



May 2024

Letter 225

Assistant Editor



Special thanks to Erick for the excellent newsletters he produced during my absence. Added to his task was the personal delivery to fifteen addresses that is normally done by Teresa Lim, but Teresa is recovering from knee surgery.

Jerome's sister

We have been praying for two of Jerome's sisters for some time. His sister, Kate is disabled and she has been greatly assisted by his sister Mary, who has been suffering from cancer. They live in Benalla, Another sister, Monica lives in Melbourne. Mary's condition has worsened but she is fighting on.

Our unwell friends

Our list of unwell friends repeated weekly in the newsletter and both the recorded Mass and Sunday 10.00am Mass, is quite lengthy. It could be longer, if we listed other people the Passionist community prays for. Not everyone wants their illness or their circumstances made public, and we do not list names without permission. We want to reassure those who have asked for our prayers or those we have learned about who are unwell, that they are remembered and prayed for.

YTU break

Today YTU completes the first semester for 2024. This will allow **Chris** a break until July 31st from teaching, and both **JD** and **Tri** a break from attending classes. During that break our brother **Tri**, who operates the Power Point at Sunday Mass, will make final profession, at 7.30pm on Friday evening July 12th. You are warmly welcome to attend.

Vatican update on visions

You may have read that the Vatican has updated its process for evaluating alleged



visions of supernatural phenomena. Claims of weeping and bleeding statues, mystical visions and stigmata are officially claims until proven otherwise. The head of the Vatican doctrine office Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández has said that the faithful are never obliged to believe in these

particular events.

The new guide has been designed to provide a more streamlined process for evaluating claims of supernatural phenomena, eliminating confusion and error without suppressing the action of the Holy Spirit.

Established shrines like Lourdes, Fatima, Aparecida and Guadalupe are widely-known sites of miracles and Marian apparitions. The new norms say local bishops must investigate supernatural phenomena by creating an Investigatory Commission. Which includes one theologian, one canonist and one expert on the specific occurrence. The commission must submit its judgment for approval to the Vatican's doctrinal office.



The new norms envisage six main outcomes for cases being investigated. The most favourable is that the church issues a noncommittal doctrinal green light, that means there is nothing about the event that is contrary to the faith, and Catholics can therefore express devotion to it. Alternatively, the bishop might be more cautious if he's aware of

doctrinal red flags about the reported event. The most serious envisages a declaration that the event isn't supernatural or that there are enough red flags to warrant a public statement that "adherence to this phenomenon is not allowed".

The Vatican will undertake its own investigations and reflections before confirming the bishop's decision or issuing a new judgment. It may also decide the case needs further study before any comment can be made. It could be that while some issues remain, the case's popularity among the faithful makes it difficult to discern, or that a group or individual is using the supernatural phenomenon for individual gain. Critical issues in the phenomenon may need clarification or the event may be discerned as not being of a supernatural nature.



Cabrini movie



Frances Cabrini was born in 1850 in northern Italy. Despite suffering from frail health she was indomitable in her passion to offer hope for orphaned children, Italian migrants and the poor.

The prejudice against migrants that plagues the world today was vicious when Cabrini arrived in New York unable to speak English, at the request of Pope Leo 13th. She had a great fear of water and drowning, yet in 1912 she bought a ticket to sail on the Titanic to take her mission to China. Just before she set sail, she was called back to help with a crisis at a hospital in New York. The Titanic sank! During her life she established 67 institutions including orphanages, schools and hospitals and there were more than a thousand sisters living and working in eight countries.

She and seven other women founded the Missionary sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was recognised as the United States first saint, and 120,000 attended her canonisation in Soldier Field Chicago, in 1946. She is the patron saint of immigrants.



The movie '**Cabrini**' is inspiring and I strongly recommend it. Many of our Italian friends at Holy Cross who came to Australia after WW2, will relate to the experience of the Italian immigrants Frances Cabrini assisted. Frances Cabrini proved what one person with great faith can do, and especially what a woman can do!

The movie is being shown at the Palace theatre in Balwyn. The trailer is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaMIUazXvyY>

Farewell



Our three postulants (Thang, Cu'ong and Hai) have been here eleven months and they will be leaving Melbourne on Tuesday June 18th. They have been welcoming to people attending 10.00am Mass each Sunday and their smiles and greetings will be missed at the front door of the chapel as well as in the community. They will return to their homes for a brief holiday before travelling to the Philippines for their novitiate year.



They will be joined in the novitiate by their classmate **Hậu**, who

has been studying an extra year of Philosophy in Saigon, and by five Filipino Passionists.

Two other classmates joining them will be **Thang** and **DJ** who were with us at Holy Cross last year. They have had their novitiate delayed because there were insufficient numbers and because a novice master was not available.



We have experimented with various strategies over the past ten years or so to cater for students from Vietnam, PNG, China and Japan. During this time, we had a 'joint' novitiate in Adelaide and then a novitiate in Vietnam. It seems a sensible move to join with our brothers in the Philippines, since all our novitiate candidates are from Vietnam, and the novice master, Chris Aitakan has served as assistant novice master in Adelaide. Chris understands the workings of our Province and he will be assisted by Bro Larry Finn with whom Chris served in Glen Osmond, Adelaide. Chris will also be assisted by Fr Willy Estrada who was novice master in Adelaide when Erick undertook novitiate.



Because our three brothers (**Hai, Thang and Cu'ong**) will be away, attending the ordination of fellow Vietnamese Passionists Cong, Doan and John Paul and the final profession of Jusin Durai-Raj on the weekend before their departure, we will officially farewell them at Sunday Mass on June 9th. Perhaps they will sing a farewell song for us?

Driving Instructor

Most people would have heard the very humorous skit of Bob Newhart, titled 'The Driving Instructor. Having replaced the previous instructor Mr Adams, he narrates a one sided conversation with Mrs Webb, a woman under instruction. He begins by gathering a few facts.

One of the facts he checks by asking, "How fast were you going when Mr Adams jumped from the car?"

He responds by repeating her reply. "75!" He asks, "And where was this?"

Again he repeats, "In your driveway!"

He asks, "How far had Mr Adams got in the lessons?"

Again he repeats, "Backing out". "I see you were backing out at 75 and that is when he jumped".

Peter Norman and **Joe Senso** have been conducting driving lessons for several of our students over recent years. They should have a break soon after **Tuan Paul** (from

Endeavour Hills, attends his driving test. We are extremely grateful to Peter and Joe for their generous labour of love.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaUYQZR-y7I>

Vince Celestino has continued the work of **extending the carpark**, and soon there will be a concrete path from that carpark to the St Gabriel's shrine. As previously advised, we have decided against re-establishing the labyrinth because of the maintenance involved. We create more green space adjacent to the Shrine.

Coffee cart

Last Sunday was perhaps the biggest gathering after Mass to enjoy the beautiful sunshine and the fellowship. We extend thanks again to the extreme generosity that has made these Sunday gatherings possible including many who brought along cakes and biscuits. Thank you. We have decided to take a break now until September because of the expected cold weather during winter. Perhaps September 15th will be the next Coffee Cary day.

Photos of a recent cultural gathering at ELSPM

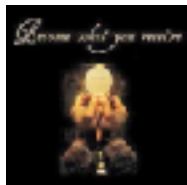


Rafael, Hai, Chris, Thang, Cu'ong, Budi Rafael, 2 sisters and a very haapy Budi



Thang and Vietnamese sister

Sunday – The feast of the Body of Christ (Corpus Christi)



Throughout history there have been many understandings of Eucharist. The greatest emphasis has been placed on the actual material element of bread, rather than the liturgical celebration and even more so on the people being the body of Christ. St Augustine said “at Eucharist, we become what we eat”,

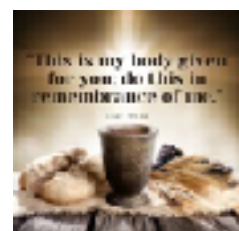
The “real” presence of Jesus, as it was described, was a definition that Jesus was really present in the form of bread. This was emphasized so much, that any other form of the presence of Jesus was considered ‘not real’. Attending Mass came to be used as a way of describing a “practising” Catholic. It was as if, no matter what else a person did in his/her life, nothing qualified them as being a true disciple of Jesus like attending Mass and receiving communion.

Sadly, those unable to receive communion have always felt like outsiders, despite Jesus always welcoming outsiders and making this a principal thrust of his ministry!

So what emphasis do we give to these things today?

The importance of Eucharist is not just the elements of bread and wine, but eating and drinking with the gathered assembly. Since COVID-19, ‘drinking’ has virtually disappeared, but we can share a meal without drinking. St Paul wrote “as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the death of the Lord” (1 Cor 11:26) The consecrated bread and wine are sacred, but not magical. The highpoint is not ‘the consecration’ - it is communion (the sharing of the bread in mutual fellowship).

If we visit a war memorial we remember with gratitude what was



done in the past by brave men and women. This is a memorial of stone. In the Eucharist, the memorial is living and it is of the heart, because what Jesus offered and promised then, he offers and promises now for us. What we highlight at Eucharist is that when believers come together as the “Assembly of God”, they remember Jesus alive and present, by eating together. This is **a living memory**, in which Jesus is present and active.

Vatican 2 reminded us that Jesus is alive, present and active:

- a) in the Word as it is proclaimed and heard
- b) in the minister who leads Eucharist
- c) in the gathered praying people
- d) in the eating and drinking together.

Each is a form of Jesus real presence! Each deserves appropriate reverence.



To really celebrate what Eucharist means, those who participate should witness to the mission of Jesus - the fellowship and inclusion of all people in God’s family.

Receiving communion is a communal action. We share together. We become united with and through Jesus. Whenever people are excluded, something of the meaning of Eucharist is lost.

If we celebrate unity but don’t live it, something of the meaning of Eucharist is lost. If we celebrate that we believe in the fellowship of all people, but don’t live as if that is true, our witness is a betrayal of our commitment. By celebrating around the table we are called to be Jesus to and for others. There is rich symbolism in the fact that every time we gather, we come from diverse places, with different stories, personalities, needs and attitudes, but we are “one body”. We symbolize that with the breaking and sharing of bread for communion.



The feast of Corpus Christi is a reminder that our vocation is to be Jesus for today! We are nourished in that vocation by gathering around the table and dining with Jesus and others. When we leave, we are Jesus for others, going out with him to make a better world (the Kingdom of God). The reverence we might have once

had for the elements of bread and wine either on the altar or in the tabernacle is right, but why should it be any stronger than our reverence for Christ’s presence within ourselves and within the people we meet.

It is good that we remember St Augustine’s advice, “**We become what we eat**”!

Humour

A police officer in a small town stopped a motorist who was speeding down the Main Street. “Officer, the man began, I can explain.....”

“Just be quiet”, snapped the officer. “I’m going to let you cool your heels in jail until the chief gets back”.

“But, officer, I just wanted to say....”

“And I said to be quiet. You’re going to wait in jail for the chief”.

A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, “It’s lucky for you that the chief’s at his daughter’s wedding. He’ll be in a good mood when he gets back”.

“Don’t count on it”, answered the prisoner. “I’m the groom”.

English pronunciation

Bomb, Tomb, Comb, Poem, Home, Some, Numb, Dumb

<https://youtube.com/shorts/EXTAuehcDsg?si=xhwUFaUsF36V-bwY>

Murphy walked into work with both ears bandaged up.

The boss asked, “What happened to your ears”

Murphy said, “ Yesterday I was ironing a shirt when the phone rang, and I accidentally answered the iron.”

The boss said, “Well that explains one ear but what happened to your other ear .”

Murphy said “I had to call the doctor”



Greatest tattoo ever 🤔



Coffee Cart photos









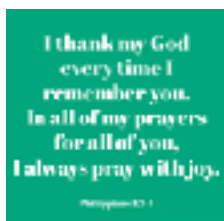


Prayers

We remember the recently deceased especially [Liliana Calvisi](#) wife of Augusto, and those celebrating memories of loved ones, especially [Denis Bergin](#) (2nd June 2023).

[Peter and Debbie Day](#) report that their 4 months old grandson, [Alfred](#) is doing well. The tumour has not grown since his birth so the doctors want to wait until he is 12 months old before removing it. Prior to his birth it was 'touch and go' and Peter and Debbie wish to thank everyone for their prayers, which we will continue

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



Adrian Woon, Ann Burke, Margaret Enriquez, Maree Bartoli, Tony Tome, Robyn Burns, Paul Darbyshire, Carol Battistella, John & Maeve Reardon, Pam Storey, Gerry Bond, Peter McNamara, Ann Burke, Phil Drew, Alexander Lim, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Monique Hardinge, Michael O'Callaghan, Bronwyn Burke, Helen McLean, Mary Hackett, Pam Gartland, Greg Agosta, Patricia Keeghan, Anne Jenkins, Errol Lovett, Shirley Barnes, Sr Gen

Walsh RSC,

Mary Dunn, Chris O'Toole, Gerald Quinn CP, and baby Alfred Theodore.

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

Thank you

Brian