



*Fr Justin Taylor SJ*

*26.8.1943 ~ 6.1.2026*

Justin Taylor was born in 1943 in Wellington, New Zealand, and educated by the Brigidine Sisters and by the Marist Fathers at St Patrick's College.

He entered the Marist seminary at Greenmeadows in 1960, was professed at Highden on Jan 07, 1963, and ordained priest on Jul 02, 1966.

After language studies in France and Germany Fr Justin went to Cambridge University, England, to study history and became a research Fellow of Downing College, graduating with a Ph.D.

From 1974 to 1978 he was on the teaching staff of Greenmeadows and then became Socius at the Marist Novitiate, Highden, from 1978 to 1981. After a brief period in retreat and mission work he returned to Greenmeadows in 1982.

After a sabbatical period at the *Ecole Biblique* in Jerusalem in 1983-84, Fr Justin engaged in extended research and in 1988 joined the Faculty of the *Ecole*, specialising in research, teaching and publishing New Testament and Christian origins.

Between 2002 and 2005 Fr Justin was based at the Marist General House in Rome assisting the General Administration with applied research. During this time he gave retreats and talks in New Zealand, Australia and a number of other Marist Provinces and Districts.

In 2006 he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Cambridge and became Vice-Director of the *Ecole*.

When in 2010 the decision was taken to re-introduce the Beatification Cause of Jean-Claude Colin, Fr Justin was asked to write a definitive biography of the Marist Founder, a task to which he devoted himself in subsequent years until the publication of *Jean-Claude Colin, Reluctant Founder, 1790-1875*' in 2018. This was followed by an abridged version translated into several other languages.

In 2020 Fr Justin became a much-valued consultant member of the *Colin Cause Network* established to assist in 'spreading the fama' of Ven Jean-Claude Colin. He continued in this capacity despite the onset of debilitating illness.

As his health deteriorated Fr Justin retired first to Marist communities and then to aged care facilities in Auckland, NZ, where he died peacefully on Jan 06, 2026.

May he rest in well-deserved peace in the embrace of our Heavenly Father and in the company of Marist saints.