



Provincial's letter

Dear Confreres

We are now half way through 2013. Although we don't often understand why, our lives can be very charged and busy. Like me, you probably wonder how it is that some days you go to bed at night feeling quite worn out. On many of those days we would not be able to tick off a dozen important things that we had seen completed in the previous twelve hours. When I can get fatigued in the situation of today, where our Province is slowing and has only a fraction of the works and men it had 40 or 50 years ago, I wonder how did the men back then manage?

Today's world is a different place and roles and jobs are not the same now as they were then. For one, "consultation", or a type of it we have today takes plenty of time and emotional energy and would be one of the things that makes my world different from 50 years ago. On reflection however, I would not prefer to live in a day when the Provincial could operate out of a more autocratic role. It is good to know what blokes think and what they think of you!

Our world is full of stress. We are all busy. All of us need to look at what is going on in our lives and to make sure that we are looking after ourselves.

A day set aside

I was recently talking to a confrere about a practice observed in an African Marist community I lived in where each month every member of

the community was to set aside a personal "retreat day". This was an exercise apart from community days of recollection. It was a day each month set aside for personal prayer and reflection. Each had his own day. Members of that community, I am sure, would still be prepared to say today that little practice was easily one of the best things we had going for us.

Always there would be urgent things that would crop up to try and steal that day away from you but you could not allow that to happen. The exercise was too important.

Personal day of prayer

I would strongly recommend that each man in the Province set himself a personal day of prayer and recollection and take it. If you are a confrere who is retired from ministry and already live in a situation where you put a substantial amount of each day into prayer it doesn't matter, you should still try to take a day a month as your "retreat day".

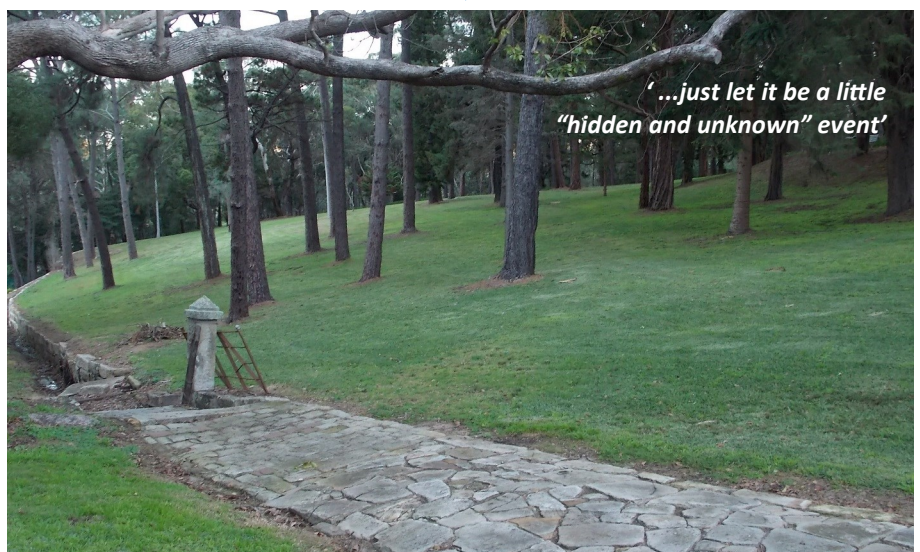
There is no need to announce it to anyone, just let it be a little "hidden and unknown" event. The key thing is that you make it a day in your regime and timetable which is different from other days.

If you are a confrere who is working, take a day off. This is not a rest day but a retreat day. Set yourself a timetable for the day that is based on solitude and prayer.

Another thing is our "day off". Especially when we are involved in ministry these should be programmed into our lives. We need days of rest. The busier we are the more important it is for us to have these recharging days in our life.

Visitation

Until a few weeks ago I was quite happy to observe the custom of our Province where the Provincial did not to do a visitation in the year that the Superior General or his assistant did one. I thought that would be a popular decision with most confreres!



However, over the last few weeks I have realized that, because of my many years away from Australia, I simply do not know some confreres well and I do not know some of the situations that some men are in.

I have therefore drawn up a bit of a programme where between August and December I will get to a few places, try to catch up with some men and just be there if they wish to see me. I won't be offended or feel snubbed if nobody has an urgent need to see me.

Keep well and God bless

Bob Barber sm, Provincial



Provincial Diary

- Jul 13: Diaconate, Willy Melteras
- Jul 15: Provincial Committee for Ageing
- Jul 16: Provincial Council
- Jul 21: Fourvière Commemoration, Hunters Hill

Bob will be away for a substantial part of July on annual leave.

Appointments

Bernie McFadyen is appointed superior of the St Patrick's, Church Hill community from 1 July, 2013 until 31 December, 2015. For the first 6 months of this year, Ray Chapman has been both parish priest and superior, and he is very happily relinquishing the former post to Bernie.

Fred Kado is appointed to Macksville for the October-December period to cover for Paul Sullivan, who will once more be directing the Spiritual-

ity and Life program at Villa Maria during those months. Burnie will therefore effectively be a one man parish for much of the remainder of the year, and Tony Kennedy is currently working with the parish council to put in place a Mass program which can be serviced by one priest.

Kevin Stewart is appointed until Dec 31, 2013 to the Maryvale/Montbel community following the closure of the house at Isler Street, Gladesville.

Personnel

Aidan Carvill is now resident in Geebung parish in Brisbane, where he has been appointed administrator.

Jim Carty has completed his contract as coordinator of Catholic chaplains in the archdiocese of Sydney. Later this year he will be undertaking a pilgrimage in Spain.

James Collins has been suffering from quite serious heart arrhythmias for the last few months. His condition is being monitored by a specialist and his local doctor. James has been forced to withdraw from all priestly ministry and will shortly be moving from his present accommo-



dation in a unit owned by the Port Macquarie parish. In his retirement James will be living elsewhere in the Port Macquarie area. We wish him all the best in the months ahead.

Willy Melteras made final profession in the Society of Mary at Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill, on Sat, Jun 29. Garry Reynolds and the Maryvale/Montbel community kindly hosted a lunch afterwards to celebrate and welcome Willy to full membership of the Society. In a busy year for Willy, he will be ordained to the diaconate on Sat, Jul 13.

Paul Cooney left Sydney on the evening of Mon, Jun 24, to take up his posting as general bursar at the General House in Rome.

Luke Holohan left Australia in late June for a 6 month sabbatical period from Campion college; he will spend a substantial amount of the time at the North American college, Rome, at their Institute for Continuing Theological Education.

John Gillen is accompanying Luke for part of the journey, and will visit family members overseas whom he has not seen for a number of years.

Gavin Foster is about to break new ground when he takes up an invitation on Jul 17 to pray an opening prayer at the commencement of the NSW Farmers' Association annual conference, being held this year at Chatswood.

The request to participate came to us in a rather roundabout manner, with the farmers for some reason approaching St Joseph's college, Hunters Hill, for a priest to do the deed; the college neatly flicked passed the request to us, and Gavin generously agreed to take on the job.



Deaths

Mrs Orfelina Cecilia, mother of **Annie and Jane** in the Marist Mission Centre, died on Sun, May 19. Her Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill, on Sat, May 25.

Mrs Pauline Gallagher, Jim Carty's sister, died in Newcastle (NSW) on Jun 13, and was buried from Sacred Heart cathedral, Newcastle, on Jun 17. Jim presided at the funeral liturgy. Kevin Bates, David Wilson, Ray Chapman, and Peter McMurrich concelebrated the Mass.

Fr Stan Hosie sm died suddenly at Santa Monica, USA, on Jun 25, 2013. Stan was born in Lismore and after ordination taught at St John's college, Lismore, before becoming the founding rector of Chanel College, Geelong.

A gifted writer, he was seconded to the General House in Rome to write on Marist history in English, and eventually published a biography of the founder, *Anonymous Apostle*. He spent his later years in the United States, where he was involved with the Foundation for the Peoples of the Pacific and Counterpart International.

Stan expressed a wish to be cremated, and there will most probably be a memorial Mass in Santa Monica sometime after Jul 09. There will be a memorial Mass for Stan in Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill, on Wed, Jul 10, commencing 10.30am.

Fr Thomas Stokes sm
2.6.1937 – 22.4.2013
d. Dublin Irish Province

Fr Denis Mahony sm
22.1.1940 – 26.4.2013
d. Suva Oceania Province

Fr Lui Raco sm
17.6.1927 – 6.5.2013
d. Suva Oceania Province

Fr Celso Lopez sm
28.7.1922-19.6.2013
d. Malgrat de Mar (Spain) European Province

Fr Stan Hosie sm
28.4.1922 – 25.6.2013
d. Santa Monica, USA, American Province.

John Burns' family have prepared a memorial card and made copies available to us; there are copies provided with this circular

Sick

Syd Nugent had gall bladder surgery on May 02 and a follow up operation on May 05. He is now back at Maryvale/Montbel.

Kevin Bates had successful hernia surgery on Apr 29, and following a period of recuperation, is back in business again in Hunters Hill parish.

John Worthington had surgery recently following a diagnosis of prostate cancer. There are indications that the cancer has spread, and so John has begun a course of hormone therapy. His doctor is confident that the hormone therapy will be effective in slowing down the cancer, so that it will not significantly impact on John for many years.

John Molloy, who has just retired after 14 years as president of the Woodlawn past students association, has also been recently diagnosed with prostate cancer. He has

begun a programme of hormone therapy.

Mika Cilicewa is currently investigating options for rectifying a foot problem which is significantly impacting on his mobility. The two possibilities are a foot reconstruction, or a fusion technique. Either procedure will require him to be off his foot for several months.

News

Sue Chen, who will retire as principal of Marist regional College, Burnie, at the end of this year, has agreed to join the province's Charism Committee. Members are: **Gerard Hall, Glen Roff, Kim Evans, Sue Chen, & Andrew Dumas.**

Adrian Drane, currently deputy principal at Notre Dame high school, Shepparton (Vic) has been announced as the new principal at Marist college, Burnie. Adrian has a young family, and is on the right side of 40.

Province business manager
Confreres will be aware that **Tony Biddle**, who has given outstanding service to the province since his appointment in 1999, will retire at the end of the year. We are pleased to announce that Tony's son, **Andrew**, has been appointed as our new province business manager.

Andrew is currently assistant principal: administration, at St Thomas More school, Sunshine Beach (Qld). He has a graduate certificate in business administration and a masters in school management, specialising in management of information technology. Although he will be transitioning from the education sector, we believe that Andrew has the right mix of administrative skills and personal qualities necessary to serve the province as our business manager. He will begin with us in January, and will work alongside **Tony** for several weeks in order to familiarise himself with the role.

Way back in 1999, when we were desperately searching for a replacement business manager following the sudden death of Peter O'Brien, we asked our province accountancy firm, V J Ryan, if they had any suggestions. They gave us the name "Last Cent" Williams as someone who was between jobs, with the rider that we may nevertheless want to look elsewhere. They recognised, we suspect, that the job required a little more than just forensic accountancy skills.

Bill O'Donnell

While they were in Hobart recently, the provincial and **Bill Ryder** took the opportunity to catch up with **Bill O'Donnell**, whose new address and contact details are provided in this newsletter. They were able to take Bill out for a meal.

Opera in the Park

A couple of weeks back **Tony Biddle**

fielded a phone call from a man with an unusual request. He was a resident in the new apartments which have been built on the old Gladesville hospital site. He is trying to break into the Australian Opera, and he needs to sing loudly for an hour each day at 1pm; and he was wondering if he could use the grounds of Villa Maria.

He further explained that he can't practise in his apartment because the noise is ear-shattering for his neighbours.

If he makes the first cut, he will subsequently have access to a sound-proof vault at Opera Australia, but in the meantime he needs somewhere in the wild away from people. So we said yes, provided he stays below the cemetery. There was a prize on offer to the first member of the Villa Maria community to hear him sing-

ing and who correctly identified the song. **Tom Fulcher** has subsequently claimed the prize, but was unable to provide details of the song, since there was none; disappointingly, our singer bellows out scales and numbers but does not actually sing songs.

St Patrick's Business Manager

Business manager at St Patrick's, **Tony Brooker**, is retiring in August this year. The parish has announced that **John Attneave** will be the new business manager.

Tony Brooker commenced at St Patrick's in 2003, in the last year of Garry Reynolds' term as parish priest. He has made an outstanding contribution to the organisation of practical matters at St Patrick's while always maintaining a very pastoral and patient manner with the many people who come to the parish office.

Province Properties Committee

This committee was established recently to review all our property holdings and to make recommendations to the provincial council. Its members are: **Tony Biddle (chair), Garry Reynolds, John Jago, Allan Connors, Jim Carty, Peter McMurrich**. It has met in May and in June.

Gladstone Land Sale

We have signed a contract for the sale of our investment property on the south side of Gladstone city. Negotiations have been very complex, with **Tony Biddle** encountering one time-consuming hurdle after another in trying to finalise the sale.

The property was purchased as an investment for the province in the 1970s on the advice of John Smith, who was himself advised by two very savvy members of his finance committee, **Milton Blaine and Rowe O'Neil**. While the sale will realise a very good return on our original purchase price, we are selling for considerably less than some extravagant estimates which were floating around about 3-4 years ago. The reality is that the Gladstone proper-



Seating for 'opera in the park'



ty market has taken a sudden and dramatic dive, and our advisors are universally suggesting that we sell now, as it may be another 10-15 years before boom times return.

Sale of Isler St

We are expecting to sign a contract shortly for the sale of our property at Isler Street for around one million dollars, which is a very pleasing result, and at the upper end of estate agent estimates. The property was purchased in 1995 for \$460,000, at which time we spent around \$60,000 on improvements.

Vocations

In March the provincial council commissioned **Michael Brungs**, a Hunters Hill parishioner and retired academic, to prepare a research paper on "Vocations", and to investigate questions like: Which groups in the Church are still attracting vocations?; Why do some groups in the Church have more appeal than others for potential candidates?; What are some of the strategies and processes used by other groups for recruiting vocations?; How might potential candidates perceive the Marist Fathers' Australian province at the current time? We include a summary of Michael's research paper with this circular. Anyone who would like a copy of the full report can obtain one from the provincial office, either emailed as Word document or in the post.

Marist SM badges

On a linked matter, the report mentions at one point that orders and religious congregations whose members are readily identifiable seem to do better than more discreet groups. For anyone who would like to make a statement, there are several varieties of "Marist SM" badges available



from the provincial office at no charge.

Spirituality & Life Program

Paul Sullivan has been in Sydney recently making remote preparations for this year's program, which commences at Villa Maria, Hunters Hill, on 7 October.

There will be 10 confreres from Oceania on the program, and one Marist from the Philippines district.

This circular

Several confreres have commented positively on the new layout and design of the last provincial circular. A big thank you from the elves at the provincial office to **Ron Nissen**, who readily agreed to take over those tasks with the retirement of our provincial secretary, **Judy Saliba**.

Advertising

Passwords

As a regular feature, we will publish the passwords for the members' section of the general administration website, just in case anyone forgets and wants to access the site.

User name: **sm** Password: **colin**

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.

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.

Provincial Retreat

Just a reminder that the provincial retreat this year will be at Hunters Hill from the evening of Sunday 15 September until lunchtime on Friday 20 September. The Jubilarians' dinner will be on the evening of September 20. We will soon be sending out further information, and inviting intending participants to sign up. The retreat will be led by provincial-elect David Kennerley sm from New Zealand.

Bilgola Maintenance

Just a reminder that Bilgola will be completely unavailable from 26-30 July this year. Our builder, Geoff Burrowes, and his crew will be in residence doing some maintenance.

Publications

Tom Ryan has recently published the following:



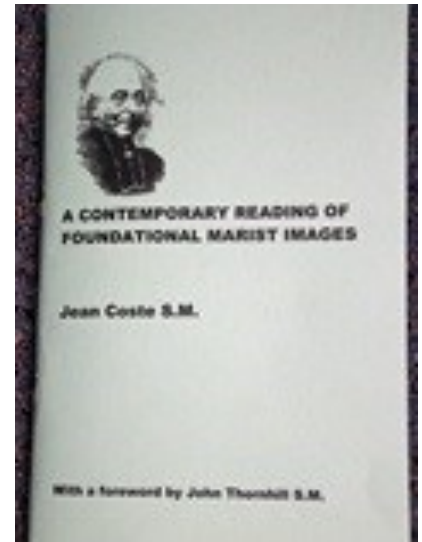
“Covenantal Ethics, the Church and the Royal Commission on Sexual Abuse”, *Compass: A Review of Topical Theology* 47:1 (Autumn), 2013, 4-13.

“Aquinas on Shame: A Contemporary Interchange” in T. Brian Mooney & Mark Nowacki [Eds], *Aquinas, Education and the East* (Springer: Heidelberg/News York/London), 2013, 73-100.

The second item is a collection of essays from invited international scholars.

John Thornhill has republished in booklet form a series of lectures presented in France in 1988 by Jean Coste. In a forward to the lectures John points out that the material reflects Coste's mature understanding and insight regarding Colin, and the originality of his vision. John has titled the booklet, [A Contemporary Reading of Foundational Marist Images](#). The lectures take up the 4 central Colinian themes or insights: The Whole World Marist; I Was the Support of the Church; From Inside the House of Nazareth; Unknown and Hidden. The booklet runs to 91 A5 pages. Confreres who would like a copy should contact the provincial office.

Andrew Murray has recently published [Thinking Things Through: Essays in Philosophy and Christian](#)



[Faith](#), ATF Press, Adelaide, 2013. The book contains essays originally published in a Catholic Weekly column between 1996-2001.

The Council Discussed

- Transfer of Burnie College property to archdiocese
- Current properties and their usage
- Appointments 2014
- Vocations: establishment of a house of welcome
- Marist Mission Centre annual report
- Personnel
- Membership of province Towards Healing panel

Provincial directory updates

Oscar Ichiba has a new email address: namomitayuse04829@gmail.com

Aidan Carvill's contact details at

Geebung, where he is parish administrator:

St Kevin's parish, 251 Newman Road, Geebung, Qld 4034
Ph. 07 3265 6523

Bill O'Donnell

Paul Pidcock recently tracked down the following contact details for **Bill O'Donnell**:

Freemasons Homes of Southern Tasmania
7 Ballawinnie Road
Lindisfarne Tas 7015
Ph.(03) 62 82 5200

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 01-24

Bob Barber

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 11-16

We have this as a booking but there is no name listed. Does it ring a bell with anyone?

Jan 01-14, 2014

Michael Carroll

Booking of Currumbin Nov 20 – 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, retreat, or extended period of study.

Current Bilgola bookings

Aug 01-31 Patrick Kervin

Bilgola will be unavailable from 26-30 July inclusive. Our builder, Geoff Burrowes, will be staying in residence there with some of his crew while they carry out some maintenance work.

General Administration

The GA announced on Friday, June 27, that the Society has successfully negotiated with the Marianists for the purchase of their Philippines novitiate, which is on the outskirts of Davao City. This will become the base for our international novitiate.

The Australian province has agreed to provide the money for the purchase, which will cost the Society about US\$600,000.



David Kennerley

Other Provinces

David Kennerley sm, from New Zealand, who will be leading our provincial retreat in September, has just been announced as the new provincial for New Zealand. He takes over from Brian Cummings at the beginning of next year. The last stage of the election process was a two horse contest between David Kennerley and Tim Duckworth, with both candidates receiving the exact same number of votes. The tie-breaker mechanism in the New Zealand legislation is for the youngest by profession to be elected.

Enclosures

- Obituary: Stan Hosie sm
- Memorial card: John Burns
- Summary of Michael Brungs' research paper on "Vocations"
- Information sheet on the new NSW Working with Children Check
- 2013-14 Religious Stipends



Combined meeting with Sisters

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation committees from the Marist Sisters and the Marist Fathers met at Hunters Hill, NSW, on Apr 20 to plan for a combined event in mid-October.

The morning gathering set for Sat, Oct 19, will address issues calling for

advocacy with the newly-elected parliament.

Bridge Program

Ron Nissen reports that the program for 2013 is going well, with 10 candidates persevering thus far.

He is likely to be recommending most of them to ACU at their interview time in Sep/Oct prior to ACU's 2014 tertiary online program.

For more news and items....

..go to www.maristfathers.org.au then JPIC.