

Holy Cross Retreat

Letter 177



14th July, 2023

Greetings,

Our new postulants settling in with Aussie shirts



Thang

Cu'ong

Tai

JD

Tim

In our absence, Tim stepped in to lead a 'Liturgy of the Word with Communion', last Sunday and I received several messages of high praise. One of them said, *"I just want to let you know what a wonderful service Tim delivered this morning . His preparation, thoughtfulness, content, and delivery were terrific. He was humble and very much engaging. We are always very quick to let people know when things are wrong, so I felt that you should know about a very good positive"*.

Tim has also generously responded to Erick's request to act as formator for the three now postulants, and agreed to live-in at Holy Cross for the week. We are greatly indebted to Tim for all he does to assist life for our Holy Cross family.

North Sydney



It has been wonderful to be living in North Sydney for the best part of a week, and at the Mary McKillop Centre. I was here for a shorter time two years ago. The last time I spent this long in North Sydney was 60 years ago. I was born in the Mater hospital 1.5 kilometres from the McKillop Centre and our family grew up in Wollstonecraft 2.5 kilometres from here. Our (NRL) team was the North Sydney Bears, but since the Club last won the premiership in 1922 and exited 1st division in 2002, we experienced less than fanatical success! As far as I know, Tom McDonough is the only other Passionists to have come from the Lower North Sydney district.

The facilities here at Mary McKillop house are excellent and the weather has been very good. Chris will record this weekend's Mass in the chapel here. Adjacent to the shrine where Mary is buried.



The Chapter

Daily video reports have been sent and they reflect the very positive atmosphere. It has been great to hear our Vietnamese brothers express their hopes and dreams and to sense the close brotherhood that is evident with them among us.



In last week's newsletter I paid tribute to Tom McDonough who has just completed eleven years as Provincial. Tom completed Joachim Rego's term as Provincial when Joachim was elected General, and then was elected in his own right, twice more, serving during the years of expansion in Vietnam and throughout COVID-19. This has been a huge and generous commitment.

Following our discussions throughout the week, which were focused on the areas we had identified as critical (Culture and Identity, Mission and Ministry, Community and Formation, Finance, Governance and Legislation) the Chapter turned its attention to the election of a new Provincial and Council.



Denis Travers who is well known to us at Holy Cross, was elected Provincial on the very first ballot. Denis previously served as Provincial from 1999-2007. He was elected to the General Council in October 2006 and served two six year terms before returning to the Province in 2018. He was elected to the Provincial Council in 2019. So Denis brings vast experience and many years of continued involvement in leadership and governance of the Congregation. This

will be a great asset for the Province at this time.



Our own [Chris Monaghan](#) was elected 1st Consultor. This will give Chris some extra responsibility and workload, which he will take in his stride.



[Brendan Connell](#) was elected 2nd Consultor. Brendan is Parish Priest of Endeavour Hills and like Chris, a lecturer at YTU. Both of them served on the most recent Provincial Council.



[JB Trinh Cong Tue](#) from Vietnam became the first Vietnamese Passionist to be elected to the Provincial Council. Tue was professed in 2012 and ordained in 2017. [John Auram](#) from PNG was also elected to the Council. John has served before on a Council and is our novice master in Port Moresby.



Other news about the Chapter is being communicated in daily reports from the Provincial Office.



Here is the new Provincial Council with Fr Joachim Rego,

Pope Francis - See for yourself!

Robert Mickens



If you want to get a sense of Pope Francis' zeal for evangelization, for sharing the Good News that has obviously been the anchor and inspiration of his own life, you should watch him speak at two events (each Sunday at the noontime Angelus address and blessing, and each Wednesday at the 9.00 am general audience. Merely reading his reflections or catechesis, as good as they may be on paper, does not give the sense of his fervour. Most of the time he strays from the prepared text and speaks passionately from the heart.

The Vatican provides live and easy-to-access online coverage of the Sunday reflection/blessing and Wednesday audience. Many people are not aware of this or how to get access to the pope's speeches and the videos of his events. So here's the "how to": You can find the official Holy See website in several languages at: <https://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>.



This is virtually a one-stop shop for accessing just about everything Pope Francis says or does. The site also includes links to the various departments of the Roman Curia and other agencies and offices related to the Vatican. If you want to locate a speech or document from a previous pope, there are links that open up sites or provide texts from popes going back to Benedict XIV who was Bishop of Rome from 1740-1758.

On the main page of the Holy See website there is also a calendar with select papal events each day, which provides links to the pope's addresses, the daily bulletin of the H.S. Press Office, newly issued papal documents, and -- in the case of papal liturgies -- a pdf of the service booklet. If you click "General Audience" you can access the text of the pope's catechesis in the original Italian, plus full translations in numerous other languages. There is also a photo gallery and a video recording with an English voice-over (with the option of including sign language).

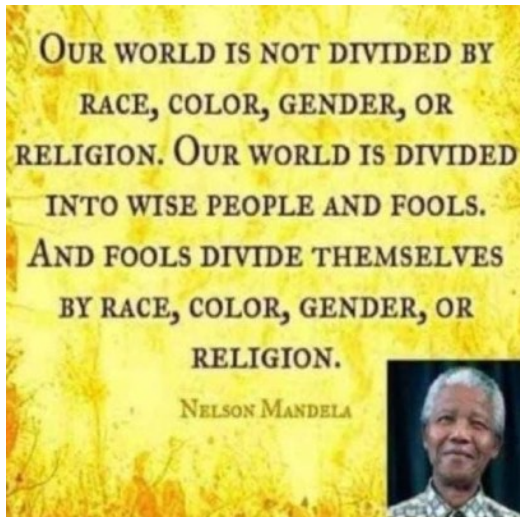


If you want to watch and listen to Francis speak without the voice-over, simply go back to the homepage of the website and, in the upper right-hand corner, select "ITALIANO". Then go back to the calendar and click on "Udienza Generale".

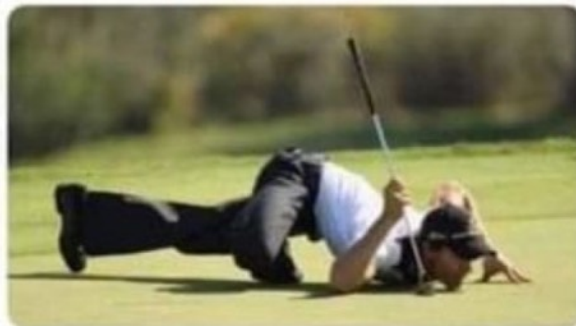
St Kevin's parish



Congratulations to the Passionist Family Groups who are celebrating 30 years together with 10.00am Mass at St Kevin's on Sunday 30th July followed by coffee and cake...everyone is welcome to this occasion and to join a group.



How I look tryna find the TV remote under the couch



Humour

A Hillbilly Mom's Letter

Dear Son, I'm writing this slow 'cause I know you can't read fast.

We don't live where we did when you left. Your dad read in the paper that most accidents happen within twenty miles of home, so we moved. I won't be able to send you the address as the last Arkansas family that lived here took the numbers with them for their house, so they wouldn't have to change their address.

This place has a washing machine. The first day I put four shirts in it, pulled the chain and haven't seen 'em since.

It only rained twice this week, three days the first time and four days the second time.

The coat you wanted me to send to you, Aunt Sue said it would be a little too heavy to send in the mail with them heavy buttons, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets.

We got a bill from the funeral home, and it said if we didn't make the final payment on Grandma's funeral bill, up she comes.

About your sister, she had a baby this morning. I haven't found out whether if it is a boy or girls so don't know if you are an Aunt or Uncle???

Your Uncle John fell in the whiskey vat. Some men tried to get him out, but he fought them off playfully, so he drowned. We cremated him and he burned for three days.

Three of your friends went off the bridge in a pickup. One was driving and the other two were in the back. The driver got out. He rolled down the window and swam to safety. The other 2 drowned. They couldn't get the tailgate down.

Not much more news this time. Nothing much happened. If you don't get this letter, please let me know and I will send another one.

Love, Mom

P.S. - I was going to send you some spending money, but I had already sealed the envelope and mailed it.

1. Is there a difference between complete and finished? The dictionary has never been able to give a satisfactory answer. When asked, a linguist described the difference this way: when you marry the right person, you are complete. If you marry the wrong person, then you are finished. However, if the right person catches you with the wrong person, then you are completely finished.

2. Police brought Tony down to the station to ask him some questions about his dad who was a road worker and his company accused him of stealing from the job. Tony could not believe his dad would do such a thing. However, when he got home, all the signs were there.

3. When Graeme was young he dreamed of becoming a banker. However, as he got older, he kept losing interest

4. Do you hate it when a person answers their own questions? I certainly do

5. Committees are really great at keeping minutes. But they seem to lose hours

6. It is hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs, they take things so literally

7. A group invited Mary and Joseph to a virtual conference call but could not attend, there was no Zoom at the Inn

8. Where there is a will, there is always a relative

9. Ed worked for a paper company. He lost his job when the company folded

10. With the rise in popularity of self-driving cars, it is only a matter of time before someone sings a country song about a guy's truck leaving him, too

11. John visited a beautiful monastery in the mountains. The only way to reach the monastery was in a rope basket that was pulled up to the chapel. John noticed the rope was quite frayed, so, he asked a monk how often they replace the rope. The monk answered every time it breaks!

12. As Ray was preparing his speech for tonight, his wife gave me some advice. She said, "Do not try to be too charming, witty, or intellectual. Just be yourself!"

13. Bill has been a limo driver for more than 20 years but he has nothing to chauffeur it

Prayers

We remember those whose anniversaries are around this time and their families, especially [Marjorie Flew](#).

**I thank my God
every time I
remember you.
In all of my prayers
for all of you,
I always pray with joy.**

Philippians 1:3-4

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

The **Mass link for this Sunday** will be sent by Chris.

Brian