



Provincial Circular

Marist Fathers Australian Province

Vol: 6/2012

Provincial:

Dear Confreres

Recently the College at Bellambi which we began as St Paul's College in 1962, celebrated its golden jubilee. Here is the homily I gave at the Mass.

BELLAMBI: 50 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Road to Damascus, Fourviere, Penola, Bellambi.

Our God is a universal God, but also a God who breaks into history and acts. God acts in particular times and places.

At Bethlehem, Jesus was born. He who is fully human and fully divine.

At Jerusalem, he rode into the city on a donkey. He died on the cross and broke through to new life. In Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit descended on Mary and the disciples to begin the Church.

On the road to Damascus, St Paul met the Risen Lord, and



from being a persecutor of Christians, he became Christianity's great teacher, preacher and missionary.

At Fourviere in the early 19th Century in a chapel overlooking the city of Lyons in France, Jean-Claude Colin with other seminarians pledged to begin the Marist project seeking to bring Christ to others in the gentle way of Mary.

At Penola in the 1860's, St Mary McKillop began her work of educating poor country children and so Penola became the cradle of the Sisters of St Joseph.

Here at Bellambi, 50 years ago, a project of Catholic education began. At first the Marist Fathers, and soon after the Srs of St Joseph founded St Paul's and Holy Cross Colleges for the education of the young people of the Illa-



warra. Holy Spirit College flowed from their joining together in 1983.

Today, we rejoice and give thanks to God for the blessings of these past 50 years. For all of us who are part of that story from the early days to today, whether as students, or staff, or as parents, who have sent your children here, this is a significant place. Even today, 42 years after I left school, this place still helps define who I am.

Of course, not every memory is a joyful one. One of my classmates, Ross Greenfield, died in a car accident about 9 months after we left St Paul's. I'm sure we all have a mixture of memories and emotions as we reflect back on the life of this college.

Yet, there is so much to be thankful for: the beauty of

the escarpment, the closeness of the sea, the spacious grounds, the dedicated teachers and staff, the joy of friendships, the thrill of learning, the ever-improving facilities, 'Fighting the Good Fight', 'Letting Christ's Light Shine', 'Living by the Truth'; belonging to a caring, loving, faith community; being an important part of the local Church and civic community of Wollongong; the treasuring of those who have been part of this community and have died.

St Paul in today's reading from Ephesians says: "May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him".

I pray, that God will give us all the wisdom and perception to cherish all that is good, both past and present, about this place. May God enliven our memories to recall the rich blessings we have received here.

Earlier in our celebration Jozo led us in the "Welcome to Country". God was present here from time immemorial, especially in the lives of the local aboriginal people who would have fished and hunted and cooked and danced and loved and nurtured their children over many generations.

Let us be grateful that for the past 50 years, this college, this community dedicated to Catholic education, has been so blessed.

Truly God is in this place. May Holy Spirit College long continue what those pioneering fathers, brothers, sisters, lay staff and parents began all those years ago.

Happy feast day to all for the Holy Name of Mary,

*Paul Cooney
Provincial*

12 September 20123

Provincial's Diary

September

- 18 Provincial Council
- 19 Towards Healing Consultative Panel
- 22 Mass for Sydney Religious, St Mary's Cathedral
- 23-28 Provincial Retreat
- 28 Jubilarians Mass & Dinner

October

- 5-8 General Finance Committee, Rome
- 10-17 Annual Review Consultation, Rome
- 24 Marist Family Leaders, Drummoyne
- 30 Provincial Council

Sick

Brian Conaghan

Brian was very ill a few weeks ago and had to be in hospital after collapsing at the end of Mass in Holy Name of Mary Church, Hunters Hill

with an aneurism in the stomach.

After some time at Royal North Shore Hospital he is now recuperating at Longueville Private Hospital.

Syd Nugent

Syd recently had successful knee replacement surgery at the Mater Hospital, Crows Nest. After some rehabilitation at Hunters Hill Private Hospital, he has now returned to Maryvale.

Kevin Bates

Kevin is recovering well and is now back on lighter duties at work after prostate and hernia surgery. He is grateful for all the prayers.

Chris Austin

Chris is making good progress in his recovery from severe stomach problems.

John Worthington

John had to be admitted to hospital in Istanbul, Turkey after collapsing there soon after arriving from Australia. He received excellent care and is making a good recovery.

Bob Barber and John are hoping for a less eventful time as they go next to the places of our Marist heritage in France.

Deaths

In recent times we have become aware of the deaths of the following:

Pat Ryder
nephew of Bill.

Tom Taylor
brother-in-law of Jack Soulsby.

Chris Brosnan
sister of Bernard.

Ken Press
who served Mass for many years at St Patrick's.

John Gahan
brother of Peter.

Mick McMahon
closely associated with Marist Regional College, Burnie.

Mary Casey
sister of Allan Russell.

Maria Rosa
sister of Mika Cilicewa.

Patricia Ritchie
benefactor of St Patrick's and Montbel.

John
nephew of Aliko Langi, who drowned while rock-fishing in Esprance, WA.

May all the faithful departed rest in peace.

News

Provincial Chapter

The Provincial Chapter was held at Hunters Hill from 2nd to 6th July. One day was an open day for all members of the province to discuss the Review of Governance taking place in the Society of Mary. The decisions and declarations at the Chapter were sent to the General Administration for ratification.

Apart from two proposed changes to our legislation which will need to be further discussed between the General and Provincial Administrations, the outcomes have all been approved.

Please find enclosed a copy of decision and declarations of the Chapter. A printed booklet which also covers the legislation changes will be sent when the legislation is finalised.

Election for Vicar Provincial

Peter McMurrich has been elected the Vicar Provincial of the Australian Province for a three-year term from 1st January 2013. We congratulate Peter and wish him well in a role that is already well known to him.



Fourviere Gathering Hunters Hill 22nd July 2012

This year's Fourviere celebration in the Hunters Hill parish hall on 22nd July was hosted by the Marist Sisters. The Mass and social gathering for members of the Marist Family branches attended by about 100 Marists

The event recalled the promise to form Mary's Society made by a dozen Marist aspirants at the shrine of Our Lady of Fourviere at Lyons, France, on 23rd July, 1816.

The Sisters theme— *'It's in our hands now'* - and the homily by Paul Cooney, pointed to Marists' contemporary challenge to bring Mary's gentle, humble and



compassionate spirit to bear in our outreach to today's poor, young, alienated and lonely.

New Marist Provincials

The Marist Brothers and the Marist Missionary Sisters recently announced new leadership appointments in their Australian regions. Both leaders are becoming leaders in regions that are undergoing re-structuring in their respective congregations.

Sister Jacinta Fidow SMSM, from Samoa, will become the leader of the Mission District of Australia, the region embracing Australia, PNG, Solomon Islands and Bangladesh. Sr Jacinta took office with a new team on 31st July.

Leading the Marist Brothers' Province of Australia will be Br Jeff Crowe FMS who takes office on 8th December 2012. The new province will bring together the provinces of Sydney and Melbourne.

Tollet painting of Marist Founder

In a couple of months the Society of Mary will begin a Colinian Year in which we seek to know better our founder Fr Jean-Claude Colin. The promotion of the cause of Fr Colin's beatification will be one of the major objectives of the year. A website devoted to Fr Colin, to be launched shortly, will be a major focus in promot-

ing the cause.

One small thing to be highlighted in the Colinian Year is the recently unearthed painting of Fr Colin by the renowned French artist, Jean Jules Antoine ("Tony") Tollet (1857-1953). Tollet did the painting from a rare photo of Fr Colin during the General Chapter of 1866. The painting lay hidden in the Colin museum at La Neyliere, central France, where Fr Colin lived his final years and where he is buried.

Tollet is acclaimed as one of the great artists of his time in France.

A copy of the Tollet painting is being sent to each confrere for possible framing and placing in our offices or rooms.

Divine Intervention?

A piece spotted in the Northern Star newspaper recently under the heading: Divine intervention may have helped play its part in these figures, was the following:

"A Catholic priest who was principal at St John's College, Woodlawn, has the best recorded bowling figures for the hundreds of cricketers who have taken the field for Lismore Workers since the club was established in 1963. Fr Bill Ryder bowled "little outswingers", according to the club president Bernie McDonald, and in one memorable afternoon in 1969-70 he took 9-9 in a second grade

match.

Fr Ryder is now a priest in Sydney but illness prevented him attending the Workers Cricket Club reunion on Saturday, 25th August."

Marists finish at Marymount

Confreres Paddy Stanley (European Province) and Josefo Logayau (Oceania) finished their programs at Marymount Centre, Castle Hill, on 28th July. They were among the 32 participants who this year took part in the "Journeying with New Members" and "New Life" programs at Marymount. Paddy will shortly return to his work in Ireland and Josefo to Marist College in Bomana (PNG).

Publications

There are a number of recent publications by members of the Province or from Marists from other provinces.

John Thornhill

Joy in Believing: How Vatican II changed our approach to God is a small volume by John Thornhill based on the Retreat which John gave to the Province in 2011. Published by the Emmaus Series this excellent and moderately priced book would be

a great Christmas gift to any fellow pilgrim. A copy is enclosed for each confrere. More copies are available from John for \$10 each.

Jan Snijders

Available from the Provincial Office at \$30 is *Mission too far...Pacific Commitment* by Fr Jan Snijders sm, published by ATF (Adelaide) as part of the Marist series. This is an excellent work which looks at the tremendous difficulties of establishing the Oceanian mission and the beginnings of the Marist congregation. Jan reveals many things about our beginnings and the roles of Colin and Pompallier in the founding of the Church in the south-west pacific.

The launch of Jan's book will be in March 2013 at St Patrick's, Sydney. We have only 20 copies at that low price.

Andrew Murray

ATF (Australian Theological Forum Press) will also be publishing Andrew Murray's *Essays in Philosophy and Christian Faith*, as part of

the Marist series. The launch of Andrew's book will be at the Catholic Institute of Sydney on 15th November at 5.15pm. All are welcome.

This work is made up of articles (sometimes controversial) that Andrew wrote for the Catholic Weekly over many years.

Gerry Arbuckle

Gerry Arbuckle is publishing *Humanizing Healthcare Reforms*, based on the Martin D'Arcy Memorial Lectures which Gerry gave at Oxford University in 2011. Gerry's work looks at the turmoil facing contemporary healthcare systems worldwide and argues that a values-based approach to healthcare is what is needed.

Bellambi Reunion

On the weekend of 8-9 September, celebrations took place to mark 50 years of Catholic Education at Bellambi. St Paul's College was founded by Frs Myles Gilmartin, John Walsh and Peter Graham in 1962. In 1966,

the Sisters of St Joseph began Holy Cross College on the same site, and the two colleges joined to form Holy Spirit College in 1983 with Bill Ryder as the first principal and Sr Maria Casey as deputy.

Almost 300 gathered for a celebratory dinner at the Fraternity Club on the Saturday night, with Michael Mullins telling some of the early St Paul's story. Bishop Peter Comensoli, an old-boy, prayed the grace.

In the Casey-Ryder Centre at the school on Sunday morning, the Eucharist was celebrated, with Paul Cooney as main celebrant. Deep gratitude was expressed for all that the pioneering religious, lay staff and parents had achieved.

Annual Review Consultation

This meeting between the General and his Council and the Major Superiors of the Society will take place in Rome from 10th to 17th October. For the third year in a row, it will be facilitated by our own Michael Mullins and

Jim Christie SJ. Bob Barber, as incoming Provincial, will also be present.



Bellambi 50 years celebration at Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow

Among the major issues to be addressed are: international formation, the review of governance and the review of Society finances. John Honner will be present at the meeting when it is dealing with the review of governance.

Marist Asia Pacific Spirituality and Lifestyle Program

Preparations continue for the next program at Hunters Hill. This year there will be one Filipino confrere and 10 or 11 from Oceania participating. The dates are 7th October to 12th December, with the team being Paul Sullivan and Setefano Mataele who is a provincial councillor in Oceania.

While Paul Sullivan is helping lead the program, Aliko Langi will be ministering at Macksville.

Provincial Retreat

22 confreres have so far booked for the Retreat to be held at Hunters Hill from 23rd to 28th September. Gerry Hall is the preacher and the theme is "Reflections on the Constitutions".

Advertisements

Currumbin & Bilgola Flats

The self-contained flat at **Currumbin** is available for bookings for Marists and their families. Bookings are made through Judy Saliba at the Provincial Office. Current bookings are:

9 Sep-22 Sep J Hargrave
 23 Sep-29 Sep S McMahon
 30 Sep-12 Oct P Cooney
 17 Oct-7 Nov T Fulcher
 8-19 Nov T Ryan
 20-30 Nov P McMurrich
 26 Dec—7 Jan M Carroll

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17 Jan—7 Feb T Ryan

The self-contained flat at **Bilgola** is available for Marists to book for an extended holiday, a retreat or an extended period of study. Bookings are made through the Vicar-Provincial. Current bookings are:

23 Sep—30 Sep K Redmond

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2 -16 Jan T Kennedy
 17-24 Jan M Mullins

Enclosures

1. Death Notices

Fr Joop Kluwen sm
 Fr Andre Bauer sm
 Br Jerome Kennedy sm
 Fr Constantin Rivard sm
 Fr Edward Blee

2. Retreats 2013

St Mary's Towers Douglas Pk

3. Jean-Claude Colin Painting

4. Decisions & Declarations of the 2012 Chapter:

5. Review of Marist Government: Report on Responses.

6. Joy in Believing John Thornhill

Directory

Change of Address for the District Superior of Brazil

Padres Maristas
 Rua Lazaro Ferreira de Assis, 232
 Jardim Guanabara
 Belo Horizonte-MG
 CEP: 31742-370
 BRAZIL

Change of Email address for Ben McKenna

smocprov@connect.com.fj

Anniversaries

September

- 2 Fr John Webber
2002
- 4 Br Patrick Thompson
2007
- 5 Fr John Dinan
1965
- 6 Fr Louis Menard
1939
- 6 Fr Thomas Cook
1960
- 8 Fr Brian Murray
1994
- 9 Fr Martin Cabot
1993
- 11 Br Xavier Brodie
1971
- 13 Fr Maurice Flanagan
1989
- 15 Fr Joseph Monnier
1874
- 15 Fr Joseph Cullen
1963
- 18 Br Peter Chanel Riley
1955
- 20 Br Patrick Collins
1916
- 23 Fr Lionel Dean
2003
- 24 Br Louis Meyronin
1902
- 24 Fr Cornelius O'Leary
1963
- 25 Fr Denis Donovan
1990
- 28 Fr Alfred Cullen
1946
- 28 Fr Eddie Clifton
1995
- 30 Br John Rodier
1914
- 30 Fr Richard O'Sullivan
1972

October

- 1 Fr Laurie Gallagher
1993
- 5 Fr Charles Murlay
1908
- 7 Fr Joseph Ecuyer
1883
- 10 Fr Laurence Hannigan
2008
- 11 Fr David Murray
1948
- 13 Br Joseph Wilkinson
1957
- 13 Fr John Taranto
1998
- 18 Br James Purcell
1997
- 20 Fr Julien Huault
1941
- 21 Fr Peter Rouillac
1922
- 21 Br Benedict Tohill
1995
- 22 Fr John Weaver
1999
- 25 Fr Thomas L'Estrange
1999
- 26 Fr Francis Kerley
1936
- 27 Fr John Kennedy
1955
- 28 Fr Wilfred Ainsworth
1974