

## Holy Cross Retreat

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



17<sup>th</sup> May, 2024

## Letter 223

### A Week of Birthdays

Every week is a week of birthdays somewhere and this week was like that at Holy Cross. We celebrated Cuong's birthday in the community. If you pay attention to photos in newsletters as I often do when I read news, you will notice the age on his cake. He turned 27 but because we couldn't find any other candles we used the 48<sup>th</sup> Birthday numbers. He laughed hard because it says from his side, 84<sup>th</sup>. I am not sure why he found 84<sup>th</sup> funny, I personally think that is a beautiful age. But for some reason, I did laugh because I saw 48<sup>th</sup> not because he looks 48 at all, he looks 16.

In the photo next to him is Mayrose our centre manager and Nimi one of the assistants. Mayrose shares the same date of birth with Cuong (12/5) while Nimi was born a week earlier. You could say that all of them are turning somewhere around 16 and 21 years of age.

We take this chance to thank God for the gift of their love and presence in our community. We give thanks for their efforts to make our Holy Cross family, a more welcoming and caring community.



Happy  
Birthday,  
Nimi,  
Mayrose  
and  
Cuong.



## More about Cecilia Rogers – New Holy Cross Finance Officer

As you all know Cecilia Rogers is our new Finance Officer. We thank her for taking the time to share about herself so that we can know her more deeply. She writes:

*“I am delighted to be working with the Passionists at Holy Cross Centre (HCC) in Templestowe as Finance Officer. I took over in this role in March 2024 from Rose Cincotta after she made the decision to work closer to home. All have made me feel very welcome at HCC – I am blessed to have this wonderful group of people around me and I so appreciate the peaceful ambience of the chapels and grounds.*

*I enjoy looking back to see God’s hand over my career and how one step led to another: a weekend retreat led me to doing some project work for Campion and that connection led me to being the Secretary & Treasurer of the Conference of Spiritual Directors, Australia (CSD) for several years. Along the way, I met Paul Beirne, who was the Director of Heart of Life. Many times, he and I laughed as he recounted me introducing myself as I was ‘stealing’ a crucifix on the wall outside his office for a photo shoot. That led to him asking me ‘You don’t know anyone who could assist me with the growing administration here, do you?’ I jumped at the opportunity – actually an answer to a prayer that I had made only days before – and I was blessed to work with Paul for the next several years until he retired.*



*I learnt all about spiritual direction through CSD and Heart of Life and my spirituality deepened as I recognised God’s work in spiritual direction through the caring, contemplative presence of another. Whilst I value my past career in administration and management roles in law (intellectual property) and education, working in a ministry context is where I feel called. My commencement of pastoral care studies this year is part of my response to God, to my own heart and my support of others in everyday life.*

*Aside from work, my husband and I lead busy lives, enriched with four children (young adults), our elderly mothers and a great group of friends. Life is good!*

*Kind regards,*

*Cecilia.”*

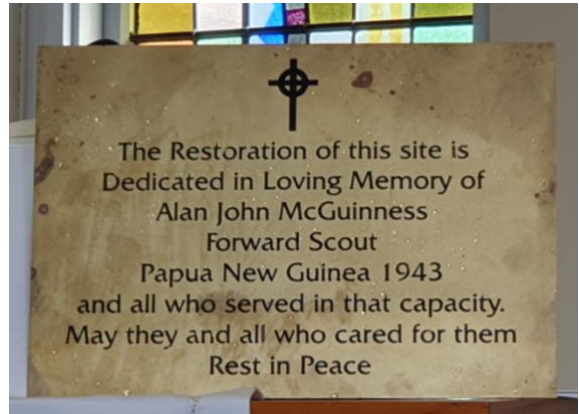
## Joey and Tim bless a Plaque in memory of John McGuinness



A few weeks ago at Sunday's Eucharist, just before Joey blessed

the plaque, Tim spoke saying:

*"This plaque is to be blessed by Fr. Joey. It is for Alan John McGuinness originally from a Mallee wheat farm and parishioner of St. Mary's, Swan Hill as were quite a few people here with us at the Monastery. In 1943 he served as a Forward Scout for 222 days along with many others in Papua New Guinea. He was one of the 35 left. His family are greatly honoured to have Fr. Joey bless this plaque and want it emphasised the debt we all owe to all the people of PNG who helped them. It will be placed for public viewing in the town of Seymour."*



We thank all our Holy Cross members involved, including Graeme and Merrell who organised the plaque.

## Fr Joey CP heads to the USA for Mission Appeals:

Last Friday we had a delicious fish and chips farewell dinner Chris cooked. The next day Joey headed to the USA to beg for financial support towards the Passionist Mission in PNG. For the next three months, he will be preaching each weekend and traveling from parish to parish in more than 7 states. God forgive me for interrupting Fr Rafael who was blessing him before he left. As you all know, Rafael and Budi plan to go to PNG soon for mission work. I thought it was momentous to take a photo of them but it killed it, perhaps because God has already done the blessing before we thought of it!



Good luck Joey, see you in September.





## Come Away Day



The next **Come Away Day** of the year will be held at Holy Cross on **Wednesday 22nd MAY**. The theme of the day is **'COME REST AWHILE AND RENEW'**. This is an opportunity to continue the flow of the Spirit's gifts into our lives.



The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, reflection and group interaction in the beautiful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. Just come as you are. BYO lunch. Registration is from 9.30 am. The program concludes with a celebration of the Eucharist with a departure time of

around 2 pm. The cost of the day is \$25.00 or a donation according to your means. For any further details contact Sr Brigid cp on [bridget.m64@gmail.com](mailto:bridget.m64@gmail.com) . Brochures about the 2024 Program are available in the Back Porch of the Chapel.

## Coffee Cart on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May

The coffee cart was supposed to be on this weekend but due to maintenance issues, the owner has postponed it to next Sunday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of May after 10 am mass.

We look forward to seeing you all.

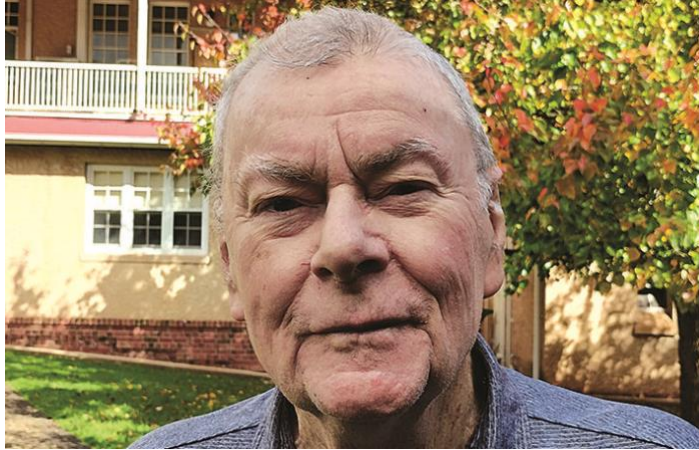
## Subscription to Holy Cross YouTube Channel

Some of you may have already learnt that we have a Holy Cross YouTube Channel. It is called Holy Cross Retreat. It can be accessed at this site:

<https://www.youtube.com/@HolyCrossRetreat>

We currently have 34 subscriptions but we need at least 50 in order to be able to livestream liturgies. We have previously used someone else's account but now wish to use our own. You may feel like visiting it and subscribe to help us be able to reach out to more people who are not usually able to be with us in person on special occasions. Thank you.

## 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 2 of 3:

His first year as a priest was spent training in writing sermons and public speaking. He preached missions around Australia, then volunteered with delight for the new Passionist Mission to begin in New Guinea, arriving in January 1961.

Over the next decade he established the Catholic Church's presence in three locations, with Stone Age people under very harsh physical conditions."

"The level of communication was utterly minimal, dealing with many different languages, but I would say Mass every day and soon set up a school and an aid post," he said.

"I never imagined that I would do anything else in my life but I burnt out big time. It took me years to recover."

The physical toll was due in part to his personal involvement in helping to build four airstrips in the remote locations. While three were "simple", the fourth was a major undertaking.

"Thanks to Australian Catholic relief I was able to buy a tractor delivered in bits by the Mission Cessna to the nearest airfield 14 kilometres away," he explained.

A picture which appeared on the front page of The Southern Cross in May 1984 of Fr Jeff with some children who were supported through the resettlement program.

“With incredible effort, the men of Kamberatoro carried it to us through the jungle. A volunteer mechanic came in and put it back together, adding a bulldozer blade. For a whole year a Dutch volunteer and I drove it every daylight hour until planes could land.

“In each of the places I served, I designed and built churches, classrooms, medical aid posts and houses, all made of raw unsawn timber straight from the forest, by totally untrained workers under my leadership. I taught them how to do truss roofs and was pleased to see that every house in each village was later constructed in that way.”

There are many fond memories of his time in PNG but one in particular led to the next phase of his ministry.

In the middle of the huge effort to build the Kamberatoro airstrip close to the Dutch border (later the Indonesian border), a party of 80 people walked onto the mission “looking very dusty, hungry and exhausted”.

“They were refugees, and they were running for their lives,” Fr Jeff said.

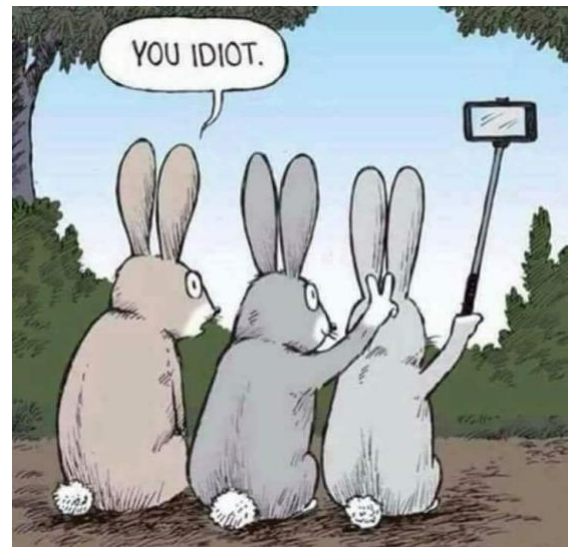
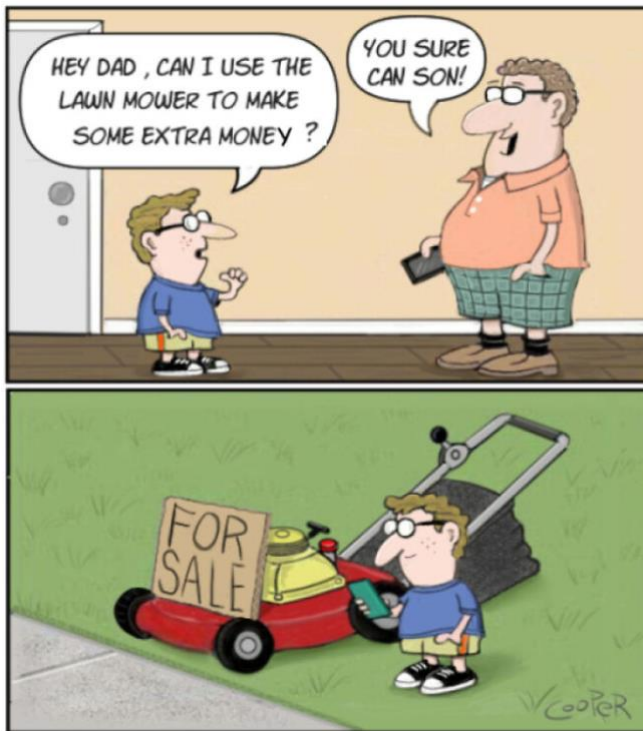
“I sheltered them in the mission school and we fed them. Then I walked to a neighbouring village for Mass, only to be devastated on my return next day to find that, on orders from Australian authorities, those unfortunates had been marched back across the border into the arms of the very people they had been escaping from.

“That planted something in me. That’s why I got involved with refugees here in Adelaide.”

To be continued.



Humour:



"Please don't pray for healing. If it works, your insurance won't know who to reimburse and it messes up our accounting system."



## Happy Pentecost Sunday

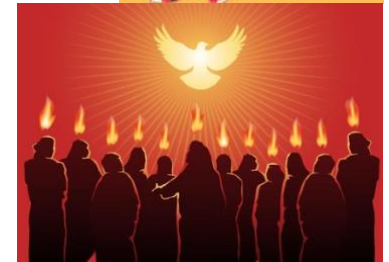
### Why do Catholics wear red on Pentecost?

This event marks the beginning of the Church. In honour of this joyous occasion, it is popular tradition to wear red to Mass, to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit in our community and our unity in Christ. Hopefully, our church will be blazing in red.



### Pentecost Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And you will renew the face of the earth.



May you enjoy a Spirit-filled celebration!

### Prayers

We remember those celebrating memories of loved ones, especially, [Shirley Horlock](#) (17/5), [Betty Candy](#) (20/5), [Geoffrey Ward](#) (24/5), [Kevin Byrne](#) (25/5), [Beverley O'Loughlin](#) (26/5) and [Maureen Whyte](#) (26/5).

We remember all the recently deceased. We remember especially John Buchan who passed away last Wednesday (15<sup>th</sup>) in South Africa. John is the father of Trish Gurney. Trish and her husband Roger are involved in the Passionist Family Group Movement leadership teams both at state (VIC) and national level. Please keep Trish and family in your thoughts and prayer. Rest In Peace, John.

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.

