

Holy Cross Retreat

Letter 133



3rd September, 2022

Greetings,



We extend best wishes to all the Dad's who will be celebrated this Sunday.

Pakistan

There are many trouble spots in the world at present, but the flooding in Pakistan is a real catastrophe. So many people have lost their lives or their livelihoods. The need is critical. Let us hope and pray that help is swift and generous.

New community members

Our Holy Cross community will increase by 50% on Friday afternoon with the arrival of three Vietnamese postulants who will spend eleven months here studying English at [ELSPM](#) (The Passionist sponsored English Language Studies for Pastoral Ministry). Obviously their early weeks will be a challenge for them as they adjust to a very different culture where people speak a language that they have been told is English. Questions like 'jurreckun? And 'did you come her to die?' make it difficult to think we are making sense when we speak English. We also have to learn how to pronounce their names. Thăng (Twan), Thang (Tung) and Dũng (Jung)



Toan



Thang



Dung

We welcome our brothers and hope they have a most enjoyable stay in Melbourne. Unfortunately their flight was delayed by several hours they'd have been at the airport four hours before a 5.10am departure. They will be at Mass on Sunday.

Extra community member



For nearly three months we have had a male kangaroo take up residence on the oval.

He seems at home and has learned to be comfortable with the sound of a lawn mower and the shrieks of children on retreat days.

Most of the time he is relaxed on the far side of the oval, but this photo shows him much closer to the building down towards the La Velle room.

Upcoming events

Elizabeth Prout birthday



Brigid and Karen and all the Cross and Passion sisters celebrate the birth of their foundress today, September 2nd. Like Mary McKillop and Suzanne Aubert, Elizabeth, was a woman for all time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNBXGVBqp50>

Brigid is heading home on Monday for a month for work and reconnection. We wish her a safe journey.

Risk Management session: Saturday September 3rd

Saturday Sept 3rd: 10.45am-12.00pm **or**

Wednesday Sept 7th: 10.00am-11.15am

Four simple steps for risk assessment



As advised last week, annual in-service is compulsory for active members of the Passionist Family. When the Passionists are audited we must be able to produce evidence that everyone exercising a role has attended an in-service session and signed our Code of Conduct. We know it can seem intrusive and unnecessarily demanding, but it is a requirement.

We understand if an individual does not want to comply, but sadly there would be no other choice than that they withdraw from a public role.

Could you please register your attendance or apology, with Tina Minicilli (our Risk Management Officer) on 0439034116 or risk.manager@passionists.com

PFGM New National Coordinator: Commissioning 4th Sept



If you belong to a Passionist Family Group you might like to join us this Sunday (10.00am) for the commissioning of Tina Minicilli as Australian National Coordinator of the Passionist Family Group Movement. There will be a simple morning tea after Mass.



Tina has been appointed by our Provincial Fr Tom McDonough to lead a National team. In an era when there is a clear call for women to carry leadership roles in the church, it is encouraging that Tina will be the first woman to lead the PFGM. The team includes Roger and Trish Gurney (from Donvale parish representing Vic/Tas), Celine Egar ('from The Fort', Oxley) and Russell Winterschedit (from Albany Creek parish) representing Qld, and Northen NSW. Mary Morris (from Page parish ACT) will represent ACT and NSW on a temporary basis, and I am appointed as advisor to this National Team.

This team, together with the team that has carried the leadership responsibilities for the past five years, will meet at Holy Cross in December. The NZ National Coordinator will join them.



St Gabriel's Gnocchi lunch...Sept 11th

This will be held at Holy Cross on Sunday September 11th from 12.00pm-4.00pm.

Please contact Bruno (0419 503 300) or Matt (9842 6105)

Come Away Day....September 13th

Our next Come Away Day at Holy Cross will be held on Tuesday 13 September. All are welcome. BYO lunch. The theme of the day is, " Come on an ongoing journey of discovery with yourself, others and your God."

Registration is at 9.30am. For further details contact Frank Burke, 0407998781 or burke.frank942@yahoo.com.au

Feast of Holy Cross: Wednesday September 14th



You are invited to celebrate this feast with the community at 7.30pm and to share a simple BYO supper in the dining room.

PROVINCE HISTORY

Chapter 6. PAPUA NEW GUINEA Part 2



After 1963 men were appointed by the Prefect Apostolic upon agreement with the Passionist Mission Superior. In 1966 the Vanimo mission territory was made a Vicariate Apostolic and Paschal Sweeney became the first Vicar Apostolic and was ordained Bishop.

When the five Passionists including Bro Anthony Lawler arrived in Vanimo, the parish house at Lote had been adequate as a two-

man station but it was in a dilapidate state and the outside toilet was tied to a tree to prevent it from falling down a hill! The church was also in a rundown state. There was no road from Vanimo town to Lote, so an outdoor motor had to be purchased to propel a four and a half metre dingy that the Franciscan missionaries had left behind. The everyday work in humid conditions that the missionaries undertook in those days were remarkable.



They drew on building, electrical and mechanical skills that were most beneficial. As they got organised they operated a daily clinic for people who were sick. Missionary numbers gradually increased with the arrival of nurses, teachers, builders and catechists. Jerome Dunn was the first lay missionary to arrive in Vanimo. After two years he joined the Passionists as a Brother and after his novitiate and other training, he returned in to the mission 1968 as a Passionist. A few years later there were fifteen religious and twenty-eight lay missionaries on the Mission staff. Schools began to operate at Lote and Baro, which excellent results.



In 1965 four Josephite sisters arrived in Vanimo. They took over responsibility for the Lote school and engaged in pastoral activities. This allowed for eight schools with eleven foreign and eight local teachers. Paschal Sweeney was now the Mission Superior and he recognised not only the need for the mission areas to be supported by the sending of goods by plane, but he arranged for a mission plane to be purchased, one of the Passionists (Denis Madigan) and later also Bro Luke,

to gain a licence and for a lay missionary pilot to serve in the mission. Brothers Anthony and Jim (Coucher) set about making bricks which enabled them to replace the Lote church with a brick building. Jim also completed a lay missionaries' house. In 1966 Vanimo was declared a diocese and Paschal Sweeney became its first bishop. Vanimo was the centre of the missionary area but there were nearly 50,000 people who spoke several dozen languages scattered in tiny villages of perhaps a hundred people or less spread over 20,000 square kilometres of incredibly difficult terrain that included endless swamps, treacherous rivers and towering limestone ridges.



Fr Ignatius and Jeff (in those days known as Cletus) undertook a challenging patrol to Ossima to establish a mission station there. A map shows this to be a distance of 27 kilometres, but it was several days walk. Jeff was involved in the opening up of all the initial inland mission stations: Ossima, Imonda, Wasengla, Utai and Kamberatoro. At each village a site had to be carved out of the jungle. Then a residence, a church, school and other buildings had to be constructed, from jungle materials.



The local villagers were always willing helpers. There was also the demanding work of creating a landing strip for aircraft which at Ossima took one year. While doing all of this, bush patrols continued. One of Jeff's patrols took twenty days and covered 400 kilometres.

When the airstrip opened on June 4th, 1962, a new era was possible for the transport of personnel and goods in quick time, and to get emergency treatment for many who needed it. In September that year, Jeff departed from Ossima and went to Imonda, and Jerome Dunn took up the task of completing various projects. The work Jeff undertook required great physical and emotional strength and Jeff would readily admit, that the experience eventually shattered his health.



In the early years nothing was established and the missionaries knew little of what lay ahead. As noted, foot patrols were the most common form of getting around in

the bush areas.



One patrol by Fr Ignatius Willy went for 32 days. He covered 560 kilometres and did 120 hours of walking! Missionaries came to depend on air-drops for essential supplies and the bush landing strips and light planes made this possible.

The missionaries in the Vanimo district faced an array of problems among the people: extreme poverty, poor health, lack of education and injustice. Tropical ulcers, malaria, malnutrition, leprosy and dengue fever were rife. Because of the isolation of the mission stations, most missionaries were provided with further basic training in giving injections, stitching wounds and treating infections. The arrival of volunteer nurses assisted greatly with these tasks.



Most men from Australia and New Zealand who joined the mission over the next twenty years walked many of the trails in Papua New Guinea carrying food and medicine. Some of these men, such as Paschal and Xavier who had both been Provincials were courageous in leaving their comfortable and known 'world' in the fifties, to work in a primitive Melanesian culture, Both brought their administrative skills and generosity to the mission.

Accommodation everywhere was basic. The weather was hot, humid and tropical. Health centres and schools had to be established. Some of the airstrips needed a tractor to be created and maintained. Jeff Foale built the Ossima strip with manual labour under intense heat, and he worked on the Fas and Utai airstrips as well.



At times some roads became impassable, and some bridges collapsed because of torrential rain. A thirty minute flight, could save a ten day walk, over 10,000 foot mountains involving frequent crossing of crocodile infested rivers, but light plane travel was dangerous, and several pilots and planes perished.



In Ossima, an entire jungle area of 800 hectares had been cleared to create mission buildings, an air strip and grazing land. This allowed Bro Jim to establish a farm to breed cattle, pigs and crocodiles.

The number of cattle grew from 40 in 1967 to 600 in 1992. Jim was able to train local people in breeding and selling at the right time. There is an ABC documentary covering Bro Jim's efforts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnmUq2N3ugU>



In Vanimo diocese, the missionary efforts were channelled into areas of lay leadership training, basic Christian communities and the formation of local Melanesian Passionists. They wanted the church to be a church of the people. A pastoral training centre was established at Lote for the training and education of catechists, prayer leaders and local church leaders to organise small communities in their villages. They were well ahead of many lay leadership practices in Australia as they were determined to create a non-clerical church.

In addition to the Sisters of St Joseph, the Sisters of Mission Service and the Handmaids of Our Lord and the Sacred Heart Brothers (from Wewak) made a significant contribution to the pastoral life of the diocese and helped to create a wonderful community of religious and lay missionaries.



In September 1979 at age 66, Paschal Sweeney resigned as Bishop because of ill-health. He died two years later. In 1980, John Etheridge, a qualified electrician when he joined the Passionists, was ordained bishop of Vanimo. He was not to know how demanding the role would be on account of a influx of refugees from Irian Jaya.

To be continued

Creation season



Photo: the 'inside of a sunflower)

The Season of Creation (1 September-4 October) invites us to listen to the cry of the environment and to reflect on what we must do as individuals, as citizens, workplaces, nations and as world to address the urgent threat of global warming.

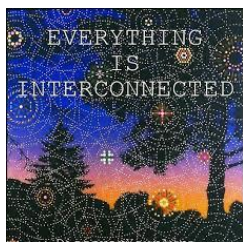
To listen to the cry of creation is not like shutting out all other sounds in order to hear a single bird's cry in a forest. The environment is around us, within us, above us, beneath us and beyond us. Its voice is the voice of the universe



When we listen to the cry of one part of the environment to which we have responsibility we are led also to attend to all the relationships that compose our environment and to the way in which they interact with one another to form the world in which we live.

Care for the environment will embrace all our relationships, ranging from those with the air we breathe, the food we eat, the things we buy, the way we travel, dress, speak, listen and work, to our relationships with ourselves, with family, friends, hospitals, people who are homeless and excluded, schools, workplaces, banks, politics and with our world. Care for the environment is not one single aspect of our lives. It embraces all aspects of our lives.

This vision of a world in which all is connected has been the distinctive gift of Pope Francis. In his encyclical *Laudato Si'* he insisted that action to protect the environment and to address climate change is as much an issue of justice as are actions to provide shelter and food for the poor. The effects of neglecting and exploiting the environment fall heaviest on the poor. They also threaten the future of the planet and betray the trust by which we hold our world for our children and grandchildren.



Pope Francis offers a vision of an interrelated world in which what we do well or badly in one of our relationships will affect all our other relationships. Our environment is not part of the world; it is our whole and only world. If we exploit and pollute the natural world, we shall also foul and put at risk our entire human world.

This vision is challenging but it is also reassuring. Many of us find it difficult to make the care for the environment a personal priority because there seems to be such a large gap between anything we can do and the large realities of the environment – global warming, desertification, rising sea levels, the tension between the need for power and the threat to the environment posed by fossil fuels, and so on. But when we see the world as a network of relationships in which all is interconnected, we can work at seeking harmony between all the relationships that shape our own lives.

From this perspective our commitment to listen to creation begins with the small details of our daily life. We attend to the power we use, the ways we pray and to the packaging we accept. We also consider composting our food scraps for the growing of herbs, and reflect on the ways we travel. This attention to small details is not an attempt to look good but an expression of respect.



Like the disciplines of fasting and of prayer that have traditionally undergirded a life lived to God, they form the matrix of a life that takes the environment seriously. As we pay attention to small things, we can recognise more clearly the character of our culture with its generous and reckless elements, its extravagance, and its modesty, its destructive and its healing elements.

Personal attention to our domestic life opens out into the larger relationships to people and to groups that are part of our lives. We begin to see the links between the neglect of the environment and the neglect of Indigenous Australians, people who seek protection and people who are disadvantaged. We begin to long for integral justice.

In this integrated view of the world listening to the voice of creation in the world of nature is central. We see there the preciousness and glory of tiny things like autumn leaves, sunsets, ants at work, the cool breeze at the end of a hot day. We see also how delicate are the connections between sun, water and growth. Creation is massive but it is also delicate.



Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ

Smith's Road rubbish

On Wednesday the Council removed a large pile of debris dumped outside our property over recent months. It is an ongoing problem. If you happen to spot anyone dumping rubbish there, passing on their details to the Manningham Council would be much appreciated by them and us.

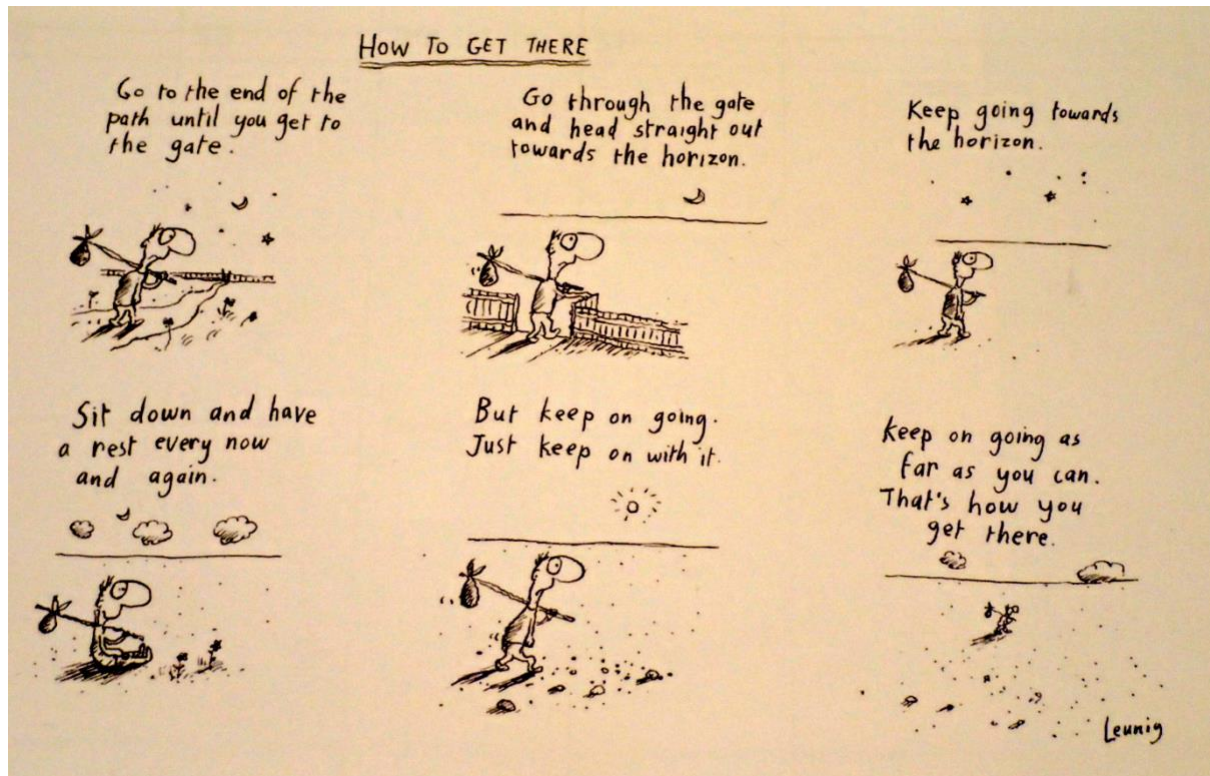


Columban Calendar

If you wish to purchase a 2023 Columban calendar, please do so by Friday September 9th, by calling Mayrose (9846 6014).

The calendars sell for \$10.

Proceeds go to the Columban mission.



Painters paint scenes but nature is the best painter of all



Puzzles

1. How many mice are there in a room if there is a mouse in each of the four corners and opposite each mouse there are three mice and at each mouse's tail there is a mouse?
2. The maker does not need it, the buyer does not use it and the user uses it without knowing. What is it?

Humour



1. A mechanic named Bill was hard at work removing the cylinder head from a car motor when he spotted a famous heart surgeon in his shop waiting for the service manager to come and look at this car.

Bill invited the surgeon over and said, "What you do is amazing, but check this out. Like you I take valves out, grind them and put in new parts like I am doing here, and everything is as good as new. Why is do you reckon that although we do the same thing, you get the big money?"

The surgeon leant over and whispered, "Try doing it when the engine is running!"

2. A man died and went to the entrance of heaven where Moses was waiting for him. Moses said "You haven't done anything good, but you haven't done anything bad either. If you can tell me something amazing you have done, I will let you enter".

The man replied, "Well, I was driving down the road and I saw some gang members

threatening a lady in an alleyway. I stopped and confronted them. I walked up to the biggest looking guy, slapped him and said. You need to leave this young lady alone or I'm going to have to slap you again!

"Moses replied that is amazing and courageous, but when did this happen?"

The man replied, "About 5 minutes ago.

3. An atheist was taking a walk through the woods. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals", he said to himself. As he continued walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes. Turning to look, he saw a 7 foot Bear charging towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. Looking over his shoulder he saw that the bear was closing in on him. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear raising his paw to take a swipe at him.

At that instant the atheist cried out, "Oh my God!" Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. It was then that a bright light shone upon the man and a voice from heaven asked, "You deny my existence for all of these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light. "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps, could you make the BEAR a Christian?" "Very well", said the Voice. The light went out, and the sounds of the forest resumed. And then the bear lowered his paw, bowed his head and spoke: "Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive and for which I am truly thankful, Amen."

Prayers

We remember those deceased and those whose anniversaries occur around now, especially [Tony Van der Haar](#) (27th August) and [Bill Molinaro](#) (Sept 5th).

Please remember [Dominic Fraiia](#) who has just spent two weeks in hospital following the death of his daughter.

**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 especially John Gill, Carole Stretch, Norm Heyhorn, Greg Agosta Maree Bartoli, Helen McLean, Michael Doyle, Gerry Bond, Angelo Vigilante, Errol Lovett, Peter DeMarzi, Lesley Yang, Paul Darbyshire, Jim Monaghan, Peter Owen, Maeve and John Reardon, Barry Wong, Graham Hille, Dominic Isgro, Pam Gartland, Anne Jenkins, Pam Grehan, Mary Corkoren, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Peter McNamara, Patricia Keeghan, 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