

Holy Cross Retreat

Letter 123



26th June, 2022

Greetings,

Special thanks is due to Tim and Erick for taking up the editing of the newsletter while I was away. The list of recipients was revised around this time and there have been a few hiccups. Hopefully that is all sorted now.

Green

Having completed the Easter season, we have in recent weeks celebrated Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity and Corpus Christi. Next Sunday we return to the 'Sundays of the Year' (Week 13) so the liturgical vestments will be **green**.

Foote Street roadworks

Access to Holy Cross between June 26th and August 7th will not be possible 24/7 from Williamsons Road. A detour along Porter Street or King Street is recommended.

Chapel chairs

The latest news we have is that the chapel chairs will arrive in mid-July. With deliveries and supplies delayed around the world, we can only hope that they arrive that soon.

Tabernacle

The work to relocate the tabernacle will take place the week after this, thanks to the generous volunteers. This will allow us to install the centenary plaque that Chris has made on July 10th.

Burundian runners



Last Saturday (which was his 6th ordination anniversary) Erick took part in a 12 kilometre cross country athletic event near Frankston. He completed the event in just over 43 minutes, so if you are thinking of challenging him, you might rethink! One exciting part of the day was that Erick met two Burundian runners who represent South Melbourne Athletic club. This was the first time Erick has met another Burundian runner in Melbourne. You can tell that they all go to the same barber!

July 10th – Beginning to celebrating 100 years of Holy Spirit Province

As Erick advised last week, we will be celebrating 100 years since the Passionists formally established Australia as a Province. The edict from Rome confirming this was dated July 11th, 1922 and the official notice was given to our host Province at that time on December 16th that same year. These two dates will establish a period of remembering and celebrating. More details and historical information will be provided, but in short, the foundation began with the arrival of four Irishmen and one Englishmen from St Joseph's Province, England, on November 21st, 1887. Other men followed, and in time local vocations emerged, so that by 1922, it was judged that Australia was ready to become our own Province.



New Guinea was established as a mission of the Province in 1955 and as formally a part of the Province in 1961. New Zealand followed when its jurisdiction was transferred from St Joseph's Province to Holy Spirit Province in 1966. Passionists had been ministering in New Zealand consistently from the 1890's. More

recently, in 2015, Vietnam joined Holy Spirit Province, after spending ten years directly under the Generalate in Rome.



The title 'Holy Spirit' was designated because Portuguese explorer Captain Pedro Ferdinand de Quiros believed he had discovered Terra Australis Incognita (the Unknown South Land) and on Pentecost Sunday 1606, he hoisted an emblem of the Holy Cross and proclaimed, "I take possession of all this part of the south as far as the pole, in the name of Jesus...which from now on shall be called the southern land of the Holy Spirit".

History now shows that in fact de Quiros had landed in Vanuatu! However in his proclamation he had included everything as far as the South Pole which unknown to him, included Australia, then known as Terra Australis Incognita. He renamed this island as "La Australia del Espiritu Santo" or the Southland of the Holy Spirit. de Quiros later realised his mistake but he was never able to undertake another journey to prove it.

Many people regard Geoff Bullock's stirring song "[The Great Southland of the Holy Spirit](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CpZ2qu2nofE)" as Australia's Christian anthem. The stunning photography in the YouTube clip matches the brilliant lyrics. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CpZ2qu2nofE> It is certainly a song we can use to celebrate this Passionist centenary.

"More about God's forgiveness than our sins"

Going to confession is not a popular practice today but it might be different if more often in the past, if Catholics had experienced and been encouraged by

Pope Francis understanding of the sacrament. In a recent article for Catholic News Service, Cindy Wooden reported on this matter.

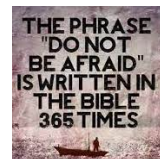
During a Lenten service in Rome at the end of March this year, Francis who went to a confessor, said in his reflection, “the sacrament of reconciliation is not so much about our sins as it is about God’s forgiveness. Think about it: If our sins were at the heart of the sacrament, almost everything would depend on us, on our repentance, our efforts, our resolve, but it is about God’s power, mercy and grace”.

**GOD COMES TO US
DISGUISED AS
OUR LIFE**

“All too often,” he said, “we think that confession is about going to God with dejected looks. Yet it is not so much that we go to the Lord, but that the Lord comes to us, to fill us with his grace, to fill us with his joy.”

Francis said priests should set aside rigidity, obstacles and harshness, pleading “may you be doors wide open to mercy!” Francis said “If a priest is not prepared to act in the person of the good shepherd, who takes his sheep into his arms and cradles them, it is better that he not hear confessions”.

In concluding, Pope Francis addressed those who find it hard to accept the forgiveness of a sin in their past or are upset by their inability to mend their ways. Francis said: “Do not be afraid. God knows your weaknesses and is greater than your mistakes.”



Indonesian Passionist appointed Bishop

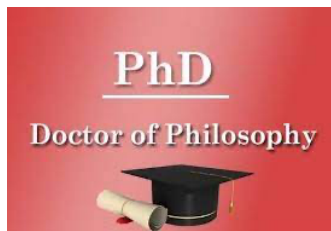


Pope Francis has appointed 52-year-old Valentinus Saeng, as the new bishop of Sanggau province in Indonesia’s West Kalimantan province. Valentinus was very surprised at being asked to take on the role since as he said, he has lived as an academic rather than as a pastoral priest for many years. “I never plunged into the pastoral world at all. I did not really expect to be considered as a

potential bishop of Sanggau even though I come from there,” he said.

Valentinus said he will have to learn about pastoral work from parish priests and the diocesan curia. “Theory and practice are pretty much different — it is like heaven and earth. So, the first step I will make is to learn, to listen, to get input, to analyze the situation, and so on. I will also think about how to maintain what has been planted and harvested by previous great missionaries. I hope I can do this.

Maintaining something is not an easy job as I will need patience, perseverance and cooperation,” he said.



Valentinus obtained a master’s degree in philosophy in 2001 and a PhD in 2008, from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. He was a member of the PASPAC Formation Commission for a number of years during which I was also a member. This will be a steep learning curve and something quite unexpected, but the Passionists have communities in his diocese which will help.

One year



Next Wednesday **Luke** will celebrate his first anniversary of ordination. Having spent so many years preparing for a life of ministry, the first anniversary is quite a milestone to celebrate. Luke has been engaged at our parish in Endeavour Hills and has really enjoyed and appreciated the experience.

He was often cautioned that he might look back at his various hair and beard styles with amusement. This is just one of them!



Fifty-six years

Next Thursday, June 30th, **Chris Mithen** will celebrate his 66th ordination! Chris is living at Nazareth House now after many years of active priestly service and will reach his 90th birthday in November. Chris brought much spiritual depth and good humour during his years at Holy Cross. His post-communion ‘joke of the week’ was always look forward to.

Erick will

He looks quite there is no need again. Last week



celebrate his 34th birthday on Friday July 1st.

worried about it, but we can assure him that to worry yet, especially since he is running in a competition he ran 12kms in 43 minutes!

A sign of the times



After nearly 110 years of ministry in the western suburbs of Adelaide, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart will withdraw from Henley Beach parish at the end of this year. The MSC provincial Fr Chris McPhee announced this the on June 7 acknowledging that the decision would come as a shock to many. Fr McPhee said there were 108 MSC religious in Australia, 82 of whom were aged over 70 years and only 26 of whom were in full-time ministry. At Henley Beach, three of the priests are aged over 73".



Joe and Grace Ko are in Hong Kong, not Malaysia. This photo is three generations of male Ko's.

Joseph (granddad), Darrel (son) and Ethan (grandson). It looks like green shorts is a family thing!

Grace and Joe have almost three months of baby-sitting to look forward to before they spend two weeks in Malaysia and then stagger back to Melbourne!

Tri photos

With the cooperation of Bro Mark Wells in Adelaide and Chris here at Holy Cross, Tri has acquired some second-hand photographic equipment which he has already put to goodsee below





Videos

Young and old

There are two brief videos attached. Both have delightful endings In one there are surprising examples of what senior people can do and in other the baby at the end says it all.

There are also links below to two other videos

If we all got along...

Back in 210 Travellers Insurance created a computer generated advertisement suggesting that if various animals can get along with each other, humans should be able to do this as well. It is a very uplifting video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzrhMkUq-48>

Bring joy to others

A lovely video of a man using his talent to bring joy to others

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ff44-O2DoA>

Puzzle

*Something for seniors to keep your brain cells active!
(Answers provided next week)*

1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?

2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop, he is five feet ten inches tall and he wears size 13 sneakers. What does he weigh?
3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the world's highest mountain?
4. How much dirt is there in a hole... that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?
5. What word in the English Language... is always spelled incorrectly?
6. Billy was born on December 28th, yet his birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?
7. In Tasmania, you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?
8. What was the British Prime Minister's Name...in 1975?
9. If you were running a race, and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?
10. Which is correct: "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?
11. If a farmer has 5 haystacks in one field and 4 haystacks in the other field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in another field?

What do these seven words have in common?

1. Banana
2. Dresser
3. Grammar
4. Potato
5. Revive
6. Uneven
7. Assess

Humour

She: Do you believe in phrenology?

He: No. I once went and had my head read and it was clear that there was nothing in it.

He: (complaining) \$45 for a new hat. It's a sin

She: Never mind dear. The sin will be on my head!

Angry diner: Waiter! You are not fit to serve a pig

Waiter: I am doing my best, sir!

Son: I am not sure Dad whether I want to focus on the care of ears or teeth

Dad: Choose the teeth son. People have two ears but 32 teeth!

Mr Cobb has married Ms Webb it was announced. He said he knew they were meant for each other as soon as he met her.

An Irishman was telling his friend Joe how he'd been shot. "The bullet went through my chest and out my back".

Joe protested, "But to be sure, it would have gone through your heart!"
"Ah no", the Irishman replied, my heart was in my mouth at the time".

They're finally making a movie about clocks..... It's about time!

A slice of apple pie in Jamaica is \$2.00. It cost \$2.50 in the Bahamas. These are the pie rates of the Caribbean.

There was a big paddle sale at the boat store. It was quite an oar deal!

Not all math puns are bad, just sum of them

Q. Why did the laptop show up late to school?

A. It had a hard drive

Moses had the first tablet that could connect to the cloud.

If we shouldn't eat at night, why do they put a light in the fridge?

We had a contest at work for the best neckwear. It was a tie.

My wife said I never listen to her, or something like that.

Today I saw a dwarf climbing down a prison wall. I thought to myself, "that's a little condescending".

Prayers

Please remember [Anthony Attilio](#), a Holy Cross Mass attendee who died last Sunday morning.



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

The [Mass link](#) will be sent by Chris on Saturday afternoon.

Have a good weekend

Brian