

Holy Cross Retreat

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



24th May, 2024

Letter 224

We cannot wait to welcome Brian back



Brian will return from his holidays this weekend. We cannot wait to see him back because work has accumulated, just waiting for him. The photo on the left was taken months ago, indicating the typical Brian, doing honourable work in the background.

We have missed his presence in our community, although as you all know he never stops working. He has been working while on holiday, shooting emails and being shot emails back like flying foxes. He was helpful whenever we were unsure about some things. I take this opportunity to thank my brothers, and sisters and all of you who helped keep Holy Cross going in Brian's half absence.

Congratulations Budi

The community celebrated Budi's test results a day before he received the good news! It was Chris' idea that we cheer for Budi on Friday last week at dinner, in the faith that he will have passed the IELTS test. Sure enough, the following day he got the good news.



Without passing the test, Budi would not be eligible for the visa he needs in order to go for missionary work in Vanimo, PNG. Congratulations to him and the ELSPM program that has helped him improve his English and be ready for the test.

Raphael who will later join Budi for the mission, is still working hard on his English. We also congratulate him for his improvement and courage to keep going.

Keeping the Italianism in the congregation

On Saturday of the Mother's Day weekend, Mr and Mrs Frank and Nicki Di



Giantomasso offered their time to teach some of us how to make pasta and tomato sauce from scratch. Hai and I enjoyed learning some new cooking skills but most of all, spending the time with them as we got to know each other more deeply. One of the brothers in the community joked saying, *"When Hai goes to the Philippines in July for the novitiate, he will have to cook real pasta"* for them. I imagine that St Paul would have had a lot of pasta to help him last a longer time in ministries without feeling too

hungry and yawning too much. Because St Paul of the Cross was Italian he would be happy to see that his culture continues to be alive in the congregation, worldwide. This may sound all very nice but to me what is even more nicer is when I tasted the freshly made pasta. I haven't yawned since then. We thank both Nicki and her husband 'Lord Frank' as she refers to him, for their time and effort to give us such a useful experience. Don't ask us to make the pasta just yet! We are still novices.

Luke's New Look and New Move



On Monday last week, Luke moved from the Endeavour Hills Community to Donvale where he will be focusing on Passionist Youth Retreat Team ministry. I was pleased to see him with a new look when I went there to help, or to slow him down as he moved house. Kevin Hennessy will soon follow to stay in the same community where Luke has now made a new home. Luke said how it was a mixed feeling of sadness and excitement to make this move. The good thing is that he is now near Holy Cross community. Welcome back near home, Luke.

A word from Pastor: Greetings to all



As you all know we have not heard often enough from Pastor since he left for Adelaide and then transferred to Tasmania as Parish Priest and community leader, in late January this year. I was pleased he accepted my request to share one thing with us about how he has been and his running. He wrote back saying:

"When Life Changes to be harder, Change yourself to be stronger"

Someone asked me, 'When is the best time to run a marathon?' I answered him, 'During Lent. That's when you fast!'

Upon arrival in Tassie, I was welcomed by this Hobart Airport marathon! I couldn't help myself but dived into it! I thought Tassie would be a bit flat like Melbourne or Adelaide without knowing that there are hills and mountains I have to train in. That made me climatised with the reality. Indeed there is a lot to explore, to

admire, to learn and even to be grateful for. Greetings to all."

Kevin McMahon represents Australian Vinnies

Kevin McMahon, one of our Holy Cross family members, is very involved in the St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies). Impressively for a newly civilised country, this year Australia celebrates 170 years since Vinnies began which is only 21 years since its foundation in Paris in 1833. It is incredible to note the significant impact Vinnies has had on the poor people of Australia over all those years.



Kevin has been a Victorian State President from 2018 – 2022. He currently represents Australia on an International Committee for the Society known as CIAD (Commission for International Aid and Development).

The role of the Commission is to make decisions about the distribution of funds to countries in need as a result of natural disasters or conflict. Since the Commission is

made up of representatives from many countries, most of the meetings are held via Zoom, but last month, Kevin was invited to attend some meetings in Dublin, which also coincided with Ireland's celebration of 180 years of the Society in Ireland.



“Behind a great man is a great woman.” Kevin’s wife, Sue travelled with him to Dublin and spent five days 17-22 April there. They said, “*We thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of the Irish Vinnies’ members, led by Ireland’s Society President, Rose McGowan.*” In addition to the meetings, on 20 April, there was a special celebration of the Society’s 180 years held at the

Dublin Convention Centre.

This included guest speakers, such as Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, a wonderful showcase of all the amazing Vinnies' good works in Ireland and a lunch attended by hundreds of Vinnies members and a number of delegates from other countries. The day culminated in the celebration of Mass.

Sue commented saying “*We felt very honoured to be part of this special occasion.*” Photos included here are from the occasion.



May we add that we feel very proud at Holy Cross to have Kevin and Sue represent us at such a high level of discipleship in the Church, particularly for the cause of Vinnies – a ministry of outreach to numerous people in need of care. Thank you and congratulations on your great work, Kevin and Sue.

Come Away Day numbers go up.



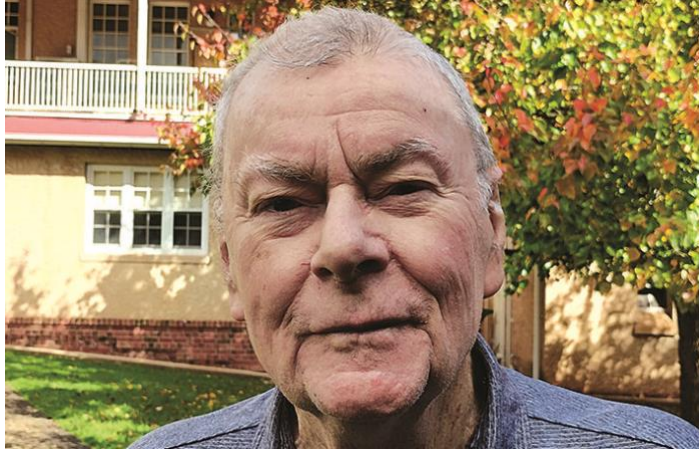
Last Wednesday, **Come Away Day** (CAD) was the most attended day for a long while. Nearing 20 people attended while on average there would normally be about 10.

The theme of the day was **'COME REST AWHILE AND RENEW'**. Fr JD reported after celebrating Eucharist for them

saying how much people enjoyed the experience.

In order not to miss the opportunity for the next CAD, you can ask Sr Brigid cp at bridget.m64@gmail.com We thank the CAD team for their Holy Cross Ministry of spiritual nourishment.

Fr Jeff Foale CP in the Southern Cross



Fr Jeff Foale at The Monastery in April.

A man and tome of many chapters

NATIONAL

It's a long way from kerosene hurricane lanterns on the farm near Pinnaroo to the bright lights and hustle and bustle of Ho Chi Minh City, but Father Jefferies Foale CP AM has taken it all in his stride.

[Lindy McNamara](#)

[Friday, April 26, 2024](#)

Part 3 of 3 (Final):

Back in Australia and after regaining his health, Fr Jeff returned to Adelaide to look after the retreat house at The Monastery.

When the first Vietnamese refugees began arriving on our shores in 1975, he felt called to be involved in refugee aid and advocacy groups locally, nationally and internationally. He headed the Indo-China Refugee Association (ICRA), which later became the Australian Refugee Association, and often provided comments for the media on the refugee situation.

For several years he had a fruitful ministry among the Vietnamese Catholics in Adelaide, including blessing 20 marriages. He was involved in many other related groups in Adelaide and across Australia, including the Multi-Faith Association, which he founded, and the Refugee Council of Australia, where he served as president. The Cambodian refugee crisis was also unfolding, and Fr Jeff believed it was time for the retreat house to be put to better use as part of the resettlement program. With the green light given, the Monastery Refugee Project was established and from June 1980 to June 1984, 1154 Cambodian refugees were housed at the Passionists' retreat house.

"On average they stayed about three months. One of the biggest issues we faced was their teeth," he said.

"All the refugees had rotten teeth and you can't be healthy with rotten teeth, so we had all these wonderful dentists volunteer their services, doctors also.

“We had a manager, a social worker, assistant social worker, and heaps of volunteer teachers teaching English, taking people to appointments. People from outside came and ‘adopted’ families, helping them get into a house and a job and kids into school.” Every parish in Adelaide, not just Glen Osmond, was involved. “It was a bit of a shot in the arm for the Archdiocese.”

Fr Jeff Foale building one of the airstrips in PNG in 1969.

Appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1984 for his ‘service to ethnic welfare’, Fr Jeff continued to serve at an international level and attended several meetings at the United Nations.

In 1990 he was part of a three-person international delegation that went into Lebanon to assess the needs of the country following the end of the civil war. In 1993 he attended the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights in Geneva, speaking on behalf of refugee interest groups to an audience of 9000 people. Every year he visited refugee camps in South East Asia, including Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Indonesia, fighting for admission of more refugees to Australia. At the request of Archbishop Leonard Faulkner, Fr Jeff set up the Catholic Multicultural Office within the Archdiocesan administration and ran it from 1990-94. His surroundings changed when he was elected to the Passionists’ international governing council based in Rome. His focus continued to be the Asia Pacific region, with occasional duties in Europe, US, Latin America and Africa.

Fr Jeff believes one of his major achievements in this role was researching and proposing a Passionist branch in Vietnam and being asked to lead it. Since 2005, 15 indigenous priests have been ordained and there are currently 36 seminarians. Another three priests will be ordained at The Monastery next month, after spending a year in Australia serving as deacons.

One of the young men who joined Fr Jeff’s community in Vietnam to become a Passionist, Fr Paul Kien, recently commenced working as assistant priest to Monsignor Paul Minh Tam at Our Lady of the Boat People, Pooraka. Planning to return to his base in Ho Chi Minh City this month, Fr Jeff said this was now his “home” and where he hopes to serve God for the rest of his days.

“I’ve just had these incredible new beginnings, starting a new life over and over, in



going to New Guinea, in refugee service based in Adelaide, 12 years in Rome, and now Vietnam which has become my home,” he said. “My legacy, I hope, will be ‘I love life’.”

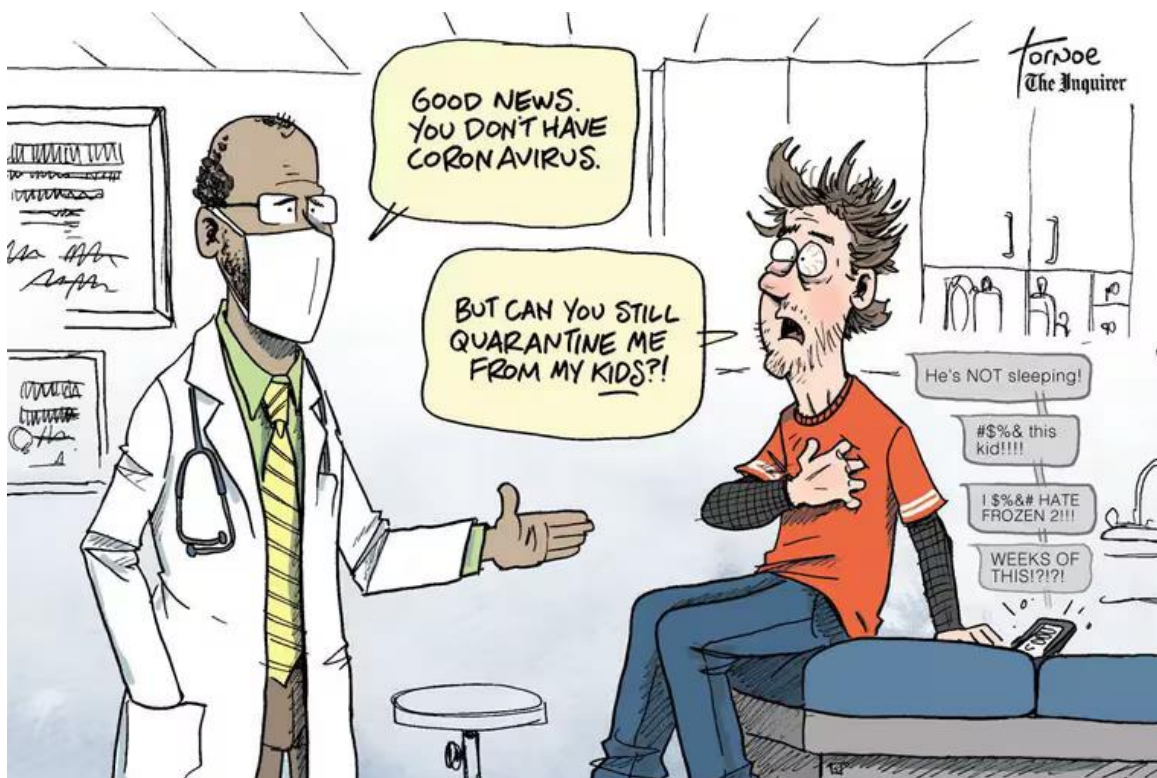
Pierre Lambert de la Motte: The Father of Modern Missions is available from ATF Press.

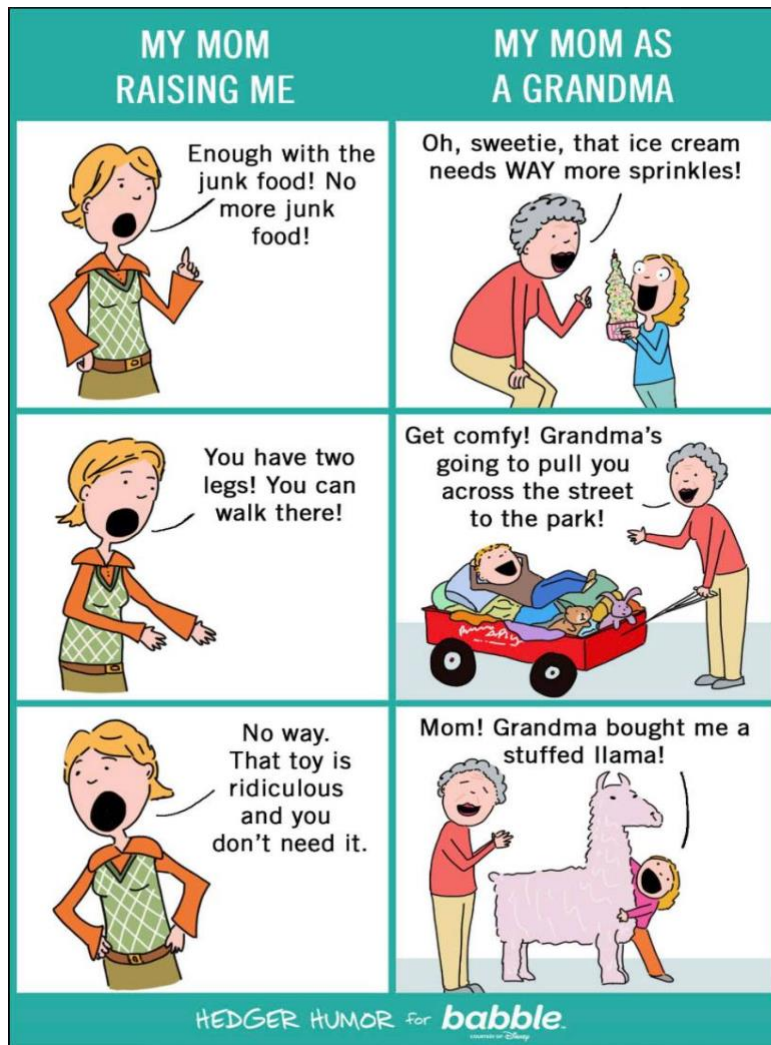
Humour:
been cold in Melbourne

it's



When COVID is an excuse to rest for a while!





Listen to the 'old lady'

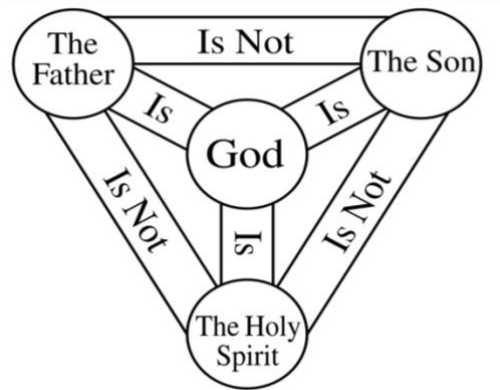
An old lady was on a flight. She was sitting beside a young businessman. After the in-flight meal, she took out her Holy Bible and started her devotion. The businessman glanced at her and said. *Do you really believe those stuff in the Bible is true?* "Well, yes, as a matter of fact, I do," said the old lady. "Yeah, right..." the man scoffs, *"like... what's that guy's name, the one who got swallowed by a whale..."* "You mean Jonah?" "Yeah, Jonah, I mean, how do you actually survive for 3 days in a fish's bowel?" "I don't know," replied the old lady, *"but I can ask him when I see him in heaven someday."* Feeling smart, the young man said: *"OK, but what if he's not in heaven because he went to hell?"* "Then young man, **you* can ask him*" replied the old lady calmly.

Happy Trinity Sunday



**The Holy
Trinity**

May 26, 2024



This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity.

How can you explain the Trinity? How can you explain Love? We define Love based on our experience, and not so much on facts because it is a feeling that is mysterious, and beyond our grasp. Let us seek to experience Divine Love, in order to better appreciate it in our own lives, - rather than only seek to understand how the Trinity works.

May you enjoy the celebration of our God, three in One!

Prayers

We remember all the recently deceased and those celebrating memories of loved ones, especially, [Gerald Wright](#) (27/5) [Simon Kearney](#) (28/5), [Kevin Flew](#) (29/5), [Marcellino Bortolotto](#) (30/5), [Jeff Daly CP](#) (31/5), and [Angelo Lamanna](#) (2/6).



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

Robyn Burns, Paul Darbyshire, Adrian Woon, Ann Burke, Margaret Enriquez, Maree Bartoli, Tony Tome, Carol Battistella, Peter Barns, John & Maeve Reardon, Pam Storey, Gerry Bond, Peter McNamara, Alexander Lim, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Michael O'Callaghan, 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, Mary Dunn, Chris O'Toole, Gerald Quinn CP, and baby Alfred Theodore in London.

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

Erick.