

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 187

13th September, 2023

Greetings,

Mario Minichilli

Thursday is the feast of **Holy Cross** and the funeral of **Mario Minichilli** is being celebrated at Our Lady of the Pines parish, Donvale at 10.00am.

The live-stream link is: <https://preciousprinting.com.au/live/mario-minichilli.htm>

Brian Gleeson funeral



Brian's life will be celebrated with a funeral Mass at St Paul Apostle, Endeavour Hills at 11.00am tomorrow, September 15th, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Brian lived in the St Gabriel's Passionist community since 2001 and assisted in the parish and the deanery over the years. The live-stream link is: <https://youtube.com/live/Wzni06oReEU>

John Qi



John will be ordained a priest on Thursday this coming week, September 21st. The ceremony will not be live-streamed. Teresa Lim will be representing us. She has been residing in Hong Kong where there has been record flooding and cases of COVID. John will be the second Chinese Passionist to have studied at Holy Cross, been professed in Australia and ordained. We send him assurances of our prayers and best wishes.

Sunday September 24th 10.00am **Anointing Mass & Coffee**



Next Sunday there will be an opportunity for 'anointing of the sick' during Mass. This sacrament is offered to anyone who feels a need for healing of body, mind or spirit, including the struggles of ageing.

A coffee cart has been ordered to allow us time to mingle and share after Mass so that we can increase our spirit of fellowship. You are invited to bring something on a plate to share. We will erect one or two small marquees for the after Mass gathering.

Sunday September 24th 12.00pm **Gnocchi lunch at Holy Cross**

Bookings are still open for this. You are welcome to gather a table of friends and make a booking with: **Bruno: 0419 503300 Matt: 9842 6105 Eliza: 0409 177382**

Entertainment will be with the Tony D'Amico band. \$35 per person. BYO Drinks.

The synod — and a sign of the times

Why there is now only one Mass over a weekend instead of three?

By Thomas O'Loughlin (*emeritus of historical theology at Nottingham University (UK)*).

August 29, 2023



It is proverbial wisdom that 'One picture is worth a thousand words.' That is certainly true of the picture above – it is worth many thousands of words as we approach the synod in October. Dare I say it, it is worth a thousand of the numbered statements in Denzinger!

Please study the picture closely.

It is typical of the signs one sees on the outskirts of villages and towns in Germany. The image of a building in yellow tells the viewer that the only church / chapel in the town is Catholic. The letters and numbers tell the days and times when Catholics there gather to celebrate the Eucharist. 'Sa' is an abbreviation for Saturday, and 'So' for Sunday; the numbers are self-explanatory.

Now look more closely! There used to be – in the time since the sign was put up – three celebrations: one on Saturday evening, and two on Sunday morning. Now part of the sign has been painted over: there is now only one eucharistic assembly!

#1 REASON FOR THE DECLINE IN CHURCH ATTENDANCE

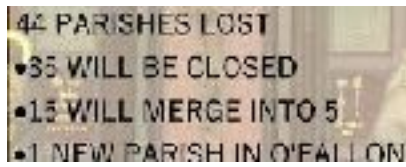
Why is this? It could be that the population has dropped by 66%. But that cannot explain it since there is a big new housing estate nearby: the town is growing in population. It could be that there are fewer people 'going to church.' That is almost certainly the case.

Rejection of the church has been increasing in recent years with more and more people formally renouncing their membership of the Catholic Church; and there has been a decrease in religious practice across the churches generally. But would that explain why there is now only one Mass over a weekend instead of three? Of course not!

The reason is not hard to find: it is due to there being not enough presbyters to preside over the assemblies – what is incorrectly referred to as either 'the priest shortage' or 'the vocations' crisis.' It is the same story across diocese after diocese and country after country. Fewer presbyters, older presbyters, and empty seminaries mean that the few men there are available being spread thinner and thinner. That is why the white paint has been applied to this



sign to alter it.



We can engage in platitudes. I see one diocese claims that it is not 'closing parishes' but 'restructuring.' Such statements belong to the deceitful world of spin doctors rather than to those who claim to be successors of the apostles. Many other dioceses try to avoid facing the issue by importing young presbyters from the developing world. Are they not needed there? Is there no need for them to help their own communities? Is this not a form of neo-colonialism – stripping the developing world of its assets for the sake of the rich countries? Should not a presbyter emerge from out of the community: a basic sign of an inculturated liturgy?

What has happened in this town is that where there used to be three presbyters in three towns, now there is one man travelling between them. You probably know a place near you where this is happening. But the presbyters are old and often tired. The assemblies are often too big – one cannot genuinely relate to a community of hundreds!



To imagine one can just 'scale up' the size of a congregation from one hundred to two hundred – or even more – without detriment to the level of participation in the liturgy is a failure to understand both how humans relate and the nature of a eucharistic celebration. It is a gathering of family (we call each other 'brothers and sisters') and friends ('I call you friends' – Jesus) not a 'service provision event.'



Moreover, the presbyter has to pretend that each celebration is the centre and summit of his day – yet his demeanour may reveal his exhaustion. Please do remember that it is less than a 100 years ago since celebrating two Masses on one day (except in an emergency) needed a special permission from the bishop – 'bination' was seen as most exceptional. Most of the Orthodox churches still do not permit it.

Meet any group of presbyters and they will openly talk about the problem. Often as soon as a bishop enters the room, the discussion falls silent! But if this problem is not addressed openly at the synod, then much of what it will discuss will have an air of unreality. That sign is truly a sign for the times.

Thomas O'Loughlin is-emeritus of historical theology at the University of Nottingham (UK). (The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official editorial position of La Croix International which is the source for the article)

Ireland Archbishop Martin reflects on some issues

'The Irish Times' Thursday, September 7th, 2023



Speaking on the 'Meaning of Life' programme, retired Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin said he found retirement in 2020 "very difficult at the beginning because I retired right in the middle of Covid." He remembered "one day in the Phoenix Park, I was out in an open-necked shirt and there was a man sitting on a bench. He looked up and said: 'Are you enjoying your retirement?' And I said: 'Yeah.' And he said: 'Did they take the collar off you? Did you have to give it back?' They recognise the face. Somebody stopped me and said: 'I know your face. Were you ever in Fair City?' Dubliners are great for that."

Martin was critical of Pope John Paul II's ban on condoms during the AIDS crisis, describing it as "bad theology." "I think that it was bad theology. "It's this idea of an extraordinary narrow dogmatic understanding of bringing principles and not looking at the broad circumstances in which the situation is taking place and the struggles that people have to face. "It was one of the problems with the church in Ireland. "We learned the rules before we learned who Jesus Christ was."



Martin stressed the need for a more compassionate and contextual approach to such issues. While discussing the clerical child sexual abuse scandals, Archbishop Martin said the clerical child sexual abuse scandals had "badly damaged the church," and, in particular, "the faith of young people'. He highlighted the understanding of ordinary Dublin women who recognised the harm caused by paedophilia but often found their concerns dismissed by bishops. On arrival in Dublin as Coadjutor Archbishop in 2003, "I wasn't prepared for it. Do you know who understood the harm paedophilia did? "They (the women) saw the mess that their child got into, they saw in some cases how their child took their own life, and they went to bishops and they weren't listened to."

Martin does not see "in any way that women priests will be something that we will see in my lifetime. I'd be very worried about Synodal consultations which lead to frustrated expectations which don't take place. People's faith is damaged by a church which doesn't respect women's dignity."

When asked what he would say to God on arrival at the pearly gates, Martin said: "The only phrase I have is, when you've got that weighing scale there, take the



80,000 files I gave and that might bring me the right way.” His comment was a reference to the number of documents he handed the Murphy Commission when it was investigating how the archdiocese had dealt with allegations of clerical child sexual abuse.

A reminder for your diary

Thursday 14th September:

Funeral Mass for **Mario Minichilli** at Our Lady of the Pines, Donvale **10.00am**

<https://preciousprinting.com.au/live/mario-minichilli.htm>

You can watch later if you are not free to watch at 10.00am

Rosary for **Brian Gleeson CP** (5 William Hovell Drive, Endeavour Hills **7.00pm**

Friday 15th September:

Funeral Mass for **Brian Gleeson** (5 William Hovell Drive, Endeavour Hills) **11.00am**

<https://youtube.com/live/Wzni06oReEU>

Sunday September 24th 10.00am Anointing Mass & Coffee

There will be an opportunity for ‘anointing of the sick’ during Mass, and a coffee cart has been ordered to allow us time to mingle and meet a few different people after Mass. You are invited to bring something on a plate to share. We will erect one or two small marquees for this.

Sunday September 24th 12.00pm Gnocchi lunch at Holy Cross

Tony D’Amico band; \$35 per person. BTO Drinks.

Bookings are open, so you are advised to gather a table of friends and make a booking asap, with: **Bruno: 0419 503300 Matt: 9842 6105 Eliza: 0409 177382**

Thurs October 19th 7.30pm Feast of Paul of the Cross

Sun November 12th: 10.00am Mass for deceased relatives

Sat & Sun November 25th-26th: Passionist Institute

This weekend will reflect on contemporary aspects of the Passionist charism. Some people from interstate and NZ are intending to join us at Holy Cross, so please mark it in your diary either by Zoom, at home, with a local Passionist community and/or Companions, or in person at Holy Cross. More details to come.

Saturday: 11.00am-2.45pm AEST (at Holy Cross or online)

Sunday: 1.30pm-5.30pm AEST (at Holy Cross or online)



Passionist

INSTITUTE 2023

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25TH SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26TH

PROGRAM

SATURDAY 25TH – 10.50 A.M – 2.45 P.M AEST

Gerard Daly – Welcome and Prayer

Denis Travers CP – Our 2023 Chapter – What it calls from us
Chat Room

Erick Niyragira CP – Reflections from younger Passionists
Chat Room

Jim Yoo – What our Companions think
Chat Room

Gerard Daly – Closing Message
Drinks and BBQ at Holy Cross



SUNDAY 26TH – 1.25 P.M – 5.30 P.M AEST

Gerard Daly – Welcome

Endeavour Hills Companions – Prayer

Brian Traynor CP – Community and Connecting in our times
Chat Room

Tom McDonough CP – Cultural Challenges and Learning
Chat Room

Luke Bulley CP – Video presentation – Future directions

New Zealand Companions – Ritual

Gerard Daly – Farewell Message

Cross and Passion Sisters – Final Blessing
Drinks and BBQ at Holy Cross



For further information please contact Gerard Daly: gerard.daly23@bigpond.com

Humour

1. Q. What do you get if you cross a judge with poison ivy?
A. A rash judgement!

2. In La Vegas there are more gambling chips than churches so it is not surprising that some Sunday worshippers donate casino chips rather than cash or direct debit.

Since there are chips coming from many different casinos, the churches have devised a method of collecting what is offered. They send all their collected chips to a nearby Carmelite community for sorting, and from there the chips are taken to the casinos of origin and cashed in. This work is done by chip monks!

Definititons

BURGLARISE: What a crook sees through

BERNADETTE: The act of torching a mortgage

COUNTERFEITER: Workers who put together kitchen cabinets

LEFT BANK: What the bank robbers did when their bag was full of money

HEROES: What a man in a boat does

PARASITES: What you see from the Eiffel Tower

PARADOX: Two physicians

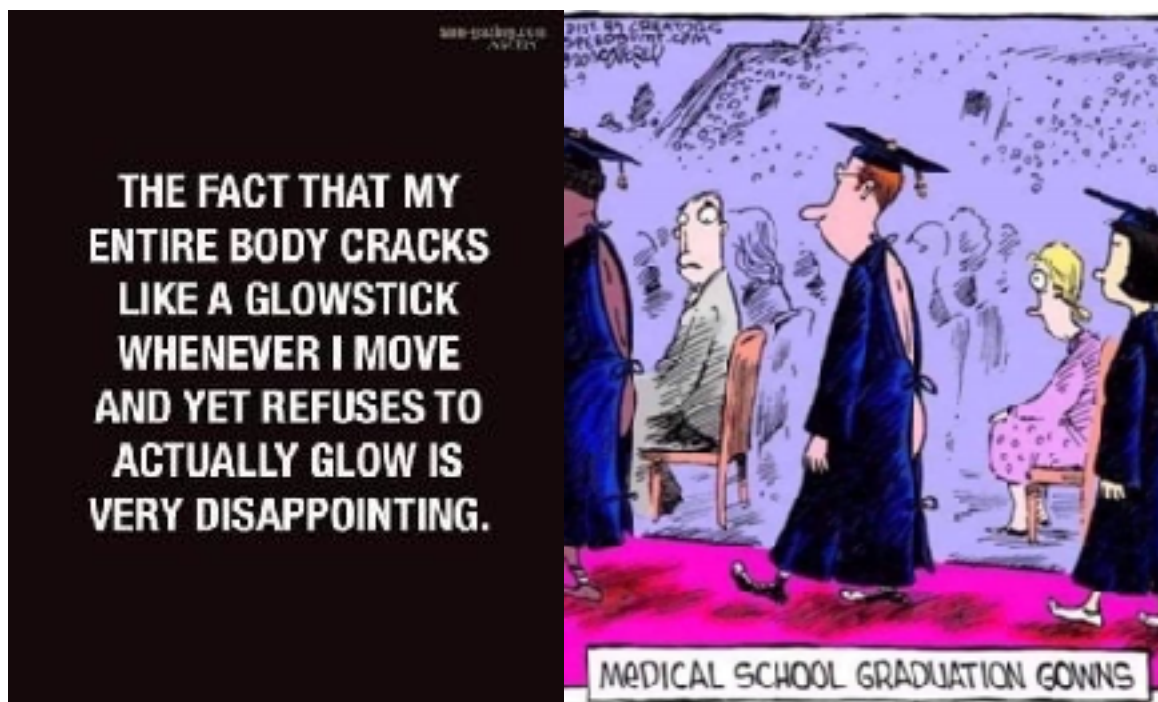
PHARMACIST: A helper on a farm

RELIEF: What trees do in spring

RUBBERNECK: What you do to relax your wife

SELFISH: What the owner of a seafood store does

SUDAFED: Brought litigation against a government official



Prayers

We remember those whose **anniversaries** are around this time and their families, especially:

Brett Daly (son of Gerard & Linda – 1st anniversary- 18th Sept)

Margaret Bick (Mother of Maree Metcalfe (20th Sept)

Michelle Rebello (Daughter of Maeve & John – 21st Sept)



We remember all in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially: Peter Owen, Alexander Lim, Gerry Bond, Pam Storey, Maree Bartoli, Monica and Anthona Hennessy, Lynda Chin, Bronwyn Burke, Maeve Reardon, Des Grisell, Michael O'Callaghan, Bernadette Own, Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Greg Agosta, Angelo Vigilante, Mary Hackett, Peter McNamara, Pam Gartland, Sr Gen

Walsh RSC,

Patricia Keeghan, Errol Lovett, Anne Jenkins. Chris O'Toole, Mary and Kate Dunn, Gerald Quinn CP

The **Mass link** for this Sunday (Week 24) will be sent on Saturday by Chris.

Brian