

Holy Cross Retreat

<https://holycrosscentre.com/community/>



23rd

February, 2024

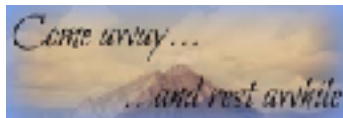
Letter 210

Greetings

St Gabriel's Festa

The annual celebration of St Gabriel (whose feast day is February 27th) will be held at Holy Cross this **Sunday Feb 25th**. The celebration will begin with Mass celebrated by Fr Chris in the St Gabriel shrine 'around the back' of our property. Following Mass and a procession there will be a shared lunch which you can purchase, then music and dancing throughout the afternoon. Parking is available on the oval.

Come Away Day



The first Come Away Day of the year will be held at Holy Cross on **Wednesday 28th February**. The theme of the day is **'Welcome the freshness of this new day'**.

The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, reflection and group interaction in the beautiful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. Just come as you are. BYO lunch. Registration is from 9.30am. The program concludes with a celebration of the Eucharist with a departure time of around 2pm. The cost of the day is \$25.00 or a donation according to your means. For any further details contact Sr Brigid cp on bridget.m64@gmail.com. Brochures about the 2024 Program are available in the Back Porch of the Chapel.

YTU



YTU studies resume on Monday February 26th. This will involve JD and Tri, and of course. Chris who is not only the President of YTU, but he will be lecturing on Tuesday nights.

Erick's University counselling studies resume on Monday, and he will have a heavier load this year, with night classes on Mondays and Wednesdays and practical placement studies on Thursdays and Fridays.

Away Phi is having ten days holiday in Sydney until March 1st and **Brian** is away in Vietnam for formation meetings until March 4th.

**THE PASSIONISTS OF
HOLY SPIRIT PROVINCE**



WARMLY INVITE YOU TO

THE DIACONATE ORDINATION OF

Br. Cao Anh Phi, CP

BY MOST REV. ANTHONY IRELAND DD. STD.

FRIDAY **MARCH**
22 AT 7:00 PM
2024

Holy Cross Retreat
207 Serpells road, Templestowe, VIC 3106

Refreshments to follow in the dining hall

Please RSVP for catering purposes by 15th March 2024
to phi.cao888@gmail.com or 0420 344 544

Brother Jerome's sister, Mary

We have been praying for Mary for many months. Despite having cancer, she has been looking after another of Jerome's sisters, Kate, who is disabled. They live in Benalla, and Mary has been advised that she has to begin palliative care, Please keep them (and another sister, Monica) in your prayers.

Fr Tony Kelly CSSR in Palliative Care

Tony belongs to the religious order of the Redemptorists. He has played a significant theological education role in the life of the Church through Yarra Theological Union (YTU) and the Australian Catholic University (ACU). Among many things, he wrote many books, taught theology, and was one of the early presidents of YTU for many years.



A few years ago Tony moved into respite care at Nazareth house. He is now in palliative care. We pray for healing and comfort to his heart in gratitude for the tremendous impact he had on all of us directly or indirectly. He taught a number of our Passionist lay and religious who have in turn been significant in our faith journey. We ask prayers for Tony.

Wisdom from Pope Francis

"There is no saint without a past, nor sinner without a future. The Church is not a community of the perfect, but rather of journeying disciples who follow the Lord because they recognise themselves as sinners and in need of His forgiveness. Christian life is therefore a school of humility that opens us up to grace".

(Pope Francis: General audience: 13th April, 2016)

Continue reading below for the full article...

Vatican City, 13 April 2016 – Being Christians does not make us impeccable, and pride and arrogance are a wall that prevent us from seeing the merciful face of God, said Pope Francis this morning during the Wednesday general audience in St. Peter's Square, attended by more than twenty thousand people.

The prologue of today's catechesis was the Gospel account of the call to Matthew who, as a publican, a tax collector on



behalf of the Roman empire, was considered by the Pharisees as a public sinner. However, Jesus invited him to follow Him, and was willing to share the table with him. He did not exclude Matthew or others who were considered sinners, thus demonstrating that they could be converted into His followers. "Being Christian does not make us impeccable", affirmed Francis. "Like the publican Matthew, each one of us is entrusted to the grace of God despite our sins. By calling Matthew, Jesus shows sinners that He does not look to their past, their social condition, or external conventions, but instead opens up to them a new future".

"There is no saint without a past, nor sinner without a future", commented the Pope. "It is sufficient to answer the invitation with a humble and sincere heart. The Church is not a community of the perfect, but rather of journeying disciples who follow the Lord because they recognise themselves as sinners and in need of His forgiveness. Christian life is therefore a school of humility that opens us up to grace".

However, those who believe themselves to be more righteous or better than others do not understand this behaviour. "Arrogance and pride prevent them from recognising themselves as being in need of salvation; on the contrary, these traits prevent them from seeing the

merciful face of God and from acting with mercy. They are like a wall that obstructs the relationship with God", Francis observed. "Jesus' mission is exactly this: to come in search of each one of us, to heal our wounds and to call us to follow Him with love. He says this clearly: 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick'. Jesus presents



Himself as a good doctor. He announces the kingdom of God, and the signs of His coming are clear: He heals the sick, and He frees from fear, from death and from the devil. Before Jesus, there is no sinner who can be excluded, because there is no infirmity that God's healing power cannot cure. And this must inspire trust in us. Calling sinners to His table, He cures them and re-establishes within them that vocation that they believed to be lost, and which the Pharisees have forgotten: being invited to God's banquet".

If the Pharisees considered the invitees solely as sinners and refused to be seated alongside them, Jesus on the contrary reminds them that they too are God's guests. "Sitting at the table with Jesus means being transformed and saved by Him. In the Christian community, the table of Jesus is twofold: the Word and the Eucharist. With the first, the Word, He reveals himself and invites us to a dialogue between friends. Jesus was not afraid of dialogue with sinners, nor with publicans, nor with prostitutes. His Word – frees us from the evil that is concealed in our lives ... He gives

us strength and hope. The Eucharist, in turn, nourishes us with the very life itself of Jesus . Partaking in the Eucharist we nourish ourselves with the Body and Blood of Jesus, and yet coming to us, it is Jesus Who unites us to His Body".

Jesus concluded the dialogue with the Pharisees by reminding them of the words of the prophet Hosea - "I desire steadfast love, not sacrifice" – with which he reproved the people of Israel, as their prayers were empty and incoherent. "Despite the covenant of God and mercy, the people often lived a form of superficial religiosity without living the Lord's command in depth. For this reason the prophet insisted on mercy, that



is, the loyalty of a heart that recognises its own sins, that repents and is again faithful to the covenant with God. 'And not sacrifice': without a repentant heart, any religious act is ineffectual! Jesus also applies this prophetic phrase to human relations: those Pharisees were very religious in appearance, but they were not willing to share their table with publicans and sinners; they did not recognise the possibility of repentance and therefore of healing; they did not put mercy first, and although they were faithful guardians of the Law, they showed that they did not know God's heart".

The Pope concluded by reiterating that we are all invited to the Lord's table: "Let us make ours the invitation to be seated beside Him, along with His disciples. Let us learn to look with mercy and to recognise in each one of them a companion. We are all disciples who need to experience and live the comforting word of Jesus. We all need to be nourished by God's mercy, as it is from this source that our salvation springs".



Carpark

Thankfully we found the cause of the trouble with the damaged section of the car park. Vince lifted some of the concrete and found several very large tree roots had created the trouble. Vince was able to remove the rubble and do a temporary repair job. Later we can re-concrete it. There is another small section we need to do as well (where the bollards are) in the second photo below. We are extremely grateful to Vince for his generosity and expertise, and to Bruno who was safety

officer and overseer
of the operation.



Humour

Joe appeared on 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' and was halfway to the final prize. "Now", the host said, "for one million dollars, and remember you only have one phone a friend life-line left. Everything is riding on this last question.

Prayers

We remember those who have passed away recently and those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially

Amerigo Spinoza (Feb 23rd)

Tony Di Blasio (Feb 25th) Pia's husband

Darcy Reidy (26th Feb)

Stan Wells (Feb 27th) an early member of the 'A' Team

We remember all others in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially.



Fr Tony Kelly, Tony Tome, Maree Bartoli, Pam Storey, Paul Geoghegan, Mary Dunn Carol Batistella, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Alexander Lim, Michael O'Callaghan, Maeve & John Reardon, Peter McNamara, Gerry Bond, Shirley Barnes, Bronwyn Burke, Helen McLean, Monique Harding, Phil Drew, Mary Hackett, Pam Gartland, Patricia Keeghan, Anne Jenkins, Errol Lovett, Greg Agosta, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Kate Dunn, Chris O'Toole, Gerald Quinn CP, Jeff Foale CP and baby Alfred Theodore in London.

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

Brian and Erick.