

Holy Cross Retreat

Letter 141



28th October, 2022

Greetings,

Our **Provincial Council** meeting this week had to be changed to a Zoom meeting, initially because Tom contracted COVID in Sydney), but then, so did Brendan (in Endeavour Hills). Kevin Hennessy, Jim Coucher and Paul Mercieca also contracted COVID, presumably from the same source as Tom and Brendan. Most Australians States are averaging seven deaths a day from COVID.

Justin Durai-Raj joined Holy Cross yesterday for a brief experience of a younger community. Justin was ordained in India before joining the Passionists and has served his postulancy and novitiate in Hobart and has been professed for 16 months. He is assisting Peter Addicoat in St Joseph's parish.

Pastor



This photo depicts well, the generous help Pastor has given Holy Cross community in a wide variety of ways. Pastor has always been ready to help, and always ready with a smile.

Pastor left for our Glen Osmond community in Adelaide on Wednesday night. We wish him well and express our thanks.

Ireland's priests

'The Tablet' has reported on the clerical situation in Ireland, which is mirrored here in Australia and in our own Province. New figures in Ireland show that a quarter of all priests currently serving in the Irish Church are expected to retire over the next 15 years. 547 priests of the 2,100 working priests in the Irish Church are aged between 61 and 75 and nearly 300 (15%) of working priests are aged 75 or over. They serve in 1,355 parishes and 2,652 churches or mass centres.

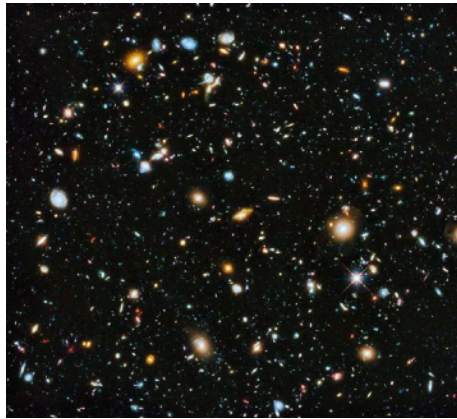
Across all 26 Irish dioceses, fewer than 2.5 per cent of working priests are younger than 40 and there are only 47 seminarians (representing an average maximum of 8 potential ordinations per year)

The Franciscans in Ireland have announced that they will leave their friary in Athlone in January after 800 years. "Like so many religious bodies, we must make these difficult decisions as we deal with and respond to our ageing and reducing membership," Minister Provincial Fr Aidan McGrath OFM said in a statement.

COSMOS

Retreat on “The Passion and Laudato Si”

On 22 October, some 50 people from the Holy Cross community and St Paul Apostle Passionist parish Endeavour Hills gathered for a day’s retreat to consider how our calling as Passionist Companions was impacted by Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si* and the challenges presented to us by the present global ecological crisis.



Fr Brian started the retreat with a mind-widening overview of recent discoveries in the fields of science and cosmology which provided us with a heightened awareness that we are not just part of the earth, but in fact in communion with a universe in which there are at least two trillion galaxies apart from our own. We have a story of a time developed universe in which humans are related to other forms of life: all life forms are interconnected in profound ways.

Brian then led us through the encyclical, best known under its subtitle “[On care for our common home](#),” and challenged us to see where we can make a difference in shaping the future of our planet through our daily actions and decisions. Sr Brigid asked us to reflect on the four layers of the encyclical in quiet contemplation and in group discussion: gratitude for [creation as God’s loving gift](#); a growing awareness of the [interconnectedness](#) of all creation; seeing incarnation as encompassing the reality that [all creatures reflect something of God’s creative purpose](#) and have a message for us; [creation as unfolding and evolving in God’s loving way](#) in a cycle of life, death and resurrection.



There was a growing awareness that as people of faith we must engage in the global conversation triggered by Pope Francis’ encyclical. Our actions matter. There was lively discussion about how our Passionist charism compels us to respond to the cry of the earth in practical ways and in solidarity with those most affected by the ecological crisis, especially the poor and marginalised in our society. The retreat materials contained some beautiful prayers and reflection on caring for our common home. These are available on request. Frank Burke, mobile 0407 998 781.

We are constantly learning more about our universe. Of the two trillion estimated galaxies, the largest galaxy discovered so far is Alcyoneus. It is 3,500,000,000 light years from earth and it is 242,000,000 light years in diameter. Since light travels at 300,000 kilometres per second, that makes it rather large, and quite a long way from here.

PROVINCE HISTORY: 9. REVIEWED STRATEGIC PLANNING 1997-2011: Part 2



The 2007 Chapter chose nine priority areas for the next four years and into the future: Reinvigoration and sharing of the Passionist Charism; Renewal and development of community life; Growth of Passionist Mission in Papua New

Guinea' Collaboration with the Wider Passionist Family; Engagement with young people; Care of senior and infirm Passionists; Promotion of Passionist vocations; Commitment to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation and International Collaboration.



A Health, Retirement and Aged Care Committee (HRAC) was established to design policy and to ensure adequate care was being provided to senior and infirm Passionists. During the four years following the Chapter, various other

Committees (e.g. Community Life, Charism, Passionist Companions, Vocations and JPIC) worked under the umbrella of the Formation Commission, to respond to the calls from the Chapter.

2008 was the year of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) and the Province had to severely restrict a large proportion of maintenance plans while still committing to renovation in Glen Osmond, in preparation for the International Novitiate. The renovation of washrooms and creation of ensuites in Templestowe went ahead but plans to install a lift there were delayed until the financial situation improved.



To reduce costs, most Province meetings were cancelled for the year and some were held by Skype. We were not to know how much COVID-19 would call us to do this and more. 2008 will also be remembered for World Youth Day being held in Sydney. The Province hosted a number of overseas Passionists in Melbourne pre-meetings and in Sydney for the big event.



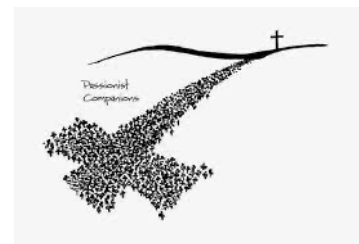
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In 2009 the Province established a Professional Standards Committee to be responsible for implementing a policy with regard to related matters and to advise the Provincial about how best to deal with complaints from individuals. The issue of child sexual abuse by church personnel (especially clergy and religious) began to gain increasing

attention from the media and there were calls for transparency and accountability. This Committee has generously served us with extreme competence.

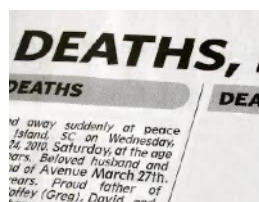
Passionist Companions were formally introduced in Province in 2003, and the majority of members came belong in a variety of ways. Many of them undertook Passionist Institute before, or soon after becoming Companions. The majority of our Passionist Companions are linked to the Province and the Congregation either through their association with the local community, the local Passionist parish, the Passionist Family Group Movement, or as Passionist Youth and Young Adults.



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Interest in Passionist Companions increased in the years after they were established and was aided by Passionist Institutes. The Provincial appointed a Passionist Companions Leadership Group (PCLG) which has created guidelines to nurture, support and sustain members, and assist in networking between local groups. The PCLG provides guidance and feedback to local groups as required, and liaises through the Coordinator with the Province Formation Commission in order to provide formation opportunities for Passionist Companions.

In 2011 the first novices from the PASPAC novitiate were professed and the Province celebrated 50 years of Passionist presence in Vanimo. Four young men from were in formation after several years of having no candidates. Mid-year in 2011, we gathered for a Provincial Chapter.



There had been nineteen deaths of professed Passionists from January 1967 to December 2010 six between 2010 and 2016 and thirteen between 2017 and October 2022.

Statistics taken at December each year from 1996-2010 and through to October 2022 (including Vietnam, NZ and PNG) reveal

the following:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Brothers</u>	<u>Professed Students</u>
1966:	132	28	49
1967:	138	30	50
1968:	148	32	47
1969:	141	32	47
1970:	126	31	40
1971:	115	27	27
1972;	114	27	24
1973:	109	24	25

1974:	106	23	29
1975:	104	23	25
2010:	61	11	1
2016:	77	9	7
2017 (Sept)	80	9	14
2018 (Nov)	76	9	16
2019	81	8	55
2020 (Aug)	85	8	50
2022	71	7	14

(Vietnam personnel as at October 2022:
13 ordained priests, 2 deacons, 9 novices)

(PNG personnel as at October 2022:
4 ordained priests, 2 professed, 3 postulants, 2 aspirants)



At the 2011 Provincial Chapter we recommitted ourselves to the priority of further exploration of our charism with all the members of our Passionist Family and resourcing and supporting our Passionist Companions. We revised our Province vision statement, A Passionist Heart. It now reads:

A Passionist Heart

A life-giving gift, our Charism!

Experiencing the Passion of Jesus
draws us into the Heart of God,
present in the universe,
and experienced amid the whole community of life on Earth.
It empowers who we are and what we do.



By entering into the pain and suffering of Jesus
we are moved to enter into our own pain and suffering,
to stand by others in theirs,
and to respond to the pain and suffering of Earth.

The Passion of Jesus offers no hope without the Resurrection,
And Resurrection Hope cannot be experienced
unless we are first willing to stay with suffering.

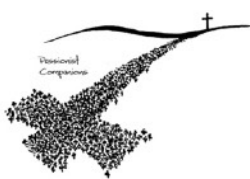
When God is discovered in the ordinariness of life,
And in the ongoing mystery of the interconnectedness
of everything and everyone,
the Charism of St Paul of the Cross remains alive.
The spirituality flowing from our Charism
In the context of our world and its story
inspires us to enter into relationships
that may not be otherwise humanly possible,
or were unknown to us in previous times.

Our charism continues to create and sustain a sense of the community
and the communion of all beings,
flowing from the heart of our creating and compassionate God.
It expresses itself in empathy, prayer, and down-to-earthness.
It makes us vulnerable to the pain and suffering all around us,
and impels us to work for the coming of that new world
of peace and love,
justice and joy,
which is the Kingdom of God.



Seen on the wall of a Passionist Family Group family home in Auckland

Passionist Institute



As our Centenary year comes to a climax, the Passionist Companions Leadership Group wants to share with you, the programme for our Province-wide Centenary Institute. The Institute will take place on Saturday November 19th and Sunday November 20th by Zoom.

To accommodate four different time zones, and the Sunday parish liturgies, the starting times on **Saturday** will be:

11.00am AEST	10.00am PNG and Brisbane
1.00pm New Zealand	7.00am Vietnam.

The starting times on **Sunday** will be

1.30pm AEST	12.30pm PNG and Brisbane
3.30pm New Zealand	9.30am Vietnam.

The Institute will focus on the Centenary theme “**The Journey Continues**”, and the lens will be what we can learn from the history of the pre-formation and one hundred years of Holy Spirit Province. This history has been appearing in the Holy Cross newsletter, over many weeks and will be made available in pdf format.

Local Passionist communities and local Companion groups may want to gather as one group or separate groups, on one or both days. Individuals can participate in discussions if they wish via ‘Chat rooms’ or they can just observe the sessions and rituals. The link and necessary instructions on how to use the Chat room will be sent a week before the Institute.

Could you please indicate your intention to attend the Institute and whether you will be part of a group or individually online, to Mayrose at Holy Cross, Templestowe: hcc@passionists.com

The details of the programme will be provided in the next two weeks.



A little neurological test:

This is claimed to be accurate, but who knows or remembers?

Use your eyes only!

1- Find the C in the table below!

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2- If you found the C, then find the 6 in the table below.

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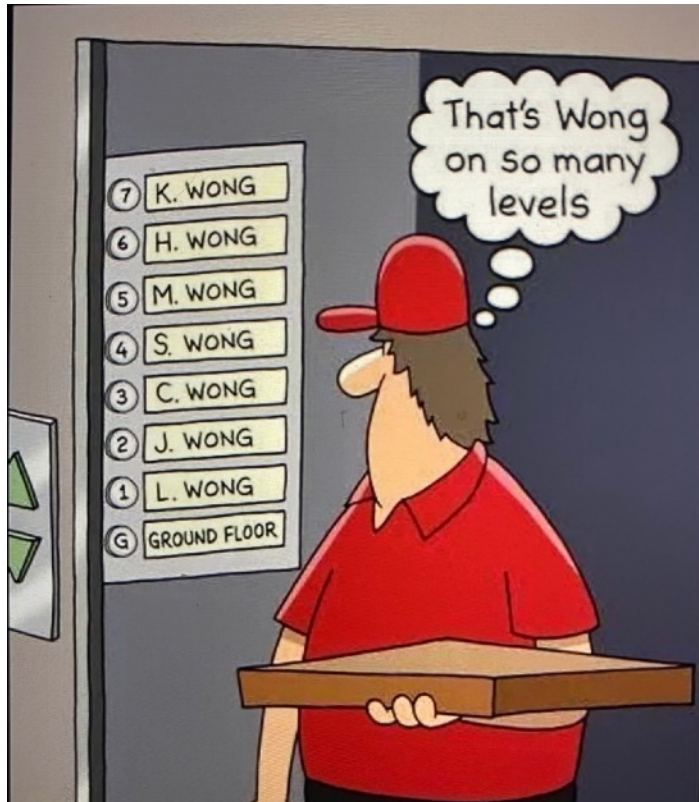

3- Now find the N in the table below. It's more difficult!

If you pass these three tests without a problem:

- you can cancel your annual visit to the neurologist.
- your brain is in perfect shape!
- you are not likely to be in a relationship with Alzheimer's.



9



An unusual baseballer

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dhISOg1W6NI>

1. A burglar entered a house he was intending to rob when all of a sudden a quiet voice said, "I can see you and so can Jesus". The burglar looked around

the room but could see no one so he started going through some draws when he heard the voice again, "I can see you and so can Jesus."

The burglar jumped up and by the window he spotted a cage almost obscured by the curtains, and inside the cage was a parrot who piped up again, "I can see you and so can Jesus".

"So what", said the burglar, "you're only a parrot".

The parrot replied, "Maybe. But Jesus is a rottweiler!"

2. A Texan farmer was in western Victoria for a holiday. He and a local grain grower got talking. The farmer showed him his wheat paddocks and the Texan said, "Pretty small eh? Ours are three or four times that size".

Next the farmer showed him his cattle. The Texan said our Longhorns would be twice the size of your Angus".

The conversation had nearly died when a mob of kangaroos hooped past.

"What are they?" asked the Texan.

"Don't you have grasshoppers in Texas?" the farmer said looking astounded.

Puns

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| Q. What do you call a fancy seafood meal? | A. So-fish-ticated. |
| Q. What do you call a sad strawberry? | A. A blueberry. |
| Q. Why did the banana go to the hospital? | A. He wasn't peeling well. |
| Q. What do you call a pig that knows karate? | A. A pork chop. |
| Q. Where do pancakes rise? | A. In the yeast. |
| Q. What kind of fruit do you bring while sailing? | A. Naval oranges. |
| Q. What do frogs order at restaurants? | A. French flies. |
| Q. What do you call a fake noodle? | A. Impasta. |
| Q. What's orange and sounds like a parrot? | A. A carrot. |





With the Melbourne Cup being held next Tuesday

- What do you call a horse that likes to stay up late? A night mare.
- What kind of bread do horses like to eat? Thoroughbred.
- Why do cowboys like to ride horses? Because they're too heavy to carry.
- What did the mother horse say to her foal? It's pasture bed time!
- Why do most horses look so fit? Because they're on a stable diet.
- How much money does a bronco have? A buck.
- What makes a horse sneeze? Hay fever.
- What kind of horse travels all around the world? A globe trotter.
- What kind of food do race horses like to eat? Fast food.

Bags for bread



We thought we would ask twice a year, if those who take bread on Sundays could contribute a gold coin towards the costs of the bags we use. So there will be a small container for this on the bread trolley this Sunday. Thank you.

Prayers for deceased

We remember those deceased including Mary Corkoren, Bob Gaughan, brother of Fr Peter CP, Ursula Corcoran, mother of Clare who is married to Paul Traynor. Both Bob and Ursula are from New Zealand. We also remember those whose anniversaries are in the coming week, especially Sam Cilmi, Anthony Zaia, Christina Moore.

Dennis Cogle

Although he makes no claim to be a saint, Dennis celebrates his birthday on All Saints Day and if we were playing bingo, we'd say 'all the eights' Congratulations, Dennis and better health.



Paul Darbyshire

As mentioned last week, Paul (from New Plymouth, New Zealand, faces a very big operation for cancer of the esophagus today (Friday). Please keep Paul and Linda in your prayers.



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

Marg Casey,

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