

## Holy Cross Retreat

### Letter 183



18<sup>th</sup> August, 2023

Greetings,

### Two new residents



On Tuesday we welcomed two Indonesian Passionists (**Rafal** and **Franciskus**) to Holy Cross. They are here to further their English language ability at ELSPM before heading to Vanimo in Papua New Guinea. We look forward to getting to know them in the coming weeks. Our community is truly multicultural: 6 Vietnamese, 2 Indonesians, 1 Papua New Guinean, 1 Burundian-Australian and 3 Australians.

### Vietnam



Last Thursday, was a special day for **Phi** and his family, as he made a commitment to Passionist life for the remainder of his life. Both he and his parents were deeply 'satisfied'. It has been a long time for them to wait. We returned from Vietnam on Sunday morning and he was back at class on Monday morning.



Parents and Passionist religious at last week's profession ceremony

Those who were at 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross last Sunday viewed a seven minute video of the profession ceremony deliberately focusing on Phi. The video was put together by Cu'ong who also provided the vocal background. Many people commented afterwards that they found the video very moving. The ritual of a Passionist profession is powerful, and to see four men make a life commitment (final vows) and nine others take first vows is inspirational.

The link for that video is:

#### Four men made final profession



Peter (Danh)

Tuan Joseph (TJ)



Vinh



Phi

It was a very good week in Saigon, and the profession was the highlight. Denis Travers, our Provincial was there also. Phi and I arrived on Friday. Denis arrived on Sunday. It is summer in Vietnam, and if you didn't know that before going, you'd know within two minutes of leaving the airport terminal! Although it was 'only' 34 or 35 degrees most days, the weather report added that 'it feels like 44 degrees'.



I had visited Saigon annually, in my role as Coordinator of formation, since 2014, but I'd not visited since 2020. The change that struck me most was the increased number of cars now on the road (900,000 registered) while there seem to be just as many bikes (8,000,000) registered.

It was very pleasing not only to see and speak with those men who have spent time at Holy Cross. me, but to see their increased confidence and maturity, and their sustained level of English. The climate contributes greatly to the demands on life in Saigon, and I greatly admire both students and those who have completed their formation, for their perseverance to their vocation. I only ventured as far as our other (novitiate) community during my time there, and that is just a seven minute walk and the community where our aspirants live, which was a twenty-five minute drive.

In the community chapel at St Paul's in Saigon, there is a very large mural. The right hand side is particularly interesting as you can see from the image below. At the front of a procession of saints is Paul of the Cross (founder of the Passionists, and Mother Teresa of Kolkata. Those towards the rear and non-canonised saints. In the lower portion of the mural is hell, characterised by the helicopters of the American-Vietnam war. That is a very sobering image.



## Passionist Youth Retreat Team



**Tom Warren** and **Lauren Albury** were down from Brisbane for a few days of retreats and were joined by **Luke Bulley CP**. One Year 10 day Tom and Luke each had 150 students. I'm not sure whether this photo was taken at the start or end of that day!

**yourself!**

Robert Mickens

**Pope Francis - See for**

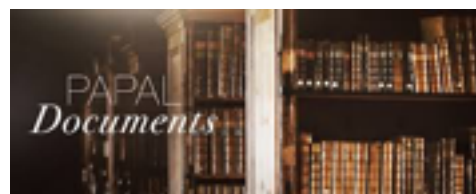


If you want to get a sense of Pope Francis' zeal for evangelization, for sharing the Good News that has obviously been the anchor and inspiration of his own life, you should watch him speak at two events (each Sunday at the noontime Angelus address and blessing, and each Wednesday at the 9 am general 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".

Another easy way to access videos of papal events, even as they are happening, is through the various YouTube channels operated by Vatican News. The one that provides "universal sound" that is unfiltered and without comment or voice-over is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7E-LYc1wivk33iyt5bR5zQ>.



The first window is Vatican Media Live, which provides a running video feed that can be scrolled back up to 12 hours. The live camera is actually fixed on St. Peter's Square when it is not broadcasting papal events --

such as the general audience and Angelus -- in real time. There are also recorded videos of past events.

The English version of the Vatican News YouTube channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/@VaticanNewsEN>. Enjoy the view... especially the words and gestures of Francis, the teaching and evangelizing pope!

#### **A small favour**

We are looking for someone who would be willing to drive our eight seater van to YTU, Box Hill next Tuesday at 8.55am. There will be five passengers who need to

get to English class at ELSPM in Albion Road, Box Hill. It is a straight drive along Middleborough Road until a right hand turn 500 metres before Canterbury Road. After dropping them off, it is just a return trip to Holy Cross. If you can assist, please contact Brian or Erick. Thank you.

### **Chris' Dad**

The entire Passionist community from Holy Cross and Endeavour Hills was present for the funeral Mass of Jim Monaghan. Both Denis Travers and Tom McDonough travelled to Melbourne to join Chris. There was also a great team of support from our Passionist family in both locations as well as representatives from YTU, ELSPM and friends and family

The beautiful stories shared by Jenny, Michael and Chris about their greatly loved Dad, were very touching. Chris' devoted care of his Dad over recent years, involving a daily visit have been a great witness to family love and solidarity. Jim will be missed, but he has joined his beloved wife in the eternal life that is beyond anything we can imagine. I did suggest to Chris that perhaps his Dad had finally given up on the Kangaroos winning another game this season and decided he could spend his weekends far more happily!





**Michael and Jenny Monaghan**

### **DJ beginning theology**



DJ who returned to Vietnam last month sat for an exam yesterday granting him entry to begin theological studies, which is very pleasing for him. Normally he and Thang would have returned to begin their novitiate, but that will not take place a year from now.

### **An interesting observation**

The Daily Mail reported that a poll taken across the USA, of who has been to see the movie 'Barbie' and who has been to see the movie 'Oppenheimer', reveals an uncanny similarity to the results of the last US election.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12331625/Barbenheimer-map-reveals-Democrat-voting-states-favor-birth-bomb-movie-Trump-voters-drawn-camp-world-pink.html>

### **Humour**

"I gave you the best years of my life...."

<https://www.facebook.com/MichaelFeinsteinOfficial/videos/dave-allen-bank-robbery-sketch/2036479113323625/>

"Herman, are you doing anything?"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3VV5J\\_Bbng](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3VV5J_Bbng)

"Can a Scottish accent help?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGRcJQ9tMbY>

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson decided to go on a camping trip. After dinner and a bottle of wine, they lay down for the night, and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend and asked, "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."



Watson replied, "I see millions of stars."

"What does that tell you?" asked Holmes.

Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three.

Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, Holmes?"

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke: "Watson, you idiot. Someone has stolen our tent!"



**I swear if my memory was any worse, I could plan my own surprise party.**





@ssg\_harper19c

**U gotta look at life from  
more than just 1 angle**

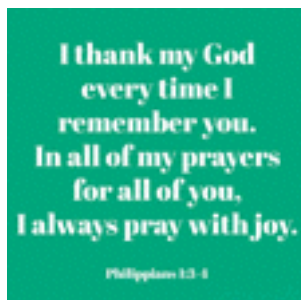
## Shopping in a foreign country



JD sent me this photo after he had taken Rafal and Franciskus shopping. He said he was at 'The Pines' our local shopping centre, but the advertising sign above Franciskus' head looks as if it is from another country!

## Prayers

We remember those who have died. ([James Monaghan](#), [John Lazzari](#) and [Marg Casey](#) (buried this week) and Cathy Petrocco's, sister [Marissa](#) will be buried next Tuesday. We also remember those whose anniversaries are around this time, and their families, especially [Alma Hall](#) (18<sup>th</sup> August), [Joan Hardinge](#) 23<sup>rd</sup> August (mother in law of Cathy), [Phyllis Dixon](#) 24<sup>th</sup> August) mother of Gail Robins-Browne and [Elvira Curcio](#) (mother of Joe).



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

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

Brian