

## Holy Cross Retreat

### Letter 176

Greetings,

### Getting things ready



Yesterday, **Phi** and **Tri** left for Brisbane for two and a half weeks of pastoral experience with the Passionist Youth retreat Team.

Today, **Thang** and **DJ** are travelling to Sydney for six days. This will give them the opportunity to stay with our community in Marrickville and learn more about our Province, before they return to Vietnam on July 16<sup>th</sup>

Tomorrow, three new postulants, **Hai, Thang** and **Cu'ong**, arrive to begin (on July 17<sup>th</sup>) a year of English language studies.

The photo above shows Erick, Thang and DJ preparing rooms for our three new brothers.

These are our three new brothers **Hai, Thang** and **Cu'ong**



30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

## Aboriginal & Torres Straight Sunday.....July 2nd



In 1989 Irvine Green wrote a history of the aboriginal people (Wurundjeri) who lived in the Bullen, Doncaster, Templestowe and Warrandyte district. Below are some extracts from his book.



The Wurundjeri people were part of a larger Tribe, the Woiworung, who claimed as their territory the basin of the Yarra and all the streams flowing into it. The Wurundjeri occupied the area south of the Yarra from Gardiners Greek, past the northern slopes of the Dandenongs to the Upper Yarra. The name Wurundjeri is made up of two words, Wurunn, meaning the white Manna Gum that grew along the river flats, and Jeri, meaning a grub, similar to the Witchetty grub, which lived in the roots of the tree. The Wurundjeri people were given the name because they ate the grub. They also enjoyed a sweet drink made from a white fungus which grew on the Manna Gum. Europeans named the tree after likening the fungus to Manna from heaven.

The Wurundjeri had permanent corroboree sites around Lake Bulleen where the freeway now meets Bulleen Road. The abundance of water birds, fish, eels and edible roots made the area a favourite meeting place. At Bolin, as they called it, Wurundjeri would meet the rest of the Woiworung and often other tribes of the Kulin. They also held corroborees on the river slopes alongside Thompsons Road and on the northwest



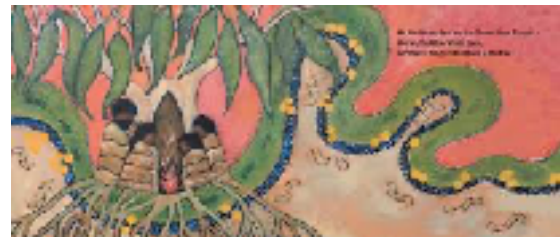
slope at the corner of Pound and Warrandyte Roads. The Wurundjeri also camped with other tribes for games at Wonga Park.



When the whole tribe formed a camp, everyone knew what to do. The head man and elders planned where to camp and placed the huts according to the rules of the tribe. Half an hour after arriving, what had been a quiet corner of the bush would be replaced by a bustling camp. In the vicinity of the camp, the environment would be devastated with trees

stripped of branches and bushes uprooted. With few people, vast spaces, and being nomadic, they were not concerned with permanent destruction of their environment.

As an early settler observed, "The faculty of the Australian aborigine for finding his way through the bush, seems closer to intuition than reason", for the Aborigine did not use the sun as a guide to direction. His memory for small details was remarkable. Details such as the shape of a tree or hill and patterns of



rocks were learnt as a continuous song, which he chanted as he went along. Just as aboriginal literature was preserved by memory and taught in strict schooling sessions, so were their maps preserved by memory in the form of songs. Visitors would follow traditional walkabout routes, such as the route to the mountains, which followed the present line of Bulleen Road.

A large body of people could not find enough food in one place, so the tribe would divide into small family groups and move off separately. They would go to an area, in search of game or to where berries were ripe, roots ready to dig, or eggs could be



found. A variety of food, including fresh fish, helped keep a balanced diet. Once the decision was made to move camp, there was no argument, everyone knew what to do. They walked to their destination regardless of sickness, birth or death.

The Wurundjeri were very kind to their young, old or ill. The woman carried their possessions in reed baskets and at the same time carried babies or young children.

While on the move, the tribe would cover about eight kilometres in a single day. The women arrived at each new campsite early to get a fire going. At these temporary campsites, they slept in a simple shelter of branches, which would give protection from the wind, or of sheets of bark to keep off the rain.



The assembling of a tribe or the arrival of visitors was celebrated with a corroboree. These were descriptive dances which tell a story or express the feelings of the performers. The men danced while the women beat a rhythm on a skin stretched between their knees. Corroborees were part of the oral tradition. The songs were stories

passed down over many years and the dances were passed down over many years and the dances choreographed events in the history of the tribe. After the formalities of a corroboree were completed, the aborigines held contests and games.



Men demonstrated their skill with spear and boomerang throwing (the name Warrandyte was made up of the words, warran - to throw and dyte - the object thrown at). Others would challenge each other to wrestling matches. They stood with arms on each other's shoulders, and the aim was to throw the opponent to the ground.

It was football that really excited the crowd. Two teams, each from a different totem or tribe, played with a ball made from rolled-up possum skins. The game started with the teams lined up opposite each other. The object of each side was to keep possession of the ball, which was either tossed by hand or kicked from one player to another. The players would leap to catch the ball, then kick it.



There were no goals and no winner; they played for the enjoyment of the game, both players and spectators getting very excited, the women and children running alongside shouting and yelling.



In 1856 boys from Melbourne Grammar School and Scotch College tried out this Aboriginal game, except that goal posts were added to decide a winner. There were fifty players on each side on a large field with goal posts half a mile apart. This historic match was the origin of Australian rules football.

This last claim by Irvine Green seems to be inaccurate. While complete confirmation is contested, there were football games played in Victoria under mostly English public school rules, particularly Rugby, Eton and Harrow.



Various States in Australia as well as Geelong, adopted different styles and rules of English, Welsh and Irish football, including soccer and Gaelic football, as well as aboriginal games (Marngrook). Local Templestowe resident and aboriginal expert Jim Poulter, suggests that Tom Wills had knowledge of Aboriginal oral traditions and language having grown up as the only white person in his district. However, when the rules of Australian football were codified, the status of Aboriginal culture in Australia was such that Wills may have been disadvantaged had he mentioned any connection, and as such "he had no reason to mention this in discussions". It is timely we recall such lowly recognition of our indigenous people this Aboriginal Sunday.

The first Australian rules football rules were drawn up in 1859 by a committee including Tom Willis who had been educated at Rugby school in England and J. B Thompson. Writing to Wills in 1871, Thompson said that the hardness of the playing fields around Melbourne influenced their thinking. Even. Wills, who favoured many rules of Rugby School football, saw the need for compromise. He wrote to his brother Horace: "Rugby was not a game for us. We wanted a winter pastime but men could be harmed if thrown on the ground so we thought differently."



Now that explains a lot of things to those of us who have played Rugby!!!!

### **The running man**



Erick has continued his athletic involvement. He was school cross country champion in Year 12. It is a genuine passion for him and competitive opportunities provide a challenge for improvement. Earlier this month, Erick broke 40 minutes for a 12km cross country run representing Doncaster Athletic club, which was three minutes faster than he ran a year ago.

There are many young people in the club and Erick's appreciates the different type of ministerial opportunities this provides while enjoying the spiritual benefit of running alone

for hours each week. Usually around the house we are accustomed to seeing Erick rugged up and wearing a beanie, but when he's out there running he must be too fast for the cold weather to catch up with him!

Erick will celebrate his 35<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday.

### **Paul's churches and Passionist Family Groups (Conclusion - Part 6)**

Appreciating similarities between the early Pauline communities and the Passionist Family Groups might be one aid to remaining open and positive about the future. It can help to have a little background to the principal communities we know something about through Paul's letters.



Antioch was the third most important city in the Roman empire at that time. The church there was founded as a direct result of the stoning of Stephen when disciples fled Jerusalem. This a profound example of God writing straight with crooked lines! The church in Antioch began in the synagogue, but soon spread to include gentiles. It became the first mixed community. When word of this got back to the mother church (Jerusalem) officials were sent to 'check it out'. Barnabas was sent and the two churches maintained a close relationship despite differences in applying rules. Antioch became the springboard for the major missionary endeavour of the early church under Paul and others.

Corinth was a densely populated port and a meeting place for traders and sailors. It was a 1980's 'Kings Cross'. The church established there was poor and we know a great deal about the problems they encountered because of two letters from



Paul that are preserved. Being surrounded by others leading an immoral life, we read of questions from the Corinthian church to Paul about moral conduct, liturgical meetings, appeals to civil courts, eating pagan sacrificial food, finance, favourite preachers and many other issues. Church members in Corinth included the city treasurer, two synagogue rulers and a scribe. Many of the church members travelled to other places, as Paul's letters indicate.

Philippi was a Roman colony, so the people there were grateful for their status. It was one of the principal cities of Macedonia because it was a junction for trade between Europe and Asia. Paul's friendly letter indicates he was very grateful to the people whom he visited at least three times. Paul was deeply fond of them. He encouraged them to keep building the bonds of harmony by continuing to think of

each other. These people supported him generously. His letter indicates his passionate missionary commitment, their closeness to one another and their affection and support of him.



Ephesus was the next largest city after Antioch. Merchandise from East and West poured into the port. It had a famous temple to the goddess Artemis, and was host to a multitude of cults because of its central location. No doubt because of these contesting cults, Paul wrote to the Christians there encouraging them to see the cosmic reality of Christ and to ensure equality

between Jews and Gentiles. Paul left Aquila and Priscilla at Ephesus to take care of the church and later sent Timothy to be their guide.

Thessalonika, because of its location on Rome's trans-Macedonia highway, was a central location for commerce, culture and politics. It was the most important city in the northern Aegean. Paul arrived there to speak to the Jewish community but he won over many Greek converts. Some orthodox Jews expelled Paul.



He sent Timothy back there to strengthen the church and wrote two letters that are the first writings of the New Testament. A major concern Paul addresses in these letters is that some people in the church have died before Jesus' promised return which had not yet eventuated.

All of these Pauline communities were different. Churches founded in other places by the apostles and their helpers reveal other differences. The early church was not like a series of KFC or McDonald stores which looked identical to the observer. Each of them was different and they were forced to make many adaptations as they developed their own theology, ritual, leadership and fellowship.



A rower gliding through the water must look back, not ahead. By looking back to Paul's churches, we can gain a more accurate sense of where we are going, because we know where we have come from.

Passionist Family Groups reflect the healthy diversity of Paul's churches and their 'taking root' in various places with the help of 'apostles' and co-workers is very similar. This may help us renew our understanding and appreciation of 'church'.

Certainly, it is reassuring to know that people say about Family Groups, what they said of this new sect, "See how they love one another".

In all our searching to understand our place and how best we can support local parish life and the individuals and families who comprise it, we need to be primarily concerned with fellowship based on the example of Jesus who sustains all life and love.



Fifty years after the first PFG began, there are thousands of people still actively involved. Unfortunately, as church belonging has lessened, far fewer young families have joined. Any family in any place at any time has to adjust to their environment and to the social and religious events of their time.

That is the ongoing challenge for Passionist Family Groups. Hopefully the parallels with Paul's communities will inspire us to continue seeking connections, belonging, fellowship and faithful gospel living.

### Passionist Youth Retreat Team



During preparations for our upcoming Chapter, we were fortunate to have a presentation on the wonderful ministry of our Brisbane based Passionist Youth Retreat Team. Every member of the team past and present deserves great credit, but especially Ray Sanchez CP, Jo and Tim McDade and Tom Warren. Luke Bulley was a member of the team and

this led him to join the Passionists. During his formation years he worked for brief periods with the team and has continued to do so since his ordination.



You will find this video presentation inspiring and find yourself grateful that there are young lay Passionists taking our charism to other young people and engaging in a ministry that was so important to many of us in our younger days.

<https://drive.google.com/>



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Some notes from the talk given by **Tom O'Loughlin**, Irish Professor of Historical Theology at the University of Nottingham.

From his talk to 'We Are Church', 30 May 2023

Tradition: - some people think this means looking back to the past. But for Christians, Tradition is future-oriented: it is a question of handing on to future generations. Jesus told us to go out to the whole world and tell the Good News – today!

Will the Synod be a Vatican 3? No! It will be a far more humble reality – a synod on synodality which is an unknown and contrasts with hierarchical control. It is a steep learning curve. All of us have to be engaged in this.

The 'Instrumentum Laboris' is the working-document, putting together all that came from the different Assemblies throughout the world. It is prepared but has not yet been circulated. We hope that at least it will take account of the problems in the Church today: that it is realistic and describes the scene on the ground. It will talk about one style [with laity involved], but it will be decided by another style [hierarchy making final decisions].

One Parish priest recently said: "There will be no discussion of critical issues. Just an increase in prayer." This is like motherhood and apple pie.

Last year Cardinal Ouellet organised a seminar on Priesthood with no mention of any decline in vocations. It was a dated theological discussion of priesthood.

Have low expectations of the Synod! Catholic means 'wholeness' – not universality – human cultures are diverse, local churches reflect local realities.

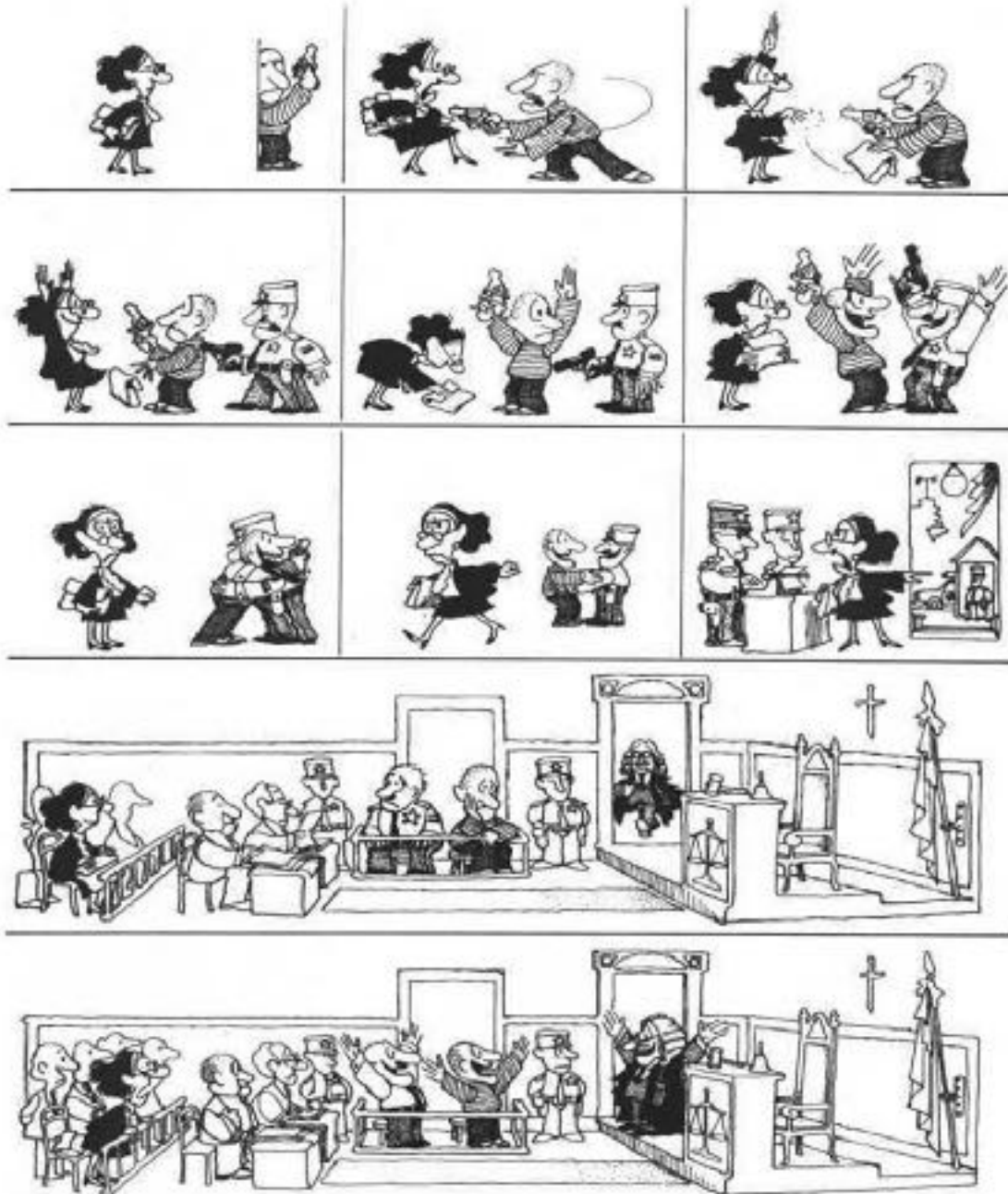
Women Priests may be culturally unacceptable in Africa or India, but in many western countries it is culturally unacceptable to exclude women. My hope for the Synod is that it will 'hear' the differences. We have had an Italian Renaissance culture shoved onto all of us – but it is not a case of 'one size fits all'. Another hope I have is that the Synod will face the impediments to its progress. These include: a fear of admitting [papal] mistakes. They were afraid to admit Luther was right... Religion is a culturally conservative force and religious structures attract conservative people. Very few canon lawyers are radical!

Circulated by ACCCR (Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform)

**THESE ARE ALLEGED COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY "THOMAS COOK VACATIONS" FROM DISSATISFIED CUSTOMERS:**

1. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
2. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
3. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."
7. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallarta to lose in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."
8. "No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."
9. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
10. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
11. "The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we could not read the local guide book during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would have made our holiday more fun."
12. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."
13. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."
14. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."
15. "When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."
16. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."

17. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."
18. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."



Important to have friends . . .

Using your feet

### Miracle cure kills fifth patient

By The Associated Press

A fifth volunteer died Tuesday from an experimental drug tested as a treatment for hepatitis B, beyond medical records and an apparent statement the sponsor of what, most probably, was a clinical trial.

Intention describing the harm of making the drug was killing people shortly after they stopped taking it.

The late, untitled would discover that in Boston, FHSU actually attacks the very high top blocks of cells in liver, but not the nerves.



### Parents keep kids home to protest school closure

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Parents kept 200 elementary school students home from school for an entire day in a parent-organized protest of the district's plans to close the school.

up even though most of the students didn't, and that it was largely business as usual for the remaining students who studied in small classes.

"I know I'm the principal," she said. "But I'm not resigning."

### Hospitals resort to hiring doctors

PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE PROMPTING MOVE, ADMINISTRATORS SAY

### Federal Agents Raid Gun Shop, Find Weapons

Store Owner Arrested Previously

By Brian Burdick

On July 2, undercover agents raided a gun shop in [redacted] and found a stockpile of weapons, including assault rifles, handguns, and other firearms.

### Meeting on open meetings is closed

### Bridges help people cross rivers

By MICHAEL O'NEILL

The new one and a half mile long... bridges and tunnels, straight... to participate in our... Open to children ages 5 to 11.

### Starvation can lead to health hazards

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My weight is totally over the top. I am 5 feet 7 inches tall and weigh close to 300 pounds. I was average weight in high school.

Get to a dietitian for diet advice that provides for essential nutrients while paring down calorie intake sensibly. Your local hospital should be able to put you on the track of one. Combine...



How far can a bear run into the forest? Halfway. Because if the bear runs any further, he/she will be running out of the forest. So perhaps we are not at the half way point of winter, but there is much consolation in knowing the shortest day is behind us.





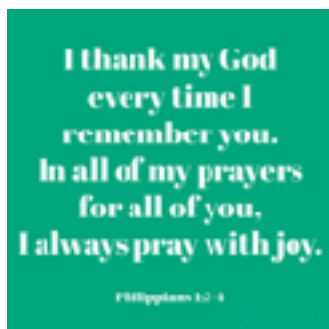
## Prayers

We remember [Chris Mithen](#) who will celebrate his 67<sup>th</sup> ordination today on June 30<sup>th</sup>

We also remember [Peter Owen](#) who turns 91 today.

We remember those who's anniversaries are around this time and their families, especially [Gladwys Bourke](#) (1/7) and [George Barnes](#) (7/7)

Special prayers please for Dominic Marasea's mother-in law [Ilona Antal](#)



We also remember those in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially Pam Storey, Maree Bartoli, Gerry Bond, Mario Minichilli, Bronwyn Burke, Michael O'Callaghan, Des Grisell, Cathy Petrocco's sister, Marissa, Peter Owen, Alexander Lim, Maeve Reardon, John Lazzari, Phil Drew, Helen McLean, Greg Agosta, Errol Lovett, Peter DeMarzi, Angelo Vigilante, Pam Gartland, Marg Casey, Mary Hackett, Jim Monaghan, Chris O'Toole, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Lynda Chin, Peter McNamara, Patricia Keeghan, Anne Jenkins, Mary and Kate Dunn, Brian Gleeson CP, Gerald Quinn CP.

The **Mass link** will be sent by Chris from **Ireland**

Brian

