

## Holy Cross Retreat

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

**Letter 277**

30<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

### **Holy Cross 60<sup>th</sup>**

We had a lovely day last Sunday. The first highlight was the presence of [Noel Smyth](#) at Mass. The second highlight was [Domenic Marasea and Chris Monaghan](#) singing 'The Journey' after Communion. The third highlight was the [Coffee Cart](#) in the brilliant sunshine. The fourth highlight was the [lovely meal](#) with the meat generously provided by [Angelo Batistella](#), and the cooking and preparation provided by the [San Gabriele' team](#). The fifth highlight was the beautiful words shared by [Denis Travers](#) to mark the occasion.

There was a great spirit among us, born out of appreciation for what, together, we have inherited, continued and passed on, over the sixty years since Holy Cross officially opened. We talk warmly of the Holy Cross family. A looped slideshow of 200 images played throughout the meal. It provided valued and appreciated memories of people, special events and development of the house and grounds.

Thank you to everyone who assisted and participated, and to those who sent warm messages.

### **Community**

Those involved at YTU ([Chris, JD, Tri and John](#)) have completed classes for the semester. There now follows a study period to prepare for exams and then exam week. During the week of June 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> I will lead [Tri](#) in a pre-diaconate retreat. He is delighted that his parents will be here for his diaconate at 11.00am on Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be exciting for us that the following day, on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, [Phi](#) will be here to celebrate 10.00am Mass and [Tri](#) will be his deacon. Refreshments will follow both occasions.

[Erick](#) has received much deserved appreciation for continuing the newsletter so well over the past month. He has returned to university studies and his pastoral placement for counselling. Thank you Erick.

[Jerome](#) is working through the huge number of coins sent to him by Barbara Lunnon, but taking a few more breaks in that work than usual. He found a Collingwood coin among the large pile of coins. He gave to an appreciative John Curtis.

[Mike](#) is still assisting in St Joseph's parish in Hobart. He will return on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Mike - My time in Hobart

My flight arrived safely in Hobart Tasmania on **May 5<sup>th</sup>**, 2025. After having such a strenuous schedule, managing everything at the school (**ELSPM**) and the community where I live, I decided to take a break from everything and spend some time by myself and my community.

St. Joseph's Church is located on the **corner of Macquarie & Harrington Streets** in central Hobart. It is the centre of worship for the Hobart Catholic Parish.

St Joseph's is the oldest Catholic Church in Hobart. The first Mass was celebrated here on Christmas Day 1841.



I am very happy to be here and serve to the best of my abilities with enthusiasm. I also appreciate the support and shared pastoral experience of the priests here. Through their guidance, I have learned how to effectively fulfill my responsibilities in the future.

### The Weekday Mass & Reconciliation Times

Morning Mass – Monday to Friday:

**8.00am**

(Church opens at 7.30am & closes at 4.00pm)

Lunchtime Mass – Wednesday and Friday: **12.10pm**

Reconciliation 12.30pm – Wednesday and Friday; 4.00pm-4.30pm

### Weekend Mass Times

Saturday **8.00am; 6.30pm (Vigil)** (Church closes immediately after Vigil Mass)

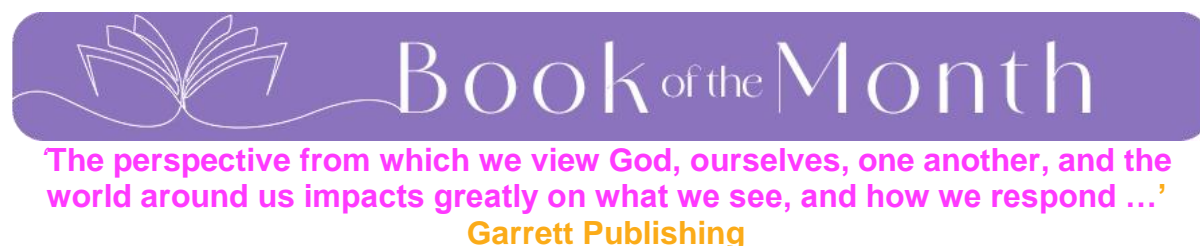
Sunday **7.30am; 9.30am; 11.00am** (Church opens 7.00am & closes at 12.00pm)

I have a schedule to sit in the reconciliation room and to celebrate Mass on weekdays and weekends. If I celebrate Mass in the morning, I must first turn off the alarm system and then open the church and the sacristy, turn on the lights, prepare the bread, and wine, and light the candles on the main altar. Then I spend some time in silence with God. Then the Mass begins. I see everyone attending the Mass fervently and solemnly. There are old and young who attend. From the active, busy city center nearby, there are many people who attend the Mass. They seek God for joy, peace in their hearts, and everlasting life.

After Mass I spent time visiting the Vietnamese people, the gaol and the church, along with Justin. We travel there by car. There are so many good places to visit.

We have walked around sightseeing, visiting the old church and the gaol. One time on the way back to the community we visited the place (Pontville cemetery) where some Passionist brothers and priests are buried. We stayed silent there and prayed for my brothers who spent their lives for the Passionist Congregation. We returned home in time for lunch.

Chris is finding many willing purchasers for his beautiful new book 'Perspectives' which includes stunning photographs and insightful reflections.



This glorious little book invites the reader into the practice of *visio divina* – seeing the world as sacred. The loving eye of Chris’s camera shows us the beauty of what is around us, from clothes pegs to sunsets, graffiti to bird flight. As we look, and read, all that is asked of us is that we slow down and notice. In our noticing, we come closer to the love of God for all of creation.

*In a world of fear, division, and conflict, it is a timely reminder that grace and beauty are everywhere, if we take time to stop and look. Chris’s warm, personal meditations accompany us as we find the courage to live towards love and hope.*

– Reverend Dr Merryl Blair OAM

*Perspectives by Chris Monaghan represents visually what made me fall in love with Australia and its Catholic Church: a tradition of a spirituality deeply embodied in nature and expressed in everyday wisdom.*

– Prof Dr Massimo Faggioli, Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University

### Sr Brigid



Brigid celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of religious profession a couple of days before Holy Cross. She is not one to seek or want the limelight. Fr Denis wrote and published a nice acknowledgement for the occasion which many of you would not have seen.

“Sr. Brigid CP is currently a member of her Congregation’s General Council, lives in community with Sr. Karen CP in Melbourne, and is closely associated with the Province’s own mission through her participation in the Come Away Retreats at Holy Cross, Passionist Companions and through her membership of the Holy Spirit Province Formation Commission.

Sr. Brigid became a professed member of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion in May, 1965 and after her formation, she trained as a High School teacher in London. She first taught for 13 years in Dublin and then in Birmingham (UK). In 1982 her life took a different turn as she moved into a social work role within the education sector. This led to her training as a social worker after which she worked in the UK with children and families in St. Helens and London until 1995 when she moved into hospital and prison chaplaincy and then into hospice pastoral care.

In 2009, following eleven years as a pastoral worker in St Gemma's Hospice, Leeds, Sr. Brigid responded to an invitation to move to Melbourne, Australia initially to St Paul Apostle Parish, Endeavour Hills. An appointment to Vietnam in 2020 was prevented by Covid 19 so Sr. Brigid has remained in Australia and visits Vietnam regularly. Sr. Brigid has been involved with formation within her Congregation since 1975 in various places where she has shared community with those seeking to be part of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion. In her quiet and modest way Sr. Brigid sums up her journey in this way – *"It is hard to capture the diverse experiences of 60 years but my life has been greatly blessed and enriched by all the people who have been part of the journey."* To Sr. Brigid we wish *'Ad multos annos'*.

### **Brigid's thankyou**

Thank you to all who offered greetings in person or by E-Mail for my 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Profession as a Sister of the Cross and Passion. It has been a time of remembering and celebrating with gratitude for the privilege of journeying with so many people and in so many places. I am deeply grateful for all the experiences and adventures that have opened up for me on the journey from a remote farming community in Co Kerry, Ireland through ministry experiences in some of the major English cities and then to Australia on a 4 -year visa in 2009.

Becoming a permanent resident and then a citizen yet still retaining my Irish accent and connection to family while at the same time becoming part of a new family in Endeavour Hills, Holy Cross and South Melbourne has been a journey of discovery which has opened up a whole new world.



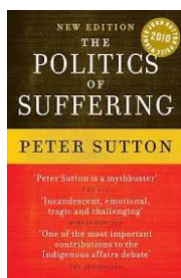
A special thank you to my Passionist brothers, to my Cross and Passion community around the world, to Joan and Anne, who shared community with us in Endeavour Hills, to Karen who courageously joined us and who keeps me young, as well as our new communities in Vietnam. I give thanks for all who have supported me with love, care and friendship. You will always be in my heart and prayers. For your presence and generosity we ask God to bless you and yours with peace and joy.

## National Reconciliation Week

Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ reflects that National Reconciliation Week honours a history that includes the Referendum held on 27th May 1967 that included Indigenous Australians in the population, the 1992 Mabo High Court decision that recognised the existence of native title; the April 1997 *'Bringing them Home'* report that examined the forced separation of Indigenous Australian children from their families; and the 2008 Apology by the Prime Minister for the removal of their children from their families.



Each of these events acknowledged the wrongs suffered by Indigenous peoples in Australia and the need to address them. Non-Indigenous Australians are now more aware of how violent the process of European settlement in Australia was, how the first peoples were deprived of land and living, and how Indigenous Australians are still discriminated against, and their culture scorned by many.



Indigenous leaders have insisted on what remains to be done. The 2018 Closing the Gap agreement between Australian governments and Indigenous representatives recognised the shameful gap in health, wealth, education, employment and in other matters between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. They also set targets for change. These targets have for the most part not been met. In some areas the gap has been widened.



The theme of Reconciliation this year invites us to look forward as well as to reflect on the failings of the past. The theme is *Bridging Now to Next*. It suggests both determination and uncertainty about where we stand. The failure of the Referendum on the Voice and the bitter debate during the campaign suggests that we are far from reconciliation. A bridge must be built that respects our journey so far and continues our way to the future.

The past suggests that the path is long and winding, from which we must learn from our disappointments and betrayals. And yet grounds for hope remain. They lie in the determination and resilience of generations of Indigenous people who have helped educate Australians about their story and about the costs that they have borne through colonisation.





### Crucifixion by Mathias Kauge

This painting was gifted to Palotti College, Millgrove, and with Pallotti closing and with thanks to Yvonne Torrico, Fr Dean Bradbury has re-gifted the painting to Holy Cross. We intend to hang it on the grey wall at the back of the chapel. Mathias Kauge died in 2003 at age 59 and is acclaimed for his bold colourful paintings of a world radically changing around him in the late 20th century. During his lifetime, Mathias experienced dramatic societal shifts in his PNG culture and this provided a focus of his work. He and his wife Elizabeth, led the contemporary arts movement in PNG which explored nationhood and technological advancement. This painting captures the cultural response to the crucifixion.



## The Camino

Many of you know my brother Paul, who is currently National Director of the PFGM in New Zealand. He also publishes regular newsletter and part of today's newsletter, he wrote: Beyond its spiritual and religious significance, the Camino de Santiago's also serves as a rich metaphor for the journey of life itself. Life, much like the Camino, is a series of steps—some smooth and easy, others steep and difficult. Along the way, there are moments of joy, but also moments of fatigue, doubt, and challenge.

The Camino offers a mirror to our lives, revealing how we navigate adversity, celebrate moments of grace, and how we can transform ourselves through our experiences. The Camino's true meaning is found in the act of pushing forward, of learning to persevere, and possibly of shedding old patterns of thinking and living. With each step, one hopes to experience personal growth, healing, and transformation.



Approximately thirteen years ago my son Sam and I watched the movie 'The Way' with Martin Sheen. At the end of the movie, we eyed each other and promised that 'one day we will walk this.' Now, all these years later, with Clare and Lucy's support Sam and I are travelling together to fulfil a promise made long ago. We are walking the Camino Francés (French Way). This is a well-known and highly travelled route within the Camino de Santiago network. It typically begins in France (St. Jean Pied de Port) and crosses the Pyrenees before entering Spain. Our (walking) start date of 1<sup>st</sup> June will be Sam's 28<sup>th</sup> birthday.



We are both aiming to embrace the notion of 'pilgrims' on this journey. don't see this as an opportunity to send out blogs, vlogs or other stuff on social media, but rather to live this experience of the well-travelled route so many before us have walked, and that we will be richer for entering a spiritual meaning of 'journey.' We'll have just under 800kms to ponder on our journey!

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayer as we shall do for you. After the Camino we will travel to Rome and stay with the Passionists in the Mother House of Ss John and Paul's for a week. We will be back in Aotearoa New Zealand on 13 July.





## Peace



Last Sunday's gospel invited us to recognise that Jesus has bequeathed not just any kind of peace, but **his** peace. It is a peace that comes from surrendering to God's will. Paul of the Cross wrote, *"Do not lose your peace, even if the whole world falls apart"*.

John Denver wrote a beautiful poem on Peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ea9U3E58HC8>

There's a name for war and killing, and there's a name for giving in,  
when you know another answer, for me the name is sin

But there's still time to turn around and make all hatred cease  
And give another name to living, and we could call it "Peace"  
And peace would be the road we walk, each step along the way  
And peace would be the way we work and peace the way we play  
And in all we see that's different and in all the things we know  
Peace would be the way we look and peace the way we grow  
There's a name for separation, there's a name for first and last  
When it's all for us or nothing, and for me the name is past

But there's still time to turn around and make all hatred cease  
And give a name to all the future, and we could call it "Peace"

And if peace is what we pray for, and if peace is what we give  
Then peace will be the way we are, and peace the way we live

Well, there still is the time to turn around, and make all hatred cease  
Let give another name to living, and we can call it "Peace"

## This Sunday is Ascension Sunday



The stone has been rolled away for 38 days and the risen Jesus continues to chill with his friends. God calls from the heavens, "it is time", but Jesus and his friends can't hear over all the partying. On day 39 God calls out again: "Son, come sit by my right hand in heaven. Still nothing.

On the 40th day, the music is especially loud and God hears that knows he'll likely be ignored again. So, he grabs a very loud megaphone and yells "May I have your ascension please! May I have your ascension please".



## Typical idiom and its meaning

1. **Break the ice** – to relieve tension or get conversation started in an awkward situation.
2. **Bite the bullet** – to endure a painful or unpleasant task courageously.
3. **Hit the nail on the head** – to describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem.
4. **Let the cat out of the bag** – to reveal a secret, often unintentionally.
5. **Kill two birds with one stone** – to achieve two aims with a single effort.
6. **Barking up the wrong tree** – to pursue a mistaken or misguided course of action.
7. **Piece of cake** – something very easy to do.
8. **Cost an arm and a leg** – to be very expensive.
9. **Cut corners** – to do something poorly or cheaply.
10. **Under the weather** – feeling unwell or sick.
11. **The ball is in your court** – it's your turn to take action or make a decision.
12. **Back to square one** – to have to start over again.
13. **A blessing in disguise** – something that seems bad at first but turns out to be good.
14. **A dime a dozen** – very common and of little value.
15. **Beat around the bush** – to avoid talking about what's important.
16. **Better late than never** – it's better to do something late than not do it at all.
17. **Bite off more than you can chew** – to take on more responsibility than you can manage.
18. **Actions speak louder than words** – what people do is more important than what they say.
19. **Apple of my eye** – someone who is cherished above all others.
20. **His bark is worse than his bite** – someone's threats are worse than their actions.
21. **Burn bridges** – to destroy one's relationships or opportunities.
22. **Call it a day** – to stop working on something.
23. **Cry over spilled milk** – to be upset about something that cannot be changed.
24. **Devil's advocate** – someone who argues a point for the sake of debate.
25. **Every cloud has a silver lining** – every bad situation has some positive aspect.
26. **Get out of hand** – to become uncontrolled.
27. **Give the benefit of the doubt** – to choose to believe someone's statement, without proof.
28. **Hit the sack** – to go to bed.
29. **In the blink of an eye** – very quickly; in a very short time.
30. **Jump on the bandwagon** – to join others in doing something that is currently popular.
31. **Keep your chin up** – to remain cheerful and hopeful in difficult circumstances.
32. **Let sleeping dogs lie** – to avoid interfering in a situation that is currently causing no problems.
33. **Miss the boat** – to miss an opportunity.
34. **Off the cuff** – without preparation; spontaneously.
35. **Once in a blue moon** – very rarely.
36. **Out of the blue** – unexpectedly; without warning.
37. **Pull someone's leg** – to tease or joke with someone.
38. **On the ball** – alert, knowledgeable, and competent.
39. **On thin ice** – in a risky or precarious situation.
40. **Rain on someone's parade** – to spoil someone's plans or enjoyment.
41. **Rome wasn't built in a day** – important things take time to complete.
42. **Saved by the bell** – rescued from a difficult situation at the last moment.
43. **The best of both worlds** – enjoying two desirable but normally incompatible things at once.
44. **Through thick and thin** – in both good times and bad.
45. **Time flies when you're having fun** – time seems to pass quickly when you're enjoying yourself.
46. **Twist someone's arm** – to persuade someone to do something they're reluctant to do.
47. **Up in the air** – undecided or unresolved.
48. **When pigs fly** – something that will never happen.
49. **You can't judge a book by its cover** – you shouldn't judge someone or something by appearance alone.
50. **Your guess is as good as mine** – I have no more idea than you do.

## Thinking

I thought a thought. But the thought I thought wasn't the thought I thought I thought. If the thought I thought I thought had been the thought I thought, I wouldn't have thought so much.

## Humour

**PILOT:** We are now flying over  
20,000 feet



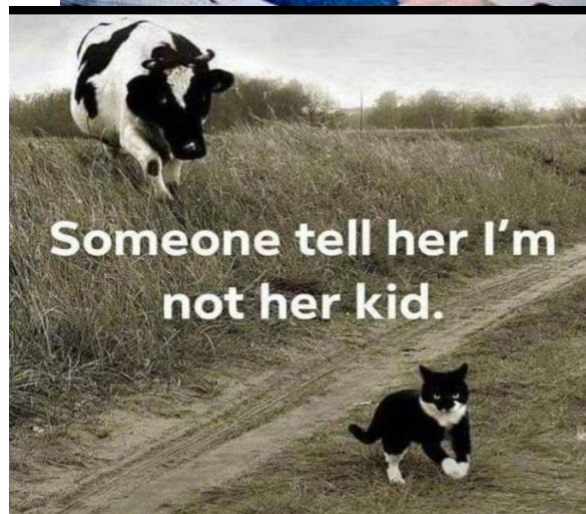
**Bed and Breakfast**



every day may not be good,



but there's something good  
in every day.



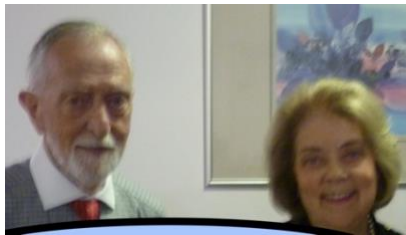


## Humour – puns

- Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.
- A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.
- Practice safe eating - always use condiments.
- Shotgun wedding - A case of wife or death.
- A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.
- A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
- Dancing cheek- to-cheek is really a form of floor play.
- Does the name Pavlov ring a bell.
- Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
- What's the definition of a Will? (It's a dead give away).
- Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

## Michael O'Callaghan and the hospital in Serpells Road!

Joan O'Callaghan wanted to share that her husband Michael, commenced his 31 years of work as a surveyor at what was then the Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe, in 1961.



It was common for Joan and their two very young daughters to accompany Michael on some of his inspections of orchards that might be being considered for sub-division. One evening he came home and said, "I don't know what is being built in Serpells Road (the foundations had already been laid)

because it is so big and expansive. I think it must be a hospital" Michael could not fathom why it was so big in an area surrounded by so much vacant land. Of course, it was the foundations of Holy Cross.

Sixty years later, Michael breathed his last in view of Holy Cross. He could see it from his room in Bupa. Joan was grateful that he was anointed by Erick and visited in his last hours by Kevin Hennessy and myself, before his passing. John Khoury took him what was his last Eucharist, which John had been doing for Michael (and is continuing to do for Peter Owen) each Sunday since early in the year. As Joan reflected, little were they both to know how significant that conversation was when the discussed what must be a hospital, back in 1964.





## Memorial Service

The Memorial Service for **Ellen Concannon** will be at White Lady Funerals Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 2pm, at 741 High Street Kew .

## Prayers

**We pray for** all who have died recently and for those who grieve for them. We also remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **Bro Jeff Daly CP** and **Angelo Lamanna**, that they have found joy in God's eternal presence.



**We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are coping with illness and all who care for them, especially:**

Pam Storey, Noel Smyth, Peter Addicoat CP, Denise Egan, Caroline Hagedorn, Patrick Connell (Brendan's father), Nancy Reynolds, Kata Lenic, Treenah Wadham, Jenny Wullings, Stephanie Snow, Graham Burke, Fr Brendan Lane, Maureen Barns, Lesley Yang, Rex Cambry, Marilyn Climi, Gerry Bond, Carol Battistella, Peter Barry, Bronwyn Burke, Alexander Lim, Zoe Chung and her daughter Sophia, Pam Gartland, Peter Owen, Bernadette Owen, Patricia Keeghan, Doris Castro, Julia Cantone, Rod Gorfine, Luke Norden, Greg Agosta, Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Bro Jerome, Caroline Meade, Rod Smith, Anne Jenkins, Errol Lovett, and young Alfred Theodore in London. We pray to the Lord.

Chris will send the link for Sunday Mass, on Saturday afternoon. That does read a bit strangely – maybe it should be in the humour section!

God bless

Brian