



Provincial Circular

Marist Fathers Australian Province

Vol: 1/2013

Provincial's Letter

Dear Confreres

2013 is now well under way. Peter and I have been in the Provincial leadership role for almost two months. Keith Tulloch, writing from Europe the other day, consoled us with the comment that our appointment is almost 5% over.

It has been quite an eventful first two months. The deaths of Pat McCabe and John Burns were not on our radar at Christmas time and when the end came so suddenly, within 48 hours of each other, it was a great surprise. While sorry to see these old mates

and confreres go it was a blessing they went without a long period of suffering. Together with their wonderful families the number of confreres who could attend their funerals was a tribute to them.

The hand-over ritual from the previous to the present provincial administrations at Villa Maria on 29th January was also a memorable occasion. It was very special because of the presence of confreres from out of town, especially

Ichiba and Paddy, who came all the way from Japan.

Another significant event of the last two months was the holding of the Provincial Council's Planning Days, with facilitator John Honner, at Bilgola on 18 – 19th February. This was important because it was where the Council spent time trying to clarify our focus for the coming three years and seeing how we can achieve the goals the set by the Provincial Chapter last year. In a time of chaos,



*St Joseph's Chapel in the grounds of Villa Maria, Hunters Hill.
150 Years old in 2013*

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with ageing, diminishment and the obvious problems the Church and our congregation face in the modern world, it is essential we don't keep floundering around. Against the negative backdrop that surrounds us we have to see where we are putting our effort and that we are succeeding.

In future we can be judged as succeeding or failing on what happens in our "prioritized ministries". At the Chapter we named St Patrick's, as an inner-city ministry; Hunters Hill; the Mission Centre, as the three ministries on which we concentrate our efforts. With confreres currently in the works and enlisting the help of others, lay and Marist, we must dream the possible and then commit the required resources to re-vitalize these ministries. These will be our flagships, the Chapter decided, and we must not accept mediocrity in them.

Two other Chapter items we will be working on, for want of better names at the moment, are "Marist Charism" and a "vocation team".

The Province will attempt to find formal ways of spreading and sharing our Marist spirituality with lay colleagues. A working party of four, two provincial Councilors and two laymen coming out of a Woodlawn background, make up our "Marist Charism Group". They will be investigating ways the Marist spirit can be shared

with others.

The Chapter insisted that we get serious about vocation promotion. The "Vocation Team" is already being set up.

A final task we will address with some urgency over the coming months is to rationalise our properties situation. We do not want to end up, ten years from now, with excess accommodation that we cannot use. We need to ensure that every confrere living in a community house lives securely and comfortably. A committee is being re-established to do the research and planning in this area.

Finally, while it is not something the Provincial Council is planning as a growth point for the Province this year, we are blessed with the visitation of the Superior General to Australia. It is going to be an event that will be extremely important for us. Fr Hannan's presence will help us be conscious that we are a family that goes beyond our shores. We are international and more and more we are going to become tied up with our international situation.

I promise prayers and wish many blessing to all members of the Province as we journey together through this Lenten time preparing for the Resurrection.

Bob Barber sm
Provincial
4th March 2013

Provincial Diary

March

- 5-7 Religious Leaders' (NSW) Annual Conference
- 19 Provincial Council meeting
- 22-17 Apr Superior General's visitation

April

- 9 Towards Healing Panel meeting
- 16 Provincial Council meeting

Appointments

Superior, St Patrick's

Ray Chapman will continue as superior at St Patrick's for the next few months. A permanent appointment will be made by mid-year.

Personnel

John Hopkinson

Just before Christmas last year we welcomed John back to the province. John spent most of his time back in Australia in his home state of Queensland. He returned to his mission in Bolivia at the end of January. We enclose with this newsletter a letter from John to members of the province.

Gavin Foster

Gavin arrived in Sydney in mid-January and is now settled in at Villa Maria, which will be his community during 2013. He has enrolled in a Clinical Pastoral Education post graduate programme at United Theological college, North Parramatta, which is affiliated with Charles Sturt university. We welcome Gavin back to Australia.

Garry Reynolds

Garry handed over the Montbel keys to **Paul Cooney** early in February, and headed off for a well-earned break. Paul will be looking after Montbel until Garry returns at the end of March.

Ron Nissen

Ron was overseas in France and Rome during February, principally in connection with the promotion of the Founder's cause. He returns mid March.

Andrew Nee

Andrew has been granted leave of absence and finished his chaplaincy ministry at St Joseph's college, Hunters Hill at the end of 2012; he farewelled the Villa Maria community just before Christmas. We reproduce some additional information from the New Zealand prov-

ince Friday Fax:

After a lengthy period of discernment and consultation, **Andrew Nee** has asked for, and been granted, *absentia a domo* for 12 months to discern his future vocation. Andrew is well and in good spirits - he will continue to live in Sydney and has been successful in gaining a position as Coordinator of Pastoral Services at St John of God Hospital Burwood, Sydney.

He has a new email address: andrewfnee@gmail.com. His Community of Attachment in New Zealand will be Mount Street. We also thank Fr Paul Cooney and the Australian Province – and in particular the Community at Villa Maria, Hunters Hill – for their support of Andrew. Please keep him in your prayers.

Fritz Arnold

Many confreres will remember Fritz with affection. Fritz passed through Sydney just after Christmas on his way back to Europe, following the conclusion of the international novitiate at Tutu.

Mika Cilicewa

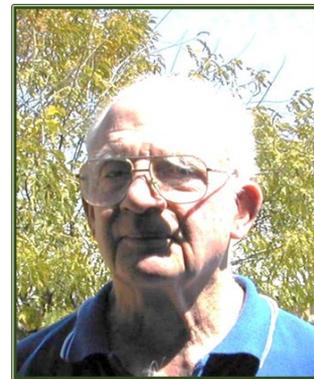
Paul Sullivan alerted us recently that on 1 January, this year, Mika celebrated his 40th anniversary of profession. We congratulate Mika on this significant milestone and look forward to marking it formally at the Jubilarians' dinner later in the year.

Tony Corcoran

Welcome back home to Tony who will be in Australia on annual leave during March. Tony is booked in at Villa Maria for 3 weeks, and will also spend some time in northern NSW.

Deaths

John Burns



John was staying in Gladstone with Paul Mahony after Christmas when he was hospitalised with a serious foot infection.

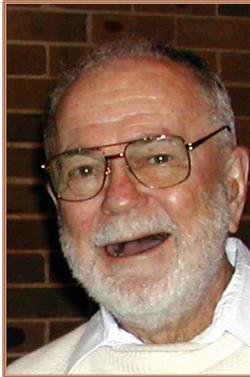
On January 3 he was diagnosed with an aggressive liver cancer, and 4 days later he flew to Brisbane with Paul Mahony and was admitted to Greenslopes hospital.

On January 10 Garry Reynolds flew to Brisbane to bring him to Maryvale. John spent about 10 days at Maryvale before being admitted at Royal North Shore hospital, where he died on 29 January.

Bob Barber presided at

John's Mass of Christian Burial at Hunters Hill on 4 February

Pat McCabe



Pat was admitted to Concord hospital in Sydney on 25 January, and he died there suddenly on January 27.

His nephew Brian McCabe came from Switzerland for the funeral, and gave the eulogy.

Peter McMurrich presided at the Mass, and Pat was interred with his brother Vin at Macquarie Park cemetery.

Damian Maher

Former student of Marist Regional College, Burnie, and a classmate of **Kevin Redmond**, who travelled to Burnie to preside at the funeral on January 29.

Brian Whelan

Brian would be well known to confreres who have worked in Gladstone parish over the last 40 years. The

father of a large family (9), he died of cancer and was buried in Gladstone on January 11.

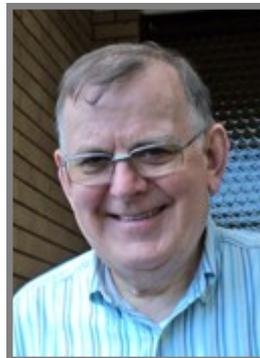
Sick

Pauline Gallagher

Please remember in your prayers **Jim Carty's** sister **Pauline**, who has been diagnosed with cervical cancer.

News

Superior General's Visitation



Our superior general, **Fr John Hannan**, will be with us in Australia on visitation from March 22 until April 17. He will arrive in Brisbane on March 22, and commence the visitation in Gladstone.

After several days in Brisbane he will fly to Sydney just before Easter. Most of his remaining time in Australia will be spent in Sydney.

Significant Anniversaries at Villa Maria



This year, 2013, is the sesquicentenary of the completion of the octagonal St Joseph's chapel in the grounds of Villa Maria at Hunters Hill, although the chapel was not formally blessed until April, 1864. It was built by **Claude Joly sm**, architect and clerk of works for the Villa Maria monastery building, and was the first building constructed on the present Villa Maria site. It replaced a shrine constructed by the lay brothers a few years earlier, which housed a wooden statue of St Joseph. The sandstone monastery building was constructed between 1863-1865, and the Marist community finally relocated to their new home from the first Villa Maria site just before Christmas, 1865.

So we will have 2 significant anniversaries to celebrate.

The chapel anniversary will be celebrated this year, 2013, and the main monastery building in two years' time, in 2015. The function this year for the chapel will occur during the Spirituality and Lifestyle programme, in November or early December.

Provincial Delegates for the Royal Commission

At its meeting in December last year, our Towards Healing panel recommended the creation of a special structure in the province to enable us to respond to any issues which may emerge through the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse, and also to liaise with the Church's Truth, Justice & Healing Commission, which will be the main interface between the Catholic Church and the Royal Commission.

At the January meeting of the provincial council it was decided to establish two Provincial Delegates for the Royal Commission.

At least until his departure for Rome later in the year, **Paul Cooney** will be the Delegate responsible for representing the province in dealings with the Royal Commission and the Truth, Justice & Healing Commission.

Peter McMurrich will be Delegate responsible for management and preparation of records, and research and analysis. While a document outlining roles and tasks has been approved by the provincial council, the two Delegates will have as their first task the further refining of their responsibilities. The Delegates are to develop a framework

for a coordinated approach rather than acting separately and independently.

St Patrick Lives Again



Late last year the statue of St Patrick which lives high up on the façade of Holy Name of Mary church had to be taken down with the use of a cherry-picker. The statue was in urgent need of repair, with its back substantially eaten away through the activities of a long-departed swarm of bees. It was also discovered that the statue was attached to its lofty perch by the flimsiest of restraints, and without intervention it may have

crashed to the ground at any time.

In mid-February the restored statue was on display in the church prior to its return to the heights. We know next to nothing about its history. It was probably erected when the church façade was enhanced in 1903-04 in connection with the extension of the church; it is made of terra cotta, and almost certainly was brought out from France.

Handover Liturgy and Dinner

Around 45 confreres were on hand for the ceremony and dinner to transition the provincial administration team; basically **Paul Cooney** went over the top, **Bob Barber** moved up a cog, and **Peter McMurrich** came in from the cold. We were particularly pleased to have **Oscar Ichiba and Paddy O'Hare** with us for the occasion; Paddy spoke movingly of his time in Japan and generously of his connections with the



*Peter McMurrich, Paul Cooney & Bob Barber
Handover Liturgy*

Australian province. Another honoured guest was **Al Pucinnelli**, who was passing through Sydney on his way from Brazil, where he has ministered for many years, and returning to the States.

Burnie Parish

On the last Sunday of the Church year, Christ the King, 24 November, 2013, the parish will mark the departure of the Marists and welcome the new parish priest. We will keep you posted on planning for this weekend, but **Tony Kennedy** is keen for a good muster of Marists who have had associations with Burnie, and potential visitors might put the date in their diaries.

Publications

Around the time this provincial circular sees the light of day you should receive copies of the annual combined Australia-New Zealand Directory for 2013, and also the Declarations and Decisions of the 2012 Provincial Chapter.

Congratulations to **Gerry Arbuckle** on the recent publication of his new book, Humanizing Healthcare Reforms, (Jessica Kingsley, London & Philadelphia, 2013), and also to **Gerard Hall**, joint editor with Joan Hendriks of Dreaming a New

Earth (Mosaic Press, Preston, 2012).

The Australian launch of **Jan Snijders' A Mission Too Far: Pacific Commitment and the Marist Missions 1835-1841** was due to take place in the crypt of St Patrick's, Church Hill, at 1.30pm on Sunday March 3.

We received some good news last week from **Elmar Kre-mar**, a retired Canadian professor of philosophy who has written a book on Barry Miller. Elmar visited Australia in 2011 to do research, and interviewed Gerry Arbuckle and John Thornhill. The book will be published by Continuum Books in the spring of 2014.

Finally, planning is underway for the Australian launch at Hunters Hill later in the year of a new book on St Peter Chanel by English author, **John Rayne-Davis**.

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:

3-27 Mar Roger Bellemore
 14-28 Apr Jim Hargrave
 1-24 Jul Bob Barber
 17-30 Sep Peter McMurrich
2014

1-14 Jan Michael Carroll

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

22-24 Mar St Pat's Team

All Bilgola

14-20 Apr Bernie McFadyen

1-31 Aug Pat Kervin

The Council Discussed

The provincial council held its annual planning and evaluation meeting at Bilgola on February 18-19. The council was assisted in its reflections by **Dr John Honner**. In addition to reviewing its processes and procedures, the council spent time on developing plans for the implementation of the decisions of the 2012 provincial chapter, namely:

- prioritisation of ministries;
- establishment of a vocations team;
- and rationalisation and maintenance of our properties and buildings.

Time was also spent on planning for the creation of a Marist Charism group to share our spirit and charism with our co-workers in the

vineyard.

Finally, John Honner took the council through recent developments in regard to the Society-wide Review of Governance.

Provincial Directory

The combined New Zealand-Australia Directory for 2013 is at the printers and you should have that soon. In the interim, a reminder about new email addresses at the provincial office. The former ones are suppressed and the following instated:

Provincial, Bob Barber:
provincial@maristfathers.org.au;

Vicar provincial, Peter McMurch: vicarprovincial@maristfathers.org.au;

Business Manager, Tony Biddle: businessmanager@maristfathers.org.au;

Secretary, Judy Saliba: secretary@maristfathers.org.au;

Other Provinces

Frank Bird from the New Zealand province left New Zealand for the Philippines district, and mission in Ranong, Thailand, on 25 February. His first assignment will be to Bangkok to start learning Thai.

Marist Family

We recently received news from the Marist brothers that they have been successful in having the feast day of **Marcellin Champagnat** inserted in the Proper Calendar of Australia.

For those who like their news straight from the horse's mouth, we quote from the Vatican announcement:

In response to the request of His Excellency, Most Reverend Denis James Hart, Archbishop of Melbourne and President of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, made in his letter of 9 January 2013, in virtue of the faculties granted to this Congregation by the Supreme Pontiff BENEDICT XVI, We most willingly grant that the celebration of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, Priest, be inserted into the Proper Calendar of Australia to be observed each year on June 6 as an optional memorial.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

From the Office of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 16 January 2013.

Enclosures

1. Homily for John Burns: Paul Glynn;
2. Homily for Pat McCabe: Bill Ryder;
3. Letter from John Hopkinson;
4. Article sexual abuse crisis by Ronald Rolheiser: "On Carrying a Scandal Biblically";
5. Letter from Gaston Lessard to Bernie Ryan in response to letter sent following the 2012 provincial retreat at Hunters Hill;
6. Jim Carty: Reflections on the Closure of the Japanese Mission
7. Death Notices
Fr Pat McCabe sm
Fr John Burns sm
Br Hermann Josef (Alois) Grand sm
Fr Joseph Lillig sm
8. Stipend Rate for Religious (CLRI)
9. Deceased Marists 2013 Booklet
10. Information Bulletin Dec 2012. No.97
11. Regeneration for Mission in Uncertain Times: John Hannan

Anniversaries

March

- 2 Fr Vincent Mills
1993
- 5 Fr Claude-Marie Joly
1892
- 5 Fr Alphonse Faugle
1899
- 6 Fr Kevin Muldoon
2000
- 6 Fr Francis Lopez
2011
- 7 Fr Albert de Theye
2007
- 8 Br Edward Jones
1996
- 11 Fr Michael Cruick-
shank
2000
- 12 Fr Lawrence Kelledy
1935
- 15 Fr John McSherry
1963
- 18 Br Michael Cunning-
ham
1979
- 19 Fr Henry Seymour
1949
- 20 Fr Henri Couloigner
1897
- 20 Fr Aloysius van Houte
1990
- 21 Fr Arthur Burger
1943
- 22 Fr Charles Kirk
1904
- 22 Fr Peter Eastwick
1998
- 23 Fr Andreas Schahl
1871
- 23 Fr Jules Peter Joly
1879
- 24 Br (Scholastic) James
Hayes
1917
- 24 Fr Edmund Gilmartin
1971

- 25 Br Clement Turnbull
2005
- 27 Fr Patrick Reynolds
2001
- 28 Fr Cyril Butler
1991



St Patrick back in place at Villa Maria