

"HEIRS, BUILDERS OF THE FUTURE" IN LA NEYLIERE 19-21 MARCH

On Thursday 19 March, Friday 20 March and Saturday 21 March, all our French schools took part in a wonderful "Marist en Education" conference at La Neylière. The chosen theme was 'Heirs, Builders of the Future', marking the 150th anniversary of the passing of our founder, Father Jean-Claude Colin.



On Friday, we were treated to a teaching session led by Father Yvan Mathieu, Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa. We were delighted that he accepted our invitation. He came with Father Jean Martel, a Canadian Marist priest; we were also joined by Sister Teri, a Canadian Marist sister. **A "Canadian breeze" blew through our session, much to our delight.** A talk full of hope opened up many questions. In the afternoon, Pascal Meunier, a teacher at Bury Rosaire, gave a talk entitled "It's going to rock", on an innovative way of teaching.....The entertainment evening, organised by the schools, featured songs, dances...

Everything came together to create a festive atmosphere. We were able to celebrate Father Bernard Thomasset's and Delphine Parejat's (Bury) birthdays in style.

On Saturday morning, various talks outlined the directions the schools are to put into practice. Father Kevin Duffy spoke to us about the decisions of the General Chapter, Frank Dowling told us about the progress of the European Commission, Vincent Langlois gave us news from France, and I concluded with a few personal reflections. **Then a Eucharistic celebration prepared by La Cordeille and presided over by Father Kevin Duffy brought to a close a rich, joyful and fraternal session.**

The magnificent weather and the perfect welcome from La Neylière contributed greatly to the success of our gathering.

Brigitte Coffin, Maristes en Education



DEAR MARIST FRIENDS,

EuroInfo this month has a clear thread running through it – three different events in Notre Dame de La Neylière.

The last General Chapter asked the Society to work towards a decision about the future of Fr Colin's La Neylière. We are working on that.

In the Council of the Province that Paddy O'Hare describes and in the Provincial Council meeting that took place immediately after it, two other themes from the General Chapter came together – the renewal of local communities under the leadership of the superior and a call for all of us to engage with what the Chapter called the Digital Mission Field. The window in the oratory at La Neylière depicts the blue seas that the first Marist missionaries had to cross on their way to the mission field the Pope had given them. Even if hardly any of us in the province are digital natives, new calls and new possibilities will hopefully open up for us in what is a new missionary field. Watch this space.

Kevin Duffy, sm

PRAYER INTENTION

the spiritual renewal of our communities under the leadership of the local superior



COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE IN LA NEYLIERE 28-29 APRIL 2026

Together with the Provincial Council, all the units and most of our communities were represented at the Council of the Province Meeting in La Neyliere from 27th to 29th April. Welcomed warmly, as always, by Jean-Marie, Georges, Faustino and Raymond, we enjoyed two days of quite intense discernment and sharing about our Marist Community Life and Mission, animated by Edwin and Martin.

In the style of GC2025, we began by prayerfully **"entering the upper room" (No.11)** before delving into the more practical aspects and implications of Community Life and Mission in the context of the world today. Numbers 1-15 of GC2025 provided the basis and guidelines for the discussions and sharings of our experiences of various forms of Mission and Community. It was interesting to note that while Mission priorities for each community vary from place to place, the Digital World is a more recent one that seems to touch most confreres, irrespective of age. I noticed also how frequently references were made during the sharings to the fact that our essential Mission as Marists **always begins within the Community, listening to, serving and accompanying each other in daily tasks**, and how every aspect of such a way of living contributes to the wider Mission of the Society of Mary and the Church.

The desire to be renewed and united "in mind and heart" with Mary enabled us to encourage one another, learn from one another and find inspiration to fulfil our roles in leadership more effectively.

Two truly Marist celebrations, St. Peter Chanel's Mass on 28th, celebrated by Paul Molbwet, and the Approbation of the Society of Mary on 29th, celebrated by Kevin Duffy, added to the significance of the gathering.

Paddy O'Hare, sm



A SPECIAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN LA NEYLIÈRE



Each year there is a general meeting of the different groups that organise the life of La Neylière. On 27 March, this meeting was particularly important. Alongside the groups that take care of the management of La Neylière, the cultural activities, and the running of the Oceania Museum, there were employees, volunteers, a presence of the local municipality, the local Marist community, the relatively new codirectors Claire and Thierry Tronel, and the provincial.

It was good for a wide range of stakeholders in this mission to take stock of the wide variety of activities taking place, and the measures being taken to address future challenges. ***Participants in the meeting heard how the Society gathered together at the recent General Chapter in 2025 addressed the future of Fr Colin's house in the Monts du Lyonnais.*** The Chapter asked for a comprehensive study of the future of La Neylière. Under the direction of the Superior General, Declan Marmion, this study is underway. One particularly important development at the annual general meeting was changes to the management structure of La Neylière whereby the Society of Mary can more easily mould ministries and activities in La Neylière in accordance with its missionary priorities.

Kevin Duffy, sm