

# EURO info



## THE FEAST OF ST PETER CHANEL, LA NEYLIÈRE AND CUET, FRANCE, 28-29 APRIL

Ad Blommerde (NL) writes from the community of La Neylière: “The Marist community here has increased with the arrival of 12 confreres from around the world for the Marist Renewal programme. Among them are confreres from Oceania, and their presence was a reason to make a special effort this year. Our theme was, ‘176 years after the death of St. Peter Chanel, patron saint of Oceania, what is the state of Christianity today?’ In front of an audience of about



50 people, the 4 Marist Oceanian confreres shared their perspective. Together we celebrated a Eucharist with songs from Oceania, and of course after that, we had a festive meal. Once

again, La Neylière was the "home" for the Marist world. The following day (29 April), the entire Marist community continued the celebrations by attending the diocesan pilgrimage to Cuet, Ain, birthplace of St Peter Chanel.”



To be more closely united,  
work more creatively, and  
act in greater solidarity  
we form one province  
beyond national limitations..

## GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

Two major events this month are linked with evangelisation – one with the church in Oceania and the other in the contemporary urban setting. The younger Marists of the province gathered to share their perspective on the challenge of mission today. We thank those who have contributed material. We welcome all contributions.

*Joaquín Fernández and  
Martin McAnaney*



## PRAYER INTENTION

Come Holy Spirit and inspire me with your words. Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News, and grant me the confidence to share it with my neighbours.

**RETREAT:** “*Finding God in the Singing Heart of the World: an adventure in creation spirituality*”, La Neylière, Sunday 9 July 7pm, to Saturday 15 July 10am:

Remember to register for the retreat as time is running out. Tom Kouijzer (NL) will take perpetual vows during the final Eucharist on 14 July.

(EN: <http://bit.ly/smretreaten> FR <http://bit.ly/smretrfr>)

## GATHERING OF THE YOUNGER MARISTS, AN TURAS, DUBLIN, IRELAND, 17-21 APRIL

Tom Kouijzer (NL) writes, “During Easter Week, Thilo Saft (DE), Daniel Fernandez (ESP) and myself met for a few days of sharing and reflection. We stayed in An Turas, the provincial house of formation, where we were hosted by the Donore Avenue community. The programme included visits to the Marist communities in Dundalk and Coolock, and two days of reflection in Glendalough, an ancient monastic site, south of Dublin. All agreed on the importance of having time together to share experiences of Marist ministry, formation and community life. It was an enjoyable week that strengthened the bonds of Marist fellowship. We all agreed the experience is worth repeating.



## MARIST CITY CENTRE MISSION SEMINAR & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, LONDON, 1-5 MAY 2017

An international group of 22 Marists and their partners in the city centre evangelisation mission participated in the Alpha Conference (LC17, [bit.ly/LC17LondonSM](http://bit.ly/LC17LondonSM)), and spent a further two days reflecting on the Marist approach to evangelisation in an urban context today. The evaluation of a long and hectic week is positive. While some aspects of the event were challenging, it was an opportunity to ponder what we are doing already and in addition, dream about what we might do in the future!

**Kevin Conroy (NZ) writes**, “It was wonderful being in London and Royal Albert Hall with thousands of mainly young people passionate about being Christian. This gave me energy and hope. I felt an unease with so much loud prayer and praise but that is the style of Holy Trinity, Brompton, the home of Alpha. The atmosphere of welcome to Catholics and other Christian groups other than Anglican, was striking... What stands out for me as highlights are the inputs of Cardinal Tagle (Manilla) and Jean Vanier (founder of L’Arche organisation, [www.larche.org](http://www.larche.org)). They moved me deeply by their simplicity, joy and wisdom. Tagle said that a leader in the Church needs a compelling vision. On a practical level, we have the opportunity to model that vision when people speak with Church leaders, often coming with dilemmas rather than problems to be

solved. A good leader helps a person find meaning rather than give solutions. Vanier said that leadership is about helping people to grow in their humanity by listening well to them.

Drawing on the Marist reflection days, **Michael Whelan (AUS) writes**, “I believe our very presence in the city, with the opportunities we offer – sacramental and other – is in fact missionary. But we should not rest on that. See for example #15 of Pope Francis’ *Evangelii Gaudium*, where he cites John Paul II: “John Paul II [Cf. *Redemptoris Missio*] asked us to recognize that ‘there must be no lessening of the impetus to preach the Gospel’ to those who are far from Christ, ‘because this is the first task of the Church’. Indeed, ‘today missionary activity still represents the greatest challenge for the Church’ and ‘the missionary task must remain foremost.’ What would happen if we were to take these words seriously? We would realize that missionary outreach is paradigmatic for all the Church’s activity. Along these lines the Latin American bishops [Cf. *Aparecida Document*], stated that we ‘cannot passively and calmly wait in our church buildings’; we need to move ‘from a pastoral ministry of mere conservation to a decidedly missionary pastoral ministry’.”

