

Holy Cross Retreat

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

Letter 273

2nd May, 2025

Community activities:

Brian is away on holiday until May 23rd—we wish him a restful and well-deserved break, as he works incredibly hard. You know what they say: *“When the cat’s away, the mice will play.”*

However, on the very day Brian left, Tri, JD, and others were definitely *not* following in those playful footsteps. Instead, they were hard at work, cleaning!

In the photo, you can see them tackling a major fridge, freezer and kitchen clean-out, among many other tasks. So, we can safely say that these “mice” aren’t exactly playing—perhaps inspired by the great example set by our “cat,” (Brian) who quietly and willingly does so much cleaning and tidying around the centre, helping make it feel more like a welcoming home.

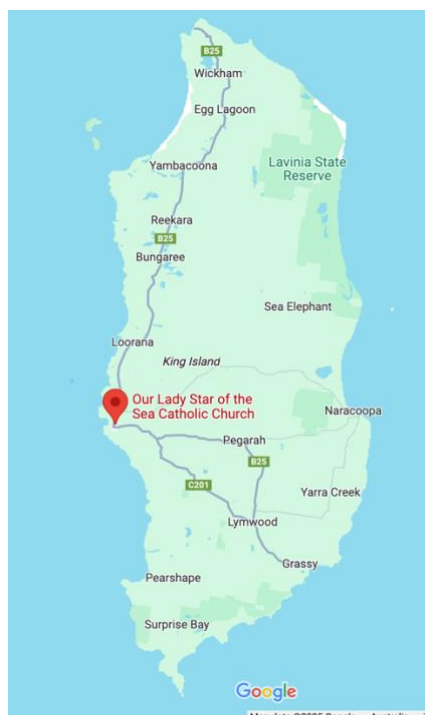


Mike sat his IELTS exam on April 26th. He left home at 7:15 a.m. and didn't return until 2:30 p.m.—a long and exhausting day that he's not eager to repeat! We're keeping him in our prayers and wishing him the best for a successful result.

With YTU back in lectures, student life has become noticeably busier. For example, on Thursday nights, three to four students are usually away, which means only a few are left to handle the bread—collecting, slicing, packing, and storing it without complaint. We thank them for their tireless service.

JD spent his Holy Week and Easter in King Island for ministries. Below is his reflection of what that experience was like. Thank you JD for sharing this with us.

'A Little Passionist' on King Island



Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church

King Island is the largest of the four islands known as the New Year Group and the second-largest island in Bass Strait, after Finders Island.

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church is located at 24 Main Street, Currie, TAS 7256, near the centre of King Island. According to the 2021 Australian Census data, 185 people identified as Western



(Roman) Catholic, 11.6% of the total population of King Island (1617 people). The church belongs to the King Island Parish, which is administered by the Circular Head Parish within the Archdiocese of Hobart.

Feeling of a 'little'

Figure 1. **King Island**

Area: 1,098 km² (424 sq mi).

Population (2021 Census): 1,617.

Largest Town: Currie, located on the west coast.

Highest Point: Gentle Annie (162 m or 531 ft).

Part of the **New Year Group** archipelago.

The first impression of King Island can be described as a collection of 'little' things: a little plane, a little church, a little group of people, a little island, but a big heart and a long history.



I felt like a 'little Passionist' on King Island.

Yes, I am so little in the shadow of the first Passionist, Fr. Sony CP, who visited King Island for Holy Week, 2024. The community remembered him with a black vestment with a heart on it. Some parishioners told me that I looked like a 'teenager' even though they kept addressing me, 'Fr. JD.'

I felt so small in front of the big heart of hospitality of the community members, who



tried to provide the best comfort for me. I tried to convince them that I have come for services, not for holidays, but it was not successful in the beginning. Especially, on Holy Thursday, I felt like I had come to be served rather than serving people. In the end, all members experienced that we had

gathered to celebrate together when we sat at the same table.



With a strong faith, the community all tried to gather despite their ages and difficulties. I sensed that the community knows each other very well. They are just like Tim in the Holy Cross community, who knows all the members

well. At Our Lady Star of the Sea, the members gathered not only for Masses but to be together. After the spiritual feast, the community gathered in the convent where the Josephites had been before. The convent became a hall, an accommodation for visitors, and for those who needed a 'house' for temporary living. This convent is the second home of the community as they care and love each other.

King Island is the graveyard of ships

Shipwrecks are a part of the history of King Island, where people kept memories of victims who laid down their lives around it. For this, I could see the suffering people were carrying in their hearts. However, the members keep living in hope and peace. One of the signs between the local and the visitor is in the greeting. When you are driving around and see the hand sign from another car, you know they are resident of King Island. The visitors rarely raise their hands if they have just arrived there.



Keep living with Resurrected Jesus



Focusing on Holy Week, we did not have any photos taken of us together until Easter Sunday. At that time, all members and visitors were joyful and glad because of the hope coming from our resurrected Jesus. We had come from many different countries, such as the Philippines,

Malaysia, England, Ireland, India, Hungary, Venezuela, and Vietnam, but we had shared the same faith and hope in Jesus.

Bonus

If you plan to go to King Island, you may like to visit Australia's highest lighthouse, one of the best dairy factories, the kelp industry, the little penguins, and of course, one of the best golf courses. Our Brian Travor CP would find it hard to refrain from playing golf if he were to visit King Island.

JD Tan T CP

Tri's ordination to the diaconate date has been released and the bishop has approved it. Please see more details on the next page. We pray for him during his preparation for this step in answering his call to God. Thank you, Tri, for putting the invitation together.



The Passionists of the Holy Spirit Province

Warmly invite you

to the Ordination to Diaconate of

Br. Cao Van Tri, CP

by Most Rev. Bishop Thinh Nguyen, DD.
Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Melbourne

June

Saturday 21 11:00 Am

2025

Holy Cross Retreat
207 Serpells road, Templestowe, VIC 3106

Refresments to follow in the dining hall

RSVP for catering purposes by 15th June 2025



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Funeral of Ria Van Der Haar online:

Nicole Federico, the daughter of Ria has invited all to attend the funeral online. It will be held today at 2pm at St Peter and Paul's in Doncaster which she says "was Mum and Dad's parish for many, many years."

Nicole added saying "Mum and Dad deeply valued the Holy Cross community and its weekly services, and our family holds fond memories of the celebrations, live music, and the unique sense of togetherness that made it so special. On behalf of the Van der Haar Family, our heartfelt thanks to the Holy Cross Community for their support of Mum and Dad over the years. It is greatly appreciated"

Funeral livestreaming link: <https://tobinbrothers.com.au/tribute/maria-vanderhaar-2503147/>

Holy Cross: 60 years (Brian)



We will celebrate 60 years since the opening of Holy Cross, on Sunday May 25th.

Mass: 10.00am

Coffee Cart:

BBQ

Official speech & video:

More details to be provided by mid-May in the newsletter

Holy Cross... 60 years (Brian)

Over the next month we will provide some updated history related to the 60th jubilee of the opening of Holy Cross in 1965.

1. A History of Templestowe



Geologists tell us that between fifty-eight and twenty-five million years ago the sea rose and the land which is now Doncaster-Templestowe was submerged. Marine sediments were rolled around and crushed into gravel and sand. When these sands were deposited, Australia had broken away from Gondwanaland and begun to drift northward. In time, mice, squirrels, archaic monkeys, mini horses (the

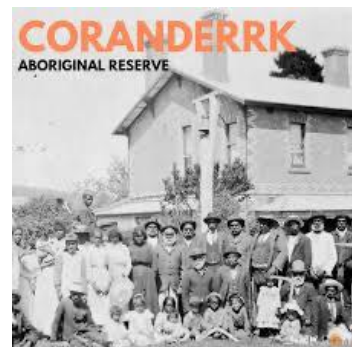
size of a fox terrier, a giant pig, a three-metre tall kangaroo and bipedal apes, appeared. Proto-cereal grasses began to appear.

Between ten and two million years ago the land which was to be city of Manningham, arose. Streams cut through the loam and the sands eroded, except on some hills such as Doncaster hill where Shoppingtown stands today. The geologists conjecture about what fossils lie beneath the roadway and shopping centre. These hilly parts still have some gravelling sand, while the rest of the district is clay.



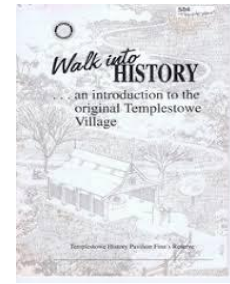
Templestowe has had two notable waves of human settlement. The first occurred around 40,000 BCE, and that history is preserved in legend amongst the tribes of the Kulin nation (a confederation of at least five language groups). There are some trees near the car park 150 metres inside from the Porter St entrance to Westerfolds Park which were felled over a hundred years ago and shifted to this present site. They are estimated to be over five-hundred years old

The Wurundjeri people who inhabited the Yarra river valley and its tributaries for those five hundred years, were forcibly resettled and granted "permissive occupancy" of Coranderrk Station, near Healesville, when the Crown acquired land to the east of Melbourne early in the 19th century. Pioneer development was not as rapid as in the west of Melbourne because the land was hilly and thickly timbered. It was believed that the soil was shallow and infertile, but this proved not to be the case when the land was surveyed by T. R. Nutt in 1839.



Thomas Chivers was one of the first white people born in Templestowe in 1844. He died in 1942. His father John was a woodcutter and lay preacher who walked to Greensborough, Heidelberg, Box Hill and East Doncaster to conduct services! When his mother died, the local aboriginal people offered to look after he and his brother during the day, while his father was working.

The original Templestowe village was situated by a fresh water stream between what is today Finns Reserve (near the intersection of Thompsons Road and Foote Street) and the Templestowe Hotel. The first school was established in Tom Hicks' barn, which also served for town meetings and burial arrangements. This original building was roughly situated on the corner of Serpells Road and Williamsons Road.



The name Templestowe was chosen when the village was officially proclaimed. Its exact origins are unknown, although a "Templestowe" is mentioned in the book 'Ivanhoe' by Sir Walter Scott—supposedly modelled after the community of Templars at Newsam, Leeds in England. As the village of Ivanhoe was settled immediately prior to Templestowe, it is believed by some that the name was chosen to preserve the literary parallel.



Templestowe was proclaimed a village in 1852. That first township was between Thompson Road and High Street. By that time, land east of Templestowe village cost one pound (two dollars) an acre. Prospectors were attracted to the district after the discovery of gold at Anderson's Creek, Warrandyte in 1851. Some gold mining was carried out near today's Feathertop Drive.

In 1890 the Antimony Hill Gold & Antimony Mining Co. began operating on a large scale. The quartz mined by the company was treated to recover gold and antimony at a plant constructed at Ruffeys Creek. The mine closed in 1915. Stone was quarried at Templestowe after 1850 and in 1857 Templestowe resident Joseph Johnson won the prize offered by the Victorian Government for superior building stone.

Heidelberg School artists were attracted to the Yarra River at Templestowe where dairying, market gardens and, by the early 20th century, fruit-growing, were the main industries.



Fruit-growers formed a co-operative, which constructed the Templestowe Cool Store in 1919. Robert Williamson came to the district from Scotland in 1855 and Templestowe Post Office opened on 1st July 1860.

Brick kilns commenced operating in Templestowe by the 1940s. Later the Glen Iris Brickworks opened a quarry on Templestowe Road to produce the fashionable lighter coloured bricks. Project builders constructed display homes in the area. In the mid-20th century, city planning and urban design principles also had an impact

on Templestowe's appearance, with cul-de-sacs and streets designed to follow topographical forms.

Templestowe Bridge

In March 1855, Hungarian immigrant Sigismund Wekey, held a meeting at the Bulleen Hotel and called for shareholders, each “according to his means”, in a proposed toll bridge, joining Templestowe near Finns Reserve to what is now Lower Plenty, near Bonds Road. It was claimed that the bridge, would cut five kilometres off the trip from Eltham township to Melbourne. At this time a tolled punt was in operation. The bridge was to have a span of 43 metres and a width of eight metres. It was to cost 2200 English Pounds (\$US800,000 in today’s currency).

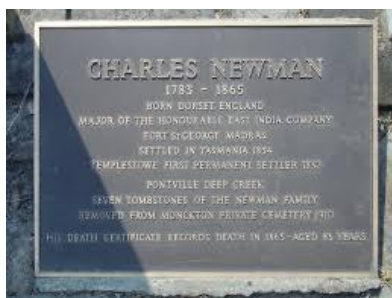


In October 1863 a huge flood caused the Yarra to rise twelve metres and a number of bridges were washed away. The Templestowe bridge “a solid wooden structure on an iron girder, with stone supports”, survived. The bridge underwent repairs in 1872-1873. There were several more ‘large floods’ notably in October, 1923 and December, 1934. The last bits of the bridge were washed away in the 1960’s.

No photographs have been found, but there is a suggestion that it was similar in design to the bridge built in 1860 and still standing. This bridge is part of the Plenty River Trail close to the Heidelberg Golf Club and the Lower Plenty Hotel.

Founding Families

The first permanent residents in Templestowe were a former Indian army officer, Major Charles Newman and his wife and two step daughters, who migrated to Melbourne in 1834. Newman was later associated with gold prospecting in the district following the discovery of gold at Anderson Creek in Warrandyte, and was among the first in south-eastern Australia to mine quartz reefs.



The Newmans purchased a large area of land near Pontville, which was to become the colony's second largest estate, and he purchased 36 square kilometres around what is now Newmans Road. In 1840 Charles began construction of the Pontville Homestead, relocating there with his remaining family in 1843, making the Newman family the furthest settlers east of Melbourne at that time. Their descendants

occupied the land until 1955. The only descendants to still carry the Newman name today, are the Webster Family.

Other founding families include, Adams, Atkins, Bell, Britton, Clancey, Collins, Chivers, Channey, Cunningham, Eccleston, Finn, Fitzsimons, Fromhold, Griffin, Hunter, Kent, Hodgson, Haughton, Howett, Howith, Hardidge, Johnston, Jacks, Jenkins, Joughin, Kean, Lowe, Lacey, McNamara, McEwin, Mahoney, McGahy, Parker, Rawnsley, Read, Rhodes, Robertson, Schuhkraft, Smith, Stacher, Taylor, Trott, Todd and Williamson.



There was an early settlement of Irish and Scottish families through Bulleen (an Aboriginal name meaning "resting place") and Templestowe. These families arrived on the ship "Midlothian" in June 1839. The grassland in the area was interspersed with large Manna and River Red gum trees and chains of lagoons, including Lake Bulleen. These were surrounded by impenetrable reeds that made irrigation impossible. The flats flooded continually which resulted in only the poorest (non-English) immigrants leasing pastoral land. This is reflected in the fact that a private Presbyterian school was begun for the district in 1843.

Pontville Homestead

The Pontville property was acquired by the Melbourne Board of Works in 1978, which manages the property as part of Paddle Reserve. Pontville is considered historically and aesthetically, to be significant amongst the early towns, as its landscape contributes to the greater understanding of 1840s agricultural and garden history, as well as for containing numerous relics of aboriginal life.

The survival of its formal garden terracing and the presence of Hawthorn hedgerows, used for fencing, is unusual.



Keith Windschuttle wrote, "The property itself (now subdivided) has several remnant plantings of the colonial era including Himalayan Cypress, Black Mulberry and willow trees; and, the integrity of ancient scar trees, ancestral camping sites and other spirit places of the Wurundjeri

aborigines which was respected by the Newman family. They can be observed in their original form along the trail systems at the Tikalara ("meeting place") plains tract of the Mullum-Mullum Creek. Aboriginal presence is well captured in Pound Bend Reserve, Warrandyte.

Pontville is situated in (16-20) Webster Road, and comprises of a house constructed around 1843-1850 and extended in the 1870s. Pontville is a distinctive Indian Bungalow form and the farm outbuildings are important because they contribute to the historical understanding of the homestead property.



Atkinson Street, Templestowe was home to one of the largest gum trees in the Southern hemisphere. It was planted in 1912 and dubbed "Big Champ" and when measured in 2007, it stood 76 metres tall.

Development



Dairy farming was the primary vocation of the pioneer settlers, and was practiced along the river flats in Templestowe and Bulleen well into the 20th century. Orchardng was taken up in the 1870s, soon providing prosperity for the district. Apples, peaches, lemons, pears and other stone fruits were grown, providing inspiration for the "River Peel" sculpture installed in 2001 at the roundabout on Fitzsimons Lane, which has been relocated one kilometre along Fitzsimons Lane south of the Yarra river.

Fruit, vine-growers and market gardeners built new and more comfortable houses, using brick and weatherboard as materials. Many of these houses still exist, although for the most part they have been modernised beyond the scope for heritage classification by the National Trust.

To be continued.....

English

Linguistic humour: The English lesson

Beware of heard, a dreadful word,
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.

And dead; it's said like bed, not bead;
For goodness sake, don't call it deed!

Watch out for meat and great and threat;
They rhyme with suite and straight and debt.

A moth is not a moth in mother,
Nor both in bother, broth in brother.

And here is not a match for there,
Or dear and fear for bear and pear.

And then there's dose and rose and lose,
Just look them up, and goose and choose.

And cork and work and card and ward,
And font and front and word and sword.

And do and go, then thwart and cart.
Come, come, I've hardly made a start.

A dreadful language? Why, man alive,
I'd learned to talk it when I was five,
And yet to write it, the more I tried,
I hadn't learned it at fifty-five!



Humour

What subject do cats like best at school? Hiss-Tory.
How do you make holy water? You boil the hell out of it.
I used to be afraid of speed bumps. I'm trying to get over it.
If your house is cold, just stand in the corner. It's always 90 degrees there.
I found a book called How to solve 50% of Your Problems. So I bought 2.
What is the best present? Broken drums! You can't beat them.
What do you call a Greek criminal landing a plane? Condescending.
I decided to sell my vacuum cleaner. It was just collecting dust.
What kind of chocolates do astronaut's like? Mars bars.
What do you call it when a snowman throws a tantrum? A meltdown.
My uncle named his dogs Timex and Rolex. They're his watch dogs.

A cheese factory exploded in France. Da Brie was everywhere.
What's the best smelling insect? A deodor-ant.
Jack pirate who became a great chef? He mastered the seven sea-sonings.
The owner of a tuxedo store kept hovering over me when I was browsing, so I asked him to leave me alone. He said, fine, suit yourself.

Prayers

We remember those who have died recently, especially [Ria Van Der Haar](#) and we especially remember those whose anniversaries occur around this time: [Merleine Gagliardi](#), [John Ryan](#), [Antonio Zandegu](#), [Sylvia mcHugh](#), [Angelina Petrocco](#), [Quentin Dorrat](#), and for those who grieve them.

We remember all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell, and all who care of them, especially.....



Denise Egan, Treenah Wadham, Pam Storey, Noel Smyth, Graham Burke, Fr Brendan Lane, Kata Lenic, Lesley Yang, Marilyn Climi, Gerry Bond, Peter Barry, Maureen Barns, Rex Cambry, Carol Battistella, Lorraine Gill, Doris Castro, Zoe Chung and her daughter Sophia, Pam Gartland, Bro Jerome, Alexander Lim, Julia Cantone, Peter Owen, Rod Gorfine, Bernadette Owen, Luke Norden, Greg Agosta, Bronwyn Burke, Helen McLean, Caroline Meade, Patricia Keeghan, Phil Drew, Anne Jenkins, Rod Smith, Errol Lovett, and young Alfred Theodore in London.

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

Erick