

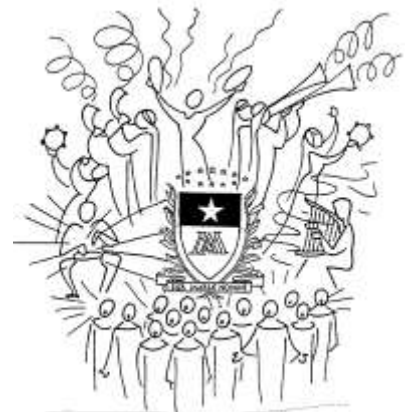


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Dear Friends

On January 24th members of the English Region of the Marist Fathers met to prepare for the forthcoming Chapter of the Province of Europe. In life change is often a gradual process. One event leads to another and decisions have to be made. This has happened in England. Over the years there were not enough Marists in England to legally form a Province and so we became a 'Sector' before the Province of Europe was formed, of which we formally became a Region. On the surface there were no major changes to mark this event and it has taken a number of years to start to sort out a sense of direction for the Province of Europe. It would have been very easy to close one's eyes and pretend that nothing was happening, but things have been happening. Nobody had joined the Province / Region of England for well over twenty years and during that time nobody grew any younger. It was possible to have various attitudes to the changes taking place. 'Turning a blind eye' or 'Dog in the Manger' were certainly not worthy responses. The good news is that, at the present time, two men have made their first professions in the Society of Mary in Europe and another three are interested in sharing in Marist life in Europe. Language, culture and travel will always be a problem and we will have to work hard to overcome the various problems which arise. Please pray for us as we prepare for Chapter of the European Province.

A similar change has been taking place in the Marist Way. We do belong to the Province of Europe and so there needs to be a central body to draw together the members from the various Regions of Europe. This is a work of unification not standardization and requires a great deal of mutual understanding and encouragement. A central committee has been formed (ELMC) and arranged the very successful conference in Francheville last August. Everything costs money and the annual fee is €200 each year. Marist Way in England needs to raise funds to help defray various expenses and develop a state of interdependence with the Marist Sisters and Fathers. The Council for the Marist Way has proposed that every member is asked to contribute £10.00 each year to help in this work. This would be separate from any collection taken at group meetings, which would remain at the disposal of the local group. For the time being, I would be happy to administer this fund and cheques should be made payable to 'Marist Way'. We need a starting date. 29th April, the Anniversary of the Approbation of the Society of Mary by Pope Gregory XVI in 1836 would be very appropriate. Many thanks.



MARIST WAY, SIDCUP During 9.30 mass on Saturday 21st January five members, **Monica Linnett, Kathleen Rogan, Thomas McKurr-Gibson, Mary Kelly and Mary Wells** made the Dedication in the Marist Way. It was a very special event, attended by many members and followed by a meeting in the Marist house at which the proposed pilgrimage to the Marist Origins was presented. Please pray for Sidcup in this time of transition when the Marist Fathers will leave during the summer.



PROPOSED PILGRIMAGES FOR 2012

MARIST ORIGINS This is being planned in conjunction with the Marist Way in Sidcup. Hence this pilgrimage will start from Sidcup. **Monday 14th / Saturday 19th May 2012.** Spend 3 nights in Francheville and 2 nights in Belley. We will visit Lyons, La Neyliere, L'Hermitage, Ars, Cerdon and the various places of interest in Belley. Cost will be **£425.00** which will include all travel, insurance and five nights accommodation based on twin beds, en-suite, and half board. Booking forms now available.

MARIST LOURDES PILGRIMAGE **Sunday 3rd / 10th June 2012.** (NB date of Spring Bank Holiday). Travel by coach and ferry. 5 nights full board in Lourdes. Full pilgrimage programme and various outings. Cost: Hotel Esplanade **£395.00**; Hotel Panorama (near Grotto) **£545.00**. Includes Travel Insurance. Booking forms available.

SHRINES OF FRANCE **Monday 3rd / Tuesday 11th September 2012.** 2 nights Paris (Rue du Bac, St Vincent and tour of Paris); Nevers (Ste Bernadette) 1 night Paray le Monial (St Margaret Mary Alocoque and the Sacred Heart); 1 night Rocamadour and the ancient shrine; 3 nights Lourdes and return to England on Brittany Ferries from Santander to Portsmouth with en-suite cabins and meals provided. This will be a wonderful pilgrimage. Final details and cost to be confirmed.

SEASON OF LENT Lent is a time of rebirth and renewal for the whole Church, 'for both the catechumens and the faithful are prepared for the celebration of the paschal mystery by the Lenten liturgy: the catechumens by the various stages of Christian initiation, and the faithful by calling to mind their baptism and by acts of penitence.' (Caledarium Romanae, Notae 27). Now is the time to prepare for this great season.

Marist Liturgical Calendar and Mass Intentions 2012

Date	Feast or Celebration	Mass Intention
Feb 11	Our Lady of Lourdes	
23	Ash Wednesday - Beginning of Lent	
28	Approbation of Constitutions SM 1873	Society of Mary

M. Coleman SM, Marist Way Regional Animator