



PROVINCIAL CHAPTER JULY 16 TO 19, LA NEYLIÈRE

From July 16 to 19, the European provincial chapter of the Marist Fathers and Brothers met in La Neylière. On day 1, the Chapter proceeded to collect names for possible candidates as delegates for the general chapter in 2025.

On day 2, the question was whether and how we can transfer authority over Marist schools in France, Ireland and Germany from the provincial to the superior general. To this end, a strategy document was presented. In the afternoon we shared our experiences: On the one hand, there was the feeling that history is not in our hands. On the other hand, there was confidence.

On day 3, confreres discussed the provincial bursar Jimmy McElroy's report and John Harhager addressed us on behalf of the general administration. He thanked our province for its many signs of solidarity with the entire Society. Then delegates and substitutes to the General Chapter were elected: **Martin McAnaney, Jean-Marie Bloqueau, Declan Marmion and Thilo Saft, with substitutes Daniel Fernández, Marcello Pregno and David Corrigan.** Subsequently, a proposal to the general chapter on the future of La Neylière was unanimously adopted.

On day 4, the following agenda proposals for the general chapter were established: 1) mission and ministry; 2) vocation and formation; 3) governance and restructuring; 4) laity; 5) safeguarding; 6) charisma and heritage. Finally, the strategy document on education was adopted, as well as a document asking for structures that provide laypeople with the necessary support for their mission.

Earlier than expected, the moment came on Friday afternoon when Kevin, our provincial, could conclude the chapter, not without thanking all the members of the chapter, the secretaries, interpreters and the provincial secretary for their hard and efficient work, and **La Neylière for its warm hospitality.**

Jan Hulshof, sm



DEAR MARIST FRIENDS

As these words are written, some streets of Paris are emptying of traffic (rue de Cherche Midi where we live is one) while others are filling up with visitors as the summer season kicks in and the 2025 Olympic Games get underway. A special time of festivities and special events.

Our articles this month in EuroInfo describe Marist Day in England held every year, the provincial chapter in La Neylière normally held every four years, and an event in Dublin that occurs only after fifty years ...

Kevin Duffy, sm

PRAYER INTENTION

that the Paris Olympics be a time of international friendship and solidarity

OBITUARY

Jan Volkers (NL)
 20.07.2024



50th Anniversary of St. Brendan's Church Coolock, Dublin

The celebration of a 50th Anniversary in any walk of life is a wonderful and joyful occasion. So it was no different when on Sunday, 14th July, 2024, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the opening of St. Brendan's Church in Coolock, Dublin. While the Marist Fathers have had a presence in Coolock since 1955 when they established Chanel College – a boys' secondary school - it was not until 1993 that the Marists were invited to run the Parish of St Brendan.

As with all such occasions, preparations for the celebrations began many months beforehand. Various teams were established under the general guidance of the Parish Pastoral Council. **Thanks to the work of many volunteers**, both the interior of the church was sparkling; banners advertising the Anniversary were erected on the church railings; two vertical banners were displayed on the reredos and a noticeboard containing the names of all the priests who had served in the parish over the past 50 years was displayed inside the church. All of this great work was rewarded when Sunday, 14th July dawned bright and sunny.



Priests who have served in the past 50 years



The chief celebrant of the Anniversary Mass was the Archbishop of Dublin, Dermot Farrell. He was accompanied by many of the priests who had previously served in St Brendan's together with the current parish team led by Fr. Edwin McCallion SM, Parish Priest. **The chasuble worn by the archbishop was donated by the family of the late Mary Bennett, a lay Marist who attended many European Gatherings of the Marist Laity.** The Church was packed to full capacity. It was a wonderful prayerful celebration with great participation by the Coolock congregation – Readers, Parish Choirs and Soloists, Eucharist Ministers and bearers of the Offertory Gifts and other relevant symbols.

After the Mass, the congregation adjourned to the adjoining Parish centre to enjoy some light refreshments. It was a wonderful opportunity for parishioners of all ages to mingle and share stories of past days in Coolock Parish. Nor was the younger generation overlooked as they were plied with ice cream, facepainting and other games in the Parish garden.

Paul Bennett, Parishioner

Marist Day in Walsingham 2024



Members of the Marist family in England travelled by cars and coaches to celebrate their call on July 6th, 2024, the first weekend of July, the month of remembrance of the Pledge of Fourvière. The theme this year was **"Mary, Mother and Teacher in the Spirit."**

The gathering started with the Eucharist presided by Damien Diouf sm in the National Catholic Shrine. Since the Middle Ages pilgrims have honoured Mary in Walsingham called "The Nazareth of England". Using his African background, he meditated on the Church as family of God and family of Mary, the mother of the Nazarene. From the proposed liturgical texts, he focused on the welcome in the Temple given to foreigners and eunuchs according to Isaiah 56: 1-7. The Mass was followed by a break for lunch and a time of Eucharistic adoration before the Holy Mile Walk to the village.

Unfortunately, the rainy weather did not allow many to participate in this exercise. The evening prayer gathered in the church of the Annunciation in Walsingham before the festive moment with tea and coffee before leaving.

The cheerful and joyful atmosphere of the pilgrimage as well as its prayerful ambiance made the occasion a real celebration. Participants returned home with the hope of returning next year to maintain alive this tradition of the annual Marist gathering in England.



Damien Diouf, sm

