

Letter 139



14th October, 2022

Greetings,

Ann Rabot's Birthday

Ann, who volunteers in our HCC Office celebrates her 80th birthday today. We offer her special greetings.

Chris Birthday

Chris celebrates his 67th birthday on Sunday (October 16th). It provides an occasion to express thanks for the highly valued recorded Sunday Masses Chris has faithfully recorded for two and a half years. As well as preparing a homily, most Saturdays, Chris spends four-five hours recording Mass.

David Wilkie - 95

David Wilie (now resident in Glen Osmond, Adelaide celebrates his 95th birthday on October 20th

Prayers

Kevin Hennessy was released from hospital yesterday. He travelled to Sydney to attend and preach the homily at Jim Elmore's funeral, but collapsed and was taken to hospital. The doctors have identified the cause as heart related. He will be monitored over the coming months to ensure everything is fine. Please keep Kevin in your prayers.

Fr Jose Matthew

Jose is well known to us at Holy Cross. He joined us for Sunday Eucharist a month ago. Since being granted leave to exercise parish ministry in Melbourne Archdiocese in 2020, Jose has been assistant parish in the large parish of Mill Park. Jose has now been appointed Administrator of the parishes of Yea and Alexandra in the Murrindindi Shire in North Central Victoria, from November 2nd. This will be a big change for Jose but a great opportunity to get to know rural parishioners and country life. We extend congratulations, best wishes and prayers to Jose while assuring him that his love of the Passionist charism and belonging to our family, will ensure he is always welcome at Holy Cross.

November 6th....Remembrance

During 10.00am Mass on Sunday November 6th, we will remember friends and family of Holy Cross who have died. If you have a photo of a deceased relative you would like displayed on P/P during this liturgy could you email it to Tim Horlock at:

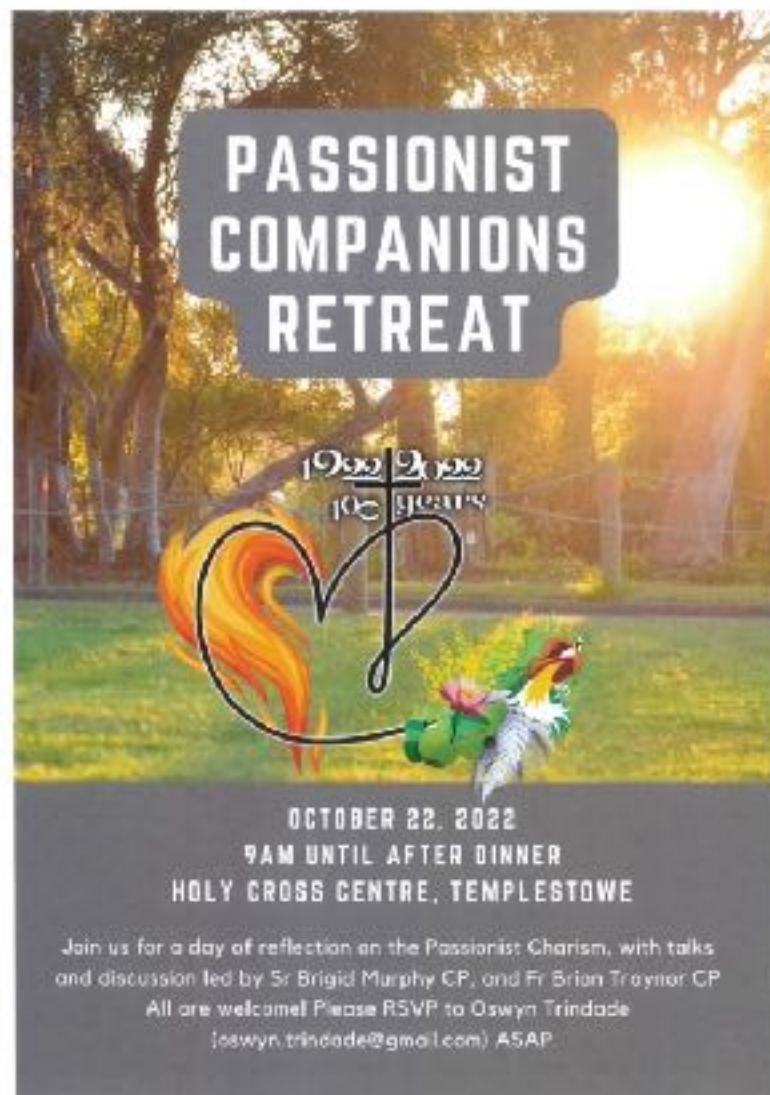
horlocktim1@gmail.com

Laudato Si Retreat day



The Passionist Companions from Holy Cross and Endeavour Hills will participate in a retreat at Holy Cross, from 9.30am (Cuppa) until 4.30pm followed by Mass and an early dinner, on Saturday October 22nd. An invitation is extended to anyone who is interested. The theme of the retreat will be “The Passion and Laudato Si’. To register, please contact Mayrose: 98466014 or

leave a message.



Feast of Paul of the Cross

Wednesday October 19th, is the feast of the Passionist founder Paul Danei. In Melbourne, our two communities (St Gabriel's Endeavour Hills and Holy Cross), and

our Companions and other members of the Passionist Family, will join to celebrate the feast on Friday 21st, at 7.30pm at Holy Cross. A supper will be provided.

[Everyone is welcome.](#)

The personality of Paul of the Cross

Paul was frequently described as an extremely robust and impressive person, yet for more than 40 years of his life, he was regularly incapacitated by sickness. He suffered from malaria, rheumatism, sciatica, debilitating headaches, frequent heart palpitations and he was forced to use a walking stick for thirty years, from the age of fifty-one. He was often bed-ridden and was a permanent invalid for the last ten years of his life. Several times he had illnesses that were assumed to be fatal, and given the Sacrament of the sick. He did however remain lucid in mind and robust in spirit, to the end.

His letters and writings reflect that in all his sufferings, his deepest desire was to be conformed to Jesus crucified and many people reported that despite his sickness or feebleness he still showed indomitable energy and passion. He spent incredible energy establishing and caring for the new Congregation and wrote numerous letters. He carried out many missions and retreats, founded twelve Passionist retreats and established the Cloistered Passionist Nuns.

His writing was always realistic even when speaking of the most spiritual things. This was an outstanding characteristic of his personality and his spirituality. In a telling self-description Paul said, "I am a Lombard and what I have in my heart, I have on my tongue. Jesus Christ said "Say Yes when you mean Yes, and No when you mean No". At the same time Paul noted, "In the pressure of transacting business, I have failed to lose that childlike simplicity which I imbibed in my mother's womb".

His letters indicate that he carried an air of good humour and a love of companionship. He was courteous, friendly, uncomplicated and at ease, and people wanted to stay with him and listen to him. He showed unshakeable courage in his various undertakings which sprang from his deep sincerity. He did not hide his weaknesses, and his humility is most notable. Many times, in his letters he describes how he was humanly affected, worried or worn out by the countless difficulties that he constantly faced. In 1736 he wrote to Agnes Grazzi "Oh, if God should inspire me to abandon this Retreat, how gladly I would – nobody knows."

It is to be expected that his spiritual gifts as founder of a Congregation dedicated to the Passion of Jesus would lead Paul to a unique relationship with Jesus crucified. Habitually aware of God's presence, he remarked to one of his religious, "I cannot understand how anyone can be found who does not think of God always."

Paul understood that we must accept whatever God permits, not with mere resignation, but with faith and love. “We must bow our heads before the Will of God”, he wrote. “This is the rule for our perfection.” This is a constant theme in his letters. Elsewhere he urges, “Adore the dispensations of God – a tranquil and peaceful acceptance – a loving acceptance that kisses the hand that strikes us – a complete acceptance – we must willingly allow ourselves to be shaped by Him.”

Paul’s persistence in the face of adversity is nothing short of astounding. By the time he was 40, he had failed more often and on a greater scale than most men of his age (or our age, for that matter). Yet, he kept picking up the pieces, and trying again, and again, and again. His letters to Cardinal Altieri are masterpieces of self-control and abandonment. Paul managed to balance his determination to carry his dream (which he believed was God’s call) with a total abandonment to how and when this dream might happen.

Paul recommends that we accept whatever happens as coming from the loving hand of God. He advised, “Don’t give in to ‘spiritual curiosity’. Often in loving rest we want to try to find out what God is actually doing. We should stop thinking about our own happiness so as to desire nothing else but what God wants & what pleases Him”. Paul could advise this, because he had an unflinching belief in the overwhelming love of God.

In the apostle Paul, he found an echo of his vocation “to suffer many things for the name of the Lord”, and the mystical value of death to earthly things and of a life hidden in faith. Both Paul’s were gifted mystics of the Passion. Both were preachers and writers of the Word of the Cross. Either of them could have written, “May I never boast of anything but the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through it, the world has been crucified to me and I to the world”. (Gal 6:14).

In celebrating his feast on October 19th, those of us committed to living his dream can recommit ourselves to being women and men filled with the conviction of God’s love and seeking to proclaim that message in whatever ways we can.

Quotes of Paul

“If I could have my life over, and preach just one sermon, I would speak about the total mercy of God”

“Don’t be surprised if you cannot explain what God is doing for you. If you could explain, it would not be the work of God”

“Physical solitude is a good thing provided that it is backed up by prayer and a holy life, but far better than this, is solitude of the heart which is the interior desert in

which your spirit can become totally immersed in God, and can hear and savour the words of eternal life”

“Give yourself the rest you need. When you are walking alone, listen to the sermon preached to you by the flowers, the trees, the shrubs, the sky, the sun and whole world. Notice how they preach to you a sermon of love, of praise of God, and how they invite you to proclaim the greatness of the One who has given them being”

“The houses are to be called retreats in which the religious live with a separation from the world so they are stripped of its principles and are able to have true wisdom. The religious assigned to ministry can, in these houses of solitude regain that fervour which is sometimes diminished by works of charity”.

“If sickness comes, it is a great gift from the Lord; it helps us to know ourselves. It is then that a person can see if they are patient, humble or unselfish”

“What a harvest awaits us in a hospital! What good can be done there for the souls of the sick!”

“Accept whatever happens to you as coming from the loving hand of God’.

“If anyone hurts you, look on them as someone of great value and, with the eyes of one who loves, seem them as a person chosen by God to clothe you in holiness and in the patience, and meekness of Jesus Christ”

“Abandon yourself into the hands of God, like a ship with neither oars nor sails, letting go of yourself totally”

“Chase all gloominess from your heart, and, if even if you do something wrong, don’t get upset, since that would do you even more harm than the wrongdoing. Instead, humble yourself gently, ask God’s pardon, decide that you will do better in the future and joyfully continue on your way”

“When you go into the garden of prayer, do not collect the leaves of good feelings; rather, gather the fruit of imitating the virtues of Jesus.”

“Surely, if God has suffered so much for me, it is not much that I should do something for his love,”

“Be at peace in your spirit and don’t take the world on your shoulders. You have to give an account only of yourself and your responsibilities.

“You will never have peace if you worry about things that don’t concern you”.



2022 PASSIONIST INSTITUTE



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES..

Presenters include
Fr Erick Nyiragira cp
Fr Jeff Foale cp
Fr Tom McDonough cp

Along with prayer
guided by
companions from all
over the province

NOVEMBER 19TH & 20TH
GATHERING ONLINE OR IN YOUR LOCAL AREA GROUP
MORE INFORMATION TO COME

Learning English in Australia

In 2013 Damianus CP from Indonesia, was studying English at a Box Hill College. As we have found each year we have had English language students living at Holy Cross, out

pronunciation (in this case, Jerome's pronunciation) and what Damian was hearing, were vastly different! Damian also found how complex it is to understand the words we sometimes use for past and present tense.

Damian had asked Jerome a simple question: 'What is a parish?' . Jerome began by giving a Christian description and then explained that a Bishop has a diocese and that priests are part of the diocese - Damian nodded that he understood that. Then Jerome continued, "A parish is like the diocese, except that it is the priest who has the parishioners gathered around him".

Damian found this very puzzling. 'Why does he have them?' he asked. Jerome responded to this and tried more than once to explain it, unaware that every time he said 'parishioners', Damian thought he was saying 'prisoners'! Damian was stunned to think all the members of a parish were prisoners! That took a while to sort out.

Just a week later, Damian told us how in his English class he was puzzled by a statement his teacher made, in relation to prisoners. He knew by now that they were not necessarily parishioners! The teacher said that two prisoners *'had committed a crime and they will go to jail'*. He tried and tried to understand this and kept objecting that he could not see how a prisoner would be sent to jail (future tense). To Damian, if he was a prisoner, he must already be in jail. The teacher got exasperated and told him to get his friend (Basil, who was also a Passionist) to explain it to him but Damian told her, "No, you have to explain this: 'Why the man he commit a crime and he will be sent to jail?'"

Damian kept insisting if the man was already a prisoner for committing a crime, how or why was she saying, " if a man commits a crime he will be sent to jail".

Eventually she said to him. "Forget philosophy, you are here to learn English"!

Punctuation

This famous example shows how punctuation in the wrong place can change the meaning of a statement, and how we need to have sympathy for our English language students

A. I want a man who knows what love is all about. You are generous, kind and thoughtful. People who are not like you admit to being useless and inferior.

B. I want a man who knows what love is. All about you are generous, kind and thoughtful people who are not like you. Admit to being useless and inferior.

Up

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word in English. It is the word 'UP.'

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we wake in the morning, why do we say we woke UP ?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP?

Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends, and we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver; we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen.

We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car.

At other times the little word has real special meaning.

People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 25% of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP.

When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP.

When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP.

One could go on and on, but lets wrap it UP for now. Our time is UP, so.it is time to shut UP! Now it's UP to you what you do about this

Winston Churchill was once criticised for ending a sentence with a preposition. He replied, “This is a situation up with which we will not put”.

PROVINCE HISTORY: 8. EXPERIMENTATION & ADJUSTMENT (1980-1997) (Pt 2)

Opportunities were provided for professed and laity to deepen their understanding of the charism. In 1990 eight Province members participated in a Passionist Institute, held at Holy Cross, Melbourne.



Some Passionists from the Pacific-Asia region attended and several participants travelled to the Philippines for the last two weeks of the Course for an immersion experience. Six men including one Filipino Passionist, participated in a similar Institute in 1993.



In 1981 the Passionists took over responsibility for the outback parish of Port Augusta. The city had a significant aboriginal population, and the parish welcomed a religious community to minister among them. A new small community was also established at Botany, Sydney that year. Two of the members were industrial chaplains. This community was closed in 1986.

In 1985 the house and property in Highton, Geelong was sold and the community members were transferred to a new residence in Elsternwick, Melbourne for an experimental period, which lasted a little over twelve months. Most of the members were then transferred to Glen Osmond, in Adelaide.



In response to the expansion of the Passionist Family Group Movement, a number of Passionists were appointed Directors in several areas. This Movement continued widespread expansion after 1985 and was endorsed as a primary ministry of the Province in 1987.



In the same week that the Hamilton community in New Zealand was closed in June 1988, two parishes in New Zealand took on Passionist Family Groups. In 1991 Lynn and Rob Hill were appointed as the first lay Directors of the Movement. The PFGM grew dramatically in the period 1985-1995 in

Australia and New Zealand and a highlight of its development was the large number of lay leaders (mostly couples) in key roles.

Provincial administration placed great emphasis on ministry over the next few years.

In response to the expansion of the Passionist Family Group Movement, Passionists were appointed Directors in several areas. This Movement continued widespread expansion after 1985 and was endorsed as a primary ministry of the Province in 1987. When the Hamilton community in New Zealand was closed in June 1988, two parishes in New Zealand took on Passionist Family Groups in that same week. In 1991 a lay couple were appointed the first lay Directors of the Movement. The Movement grew dramatically in the period 1985-1995 in Australia and New Zealand. Four hundred parishes had joined by 2000. A highlight of the development of the PFGM was the large number of lay leaders (mostly couples) in key roles.



In 1987 the Province held a special seminar to mark the centenary of the arrival of the second foundation. These men had come to Marrickville on November 21st, 1887. Renowned Passionist scripture scholar Donald

Senior was guest lecturer.

In 1989 extensive restoration to the stonework of St Joseph's Hobart was undertaken, and the church declared a national trust historic building. In 1990 eight Province members participated in a Passionist Institute, held at Holy Cross, in Melbourne. Participants travelled to the Philippines for the last two weeks of the Course and spent some of that time immersed with a poor family. Six men including one Filipino Passionist, participated in a similar Institute in 1993.

The 1991 Provincial Chapter endorsed the Retreat Centre at Templestowe. Having proved its viability, the Holy Cross Centre continued to expand its capacities as more space was made available as a result of there being lower student numbers. Adjustments had to be made as the community learned to share the space with regular retreat and conference groups.



In 1993 there was a celebration to mark the 150th anniversary of the mission to Stradbroke Island. We saw the deep appreciation of the people there for those early missionaries.

In 1996, Adelaide celebrated the centenary of St Paul's, Glen Osmond. These milestones highlight the great work done by so many men of quite different eras.

Conscious that we were on the verge of a new era, the Province held its first 'Open' Chapter in 1995. With the assistance of experts, the Province developed a Province Strategic Plan in 1997 with targets over the next ten years.



At the 1995 Chapter it was determined to make the renewal of community life, 'the' priority of the Province for the following four years. The Chapter and subsequent plan recognised that our numbers would be fewer (and older), and that local communities needed to have a sufficient number of active and semi active men so that there is a sustainable community life.



The Chapter said that in order to consolidate life we should close some houses and open new ones; establish priorities among Province ministries and encourage new ones; utilize Province assets to promote 'the living memory of the Passion' and give due regard to privacy and solitude.

Underlying these goals was a commitment to see ourselves first as a Province community so that ministries conducted at any particular site would not be dependent solely upon the Passionists based there but men from different communities could work collaboratively with the local community for short term projects.

The 1995 Provincial Chapter called for our properties to be our servants rather than master. It was clear that some dwellings did not assist good community living, and some were unsuitable for aged men. The strategic plan presumed a new way of thinking about our residences to see them as centres for formation and mission and ourselves as committed to collaborative ministry with one another, laity and other religious. The plan called for our houses in Marrickville and Glen Osmond to be renovated.

It was proposed that each community residence should be renovated so that it was 'senior friendly' for the older religious or those who were unwell. A review of our financial situation was called for so that these works could be done and so that a retirement fund could be put in place. A proposed timeline and vision for each community including those we proposed to establish, was set out

**senior friendly
home designs**



Back at that time, the Provincial, Kevin Dance noted that *The church and a society is in the grip of deep change and that the traditional parish structure seemed close to collapse. Pastoral approaches in response to this changing reality are often piecemeal and many people do not feel that their faith is being nourished satisfactorily. The societies within which we live and minister, are also ravaged by change. Many people feel their lives are out of control as they try to make sense of the changes.*

Society risks becoming polarised and there are signs of increasing racism. Simplistic answers are appealing to many as they seem to "explain" the cause of the anxiety and save people having to face the deeper questions".

From the strategic plan there was significant refurbishment of houses, including the conversion of Holy Cross to a retreat and conference centre, the establishment of a community at Endeavour Hills and in Bourke, NSW, and a large number of men accepted a transfer to a different community. The concept of being a Province community became embedded as the Province prepared for and entered the 21st century.



Some significant points in the history of the Province up until this time were:

- THE STRADBROKE MISSION
- THE FIRST DECADE OF THE SECOND FOUNDATION
- THE CLOSED NOVITIATE (1895-1923)
- THE RETURN TO MONASTIC OBSERVANCE (1923-)
- THE EXPANSION OF THE 50'S
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- THE CHANGES OF THE 60'S-70'S
- THE LOSSES OF THE 80'S
- THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEW CENTURY

There have been 361 professions after one hundred and thirty-five years of presence. The numbers through various eras (including up until 2022) can be seen here

	<u>1890-1899</u>	<u>1900-1910</u>	<u>1910-1919</u>	<u>1920-'29</u>
Professed	23	13	8	14
Departed	10	7	5	3
Died	13	6	3	11

	<u>1930-'39</u>	<u>1940-'49</u>	<u>1950-1959</u>	<u>1960-1969</u>	<u>1970-1979</u>
Prof	25	40	43	85	36
Dep	7	16	23	60	18
Died	18	11	1	8	14

	<u>1980-1989</u>	<u>1990-1997</u>	<u>1998-2005</u>	<u>2006-2018</u>	<u>2019-Oct 2022</u>
Prof	22	8	8	23	13
Dep	18	4	0	4	2 + 9 PNG
Died	11	10	8	23	6

Note: The Mission in Vietnam was founded from Rome and became part of Holy Spirit Province in March 2015.

Videos

The Porter's Gate.....Songs

"Little things with great love"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pm5VQAxdMrc>

Lyrebird

David Attenborough was able to capture the sounds of a lyrebird imitating various human or machine sounds such as a chainsaw, camera sounds etc.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=mSB71jNq-yQ>

Simon Sinek - The Millennial Question



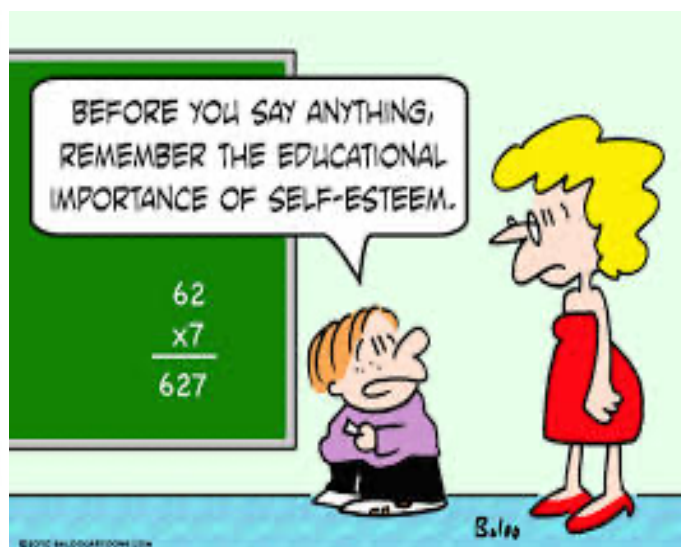
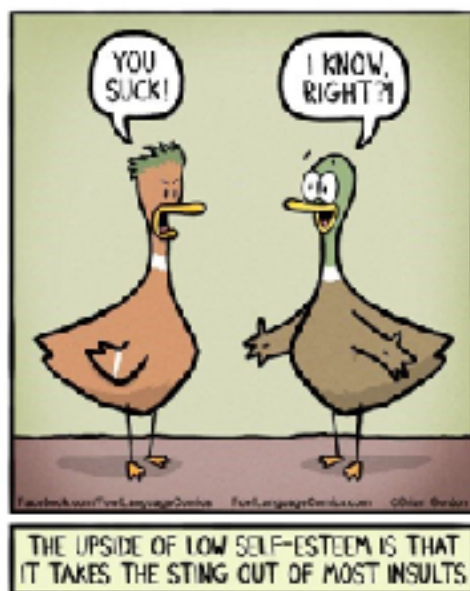
When millennials land in the workplace, it can be a painful reality to discover there's no medal for coming last. Employers could benefit from understanding issues many millennials may have with low self-esteem and expectations for instant gratification.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vudaAYx2IcE>

Humour



"I had no self-confidence and was becoming self-destructive, so to bolster my self-esteem I harnesssed my self-control to self-publish a self-help book about self-acceptance when I came to the self-realization that I knew nothing about self-promotion. That's where you come in."



1. Paddy was wondering home after an enjoyable night at the local Tavern. He took a short cut through the local cemetery and at one point tripped and fell into an open grave. It was very dark. He tried jumping up and down and yelling, but he could not attract any response. He tried climbing out but it was impossible. He resigned himself to spending the night in the cemetery so he huddled up at one end of the open hole

and nodded off to sleep.

All of a sudden he hear a loud plop and a groan. Another late nightery had fallen into the same hole. The new arrival started yelling and jumping up and down with no success. He tried climbing, but the was nothing to hold on to. Paddy quietly said, "Mate, you'll never climb out of here".

He did!

2. A flying saucer landed at a petrol station on a lonely country road. The two space aliens inside seemed completely unconcerned about detection; in fact, the letters UFO emblazoned in big, bold letters on one size of their shiny craft.

As the station the owner stood and gawked in silence, paralysed with shock, his young attendant nonchalantly filled up the tank and waved to the two aliens as they took off. Do you realise what just happened? The station owner finally uttered. Yeah, said the attendant. So?

Did you see the space aliens in that craft?! Yeah, repeated the attendant. So? Didn't you see the letters UFO on the side of the craft?! Yeah, repeated the attendant. So? Don't you know what UFO means?! The attendant rolled his eyes. Good grief, boss. I've been working here for six years. Of course, I know that UFO means.....
Unleaded Fuel Only

Passionist Centenary Institute November 19th-20th



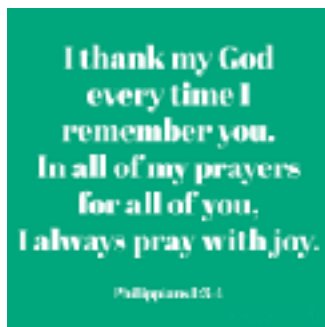
Sat Nov 19th: The Journey continues (Province wide session)
9.45am-1.15pm AEST
Sun Nov 20th: Province wide session
1.30pm-5.30pm AEST

Prayers

[Kevin Hennessy](#) was released from RPA hospital yesterday. He travelled to Sydney last Friday to attend and preach the homily at Jim Elmore's funeral, but collapsed and was taken to hospital. The doctors have identified the cause as bring heart related. He will be monitored over the coming months to ensure everything is fine and as with such cases he will be unable to drive for some time. Please keep Kevin in your prayers.

We remember those deceased especially [Mario Molinaro](#) (Tina's brother-in-law) who died on October 2nd, and those whose anniversaries are in the coming week,

especially [Maurice Valmorbida](#) (second anniversary today) [Simon Owen](#) and [Shirley Hanrahan](#).



We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell especially Mary Coburn, Maree Bartoli, Paul Darbyshire, Jim Molan, Denise Glasgow, Errol Lovat, Peter DeMarzi Maeve and John Reardon, Jim Monaghan, Mary Dunn, Barry Wong, Helen McLean, Peter Owen, Graham Hille, Dominic Isgro, Errol Lovett, Mary Corkoren Greg Agosta, Angelo Vigilante, Norm Heyhorn, Chris O'Toole, Gerry Bond, Pam Gartland, Lesley Yang, , Anne Jenkins, Marg Casey, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Peter McNamara, Patricia Keeghan,

Michael Doyle, Kate Dunn,

Mary Hackett, Margaret Wright, 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