

## Holy Cross Retreat

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



8<sup>th</sup>

March, 2024

### Letter 212

Greetings

Fr Warakaranguruyemuribibihevyoroshe received so many complaints last week about some misplaced images in the newsletter that for some reason he referred them all to Erick who made it abundantly clear he didn't want to know about it. Seriously, a big thank you to Erick for continuing the newsletters.

It is good to be back after a very beneficial series of meetings in Singapore, Manila Saigon. Denis Travers and I travelled together and our first stop was Singapore where we met with our three Vietnamese formators in a retreat house that enabled everyone to be away from everyday commitments and distractions. There are many challenges trying to provide a suitable formation programme for personal accompaniment.

We do have men who are generous and willing, but at this stage have limited experience in preparing men for the complexities of being members of an international Congregation. We were able to have open discussions about a number of matters and we would have benefited from even more time together.



We continued on to Manila to have some discussions with the Passionist Provincial and Council to see if we could further the PASPAC goals of collaborating in areas of formation. The warm welcome we received from our Filipino brothers was



wonderful. This included being met at Manila airport at 11.45pm and being dropped back three days later at 3.45am by Chris Aitaken). It was great to see a number of familiar faces and to enjoy the fraternity. We are confident that some

initiatives will come from that visit.

### Mass in shopping mall

We stayed in Holy Rosary parish community in Paranaque, Manila which is in the care of the Passionists. There is a parish church and five chapels and on Sundays, there are 15 Masses to be celebrated. Men from the other four Passionist communities in Manila are sometimes able to help. If not, then three priests celebrate those fifteen Masses! There is also a makeshift chapel in the local shopping mall, set up for Mass before 9.00am and dismantled before 10.00am. This is always a very well attended Mass.



The attraction of imminent shopping and air-conditioning makes Mass and shopping, attractive to many people. In fact throughout Metro Manila there are ten shopping malls with a church or chapel attached to the mall or inside it. A wealthy Catholic owns these shopping malls and has made this arrangement with the approval of the Archbishop,

who is able to pay a stipend to priests for celebrating Mass and accept the collections! The photo on the left shows one shopping mall chapel that holds 1,000 people.

Instead of bringing the coffee cart to Holy Cross, maybe we could take the people to 'The Pines' each Sunday!

There has been substantial growth in Manila since I was last there. This is obvious from the many new buildings, new districts, new cars and some better roads I saw, in the short drive we took one afternoon. There are twenty casinos in Metro Manila, most of which are located near the Manila Bay area and Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Parañaque. The City of Dreams casino is built on a 6.2 hecre (15 acre) block.



We farewelled Manila with an early start (alarm at 3.15am). That detail is important for all the people who will otherwise ask, "did you have a good holiday?" Our next stop was Saigon, Vietnam where it was considerably hotter than either Manila or Singapore, and they were hot! We had further meetings related to formation which kept us occupied, and the two communitioes and Passionist sisters celebrated the feast of St Gabriel on the rooftop of our temporary Aspirant residence. Unfortunaely I was unwell that evening and unable to attend. The next evening a benefactor from

Marrickville supplied a sumptuous meal for the community which was a boisterous evening, for which again, I was absent. I did hear the noise from the dining room!



Denis and I had a very beneficial time in Saigon. It was good to see our students in good form, though many feel weighed down by their study load. We learned that a new building for aspirants to be erected on our St Gabriel's site, would begin this past Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. This building will be just four metres wide and four stories high. In time, it is hoped to be able to have a rooftop entertainment area, but regulations do not allow that yet.

They work quickly in Vietnam. The building is expected to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>!

Meanwhile, Holy Cross celebrated the feast of St Gabriel and held the first 'Come Away' day for the year, as reported in last week's newsletter.

Coming up this week on Thursday and Friday, is the first ever gathering of the lay staff of our Province.

### **Finance manager**

Today we farewell Rose Cincotta who has been special part of Holy Cross for five years. As with many experiences in life this is sad, but necessary. We thank Rose for her personal warmth and her financial competence.

We are fortunate to have appointed Cecilia Rogers to take up the Holy Cross Finance Manager role, from Rose. Since 2015, Cecelia has been Business Manager at the 'Heart of Life Centre' for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, which a number of our men have attended, so we are looking forward to Cecelia bringing her gifts and experience to Holy Cross. As always, it will take some time for Mayrose and Cecelia to sort out what needs to be done, but Vin Molloy will be a valuable back up. We are most grateful to Vin and Mayrose for organising the advertising of the role, fielding applications and with John Hogan, assisting in the interviews.

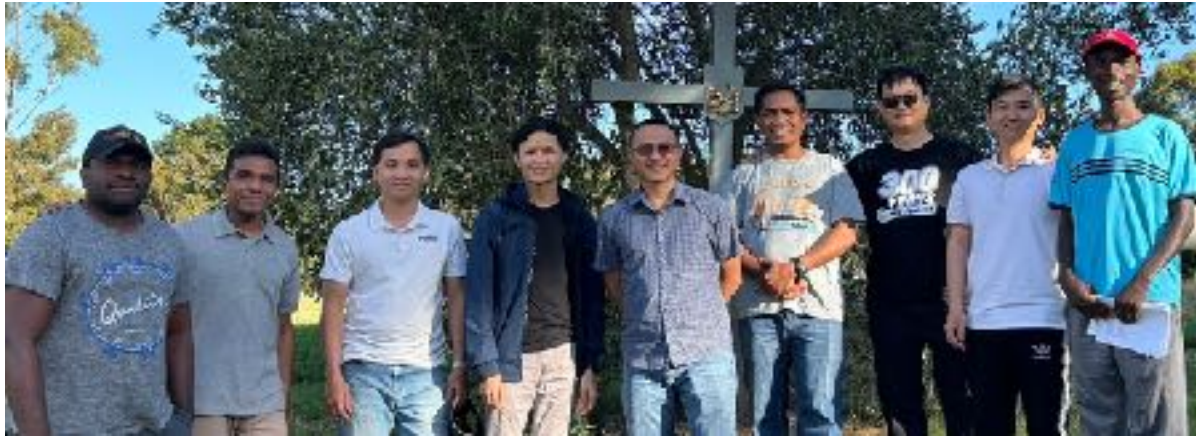
### **Seatbelts**



In Queensland, drivers caught not wearing a seatbelt are fined \$1,161 and receive four demerit points. Furthermore, the driver is held responsible for ensuring all passengers are wearing their seatbelts correctly. Some drivers have been fined because the passenger had a coat over the seatbelt, and camera shots could not prove the seatbelt was being worn correctly. So the advice is – 'buckle up', wherever you live.

### Community Stations of the Cross

Last Friday most of the community prayed the Stations of the Cross around the grounds. It was a beautiful day. Afterwards they posed for this photo. One interesting feature is that there is a Papua New Guinean, two Indonesians, five Vietnamese and one Burundian!



Joey Budi Tri Thang Phi Rafael JD Hai Erick



Here is Rafael extending a final blessing.



After completing the Stations Rafael commented that at each Station they had sung, "Jesus remember me..." but not "Jesus I will remember you!"

## Fr Tony Kelly Csr



Redemptorist theologian Anthony (Tony) Kelly passed away on Tuesday this week. Tony was a wonderful lecturer that we Passionists greatly appreciated. On hearing the news of his death, my classmate Emeritus Professor Terry Lovat wrote, *“We had plenty of theologians of various quality along the way. He was by far the best, in my view. I owe my passion for theology to him. Like Bonhoeffer, he made it work. He showed it has a place among the disciplines of knowing. That it can generate insights that other disciplines don’t necessarily provide. He was also the only one, as far as I can recall, who made reference to the theologies of Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, and did it so respectfully. That was an important lesson in itself for those of us brought up to think narrowly about theological truth. He will be missed”.* May he rest in peace.

## Some amazing facts about elephants

- A male elephant can weigh 6,000 kgs and a new-born calf can weigh 120kgs.
- They eat up to 150kgs a day
- A trunk can hold 8 litres of water and an elephant will drink 150 litres a day
- They have around 150,000 muscle cells in their trunks.
- Dust and mud baths keep their skin clean and protect them from sunburn
- Elephant tusks are actually teeth
- A calf can stand up within twenty minutes and walk within one hour. They can keep up with the herd after two days
- They communicate through vibrations especially in the ground (they hear through their feet as well as through their ears) and they can detect storms and some earth sounds up to 150 kilometres away
- Sadly, 90% of African elephants have disappeared in the past hundred years, mainly for ivory trading
- Researchers have found that elephants exhibit substantial intelligence, including grief, altruism, mimicry, play, art, use of tools, and self-awareness

Watch Suda the elephant painting1



[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tiZGFh4_BAE)

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### **HOLY WEEK**

Holy Week begins on **Palm Sunday**, March 24<sup>th</sup>.

We will gather out the front of the chapel for the procession liturgy and then move into the chapel. After Mass the **Coffee Cart** will be here.

There will be **7.30pm Mass on Holy Thursday** followed by movement to the Corbett room and the 'altar of repose'.

**The Passion Play** is being held in the grounds on **Good Friday morning**

At **3.00pm** on **Good Friday** we will celebrate the **Commemoration of the Passion**. If the weather permits, this will be outside 'under the trees'. If you BYO a chair, that will help us.

At **6.00am** we will have the early **Easter Sunday liturgy in the St Gabriele shrine**. This will be followed by a **breakfast** (by donation) in the Holy Cross Centre dining room.

There will be the usual Sunday morning **10.00am Mass** also on **Easter Sunday**.

### **Passionist Institute 2024 – Date claimer**

This event will be held again by Zoom.

### **Saturday November 16th**

10.50am- 2.45pm	<b>AEST</b>
9.50am- 1.45pm	<b>PNG and Brisbane</b>
12.50am- 4.45pm	<b>New Zealand</b>
6.50am- 10.45am	<b>Vietnam</b>

### **Sunday November 17th**

1.25pm - 5.30pm	<b>AEST</b>
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12.25pm -4.30pm	<b>PNG and Brisbane</b>
3.25pm -7.30pm	<b>New Zealand</b>
9.25am -1.30pm	<b>Vietnam</b>

### Beautiful places

Take one minute to marvel at the beauties in the natural world and some of the monument built around them.

<https://m.youtube.com/shorts/qPg4NyUYMOI>



### Car

### park improvement

A few of us have been concerned for some time about the loose gravel in the carpark area closest to the chapel path. This area is helpful for those with physical issues, and it has been a matter of safety that we try to improve it, even though it involved considerable expense. An asphalt contractor working in the area offered to asphalt this area at a reduced rate, so it will be done over today and tomorrow and be ready for Sunday.

We would request that this parking space be left as a priority please for people who are disabled or who need more secure footing when getting in and out of their car.



## Humour



1. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
2. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
3. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
4. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
5. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
6. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
7. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
8. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, 'You stay here, I'll go on a head.'
9. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
10. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab centre said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
11. A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'
12. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
13. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
14. Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects.



15. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian

1. After the wedding, the little ringbearer asked his father, “Why can a man marry so many women?”

“No! he can only marry one,” his father said. “Why do you ask that?”

“Because the priest said he could marry sixteen,” the boy replied, puzzled.

“When did the priest say that?” his father asked.

The priest said “the man takes 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer.”

2. It was his first day at church and the little boy watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, “Don’t pay for me, Daddy; I’m under five.”

3. During a Sunday school lesson, a child learned how God created humans. He became especially focused when the teacher explained how Eve was created from Adam’s ribs. Later in the week, the boy’s mother saw him lying on the floor and asked what was wrong. He replied, “Mum, I have a pain in my side—I think I’m getting a wife!”

4. A little girl attended a wedding for the first time. While in the church, she asked her mother: “Why is the bride dressed in white?” The mother replied, “Because white is the colour of happiness, and it’s the happiest day of her life today.” After a little thought the girl looked up at her mother and says: “But then why is he wearing black?”

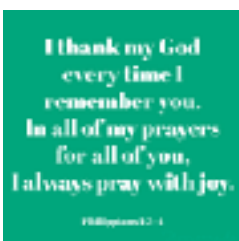
### Prayers

We remember those who have passed away recently, especially [Fr Tony Kelly Csr](#) and [Connor Whyte](#). We also remember those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially:

[Alexander Lavery](#) (March 9<sup>th</sup>)

[Peter Gaughan CP](#) (March 16<sup>th</sup>)

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



Maree Bartoli, Pam Storey, Tony Tome, Carol Batistella, Peter McNamara, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Alexander Lim, Michael O’Callaghan, Maeve & John Reardon, Gerry Bond, Shirley Barnes, Bronwyn Burke, Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Monique Hardinge, Mary Hackett, Pam Gartland, Greg Agosta, Patricia Keeghan, Anne Jenkins, Errol Lovett, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Kate & Mary 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