

## Holy Cross Retreat



### Letter 121 (10th June, 2022)

Greetings and welcome to this edition of the newsletter. We thank Tim for his effort and love he put into the newsletters for the past weeks. He has done an exceptional job on top of various other good works he does, not to mention his own busy life and professional ministry to the grieving. We look forward to welcome Brian back next week as we wish Tim a well-deserved and safe trip away.

### Passionist News

#### Commemorating the Holy Spirit Province Centenary



**From the provincial office:** Leading to Last Sunday at the Province Feast Day and the following the logo below was sent with special thanks: .... “The theme for our Centenary is "the Journey Continues". Very special thanks to Sr.Karen Englebretsen CP, for designing our meaningful anniversary logo.”



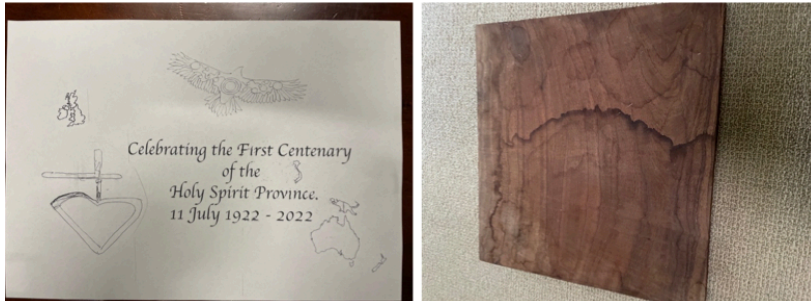
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### Holy Cross News

#### Rev Dr Chris Monaghan CP and the Holy Spirit Province Centenary:

Chris has taken the initiative to design a special logo for Holy Cross Community to commemorate the Centenary. Tapping into his hidden gifts, he has already designed

a draft on bottom left which he plans to engrave on the wood bellow. The design will include the four countries of the Province and an image of Bunjil, the creator spirit of the Dreamtime story. Christ mentioned that “all of these images are designed and placed separately to balance each other.” We thank Chris for this terrific initiative and look forward to seeing how the work progresses.



### **Our brothers Jerome, John and Tri**

On Monday Jerome headed to Benalla to care for his sister Kate while his two other sisters go away for a holiday. The Holy Cross Centre misses him already. He does a lot of bits and pieces around that most of us are not even aware of. Jerome returns this weekend. We wish him a safe trip.

Tri and John complete their studies for the semester by this weekend. We congratulate them for their very hard work! They will soon have some youth retreat experience and have a break from studying for the next month.

We remain grateful for the work they put in each week to create meaningful Power Point songs for Sunday Mass.

### **Passionist Youth Retreat Team**

The Passionist Youth Team which is based in Brisbane has sent four young people to lead retreats in four different high schools in Melbourne over the next 10 days. Below we have two of them present at a community meal, lovingly prepared by Shirley on Wednesday.

[Tom Warren](#) is the Province Youth Officer and the Passionist Youth Retreat Team Leader. He has already been to Endeavour Hills to talk with [Fr Brendan](#), the parish priest in an effort to improve youth ministry there. I believe he will be giving a talk at Masses there, this coming weekend. Tom mentioned to me that they are “hoping to double the number next year” referring to the number of school retreats in Melbourne.



[Jo McDade](#), the Youth Retreat Business Manager will join them this Sunday as they begin the retreats, which John and Tri are also looking forward to. We were blessed to have Luke Bulley CP around. He enjoyed catching up with them as he also first met the Passionists and worked with these young people through the same ministry. Watching State of Origin was abnormally loud but with excitement for the Brissie boys at Holy Cross! We wish them all the best with this important team-building ministry for the Passionists, for the Church, for the world.

[Alston](#), seated next to Luke in the photo below is a member of the Youth team and helped to swell the number of Queensland supporters for State of Origin.



### **Happy Birthday Luke!**

Luke the youngest priest in the Holy Spirit Province, turns 28<sup>th</sup> today, 10<sup>th</sup> June. As many of you know, Luke was a member of Holy Cross community as a student, but now works in Endeavour Hills as Assistant to the Parish Priest. We thank his parents for accepting him as a gift from God. We thank them for supporting him in his self-gifting to the ministry of priesthood with the Passionist family and beyond. We congratulate Luke and pray special blessings of joy on this day.

### **Cleaner Carpet in the Centre**

Last week the carpet throughout the Centre was steam cleaned over two days. The carpet now looks brand new. It had been some years since this was done. We thank the organisers and all of you who contribute to continuing to make our home look beautiful.

We have two groups coming to enjoy the Centre this week: (1) The Come Away Day on Tuesday, (2) Wednesday to Friday, approximately 50 year 12s from Marymeade College with their teachers.

### **Not too late to join Come Away Day**

The following invitation is from the team who organize the Come Away Days:

You are invited to our next Come Away Day, this Tuesday, 14 June. The theme of the day is “Find the warmth and life within: a time for spiritual nurturing and inner growth.” The invitation is to ‘come as you are’. All are welcome. There will be opportunities for fellowship, prayer and sharing during the day in the warm and inviting spaces of Holy Cross. No prior knowledge is assumed. All relevant materials will be provided on the day. Tea and coffee is available. Please BYO lunch. The cost of the day is \$25.00 or a donation. Registration is from 9.30am to enable time to meet other participants before the day’s program commences at 10am. The day concludes with a celebration of the Eucharist, with a departure time of 2pm. For further details contact Frank Burke on 0407998781 or [burke.frank942@yahoo.com.au](mailto:burke.frank942@yahoo.com.au)

### **Eggs Reminder**

For those who normally purchase eggs fortnightly, we have been advised that the next pick-up day will be on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. This will be on the Tuesday, rather than the Monday, due to the public holiday. Also, please be aware that the price of the eggs will increase from \$10.00 to \$12.00.

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### **Fr. Brian Gleeson’s reflection**

## **GOD IS ONE AND GOD IS THREE: MEETING GOD THE TRINITY**

### **Proverbs 8:22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15**

One of the most fascinating things about being alive is the other people in our lives. Just as fascinating is the fact that the more we know them, the more there is still to know. Husbands and wives regularly report that even after more than twenty years together they are still getting glimpses of new things about the other. So, it’s only bit by bit that they can revel and rejoice in all the different and charming things about the other, who will always remain something of a mystery. It’s the same with our knowledge and love of God – of God as Father, of God as Son, and of God as Holy Spirit. While God is anything but a closed book, it may take years of keeping company with God before we become deeply aware of particular pieces in the puzzle of who God is.

There are at least three ways of delving into the Mystery of the Trinity. One is to search for how something that is one can also be three. In this approach, it might help to compare the Trinity to a tree. The Father is like the trunk of the one tree, the Son is like a branch of the same tree, and the Spirit is like the fruit the same tree produces. Or we might compare God the Father to the sun in the sky, the Son of God to its rays, and the Spirit of God to its heat. Or we might think of the three as like three musical notes played together as one harmonious chord.

Another approach is to concentrate more directly on the relationship of the Trinity to us. The first thing that has to be said about this is that strictly speaking, God is self-sufficient. In the interpersonal relationships that have existed forever among Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God has been completely and perfectly happy and satisfied. But it is God's overflowing goodness that has led God to create us human beings in God's image and likeness. It is God's overflowing goodness that has led God's Son to become a human being like us and live his life for others. It is God's overflowing goodness that has led God to give us our beautiful world to both preserve and develop in a harmonious balance. And it is God's overflowing goodness that has led God to destine us for everlasting life with Godself on the other side of this life.

The next thing that needs to be said is that the interpersonal relationships of our three-in-one God, show us that to be a person we need other people in our lives, other people to love us, and other people for us to love. In the 1960s there was a popular song that said: 'I am a rock. I am an island. And a rock feels no pain. And an island never cries.' That message is a lie. For while there are times when healthy human beings like to be alone and deliberately choose their own company, there is something wrong if they're always saying like the famous Swedish actress, Greta Garbo: 'I want to be alone.' This is because we need the company and influence of others to animate us, draw us out of ourselves, challenge and comfort us, and complete us. It's not for nothing that in the Genesis story of the creation of woman, God says: 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner' (2:18).

Some time ago I heard about a man who was so utterly alone in this world that nobody ever shook his hand, patted his back, gave him a hug, a friendly dig in the ribs, or even a wave. He became so desperately lonely that the only thing left for him to look forward to was a monthly visit to his hairdresser, where at least for a few minutes someone would touch him and care for him.

Loneliness can be a sad and cruel experience. This is particularly so for people placed in solitary confinement. I read a while back about a particular prison ward. The prisoners were given enough to eat. But they were not allowed to talk to each other. They were not allowed to work together because work leads to contact and conversation. They were not even allowed to listen to others on the radio or watch television. And of course, they were never allowed even one visitor. After months of this cruel treatment,

there was not a single prisoner with even a skerrick left of self-esteem or self-confidence.

I hope and pray that none of us here will ever feel so isolated or alone, especially when we have to face that particular human experience, which no one else can face for us - our death. What happens on the other side of that experience? What will we find there? Our faith tells us, that whatever else there will be, we will enjoy the company of other human beings. And more than that, on the other side of our death God will be waiting for us. The God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The God who made us through our human parents. The God who loves us, understands us, forgives us, and keeps us going. The God who finally takes us to Godself, and forever.

This is what we are celebrating in our feast of the Trinity. This is why we are giving praise and thanks to God in the Eucharist for the feast. Because God is not alone, and because we are not alone, and never will be. And so let us pray together and mean every word we say: 'Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.'

[bgleesoncp@gmail.com](mailto:bgleesoncp@gmail.com)

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### **Our community**



**Thank you note from Milly and the Family**

Early this week Milly sent a message with regards to Tony thanking everyone for prayers. "All went well. Tony should be coming home (@Brisbane) tomorrow. Will keep the catheter in for another week then... we will fly home... **I am in awe of God and thank u all for your prayers.** Many blessings."

### **Anniversaries**

We remember and pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. This week we particularly remember Marie Danuta Ryan (Diane Baker's Sister in Law) whose anniversary is on the 12th of June.

### **Ongoing 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

We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell. We remember especially: Don Schimanski, Tony Mazzei, Maree Bartoli, Dominic Isgro, Gerry Bond, Jacki Tomm, Peter Owen, Barry Wong, Errol Lovett, Mary Corkeron, Angelo Vigilante, Lesley Yang, Graham Hille, Brenda Rodrigues, Mary Hackett, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Patricia Keeghan, Peter McNamara, Pam Gartland, Michael Doyle, Mary Coburn, Jim Monaghan, Maeve and John Reardon, Anne Jenkins, Kate and Mary Dunn, Brendan Holloway, Helen McLean and Ray Sanchez CP. We remember also those we know who seek or need our prayers.

Thank you everyone, have a blessed week.

Erick