

Letter 134A.....9th September 2022

Postulancy



On Friday September 8th, our three postulants Thằng, Dũng and Toàn were formally admitted to postulancy. This is a twelve month stage of formation prior to novitiate. Each of these men have been living with the Passionists for several years.

During the ritual they heard these words of advice from St Paul of the Cross.

“There is no need for the postulant to be fearful. Let him trust that all will be made easy with God’s help. This Congregation may seem frightening from a distance, but, seen from close up, it brings consolation and joy. This is evident from the fact that the Superiors are hard put to stop people doing too much, rather than too little. That would hardly be the case if it were as austere as some mistakenly believe and report it to be.



Let the postulants take heart and come with good will, with a right intention, and with the right qualities, and they will find out from experience how sweet is the yoke of Christ, and how light his burden. They will experience true peace of heart, and, on their arrival, they will see this peace shining in the faces of their fellow-religious. They will see how kindly the leaders and formator treat them, how gently

they give corrections, and the mutual affection which exists among all the religious, who are all united as in one single heart in Christ Jesus”
(Paul’s letters 8/12/1720, in Let. I,8.)

They also heard these words from our Passionist Rule:

“Candidates will have a postulancy that will give them some experience of life in community. They will have time to reflect on what their vocation means and demands, and time to prepare adequately for their novitiate. Besides getting to know one another better, they will have the opportunity for human and emotional growth, and for clarifying their ideas about the objectives of religious life”.

The community promised to support these brothers throughout their journey for which Erick will serve as their formator. Here is the community of the time being.



A temporary member

We are still awaiting Dominic Joseph Tan from Vietnam who was ordained last year. JD is awaiting a visa. In the meantime he is undertaking studies in English for Academic Purposes (EAP) to qualify him to enrol in YTU for post-graduate studies.

We will have another welcome visitor arriving mid-week and staying for a few weeks. He qualified eighteen months ago as a master painter.



Here he is with our 'Come Away' team, Sue, Pam, Kay, Brigid and Frank.

It will be great to have **Pastor** with us for a while. For his sake let's hope the **Rabbitohs** win on Sunday against the Roosters so he can watch them in a preliminary final.

Risk Management

We had two sessions on Saturday and Wednesday last week. One thing that emerged from this was that we need to identify, assess, plan and implement action regarding any risks brought to our attention.

One such risk is the track that some people take from the 'second' carpark to the chapel. The most risk-free route would be to walk up the slope of the driveway and along the Council built footpath to the chapel. Understandably, a number of people take the shortest route which involves a serious risk of tripping on any number of exposed tree routes.

Our short term suggestion for those who want to take a short cut is to detour a little west (towards Serpells Road) before you get to the bins and keep the flags on your right. Towards the end of that walk as you veer right, there are some tree routes that **Peter Norman** has covered with soil, They do remain a risk, but far less so, than the route that has been used.



Here is **Peter** who spends many volunteer hours overseeing our grounds maintenance.

Today Peter set up a flagged area that can guide people to the chapel using the second safest route!

We will continue seeking improved safety.



We had our usual 'A' Team members working here today. You've heard of painting yourself into a corner!. Here is **Graeme** practising what to do if he's ever incarcerated. Not much chance of that happening given his impeccable behaviour when he is here on Fridays He told us today he felt he'd been framed.



Here is **Ed** who wants to be free, not in jai,, so he's practising what to do when he wants to escape from an aged care facility.

When we suggested this Ed just brushed us off.

Today we were finally able to mulch the material that had gathered near the car park exit. **Rob** brought his machine and **Erick** and **Tri** helped him.



Also working today was **Vince Celestino**. All week for hours each day Vince has been moving material around in the area where the pool used to be.

Vince has spent many hours acquiring material at his own expense and moving it around to provide a level surface that can in time be grassed.

He has also provided extra car-parking space in the area extending from the carpark, but

we have to wait a few weeks before that can be used. We need to install a fence, and then sow grass.

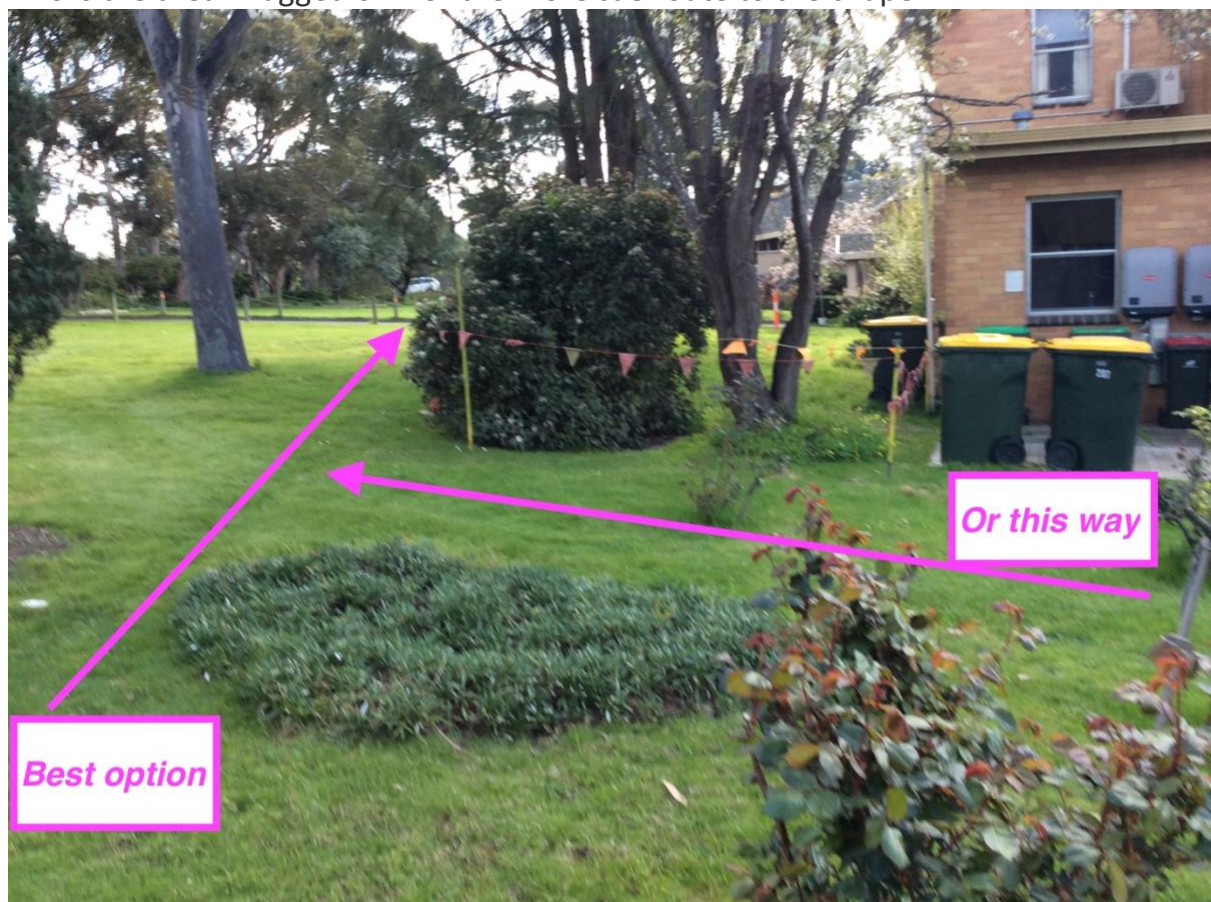
Today Vince was acting fire officer. He arrived around 10.15am and has spent the whole day watching and managing a burning off of old timber. It is 6.30pm and he still has his machine are still going to ensure the fire is safe. This was the sight at one stage...



This is the area that will extend the car park in a few weeks time...



This is the area 'flagged off' for the more sae route to the chapel.



We did not get a snapshot of [John Stretch](#). John had to go home early to attend to his wife Carol who is recovering from a very bad fall.

We also failed to get a photo of [Vin Molloy](#) who was here again helping with various financial issues and installing anti-virus software for our students.

[Bruno and Cathy Petrocco](#) were also here today, preparing for the Gnocci lunch. Normally Bruno would have been helping with the mulching, but he is suffering from an injured lower back. Fortunately Carlton are not playing in the finals so his unavailability this week will not upset them.

We are greatly indebted to all our volunteers – not just those who assisted us today and do so regularly, but to so many others who assist us in a variety of ways.

Thank you to each of you.

I thought this deserved a write-up.

Have a great weekend

Brian