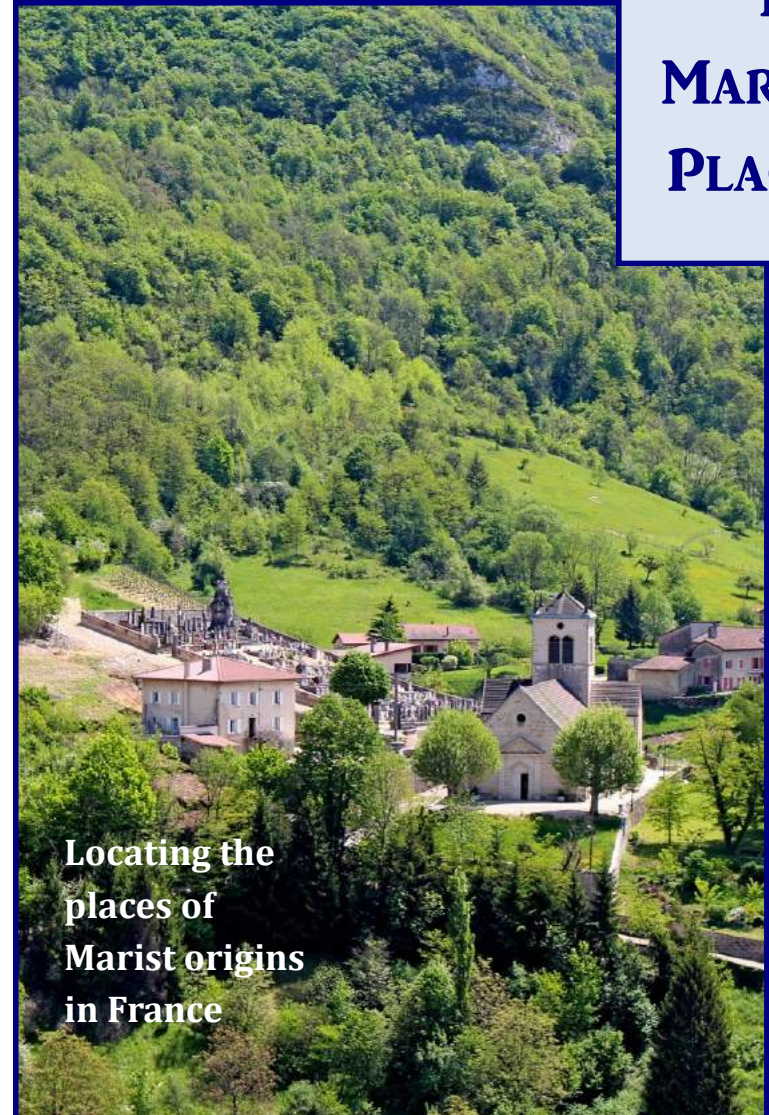




OPTIONS FOR PILGRIMS TO THE PLACES OF MARIST ORIGINS

1

THE MARIST PLACES



Locating the
places of
Marist origins
in France



INTRODUCTION

The foundational places of Marist origins in France are many and varied. This booklet locates and briefly describes those linked with the pioneer Marists during the lifetime of Jean-Claude Colin (1790 -1875).

Not included are the many places where colleges, shrines, missionaries' residences and the staffing of seminaries were undertaken or established during the generalate of Fr Colin (1836 - 1854). Perhaps a later publication will focus on these.

The second booklet in this series - *'The Bugey Missions'* - looks at the parishes of the pioneer missions of 1825-29. A third booklet - *'Tips for Marist Pilgrims'* - gives practical guidance for those who would venture to visit these places. The fourth suggests a nine-day pilgrimage option.

OPTIONS FOR PILGRIMS TO THE PLACES OF MARIST ORIGINS

With the reintroduction of the Beatification Cause of Jean-Claude Colin, Founder of the Society of Mary, *'Options for Pilgrims'* is a practical resource for those who would explore the Marist places. It is a companion to Fr Craig Larkin's *'Pilgrimage: a guide book to the places of Marist origins'*.

Whilst places associated with other pioneer Marists are included, there is an emphasis on those linked with Jean-Claude Colin.

'Options for Pilgrims' comprises four booklets, each downloadable from www.jeanclaudecolin.org:

1. **THE MARIST PLACES**
summaries and guide map
2. **THE BUGHEY MISSIONS**
pictorial summaries of the 27 parishes of the pioneer missions of 1825-29
3. **TIPS FOR MARIST PILGRIMS**
places to stay, itinerary planning, travel tips, guide map, times and distances
4. **PILGRIMAGE TO THE MARIST PLACES - 9-DAY OPTION**
offering a nine-day pilgrimage option

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Front cover: Cerdon church and presbytery
Photography and editing: Ron Nissen SM (Sep 12, 2016)

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LINKS WITH PIONEER MARISTS

(note colour code on map, pp. 10 - 11)

JEAN-CLAUDE COLIN [JCC]

Annecy

Visited by JCC who prayed in church of Notre Dame de Liesse.

Barbery

Birthplace of JCC.

Belley

College (minor seminary): the first Marist residence after Cerdon, and base for most of the Bugey missions. *La Capucinière*: Marist residence and formation house; scene of first professions. *Cathedral*: JCC was a canon here; Bishop Devie is buried here. *Bishop's house*: frequently visited by JCC. *Bon Repos*: Marist Sisters' residence, frequently visited by JCC. *Cemetery*: Early Marists buried here.

Bugey mountains

First Marist missions. [see second booklet in this series 'The Bugey Missions']

Cerdon

First parish of JCC; writing of Marist Rule begun here; first Marist community; base of first Marist missions.

La Neylière

Place of retreat built by JCC; he retired here, died and is buried here.

Lyon

Fourvière: Marist aspirants' pledge; *Puylata*: first generalate in Lyon; *La Favorite*: early Marist novitiate; site of first Marist Laity meeting; *Ste Foy-lès-Lyon*: built in JCC's lifetime; formation house; scene of general chapters.

Marseille

Visited by JCC en route to Rome, Toulon and Montbel.

Paris

Visited by JCC in early and latter years.

St Bonnet le Troncy

Parish of JCC's boyhood days .

St Jodard, Alix and Verrières-en-Forez

The three minor seminaries attended by JCC.

JEANNE-MARIE CHAVOIN [JMC]

Belley

Bon Repos: first 'mother house' of Marist Sisters; JMC buried here.

Cerdon

First Marist Sisters' community.

Coutouvre

Birthplace of JMC.

Jarnosse

Convent built here; place of JMC's death.

Pradines

Place of retreat for JMC and Sisters.

MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT [MC]

La Valla

First parish of MC; first Marist Brothers' community and school.

Le Rosey/Marlhes

Birthplace and parish of MC.

St Chamond (The Hermitage)

Built by MC and early Brothers; MC died here.

JEAN-CLAUDE COURVEILLE

Le Puy en Velay

Miraculous cure of J-C Courveille; experience of call by Blessed Virgin Mary.

Usson-en-Forez

Birthplace of J-C Courveille.

PETER CHANEL [PC]

Ambérieu / Crozet

Parish appointments of PC before joining Marists.

Belley

PC's college ministry; profession; links with Marist Sisters.

Meximieux / Brou

Minor and major seminary studies and ordination of PC.

La Potière / Montrevel / Cuet / Cras

Birthplace / baptism / parish / early education of PC.

THE PLACES

Listed alphabetically

Alix

The second minor seminary attended by Jean-Claude Colin. The others were **St Jodard** and **Verrières-en-Forez**.

Ambérieu

The parish where Peter Chanel was first appointed after ordination as assistant priest, to the west of the Bugey mountains.

Annecy

Visited by Jean-Claude Colin who prayed in the church of Notre Dame de Liesse (Our Lady of Joy).

Barbery

The hamlet where Jean-Claude Colin was born (Aug 07, 1790) in the Beaujolais region of central France, north-west of Lyon. A memorial cross and plaque mark the place of the Colin home in the picturesque countryside, with the adjacent forest where Jean-Claude's father would hide the parish priest during the Revolution and where the young Colin would retire for quiet and seclusion. Take a walk into the forest from the track behind the Colin site.

Belley

Historic town at the southern edge of the Bugey mountains; places of Marist interest, below, are within easy walking distance of each other.

Bon Repos

First 'mother house' of Marist Sisters, now a retirement centre, with small community of active sisters; features the 'Centre J-M Chavoïn' with its historical displays and assistance in visiting nearby Marist places; final burial place of Jeanne-Marie Chavoïn (behind panels at rear of the chapel).

Cathedral / bishop's house

Site of many meetings and confrontations between Jean-Claude Colin and Bishop Raymond Devie (buried inside the cathedral in side area); Fr Colin reluctantly became a canon of the cathedral.

Cemetery

Short drive to the outskirts of the town; some early Marists (priests, brothers and sisters) are buried there.

College

First residence of the pioneer Marist missionaries and their base for the Bugey missions after moving from Cerdon; later Fr Colin was appointed as the college rector (1829); school eventually staffed by Marists; now '*College Lamartine*', Catholic secondary school; access only with permission of school staff; original chapel. Peter Chanel was at different times rector and spiritual director; a statue (erected by his former students) stands in main courtyard, opposite one of the Blessed Virgin Mary erected by Fr Colin (1833).

La Capucinière

Second residence in Belley and formation house for early Marists; now a school facility, although the chapel is still used for religious purposes; original steps in the chapel exist on which the Marists knelt for the first professions and election of Fr Colin as superior-general (Sep 24, 1836).

Brou

Part of the city of **Bourg en Bresse** and place of seminary studies and ordination of Peter Chanel.

Bugey mountains

Part of the 'massif' dividing France and Switzerland and site of the first Marist missions in twenty-seven of its parishes (1825-1829); some churches are locked, but key locations may possibly be available from J-M Chavoïn Centre at Bon Repos; for reflective visiting better to choose just a few and spend time at each; an exhaustive visit would take several days. Essential visiting for a sense of early Marist missions; picturesque mountain scenery; in winter some roads may be cut by snow. [*see second booklet in this series, 'The Bugey Missions'*]

Cerdon

Small town in the congruence of three valleys at the northern end of the Bugey mountains; a picturesque town (famous for the bubbly pink wine-producing grapes of its vineyards) and the first parish appointment of Jean-Claude Colin (Aug 1816 to mid-1825) as assistant to older brother, Pierre.

The first Marist Fathers' community began here (Oct 29, 1824) on the arrival of Fr Etienne Déclas. It was the base for the first three Bugey missions in early 1825.

Church

15th century church of St John the Baptist; stands next to the presbytery; Colin brothers heard confessions in the Lady Chapel; original statue of Our Lady is on the left at the back of the church; clock tower destroyed in the Revolution, rebuilt in 1844; church extended in 1863. In the church is a contemporary Marist display.

Presbytery

Fr Colin began the writing of Marist rule and constitutions here. The building was rebuilt by the Colin brothers in 1822; first Marist Sisters. Jeanne-Marie Chavoin and Marie Jotillon, lived in the presbytery, before moving to their own community residence.

La Coria

Track leads from Cerdon up to the village of Merignat; site of Fr Colin's experience of the Blessed Virgin (1823) on his way to Belley to visit the bishop.

Coutouvre

Birthplace of Jeanne-Marie Chavoin (Aug 29, 1786); family home is very close to the parish church (see stained window with Jeanne-Marie and others from the village); house now owned by friendly family; consult JMC Centre, Belley, re possibility of visiting; short drives to Jarnosse and Pradines, below. During the French Revolution the Chavoin family sheltered priests in the cellar of their home where clandestine Masses were celebrated. The cellar has been cleared and restored in recent years and may possibly be available for Mass on request.

Cras

Place of early schooling of Peter Chanel; also first Communion and first Mass in parish church — see the plaque near the side chapel altar commemorating this event.

Crozet

In the Jura mountains, not far from Geneva, where Peter Chanel received his first appointment as parish priest, before joining the Marists.

Cuet

Village close to the hamlet of La Potière where Peter Chanel was born; some relics in parish church; adjacent museum; a community of Sisters lives near the church and engage in extended veneration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Jarnosse

Jeanne-Marie Chavoin built a convent here (1855); the building still stands next to the parish church. Jeanne-Marie died here (1858) and was first buried here. A tiled cross in the church sanctuary floor marks the place of her original grave.

La Neylière

Marist residence (Notre Dame de la Neylière) in the countryside near the village of Pomeys and less than an hour's drive from Lyon; place of retreat and retirement, and eventual death (Nov 15, 1875) of Fr Colin. He is buried here. His bedroom and study are special points of interest; also historical displays and audio-visual in 'L'Espace



Barbery
Coutouvre
La Capucinière



Paray-le-Monial

Taizé / Cluny

North to Paris

Cuet / La Potière / Cras / Montrevel

Crozet ↑

Macon

Bourg-en-Bresse / Brou

Jarnosse

St Bonnet le Troncy / Barbery

Pont d'Ain

Cerdon

Coutouvre

Villefranche

Ars

Ambérieu

Pradines

St Jodard

Alix

Meximieux

Bugey

Mountains

⇒ Ancey

Lyon

Airport

Belley

Chambery

Verrières-en-Forez

La Neylière

Vienne

St Chamond

L'Hermitage / La Valla

St Etienne

Marlhes / Le Rosey

Colin

Chavoin

Champagnat

Courveille

Chanel

Grenoble



0816

Valence

South to Marseilles



La Neylière
La Potière
La Valla



Colin'. Also Oceania missions museum.. An accommodation option for pilgrims, with various room choices for individuals or groups.

La Potière

Hamlet where Peter Chanel was born, near the village of Cuet.

La Valla

Village in Pilat mountains and place of Marcellin Champagnat's first parish appointment after ordination; site of first community/school of Marist Brothers; original community setting, with adjacent modern facilities. Short drive from St Chamond and the Hermitage.

Le Puy

Scenic medieval and pilgrim city at the south-western limit of Marist places; a traditional starting point for the 'camino' to Santiago de Compostela; it is dominated by the giant statue of Notre Dame de France and the chapel of S. Michel, each standing on a massive 'puy' (volcanic plug). Several accommodation options for pilgrims with a variety of hotels and hostels. Worthy of visiting in its own right. Lots of steps and stairs.

Cathedral (Notre Dame du Puy)

Stands beneath the statue of N.D. de France, site of miraculous healing of Jean-Claude Courveille (1809) and later an inspiration to form the Society of Mary (1812); sanctuary has Black Madonna and Child statue and circle of lamps, originally the source of healing oil for pilgrims (incl Jean-Claude Courveille).

Le Rosey (Rozey)

Marcellin Champagnat was born in this hamlet (May 20, 1789); the house is still standing; windows in the chapel depict events in Marcellin's life. It is in parish of Marlhes, below.

Lyon

Second city of France (older than Paris); diocese of Marist beginnings and central to all Marist places.

Fourvière

For centuries the 'ancient chapel of the Virgin' has been a place where devout persons would seek the intercession of Mary on their future. The twelve Marist aspirants naturally came here (Jul 23, 1816) to pledge their commitment to a Society of Mary. The chapel now stands in the shadow of a large basilica built later. It remains a place of prayer. Outside is a commanding view of the city of Lyon.

La Favorite and 'Laity Tower'

The early novitiate for priest-candidates of the Society of Mary but now the site of the present seminary of St Irenaeus. It is two mins' walk from Fourvière.

(The site of the original seminary of St Irenaeus where the Fourvière aspirants studied is now a Metro railway station in central Lyon between the Saône and Rhône rivers.)

In a room in the small round tower in the grounds was held the first meeting of Marist Laity. The tower can be seen from outside the wall of the seminary and from the main gate of the property. If you are lucky a passing seminarian or professor may allow you into the grounds.

Puylata

Situated on one of the roads leading up to Fourvière, this was the first generalate of the Society of Mary when Fr Colin moved from Lyon in 1839. It is now a secondary school. Access is through knowing someone on the staff. The rooms of early Marists are now used for school purposes. Fr Colin's rooms are no longer identifiable. An outside view maybe the best to hope for.

Cathedral

Immediately below Fourvière is the cathedral of St Jean (where Jean-Claude Colin was confirmed) in the area of 'Vieux Lyon' (old Lyon). A foundational place for the Society of Mary.

Ste Foy

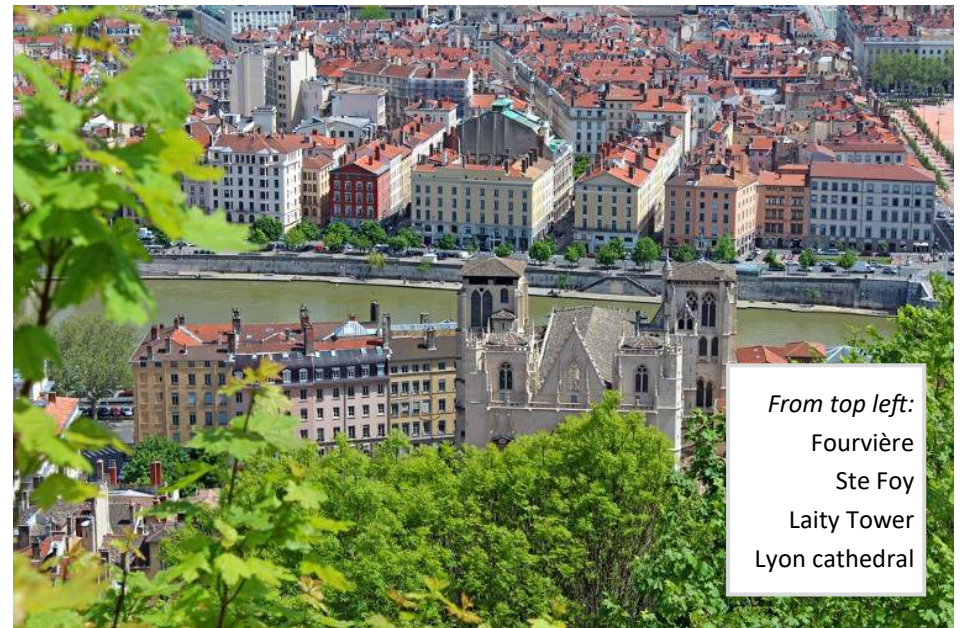
Marist residence in the area of Ste-Foy-lès-Lyon, to the immediate south of Lyon central. It was built in FR Colin's lifetime and visited many times by him for chapters, meetings and visits to the scholastics who studied there. Some active Marists and a retirement community live there, though little English is spoken. An accommodation option for pilgrims. The No. 8 bus (from Lyon Perrache station) stops at the main entrance. Security on the front gate means prior contact with the community (en français). The chapel has special memories and once held the remains of St Peter Chanel.

Marlhes

Site of the original parish church and place of baptism of Marcellin Champagnat; present church built 1889; site of one of the first Marist Brothers' school, existing still.

Marseille

Visited by Jean-Claude Colin en route to Rome as well as the Marist residence at Toulon and formation house at Montbel (near Toulon).



From top left:
Fourvière
Ste Foy
Laity Tower
Lyon cathedral

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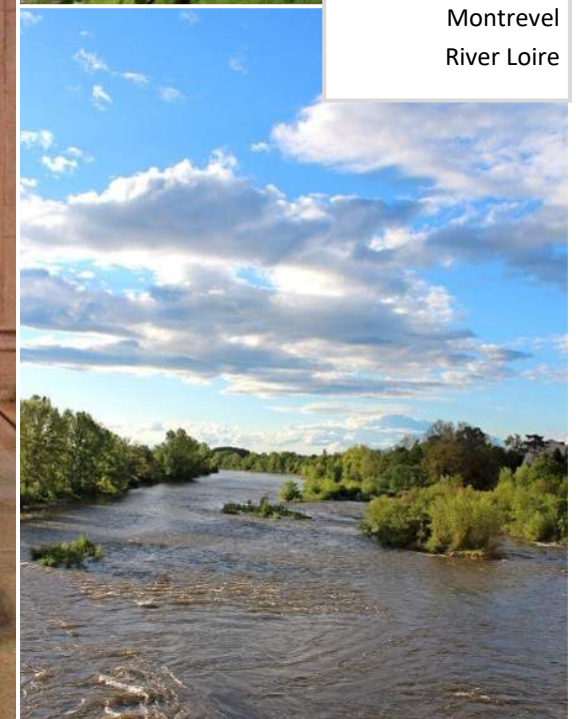
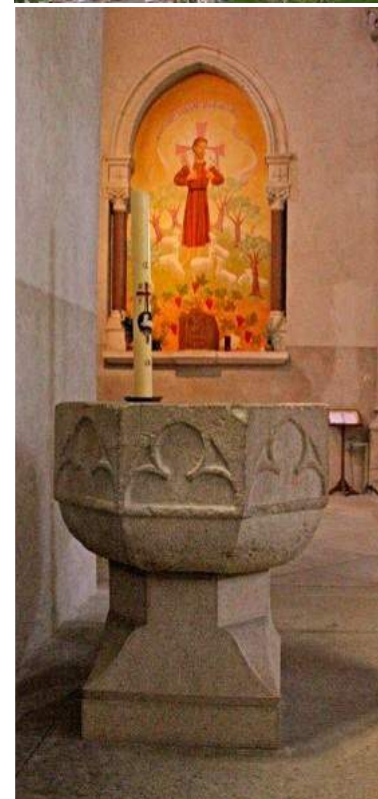
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St Bonnet-le-Troncy
Montrevel
River Loire



NOTES

