

SEPTEMBER 12: WHAT'S IN A NAME

In the general calendar of the Church the major feasts of the Virgin Mary are the Immaculate Conception, the Assumption and January 1st, The Solemnity of the Mother of God. Other feasts have a lower status, such as Our Lady of Lourdes. In the universal calendar, the feast of the Holy Name of Mary is celebrated as an optional memorial on 12 September. It is not an ancient feast and in the liturgical app I use, no historical data are given. This contrasts with its significance for us Marists. The Society has chosen 12 September to celebrate its origin (an initiative of Mary) and its identity and spirit. All this crystallizes in the name of Mary. *As Fr*

Colin said, "Let them bear constantly in mind that, by a gracious choice, they belong to the family of the Blessed Virgin Mary from whose name they are called "Marists".

"What's in a name?" Juliet asks in Shakespeare's play. "That which we call a rose, by any other word would smell as sweet." Well yes, but sometimes there's a lot in a name.

Kevin Duffy, sm



BEING A PROVINCIAL COUNSELLOR



My time as Provincial Councillor has been very pleasant, especially because of the spirit of teamwork and the welcome and listening that everyone has offered me, starting with Kevin, the Provincial. I am very grateful for that. It has been two years of hard work and meetings, but with the satisfaction of being of service to the brothers and to the Society of Mary.

I have always had the feeling that Mary was guiding and encouraging us. Each month we were faced with an agenda full of unforeseen events, difficulties, challenges, together with our own problems, but the *feeling of fraternity and companionship within the Provincial Council* helped me to make the 'cross' not so heavy. This was my first time in an administrative position, and I learned many things. Some practical, like how important communication is, but also something for my religious life: *superiors have a broader vision of reality*. This encourages me to live the vow of obedience with openness and listening. I would have liked to finish my mandat as counsellor, but the Superior General is asking me to go and lend a hand in the missionary district of Mexico, in the work they have in Toluca with the young university students and the two colleges we Marists have there. I only pray that Mary will continue to keep me open to her maternal guidance.

Daniel Fernández, sm

DEAR MARIST FRIENDS

Greetings from Paris once more. The remarkable time of the Olympics and the Paralympics is over, and the holiday break has now ended for everyone including the Provincial Council. We welcome a new councillor, Marcello Pregno who replaces Daniel Fernández. Thanks to Dani for his generous service and all the best for his new Mexican mission. Even if it's years since most of us followed an academic schedule, September still feels like a new beginning, even more than the calendar new year. So, blessings to all for the year ahead!

Kevin Duffy, sm



ANNIVERSARIES OF PROFESSION AND ORDINATION IN EUROPE-SEPTEMBER 2024

Profession: 70 years: Felipe Marin (ES) - **60 years:** Fritz Arnold (DE), Rafaël Ramila (ES), Hermann Wöste (DE) and Benedikt Wulf (DE)

30 years: Pascal Boidin (FR), Lorenzo Marcucci (IT), Marcello Pregno (IT), Luigi Savoldelli (IT), Andrea Volonnino (IT) **Ordination: 50 years:** Jan ter Braak (NL)

PRAYER INTENTION

the Society's youth ministries in Mexico

CENTENARY OF THE MARISTS AT PRATOLA PELIGNA, ITALY:

A MILESTONE IN HISTORY AND FAITH

On 29 August, the parish community of Maria Santissima della Libera at Pratola Peligna experienced a moment of *great joy and emotion as it celebrated the centenary of the presence of the Marist Fathers*. An important milestone that saw several religious who over the years have dedicated their lives to the service of the community gather in the sanctuary. The solemn Holy Mass, presided over by Bishop Michele Fusco, was an opportunity to thank the Marist Congregation for their valuable contribution to the parish. *In his homily, Mgr. Fusco emphasised the importance of collaboration between lay people and priests, stating that 'one is necessarily in need of the other's help'*. The convivial moment, enlivened by good music and culinary specialities offered by the faithful, sealed an unforgettable day.



One hundred years of history of pastoral commitment, of closeness to the people. The Marist Fathers have left a deep mark on the life of the community of Pratola Peligna, educating generations of young people, offering comfort to the sick and promoting works of charity.

The centenary is also an opportunity to look to the future with hope. The parish community, together with the Marist Fathers, is called to continue this journey, to work together to build a *more just and fraternal society, inspired by Gospel values*.

Tommaso Liberatore, lay Marist

100 YEARS OF ST. TERESA'S CHURCH, DONORE AVENUE, IRELAND

The church was packed for the Centenary Mass commemorating the laying of the foundation stone of St. Teresa's Church, Donore Avenue, Ireland on the 13th July. The celebration concluded with the unveiling of both *the original foundation stone and a new commemorative stone* to mark the occasion.

The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Paul Dempsey, the newly installed auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Dublin. He was joined at the altar by Fr. David Corrigan, the parish priest, along with Frs. John Hannan and John O'Gara, parish chaplains, and Fr. Paul Walsh, a former team member now visiting from France. We gave thanks for all the priests who have served the parish since its opening, *especially the Marist priests who have led the parish since 1980*. Bishop Paul was wonderful, and all the parishioners responded to his warmth with laughter and kindness. He stayed for a long time afterward, chatting with everyone present.



A new date was carved above the original foundation stone, and both were painted for the occasion. This was followed by the temporary planting of a Rowan tree, which will be planted permanently once all building work is complete. Residents from all corners of our parish were invited to pour soil from their area around the tree. A huge word of thanks goes to the Centenary Committee, who put in months of preparation for this marvellous event. We look forward to what you plan for the centenary of the church's opening in 2026!

Sam Byrne, Parish Assistant

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 10-11 September Provincial Council in Paris
- 12 September Feast of the **Holy Name of Mary**
- 30 September Extended Education Committee in Paris
- 1-2 October Provincial Council in Paris
- 15-16 October: **Marist Imagination Days** for lay collaborators in La Neylière
- 26 October **Safeguarding** workshop for the European delegates in Paris
- 29-30 October Council of the Province, theme: **"More Missionary Parishes and Places of Worship: Implementing the Chapter 2022"** followed by the Provincial Council 30-31 October in La Neylière