



Provincial Circular

Marist Fathers Australian Province

Vol: 8/2012

Provincial's Letter

Dear Confreres

It is with some sadness that I write this my last newsletter to you as provincial. After twelve years in the roles of either vicar or provincial, my main feeling is one of gratitude. I am grateful to the province for entrusting me with these responsibilities and to the Society of Mary for the opportunities and experiences my Marist life has led me to.

Looking back on the last six years in particular, there are several key things I would like to reflect on.

Coming to know each of you more deeply has been a wonderful gift. Whether on visitation or in times of particular need, you have opened part of your life to me in a way that has been humbling. As I leave the role, I promise to cherish that trust.

An important aspect of our province's story at this time is our diminishing. This year alone we have said our prayerful 'goodbyes' to three

confreres: Ron Josephs, Jack Bettridge and Wally Fingleton. In my time as provincial, we have left two of our Marist parishes and are preparing to leave another, as well as our mission in Nara, Japan. Leaving these places has been sad but it reflects our reality. We are grateful for the dedicated ministry our confreres have done in each of them.

One of the most challenging parts of being provincial has been dealing with abuse matters. Seeking to bring healing to those who have been harmed is the priority of the province. Having a survivor of abuse speak at our Provincial Assembly in 2011 was a very special time. With disarming honesty, he helped all who were there have a deeper insight into this tragedy. I pray that the coming Royal Commission will bring greater healing, wisdom and justice.

Among the things I rejoice in are:

- the provision of more adequate care for our older men, especially the opening of Montbel;
- the development of

Marist Asia Pacific, particularly the staging of the MAP Spirituality and Lifestyle Program just being completed for its second time.

- the successful Annual Review Consultation meetings of major superiors with the General and his Council held each year in Rome.
- the organic and patient process of reconfiguring which the Society is undertaking and we have been part of.
- the continuing relatively healthy financial situation of the province, particularly thanks to Tony Biddle's oversight, the generous contributions of our men and the robust charities-friendly Australian economic system.

One area where I would love to have achieved more is vocations. Over the years some men have expressed interest in joining us but for various reasons none has made it far in the formation process. The recent Chapter has set a way forward.

I wish to thank and

acknowledge all who have helped me during my time in this role. Bob Barber as vicar provincial has been a great stalwart and constant source of encouragement. All who have served on the Provincial Council, province committees and other key roles have been generous with their time and talents for the sake of our Marist mission. Judy Saliba and Tony Biddle have been outstanding in their committed, yet often hidden, work on our behalf. My thanks too to the communities in which I have lived at Gladesville, Villa Maria and Haberfield. I have enjoyed each place immensely.

To any confrere I have offended, sorry. To those who have found my leadership unfair or unhelpful, I honestly did my best. To anyone who feels they may have hurt me along the way, I hold no hurt personally.

I look forward to having a break next year and to beginning my new role as bursar general around August (at first as apprentice for a few months). Needless to say, much of my heart will still be here. I pray especially for Bob Barber as he takes up the reins as provincial on 1st January.

As Mary would say,

*My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my
saviour.*

Yours in gratitude

*Paul Cooney
Provincial*

11th December 2012

Provincial Diary

December

- 12 MAP Program concluding Mass
- 13 Book Launch for Gerry Arbuckle
- 18 Provincial Council
- 24 Office closes at 12.30pm

January

- 2 Office reopens
- 29 Commissioning Ritual
- 29 Provincial Council

Appointments

Garry Reynolds

The General Administration has approved an extension of Garry Reynolds's appointment as superior of the Maryvale / Montbel Community for a further twelve months. We thank Garry for his generosity in taking on this role for 2013.

Personnel

Fred Kado

Recently Fred applied to have his visa renewed for a further two years and this has been granted by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. The Province is very grateful to Fred and the Oceania Province for helping us out over the last couple of years. Fred will continue to work with Tony Kennedy in Burnie during 2013.

John Gillen

John recently received two significant awards for his teaching. From the State of Queensland he was awarded "Teacher of Excellence". From Nudgee College, nominated by his peers, John received the "Excellent Teacher" award. Congratulations John.

John Hopkinson

John will be in Australia from Bolivia for a holiday from 19th December until early February. Welcome home John.

Gavin Foster

Gavin Foster, from the District of the Philippines, will be arriving in Australia in early January for a sabbatical

year. Gavin hopes to work towards a M.Th(Hons) through the United Theological College, a part of the Charles Sturt University, in North Parramatta. While he settles in Gavin will reside at Villa but later will live at St Patricks and be involved in some ministry there. Welcome Gavin.

Deaths

Brian Whelan

Brian Whelan, father of Michael, passed away on Monday 4th December. He was 91.

Brian had many friends among Marists as a result of his voluntary work at Woodlawn in the '80's as a tutor to youngsters requiring help with maths and English and for a number of years as gardener/ landscaper at Villa Maria and CTU. Brian was truly a "man for all seasons".

Brian's funeral Mass was at Holy Name of Mary Church, Hunters Hill on 7th December.

Concepto Cecilia

Mr Concepto Cecilia, the father of Jane Cecilia and Annie Cecilia who work in the Marist Mission Centre, passed away at home in late November after a lengthy

illness. Concepto's funeral Mass was in the Holy Name of Mary Church, Hunters Hill on 1st December, and he was buried at Castlebrook Memorial Park, Rouse Hill.

Sick

Frank Callanan

Following Frank's early return from a family visit to the United States due to severe circulation problems with his right leg, he underwent an operation in Concord Hospital. While the operation addressed part of Frank's circulation difficulties he still remains with considerable pain in the leg.

News

Marists to leave Burnie-Wynyard



Burnie Catholic Church

On the weekend of 1st – 2nd December Paul Cooney went to Burnie-Wynyard to announce to parishioners that Marists would be leaving the parish at the end of 2013. A letter from Hobart's **Archbishop Adrian Doyle** was read urging parishioners to prepare for more lay-led ministries and expressing gratitude for the work of the Marists in Tasmania for over 50 years.



Tony Kennedy at Burnie

Tony Kennedy's appointment as parish priest has been extended to the end of 2013.

Provincial Change Over

A ritual to mark the change over from the Provincial leadership of Paul Cooney to Bob Barber and the induction of Peter McMurrich as Vicar will take place at

Hunters Hill on Tuesday 29th January 2013. It will consist of a simple prayer ritual in the Villa Maria Church at 5pm, followed by a social gathering then dinner in the Villa Maria dining room at 6pm.

We have already heard that both Paddy O'Hare and Oscar Ichiba hope to be down from Japan and present for the occasion

An invitation with RSVP will be sent to confreres in early January.

Official Opening of the Mens Shed

and Chair of the Men's Shed Committee, welcomed guests including Marists, **Ms Mary Carey**, (Exec. Officer, Hunters Hill-Ryde Community Services), **Clr Richard Quinn** (Mayor, Hunters Hill), **Clr Ivan Petch** (Mayor, City of Ryde) and **Hon Anthony Roberts MP**,



Provincial Committee for Ageing

Over the last couple of months the Provincial Committee for Ageing has been looking at staffing and organization arrangements at Maryvale/Montbel

Consultation with the community has taken place. The aim is to increase the capacity for the growing care and health needs of the men to be met.

Superior General's Visit

Details of the Visitation of the Superior General, Fr John Hannan, during the second half of March and the first half of April will be finalised and announced in the new year. Current plans are for there to be regional meetings with John in Brisbane and in Sydney, where as many confreres as possible can attend. We may take the opportunity during these meetings to look at the Royal Commission and its implications for us.



Scenes from the men's shed opening.

On Saturday 1st December the setting up stage of the Hunters Hill Ryde Men's Shed in the grounds of Villa Maria reached an historic landmark when the Shed was officially opened in a simple ceremony with 70 people in attendance.

Mr Gary Traill, board member of the Hunters Hill-Ryde Community Services



(Minister for Fair Trading and local state member).

SM Facelifts

Recent painting and some work on the exterior of 227 Longueville Road Lane Cove plus a general tidying up of the yard find the residence looking much fresher than it has for some time. There has also been a little work done on the inside.

Our residences at 180 Butterfield Street, Herston, have also recently received a facelift with painting, general repairs and maintenance



104 Participants, students and staff, in the MYL program at Woodlawn

Br Michael De Waas fms, Councilor General, attended the erection of the new province representing **Br Emili Turu fms**, Superior General, who was

MYL Camp at Woodlawn

A **Marist Youth Leadership** camp is currently being held at St John's College, Woodlawn. The program is run by **Fr Mark Walls sm** and a team of helpers mainly from New Zealand. MYL, a leadership experience in the Marist way for senior secondary students, originated and was run for a number of years in December – January in Christchurch, New Zealand. For a few years Burnie and Woodlawn students were invited to participate in the programs run in New Zealand.

With the encouragement of **Sue Chen** and **Glenn Roff**, principal of Burnie and past principal of Woodlawn, Mark Walls and his team were persuaded to run the program in Australia so that more Australian students could be involved.

As well as staff from each of the colleges, there are 75 students on the current MYL program in Lismore. They come from Cerdon

College (Merrylands), Marist Sisters College (Woolwich), Holy Spirit College (Bellambi), Marist Regional College (Burnie), and St John's College (Woodlawn), all colleges formerly conducted by the Marist Sisters or the Marist Fathers.

We pray that the MYL program will produce wonderful fruit as it has in past years. Our thanks to Mark and to **Mr Chris Comerford**, Woodlawn's principal, for making the venue available.

New Marist Brothers Province of Australia

On Saturday 8th December, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, at a Mass in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, the **new Marist Brothers Province of Australia** was inaugurated. The new Province has been created from what were formerly the Sydney and Melbourne Provinces.

prevented from attending at the last moment with a health issue.

Following the event in Sydney, 38 delegate-Brothers travelled to Mittagong to hold the first Provincial Chapter, from 9th – 12th December.

The Marist Fathers extend to **Br Jeff Crowe fms**, the Brothers and their lay companions, prayers and best wishes for the future.

Spirituality and Lifestyle Program

With a Mass of Thanksgiving held in Villa Maria church on Wednesday 12th December the second MAP Ongoing Formation Spirituality and Lifestyle program has concluded. This year ten confreres from Oceania Province and one from the District of the Philippines took part in the program.

We thank Paul Sullivan and Setefano Mataele for leading the 10-week program on behalf of Marist Asia Pacific, and also thank the Villa Maria community for hosting



Spirituality & Lifestyle closing Mass at Villa Maria, 12.12.12

United Kingdom in 2010 on the National Health Service there. Following this research, Gerry

our visitors.

The participants in the program have expressed their gratitude to the team, the Villa Maria Community, the province and MAP for the opportunity the program provided.

Colin Year 15/11/2012 – 15/11/2013

On 15th November, the anniversary of the death of Jean-Claude Colin at La Neyliere (France) in 1875, communities of the Australian Province joined with Marist communities around the world to celebrate the beginning of the 'Colin Year', honouring our Founder.

The start of the Colin Year coincided with the launch of a new website, www.jeanclaudecolin.org.

This website, which is managed by Ron Nissen for the General Administration, provides an ongoing focus on the Beatification Cause of Fr Colin and a rich source of resources for communities, schools and Marist lay

groups. A strong recommendation is given to anyone who has not yet visited the website to do so.

Book Launches

Recent issues of Provincial Circular have announced the publications of **John Thornhill's** *Joy in Believing: How Vatican II change our approach to God*, and **Andrew Murray's** *Thinking Things Through: Essays in Philosophy and Christian Faith*. Andrew's book is published by ATF and is available online. Both are a great read.

Two other books by Marists were recently launched:

On 13th December **Gerry Arbuckle's** *Humanizing Healthcare Reforms* was launched at St Vincent's, Darlinghurst. In this book Gerry argues that a values-based approach to healthcare would be much better approach than the current financial perspective. The book is based on research Gerry did in the

gave the Martin D'Arcy Memorial Lectures at Oxford in 2011.

Dreaming a New Eearth: Raimon Panikkar and Indigenous Spiritualities, co-edited by **Gerry Hall sm** and **Aunty Joan Hendriks**, was launched at the Australian Catholic University, Brisbane on 7th December. With about 60 present for the occasion, Professor Hudson spoke of the book as marking new and important ground in terms of opening up the little known world of Indigenous traditions and introducing the important work of Raimon Panikkar in a creative fashion. Both Gerry and Aunty Joan replied.

Early in 2013 the Province can look forward to the launch of two more books in Sydney.

At a date to be finalised, in the crypt of St Patrick's, Church Hill, *A Mission Too Far... Pacific Commitment* by **Jan Snijders sm**, tracing the role of Jean-Claude

Colin in the foundation of the Marist mission in the Pacific, will be launched. This excellent and very interesting book, which a number have already had a chance to read, is published by ATF.

The second book to be launched in early 2013 is from an English layman, **John Rayne Davis**, who became very interested in the life of St Peter Chanel. After researching Peter Chanel's life he has written a "popular" life of Oceania's protomartyr. This launch will probably be at Villa Maria in February or March. It is also published by ATF. Details will be given when they come to hand.

Fukushima Pilgrimage



Paul Glynn sm

During a three-month sojourn in Nara, **Paul Glynn** organised a pilgrimage of aid to bring hope to Fukushima tsunami survivors in the north of Japan.



Gifts, essential supplies from the pilgrims

Members and friends from the Australian Japanese Catholic community joined a group from Tomigaka, Fr Paul's current base in Japan, for the journey to Fukushima.

The pilgrims offered warm clothing, home needs and financial support to those who suffered from the March 2011 tsunami and crippling of the nuclear power station. Of particular concern for Paul and the pilgrims were the many children orphaned by the disaster.

The tsunami claimed 19,000 lives and those who survived have suffered greatly. Many survivors are



The gift of a smile

currently housed in temporary dwellings. They must

wait five years before they can return to their radiation-contaminated homes.

Advertising

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:

- 8-17 Dec T Ryan
- 26 Dec—7 Jan M Carroll

2013

- 8-16 Jan J Worthington
- 17 Jan—7 Feb T Ryan
- 17 Feb-3 Mar J Hargrave

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:

2013

- 17-24 Jan M Mullins
- 3-9 Feb K Redmond
- 22-24 Mar St Pat's Team

All Bilgola

1-31 Aug P Kervin

Enclosures

1. **Memorial Card—Fr Jack Bettridge sm**
 2. **Kalendarium 2013**
 3. **Death Notice:
Fr Raymond Le Creurer sm
Fr George Duggan sm**
- ## Anniversaries

January

- 1 Fr Brian Condon 1996
- 3 Fr Stephen Chaurain 1887
- 4 Fr John Campbell 1953
- 4 Fr Louis Aldridge 1955
- 4 Fr Leonard Brailey 1959
- 5 Fr Peter Janin 1899
- 5 Fr Thomas Troy 1979
- 5 Fr Stephen Maloney 1983
- 7 Fr Michael O'Halloran 1990
- 7 Fr James Fraher 1931
- 9 Fr John O'Dwyer 1912
- 12 Fr Alfred Herring 1945
- 13 Fr Mark Devoy 1969
- 16 Br Clement Turnbull 2005
- 18 Fr Ian Stick 1987

- 18 Fr Leonard Bourne 1999
- 21 Fr Aloysius Jeffcott 1956
- 22 Fr Jean-Baptist Coue 1904
- 24 Fr Patrick Corcoran 2012
- 26 Fr Jean-Louis Rocher 1874
- 28 Fr William Buckley 1970
- 31 Fr Zephirin Muraire 1903



Session with S&L group

the Committee had a lively session with members of the MAP 'Spirituality & Lifestyle' program on Nov 12.

Asylum Seekers

From the recently held Marist Sisters Forum on Refugees and reprinted in the MMC Christmas Newsletter 2012

IS IT ILLEGAL TO SEEK ASYLUM?

Under the Declaration of Human Rights, every person has the right to seek Asylum. This right is recognised under Australian law.

An Asylum seeker is a person, who has sought protection as a refugee, but whose claim for refugee status has not yet been assessed. Asylum seekers are not criminals or illegals.

Some Media handle inconvenient truths carelessly. 90% of Asylum seekers come to Australia by plane.

They represent on 3% of all the immigration to Australia. Negative media attention tends to make Asylum Seekers political targets.

JPICC Corner

*Provincial Committee for
Justice, Peace
and Integrity of Creation*

Sydney Alliance

Various JPIC Committee members have been active in Sydney Alliance events, including the 'City Assembly' at Sydney Town Hall on Oct 28.



Sydney Alliance

S & L Group

Following discussion with Ben McKenna in mid-year,

Detention Centres are for identity, security, health checks and to resolve legal status. Most countries hold asylum seekers in the community.

Centres are not meant to be quasi-prisons. Physical / mental conditions endured by Asylum seekers including children are cruel and indefensible. Most asylum seekers eventually will be accepted as permanent residents.



**You too can be a hard-working Marist Father.
Some new vocation material?**
(From the Archdiocese of Hobart Calendar 2013—The Month of May)