



Provincial Circular

No.4 Aug, 2013

Provincial's letter

Dear Confreres

Among the times I cherish most in my Marist life were the seven years I spent living in a Marist Brothers community in Nairobi. I joined as chaplain and could have lived on the margins of the community doing my job, saying Mass etc, but thanks to the wisdom of the director I was fully incorporated into that community and felt myself to be a Marist "brother" among Brothers. That period helped me to appreciate more my SM Marist life because it helped me value community life more.

Comparing my experience of living in that Brothers community with a number of Marist Fathers communities I have lived in, I feel that there was more sharing and doing things together in all facets of life in the Brothers community, in prayer, recreation and team work, than in Marist Fathers communities. Perhaps it is because we are predominantly a

clerical congregation that we have a different outlook and we are little more independent in our living. Perhaps Champagnat put a little something into the FMS DNA that we didn't get? Maybe I am just imagining things? I am sure of this, community is a wonderful gift and we should do all we can to improve it.

They are a family

Over the last few years my experience of the communities at Hunters Hill has been very positive. In Nos. 1 and 3 Mary Street we have two happy communities. There are awkward moments but generally confreres feel the support and love from their brothers. The fellows like being with one another. They are a family.

These two big communities are ageing with the men in both communities getting noticeably older. There are more hearing aids, sticks and walkers around now than there were five years ago.

Reorganization at Hunters Hill

Over the coming months the Prov-

ince has to face the big challenge of looking at a reorganization of the structures of the Hunters Hill communities. It may turn out that this will involve quite major changes. It is brought about because at the end of this year we will face changes to some of our key personnel at Hunters Hill.

This reorganization must become a key opportunity for us to provide better conditions for all Marists on the block and to help improve our shared community life and the lot of all the members.

A priority ministry: St Patrick's

On a different point, more to do with the Provincial community as a whole, is my hope and expectation that over the final months of this year and into the start of 2014 the Province will follow a process at the end of which we will express in clear terms what our decision at the 2012 Provincial Chapter means when we say that St Patrick's, Church Hill is a priority ministry of the Province. Hopefully the process we undertake



Diaconate ordination of Willy Melteras SM

will be both rigorous and realistic. St Patrick's is a very special Church performing a very important role in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

We will have investigated what are the needs of that Catholic population of Sydney who make use of St Patrick's and we will have planned how we can best answer those needs.

To be able to able to commit to a plan and guarantee the Archdiocese that Marists are able to provide staff to oversee that plan for the next 15 years we need the active involvement of the whole Province. It was the Chapter that made this commitment on behalf of us all. Responsibility for St Pats belongs to the whole Province not only on the six men stationed there.

In future confreres who haven't previously been assisting at St Pat's may be asked to help out in some way. It is important that we all are willing to help out if it is needed.

Prepared to challenge

Finally, while we must encourage and support each other at all times as confreres, there are times when, to help our brothers, we must be prepared to challenge one another. Recently we are aware of a situation that has embarrassed us all. If we are publically guilty of doing something that is stupid and harmful it hurts us all. It hurts the Church.

In earlier times there were few dramas when "Father" was pulled over by the police because he had gone over the speed limit, or because he had a wine too many at dinner, or because he made a comment that was politically incorrect. He was readily excused for his error. But it is not the same today. Our name is no longer protected in our society at large and we have to be most, most careful that we are not doing anything wrong or giving offence. Let us be extra vigilant and help one another. If we know, or have been told,

we have a weakness in some area then we must make sure we get proper help.

In October we have the Council of the Society in Dublin. Please keep this major event in the Society in your prayers.

Keep well and God bless

Bob Barber sm, Provincial



Provincial Diary

Peter McMurrich will be away during September on annual leave

- Sep 03-06: Visitation: Maryvale/Montbel
- Sep 10-12: Visitation: Gladstone
- Sep 15-20: Provincial Retreat
- Sep 16: Towards Healing Panel Meeting
- Sep 20: Jubilarians' Mass & Dinner
- Sep 30: Aged Care Committee Meeting
- Oct 01-04: Visitation: Villa Maria
- Oct 09: S&L Programme begins, Villa Maria
- Oct 10-28: Council of the Society, Dublin
- Oct 14: Formation Committee Meeting
- Oct 15: St Joseph Chapel Commemoration

Appointments

Tony Kennedy: For 2014, at the request of the General Administration, Tony has been appointed to the formation community at Suva, Fiji

Kevin Bates: Kevin is appointed for a further 3 year term as parish priest and superior in Hunters Hill parish as from 1 January, 2013.

Kevin Redmond: Kevin is appointed vice superior of the St Patrick's, Church Hill, community until 31 December, 2015.

Fred Kado: Fred will be going to Macksville at the end of September until mid-December, to fill in for Paul Sullivan while Paul is engaged with the S&L programme at Villa Maria.

Michael Whelan: reappointed Director of the Aquinas Academy for 3 years as from 1 January, 2014.

Neville Byrne: appointed as from 1 August, 2013, to the parish staff and Marist community at St Patrick's, Church Hill.

Patrick Kervin: appointed as from 1 September, 2013, to the Villa Maria community, Hunters Hill.

Personnel

Jim Bishop transferred from the Maryvale/Montbel community to "Minnimurra" nursing home on 11 July. Latest reports are that Jim has settled in well in his new surroundings.

Gavin Foster recently accepted an invitation from the NSW Farmers' Association to open their annual conference with a prayer. The conference was held at Chatswood commencing July 17. Gav found himself rubbing shoulders with the premier, the minister for rural affairs, and sundry other notables, who were fulsome in their praise for his manner and presentation. Although his wardrobe doesn't run to jodhpurs and a tweed jacket, Gav was nevertheless appropriately attired, and the farmers are already negotiating a return appearance for their 2014 conference.



Willy Melteras was ordained to the diaconate in Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill, by Bishop Julian Porteous on Saturday July 13. The ceremony was warm and engaging, and at the bishop's urging, Willy gave an impressive impromptu speech at the conclusion of the ceremony. Most of the congregation then repaired to the Hunters Hill Club for a simple reception and cake-cutting. Willy's ordination to the priesthood has now been confirmed for Friday 29 November at 5.30pm at Hunters Hill. Bishop Porteous, who by then will have been installed as archbishop of Hobart, will be in Sydney at that time, and has kindly agreed to be the ordaining bishop.

Paul Glynn; Paul was briefly in Lismore on 7 August for the 50th anniversary celebrations for the sister city relationship between Takada-Lismore. This was the first relationship established in Australia with a Japanese city. The celebrations highlighted the central role of Tony Glynn in bringing about the sister city relationship. After Lismore, it was off to Fiji for Paul, where he is conducting retreats this year for members of the Oceania Province. This is Paul's 60th anniversary year of ordination, and the Villa Maria community recently celebrated July ordi-

nation anniversaries for 7 community members. Paul is the dedicated guardian of the Villa Maria cemetery, which he maintains in first grade condition. The after-dinner speaker suggested that Paul had taken to heart the scriptural passage: "I am going now to prepare a place for you".

Gerald Arbuckle is leaving the best country in the world in September to do the following: give the keynote address to the Canadian Health Association Assembly, Toronto; present the Louis Luzbetak Memorial Lecture, CTU, Chicago; and give lectures for the Institute of Religious Formation, Chicago. Then it's off to Oxford as a Research Academic Visitor for two months.

Michael Jacques is back in Australia on leave during August, catching up with family and friends, and escaping the enervating humidity of summer in Tokyo. He was recently afforded a very special honour and compliment, being offered a post-retirement-age renewal of his contract for a further couple of years, under terms and conditions normally only available to Jesuit members of the university.



Paddy O'Hare reports he has been busy with many things (echoes of Bert Harcombe here?) since leaving Japan, and says he has had a wonderful couple of months after returning to Europe. Understandably, though, he says that he is very much missing Japan. He will be joining the community at Toulon in France from 29 August.

Ron Nissen was across in New Zealand during the last week of July, where he spent several days with Justin Taylor, working on furthering the cause of the Founder. Ron reports that Justin is making good progress with his Jean Claude Colin biography.

Gerard Hall gave presentations to the Pacific Major Superiors' Conference in Suva, Fiji, in the second week of August. The photo of the superiors group which appeared on our province website identified Gerry as being "on the far right". A nasty slur, and one which Gerry would rightly resile from.

Deaths

Fr Francis Brennan sm 17.1.1929 – 24.7.2013d. Addington (NZ) New Zealand Province

Br Leo Lapointe sm 26.2.1930 – 3.8.2013d. Boston (USA) American Province

Fr Philippe d'Humieres sm 27.4.1921 – 5.8.2013d. Paris European Province

Sick

John Worthington: John's programme of hormone treatment for his prostate cancer is progressing well, and John is reported to be in good form and good spirits.



The oldest building in the grounds of Villa Maria: St Joseph's chapel, celebrating 150 years

News

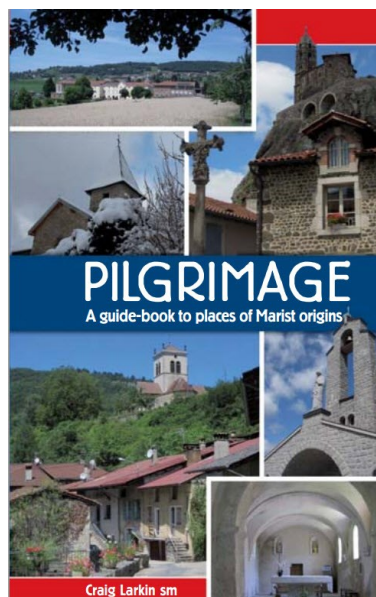
Letter of Solidarity from Sisters of Mercy: Sr Berneice Loch, Institute leader of the Sisters Of Mercy, recently wrote to the provincial superiors of male religious congregations, providing details of their holiday houses, and offering them for use by male religious. Her letter indicated that the Sisters were doing so as an expression of solidarity and support in the context of the morale-sapping publicity associated with the Church's sexual abuse crisis. Bob Barber wrote back to thank the Sisters for their thoughtfulness.

S&L Programme: This year's programme commences at Villa Maria on 9 October, with 11 confreres from Oceania, and one from the Philippines district, taking part. Ron Nissen, Charlie Randle, and Peter McMurrich, have been working with Paul Sullivan on aspects of preparation and planning.

St Joseph Chapel: Earlier in the year we ran an item on the St Joseph Chapel in the grounds of Villa Maria, which this year celebrates its 150th birthday. The chapel was the first building constructed by the Marists on the current Villa Maria site. Claude Joly, who would also act as clerk of works for the main monastery building and Villa Maria church, commenced building the chapel with his own hands in the early months of 1863. In association with the S & L programme, there will be a special ceremony and social gathering to mark the anniversary of the chapel, at Villa Maria on Tuesday 15

October. **Sydney-based Marists will receive an invitation, and obviously any other members of the Province who might happen to be in Sydney are warmly invited. You will need to RSVP to the Provincial Office by Friday 27 September.** There will be a brief ceremony at the chapel commencing 5pm, and then we'll drink Claude Joly's health from 5.30pm onwards. Claude, according to his confreres, most times adopted a fairly severe persona, so whether he would approve of all this gaiety and celebration is a matter for debate.

Provincial Retreat & Jubilarians' Dinner: This year's retreat at Hunters Hill runs from 15-20 September, with the Jubilarians' dinner on the night of Friday, 20th September. Confirmation letters have now been sent out to those who have indicated that they wish to attend either one or both events.



If you wish to attend the retreat and/or the dinner, and have not received a confirmation letter, please contact the provincial office immediately. If you forgot to send back your acceptance, there's still time to book in for the retreat and/or dinner, but you must be fast.

Publications

Pilgrimage, a guide-book to places of Marist Origins by **Craig Larkin** is a beautiful production. Meant to be a travellers' guide used when you are actually on pilgrimage in France, you can access it online at either the Jean-Claude Colin website <http://www.jeanclaudocolin.org/resources/pilgrimage-to-marist-places> or the General Administration website: <http://www.maristsm.org/en/founder.aspx>

Advertising

NSW Working With Children Check – New Procedures

As from the middle of June, 2013, new procedures have been introduced for the operation of the Working With Children Check in NSW.

The most significant change is that the obligation for obtaining a Working With Children Check is now with the employee and no longer with the employer.

The new system will be gradually phased in. Those in the "Religious Services" sector, which covers us (priests, ministers and rabbis), have until 31 December, 2013, to become compliant.

All Marists in NSW who exercise public ministry where children are part of the congregation must obtain a Working With Children Check by 31 December, 2013.

So even if your primary ministry is not child related, eg. you are a lecturer in a theological faculty, you still need a Working With Children Check if you do weekend supply work or have any secondary ministries which involve a connection with children.

The new procedures recognise two categories of "employees": those in paid employment, and those who are volunteers. Those who are in paid employment have to pay \$80 for their Working With Children Check; volunteers are checked for free. We are entitled to register as volunteers, since we don't receive any personal remuneration for our services.

Over the next couple of months the vicar provincial will be in contact with all Marists in NSW who require Working With Children Checks.

Your Working With Children will be valid for 5 years. However the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse has just issued a position paper suggesting that a national scheme is preferable to the current regime of State-related procedures, and there may be further developments in this area in the next couple of years.

A number of confreres have already obtained their Check, and have thoughtfully provided a copy to the hard working Vicar Provincial, thereby obviating the need for him to chase after them and ensure compliance.

Some Tips to Make Life Easier for You and Others

Make sure that you have a clear, up to date medical record available that can be easily accessed should you have to go to hospital urgently.

The record should include:



Br Tony D'Arbon FMS leading the Fourvière celebrations at Hunters Hill

- your major health issues and history;
- a list of medication you are currently taking.

When going overseas it is recommended that we photocopy all the cards we have in our wallet (drivers' licence, credit cards, pension cards, Medicare, health insurance) in case they need to be cancelled & replaced if lost or stolen. However, 'fact is we can lose our wallet any time, so why not have an updated photocopy accessible always?

Burnie Parish Goodbye-Hello Weekend

This special weekend, Nov 22-24, acknowledges the withdrawal of the Marists from Burnie, and provides an opportunity for the parish to welcome its new parish priest. **Tony Kennedy** reports that 8-9 Marists will be travelling to Burnie for that weekend, and indicates that bookings are still open. Accommodation can be arranged. See the flyer en-

closed with this Provincial Circular.

Council Discussed

- Personnel issues
- Aquinas Academy
- Aged Care Issues
- Herston & Montbel Superiors for 2014
- Provincial's report to CS2013
- Review of goals as set by annual planning meeting, Bilgola 2013.

Marist Family

Sydney Fouviere Celebration:

Around 100 members of the Marist family gathered in the Villa Maria parish hall on Sunday 21 July for the annual Fourvière celebration. This year's event was organised by the Marist Brothers, and in particular by **Br Tony D'Arbon**. The afternoon included a Mass celebrated by Ron Nissen, and a well-catered afternoon tea.

Annual Fourvière celebrations around Sydney began over 40 years ago as an initiative of **Br Kieran Geaney** and **Fr John Thornhill**, superiors of the scholasticates at Dundas and Toongabbie respectively.

Br Kieran, a long term patient at St Anne's Nursing Home, passed away a week before this year's Fourvière celebration and was buried from St Joseph's College on 19th July. As a renowned Australian theologian/catechist he taught us much; as a man and understanding friend he taught us more; through his faith, patience and courage over the last 30 years he taught us his greatest lesson.

Provincial directory

Contact details for Patrick Kervin:

1 Mary Street
Hunters Hill NSW 2110
Direct phone (02) 9844 2209
Mobile: 0418 383 987

Currumbin & Bilgola Flats

Bookings are made through the provincial office.

Currumbin

The self-contained flat at Currumbin is available for bookings for Marists and their families.

Current Currumbin bookings

Jul 25— Aug 08: Tom Ryan

Aug 09-14: Maintenance

Sep 16-30: Peter McMurrich

Oct 01-08: Paul Cooney

Oct 09-30: Tom Fulcher

Nov 03-16: Jim Hargrave

Dec 07-14: John Thornhill

Jan 01-14, 2014: Michael Carroll

Jan 15— Feb 12: Tom Ryan

Feb 13-20: Maintenance

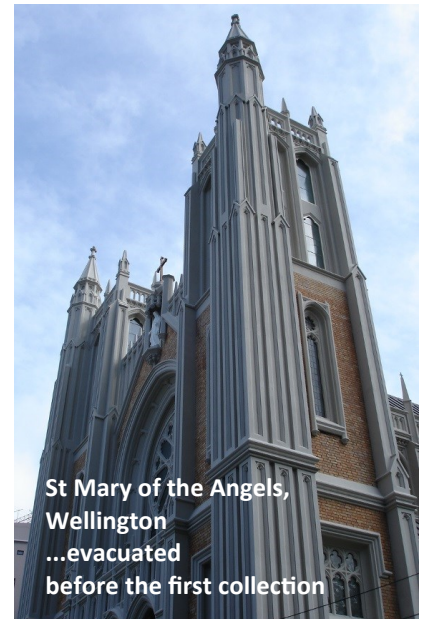
Booking of Currumbin Nov 30 – Dec 01 incl.:

For Fr Mark Walls sm and team conducting the Marist Youth Leaders camp at Woodlawn in early December. All upstairs area is booked – **not the flat.**

Bilgola

The self-contained flat at Bilgola is

available for Marists to book for an extended holiday, a retreat, or an extended period of study.



St Mary of the Angels,
Wellington
...evacuated
before the first collection

Other Provinces

Wellington Earthquake: On Jul 21, the 7am & 5pm Masses at St Mary of the Angels church in Wellington were interrupted by quakes; there was no major structural damage to the building.

However, the church had been previously designated as earthquake prone, and this year worshippers entered the church past rather intimidating signs which indicated that in an earthquake there was a 76% chance of the church suffering damage, and that you entered at your own risk.

A decision has now been taken to close the church for 18 months for structural reinforcement works. The word from New Zealand is that at the 5pm Mass on July 21, Barry Scannell panicked a little, and allowed the congregation to leave before the first collection had been taken up.

Enclosures

- Policy for Overseas Renewal and Ongoing Formation
- Goodbye and Hello: Burnie Parish Weekend, Nov 22-24



Pictured: Some of the participants of this year's 'Bridge Program', supported by the JPIC Committee and Australian lay Marist friends. Nine young Burmese refugee 'BP-ers' will compete with hundreds of applicants for places with ACU's online program on the Thai-Burma border.

