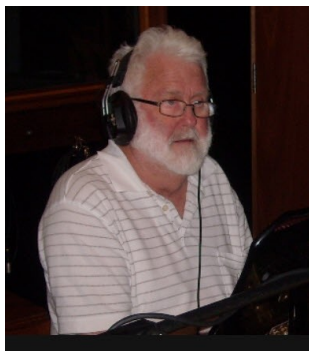


'La Neylière'



Fr Kevin Bates composed this song during the final days of the Marist General Chapter of 2009.

He writes:

'Among other things, we deliberated about how best to maintain and develop our ministry at La Neylière... Fr Colin spent the last 21 years of his life living there and this is also his burial site. There was also discussion about whether we advance his Cause for Beatification.

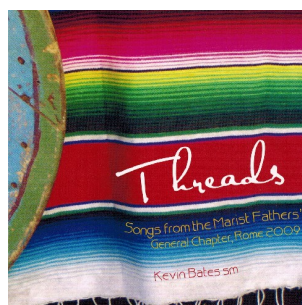
The song emerged from these discussions and from my own memories of sitting by Fr Colin's bed in his room in 1986 when I visited La Neylière myself.'

What is this place where our memories still play?
What holds us here, what makes us want to stay?
Does not our mission call us beyond the womb?
What calls us back to claim this place our home?

One buried here who launched our little band
And so this place becomes our holy ground.
His spirit emboldens fragile times,
Brings healing now to weary hearts and minds.

Now can we judge and think with Mary's mind?
Can Mary's feelings in our hearts we find?
Can we then act as she used to do?
May Mary's touch guide everything we do.

And so we sit where Jean-Claude now rests,
May we then leave with spirits refreshed,
Our resources share with arms open wide,
The world, now our mission field, there for us to find.



'Threads'

Songs from the Marist Fathers' General Chapter,
Rome 2009.

Kevin Bates sm