

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 73

11th July, 2021

REVISED RESTRICTIONS

From today, we are able to return to one person per 2 square metres in the chapel, increasing our capacity from the recent 66 persons to 127. There is no longer a need to register for 10.30am Mass, but there will be a COVID marshal responsible for ensuring each person checks-in. Thank you for your co-operation.

New Parish Priest of Doncaster-Templestowe

Charles Balnaves has been appointed PP of St Kevin's from September 6th. Charles was born in England and came to Australia in 1956. He worked for BHP for 30 years as a scientist and engineer and was awarded a Bachelor of Applied Mathematics in 1972. He was awarded a Bachelor of Theology in 2007. Charles was married with two children and was a parent at St Charles' school. His wife died in 2012, the same year he was ordained a permanent deacon. He served at St Kevin's parish and was ordained in 2016. He has been appointed to Templestowe, Mitcham and Melton parishes and is presently PP of Meredith.



Luke

Many would have watched Luke's Thanksgiving Mass on Sunday at 'The Fort' in Brisbane which coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Passionist Youth Team of which Luke was a member. The outdoor venue is used on Christmas Eve and overlooks the Brisbane river and across to Mount Coot-tha. Luke gave a wonderful homily highlighting the way a local Christian community can shape lives, as happened for him at the informal, welcoming and committed 'Fort' community. Festivities were restrained because of COVID, but we had an enjoyable sunny afternoon.



Lock down

Chris and myself have been unable to get back into Victoria. Brisbane was declared a red zone, so entry is currently denied. Neither of us (nor Kevin Hennessy) were keen on 14 days paid quarantine, so it has been better for us to wait until Brisbane is declared an orange zone and two consecutive days of zeros cases. Then the subsequent requirement is to have a COVID test within 72 hours of returning and self-isolating until we get a negative result. This has left Pastor with a busier load than usual and we are grateful to him and to the Holy Cross community.

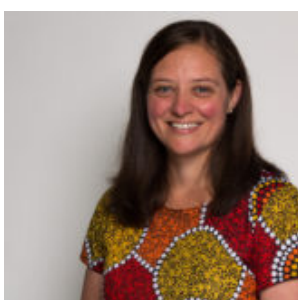
Profession



This Saturday, Thắng, Cầu, Trí, Toàn and Phúc will be professed as Passionists. They are a special group of men and well known to us at Holy Cross. The profession will take place in Adelaide at **10.30am AEST**. When they are able to, they will return to Vietnam, visit their families and resume studies in Saigon. Unfortunately there are currently 636 locations that have been locked down in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC). 105 markets and 65 supermarkets and convenience stores have been closed after Covid patients were found to have visited them. Authorities have placed 13,429 people in quarantine and isolated 30,426 others at home. Some large hospitals are isolated and no longer accepting patients. There are strict entry and exit regulations into Thu Duc where our community is located and the community has been in lockdown for three months.

Like our own experience of being stuck in Brisbane, many people from other provinces are stuck in their home town or in Saigon. A common sentiment was expressed by one young man, "There are thousands of Covid cases in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC). I am not sure whether I am safe. How can I dare return to Tien Giang without worrying I might carry that virus?" Please remember these men who will be professed tomorrow and their situation in your prayers, as well as our other brothers in our community in Saigon. We would also like to remember Sr Brigid CP who expected to be in Vietnam in March last year. Brigid is still awaiting permission to travel, which obviously will not be any time soon.

Brooke Prentis: Australian Aboriginal Christian Leader descended from the Wakka Wakka people. CEO of Common Grace and coordinator of the Grasstree Gathering.



Brooke often says in her Acknowledgements of Country, "Country is all lands, waters, sky, trees, plants, animals, birds, fish, rocks, mountains, and all peoples." Country is all of God's wondrous creation. It is a sense of identity, belonging, groundedness and home. We live on wounded, blood-stained country. Jesus understands, having shared our suffering and

pain. Jesus provides hope for country to be healed, restored, loved and set free. Jesus calls us as his hands and feet to take an active role in healing country by protecting and restoring God's beautiful earth.

We pray and call for Treaty and Truth Telling for healing Country.

This NAIDOC Week

May the God of truth

– open our ears and eyes to the wind whistling through the Grasstrees.

May the God of justice

– open our minds to the flowing actions of the waters from refreshing rain, to gentle brook, from mighty river to raging sea.

May the God of love

– open our hearts to the beat of the Clapsticks calling us into rhythm.

Now go. . . to pursue Jesus, with truth, justice, and love. Amen.

Psalm 23 – Aboriginal Style by Uncle Rev Ron Williams

My big fella boss up in the sky is like the father Emu.
He will always look after me and take me to green grass,
and lead me to where the water holes
are full and fresh all the time.
He leads me away from the thick scrub
and helps me keep safe from the hunters, dingoes and eagles.
At night time when I am very lonely and sad, I will not be afraid,
for my Father covers me with his feathers like a father emu.
His spear and shield will always protect me.
My big fella boss always give me a good feed
in the middle of my enemies.
In hot times he makes me sit down in a cool shade and rest.
He gives me plenty of love and care all of my life through.
Then I will live with my big fella boss like a father emu:
that cares for his chicks in good country, full of peace and safety
For evermore and evermore.



The chair lock-up



Three weeks ago a casual conversation with Rose, our finance manager, led to us clearing all the excess chairs from our BBQ area to make it more attractive. We

decided to store the chairs on a temporary basis in one garage space. The former idea proved a hit, the latter idea was fine but the area needed to be tidier. Over the past week, **Frank Van den Boom** from our 'A' Team, completed a wonderfully professional lock up area as shown in the photo above. John Stretch (also from our 'A' Team) offered assistance. We are most grateful for Frank who is a real craftsman, for his time, effort and expertise.

Fence

Another recent addition is a new fence installed by our neighbour on the Foote Road side of our property. Those who have made the Stations of the Cross will remember seeing a scraggy rundown fence (55 years old) on your right as you ascended after passing the dam. A new house is being built so a decent fence is needed.



The Chosen

Ray has introduced Chris and myself to a wonderful series titled 'The Chosen' which is the largest crowdfunded project of all time. So far we have watched seven of the eight episodes in Season 1. There is a plan to produce seven seasons by 2024 and to reach one billion viewers. Each episode is released after it is filmed, so Episode 6 of Season 2 has recently been released. The first series is being offered free which is being made possible by crowdfunding. It can also be purchased on DVD. At present Series 1 can be viewed on You Tube, but the plan is that future series will only be available through an app which will still be available free.

Go to: thechosen.tv/app

Because the series is not trying to tell the life of Jesus in two hours, there is a lot of character development and time to put a particular gospel event into a wider context. For example ne episode is devoted to the call of Peter and another to the wedding feat of Cana. The portrayal of Jesus includes gentleness, humour and compassion among other elements we would hope to recognise. Chris, Ray and I strongly recommend the series.

The Official Trailer is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1-FoFj8Jbo>

You can watch Episode 1 at:

<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen>

This website explains how to watch the whole first series.

<https://thechosensupport.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360043676013-Viewing-Guide-How-to-Watch-The-Chosen>

Some helpful tips

You might find some of these tips interesting or helpful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Kts02UJRQM>

Erick Niyiragira



It is necessary for us as religious to keep studying and learning skills we need for our ministry. We call it 'ongoing formation'. Erick has just been awarded a Diploma in Governance and Management. It is a great achievement to do this while exercising a parish priest role (at St Brigid's, Marrickville) and in line with his marks at YTU, Erick scored 3 High Distinctions and 1 Distinction.

You might want to read an article Erick posted on our Passionist Vocations webpage almost a year ago. You can read it at:

<https://www.beapassionist.org.au/dealing-with-change-amidst-covid-19/>

Some humour

A man said that he never wanted to believe that his brother was stealing from his job as a road worker, but when he got home one day, all the signs were there.

If you ever get cold, just stand in the corner of a room for a while. They're normally around 90 degrees.

Q What do you call someone without a nose or a body.

A. Nobodynose

Q Why did the scarecrow get promoted?

A. Because he was outstanding in his field.

Q What do computers eat for a snack?

A. Microchips!

Q What's Forrest Gump's password?

A. 1forrest1

Q What computer sings the best?

A. A Dell

Q What nails do carpenters hate to hit.

A. Fingernails

Q What is Mozart doing right now?

A. Decomposing

Q What do you call Mexican that lost his car.

A. Carlos

Q What do you do with a sick boat?

A. Take it to the doc.



Q What do you call a famous fish?

A. A star fish.

Humour

Two intelligent guys were preparing to travel to Australia. Before they left, one of their dads gave them both a bit of advice. “you watch those Aussie cab drivers. They’ll rob you blind. Don’t go paying them what they ask for. You haggle.”

At Sydney airport, the two men caught a cab to their hotel. When they reached their destination, the cabbie said, “that’ll be twenty dollars, lads”. “Oh no you don’t” said one of them. “My dad warned me about types like you. You’ll only be getting fifteen dollars from me”. “And you’ll only be getting fifteen dollars from me too,” added the other!

The link for Sunday Mass (Week 15 Year B) will be sent around 4pm tomorrow

We remember

We join in celebrating **Maria Minichilli’s** 80th birthday this past week on July 6.

For those who remember **Maureen and Tom Doren**. Tom was buried from the Fort on Thursday. May he and Maureen rest in peace.

We pray for **Paul and Debbie Shannon** and their family who mourn the loss of their son, Thomas. Pastor celebrated the funeral on Wednesday.



Please also remember Maree Bartoli, Maria Robson, Jim Molan, Graham Hille, Peter Owen, Anne Jenkins, Jan Mulally, Pam Grehan, Angelo Vigilante, Pam Gartland, Maeve and John Reardon, Brian Tresseder, Michael and Mardi Doyle, Jim Monaghan, Kate and Mary Dunn, Ray Sanchez CP, Jim Coucher CP, and all who seek or need our prayers.

Have a good weekend

Brian