

## Holy Cross Retreat

### Letter 151



6th January, 2022

Greetings,



When we consider any year of our life, we know that so much that happened was unexpected. Some was good, some was painful. Some taught valuable lessons, some opened up new understandings of love.

Who knows what 2023 will bring, personally, communally, nationally and globally? Whatever comes our way, no matter how painful, will be shaped for good by the Lord of life, so we can embrace the year with confidence born of faith.





### Thankyou

We offer grateful thanks to so many people who were generous to us over the Christmas period. It is greatly appreciated.

### Christmas photos

Many people have commented on how good it was to see children engaged in the Christmas Mass. Here are two photos of the 'after-communion' African dance.







Some of the children....





### **Tony Simbel**



As advised, Tony will celebrate 10.00am Mass next Sunday, the feast of the Epiphany. We had hoped to have Tony here mid-year in 2021 soon after his ordination, but lockdowns prevented that, and he has been in PNG since February until two weeks ago. He is waiting to do an IELTS test to secure a new working visa. Tony was greatly encouraged by the Holy Cross family during his formation years, so this is a great opportunity to give thanks for his vocation.

### **Phi**



Our brother Phi is enjoying a holiday in Adelaide. Phi celebrated his 35<sup>th</sup> birthday on New Year's Day. Phi is from Đăk Lăk in the Central highlands of Vietnam around 300 kilometres north of Saigon. Phi spent some time exploring and experiencing religious life before he joined the Passionists. He has one year of studies to complete which he will undertake this year at YTU.

### **Tri - Hairdressing**



Tri regularly cuts the hair of several members of the community. He has extended his franchise by looking after his Dad in Nghe An Province, north-central Vietnam. Tri is at home for a holiday and is excited to be with his family for the first time since mid-2019. He will return to Holy Cross in early February.



### Elizabeth Prout – Foundress of the sisters of the Cross and Passion (Passionists)

Elizabeth was born in Shrewsbury in 1820, UK and died on January 11<sup>th</sup> 1864. She is titled 'Venerable' and her feast day is January 11<sup>th</sup>. Last year Sr Brigid shared the video link below, which profiles the Sisters and their charism. Brigid (Ireland), Karen (New Zealand) and Emily (Vietnam) are living as a community in Elwood, Melbourne!  
<https://youtu.be/U3fq9f6Nrbl>

### 50 years



Those who attended the Tuesday Masses at Holy Cross pre-COVID, will remember well, [Kathleen Jordan](#) and her daughter [Sue McMahon](#), who used attend mass with her Mum. Sue is a very active member of Greensborough parish and her husband, [Kevin](#) recently completed his term as President of Vinnies, a marvellous contribution to those in need. Sue and Kevin celebrate 50 years of marriage on January 12<sup>th</sup>. We send sincere congratulations.

### Marriage story

An elderly priest heard his newly ordained trainee deliver a wonderful homily on Mother's Day. It was the introduction that captured the old priest. It began with the stunning admission by the young priest, "The most wonderful moments of my life have been spent in the arms of another man's wife". Then after a pause, the young priest added, "and that woman was my mother". A few weeks later the old priest was driving out to a hall where he had been asked to give a talk to the Catholic mother's Club. He thought the younger priest's story would be a winner, so he began, "The most wonderful times of my life have been spent in the arms of some other man's wife". Then after a pause, he scratched his head and added, "I just can't remember who she was!"

### Epiphany



## Humour

1. A Professor was giving a big test one day to his students. He handed out all of the tests and went back to his desk to wait.

Once the test was over the students handed the tests back in. The professor noticed that one of the students had attached \$100 to his test with a note saying, "A dollar per point."

The next class the professor handed the graded tests back out. This student got back his test, his test grading, and \$70 in change.

2. Barry, a very rich man in Darwin, had a party. To liven things up he put a 5m croc in the pool and said he would give \$100,000 bucks to anyone to jump in and swim to the other end.

There was a splash and Barry's mate Lenny was thrashing around in a bid to outswim the croc. Lenny broke the world record for 25m and launched himself out with the croc snapping at his heels.

"Well done, Lenny, here's a cheque," Barry said.

"Don't want it," Lenny wheezed, not looking happy.

"But you won the bet. Look take \$50,000," Barry said.

"Nope, forget it," said Lenny.

"Come on, I insist. You must want something," Barry said.

"OK, I would like something," Lenny said finally.

“You name it — car, boat, holiday?” Barry said.

Lenny replied: “I want the name of the bloke who pushed me in the pool.”

3. After a long and difficult two-week criminal trial in a very high-profile bank robbery case, the jury finally ended its 14 hours of deliberations following much division over the defendant’s guilt. The judge turned to the jury foreman and asked, “Has the jury reached a verdict in this case?”

“Yes we have, your honour,” the foreman responded. “We find the defendant not guilty of all four counts of bank robbery,” he states. The family and friends of the defendant jumped for joy and hugged each other as they shouted expressions of divine gratitude.

The defendant’s barrister turned to his client and asked, “So, what do you think about that?” The defendant looked around the courtroom slowly with a bewildered look on his face and then said to his barrister, “I’m really confused here. Does this mean that I have to give all the money back?”

4. There was a lecturer who kept addressing just one person in a class of fifty. He would say, “Macharia we learnt phonetics’ and ‘if you remember Macharia, we covered topic B’. The class finally had enough of Macharia and when they protested that there were other students in the class besides Macharia, it was discovered that the lecturer actually meant MUCH EARLIER!!

5. Mildred, the church gossip and self-appointed monitor of the church’s morals, kept sticking her nose into other people’s business. Several church members did not approve, but feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she accused Frank, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old ute parked in front of a bar one afternoon. She emphatically told Frank (and several others) that everyone who saw his ute there, would know what he was doing. Frank, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He simply said nothing.

Later that evening, Frank quietly parked his ute in front of Mildred’s house, walked home ... and left it there all

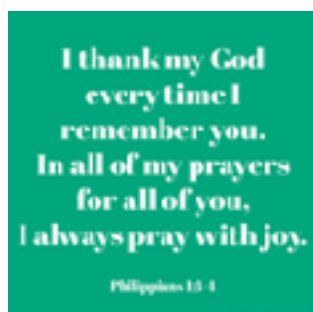


night



## Prayers

We remember [Thomas Butler](#) (father to Gerardine) who's anniversary in January 8th



We also pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell especially Cathy Petrocco's sister, Marissa, Maree Bartoli, Gerry Bond, Bernard Charnley, Maeve Reardon, Jim Molan, Michael Doyle, Paul Darbyshire John Lazzari, Jenny Wullings, Alexander Lim, Des Grisell, Lynda Chin, Dominic Isgro, Helen McLean, Peter Owen, Greg Agosta, Errol Lovett, Peter DeMarzi, Marg Casey, Norm Heyhorn, Chris O'Toole, Angelo Vigilante, Pam Gartland, Sr Gen Walsh RSC,



Anne Jenkins, Jim Monaghan, 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