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Mary, Bearer of Hope to the World

I desire with all my heart
to live my life in the spirit of
Mary, a spirit of love, simplicity,
hiddenness and prayer..

Like Mary, may I bring hope
to the world, especially among
those most yearning for hope....
(add intentions).

Woman, pregnant with Hope
listen to my prayer.

Fill me with your tender and
deep love for Jesus.

**Mary, Bearer of Hope to
the World, Pray for us.**

*Marist Family International Year
12 Sept. 2008/2009*

Editor: Barbara Ashwell
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St Patrick's Church, The Rocks, Sydney
A spiritual Marist oasis in a busy city

Although it has deep roots into Australia's past, St Patrick's is one of the busiest churches in Australia today. Sunday Masses, begin with the vigil Mass on Saturday evening, then follow one another hour by hour from early Sunday morning.

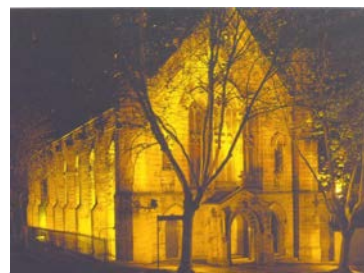
St Pat's is referred to as "everyone's second church" as it provides visitors and Sydneysiders alike with a range of times that meet every need. Packed weekday Masses spread throughout the day cater for workers, shoppers and visitors. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available throughout the day and the Church is never empty of worshippers in private prayer or adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

St Patrick's is indeed a church with a rich and proud history spanning more than 160 years. It's interior calls one back to a different era

with its calm, prayerful atmosphere which is in sharp contrast to the busy city around it.

Built in the 1840s St Patrick's history reaches back to the very beginnings of Catholic life in Australia. The church is inseparably linked to the Irishman, William Davis who was transported to Australia in 1798. In 1809 Davis obtained land at Church Hill and his home became the centre of Catholic prayer as there was not a resident priest in the colony. In 1840 William Davis donated the land on which St Patrick's is built. The foundation stone was laid on 25 August that year. The solemn opening Mass was celebrated on 17 March 1844.

The first priest was a famous Irish pioneer Archdeacon John McEneroe, who prior to his death in 1868, asked Archbishop Bede Polding to entrust the church to the

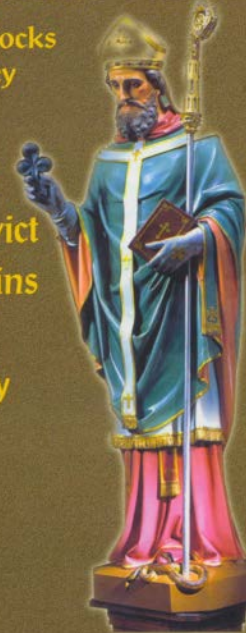


entrust the church to the Marist Fathers. To this day the Society of Mary is responsible for St Patrick's.

Although the early Marists were Frenchmen serving a predominantly Irish community their great compassion and understanding was renowned. Today, the current Marist Fathers are available to all in need of sacraments and prayer at any hour of the day. They minister with that same compassionate care.

*Sub Maria Nomine***St. Patrick's Church**
The Rocks
Sydney

from
Convict
Origins
to
Today

**Marist Laity**

Now in its sixth year St. Patrick's Marist Laity continues to meet on the third Friday of each month at 6.00p.m. The group meets for an hour of discussion and prayer on a Marist theme. During 2009 our group is reflecting on the writings of significant Marists from the beginnings of the Marist story, pondering their spirit and in our own way continuing their mission in the inner-city of Sydney. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

**Pastoral Team at
St Patrick's**

Neville Byrne sm, PP
Jill de Montfort smsm,
Judy de Montfort smsm,
Jim Harding sm,
Luke Holohan sm,
Pat Kervin sm,
Peter McMurrich sm,
Michael Sullivan sm
Beryl Prescott MLA
(St Brigid's Church)



Maria's Musings—A Letter from the President

*Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the
words,
And never stops at all.*

*And sweetest in the gale is
heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm*

*I've heard it in the chilliest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.*

I have always loved this poem by 19th century American, Emily Dickinson. It is disarmingly child-like in its simple words and rhythm, yet, holds within it a profundity of truth. The image of the "little bird" (like the walnut-sized blue-wrens that sing to me at breakfast time down at Gerrin-gong) is so appropriate. Birds have always been associated with the spiritual. They soar, and represent the possibility of transcendence.

As it "sings the tune without the words", we understand that Hope, like music, is often beyond explanation. Both can move a person to a new level of being that mere words cannot define. Like the bird, Hope is persistent and "never stops at all." The power of Hope is remarkably strong, even in the face of gales and storms. It keeps us "warm" in the "chillest land", miraculously thriving in the most extreme of times. And surprisingly, Hope does not need to be fed from without. Because it "perches in the soul", it gets its nourishment

from the interior spiritual life of a person. That is why abandonment of Hope- despair- is such a tragic state as it can see the world only in the negative.

Our Marist Family International Year of Prayer to "**Mary, Bearer of Hope to the World**", calls from deep within us, the desire to live our lives in the spirit of Mary – love, simplicity, hiddenness and prayer. From this way of being, we are asked to be bearers of hope to "those most yearning for hope". It is through a "tender and deep love for Jesus" like Mary's, that we can keep hope alive, not just for the next life but especially for the now, not just individual hope but for the whole human family.

Creators of Peace is a programme of Initiatives of Change, a diverse, global network committed to building trust across the world's divides. It comprises people of many cultures, nations, beliefs and backgrounds who are committed to transforming society through changes in individuals and relationships, starting in their own lives. Last year, I joined a Peace Circle of women in my local area. They were of varying cultures, nationalities and religions. We met over a six-week period, going through a process identifying what causes and feeds conflict in our lives and in society. . It was a challenging six weeks the goal; of which is to be-



come a creator of peace. By the last session, each of the women had shared her own story. This was the most moving part of our time together as the abstract ideas of peace-making found flesh and feeling in the lives of these women, some of whom have suffered greatly. As a Marist, I instinctively thought of Mary and how close she was to me in these stories of joy, sorrow and glory! Check the website:

www.iforc.org

Hope for a New Creation
The Social Justice, Ecology
and Peace Group of Kiama Parish invited interested parishioners to a day of prayer and planning to formulate a way forward for the parish to become more sustainable in keeping with

its Environmental Stewardship Project. In the beautiful surrounds of St Matthew's Jambaroo, we were allowed to "wonder" at creation and dream of possibilities for the future. We also engaged in some nuts-and-bolts planning. The spirit of the day was certainly one of hope, to counter the "doom and gloom" which often accompanies the environmental forecasts. Hope comes from spiritual authority, which is the voice of God within each of us, urging us to have the courage to live more simply and lightly in our world. Three lay Marists, Alison Smith, Mary Clarke and Maria Baden participated in this project. Check the website:

www.catholicearthcare.org.au



In what direction are we being guided by the Holy Spirit today? by Fr Paul Cooney sm

In Italy there is a flower which blooms only when the wind blows in a certain way. When the wind blows from the south and caresses the course, dull exterior of the plant, it opens up to reveal a delicate, colourful blossom inside. It displays its beauty as long as the warm wind blows from the south.

The people who live in that region know the direction of the wind when they see the countryside ablaze with the flowers. But as soon as the wind changes, it closes, withers and dies.

When the Spirit of God blows, we know by the evidence of what we see. There is peace, patience, kindness, generosity, gentleness, faith, courtesy and love. Are not these qualities a fitting description of Mary?

Fr Jean Coste, a wonderful French Marist, who died some years ago, once wrote:

"It was the Holy Spirit who guided Mary and fashioned her soul; it was the Holy Spirit who inspired and helped Father Colin to understand the mystery of Mary; it is the Holy Spirit who, working in the Church and in the Society which forms part of it, enables Marists to discover today how they can follow in the footsteps of Mary and their Founder."

In what direction are we being guided by the Holy Spirit today? Where is the Spirit's warm, life-giving breeze calling us to blossom?

In each of our lives there will be many moments when we can respond in the freedom of the Holy Spirit, or reject that impulse and let ourselves wither.



A friend comes to you in distress. You talk for a while and encourage them. They go away with a new outlook. The Spirit has been at work.

You have a nagging worry that you know you must do something about. You pluck up courage and act. You feel peaceful again. The Spirit has been at work.

You see an injustice that cries out. You are moved to act with compassion and love. The Spirit has been at work. May the Holy Spirit guide each of us and fashion our souls.

Marist Missionary Congregational Leader visits from Rome

From 28th March to 8th April 2009, Sr. Georgeanne Marie Donovan smsm, the Congregational Leader, was in Sydney meeting with the Provincial Council of the Australian Province of the SMSM. During her time here, Sr Georgeanne visited each of the smsm communities but her main purpose was to work with the Provincial team on the implementation of the 2008 General Chapter held in Rome.

One afternoon, the Marist Family Leaders, including Maria Baden and Barbara Ashwell, gathered at Strathfield to share thoughts on Marist life in today's Australia.



**Sr Jill de Montfort smsm Sr Jenny Clarke (smsm provincial leader),
Sr Georgeanne Marie Donovan smsm & Sr Judy de Montfort smsm**



This beautiful building was constructed in 1876, as a convent chapel for the Sisters of Mercy, who looked after St Patrick's parish schools. It was built just 32 years after St Patrick's Church. It was officially opened by Benedictine Archbishop, Roger Bede Vaughan, who was Sydney's second archbishop.

It was used continuously as a Chapel for 120 years until the Mercy Sisters relocated from the Parish in 1998. Over the years the exquisite 19 century timbers were covered with paint and plaster board.

As part of the total conservation project undertaken at St Patrick's from 1996-2002, the chapel was given a complete restoration.

ST PATRICK'S COURTYARD COFFEE SHOP FROM CONVENT CHAPEL TO COFFEE SHOP

The shingle roof was reinstated and the original paintwork uncovered to reveal beautiful

mural work. The dark panelled ceiling and the 1928 parquetry floor were restored.

On 23 July 2001 St Patrick's convent chapel proudly re-opened as St Patrick's Courtyard Coffee Shop. It quickly established itself as an integral part of St Patrick's parish ministry.

The most obvious thing about the coffee shop is that it serves a great range of premium coffees and delicious snacks. Less obvious to the casual observer is the extraordinary commitment of the rostered staff, who are volunteers. They come from all

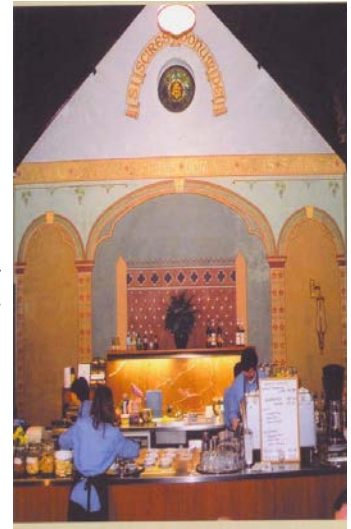
over Sydney and beyond to provide visitors with a welcoming presence and a totally enjoyable experience.

Visitors are enchanted by the Latin inscriptions on the back wall *Si Scires Donum Dei*—"if you were to know the gift of God". Those familiar with the Latin Mass will recognise *Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth*.

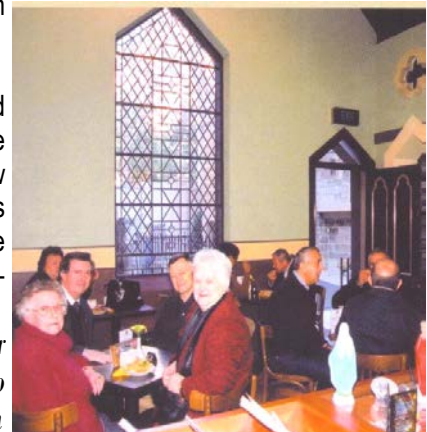
To the right of the back wall hangs the sanctuary lamp brought to Australia by the Mercy Sisters from Liverpool in 1865.

The original stained glass windows date from 1876 but a new leadlight window has been created for the front wall of the building.

Drop in for a cuppa after Mass Open Sunday to Friday 10.00am—2.00pm



Volunteers serve coffee



Sr Judith de Montfort smsm manages St Patrick's coffee shop and celebrates 50yrs of Marist Missionary life on 24 May

Sr Jill de Montfort smsm is Coordinator of Liturgy and the RCIA program at St Pat's. She is 52 yrs an smsm

The de Montfort Sisters have been Marist Missionary Sisters for a total of 102 yrs

Judith followed her sister Jill into religious life 18 months after she had entered the Marist Missionary Sisters in 1955. Both became teachers contributing to the education of many in Bougainville and Papua New Guinea.

Jill worked in Bougainville from 1964–1983. Then she spent a few years in Rabaul at the Teachers College before returning to work in Australia in 1992.

Judith was missioned to the Solomons where she taught for 10 years before going to Papua New Guinea for another 10 years. Judith did a degree in Social Work. She then used her skills in Goroka at the Christian Institute of Counseling before returning to continue serving as a Marist Missionary in Australia.

Today both Sr Judith and Sr Jill are part of St Pat's team.

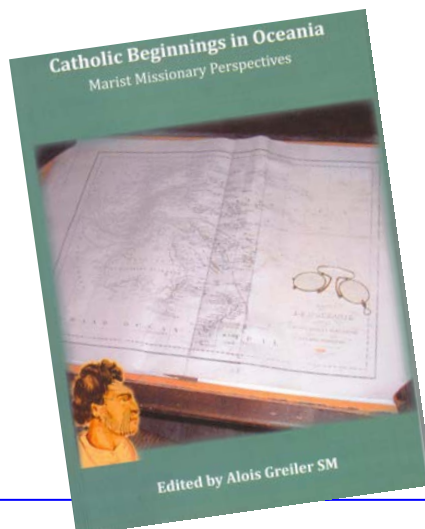
LAUNCH OF *Catholic Beginnings in Oceania—Marist Missionary Perspectives* in Colin Library at Hunters Hill 4 May 2009 by Maria Baden

On 4 May, a small but enthusiastic group of Marists attended a book launch, hosted by the Marist Fathers and held, appropriately, in the Colin Library at Hunters Hill.

Catholic Beginnings in Oceania: Marist Missionary Perspectives was launched by Fr John Hosie SM, Marist historian, who spoke convincingly on the centrality of Oceania to the whole Marist project. Marists were, in fact, the Catholic pioneers in New Zealand, Polynesia and Melanesia. It was Fr Jean-Claude Colin SM who sent many of the best of his men to bring the Gospel to this part of the world. The importance of the Marist teaching Brothers and the difficulties encountered by the women missionaries are also dealt with in detail.



Maria Baden & Sr Claire O'Brien ssm at book launch. A few days later Claire was hit by a car & has two broken legs.



This book offers a context to the massive nine-volume work of Father Charles Girard SM, which analyses some 8,000 pages of letters written by the earliest French Marist Missionaries and which was launched just recently in New Zealand.

Catholic Beginnings is edited by Alois Greiler SM and is a series of contributions by Marist men and women, lay and religious.

"Reading each contribution is like moving from island to island – each distinct, each with its own founding story. Thus, the diversity of the presentations recalls the richness of the 'Church of the Thousand Islands'."

The idea for the book came from an international colloquium held in Suva, Fiji, in 2007, where papers were presented on the theme of Father Colin, founder of the Society of Mary, and his role in the History of the Catholic Church in Western Oceania.

It was significant that the colloquium was held, not in Rome but in Oceania and that many of the participants were Pacific Islanders. The book itself contains three papers, written by Pacific Islanders which give a powerful, authentic view of the theme from the "inside" or the "other side". It is likewise significant that *Catholic Beginnings in Oceania* is having its initial launches in the countries of Oceania, not Europe.

Fr Andrew Murray SM thanked John Hosie SM on our behalf and then it was time for a taste of warm Marist Fathers' hospitality. A touch of France with wine and fromage and a touch of Ozzie with sausage rolls, meat pies and tomato sauce!

For those wishing to purchase a copy, the book is published by :

Australasian Theological Forum Ltd.

P0 Box 504

Hindmarsh, SA, 5007

www.atfpress.com

PH: +61 8 8354 2299



Fr Paul Cooney sm, Hilary Reading, Fr John Hosie sm, Fr Andrew Murray sm
Provincial Publisher Historian Catholic University

Our Marist Pacific Neighbours **MARIST LAITY IN NEW CALEDONIA and FIJI**

A year ago last April, Marist Laity Australia, held an international conference in Sydney. Marist participants came from near and far to share their ministry and spirit with us.



Sebastien Leleivai & Sr Elizabeth

We were particularly blessed to have Sebastien Leleivai and Sosefo Mufana (non English speakers) from French-speaking New Caledonia. By their presence with us they shared the joyful spirit of our Polynesian neighbours in the Pacific. They contributed to an evening session by telling us about their ministry with the help of interpreters. Sebastien's input was translated by Sr Elizabeth McTaggart sm and Sosefo's contribution was translated from French to English by Christine Colomban (delegate from USA).

Unfortunately most of us could not understand French, but with the help of the interpreters and their Marist simplicity

they kept us amused while relating how they live Marist lay ministry in New Caledonia. Sosefo told us about his work in the Third Order:

- There are some 1,800 lay people in the Third Order of Mary
- There are some 830 young Marists
- There are also the Fraternities
- Another expression of Marist Laity is called "Cell Mary"
- There is one bureau to centralize these 4 branches of Marist Laity
- This bureau has a President, Treasurer and Secretary

Sebastien belongs to the Fraternity. He told us how he visits the sick and also people who are homeless.

- The Fraternity Marists meet once every 2 months to pray and discuss their outreach work



Christine Colomban & Sosefo Mufana



Olivia Laisuva

Olivia Laisuva, from Nadi, Fiji spoke on behalf of the 5 Fijian delegates at the conference.

Olivia spoke gently and beautifully about her association with the Marist Sisters. A big group meet once a month in Nadi at the Marist Sisters convent for prayer and reflection. Sr Marlene SM prepares the leaflets. The Sisters are the main impetus for this group. Most of them were educated by the Marist Sisters.

Simply, their hope for the future is

to grow in Mary's spirit



Jane Langham
Telling us about the Marian Mothers Groups in NZ at the Conference.

MARIAN MOTHERS' GROUPS IN NEW ZEALAND

The Marian Mothers' groups began in New Zealand many years ago through the vision of Fr John Allardyce sm.

Jane is working with Marian Mothers' groups in Wellington. There are some Marian Mothers' groups here in Sydney who receive regular material from NZ

Do you know any pregnant Couples?

Send them a card offering Hope and Prayer during this time of waiting

To order expectant parents' cards email or write to the address on the back page



Yr 3 Student

Young Adults at St Pat's—Branches

by Fr Patrick Kervin sm

Over a number of years, Branches - a group of young adults—has featured at St. Patrick's. Commencing on Tuesday, May 12th about fifty or sixty young adults in their 20s and 30s came together for a meal in the Crypt before breaking up into small groups to discuss topics of interest to them. This process will be repeated each Tuesday night for ten weeks. The whole show is quite expertly handled,. This comes from the Branches Team of young adults who have "been there, done that" in 2008 or before. On top of this experience they have been preparing and bonding for two months prior to the start up night.

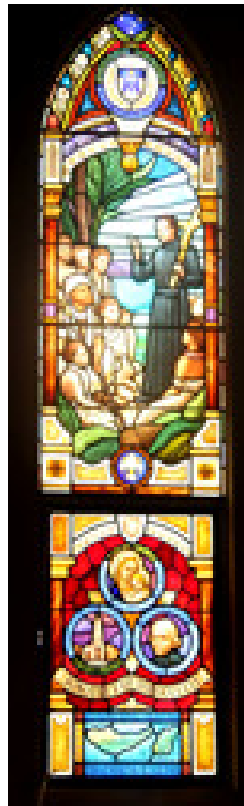
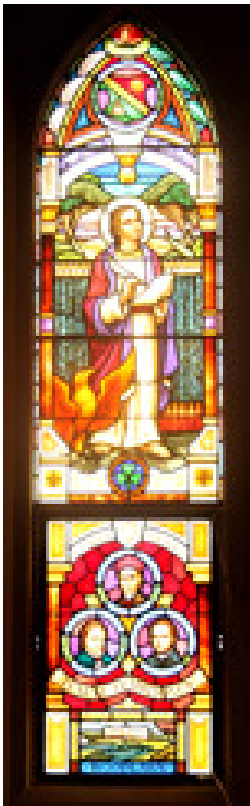
Topics include: Journey from Our Basic Heart's Desires to Who is Jesus?, the Holy Spirit, Prayer, How to Read the Bible, Relationship with Self, Relationship with God, Relationship with Others, Brokenness and Healing, How God Guides Us to finally Call to Mission "How are we called to be people for others?"



The program also includes a weekend away as a group, providing an extended time together. The photo on the left shows young adults enjoying such a weekend.

Drop in one Tuesday and journey with our young adults.

To learn more email:
youngadults
@stpatschurchhill.org



New Stained Glass Windows in Lismore Cathedral by Sydney craftsman Kevin Little

The first window features St John the Evangelist, patron saint of nearby Woodlawn College.

The second window features St Peter Chanel SM beneath the Southern Cross, with Marist founder, Fr Jean-Claude Colin, and the shrine of Fourviere where the pioneer Marists pledged to form the Society of Mary. (www.maristfathers.org)

Baptism at St Pat's Sister Church St Brigid's, Millers Point performed by Parish Priest Fr Neville



Marist Reflection Day at Hunters Hill with Noel Davis – Aussie Poet by Cathy Larkin



On Saturday, May 23, over thirty people from the mountains to the sea gathered in the Marist Centre at Hunters Hill to engage in a day of reflection led by the poet Noel Davis.

I think we can rightly say Noel is more than a poet. He is a mystic. He is gifted with the capacity to somehow connect a human soul with the divine. This he does with great gentleness and amazing grace.

Noel took the theme
*Living Water: Nurturing
of Soul....
Renewing
of Spirit*

Through prayer, story, reflection, song and conversation, Noel created a space to be renewed, an opportunity to be living water for each other. Everyone who participated was deeply moved by the experience, in ways difficult to capture in words. It was one of those 'You had to be there' moments.

So, the next time we have a reflection day, if you weren't there, BE there!

We thank Noel for sharing his abundant gifts with us.

We also thank Fr Kevin Redmond SM, our presider at the concluding Eucharistic celebration.



Noel Davis has written several books of reflective poems. You can contact Noel to purchase them: phone: 02 4476 3831
Email: patricianoel@optusnet.com.au

Please Pray for

- + Sr Lusia Tuimavave smsm
- + Sr Claire O'Brien smsm
- + Sr Carmen Conron sm
- + Shelagh Goonawardene (Melbourne Marist) has a daughter with cancer
- + Annette Davies who has a malignant brain tumour
- + All pregnant mums
- + People in war torn areas

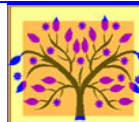
*O Spirit
of Awakenings
here in our
Midst*

*You
rejoice
over us
Renew us
with Your
love
Dance
for joy
over
Us*

by Noel Davis in his book
The Heart Waking (2007)

CALENDAR

May 31:	Pentecost—The Visitation
June 6:	St Marcellin Champagnat
June 30:	Jeanne Marie Chavoin
July 23:	The Promise of Fourviere
August 15:	The Assumption
September 8	The Birthday of the BVM
September 12:	The Holy Name of Mary



President: Maria Baden
Secretary: Val Norris
Treasurer: Margaret Walker

www.maristlaityaustralia.com



Mary is the outsider that God chose to bring into the Centre