

## Holy Cross Retreat

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



5<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

### Letter 217



This weekend daylight saving ends, so we get an extra hour of sleep. The advice is to put our clocks back one hour before we go to bed on Saturday night. In the image to the side, here, the time at 3.00am becomes 2.00am. So if you normally go to bed at 10.00pm, move the clock to 9.00pm and smile at the thought of an extra hour of sleep.

### Easter

*"If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith"*

*(I Cor 15:14)*

Thank you to everyone who assisted in the Easter liturgies. At such special times our Passionist community is grateful for our wider family who support us in faith, as well as in other ways. To see faces we love, some of them affected by personal pain or the pain of caring for a loved one, sharing in our liturgies, is most uplifting. Thanks to everyone for your presence, and again special thanks to Tri for all his work on presenting the Power Points for Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Fr Denis announced yesterday that Tri has been accepted for **Final Profession** (on July 12<sup>th</sup>).

### Holidays

The ELDPM students have been on holidays this week and the YTU students (JD and Tri) have been on non-instruction break until Monday.

### Tina's reflection

Tina Minichilli shared this reflection.....

During Lent I found this which I prayed daily and wanted to share it.

*"As we walk through life's valleys and ascend its peaks, let us carry the message of Christ's resurrection within us. Let it strengthen our resolve, uplift our spirit, and rekindle our faith. Let it remind us that in every ending, there is a beginning, in every death, there is life, and in every despair, there is hope. Let us, therefore, rejoice in the knowledge that we are not alone on our journey. For Christ has risen, and in Him, we find the courage to rise again".*

### Concession stamps



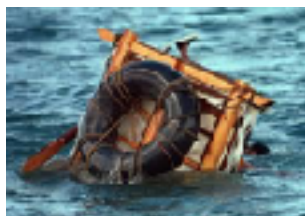
Many thanks to those who have provided concession stamps for the newsletter

delivery. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### **The struggle of so many peoples – Cuba!**

#### **The Trauma of the Returnee (Nuria Lopez Torres)**

Cuba is in the middle of its largest exodus in sixty-five years amid a collapse in its economy. In 2022, U.S. border authorities intercepted 313,499 Cubans by land and sea. Despite expanding humanitarian parole in 2023, the United States still cannot accommodate the high demand, and Cubans continue to look for new ways to leave their country and for other places to go.



While some Cubans succeed in beginning new lives elsewhere, others are forced to return—a process that is often psychologically, physically, and financially traumatic. The vast majority of Cubans sell their houses, cars, furniture, and appliances to raise enough money to emigrate. In the most extreme cases, returnees without money or prospects have taken their own lives. “In this country,” explains one would-be migrant,



“there is no future for young people. Really, there is no future for anyone.” In the absence of material opportunities, people in many Cuban communities rely on networks of family and friends to support one another. And many who failed to escape the country the first time they tried, are still hoping to try again.

Alexis and his family sold everything they owned to buy the materials for the boat they tried to take to the United States. They were intercepted a few miles from shore and deported. Back in the fishing village of Jaimanitas, outside Havana, they can’t work because they are deportees, and they can’t start a private business because they have no money left. They live with the help of neighbours and relatives and without the ability to migrate again. Alexis Jr. attempted suicide; his daughter suffers from chronic nightmares about the police and the sea.

Kiriam saved enough money to ensure she did not have to sell the small apartment where she lived with her mother when she left Cuba. She hoped to move to Spain and then bring her mother to Europe. After paying €3,000 for the journey and for legal papers, she entered Europe via Russia, which does not require visas for Cuban citizens.



But instead of traveling to Barcelona, she was detained for two months in a Russian prison and then deported. She was isolated in a subfreezing cell: “I thought I was going crazy when, after a month, I started talking to myself out loud and answering my questions as if I were someone else.” Thinking of the process makes her cry. “I was in

Russia in a cell ten meters square, and now I'm in a cell the size of an island."

Many Cubans emigrate in hopes of providing financial support for family members who stay in Cuba. When Dayron went to Russia, he wanted to help his mother, who lived in a small, rural town without reliable electricity or water. In Russia, Cubans cannot gain status as permanent residents Dayron worked in terrible conditions and barely earned enough money to support himself.. After suffering through a year of loneliness and



economic insecurity, a physical assault, and an extended illness, he decided to return to Cuba. The shame of failing in his migration process weighs heavily on Dayron. He is trying to overcome the feeling of failure and earn some money as a cab driver with an old 1950s car.

### Phi's farewell

The community shared a meal on Monday night to farewell Phi, which included a personal sharing, including a most touching reflection and sharing by Phi of his experience at Holy Cross. One of his classmates, Tuan Paul (front row) currently at Endeavour Hills, joined us, as did Tim Horlock (seen in the second photo).





This is Phi with Erick (co-driver) on arrival in Glen Osmond

**Indonesian soldiers take command at Holy Cross.**

Second from the left is **Budi** and second from the right is **Rafael** our Indonesian brothers, who participated in the Good Friday Passion Play.



### Companions' retreat

We will be offering a retreat to our Passionist Companions from Holy Cross and Endeavour Hills, on **Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>** 10.00am-5.30pm including concluding Eucharist then drinks and a BBQ at 6.00pm. Anyone interested in our spirituality is most welcome for part or all of the day.

Please contact Gerard Daly if you require details on

### Province Formation news



Fr Denis announced some news yesterday regarding student movement throughout the Province.

Our initial formation stages in Vietnam have been very lengthy, prior to novitiate. Applicants undertake a three or four year university programme while either living-in or having regular contact, as an aspirant. They then undertake a general year of orientation with increased English studies. Next they move to our St Paul's community to undertake two years of philosophy (or three years if they study at the Jesuits).

At the completion of philosophy they transfer to Holy Cross in Melbourne to undertake a year of postulancy with a major focus on learning English at ELSPM, the language study centre established by the Passionists. Until COVID, the postulants then progressed to Adelaide to undertake novitiate. In recent years, the novitiate has taken place in Saigon. All this represented a minimum of eight years before taking vows.



The change that will come into effect, is that following university and the year of orientation, the men will progress to their postulancy year at St Gabriel's in Saigon, and then immediately to novitiate. This will mean that profession will normally occur two or three years earlier than has been usual. We anticipate a novitiate may occur every second year.

There will be six Vietnamese participants in the next novitiate class, including two men who were here last year (Thang and DJ) and the three current postulants, Hai, Thang and Cu'ong. The sixth member, Hậu is completing his third year of philosophy in Saigon. In a new initiative they will undertake their novitiate in the Philippines, with five local novices, under the leadership of Fr Chris Aitakan CP who is well known to us in Australia. He served as novice director assistant to Bro Larry Finn. Chris will have Fr Willie Estrada as his assistant, who was novice master for the class that Erick was a part of in Adelaide in 2011. Bro Larry will also offer specialist assistance. The Vietnamese contingent will travel to southern Philippines on July 12th, with Fr Chris.



There are other ongoing matters that require adjustment including the new building to be completed mid-year on the St Gabriel's property and readjustment of formators for groups of students. This is 'happy' problem of having a large number of students.

### **Humour**

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?"

### **Funny insurance claims**

The car in front stopped suddenly and I crashed gently into his luggage grid.

I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I haven't got.

I blew my horn but it would not work as it had been stolen

I collided with a stationary tram coming the other way.

A pedestrian hit me and went under my car

An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished.

As I approached an intersection a sign suddenly appeared in a place where no stop sign had ever appeared before.

Neither vehicle was to blame but if one was to blame, it was the other one.

I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident.

I had one eye on a parked car, another on approaching lorries, and another on the woman behind.

I knocked over a man. He admitted it was his fault as he had been run over before.

I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment.





A priest told the congregation at Mass one Saturday evening, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. So, to help you understand my sermon, I want you to read Chapter 17 of the gospel of Mark"

The next Sunday, before delivering his sermon, he asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Chapter 17 of Mark. Every hand went up!!! The priest smiled and said, "Mark has got only 16 chapters, so now I will proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying!"

### Prayers

We remember those who have died recently and those remembering anniversaries of loved ones at this time, especially:

**Gwen O'Shannessy** (5<sup>th</sup> April)

**Ronald Chapman** (April 7<sup>th</sup>) Jan's husband,

**Michael Doyle** (9<sup>th</sup> April)



**Ann McCrohan** (9<sup>th</sup> April) and  
**Dominic O'Brien** (11<sup>th</sup> April)

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



Margaret Enriquez, Maree Bartoli, Maureen Barns.  
Pam Storey, Tony Tome, Carol Battistella, Peter McNamara,  
Peter & Bernadette Owen, Alexander Lim, Michael O'Callaghan,  
Maeve & John Reardon, Shirley Barnes, Bronwyn Burke,  
Gerry Bond, 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 by Chris on Saturday.

Brian