

THE PASTORAL WORK OF THE MARISTS OF LA NEYLIÈRE: THEIR MISSION IN THE LYONNAIS



The Lyonnais is the geographical area where the Marist house at *La Neylière* is situated. Our mission there concerns first those who, coming from far or near, are interested in the Marist heritage and seek to deepen their faith.



Pomeys

This mission centered on the Marist house is not regular pastoral involvement in the Lyonnais. It is the local parish that takes care of catechesis, preparation for marriage, accompanying the sick and funerals.



St Symphorien-sur-Coise

On the other hand, we meet a good number of inhabitants of the Lyonnais at our daily and Sunday masses, in the confessional, in the parlor, in the *Espace Colin* and in the dining room.



St André-la-Côte

The Sunday mass, followed by a drink of friendship, attracts a good number of neighbours and friends, apart from groups who come from further afield.



Aveize

At the same time, at the request of the parish priest, we also regularly celebrate Sunday Mass in his 14 churches.

To sum up the situation, we are part of the ecclesial life of the Lyonnais but have no ambition to be a mini-parish alongside the 14 churches I just mentioned.

Jan Hulshof

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

Since Advent has the same liturgical colour as Lent, sometimes we can miss how different the two seasons are. There is a time for human beings to focus on their responsibility for the mess they're in. But Advent isn't it. We are asked to look forward to the Light coming from elsewhere into the darkest of seasons. This is the ancient 'O antiphon' for 21 December, the Winter Solstice. It speaks for itself:

O RISING SUN, SPLENDOUR OF ETERNAL LIGHT, AND SUN OF JUSTICE, COME AND SHINE ON THOSE SITTING IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH.

What is true for Christians in general is of course true for us Marists in the European province. This is not a time for discouragement but for focusing on possibilities we cannot yet imagine. **Greetings from all of us in Paris, wishing you a Happy Christmas and a light-filled 2023!**

Kevin Duffy, S.M.

PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH:
the mission of the Marist community in **LA NEYLIÈRE**

REMEMBERING LAMPEDUSA



Hello everyone, my name is Charles Vibert. I'm a student at the *Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle* in London. As part of a school group, I took part in a project in Lampedusa from 29 September to 4 October. Lampedusa is an Italian island with a surface area of 20.2 km² and a population of 6,299, located between Malta and Tunisia.

For many years now, thousands of people have been crossing the Mediterranean in the hope of a better life. These people from many countries are fleeing war and political repression hoping to start a new life far from all these horrors and tragedies. Lampedusa is their point of arrival in Europe.

The migrants find themselves crammed onto makeshift boats and left to their own devices to face the sea. This passage is extremely perilous and unfortunately many lose their lives during this final crossing – for example, on 3 October 2013 a trawler from Libya with 500 migrants on board sank, killing 366 people.



Every year during the week of October 3rd, thousands of students from all over Europe meet in Lampedusa for a week. During these days, we met with other young people and participated in workshops run by different organisations helping migrants.

On 3 October, together with survivors of the tragedy, the Bishop of Palermo and the Imam of Catania, we commemorated and prayed for all those people who died at sea. After reciting the name of each person who died in the shipwreck, we threw flowers into the sea in memory of all those lost.

For me, reciting their names was very important because too often migrants can just be numbers. Behind each number, there is a person with a family, a person who had dreams for the future.



Comings and Goings

Joyfulness rather than discouragement prevailed in the various meetings that have taken place in Paris in recent weeks. Of course, there is the relief of being able to do without Zoom, in spite of its many benefits, but there is also a renewed sense of enthusiasm and generosity.

Many of the participants in these meetings are laypeople who give of their time generously to what they see as something very important – the work of Mary.

For others, it is probably something they simply see as very good.



Education committee, Finance committee, sessions of *Maristes en Education*, and so on, all point to an ever-increasing involvement of lay Marists (in the broad interpretation of that idea that goes back to Father Colin) in the future of the Society of Mary in Europe.

