

Holy Cross Retreat

Letter 154

3rd



February, 2023
Greetings,

Karen



On Thursday afternoon, Sr Karen Englebretsen made her final profession of vows (for life) as member of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion. Congregational Leader, Sr Therese O'Regan CP received Karen's vows, with her two community members Sr Brigid Murphy CP (also Karen's formator) and Sr Emily Tran, as witnesses. Karen made her first profession in 2018 while living with her community in Endeavour Hills. Karen is well known to the parishioners and Passionist Family at Endeavour Hills and at Holy Cross. She and Brigid, unexpectedly spent two years living with us (in 'The Tavern') because COVID-19 prevented them from their planned relocation.

Since leaving Holy Cross and moving to Elwood, Karen has been involved with the Sacred Heart mission at the coal face of poverty and hardship, and assisting homeless people to rebuild their lives. The mission provides breakfast and lunch for hundreds of people every day of the year.

Karen is a long way from home, having taken the step as the first New Zealander to join the Cross and Passion sisters. Her present community is comprised of herself, Brigid (from Ireland) and Emily (from Vietnam), all of them living in a land other than their own.



Srs Brigid, Joan and Anne took the big step to come to Australia in 2009. Brigid became involved remotely (before Zoom) in the formation of the first women who began Passionist life in Vietnam in 2015. Fr Thomas Anamattatil also provided guidance. Sr Anne and Karen went to assist in Vietnam in 2018. Brigid was preparing to move there in March 2020, but COVID-19 prevented that. The community of sisters is growing steadily in Vietnam (see the photo on the next page)

We congratulate Karen on her commitment, and look forward to the ongoing ways the sisters and brothers of the Passionists can enrich each other's lives and ministries.



The Cross and Passion sisters in Vietnam (Emily is fifth from the right)



Cactoblastis

The brief video clip below is from the National Museum archives and it describes the story of cactoblastis, and. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_K-m2rXWwc

During the homily at Karen's profession I shared the story of an amazing event in Australia's history to illustrate that small or hidden efforts or the contribution of ordinary individuals, can have far reaching effects.



When the first fleet arrived in Australia in 1788. Governor Philip brought some prickly pear plants with him to develop a cochineal industry. Cochineal insects live on the prickly pear and are used in for creating dye, especially deep red colours. Governor Philip was hoping to establish a fabric dye industry and produce the red used for soldier's jackets.

By 1900 the area covered by prickly pear was increasing at a rate of 400,000 hectares a year and farmers throughout NSW and Queensland were abandoning their farms because the prickly pear trees had spread so far and so fast that they had overtaken everything. By 1925, 58 million acres of land were covered with prickly pear.



Most plants grew around 2-3 metres high, but some were much taller.

Prickly pear grew so aggressively, that without modern day machinery, it was impossible back then, to cut it back, or control it.



Some farmers became unable to access their homes.

One man advised authorities that he had seen prickly pear in Argentina, but it was not out of control and wherever he saw it, he noticed a particular moth that he had never seen in Australia.



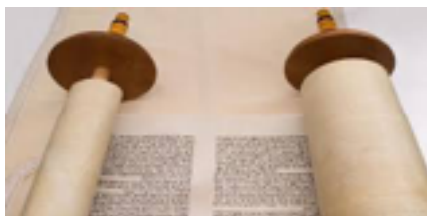
Eleven pairs of cactoblastis moths were brought from Argentina to Australia and a breeding programme began. In 1926 the first larvae from the moths began to be planted on prickly pear trees, and by 1933 80% of Queensland and 60% of NSW prickly pear trees, had been eradicated!

Who could have believed in 1925 that such a simple solution involving an insect, recommended by an individual, would create such a massively successful outcome.

Who says that one person cannot make a difference?

We Need Priests and Prophets

In a homily on Mark 1:21–28, Franciscan Richard Rohr describes the tension between priestly and prophetic tasks—both of which are necessary for healthy religion:



There are two great strains of spiritual teachers in Judaism, and I think, if the truth is told, in all religions. There's the priestly strain that holds the system together by repeating the tradition. The one we're less familiar with is the prophetic strain, because that one hasn't been quite as accepted. Prophets are critical of the very system that the priests maintain.

If we have both, we have a certain kind of wholeness or integrity. If we just have priests, we keep repeating the party line and everything is about loyalty, conformity, and following the rules—and that looks like religion. But if we have the priest *and* the prophet, we have a system constantly refining itself and correcting itself *from within*.



We're living in a most amazing time because we have it in Pope Francis right now. We very seldom have a pope who is also a prophet: one who holds the tradition together, respects and conserves the tradition, but at the same time is often quite critical of the bishops and the priests (as he well should be).

Just pretend to love God, go to church every Sunday, recite the creed, and say all the right things! Someone can be racist, be against the poor, hate immigrants, and be totally concerned about making money and being a materialist, but still go to church each Sunday and be “justified” in the eyes of religion.



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Pope's comments on homosexuality



Hannah Brockhaus reported on January 28, that Pope Francis has written a letter to clarify his comments on sin and homosexuality from a recent interview with the Associated Press. In the interview Pope Francis had said: "Being homosexual is not a crime. It's not a crime. Yes, it's a sin. Fine, but first let's distinguish between a sin and a crime".

In his clarifying letter addressed to Jesuit Fr James Martin, Pope Francis said "When I said it is a sin, I was simply referring to Catholic moral teaching, which says that every sexual act outside of marriage is a sin." Francis said he was trying to say in the interview that criminalization of homosexuality "is neither good nor just." "As you can see, I was repeating something in general," he wrote. "I should have said 'It is a sin, as is any sexual act outside of marriage.' This is to speak of 'the matter' of sin, but we know well that Catholic morality not only takes into consideration the matter but also evaluates freedom and intention; and this, for every kind of sin. Of course, one must also consider the circumstances, which may decrease or eliminate fault."

Pope Francis ascribed the confusing statement to the conversational tone of the interview. "It is understandable that there would not be such precise definitions," he said. The Catholic Church does not teach that homosexuality, that is having same-sex attraction, is a sin.

Drive-in Mass



On January 26th an unaccompanied 20-year-old male learner driver, lost control of his white Utility and collided with the side wall of Sacred Heart Church in Yea where Fr Jose is parish priest.

From the photo on the right it could seem that the young man

wanted to take a short cut to attend Mass, but the photo on the left indicates he would have had some trouble getting out of his car



The vehicle was stuck in the church and initially unable to be moved due to the damage caused. It was recovered when the collision site was made safe. Learner drivers are supposed to be

accompanied – for good reason.

Joseph Phuong (DJ's father)



Last week we requested prayers for DJ's father (Joseph), who had a stroke recently. DJ is one of our three postulants.

Joseph has improved somewhat, which is very encouraging. He can walk, and although he cannot yet speak clearly, his speech is coming back. Joseph received a hospital visit from Tri who is on holidays with his family about 40 minutes drive away.

Jeff Foale also visited, but he undertook a much longer trip from Saigon. At 90 years of age, such pastoral care is inspiring, and certainly greatly appreciated by DJ.

Tri is due to return on February 8th.

Tony Simbel received news that he was successful in his IELTS English exams. He will return to Adelaide (after our Province Assembly which is next weekend).

Ash Wednesday

There will be a Mass at Holy Cross on Wednesday February 22nd at 9.15am.

St Gabriel festa

The annual festa will be held this year on February 26th, the day before the feast of Passionist, St Gabriel. Mass will be at 10.30am. Other details will be provided next week.

Paul Kien



Kien arrived in Sydney on January 28th where he will be a member of the St Brigid's parish team. In order to secure the required visa, Kien needs to undertake an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) exam, just as Tony Simbel has done.

For that purpose, Kien will be living at Holy Cross for the required period of time – 'a few weeks' brushing up his English. Kien had a pastoral placement with our Endeavour Hills community and parish for six months in 2019, and was ordained in November 2021. We welcome him to Holy Cross.

Extended car parking area

This is how the area looked on Tuesday this week before Vince began to spread the 28 truckloads of soil that he had acquired from Brighton. The arrows in the two photos below indicate where an open fence will be erected to separate the car park from the new recreation space, labyrinth and access to the grounds. There is still a lot of work to be done, but it is taking shape.



After three hours on his excavator, Vince had made that area totally level, looking like this (see below).



Fence



The fence enclosing the extension top the car park will be two metres high and similar to this style (see left) and we hope to have it erected around mid-February.

5,500 kilograms rock



This rock (left) was delivered on Tuesday afternoon. In old language it weights 6 tons and it is a little over 2 metres tall.

The rock was buried as one piece, 10 metres deep, and there are small sea shells and signs of volcanic activity in it. Vince manoeuvred the rock in front of the carpark lamp-pole near the ramp entrance the end of the present carpark It will protect the pole from

erratic drivers – if there are any! Vince advice to drivers is ‘don’t take on the rock’.



Humour - Daggy stories

1. Joe was stopped at customs where they found he had two sackfuls of mobile phones. The customs officer asked him why and he said his mate had phoned him overseas and said he was starting up a jazz band, could I bring him back two saxophones!
2. Gerry was at the bus stop when Barry pulled up and offered him a lift. "I'd better not", Gerry said, "the bus might come"!
3. Tony called out to Rick in the bathroom, "Did you find the shampoo". Rick called back, "Yes, I did but it says its for dry hair and I just wet mine"!
4. A waitress came over to the table where Graham and Ed were sitting and said "You can't eat your own sandwiched here". So Ed said, "Let's swap Graham"!
5. The teacher said to little Eddie. The essay you wrote about your dog is word for word, the same as your brothers' essay". Eddie said, "That's because it is the same dog".
6. Johnny walked into the site office carrying a thermos flask. "What have you got there?" one of the workman asked. "It's a flask for keeping things hot and

cold” said Johnny. The workman asked “So what have you got in there?” Johnn said, “two cups of coffee and an ice-cream”!

7. Kevin was struggling down the road trying to carry a wardrobe. A passer-by asked why he didn’t get someone to help him. “I have”, Kevin said, “Luke is inside carrying the clothes”!
8. Tim purchased a new automatic MBW X5 sports. He drove perfectly by day but would not go at night. After a week of frustration he called the BMW dealers and they asked him to bring the car in to be checked. The mechanic said, “Can you show me what gears you are using differently in the day from the night”. Tim said “it is obvious, I use ‘D’ for day and ‘N’ for night”!
9. The plumber asked Mick why the account had not been paid for the work done the previous Friday. Mick said, “you told me you were free on Friday”.
10. A counsellor advised a young woman, “to gain self-confidence, you need to avoid using words like ‘can’t’ and ‘not’. Do you think you can do that?” The woman replied, “I can’t see why not!”





Q. Why did the tectonic plates break up?

A. There was too much friction between them!

Q. Why was the geologist sad? A. Because his marriage was on the rocks

Q. What do lazy rocks do? A. Lay around and get stoned!

Bernard Charnley



We celebrated Bernard's life at Holy Cross on Wednesday.

Bernard and Maureen would have celebrated their 56th anniversary of marriage in the day of his burial. They were long time parishioners and regular attenders of St Kevin's 9.00am Mass, and well known to that community.

Bernard's passing was very quick; one week after admission to aged care. He had led a good and happy life and assured Maureen "I am ready to go".

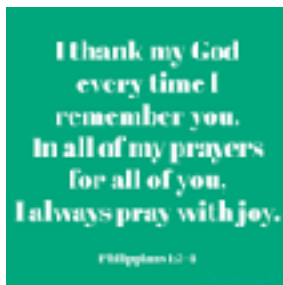
Joan and Michael O'Callaghan

Added to issues after their recent mutual fall, Joan and Michael have COVID. Joan is in Epworth Richmond (for 10 days). One of their granddaughters also has COVID and is looking after Michael.

Fr Brian Gleeson CP is expected to be in hospital another week. There is a plan when things become settled for hip surgery, but his heart is a cause of concern at present. **Fr Chris Mithen CP** is out of hospital and back at Nazareth House. The doctors believe that he can be adequately monitored there.

The deceased

We remember those who have died, especially Bernard Charnley and those whose anniversaries are in this coming week: Michael Keeghan (Feb 5TH 2001), Mariano Dalla Riva (Feb 6th) and Greg Manly CP (Feb 9th)



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

The **Mass link** will be sent by Chris.
Brian