

Holy Cross Retreat

## Letter 148



16<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

Greetings,

### Christmas



**Christmas Eve Mass** will be amid the trees. You can drive down the community driveway and park on the oval.

Christmas Carols will begin at 7.00pm and Mass at 7.30pm.

It will help if those who can bring a chair, do so, please and it would be wise to bring warm clothing and insect spray.

Mass on **Christmas Day** is at 10.00am in the chapel.

### Flowers



Last week we appealed for more persons willing to arrange flowers. We repeat this week our gratitude to **Joe and Anne Toscano** for ensuring weekly flowers for Holy Cross for many years; to **Peter Norman** who drives to Kew each week to pick them up, and for those who have arranged them weekly over many years.

It is also opportune to thank **Carmen Zammit** for her faithful weekly washing and ironing our altar linen; to **Teresa Lim** who spent many long hours devising and arranging a system for storing our different coloured altar cloths; to **Sr Brigid** for the weekly Prayers of Intercession, and for Coordinating our 'Come Away' team and our Passionist Companions

### Machinery clinic



Peter Norman conducted a clinic last Saturday morning for the Holy Cross community members, on the safety and mechanical aspects of our gardening equipment we use (ride-on and hand mowers, leaf blower, edge trimmer etc). We are greatly indebted to Peter for his very generous assistance in maintenance of the grounds.

### **Come Away Days – review**

The Come Away team had their annual review last week. As a result of feedback received from participants, there was enthusiasm for the five days that were help. It was agreed to keep the content relevant and related mainly to significant liturgical seasons or ‘events’. The team will be a little smaller, so it was suggested the content be streamlined without excessive handouts, although some of these could be made available via email after the day as happened this year.

Sue Gessel is retiring from the team after several years, but in true style she is certainly not retiring from life! Frank Burke is scaling back his involvement to manage his other commitments. Lien Thai is coming on to the team and she will be a welcome addition. Erick hopes to contribute a little more and Pam and Brigid are happy to contribute as they have been doing but within various limitations in 2023.

This is recognised as a viable ministry and an import outreach of Holy Cross. We are grateful for the expertise and dedication of the team. The last day was the best attended of the year, so it is hoped more people can be reached in 2023.



L to R: Kay Lewis, Sue Gessel, Brigid CP, Frank Bourke, Pam Storey, Eerick CP

## Awe and Joy (Richard Rohr OFM)

The spiritual journey is a constant interplay between moments of *awe* followed by a general process of *surrender* to that moment. We must first allow ourselves to be captured by the goodness, truth, or beauty of something beyond and outside ourselves. Then we universalize from that moment to the goodness, truth, and beauty of the rest of reality, until our realization eventually ricochets back to include ourselves! This is the great inner dialogue we call prayer. Yet we humans resist both the awe and, even more, the surrender. The ego resists the awe while the will resists the surrender. But both together are vital and necessary.

The way to any universal idea is to proceed through a concrete encounter. There are a number of ways to say the same thing: the one is the way to the many, the specific is the way to the spacious, the now is the way to the always, the here is the way to the everywhere, the material is the way to the spiritual, the visible is the way to the invisible. When we see contemplatively, we know that we live in a fully *sacramental* universe, where everything is a pointer and an epiphany.

To let the moment teach us, we must allow ourselves to be at least slightly *stunned* by it until it draws inward and upward, toward a subtle experience of wonder. We normally need a single moment of gratuitous awe to get us started—and such moments are the only solid foundation for the entire religious instinct and journey.

As she often does, Barbara Holmes expands and strengthens my thinking. She names this moment of *awe* “Joy Unspeakable.” But awe is not always inspired by beauty and goodness. Truth sometimes comes in hard packages. It takes both great love and great suffering to stun us and bring us to our knees. God is there in all of it, using every circumstance of our life, to draw us ever more deeply into the heart of God. Barbara writes:

We are not headed toward a single goal: we are on a pilgrimage toward the center of our hearts. It is in this place of prayerful repose that joy unspeakable erupts.

Joy Unspeakable erupts when you least expect it,  
when the burden is greatest, when the hope is gone  
after bullets fly.

It rises on the crest of impossibility,  
it sways to the rhythm of steadfast hearts,  
and celebrates what we cannot see.

This joy beckons us not as individual monastics but as a community. It is a joy that lives as comfortably in the shout as it does in silence. It is expressed in the diversity of personal spiritual disciplines and liturgical rituals.

This joy is our strength, and we need strength because we are well into the twenty-first century, and we are not healed. How shall we negotiate postmodernity without inner strength? [1]



From another era



The above photo was taken in another era (1974). The group were novices in Glen Osmond at the time. Four of the group were ordained and two of those four remain. You may be able to identify these two and one or two others.

### **PROVINCE HISTORY:**

The Chapter below is the final instalment of a Province history that has been included in the Holy Cross newsletter since July 10<sup>th</sup>. The history extends to 32,500 words and covers not only the 100 years Holy Spirit has been established as a Province, but the earlier foundation at Stradbroke Island, the years of those earliest missionaries in Adelaide, and the arrival of English and Irish Passionists from St Joseph's Province in 1887. It will now be available as one document in pdf format.

Hopefully more material from the past can be brought into this Province story and the future story kept alive. No one could have predicted very much of what happened through various eras, and the same will be true for the future. It is clear that St Joseph's Province was most generous in sending qualified men with vast experience in parish missions and retreats, formation and administration. It is this sort of expertise we would want for our Vietnamese brothers.

During the recent Centenary Institute, there were several reflections on what we have learned from our history as a Province. Such reflections need to continue so that we avoid repeating mistakes and learn instead to go steadily forward.



## 14. PROVINCE LEADERS AND CONGREGATIONAL CONFIGURATIONS

### HOLY SPIRIT PROVINCIALS

Bernard Mangan	1922-1923	(Elected by the General Council)
Bernard Mangan	1923-1926	Bernard Mangan 1926-1930
James Lappin	1930-1933	
Stephen Lafferty	1933-1936	Stephen Lafferty 1936-1939
Raymund Ouvrier	1939-1942	(First Australian born)
Raymund Ouvrier	1942-1945	
Alphonsus Foley	1945-1949	Alphonsus Foley 1949-1951
Paschal Sweeney	1951-1954	
Xavier Bates	1954-1957	
Gerard Mahoney	1957-1960	
Charles Corbett	1960-1963	Charles Corbett 1963-1966
Charles Corbett	1966-1969	Charles Corbett 1969-1971
Daniel Lyne	1971-1975	(4 year terms)
Christopher Mithen	1975-1979	
Jerome Crowe	1979-1983	
Peter McGrath	1983-1987	Peter McGrath 1987-1991
Kevin Dance	1991-1995	Kevin Dance 1995-1999
Denis Travers	1999-2003	Denis Travers 2003-2007
Joachim Rego	2007-2011	(Myanmar born)
Joachim Rego	2011-2012	(Elected General)
Tom McDonough	2012-2015	(Completed Joachim's term)
Tom McDonough	2015-2019	Tom McDonough 2019-(2023)

### GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

General: Joachim Rego: 2012-2018; 2018-(2024)  
Council: Jefferies Foale: 1994-2000; 2000-2006  
Denis Travers: 2006-2012; 2012-2018

### BISHOPS (PNG)

Paschal Sweeney (Vanimo) 1967-1979  
John Etheridge (Vanimo) 1980-1989

### REGIONAL VICARS (PNG)

Pascal Sweeney, John Etheridge, Anselm Turner, Ignatius Willy, Pat Cooper, Kevin Hennessy, Joachim Rego, Tony Egar, Phil Smith.



**CCH**

5

1

**(Configuration of Charles Houben)**

Holland, England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Poland, Germany, Ukrania, Cechy (9 countries) (As of 2022 England has been merged with Ireland)

**CPA**

1

3

**(Configuration of the Passionists of Africa)**

Kenya, Tanzania, Congo, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia (6 countries)

**General CURIA**

Monte Argentario – San Giuseppe Monte Argentario; Belgium

General House, Rome; Bethany, Israel; Highgate, London (1 house)



**RIVER**

A river can give a city  
its very soul,  
and yet I know from travelling the country  
and visiting many cities built on rivers  
that we have largely forgotten  
that they are sources of spirituality.



People who live in cities blessed with this kind of water,  
need access to the river,  
to draw its nurturing spirit into their hearts.  
Spending time by a rive teaches us many things,  
one of them the flow of life, its constant movement,  
and it's clear that an enchanted life demands an appreciation of this flow.

By Thomas Moore

‘The Re-enchantment of Everyday Life’

(Thomas Moore is a psychotherapist and writer of popular spiritual books, including the New York Times bestseller Care of the Soul, a "guide to cultivating depth and sacredness in everyday life". He spent 13 years with Servite Congregation)



### **Christmas Crib**

On Wednesday, Tri created a crib for us in the chapel. In the second photo below you can see him creating the roof using a method he learned from his father. Tri has not seen his family or most of his Passionist brothers for three and a half years. He is returning for a vacation on December 20<sup>th</sup>.





**Humour**



*"I'll be performing the operation, and this is the anaesthesiologist"*



*"It's just back to back, when I say 'ouch' I do other things 'careful'!"*



"We're a democracy here, as long as everyone votes in favour of what I want!"

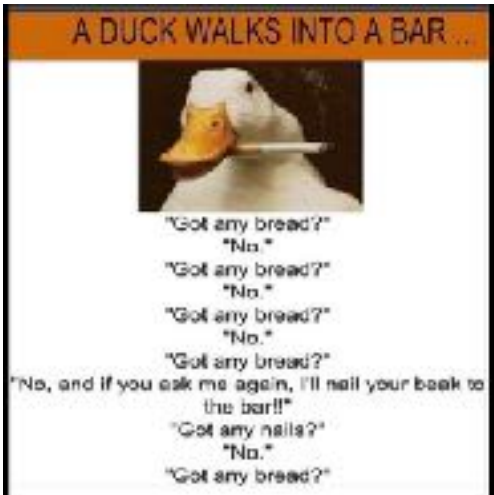


"It's efficient. They go in the rack, then out a separate."



The woodpecker might have to go.

**Linda - Honey, listen**  
 Parents sometimes hear back from school children how they must speak or sound. This seems to be the case in this very amusing conversation between a mum and her 3 year old. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFYsJYPye94>



The lumber rack behind whipped cream.

1. The Bishop was speaking to some primary school children and he said, "Let me tell you a sad fact. In Africa there are millions of kilometres of territory where there are no religion lessons. What do you think? Maybe we could save up our money and do what?"  
The class replied as one, "Go to Africa!"

2. Another Bishop was a remote outback school to examine the students who were to be confirmed. He asked one boy, "When did the Lord die?" The boy said I don't know". After class the Bishop said to the teacher, "I would like to speak with that boy's mother". The teacher said, "the family lives quite some way from the school". The bishop said, "The boy cannot be confirmed unless I have some proof of the faith of his parents". A meeting was arranged for the following afternoon. When they met, the Bishop said, "Ma'am, thank you for coming today. I had some concern because I asked your son a simple question, that he could not answer. I asked him "When did the Lord die?"  
The woman replied, "Bishop you have to understand; we live a long way out of town and it takes news a long time to travel to us!"

3. A teacher was having trouble with a student, so she asked her, "Would it be right to say, "You can't teach me nothing?"  
The student replied, "Yes it would".  
'So could you explain to me why?" the teacher asked.  
"Because you can't", the student replied.

4. A thirsty man came into a pub. He had no money but he hoped someone would buy him a drink if he stood at the bar. He began to tell a story. "In my younger days I did a lot of hunting; my mates and I shot rabbits. We were going very well one day til we ran out of bullets. So I reached into my pocket and got a handful of yaws and shoved them into the rifle to use as bullets.

One of the men interrupted and said "What yaws?"

The man replied, "Oh gee, thanks mate. I'll have a large beer!"

5. A young man hired by a supermarket appeared for his first day of work. The general manager greeting him warmly, shook his hand and gave him a broom, saying "Yur first job will be to sweep out the store".

"But I am a university graduate", the young man said indignantly.

"Ooh, I'm sorry I didn't know that", the manager replied. Here, give me the broom. I'll show you how!"

6. A man was applying to be a prison guard.

"These men are very tough, do you think you can handle that?" the warden asked.

"Sure", said the man, "If they don't behave, out they go!"





### Prayers

We remember those whose anniversaries occur around this time especially, William Finnigan (Dec 20<sup>th</sup>)



We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell especially Cathy Petrocco's sister, Maree Bartoli, Maeve Reardon, Jim Molan, Michael Doyle, Paul Darbyshire John Lazzari, Alexander Lim, Des Grisell, Lynda Chin, Gerry Bond, Helen McLean, Peter Owen, Greg Agosta, Dominic Isgro, Errol Lovett, Lesley Yang, Marg Casey, Norm Heyhorn, Chris O'Toole, Angelo Vigilante, Pam Gartland, Jim Monaghan, Peter DeMarzi, Anne Jenkins, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Peter McNamara, Patricia Keeghan, Mary Hackett, Margaret Wright, Mary and Kate Dunn.

The [Mass link](#) will be sent by Chris on Saturday afternoon.

Have a good weekend.

Brian