

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 122 (17th June, 2022)

Greetings and welcome to this edition of the newsletter. This week we welcome Brian back from his break and Provincial Meeting. We look forward to his newsletter next week. We have missed him and his communication, dearly.

Passionist News

Meeting of Provincial Council meeting

This week the Provincial Council has a planned meeting. So many such meetings could not be face-to-face over the past two years because of COVID. As we all know that each time they meet, they do so to pray and make decisions that can keep our Province going forward in line with its mission. Their decisions make an impact on each of us in the Passionist family. We pray that the Spirit may guide them. We give thanks for our council members, Tom McDonough, Denis Travers, Brendan Connell, Brian Traynor and Chris Monaghan

Passionist Daily Brief Reflections

“Dear Passionist Family,
Your response to our new website has been heart-warming. If you wish to receive our daily reflections delivered to your inbox (email) directly each day SUBSCRIBE: <https://www.passionists.com/e-newsletter/> provide the information requested and make sure to Click "Tick this box (YES)" before you submit the form. You will receive an email to confirm your subscription, please click to confirm so that the daily reflection will be delivered directly to your inbox, NOT your spam folder. You can still visit our WEBSITE <https://www.passionists.com/daily-reflection/> to view the daily reflection.”

From the Provincial Office

Vehicle maintenance

The mechanic the community has used for many years has relocated. We are seeking recommendations about a suitable mechanic proximate to Templestowe who could service our vehicles. If you can help, please advise Mayrose (98461622)

Holy Cross News

Community's face change for a short while – Jerome being the temporary superior On Tuesday Jerome sat in his usual seat not realising that he was truly sitting at the head of the table. Jerome is a humble man. It happens that he was actually the head of the table.

With Brian and Chris being away, Jerome, the most senior professed member of the community was the leader of the house and community.

Jerome had been away having a break the previous week.

Under his leadership we hosted a few more people. After a day of Yr 9 retreat in Essendon which John and Tri attended, the youth retreat team thought it would be nice to dine together.



This week the Youth Retreat Team has reached about 1000 students across Queensland and NSW. We thank them for taking the Passionist Charism to so many, following in the footsteps of St Paul of the Cross.



We were also blessed to have **Fr Ron Davoran Cp**, community leader of the Marrickville Community of 16 members.

Prior to arriving, he spent four days in Horsham where he participated in the Annual Southern Cross Golf Club Tournament. Ronny was rather pleased with the results as South Australia, his team and State of Origin took the 2022 Cup. Congratulations Ronny! Great to have you around.

Fr Pastor Mumburi CP

As some of you have asked me about Pastor, I thought about it and wrote to him asking "how have you been?" Here are some photos to show what he has been up to.

He has been trimming sugarcane, feeding and cleaning up after chickens and pigs. That's not to forget running/walking, loan-mowing and catching up with his Mum after work. In terms of ministries, Pastor has largely been running retreats for nuns of different orders. Last weekend he led a retreat for our Passionist novices. It is wonderful to hear from Pastor, we miss him and we pray for him. Thank you, Pastor, for sharing. God bless you and your family.



Come Away

The 'Come Away Day' happened successfully because of the terrific job by the main organisers, and the presence of so many participants. We thank them dearly for their effort to spread positivity among us and beyond. Below are some words from Frank.

"Last Tuesday, 19 people gathered at Holy Cross for a wonderful day on prayer, reflection and conversation on the theme, " Finding the warmth and life within: a time of nurturing and inner growth."

Sr Brigid cp led a reflection based on Joyce Rupp's poem, reflecting on the numerous ways in which the Holy Spirit is active in our everyday lives. Pam referenced some insights of John O'Donohue to ask what might help us to feel support, love, encouragement and hope and in our life journey.

Frank led a prayer of examination to celebrate all the things in our lives for which we are thankful.

Kay facilitated the lively discussion which flowed from these presentations. At the Eucharist closing the day, Erick spoke of the importance of the Holy Spirit in revealing to us the often surprising depths of love to be found in our family lives.

Contact Frank on burke.frank942@yahoo.com.au or 0407998781 for further details on the Come Away Day program at Holy Cross.” Frank Burke.

Discipleship Internship Team

A group from the Archdiocese will be using our centre for the first time from this Monday to Wednesday. It is always pleasing to host new groups at Holy Cross.

Happy Corpus Christi Sunday Feast of the Body of Christ

Corpus Christi



In some cathedrals, such as Cologne in Germany, and even in our own Passionist parish church in Marrickville, Sydney, there is a large image of a pelican on the sanctuary floor. The reason for this is that ancient legends told of pelican mothers feeding their young during times of famine, by biting their chests and feeding their young with their blood. It is not surprising that such an image came to be used to symbolize the self-giving of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Throughout history there have been many varied understandings of Eucharist. The greatest emphasis has been placed on the actual material element of bread, rather than the liturgical celebration. Children were sometimes told by Sisters, about a person who took a host home in a handkerchief and found it had turned to blood!

In medieval times, the host was considered magical and the Mass was shrouded in mystery, aided by the use of incense, chanting, the elevation of the host, the use of Latin, and the fact that the priest faced away from the people so what happened on the altar could not be seen. Devotions like Benediction were occasions to “adore” the host, and the connection with the celebration, the first meaning of Eucharist, was virtually impossible to see.



The practice of altar boys holding the priest's vestments during the elevation of the host goes back to a time when the host was elevated by the priest at Mass for a lengthy period and because the vestments were heavy, an assistant lifted them.

The "real" presence of Jesus, as it was described, was a definition that Jesus was really present in the form of bread. This was emphasized so much, that any other form of the presence of Jesus was considered 'not real'.

The raising of the consecrated bread (the host) and the cup, satisfied a need for communion with Christ, during times when people felt so sinful and unworthy that they were unwilling to receive the consecrated bread and wine in communion. This practice of adoration of the elements came to be understood as "the gaze that saves" and communion by eating and drinking was replaced by "communion with the eyes".



Attending Mass came to be used as a way of describing a "practising" Catholic. It was as if, no matter what else a person did in his/her life, nothing qualified them as being a true disciple of Jesus like attending Mass.

Those unable to receive communion have always felt like outsiders, despite Jesus always welcoming outsiders and making this a principal thrust of his ministry!

So what emphasis do we give to these things today?

The importance of Eucharist is not just the elements of bread and wine, but eating and drinking with the gathered assembly. St Paul wrote "as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the death of the Lord" (1 Cor 11:26) The consecrated bread and wine are sacred, but not magical. The highpoint is not "the consecration"; it is communion (the sharing of the bread and wine in mutual fellowship).



If we visit a war memorial we remember with gratitude what was done in the past by brave men and women. This is a memorial of stone. In the Eucharist, the memorial is living and it is of the heart, because what Jesus offered and promised then, he offers and promises now. What we highlight at Eucharist is that when believers come together as the "Assembly of God", they remember Jesus alive and present by eating and drinking together. This is a **living memory**, in which Jesus is present and active.

Vatican 2 reminded us that Jesus is alive, present and active:

a) in the Word as it is proclaimed and heard

- b) in the minister who leads Eucharist
- c) in the gathered praying people
- d) in the eating and drinking together.

Each is a form of Jesus real presence! Each deserves appropriate reverence.

To really celebrate what Eucharist means, those who participate should witness to the mission of Jesus....the fellowship and inclusion of all people in God's family. Receiving communion is a communal action. We share together. We become united with and through Jesus. Whenever people are excluded, something of the meaning of Eucharist is lost.

If we celebrate unity but don't live it, something of the meaning of Eucharist is lost. If we celebrate that we believe in the fellowship of all people, but don't live as if that is true, our witness is a betrayal of our commitment. By celebrating around the table we are called to be Christ to, and for others. There is rich symbolism in the fact that every time we gather, we come from diverse places, with different stories, personalities, needs and attitudes, but we are "one body". We symbolize that with the breaking and sharing of bread for communion.

The feast of Corpus Christi is a reminder that our vocation is to be Jesus for today! We are nourished in that vocation by gathering around the table and dining with Jesus and others. When we leave, we are Jesus for others, going out with him to make a better world (the Kingdom of God). The reverence we might have once had for the elements of bread and wine either on the altar or in the tabernacle is right, but why should it be any stronger than our reverence for Christ's presence within ourselves and within the people we meet.

It is good that we remember St Augustine's advice, "We become what we eat"! The Mass is ended. Go you are sent out!

Brian Traynor CP

Our wider community

Joseph and Grace Ko

Our good friends Grace and Joe would like you to be aware that they will be away back home in Malaysia until September. Grace was back in Malaysia when her Mother died a little over three months ago. While there will be some sadness associated with this visit, we wish them peace and rest during their time away. We will miss them.

Anniversaries

We remember and pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. This week we particularly remember Barry Mernagh, John and Carmel Coates, Carlo DePrato, and Irene Wilkins.

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 Schmanaski, Paul McLeod, Adele, Maree Bartoli, Dominic Isgro, Gerry Bond, Jacki Tomm, Peter Owen, Helen McLean, Barry Wong, Errol Lovett, Angelo Vigilante, Pam Grehan, Brenda Rodrigues, Anne Jenkins, Mary Corkoren, Lesley Yang, Peter McNamara Graham Hille, Mary Hackett, Pam Gartland, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Patricia Keeghan, Michael Doyle, Jim Monaghan, Mary Coburn, Maeve and John Reardon, Kate and Mary Dunn, Ray Sanchez CP and those who seek or need our prayers.

Thank you everyone, have a blessed week.

*With Peace,
Erick*