

Holy Cross Retreat

Letter 129



5th August, 2022

Greetings,

Nazareth house



The sisters at Nazareth house, Camberwell have cared for a number of our men in their elderly years. **Leo RIP, Dunstan RIP, Bro Charle RIPS, Chris Mithen**, and from this week, **Gerald Quinn**, who has relocated from Hobart. This is a very big move for Gerald after spending 33 years in Hobart. The decision process is similar to what many families face, and letting go of long term relationships is sad and difficult.

The Holy Cross community held an anointing during Thursday morning Mass, with this photo showing Chris anointing Gerald before his departure for Nazareth House.



Hiroshima Peace Day (6th August)

I attended a PASPAC meeting in October 2013 and was fortunate to visit Hiroshima. Japan is an island group (archipelago) of almost 7,000 islands! There are four main islands Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku. Honshu is the principal island and is the location of cities like Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka and Kobe. Hokkaido is the second largest and is north of Honshu, where Hiroshima is situated.

Hiroshima is best known for the nuclear bomb that exploded over it on August 6th, 1945, killing over one hundred and forty thousand people. This was one quarter of

the population, but many had been evacuated from the city beforehand, for fear of extensive bombing. It is estimated that one third of the people in the city that day, died, and countless others suffered all sorts of horrific injuries and tens of thousands of others later developed various forms of cancer and other serious health problems owing to radiation exposure. 75% of the buildings were destroyed.

What I wasn't aware of is that one month later, on September 17, 1945, Hiroshima was struck by a typhoon that resulted in 3,000 more deaths and injuries. So much damage had already been caused by the bomb, but 50% of the surviving bridges were destroyed, along with huge damage to roads and railroads. That must have felt like a unmerciful cruel blow to the surviving residents.

I wondered why the bomb was dropped here, but the reason is that apart from Hiroshima port holding huge navy supplies, most of the other cities in Japan had been destroyed. The US had targeted four possible cities to strike and an attraction to them of Hiroshima was that there were no allied POW soldiers there, so they did not fear reprisals against their armed forces. When we think of the sorrow caused today by a military or terrorist attack that kills one hundred people, war bombing in Tokyo had already resulted in one hundred thousand deaths!



Hiroshima was proclaimed a city of Peace by the Japanese parliament in 1949, and this led to many international Conferences on peace and justice being held there. Today it has a population of just over one million. The 'A Bomb' dome is a centre piece of a park dedicated to ongoing peace. The strongly constructed dome formed part of the most notable building in Hiroshima at

the time of the war. The building was severely damaged beyond repair, but a part of it remained and this is on display much as it was after the atomic bomb attack, but it is in a lovely setting today beside the river.

Near this spot, for many years, survivors or their relatives have told their story to interested persons or tour groups. We saw one such person talking to a group and displaying horrific photos of deformed babies born in the early years after the attack. These were truly gruesome and must have been an unbelievable shocking experience for the Mothers who bore these children. I had previously read a wonderful book titled 'A Song for Nagasaki, by Paul Glynn SM, which gives an account of the terrible suffering victims encountered in Nagasaki from the atomic bomb blast there and the incredible work of Catholic physician Takashi Nagai



A little further away from the dome is a perpetual flame resting on a small pontoon in the river, and co-joined in a brilliant design with the Dome and a monument further away still from the dome. This monument rests near the water and contains an above ground tomb in which are recorded the names of every known person who died or has died from the attack. New names are added on

the anniversary, 8.15am, August 6th. If you look through this monument you can see both the flame and some way behind it and cleverly aligned, the dome.

The Hiroshima museum is a wonderful tribute to the tragic events of the atomic bomb and a section is devoted to protesting against nuclear warfare. There is some pre-history in clear photographic and script displays in Japanese and English, as well as a handful of very brief videos. While there are some very heart wrenching images, they have avoided the explicitness of the Holocaust museum in Jerusalem and included a need to recognise Japan's own responsibility for the loss of so many lives as a result of its colonial attitudes in other wars before and after WW2.

The devastation was heightened by the fact that the homes of the time were made of timber. The loss of life and property was shocking, but the pain that victims suffered from burns and scalded skin, cannot be comprehended. Many children died, although a good number had been evacuated in the weeks before the bomb.

The Hiroshima city government had put hundreds of schoolgirls to work clearing fire lanes in preparation for bombing and many buildings were demolished to create firebreaks. Many schoolgirls were out in the open doing this work when the bomb was dropped! Of the city's two hundred doctors, only twenty were left alive or capable of helping, and only one hundred and fifty of the eighteen hundred nurses could tend the sick and dying. (We think our current shortage is serious!)

On that morning, it was a beautiful clear day and as the display suggests, "that



sealed the people's fate". An air raid siren sounded a warning an hour or so earlier, but at a little after 7.00am the all clear was given and people set about what they expected to be a normal working day. There are two watches in display that stopped that morning at 8.16am, and I wondered why American citizens stop to remember September 11th, without stopping at 8.16am on August 6th. We all should, and pray for and commit ourselves to peace.

At least looking at the city today and learning of the immediate efforts that were taken to rebuild (unaware of the severe dangers of radiation) it is possible to have hope. It is said that despite predictions that the trees would never return to life, they did so, soon after, and in particular the Phoenix plant. This gave the people of the time, enormous hope, and reminds us that the call of life to live, is not only in every form of life around us, but should be alive within our hearts.



The pilot who dropped the bomb was Paul Tibbets. He died at age 92 and never had any regrets. Sadly, when asked about the response the US should make to the 9/11 attacks, he said 'nuke 'em'!

Surely, he must never have come back to Hiroshima!

Province history 4: Growth and Expansion (1937-1960): Part 1: St Ives

St Patrick's Province Ireland became a separate Province from St Joseph's in 1937. Over the next seventeen years, which included the period of the Second World War, there was an increase in vocations in Australia and changes in the various communities reflected this. The juniorate at St Ives was opened in October 1937 and four years later, in 1941, a student wing was added in Glen Osmond. The community there included eleven priests, two brothers and five students.

The site of the juniorate at St Ives was known originally as 'Macquarie Farm'. It was a 40-acre grant promised to ex-convict Michael Ansell by Governor Lachlan Macquarie on 16th January 1816, and issued by Governor Darling on **19th October 1831**. The land was transferred from Michael Ansell to William Fowler in 1833, and then almost immediately to Thomas Hyndes. It was then transferred to Thomas Brown who sold to J.G. Edwards in 1876. Edwards sold to Richard Nancarrow in March 1877 for £187 (approx. \$32,000 in today's currency).

When Richard Nancarrow took possession of the site, the surrounding district was supporting many thriving orchards. A small weatherboard cottage was constructed on the site (now demolished) and around 1882 a farm shed was added, which still exists on the site. A well was created contemporary with the farm shed building. A larger farmhouse was burnt down in 1982.

The Nancarrows sold the property to the Dalimore's, who farmed stone fruits: peaches, apricots, nectarines and plums, as well as apples and pears. A bushfire in 1912 brought an end to orcharding on the site. After this, 'Macquarie Farm' provided a varied means of support including dairying, agistment for cows and horses, rearing of turkeys and chickens for local sale and cultivation of herbs,

passionfruit and some vegetables. By the time the Dalimore's left the property the Depression was in full swing. A dairyman named Hurrell ran a few cows on the land and the house was let until the property was sold to the Passionists in 1935. The foundation stone for the new building was laid on Sunday 7th February 1937. The original intention was to extend the building so that the students could complete all their training at St Ives, as can be seen in the image used for the official opening.

The western arcade was left blank at that time to allow the completion of a large Romanesque chapel designed to sit between matching cloistered wings at a later date. The original plan was never completed so a chapel was added on to the western cloister in 1965.

It was envisioned that the college was to be self-supporting so a small orchard was planted on the eastern side of the property, vegetables were grown in a fenced area, there were 8-10 roosts and an enclosure for poultry and two stalls for pigs. Six cows were kept for milking, hay and oats were grown for feed and there was a draught horse and a hand plough. The farmhouse was used as an chapel in the very early days.



From 1937 to 1972 hundreds of students commenced at the college from as young as twelve years of age. They were able to complete high school with Passionists priests acting as teachers. When their education was complete they spent a Novitiate year at Goulburn prior to studying philosophy and then theology.

Farming was replaced for a few years by a sizable duck farm that involved the Brothers and students. The land became excess to requirements, so from the 1960's portions were sold including a section that allowed Corpus Christi parish and school to build and the sale of land helped fund the building of Holy Cross Templestowe. The land sales also provided for a gymnasium that was built in 1965, adjacent to the two tennis courts and in front of the farm shed.

As the numbers joining began to dwindle and the recognition grew that candidates would be better to have completed school before joining, the need for such a large building began to be questioned and in 1972 the Juniorate was discontinued.

Several of the young priests at St Ives (including Kevin Dance and Peter McGrath) had completed or were completing university studies and they began to offer programmes of adult faith formation and retreat for young adults. At this same time, the Passionists were invited to take on the responsibility for a very small mass

community in Terrey Hills and the combination of this and the 'adult education' sessions led to an explosion in the numbers attending Terrey Hills.



Peter McGrath took on the responsibility of parish pastor and being a charismatic character, before long, the church needed to be extended, but without losing its small and homely feel. St Anthony in the Fields became a parish that attracted people from near and far, and as the numbers grew, Peter became concerned that a primary source of attraction for people, the strong sense of community that existed, could be lost.

He offered a 'weekend retreat' for couples who so much appreciated the experience, that they wanted to continue meeting but with the inclusion of their children. When the experience was repeated with another group of couples, the rough development of what became the Passionist family Group Movement was born in 1973.



St Anthony's became a founding community for hundreds of parishes that took on Passionist Family Groups through Australia and New Zealand and then to the UK and a few places including a prison in the USA. The Movement developed lay leadership as being central to this model of church. In 2000, the St Ives property was sold, and Peter and a lay community continued their PFGM ministry along with other Passionists and thousands of lay people.

The Passionists relinquished Terrey Hills parish in 2007 and it is now a part of French's Forest parish. The contribution made to the faith lives of so many people through the adult faith formation offered at St Ives, through Terrey Hills parish and the Passionist Family Group Movement is inestimable.

After the St Ives property was sold to fund renovations in Marrickville and Glen Osmond, it was developed in an unrecognisable way, apart from the front facade and the old farm shed at the back!

Humour

A cat died and went to heaven. St Francis (patron of animals) met him at the gate and said, "you have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you desire is yours, all you have to do is ask. The cat said "well, I lived my all life with a poor family on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors. Francis said, "say no more. Instantly, a

fluffy pillow appeared”.

A few days later, six mice died and went to heaven. Francis met them at the gate with the same offer he made to the cat. The mice said, all our lives we’ve had to run. Cats, dogs and even a woman with a broom. If we could only have a pair of roller skates, we wouldn’t have to run anymore. Francis said, say no more”. And instantly, each mouse was fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates. The cat was sound asleep on his pillow. Francis gently waked him and asked, “how are you doing? Are you happy here?” The cat yawned, stretches and said, “oh, I’ve never been happier in my life! Those meals on wheels you’ve been sending over are the best!”

At a very special dinner, a man named John Qi was seated next to a real Aussie. After the first course, the Aussie said to John, “Likee soup?” John gave him a big smile and a thumbs up. Something similar happened after the entrée and the main course. Then, to the Aussie’s surprise, John was called upon to give the main speech during which he mentioned his love of vegemite. His command of English was very impressive. The Aussie was shocked. When John returned to the table he said to the Aussie, “Likee speech?”

Q. What does a baby computer call his father? A. Data.

Q. Why did the computer have no money left? A. Someone cleaned out its cache!

Q. What’s a computer’s favorite snack? A. Microchips!

Q. Why was the robot so tired after his road trip? A. He had a hard drive.

A. What do you call monkeys with a shared Amazon account? A Prime mates.

A. Why should you never use “beef stew” as a password? A It’s not stroganoff.

A. What do you call your grandma’s number on speed dial? A. Instagram.

Did you hear about the power outlet that got into a fight with a power cord?
He thought he could socket to him.

Longest place name in NZ



Near Porangahau in Hawke's Bay

is an unassuming hill known as "Taumata whakatangi hangakoauau o tamatea turi pukakapiki maunga horo nuku pokai whenua kitanatahu". The name has 85 letters and is the longest place name in the world, but locals simply call it Taumata Hill.

Correction

In part of last week's history (Marrickville), mention was made of their being two bells in the tower. That section should read... In 1954 the 43 metre tower was built and a bell from the Josephite Orphanage at Leichhardt were added. It was named by Tiernan Doherty CP, 'Mary Francis' after Mary McKillop and Francis Clune CP who was her confessor at the end of her life. Two other bells came from the 'Little Sisters of the Poor' in Kensington, Sydney and an Anglican church in Dulwich Hill that was closing down. There is a 2.1 metres cross above the illuminated blue lantern at the top of the tower.

Coats

There has been a good response to the request to donate spare coats for the homeless. Thankyou. If there are more, they will be gratefully received. The coats are being distributed by members of the Women's friendship group of which Helen Juravic (with her husband in this photo) is President.



Starling Murmations

In June last year I shared a video of a starling murmuration. Here is the link to another one. <https://youtu.be/88UVJpQG88> Watching versions of this amazing event is always awe-inspiring. As photographer Dylan Winter says, "How wonderful is that".

Research has shown that each bird concentrates only on seven other birds! That interaction balances the advantages of group cohesion and individual effort. In this way, small groups are able to maintain cohesion even when every individual is uncertain about how other birds might behave.



Researchers have discovered that “Each bird in the flock moves independently, but must sense and react to the neighbouring birds”. The murmuration of birds provides a lesson for how manageable cooperation within a group enables individuals to achieve their goal and endorses the wise group dynamic principle – “Don’t do in a large group, what you can do better in a small group.

If birds have learned to do this, why can’t we?

Congratulations



Tri celebrates his 30th birthday today.

Tri arrived in Australia on July 1st 2019 to undertake English studies at ELSPM. He then proceeded to the novitiate, more than half of which took place at Holy Cross. . Normally at the end of that time, he’d have had a holiday at home, but COVID-19 prevented that, so this is his fourth successive birthday in Australia. Tri is now studying theology at YTU.

Prayers

We remember Linda Daly’s father, Ivan D’Cruz who passed away on July 31st. Ivan’s funeral is Tuesday 9th at 11.00am at Keilor Downs. We also remember long time PFGM member Denis Grissell who was buried on Thursday, and three Passionists who served at Holy Cross and who have anniversaries this week, Fr Vianney Carey (Aug 8th) Fr Mark Nugent (Aug 11th) and Fr Jerome Crowe (Aug 12th)



We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell especially Maeve Reardon who asked two weeks ago to be removed from our list, but has been readmitted to hospital. We also remember: Maree Bartoli, Paul Darbyshire, John Gill, Gerry Bond, Jim Monaghan, Barry Wong, Ted and Elaine Hallam, John Reardon, Helen McLean, Peter Owen, Graham Hille, Dominic Isgro, Errol Lovett, Angelo Vigilante, Peter DeMarzi, Pam Gartland, Lesley Yang,

Anne Jenkins, Mary Corkoren, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Peter McNamara, Patricia Keeghan, Michael Doyle, Pam Grehan, Mary Coburn, Mary Hackett, 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