

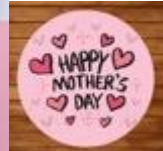


Greetings,

Holy Cross Community extends deepest gratitude and blessings to all mothers, mother figures as well as deceased mothers. Happy Mother's Day!



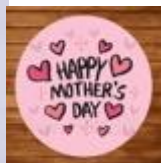
Mothers hold our hands for a little while...but they hold our hearts forever!



All-loving God,
we give you thanks for mothers young and old. We pray for all mothers of every kind. Those who have loved us and helped shape us with motherly care and compassion. We remember mothers, grandmothers, and godmothers who are no longer with us, but whose love is in our memory forever. Amen



The Catholic Company
Because Faith Matters



Brotherhood Cup - Good News



Last Saturday, 2nd May, Tri and JD joined the Brotherhood Cup and the good news is, they won the tournament! The cup consists of soccer teams from five different theological university campuses. Yarra Theological College (YTU) is one of the teams. They had up to five games in one day making it an exhausting event. Chris Monaghan, the president of YTU was very proud of his team. He joined them for a celebration in Box Hill at the Divine Word Missionaries house for an evening party to celebrate the win. Although he left earlier, he reports that it was good to see the boys happy and you could tell by how they looked in the morning, hangover but mostly exhausted! The photos taken this year did not include any of our brothers. I have therefore included the photos above from some years back. In case you thought Dung, Thang and Phi are back, they are not, unfortunately! They would however be happy to know that the victory continues on.

Chris on Provincial Visitation



Talking about Chris, he has been acting as provincial superior in the absence of Denis. He left on Tuesday at 4am to St Brigid's, Marrickville, Sydney for a provincial visitation on behalf of Denis. The provincial



visitation is when the provincial visits a community as a group and meets each one of the members individually - to listen to them and support them accordingly. He also meets the staff for the same purpose. Chris returned yesterday night, early enough to go back to work today and cook community dinner for us. In case you're wondering what image is the building, it is the St Brigid's property on a good day.



Tim Horlock and Tina Minichilli

These two cornerstones of Holy Cross have left for holidays for six weeks. They deserve a good break and like Brian Traynor, they will be missed at Holy Cross. Thank you for your deep care for our community.



Vince has been working on the new carpark for a long time as we all know. Thank you Vince. We have now reached another step. Electricians were in this week to install wires through underground for lighting. Once the lights are installed we will have the fencing done. We're exciting to see what it will look like when it's all done and we even better, we can't wait for more parking spots.



During this same week, Tim Bolt and his son Isack have been in doing a few plumbing jobs including cleaning the gutters. Tim mentioned that because we had a bit of rain, it made it difficult to clean. Instead of going up on the roof which was too slippery, they had to go up the ladder and clean, and move down and up, step by step. It is good to see them doing great work and also keeping safe, following our risk management regulations. Thank you Tim and Isac.

Congratulations Sr Thuong CP



Sr Brigid CP who attended the ceremony reported saying, *"Sr Thuong was professed as a Sister of the Cross and Passion on Saturday May 2nd at St Paul's Retreat in Ho Chi Minh City and the photo includes all the Sisters, our Passionist brothers and visiting priests. We give thanks for a great celebration."*

We too at Holy Cross congratulate them as they continue to expand in Vietnam. May the Passion of Jesus Christ and the Love of God be always in our hearts.

Passionist Institute...June 19th-21st, 2026



It is several years since we have held a live-in Passionist Institute and we have had many requests to offer this again, in 2026. We will livestream the sessions and save the recordings for those unable to attend.

We decided to look at contemporary ways of living and proclaiming our Passionist charism, and to do that we are looking mostly to a new generation of Passionists to present at this year's Institute.

Easter calls us to practice resurrection in a fractured world (not too late to share)



A view of Earth, partially hidden by the moon, is photographed through the Orion spacecraft window on April 6, 2026, during the Artemis II crew's flyby of the moon. (OSV News/NASA handout via Reuters)

BY ELIS MCCULLOH April 24, 2026



Elis McCulloh, HM is a Sister of the Humility of Mary. She currently serves as the Grassroots Education and Organising Specialist at NETWORK Lobby and is a graduate of The University of Akron School of Law. She has extensively ministered alongside the refugee and immigrant communities.

Just a few days after Easter, a friend shared Wendell Berry's poem "Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front" on social media. This poem had long been my favourite, but I hadn't read it in quite some time. Watching the reel of the poem, I was struck by the very last line, which reads: "Practice resurrection."

Practice resurrection? How is this even possible when my country is attacking Iran or when we are on the brink of war with any other country? When Immigration and Customs Enforcement still terrorizes our neighbours? And when friends and family members have recently gone home to God?

As I pondered the poem, I was also overcome with awe and wonder at the messages coming from Artemis II. In his beautiful Easter message from the moon, Astronaut Victor Glover said:

In all of this emptiness — this is a whole bunch of nothing, this thing we call the universe — you have this oasis, this beautiful place that we get to exist together. ... I think as we go into Easter Sunday, thinking about all the cultures all around the world — whether you celebrate it or not, whether you believe in God or not — this is an opportunity for us to remember where we are, who we are, and that we are the same thing. And that we got to get through this together.



Maybe the hope and utter amazement that Glover and his fellow Artemis II astronauts shared with us is what we needed this Easter season, when so much of

the world feels bleak. They were able to remind us that we all rise and fall together, that we belong to each other. In the midst of so much bad, they reminded us that we must band together to reach new heights and that we must stick together if we want to discover a new way of seeing the world.



I often think of resurrections as a rising from the ashes or new life being formed. It's easy to see that with new craters named on the moon or the explosion of colour during the spring when trees and flowers are blooming. It's easy to feel that on Easter Sunday or at the Easter vigil when we ring bells and sing alleluia. It's easy to see and experience these signs of new life.

So, how do we go forward from the high of Easter Sunday to where we are right now? I believe the answer lies in courageously speaking (and living) the mission of the Gospel. While praying last week, I was struck by this line from Acts: "As they prayed, the place where they gathered shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31).

What if practicing resurrection requires us to speak boldly? To counter the bad news with hope, courage, and truth? I believe that Pope Leo XIV has recently shown us that this is how we are to practice resurrection. After being criticized by U.S. President Donald Trump, he replied:

I will continue to speak out loudly against war, looking to promote peace, promoting dialogue and multilateral relationships among the states to look for just solutions to problems. Too many people are suffering today, too many innocent people have been killed, and I think someone has to stand up and say that there is a better way.

I have no fear of neither the Trump administration nor of speaking out loudly about the message of the Gospel. And that's what I believe I am called to do and what the church is called to do. We're not politicians. We're not looking to make foreign policy, as he calls it, with the same perspective that he might understand it. But I do believe that the message of the Gospel, 'Blessed are the peacemakers,' is a message that the world needs to hear today.

Isn't that what we are all called to do? To boldly preach and live the Gospel with our lives. If we are to practice resurrection daily, we have to speak out boldly, and we have to unerringly preach and live the Gospel, even when we are afraid.

That is the only way that we can see our way out of war. That is the way we can achieve peace. That is the way that we can come together to create a world where all can abundantly live the Easter hope of new life.



Jerome's Missionary Stories, Part Two



Some of the content is a repetition from part one but shared differently here. We thank Jerome for sharing his story. You can access the video through YouTube by searching Jerome's Missionary Stories or by clicking on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgaglhD9CZ4>

I understand you were there (PNG) for many years, around 50 years. Could you tell us how it all began? *To begin with, I went to Papua New Guinea, then came back to Australia to do my novitiate. After that, I made my first profession, and then returned to Papua New Guinea where I made my final profession. I had the honour of being the first Passionist professed in Papua New Guinea. All the Papua New Guineans who became Passionists came after me.*

That's remarkable. Who was the Provincial at the time who allowed you to go? *His name was Charles Corbett. He was the Provincial during my early years. I had already been living with the Passionists for two years as a lay missionary, so when I applied to join in Papua New Guinea, he accepted me straight away. They already knew me and what I was like. I was the first lay missionary to become a Passionist there.*

Can you share a story that shows how challenging it was, especially living on your own? *Living alone was definitely a challenge. You could stay locked in your room, or you could spend your time out with the people and just come back to your room to sleep. I chose to be with the people. I was fortunate, I learned the language quickly, which helped me connect.*

For example, "lukim yu bihain" means "see you later," and "kisim" means "to bring." New missionaries would hear "kisim mi kam" and think people were asking for a kiss! It caused a lot of confusion at first. I also learned to argue in Tok Pisin. Once you can argue in a language, you know you've learned it.

What was it like meeting people before you understood the language?

Much of our early work was in the aid post, caring for people who were sick, treating sores and other conditions. The Australian government would send medical teams occasionally, and we learned to handle many basic medical cases ourselves. If something was too serious, we had to send people to hospital, which often meant flying them out - very expensive. We even had to assist with childbirth at times, which

I found quite stressful. My biggest fear was that something might go wrong, but thankfully most births went smoothly.

What was one of the most unusual or surprising experiences when you first arrived? *Getting used to people not wearing clothes was a shock at first. But over time, you stop noticing it, it becomes normal. At the beginning, though, it was quite confronting.*

Did you ever adapt to that yourself?

You just join them, and I did. That was my problem. It saved on clothing.



You mentioned different places you worked. Can you tell us about one in particular? *I spent about 11 and a half years in Kamberatoro. It's about 90 miles from the coast and only a couple of miles from the Indonesian border - a very remote and isolated place. There were five tribes and eight or nine dialects within the same parish. Because of that, I didn't learn any one local language, it was better to use Tok Pisin so as not to favour one group over another.*

The people had previously spoken Bahasa Melayu under Dutch rule, but as Indonesian control increased, things changed. At one point, even the Australian patrol officers weren't sure where the border was, it wasn't clearly marked.

So how did you manage communication across the border? *I picked up some Bahasa Indonesia, enough to get by, along with Tok Pisin. Over time, Tok Pisin became more common, and Bahasa was used less on our side.*

Interestingly, the people didn't worry much about borders. They might live in one country but have their gardens in another. When we went on patrol, we often crossed the border without even realising it - there were no signs saying you were entering Indonesia.

Why did you need to cross the border? *As missionaries, we needed to visit all the villages regularly. Some were only accessible by crossing into the other country and then back again. There were no clear paths or boundaries, you just followed the ridges. We didn't get too worried about crossing the border. You didn't tell the government anyway.*

Did you ever have any problems crossing the border? *No, I never had any major problems. But I was careful. I never travelled alone, I always had two or three local men with me. You never went on your own. It was too dangerous. You could slip, fall, be attacked by a pig, or anything, and no one would ever know.*

Watch this space for part three!

Humour (Brian / Erick)

1. Two dog owners were arguing about whose pet was smarter. The first owner said. "My dog is so smart that every morning he goes to the shop and buys me a sesame seed bun bagel with chive cream cheese. He then stops off at the café and picks up a mocha latte, comes home, turns on the TV, all before I get out of bed." "I know", said the second owner. "How do you know?" asked the first owner. "My dog told me" he replied.

2. A guy is sitting at home when he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door looks down and sees a snail. He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can. Three years later he answers the door to a knock and he sees the same snail who says, "What the hell was all that about?"

3. A man makes his way to his seat for the Grand Final. He leans over and asks man if anyone will be sitting next to him. "No", says his neighbour. The man is amazed that there would be a spare seat at such an event. "Actually the seat belongs to me," his neighbour says. "My wife was supposed to come but she passed away. We've never missed the final ever since we were married." The man expressed his sympathy and added, "Couldn't you find anyone else to come – a relative, friend, work colleague?" No, the neighbour said, "They're all at the funeral"

4. 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!"

Mum at home:

- Mum: "I'm not your maid." Also Mum: *cleans everything anyway.*
- I told my mum I cleaned my room... I just didn't say *when.*
- Mum's cooking is so good, even the smoke alarm cheers her on.
- Behind every great kid is a mum wondering what went wrong.
- I asked Mum what she wants for Mother's Day... she said, "Silence."
- Mum's superpower? Finding things that were "definitely not there."
- I love how Mum can hear a whisper... but not when I call her name.
- Mum said, "You'll understand when you're older." I still don't.
- Mum's favourite exercise: jumping to conclusions.
- "Because I said so" - Mum's lifelong bestselling quote.
- Mum can spot a mess from 10km away... even with her eyes closed.

- I cleaned my room once... Mum still talks about it.
- Mum's GPS: always knows where everything *should* be.
- I told Mum I was bored... she gave me a job.
- Mum deserves a medal... or at least a nap. 😊

Mum before church or at church:

- Mum's love is like Sunday Mass, faithful, consistent, and you know you need it.
- Behind every well-behaved child at church is a mum giving "the look."
- Mum's miracle? Getting everyone ready for Mass on time... almost.
- Jesus multiplied loaves and fishes, Mum multiplies snacks after Mass.
- Mum's prayer life: "Lord, give me patience... right now would be great."
- You know it's serious when Mum whispers your full name in church.
- Mum taught us about sacrifice - usually the last piece of cake.
- Holy water is powerful, but Mum's glare is stronger.
- Mum's homily every Sunday: "Sit still, be quiet, behave."
- God couldn't be everywhere, so He made mums - and gave them sharp eyes.
- Mum's favourite liturgical season? "Any time the kids behave."
- The real miracle? Mum finding matching socks before church.
- Mum says, "Offer it up" even when it's just doing the dishes.
- After Mass: "Be kind to others." At home: "Start with each other!"
- Mum deserves heaven... but she'll settle for a quiet cup of tea first. ☕

Lucky or unlucky wife? A bus full of husbands went on a fishing trip. They tragically crashed with no survivors. Each of their wives cried for a week, but one wife continued to cry for more than two weeks. When asked, she replied "My husband missed the bus."



Prayers



We remember those who have died recently as well as those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially [Lorraine Gill](#), [Angelina Petrocco](#), [Ted Hallam](#), [Paul Mathieson Rose Zammit](#) and [Lynda Smyth](#). We pray that all who have died, have found joy in God's ternal presence.

We also pray for members of our Holy Cross family who are coping with illness and all who care for them:

[Mary Cogle](#), [Stephen Cogle](#), [David Chai](#), [Fr Chris Mithen](#), [Paul Fitzgerald](#), [Pam Storey](#), [Joan O'Callaghan](#), [Kate Dunn](#), [Lucia Isgro](#), [Marie Spowart](#), [Nina Conti](#), [Max McMahan](#), [Kate Lenic](#), [Cate Sweeney](#), [Carol Battistella](#), [Bob Hallam](#), [Lisa Iverach](#), [Anne Woon](#), [Gerry Bond](#), [Dr Peter Heffernan](#), [Greg Agosta](#), [Nancy Reynolds](#), [Luke Norden](#), [Jeanelle Bergin](#), [Caroline Hagedorn](#), [Bernadette Owen](#), [Doris Castro](#), [Marilyn Cilmi](#), [Maureen Barns](#), [Denise Egan](#), [Alexander Lim](#), [Caroline Meade](#), [Rex & Jan Cambrey](#), [Phil Drew](#), [Patricia Keeghan](#), [Zoe & Sophia Chung](#), [Graham Burke](#), [Rod Gorfine](#), [Pam Gartland](#), [Lesley Yang](#), [Anne Jenkins](#). [Julia Cantone](#), [Peter Barry](#), [Helen McLean](#), [Jeff Foale CP](#), [Errol Lovett](#), [Arthur Reuss](#), [Lily Hayes](#), and [Jeremiah](#).



Chris will send the link for next Sunday's Mass, on Saturday

Brian and Erick