

MARIST NEWSLETTER

Marist Brothers • Province of Melbourne

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*“Heart
speaks
to
heart”*



Cardinal John Henry Newman 1801-1890

Beatified at Birmingham, September 19, 2010

**PROVINCE NEWS - BATTERED NEWMAN - AD GENTES SECTOR - JESUS WEPT -
SPIRITUAL LIFE - NEWS FROM FORBES - ANTI-VIOLENCE MARCH IN THE ALICE**



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Marist Newsletter of the Marist Brothers Province of Melbourne is a private publication for the dissemination of news, notices and articles of interest among the Brothers, the affiliated members of the Province and our lay partners who serve on Committees of the Province.

Copies are sent to each of the Brothers' Communities in the Sydney Province as well as to the General House in Rome and to some other overseas Marist Communities.

**The Editor welcomes contributions and suggestions
from our readers**



Our deceased and their families

- * **Fr Von Mannes**, died Saturday 26 June, aged 99. A brother of our Marist Mannes, Brs Paul, Augustine (killed on Bougainville) and Sylvester.
- * **Evelyn Salter**, died September 2010, aged 90. Aunt of Brother Noel Hickey, Churchlands.
- * **Stan Plowman**, died 19 September. Loyal ex-student of the Marist Brothers in Kyneton. His sons also attended the school.

For those who are unwell ...

- * **Br Maurice Bambridge**, Alice Springs. Recovering from major surgery.
- * **Br Doug Walsh**. Recovering from heart surgery at home in North Fitzroy.
- * **Carmel Breen**, Perth. Sister of former Brother Ian Breen. Recovering from a serious operation.

And also for ...

- * **Patrick Connell**, as he prepares for Religious Profession
- * Those continuing or taking on the position of **Community Superior**.
- * All those involved in the preparations for the December **Provincial Chapters** for the Oceania Region.



From our Provincial



4 October 2010

Dear Brothers,

Even if I awaken some day and find myself no longer able to teach, administer or to be involved in a school, I'll still be a Brother. It's part of my identity. It has formed my story. It's an attitude that affects everything I do: how I relate, how I listen, how I pray, how I respond to invitations to try new things, how I manage and resolve conflict, how I connect and share with confrères and friends, how I encourage, how I ask for advice, how I pursue my interests and goals, and how I celebrate.

I think we all have to see Brotherhood as a way of life that we share not only with many in Oceania, but across the world. When we think more of ourselves as a Brother, we change the way we live, the way we pray, the way we work, and the decisions we make about use of time and about our goals. Being Brother enables us to face the world with confidence, to try new things, to persist in the face of doubt and defeat. When we think of ourselves as a Brother, it affects how we view challenges, how we view problems, how receptive we are to assistance from others. When we see ourselves as a Brother, we take our own needs seriously, making conscious choices about relationships and setting realistic goals. Brotherhood can lift us and carry us through each day, even those days filled with disappointments and defeats.

We take our call to fraternity very seriously, knowing that it crosses the generational and geographic boundaries. We are called to be, in the words of Water From The Rock, -"Approachable, unassuming, authentic, attentive, respectful" and that our "relationships are consistently simple, welcoming and encouraging."



Finally, being Brother means that we are brothers to those we meet on life's journey. Consciously or unconsciously, we communicate the Brotherhood of Jesus and therein lies our mission in whatever circumstance we find ourselves.

Fraternally

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julian Casey".

Julian Casey
Provincial

ONCE WERE STABLES



It was a great pleasure for me to formally open the Marcellin Learning Centre at Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park. The site commonly known as “The Stables” has gone through numerous changes. The ceremony marked the fifth opening on this particular site. In 1882, James Cudmore opened the impressive gabled stables for his 10 racehorses, cottages for stable hands, a granary and barns. In 1917, *Br Joseph McAteer* brought in the carpenters, masons and plasterers and in a space of eight weeks transformed the stable complex into six classrooms, a science room, music rooms and a gymnasium. It was an advance on the other College facilities because it had electricity. In 1941, *Br Albertus Sellenger* renovated the stables by removing the gables and creating seven classrooms, a music room and a principal’s office. The advance in those days was to have a loudspeaker in each classroom. In 1991, *Br Stephen Bugg* organized for a part of the stables to be demolished to make way for the Arts Technology Block and he undertook a refurbishment of the remaining stables area and a Student Locker site was created. In the 50 years since the previous refurbishment, the advances were too numerous to mention.

In recognition of its past configurations, the entrance wall to the new building has been created from recycled stone from the Stables Building.

ANNUAL RETREAT IN ADELAIDE

The Chapter held prior to Christmas is of course not a Retreat and arrangements have gone ahead to make arrangements for the Annual Province Retreat. This year the Retreat begins on 27th December and concludes at lunch on the 2nd January. The leader of the retreat is Fr Laurence McNamara CM, who has had a long history in seminaries and renewal teams and is currently in Adelaide.

You will soon be receiving a notice asking you to indicate your intentions. Please attend to this promptly.

SUPERIORS

At the last Council Meeting, the Provincial Council appointed and confirmed the following Brothers as Superiors:

Alice Springs:	Mark Needham
Baucau:	John Horgan (2 nd term)
Churchlands:	Matthew Clarke
Coburg:	Stephen Bugg
Fitzroy:	Paul Kane
Forbes:	John Hilet (2 nd term)
Karama:	Joe Hughes (7 th Year)
Kilmore	Greg McCrystal (2 nd term)
Sale:	Frank McIntosh
Somerton Park:	David Blay (2 nd term)

A special word of thanks to these Brothers for taking on this leadership service to the Community and to the Province.

We also acknowledge the contribution of Paul Gilchrist, Paul Kane and Terry Orrell who have completed their terms. Each of them took on the role in addition to other responsibilities in the school. We thank them for their efforts.

RESIDENCE DEVELOPMENTS

■ NORTH FITZROY

Negotiations for the property at North Fitzroy have been concluded and we now await the appropriate approvals and permissions. The Architects, Robert Simeoni Pty Ltd has been contracted and the Council viewed the latest sketch plans at its last meeting. At this stage, there will be five ensuites on the first floor and three plus a guest room on the ground floor. As mentioned last month, the house will be used as a Hospitality House until the construction commences. Br Peter Howes is the contact person (0410 738 454).

■ OCEAN GROVE

A refurbishment programme for the Ocean Grove house will commence shortly. There are some significant repairs and improvement upstairs to be completed and a refurbished bathroom and laundry downstairs. Work will hopefully have it ready for the Christmas holidays.

PATRICK CONNELL

At the last Council Meeting, we received Pat's application to take temporary Vows for one year and it was with great joy and with confidence that the Council accepted this application. There were no reservations and we were impressed and encouraged by Pat's decision to make application. His two-year novitiate comes to a close in December and he will be professed on Sunday, 12th December at 11.00am in the Marcellin College Chapel at Bulleen. There will soon be details put out about the Profession Ceremony.

JOHN McMAHON

John is currently in Brazil attending the Marist Higher Education Conference. He is also one of the presenters. Following the Conference, he will attend to the planning of next year's Pilgrimage. We expect him back in Melbourne on the 24th of this month. Peter Howes is the Acting Superior at Templestowe Community in John's absence.

JOHN HILET

John was recently one of three finalists for the "Inspiration Award" conducted by the Sydney Daily Telegraph. The citation read:

"John is the Principal of Red Bend Catholic College at Forbes. The College currently has 60 aboriginal students in whose welfare and education John takes a person interest. He visits remote parts of western NSW to contact parents to explain the advantages of education. He arranges for the students to have uniforms, textbooks and stationery if they can't afford them. With his help many have gone on to complete HSC."

Even though another finalist won the award, John received an appropriate Certificate marking his contribution.

DOUG WALSH

You may have heard of Doug's interview on ABC Classic FM News. Unexpectedly, it was at the MCG after the drawn Grand Final game and Doug was asked about his reactions as a typical Collingwood supporter. I decided to ask Doug to write something for the Newsletter about his reactions and experience in Hospital. It follows:

Thank You for your Prayers



I have been back in Community now for two weeks. It was only when I returned home and was able to go through my six pages of emails that I fully understood the extent of my Open Heart Surgery. The updates that Bruce Houghton, through the Province Centre, sent out to you filled me in with a picture I wasn't aware of. I remember telling my twin sister Maureen as I was preparing for the operation that I would be well enough to vote on the Saturday as the operation was on the Thursday. Little did I know that I would miss a week of my life in a coma!

Thanks for your prayers during that time, as it was touch and go. When I did awake in Intensive Care, I reflected on the Scripture, saying that in life you will reach a stage where people will have to care for you totally. The Nursing Staff were marvellous. It was humbling to be fed, washed and cared for so lovingly.

It was during this time I went through all types of emotions and, thanks to your prayers, I came through it well. My niece remarked to me at one stage *"Doug, you have the mental toughness to come through this."* I worked hard at rehab and was delighted when I received the all clear to come back home to Nicholson Street. The Cardiologist promised me that he would have me right for the Grand Final. He did - and a good friend looked after me for the day.

Currently I am at home, eating well and sleeping well. Friends of mine have called in and I have enjoyed going out for coffee and having the occasional lunch out. Most of the day I am at home enjoying the change of lifestyle imposed upon me. God works in mysterious ways!

I look forward to a full recovery and see myself stepping back from my self-imposed work load. The constant call from all the organisations I have involved myself in, is *"Dougie, we don't want you to do too much. Just mentor us - we need your wisdom and experience."* I found this all very humbling and I hope I can carry out their expectations. I am really in a period of transition. I need time to adjust and I am confident that the prayers of my family, my Marist family, my Saint Vincent De Paul and Rotary colleagues, as well as the prayers from a slum in Manila called Bagong Barrio, have been instrumental in the Lord giving me many blessings. Thanks to you all.

Br Doug Walsh
September 2010



REMINDER:

With the coming of daylight saving, it's time to change those batteries in your smoke alarms!!

BATTERED NEWMAN

Fr Peter Cornwell

While I was Vicar of Newman's Church in Oxford, I remember we had an ecumenical celebration of his life. For the wonderful thing is that, although in the past, Newman could be a divisive figure, now Christians of all brands are able to come together to celebrate him. He is seen as God's gift to us all. After this service I remember that the late Duke of Norfolk and a Scottish Piper led us in procession from the Church to Trinity College where Newman had been a student. There we had a grand dinner at which there were not only speeches, but also what was advertised as the 'World Premiere of Newman's Violin Sonata'. It was not great music but, in the style of Arthur Sullivan, a jaunty and cheerful enough piece.

I mention this burst of jollity because a lot of Newman's life was far from jolly. For him neither life in the Church of England nor in the Catholic Church proved to be a bed of roses. During his time at St Mary's he came to believe that he was called by God to uproot himself from his beloved Oxford and from the beloved church of his baptism and childhood. God was calling him, not to reject that past and the many good things it had given him, but to go forward; to leave what was familiar and plunge into a strange land. It was a deeply painful experience.



When he landed up in his new spiritual home the truth is that, until those final years of great old age, he never really felt at home. 'O how forlorn and dreary', he once cried 'has been my course since I have been a Catholic!' Often, as he puts it in his great poem, the



night seemed dark and he was 'far from home.' If he had known conflict in the Church of England he was to find as much if not more in the Catholic Church. Many Catholics were suspicious of him. They found his way of doing theology unfamiliar. There were zealous 'super-Catholics' like William Ward who craved a papal edict at breakfast every day with his copy of *The Times*. They found Newman's quiet moderation disappointingly tepid. He was formally denounced to Rome and judged by Monsignor Talbot the Papal Chamberlain to be 'the most dangerous man in England.'

Projects that he was encouraged to embark upon: the setting up of a Catholic university in Dublin or establishing a new Oratory in Oxford were hindered, undermined or blocked by those who should have been his new friends and allies. Newman's journey was no comfortable saunter through a smiling countryside but, as he put it: 'o'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent'.

It was not surprising that Newman felt this rejection and entered a time of deep depression. 'I am nobody', he wrote 'I have no friend at Rome. I have laboured in England, to be misrepresented, backbitten and scorned. I have laboured in Ireland, with a door ever shut in my face. I seem to have had many failures.' The old enemy failure hung over him again. Everything, he said: 'seemed to be crumbling under his hands.'

But through all this darkness, two things sustained Newman. First, a sturdy acceptance of the reality of church life, of the earthiness of the containers in which the divine treasure is carried. To come into the Catholic Church, he wrote, was: 'not to be sent to bed', but to find oneself plunged into something like one of those Birmingham factories in which through 'an incessant noisy process... the raw material of our human nature is melted, refined and moulded.' True faith, he affirmed: 'is not shown here below in peace but rather in conflict.'

And the second thing that maintained him through these troubles was the conviction that 'the kindly light' kept him and still led him on. The hand of God was on him, to shape and mould him. Newman had a very personal understanding of the Providence of God. It meant that he, like every other individual, was created: 'to do something, to be something, for which no one else is created.' So he would steal away to know again the presence of that Craftsman Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

One friend's last glimpse of him was on Good Friday 1890 as he knelt there, face in hands, before the Altar of Repose. But Newman would also steal away with his old violin, perhaps to play that jaunty sonata and so witness to the joy which kept breaking through.

Father Peter Cornwell
cliftondiocese.com

Pope John Paul II on John Henry Newman

It was the passionate contemplation of truth which also led him to a liberating acceptance of the authority which has its roots in Christ, and to the sense of the supernatural which opens the human mind and heart to the full range of possibilities revealed in Christ. 'Lead kindly light amid the encircling gloom, lead Thou me on', Newman wrote in *The Pillar of the Cloud*; and for him Christ was the light at the heart of every kind of darkness. For his tomb he chose the inscription: *Ex umbris et imaginibus in veritatem*; and it was clear at the end of his life's journey that Christ was the truth he had found.

But Newman's search was shot through with pain. Once he had come to that unshakeable sense of the mission entrusted to him by God, he declared: 'Therefore, I will trust Him.... If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him... He does nothing in vain... He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide the future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.'

Letter to Archbishop Vincent Nichols, Birmingham: 22 January, 2001