

Holy Cross Retreat

Letter 92



19th November, 2021

Warm greetings,

Mass attendance

COVID density restrictions are lifting from midnight tonight, so there is no need to register any more but attendees must be fully vaccinated. We will arrange the chairs for the time being to accommodate an adequate number and those who feel a need for more space, can hopefully feel comfortable. (See the note below about chairs). Please remember Holy Cross is a worksite and if you visit, you need to register using the QR code.

89th Birthday: Fr Chris Mithen CP



Chris is well established in Nazareth House and keeping in good health, although because of the extensive lockdown period, we have not seen him for some months. We look forward to celebrating his birthday today.

Chris was greatly appreciated during the years he lived at Holy Cross, and among other things, people looked forward to his end-of-Mass joke., and many people ask after him.

Farewell



It was very moving last week to hear our four brothers (Thang, Cau, Toan and Phuc) speak about the warm welcome they received at Holy Cross; how everyone made them feel at home, and how touched they have been by the generosity they know we have received as a community. After their words at 10.30am Mass they sang 'Give Thanks' and there were many of us moved to tears. They leave tonight and they will have 7 days quarantine in Hanoi before returning to Saigon. They will eventually be able to see their families in January.

Passionist Jubilee



Holy Spirit Province Passionist Jubilee Zoom Event

(Some local groups will gather for one or both days)

Sat Nov 20th: Province wide session: Renewing our Mission and Gratitude

10.00am AEDT

Saturday link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82969576556?pwd=NnRBdEd1c21leE1US0QxS3VZbmtFQT09>

Meeting ID: 829 6957 6556

Passcode: 619999

9.50am: Login

10.00am: Intro: Gerard Daly (Coordinator of Passionist Companions)

10.10am: Prayer(Jim)

10.20am: Presentation 35 minutes (Brian Traynor CP)

10.55am: Chat room: 20 minutes (or local group sharing)
11.15am: Break
11.35am: Presentation 35 minutes (Kevin Dance CP)
12.10pm: Chat room: 20 minutes (or local group sharing)
12.30pm: Break:
12.40pm: Liturgy (Karen CP & Brigid CP)
1.10pm: Message: Gerard Daly
1.15pm: Finish

Sun Nov 21st: Province wide session: Prophecy and Hope

1.45pm-6.00pm AEDT

Sunday link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83769065022?pwd=L3NoeE5DSVF2RjRGQTCvVUpWMkhGdz09>

Meeting ID: 837 6906 5022

Passcode: 367367

1.40pm: Log in
1.45pm: Intro: Gerard Daly
1.50pm: Jubilee prayer
Jubilee video
2.05pm: Presentation 35 minutes (Chris Monaghan CP)
2.40pm: Chat room: 20 minutes
3.00pm: Break
3.20pm: Presentation: 35 minutes (Paul Traynor)
3.55pm: Chat room: 20 minutes
4.15pm Break
4.25pm: Videos from local groups (A Passionist today)
4.50pm: Break
5.00pm: Liturgy – Luke Bulley CP, Tom McDonough CP
5.30pm: Break
5.35pm: Final blessing with Icon: Tom McDonough CP
5.40pm: Farewell message: Gerard Daly
5.45pm: Finish

The theme of the Jubilee Year is “**Renewing Our Mission.**” The Passionist Family is asked to: Remember the past with thanksgiving to the God who has blessed us (**gratitude**); faithfully read the signs of the times and find new ways to evangelize through the lens of Jesus’ Passion (**prophecy**); and discern God’s plans and promises for a meaningful future (**hope**)

The relocated symbol of the Jubilee will be unveiled and blessed immediately after 10.30am next Sunday. As explained last week, Toàn created the hand and sign a year ago for the beginning of the 300th Jubilee reflections. It is a reflection of Paul of the Cross seeking to found a Congregation that would



meditate on and proclaim the Passion of Jesus. It was placed in the Peace garden, but he has created a new water feature and it will be installed near the entrance to the chapel.

Anyone wishing to attend either days at Holy Cross is asked to register please with Kay Lewis: 0412815528

Resting.....Will Day

Will's mother, Pat is living at Airey's Inlet. She and her husband Adrian were key volunteers from the very early days of the Holy Cross community. Will offered to share this profound reflection through the weekly newsletter. Thank you Will.

A few years ago, Kevin Hennessy gave me a small book of quotes from the writing of St Paul of the Cross. I must have been ripe for it because quote after quote interested and appealed to me. So when Brian Traynor more recently published his book on the life and spirituality of Paul I was keen to have a look at that as well.

Through these texts, I began to discover a little about the life and writing of the founder of the Passionists. And a handful of Paul's quotes have become touchstones for me in recent times. Amongst these quotes, I have been drawn to two in particular which, taken together, seem to me to offer a simple, beautiful approach to silent prayer.

The first of these quotes instructs us to *"Rest in the heart of God in a silence of faith and love"*.

What appeals to me about this is the effortless invitation to simply rest; no trying or straining. We are not even asked to wait on God's presence; God's presence and welcome is a given, is assumed. God is here. Waiting for us. And Paul tells us to rest *"in the heart of God"*; so intimate, so close, so *within* God, the one *"in whom we live and move and have our being"*.

"In a silence of faith and love": I am invited to let my faith and love abide with me in the silence, orienting me perhaps or perhaps simply expressing themselves, warming the silence.

The second quote offers a little more;

[When you find that you have wandered away] *"come back promptly but gently, allowing your faith to give you a little boost, and go on resting in God with a lover's attentiveness but without forcing yourself, straining your mind, or fussing about it."*

One might be sitting quietly, resting in the heart of God as Paul suggests in the first quote, and as most minds do, one's mind will wander off into thought. It's natural.

Paul suggests that each time I realise this has happened, I simply come back ... promptly yes, but gently.

Paul draws my attention to the fact that ever so subtly I can tend to give myself a hard time for “wandering away” as though that natural movement of the mind is somehow a mistake, my fault or failing. Paul reminds me to soften that self-judging tendency by suggesting I come back gently.

But he adds “*allowing your faith to give you a little boost*”. It seems to me Paul is giving a little more here, offering an antidote. Rather than focussing on the imagined error of “wandering away”, Paul counsels me to place my attention on my loving desire for God. Rather than the momentary thought “Drat, I drifted!” I am invited to think, ‘Isn’t it wonderful how I love coming back to God?’

And then Paul suggests I go on resting in God “*with a lover’s attentiveness*”. What a beautiful way to describe the attitude, the disposition of my resting; I am encouraged to be awake to what I am doing, as a lover might be to her beloved. My awakeness isn’t driven, dutiful or disciplined. It is motivated, energised and maintained in and by love.

Finally Paul astutely addresses a human tendency to be overly industrious or anxious by kindly reminding me to go on resting in my beloved “*without forcing yourself, straining your mind or fussing about it*”. Such a relief! I can let all that go. Simply return, and rest, in an unfussed, easy way.

While I find these quotes from Paul helpful and encouraging in relation to prayer, I also think they are useful reminders for daily life. In the busyness of the day, in the complexity of family life or the workplace, I might also respond to Paul’s invitation. Amidst the noise and haste, Paul encourages me to pause and remember, to turn back and rest in the heart of God with a lover’s attentiveness, allowing my mind and my activity to be reorientated, to be transformed in the moment of remembering, where I am met by God’s goodness.

Upcoming events

There will be more details provided about some of these events, but please note

Friday 26th November

Six of our Vietnamese brothers will be ordained in Saigon. A link for the ceremony will be provided. One we remember well, Is Luong (Vincent) who spent six months here in 2019.

Sunday 28th November

At the 10.30am Mass we will remember deceased relatives and friends
The St Gabriel’s Committee is hosting a BYO picnic after Mass

Sun 5th December

Chris will celebrate his 40th ordination anniversary.

Light refreshments will be provided at the back of the chapel after 10.30am Mass and we hope to have a coffee van booked to arrive just after the completion of Mass.

Sun 12 December

Luke will celebrate the 9.00am and 10,30am Masses and there will be a BBQ afterwards

Christmas Masses

We are hoping to celebrate Mass 'under the trees' on Christmas Eve at 7.30pm, preceded by Carols. Christmas Day is a Saturday and we seek your advice about having one Mass on Christmas Day (perhaps at 10.00am) because a significant number attend Christmas Eve, and quite a few find 10,30am too late for Christmas lunch gatherings. Please tell one of us what you think.

Chapel chairs

We need to face the issue of seating in the chapel . A number of us have recognised a need for comfortable matching chairs (some with arms) . At the present time we've got a real hotch-potch of chairs and not enough chairs have arms.

Following extensive investigation we have selected a strong, stackable chair that can be linked to adjacent chairs.

We do use the chapel at times for large groups who book the Holy Cross Centre, and



it would be far more appealing to have matching chairs. We also need a suitable number for funerals and occasions large group celebrations. We anticipate needing around 150 chairs for 10.30am mass, but if we had 50 chairs in reserve for larger gatherings, we could use our bone coloured stackable chairs whenever more than 200 chairs are needed. In considering how we could meet the cost, we thought a portion of it might be possible if some individuals were prepared to donate a chair. The cost of an individual chair is \$110 (with arms) or \$95 without arms. Donating a chair is just a suggestion, it is by no means an expectation. We are unsure whether to purchase 100 with arms and 100 without arms or 200 with arms.

The price will increase by \$10 per chair from December 1st. A sample chair will be on display this weekend just inside the entrance to the chapel and if you would like to offer your advice on the colour we will have sample colours for you to consider. There may be some interest in 'taking' one or more of the armchairs currently in the chapel for donation to contribute to the new chairs or you can take one gratis. We will not need them. The new chairs will not arrive until March 2022.

Creation 12: Thomas Berry – prophet and Passionist

Some key ideas from the work of Fr. Thomas Berry.....by Rich Heffern

Some key insights from Thomas Berry's books and talks that provide a spiritual framework for the work of transforming our relationship with the planet.

1. When we destroy the natural world, we destroy the ground of our religious imagination.



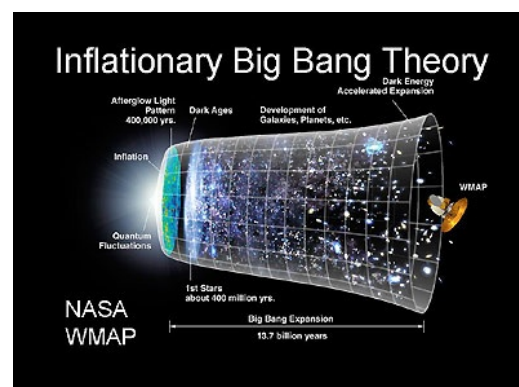
Our ability to imagine what God is like owes everything to the world around us. We have a wonderful idea of God because we have always lived on a planet that is chock-full, every nook and cranny, with marvels and mysteries, dark beauty, happy encounters and splendid landscapes. How could we picture God in our heads as an ever fresh and creative daybreak, as a compassionate

father or nurturing mother, as a wonder-counsellor if we had never experienced these qualities in the people, land and life around us?

What kind of God would we pray to if we lived on the bleak surface of the moon? We are literally killing off our religious imagination when we destroy the natural world. Tom Berry pointed out that the real human tragedy lies in this soul starvation.

2. We have forgotten that the revelation found in the natural world and in the wider universe around us is the primary divine revelation.

Revelation is the awakening in us of a sense of divine mystery and power; it is the way the divine communicates. God's revelation to us lies in the scriptures, but also primarily in the story of how our universe began, evolved and brought us humans forth. Berry's namesake, Thomas



Aquinas, wrote: "A mistake about creation means a mistake about God."

Since we have learned so much in the past two centuries about the universe and how it unfolded life, then it follows that we have new insight into that primary revelation, an increased understanding of God. We must take this new story of the universe seriously in order to fully understand both God and ourselves.



Spirituality, for Berry, was about enchantment. Awe and wonder are the primary spiritual qualities, the cure for our spiritual autism. Seeing the universe and the earth that gave us birth as sacred mysteries is key to turning the world around. "If this fascination, this entrancement with life isn't evoked," Berry said, "then our children won't

have the energies needed to sustain the sorrows inherent in our condition. They might never discover their true place in the vast world of time and space."

3. Our Christian preoccupation with personal salvation can yield to a more holistic understanding of Jesus Christ.



Christianity now is too focused on redemption, said Berry. "Being a Christian has to do with the Christ reality and this is thought to

have nothing to do with the earth." The personal relationship between the individual and the person of Jesus is seen as primary, as salvific, to the exclusion of all else. The redemption view misses a great deal of the doctrine of Christ as spoken by St. Paul, for example, who writes that "in Christ, all things hold together." This is a way of thinking of Christ as a cosmic person and the universe as a collection of subjects rather than objects. The reality of Christ is a "communion" between various levels of reality -- cosmic, social and personal.

There are other strains in the Christian tradition, Berry pointed out, that are less focused on redemption, more on that relationship between the earth's economy and ours: the animate spirituality of the Celtic period, for example, or the custodial model of the Benedictine monasteries and



convents, the fraternal model of St. Francis, the fertility model presented by Hildegard of Bingen, the integral model brought to us by Teilhard de Chardin, the poetic imagery of Jesuit Fr. Gerard Manley Hopkins.

These strains in Christianity present a view of God and God's world where deep in the heart of matter, right here, right now and always, everything is interconnected and all is well and all manner of things shall be well. The love that moves the sun and stars beams out of every atom, molecule, face and flower.



This is not pantheism but pan-en-theism, the mystery of the divine in everything, shining out like shook foil, in the laughter of children, in the goodness of summer sweet corn, in the God-haunted sound of the wind through the pines, in North Carolina meadows.

4. Berry's essential message as a prophet for the earth is the necessity of establishing a mutually enhancing human presence on the planet.

This is the "great work" of our time. The primary object of all our endeavours should be to make sure the earth does not fall into deficit as a result of our presence. No enterprise serves us unless it is grounded in this earth-human relationship.



The primary focus of our medicine, for example, should be to maintain the earth's health. Berry asked: What sense does it make to have healthy humans living on a terminally ill planet?

Our businesses must change the bottom line from "profit" to "healthy globe." If the earth corporation goes bankrupt, where does that leave the rest? Our legal system should be concerned about just distribution of the earth's resources, with preventing harm to the air, land and sea. Our politics must lead to cooperative, earth-based decisions and public policies.

Or, as theologian Daniel Maguire says, "If present trends continue, we won't." Thus, the need for, in Berry's words, a "great courtesy toward the earth."

The Awakening Universe (15 minutes)

<https://thomasberry.org/the-awakening-universe/>

This is a wonderful video that tells us so much of 'the story' in fifteen minutes

The Great Story (Thomas Berry (2 minutes 30)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cCCKo5rxEO>

Humour

**The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve. Surprise! Surprise!
It was Apple. But with extremely limited memory.
Just 1 byte.
Then everything crashed.**

Typed church bulletins that did not come out quite as intended!

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered..

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM .. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday:
'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.

Batteries were given out free of charge

A boiled egg is hard to beat

A dentist and manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail

A will is a dead giveaway

When you see one shopping centre you've see a mall

Police were summoned to a daycare centre where a 3 year-old was resisting a rest

Did you hear about the man whose entire left side was cut off” He’s all right now!

A bicycle can’t stand alone; it’s just two tired

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds

A man who fell into a upholstery machine is not fully recovered.

Mary had a photographic memory which was never developed

When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she would dye

Acupuncture is a jab well done. That’s the point of it

Those who get too big for their pats will be exposed in the end

When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months

We remember

Leanne Malizia who died peacefully on Sunday afternoon of pancreatic cancer, aged 53. May she rest in peace.

We remember **Sr Stella Gleeson** sister of Brian CP who died after a short illness on Wednesday.

Please remember our most positive person **Maree Bartoli**, who is living with motor neurone. Maree had a fall and broke her skull. There are many others not on the prayer list who are unwell. **Ann Burke** (Frank’s wife) was admitted to hospital yesterday.

We send best wishes to **Dominic Isgro** who reached 89 next Thursday 25th November.

We remember: Jacki Tomm, Maree Bartoli, Peter Owen, Joan and Michael O’Callaghan, Bronwyn Burke, Richard Gibbs, Brenda Rodrigues, Mary Coburn, Graham Hille, Jim Molan, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Mary Hackett, Mary Corcoran, Anne Jenkins, Angelo Vigilante, Pam Gartland, Pam Stretch, (NZ) Patricia Keeghan, Maeve and John Reardon, Pam Grehan, Jim Monaghan, Carmel King, Michael and Mardi Doyle, Kate and Mary Dunn, Anne Cunningham CP, Len Watson’s mother-in-law, and Todd Watson’s grandmother, Margaret Titterington, Ray Sanchez CP, and all who seek or need our prayers.

**I thank my God
every time I
remember you.
In all of my prayers
for all of you,
I always pray with joy.**

Philippians 1:3-4

May you have a good week

Brian

Prayer with our holy Founder - St. Paul of the Cross

O mighty God, our merciful and loving Father, we give you thanks for your Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to give us your divine life.

We thank you for giving us a great saint of love for the Holy Cross, Saint Paul of the Cross, our holy Founder of the Passionists. You aroused in him a deep affection for the Passion of your Son, and through that, he established a Congregation with a charism “remembrance of the Passion of Jesus Christ” in our daily life.

On the anniversary 300 years after the founding and development of the Passionists, help us continue to follow on the spiritual path he has walked.

He is a saint great in the virtues of poverty and humility, a master who leads us closer to You through the mystery of the Holy Cross, a good spiritual teacher of prayer and solitude, a holy father and eldest brother always full of love and passionate to undertake missions so as to proclaim Good News through Your Son’s Passion, a best friend of the poor, suffering and the sick.

In him, radiated a great beauty of the simple, but full of fragrant flowers, sweet fruits of virtues. He was also a man who loved You, worshipped You and served others.

We ask You, through the prayers of Saint Paul of the Cross, to enable us to know the ways to love Your Son’s Passion and proclaim this mystery to others. May we also learn his virtues in our life and vocation, so that we appreciate and scoop up Your love and mercy through his Passion and recognise the image of Jesus Crucified in the poor and suffering.

We make this prayer in Jesus’ name, our Lord. Amen.

(Written by Paul Cau at Holy Cross community, Retreat 3rd July 2020)



The five saints depicted in this Jubilee icon are Paul of the Cross (centre), Gabriel Possenti (top right, Gemma Galgani (top left) Blessed Dominic Barberi (bottom right and Blessed Isidore de Loor (bottom left.

There is incredible detail in the symbolism of an icon. If interested, you can refer to the details in this icon at: <https://www.passiochristi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CATEQUESIS-ICON.pdf>