Burnie-Wynyard. **Fr Garry Reynolds** assisted Fr Bernie from 2004 until **Fr Ron Josephs** replaced him in 2006.



In July 2004 three significant anniversaries occurred. *Fr Joseph Howe*, who purchased in 1955, the land where Marist

Regional College is built, celebrated his diamond jubilee, *Fr Gerard Sheedy* who was born in Burnie and ordained here celebrated his golden anniversary and Fr Bernie 40 years of priesthood. In November that year *Fr Joseph Medwin* passed away.

In 2006, the parish celebrated 50 years of Marist ministry and 12 months of the formation of the Burnie-Wynyard Parish. St Brigid's School celebrated its 85th year of presence in Wynyard in 2008 and the Little Company of Mary Sisters left the area after nearly 49 years in the parish, 27 of which were spent in home nursing. Later that year Fr John Girdauskas celebrated 25 years of priesthood. Little did we realise then that he would become our parish priest in 2014!

The parish gathered at Marist Regional College in February 2009 to acknowledge 50 years of Marist education in Burnie.

Once again Fr Bernie prepared to leave the Burnie-Wynyard Parish at the end of 2009 to take up a position in Gladstone. Parishioners farewelled him with fondness and welcomed the new parish priest, Fr Tony Kennedy sm.

2010-2013

FR TONY KENNEDY sm



was born in April 1962 in Gunnedah NSW. He received primary education at St Xavier's School at Gunnedah and attended St John's College Woodlawn NSW

for his secondary education. After his ordination in Gunnedah in 1992 he served in a number of parishes throughout

Marist Priests appointed to Burnie-Wynyard Parish 1956 - 2013

1956-1959	<i>Fr John Smith</i>
1959	<i>Fr John Smith / Fr Michael O'Halloran</i>
1960-1964	<i>Fr Michael O'Halloran</i>
1965-1970	<i>Fr Tom Maloney</i>
1971-1973	Fr Frank Callanan
1974-1975	<i>Fr John McMillan</i>
1976-1980	<i>Fr John Ryan</i>
1981	Fr Jim Bishop (Acting)
1982-1987	Fr Jim Bishop
1987-1988	<i>Fr Terry McCosker</i>
1989	Fr Chris Carlile (Administrator)
1990-1996	Fr Bernie McFadyen
1997-2002	Fr Robert Hollow
2003 (Jan-Apr)	Fr Jim Carty
2003-2009	Fr Bernie McFadyen
2010-2013	Fr Tony Kennedy

Names of deceased priests have been italicised
(as at 14 November 2013)

Introduction

When the Marist Fathers were asked to assume responsibility for the parish of Burnie in 1956, they found a well-established faith community built by people with determination and foresight. The Burnie parish encompassed Somerset, Ridgley, Elliott and Natone with churches in Burnie, Somerset and Ridgley and educational facilities in Burnie. Land had been purchased for the purpose of building a Catholic secondary boy's boarding college in Burnie to cater for children from Circular Head, West Coast and Penguin areas. Land was also available to build a church hall at Montello. There was a great need for maintenance and expansion of existing buildings. The challenge was huge and the bank balance small. The following is a brief history of the cooperation which existed between the clergy and laity in the 57 years of Marist ministry in the Burnie-Wynyard Parish.

* * * * *

1956–1959

FR JOHN SMITH *sm*



became the first Marist parish priest to minister to the faithful in the Burnie parish. He took over on St Patrick's Day, 1956. He was born at Bangalow NSW on February 16, 1918 and completed his secondary education at St John's College, Lismore. He was ordained in 1944 after studying for the priesthood at the Marist Seminary, Toongabbie, NSW. He died on November 9, 1997 and is buried in the lawn cemetery at Macquarie Park, NSW.

On his first official day at St Mary's Star of the Sea *Fr Smith* was confronted by a deluge of water flooding the church, emanating from a burst water pipe on the hill at the rear of the property. He was seen, with his assistant, **Fr Vin McCabe**, trousers rolled to their knees, with buckets and mops cleaning up the mess. (A true baptism of water!)

During his time in Burnie the verandah

was removed from the front of the presbytery and a new brick work extension added to provide additional space for the increased number of resident priests. A new kitchen was added at the rear. Work also commenced on the new Marist College on 50 acres of land at Parklands, purchased by *Fr Joseph Howe* in 1955 from the VDL Co. for £100,000. In 1958 the planned giving envelopes became a routine part of Sunday Masses.

Fathers John Gorinski, Leon Dowden and John Hill also assisted *Fr Smith*.

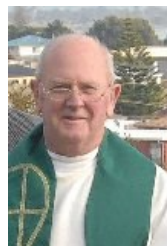
Marist College was officially opened on November 15, 1959 with an enrolment of 90 boys attending 1st and 2nd year classes. **Fr H Davis *sm*** was rector.

During *Fr Smith's* residency the crying room was added to the church and access to the presbytery was via stairs in that room. The old fireplace and chimney were removed from the western wing of the church and replaced by new confessionals. A wider concrete driveway was poured and the stone grotto in the front garden was constructed.

lower car parks sealed and the toilet facilities in the church grounds upgraded. He loved to play rugby and often said mass with a black eye or broken ribs.

Fr Chris was transferred to the Philippines at the end of 1989.

1990-1996



The next Marist priest to take over the reins was **FR BERNIE MCFADYEN *sm*** who was a familiar face to many. He had been in the parish before — on the staff at Marist Regional College for 11 years. He was deputy principal during the 1980's. Fr Bernie celebrated 25 years as a Marist in July 1990.

Yaraandoo, the Southern Cross Care Home for the Aged, opened in December in 1990. Fr Bernie, with the assistance of **Fr Peter Eastwick**, supervised the centenary celebrations for St Mary's Star of the Sea in 1991. To mark the occasion a concelebrated mass was offered with *Archbishop D'Arcy* the principal celebrant assisted by **Fathers Joe Howe, Vince McCabe, Maurie Walsh, Peter Eastwick, Bernard McKenna, Gerard Sheedy and John Girdauskas**.

Near the end of 1991 the Mercy Sisters moved to a private residence in Kalina Crescent, Burnie. The following year Centacare occupied part of the old convent building. **Fathers Michael Carroll and Paul Pearce** were assisting Fr Bernie in 1992.

The first edition of the new parish magazine *The Star*, rolled off the press in

1995 and the Parish Vision Statement was developed by the Parish Council in 1996. In May that year all Tasmanians were saddened by the Port Arthur tragedy.

St Anne's Church and School building was sold in June 1996 and the Little Company of Mary ceased their nursing service on the North West Coast.

Fr Bernie received news of his appointment to West Sunshine at the end of 1996. A large crowd gathered at Marist Regional College in November for a concelebrated mass to farewell Fr Bernie and welcome the new pastor, Fr Robert Hollow. Afterwards parishioners enjoyed a smorgasbord dinner. Fr Bernie left in January 1997.

1997 - 2002

FR ROBERT HOLLOW *sm*



was born in Western Australia where he obtained his education. He joined the Marist Seminary in Sydney in 1979 and spent time,

before his ordination, teaching at Marist Regional College, Burnie and other Catholic schools. He was ordained in his home parish of Belmont-Redcliffe, WA in September 1989 after which he continued teaching until being offered a position assisting at West Sunshine. His appointment to Burnie was his first as parish priest. Fr Hollow carried out his duties in the parish without an assistant, as had Fr Bernie for the last three years of his tenure.

During Fr Robert's ministry Holy Rosary Church Ridgley closed in June 1999.

photographic display and special school performances.

New confessionals were built, floors were re-sanded and new blue carpet was laid in the aisles in 1986. The vestry was refurbished with new robes, the sanctuary repainted and finally speakers and heaters were installed.

In 1987 two plaques were placed in the foyer of Star of the Sea Church to mark two significant historical moments for the parish. One was to celebrate the 56 years of faithful service in the parish by Archpriest Patrick Hayes from 1898 to 1954. The other was to celebrate the official opening of St Mary's Star of the Sea in January 1891. Just prior to Fr Bishop's departure, he organised carpeting of the parish meeting room (now the office) and the installation of toilet and catering facilities.

1988

FR TERRY McCOSKER sm



replaced Fr Jim in 1988. His home town was Tenterfield NSW. He and his twin brother Tony, entered the seminary

at Toongabbie, NSW in 1969. They both were ordained in 1977. **Fathers Chris Carlile** and **John Burns** assisted *Fr Terry*. He arrived in time to witness the completion of major restoration work on the church which consisted of repairing the back wall and foyer areas and replacing weathered bricks, grouting and jointing work. This was the first time any major work had been undertaken on the

brickwork and it required the skills of highly trained craftsmen who sourced bricks from the old Burnie Council Chambers and had some especially made by a firm at Dulverton. When the work was completed the finished product appeared the same as the original brickwork laid in 1890.

In March 1988 *Sir Guilford Clyde Young*, after 30 years as Archbishop of Hobart, died in Melbourne. He was succeeded by *Archbishop Joseph Eric D'Arcy*. On September 8 that year, Michael Jacques, a former Marist student, was ordained at the Burnie Civic Centre watched by family and friends from all over Australia.

Prior to his arrival in Burnie, *Fr Terry* underwent surgery for a malignant melanoma. Unfortunately he was only in Burnie for a short time before it was discovered he had another melanoma. After further surgery he underwent a long period of treatment in Sydney. His acceptance of his illness was a source of great encouragement to those who knew him. He died on February 7, 1989 at St John's Hospital, Auburn, NSW. A Requiem Mass was concelebrated at Star of the Sea on February 14, in memory of *Fr Terry*, led by *Archbishop Eric D'Arcy* assisted by priests from all over Australia. *Fr Terry's* family members attended.

1989

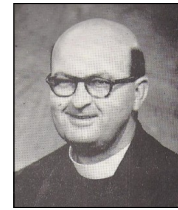


Newly ordained **FR CHRIS CARLILE sm** was appointed parish administrator and, with the assistance of **Fr John Burns**, had the upper and

Renovations to Sacred Heart Church, Somerset commenced in 1959. Later that year *Fr Smith* was transferred to Gladstone, Qld.

1959–1964

FR MICHAEL O'HALLORAN sm



arrived in 1959 and stayed until 1965. He was born at Temora, NSW, on August 9, 1919, and received secondary education from the Marist

Brothers in Sydney. He entered the Marist Seminary at Toongabbie in 1939 after working for three years with the AMP Society and was ordained in 1946. He died on January 7, 1990 and is buried at Macquarie Park Lawn Cemetery, NSW.

During his tenure at Burnie, *Fr O'Halloran* was assisted by **Fathers Vin McCabe, Leon Dowden, Peter Hannah, Con Hoymayers, Pat McCabe, J V Walsh and Allan Russell**.

At the commencement of the 1960 school year, 80 boarders were registered at Marist College and 85 day students. The following year 210 boys were enrolled and six new classrooms had been erected.

Renovations continued at Sacred Heart, Somerset and *Archbishop Guildford Young* blessed the newly refurbished building in March 1960.

A much needed church and school were opened at Montello in 1961. With an enrolment of 61 students at St Anne's, overcrowding at Stella Maris was greatly relieved.

The parish canvas continued. *Fr O'Halloran* asked the St Vincent de Paul Society to provide volunteers as readers, collectors and ushers when necessary, at Sunday Masses.

Fr O'Halloran supervised sanding and varnishing of the pews at Star of the Sea and a beautiful new blue carpet was laid near the Fatima altar and a new circular tabernacle, donated by the Bagley family, was installed. In 1964 the stained glass windows, donated by *Fr Patrick Hayes* in memory of his parents, were floodlit from outside. On August 3 that year, the last public Latin Mass was offered and the first mass in English was said on August 9.

The *Stella Maris News*, from which much of this information comes, was commenced by *Fr O'Halloran*. It sold for five pence and continued until 1972.

1965-1970

FR TOM MALONEY sm



was the next Marist to serve as parish priest. He was born in Lismore NSW in 1921 and ordained at St Patrick's Church Hill in 1948. He was awarded the Order

of Australia Medal in 2007 for his great hospital work. He died on July 6, 2010.

His assistants while at Burnie were **Fathers Alan Russell, Anthony Loft, Brian Conaghan, Denis Donovan, Des Bruton and John Hyde**.

In 1965 work commenced on a new Stella Maris Regional Girls' College on land adjacent to Marist College. The college would provide secondary education for

girls from Burnie, Wynyard, Smithton and Penguin with classes from 1st year to matriculation. Mercy nuns and Marist priests would share teaching duties. *Archbishop Guildford Young* opened and blessed the college in June 1966.

The first concelebrated mass at St Mary's Star of the Sea was offered in July 1966, to commemorate 150 years of the Society of Mary.

In February 1967 *Fr Maloney* celebrated 25 years as a priest and later he was elected to the Senate of Priests to assist the Archbishop in administration of the Church in Tasmania. That same year the parish agreed to continuation of the planned giving program for another three years.

1969 saw the introduction of the first parish council with a membership of 26. Sunday religious instructions for children attending state schools in the area, started at St Anne's and Star of the Sea.

After five years of hard work in the parish, *Fr Maloney* was transferred to Ashgrove at the end of 1970. He was farewelled at Breckenborough in December and his replacement, *Fr Frank Callanan*, was welcomed.

1971–1973

FR FRANK CALLANAN sm



Wilson and J V Walsh.

was no stranger as he had been in the parish before as a teacher at Marist College. His assistants were **Fathers John Ryan, Ted Kelly, John Hyde, David**

Amalgamation of the girls' and boys' secondary colleges was on the drawing board. In 1972 that plan became a reality and thus was born Marist Regional College which catered for male and female secondary students from West Coast, Circular Head, Ulverstone and Burnie areas.

1974–1975

FR JOHN McMILLAN sm



arrived in 1974 but he only stayed for two years due to ill-health. *Fr John* was ordained in 1950 and spent time in secondary education

and parish work and later became involved with hospital and chaplaincy ministries. He died in Sydney on October 9, 2013 and is buried at Macquarie Park Cemetery NSW. **Fathers J V Walsh, Denis Donovan and John Hyde** assisted *Fr McMillan*.

During *Fr McMillan's* stay the old organ and choir box at the rear of Star of the Sea were removed and replaced with a new electronic organ in the west wing. In July 1974, headlines in the *Stella Maris News* indicated the parish debt was in the order of \$62,000. Parishioners were asked to lend money directly to the church and be paid the same interest as the banks did. This began the School's Provident Fund.

Solemn High Mass was celebrated at Holy Rosary Ridgley in the newly renovated church followed by a dance in the Ridgley Hall.

Fr McMillan also set in motion the groundwork for a new primary school in Futuna Avenue. Stella Maris School celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1975. Marist Regional College ceased to accommodate boarders.

In that same year the main altar at Star of the Sea was re-floored, the altar rails removed and a new pulpit erected.

1976–1980

FR JOHN RYAN sm



became the sixth Marist parish priest appointed to Burnie. He was born in 1928 in Lismore, NSW, and received secondary education at St John's College there. He worked for a year as a book-keeper in a store in Grafton, NSW. His priesthood studies commenced in 1952 and he was ordained in Sydney in December 1957. He was assistant in Burnie in 1971 and returned in 1976 as parish priest. He died suddenly in San Remo in June 1994 and is buried in Goonellabah lawn cemetery, Lismore, NSW.

During his term at Burnie he was assisted by **Fathers J V Walsh, Denis Donovan, John Hyde, Tom Ryan, Laurie Whiting and Bernard McKenna.**

In June 1977 the first sod was turned for the new Stella Maris School in Futuna Ave. Work commenced in July that year and the estimated cost was \$717,323. The school was officially opened in June 1978. St Anne's Montello closed and students were transferred to the new school.

One of the most upsetting tasks for *Fr*

John was dealing with vandalised windows at Star of the Sea in 1978. Fortunately the stained glass windows were left intact.

For several years it looked as if St Mary's Star of the Sea, Stella Maris School, the convent and presbytery would have to move to make way for the second stage of the new Burnie highway. The property went to auction in 1979 but the reserve price was not met so plans for a new church near Marist Regional College, were scrapped. Catholics and local historians breathed a sigh of relief that the church would be retained.

Fr John was transferred to West Sunshine in 1980.

1981–1987

FR JIM BISHOP sm



arrived in 1981 as acting parish priest and was appointed as parish priest in 1982.

His assistants were **Fathers Ron Josephs,**

John Hopkinson, Paul Cooney, Jim Soorley, Albert Agius, Maurie Walsh, Pat Kervin and Chris Carlile.

Fr Bishop supervised the upgrading of Star of the Sea. The old slate tile roof was replaced with galvanised iron tiles and the guttering and down-piping renewed. The crying room was converted into the Lady Chapel which was more convenient for weekday liturgies and later it was refurbished, painted, carpeted and curtained.

In 1983 the parish celebrated its centenary with a concelebrated mass,