

## Holy Cross Retreat

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

Holy Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March



### Letter 216

So that we can focus on Good Friday events, the newsletter is a day early this week.

Last week was a very busy week for the community. We had a lot of visitors for the Community Leader's meeting and Phi's diaconate. It was great to have so many of our Vietnamese brothers here. Phi will transfer to Adelaide on Easter Tuesday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) so we especially thank him and wish him well.

The community (Jerome, Chris, Erick, Joey, Rafael, Budi, Phi, Tri, Hai, Thang, Cu'ong and myself, extend our greetings and blessing to you and your loved one this Easter. We especially remember all those who are unwell, alone or estranged from family or community. **"Happy Easter"**

### Easter newsletter

The Sisters (Brigid and Karen) **have a newsletter you can access at**

<https://sistersofthecrossandpassion.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Easter-Newsletter-204.pdf>

### Easter liturgies

**Holy Thursday:** **Mass** in the chapel at 7.30pm

### Good Friday:

#### 10.00am Passion Play

Several of the community members attended on Sunday and were greatly impressed and moved by the performance

#### 3.00pm Commemoration of the Passion in the chapel

You are advised to come early, to be assured of a seat. Please feel free to park on the oval.

**This Good Friday liturgy will be live-streamed**

<https://www.youtube.com/live/XhgGP4ePsA4?si=gAy4CSznIZK0hhI8>

### Easter Sunday:

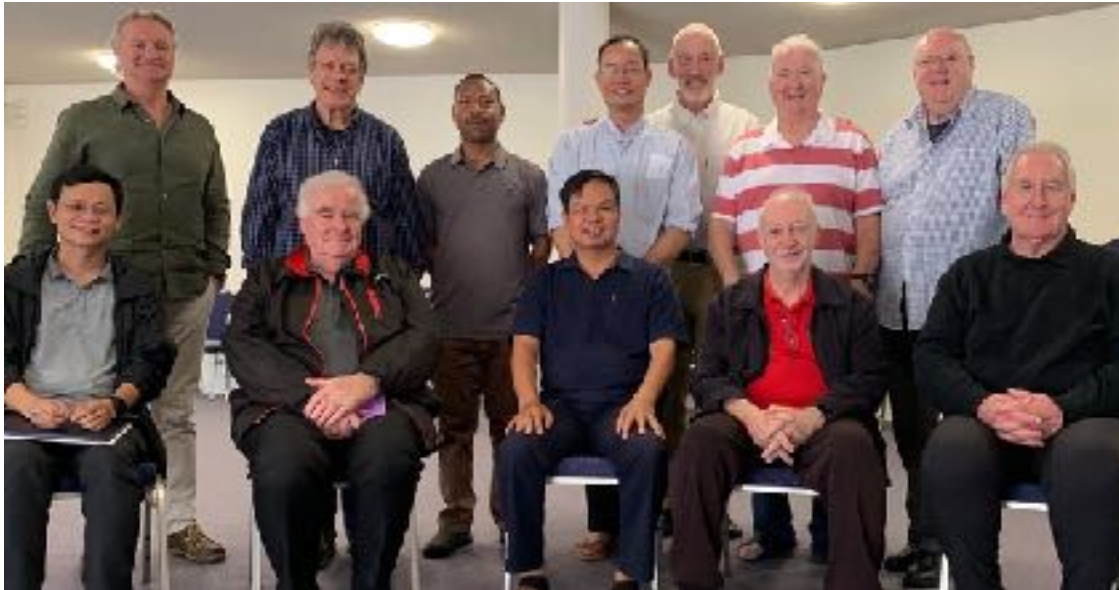
**6.30am Mass** in the St Gabriel Shrine.

A donation for breakfast is appreciated). Please feel free to park on the oval.

**10.00am Mass** in the chapel

**Community Leaders meeting**

This photo was taken of the Province community leaders who met with Fr Denis at Holy Cross for two days last week.



**From the back**

Brendan  
Tue

John  
Tiernan

Pastor  
Dien

Vuong  
Dien

David Leary OFM (facilitator)

Brian  
Ray

Denis

Tom

**Deacon Phi**



Already you have received a copy of the homily from Phi's diaconate. It was a great thrill that his parents and some other relatives were able to attend both his graduation as a Bachelor of Theology and his diaconate ordination.

**From left to right**

**Minh (Dad) Phi Bishop Tony An (Mum) Hong LCDCL (aunt) Tien SVD (uncle)**



The Passionist family who attended Phi's diaconate ordination

### Vietnam promises closer ties with the Holy See

By La Croix International staff

March 20, 2024 at 12:17 PM GMT+1, updated March 20, 2024 at 12:18 PM GMT+1



Statue of Our Lady of La Vang in Hai Lang district, Quang Tri province, Vietnam. (Photo by Bùi Thụy Đào Nguyễn / Wikimedia Commons / CC BY-SA 4.0 DEED)

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A top Vietnamese official has confirmed Vietnam and the Holy See's mutual respect and friendly ties, predicting growth in their relations and saying that the government

would be happy for Pope Francis to visit.

"The Vietnamese government would be happy to welcome Pope Francis," said Deputy Minister of Interior Vu Chien Thang, as reported by the online newspaper "Dang Cong San Vietnam" ("Communist Party of Vietnam") the party's official information organ. Thang, who is also the former head of the Government Committee for Religious Affairs, highlighted the positive role Vietnam's seven million Catholics have "with their presence and their work" in fostering closer Vatican ties. He said this will "create favourable conditions for the integration of the local church with the universal Church".



Thang, recalled how last July the Vatican and Vietnam took a step towards normalizing relations by agreeing to the presence of a "resident papal representative" in the communist country, following an official meeting between President Vo Van Thuong and Pope Francis. However, the presence of a resident papal representative falls short of full diplomatic relations with Vietnam.



Vietnam and the Holy See have made much progress in bilateral relations since establishing their Joint Working Group in 2009, fostering numerous meetings and discussions.

The group meets every year to discuss issues relating to establishing diplomatic ties. Vietnam severed ties with the Vatican in 1975 when northern communist forces took

control of US-backed South Vietnam and reunified the nation. The Communist authorities soon "confiscated" Church assets, privileges gained under both the French colonial rule and the South Vietnamese regime led by a Catholic president, Ngo Dinh Diem, who was assassinated in a 1963 coup.

Currently, Vietnam is the only Asian communist country to have an unofficial representative of the Vatican. "We have reached a level of good relations that was unthinkable ten years ago," said Archbishop Marek Zaleski, who became the first



papal representative in Vietnam last December. He said this was possible because "we are committed to being tolerant and understanding one another, and because the Vietnamese faithful are committed to being good citizens and good Catholics. Relations have improved, and I hope they will continue to improve in the future," he said. "My hope, not only personal but also that of the Holy See, is that one day we can have full diplomatic relations with Vietnam."

According to the latest statistics, the Church **in Vietnam** as of 2021 has over 7 million Catholics. three archdioceses and 24 dioceses, 26 active bishops, 20 retired bishops, about 3,000 parishes, 6,000 priests, and 31,000 religious in 200 associations, societies, and congregations. This compares with 5 million Catholics **in Australia** (20% of the population), 34 dioceses, 1392 parishes (including 97 Eastern rite Catholic parishes), 2,900 priests of whom 1096 are religious, and 4,110 religious sisters and brothers.

There are 2 million Catholics **in PNG** (27% of the population). 19 dioceses, 429 parishes, 92 priests of whom 314 are religious and 1262 religious sisters and brothers. There are 296,000 Catholics **in New Zealand** (10% of the population). 6 dioceses, 271 parishes, 530 priests and 1200 religious sisters and brothers.

### **Passionists in Vietnam**



Vietnam became part of Holy Spirit Province in 2015. The first two Passionist candidates had joined ten years earlier. There are now 15 Vietnamese Passionist priests, 4 deacons and 18 professed students.

These men are aware that they have joined an international Congregation. They belong to a Province that includes Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, and a Configuration that includes Indonesia, India, Japan, Korea, China, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Vietnam and Australia

At the present time there are 3 Vietnamese priests, 4 deacons and 4 students living and working in Australia. They are making a great contribution to the Province and acquiring knowledge and skills that they will be able to take back to the Church in Vietnam or elsewhere.

### **Coffee Cart**

There are a great turn up for Mass on Palm Sunday, and a real buzz afterwards around the coffee cart. Our thanks again to those who prepared food, erected the marquees and bollards and most importantly, covered the cost of the coffees.







### Humour

- Q How does an Easter chick bake a cake?  
 A. from scratch!
- Q What do you call an unconventional Easter egg?  
 A. Egg-centric
- Q What do you call a forgetful rabbit?  
 A. Harw-brain.
- Q What do you call a dancing chick?  
 A. Poultry in motion!
- Q What do you call a rabbit with fleas?  
 A. Bugs Bunny!
- Q What do rabbits say before they eat?  
 A. Lettuce pray.
- Q Why don't you see dinosaurs at Easter?  
 A Because they are eggs-tinct.
- Q Why was the Easter Bunny hired for the job?  
 A He had the most eggs-perience!
- Q What did the kids do when their treats were all hidden on Easter morning?  
 A They demanded an eggsplanation!
- Q What would you get if you crossed the Easter Bunny with a famous French general?  
 A Napoleon Bunnyparte!



**1.** A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car. The father offered his son the following deal.

“You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.”

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it. After about six weeks his father said, “Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut.”

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.”

His Dad said, “Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?”

**2.** A young monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to helping the other monks in copying the old canons and laws of the church, by hand.

He notices, however, that all of the monks are copying from copies, not from the original manuscript. So, the new monk goes to the Old Abbot to question this, pointing out that if someone made even an error in the first copy, it would never be picked up! In fact, that error would be continued in all of the subsequent copies.

The head monk, says, “We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son.”

He goes down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscripts are held as archives, in a locked vault that hasn't been opened for hundreds of years. Hours go by and nobody sees the Old Abbot. So, the young monk gets worried and goes down to look for him. He sees him banging his head against the wall and wailing. “We missed the R! We missed the R! We missed the bloody R!” His forehead is all bloody and bruised and he is crying uncontrollably. The young monk asks the old Abbot, “What's wrong, father?”

With a choking voice, the old Abbot replies,

“The word was—CELEBRATE!”



“Because of the excellent attendance today, I’ve decided every Sunday will be an Easter Sunday”.

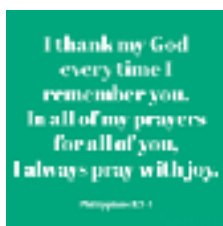




### Prayers

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

- Winifred Burkett** (23rd March)
- Wilfred Gonsalvez** (23rd March)
- Mary-Ellen Boulton** (24th March) Geoff's wife
- Paul Norden** (25th March) Mary's son
- Judy Froot** (25th March) PFG's
- Tanya Balnaves** (26th March) Fr Charles' wife
- Joan Haussegger** (28th March)



We remember all others in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially. Margaret Enriquez, Maree Bartoli, Pam Storey, Tony Tome, Carol Batistella, Peter McNamara, Alexander Lim, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Michael O'Callaghan, Shirley Barnes, Maeve & John Reardon, Bronwyn Burke, Gerry Bond, Phil Drew, Helen McLean, 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

