

Holy Cross Retreat

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



Letter 232
2024

19th

July,

Tri



Tri made his final profession (life-long commitment) as a Passionist at Holy Cross last Friday night, in a delightful liturgy led by Provincial, Denis Travers. One of Tri's first cousin's and his wife represented his family, and there were members of three choirs who sang beautifully, brilliantly led by Bro Triêu MSC. The choir members generously contributed most of the supper.



Students and staff from Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg where Tri has pastoral involvement, took part in the liturgy. Professed Passionist brothers and sisters, Companions and other members of our Holy Cross family were present for the occasion, along with members of other Congregations, YTU, ELSPM and CPE colleagues



The two top photos show stages of the ceremony with the Provincial, Denis Travers, The photo immediately above shows Tri accompanied by representatives of various 'groups',

walking around the chapel wearing a crown of thorns, and carrying a cross. The link for photos from the profession is: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xZmaGg2jwKSIVOL95Ro6dhCjVOPs0hFC>

Farewell



After a very long and determined battle with cancer, **Maeve Reardon** passed away quietly at home last Saturday. Fr Jose was present. In her final weeks, Maeve had the full-time care of her daughter Renee. There will be a rosary at Holy Cross next Tuesday (July 22nd) at 7.00pm and requiem Mass on Wednesday (July 23rd) at **10.30am**.

Remembering

We remember with gratitude, **Maree Metcalfe** and her great contribution to the Passionist Family Group Movement in Victoria, with her husband **Bernard**. Their association with Holy Cross spans 55 years. It is twelve months (today, Friday 19th) since Maree's sudden passing.

Birthday Best wishes to **Geoff Boulton** who celebrates his birthday today, Friday July 19th

60th Ordination anniversary



Our community was able to celebrate **Tony Egar's 60th anniversary** last Sunday night. Tony's anniversary was yesterday (18th July) and he will celebrate on Sunday in Adelaide, his home State. **Pastor** was also with us to celebrate.

It was good for us to acknowledge the significant contribution Tony made as community leader at Holy Cross back in the later 1960's, despite, at that time, not yet being 30 years of age. These were the early days of a long and varied life of ministry and service to our Province.

We were able to extend our customary gift of a tee shirt on such an occasion but we made it more appropriate for the cold

weather.

Another Final Profession

JD's brother, **Thai** will make his final profession as an Oblate tonight, July 19th

Sharing a coffee

There is an open invitation to share a coffee at Melissa Cakes Café Bar, 65 Parker St, Lower Templestowe next Thursday **July 25 at 10.30am**. Just turn up and get to know some others from Holy Cross, a little better.

A Team work



We have reported on the great work of the **'A' Team** and of the wonderful response we had for new members. Both last week and this week, they have been extra generous in being here on days other than the usual Fridays, monitoring the installation of quite a number of new LED lights which replace the fluorescent lights. This is a government scheme to reduce power usage (by 85%). We only learned of the scheme from new 'A' Team member, Peter Day.

Pasta lunch



The Association of San Gabriele of the Passionist Community is having a Sunday Lunch on **28th July 12.00 pm**. The cost is \$35.00 per person (BYO DRINKS). All welcome. Why not book a table? For information: **Bruno** 0419 503 300; **Joe Senzo** 0409 161 606 **Joe Curcio** 0419 369 372

Our new novices

We have six men who have begun their novitiate in Alabel, Sarangani Province in the Philippines. First up is a retreat led by Bro Larry Finn CP. Three of these new novices lived at Holy Cross until recently (Hai, Thang and Cu'ong) and two others (Thang) (far left in the photo below) and DJ (far right) completed their postulancy a year ago. Hâu recently completed his third year of philosophy in Saigon.

From left to right, the group (in the photo below) are:
Thang, Hâu, Hai, Larry, Thang, Cu'ong, DJ



Pastoral experience in the Philippines (see photos below)

Tri has four classmates whom many would remember well from their time at Holy Cross...Thang, Cau, Toan and Phuc. Cau was packing his case for his two month pastoral experience in the Philippines when the news arrived that his father was gravely ill. Sadly, his Dad passed away on June 20th so he has been unable to join his brothers in the highlands in the south of the country.

This is the first time our students have travelled to the Philippines for a pastoral experience. We are most appreciative of the PASSION Province because we value the opportunity for these men to have pastoral supervision and community living while engaged in this ministry. You will note their adopted allegiance!



Reflection (Joan Borysanko)

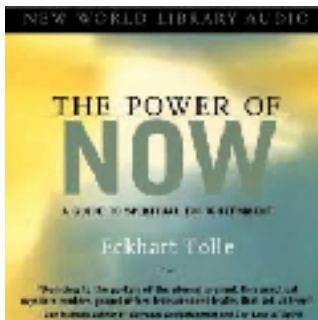
Every day bring a choice: to practice stress or to practice peace. I believe that we all crave serenity in our day to day life. But keeping this vibe of peace is hard to do sometimes when we are faced with the challenges of life.



Inner balance and calm come from a calm, settled and non-reactive mind. As we quieten our inner chatter, we naturally fall into a greater space of inner stability. Anything that we give our attention and focus to, will expand. The more we worry and over-think our troubles and challenges, the stronger we are making them and the more we will continue to experience them. So we should shift our focus on what is working, rather than what is not working. On what we love, instead of what we don't love, on the present moment, rather than worrying about the past or future, or on fear.

May our eyes be blessed so we can only see goodness.
May our words be blessed so we can only speak kindness
May our hearts be blessed so we can only feel compassion
May our soul be blessed so we can only radiate love

Reflection (Eckhart Tolle)



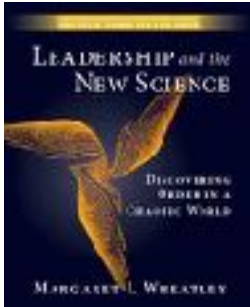
“Be at least as interested in what goes on inside you as what happens outside. If you get the inside right, the outside will fall into place. Unease, anxiety, tension, stress, worry — all forms of fear — are caused by too much future, and not enough presence. Guilt, regret, resentment, grievances, sadness, bitterness, and all forms of non-forgiveness are caused by too much past, and not enough presence”
(Eckhart Tolle)



“Do not worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will look after itself; each day has enough problems of its own” (Matthew 6:34)

Contextual theology...Part 3

Several years ago, I began reading some of Margaret Wheatley's books and articles on leadership and organisations. She consistently refers to 'Chaos Theory' and the

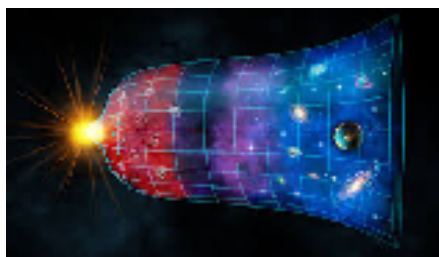


Quantum world. As I began to read various articles and books on these subjects, other sciences such as 'Superstring Theory' revealed themselves. I became fascinated by 'strange attractors' and 'translocation' experiences, not just those that I read about from the world of science, but the stories of the people I know and work with. I began to read recent works on Quantum theology, evolution and spirituality as well as tuning in to 'nature' documentaries. What did it all mean?

As I came across various mind-blowing realities about the universe, a sense of awe and spiritual connectedness was growing. Now and again 'the penny dropped'. At the same time as this search has been going on, I witnessed the gradual feeling of disconnection between religion and life among so many committed Christian believers, and the seeming irrelevance among the young of so much of our Catholic tradition and practice. Yet among these same people is a deep hunger to 'connect'. They are searching for a spirituality that tapped into this experience. I recognised that I needed the space and time to contemplate these things and to be open to where this search might take me.



From the seventeenth century until the 1960's, scientists commonly believed that the universe was eternal and that it was governed by unchanging laws. Scientists such as Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo and Newton, and thinkers like Descartes, believed these unchanging laws reflected God's eternal nature. Both the nature of an omnipotent 'emperor like' God and the universe itself, were considered to be fixed and unchanging.



Jesuit priest George Lemaitre first proposed the idea of a 'primeval atom' in 1927 suggesting, as did the early Egyptians, that the universe began like a Cosmic Egg exploding at the moment of creation. Lemaitre predicted an expanding universe. British astronomer Fred Hoyle ridiculed this idea and referred to it with scorn as the 'Big Bang' theory.

Modern cosmology proposes that the universe indeed began with a flaring of light from a point smaller than the head of a pin.

This cosmology also proposes that life (everything that has ever been or will exist), as well as time and space was contained in that flaring, and that everything has been evolving from that 'Big Bang' moment.

The mechanistic view of the science that developed during the past three hundred years, virtually eliminated God from nature and set about explaining life in terms of physics and chemistry. In 2000, the first draft of the human genome was published. This was a long-held dream among biologists that they believed would solve the clues of life. The first surprise was that there were as few as 25,000 genes, one thousand fewer than a sea urchin and 13,000 thousand fewer than rice! Knowing the programme of a human organism did not explain everything about how it grows and behaves.



Evolutionary biologist Jean Baptist Lamarck was born in the middle of the eighteenth century and he proposed, along with Charles Darwin that adaptations by animals and plants could be passed on to their offspring. This meant that animals could inherit habits. From the 1940's this view of Darwinism was consistently rejected. Richard Dawkins has been one modern outspoken critic of Lamarck. However, in the past decade, such opposition has reduced in intensity as scientists have looked for explanations to support evidence of inherited characteristics. Some, for example, have proposed that a portion of 'memory' is expressed through quantum fields.



We are becoming increasingly aware that we are not just part of the earth community. We are in communion with the universe, or as some cosmologists say, we are the universe in human form! Younger generations are being given new information, so they know that the 'world' was not created in seven days. Sadly, as mentioned in last week's reflection, because they have little appreciation for myths, in throwing out tradition such as the Genesis story, they are left with nothing but supposed facts.

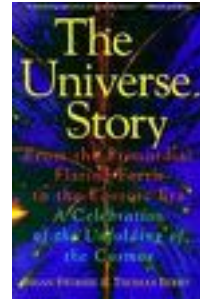
Many Generation Y's are 'spiritual' young men and women. They display signs that they do not want to focus on the materialism of former generations, despite the fact that materialism surrounds them. Our current generations do have a myth, though mostly we fail to appreciate it.

Brian Swimme refers to it as 'the myth of consumerism'. It is deeply embedded and has terrible consequences. In his book, *The Hidden Heart of the Cosmos*, Swimme, makes the point that 'consumerism' is the dominant world faith or religion of our present age. It is how children are initiated into the world. He suggests that, *"the cave has been replaced by the television set, and the*

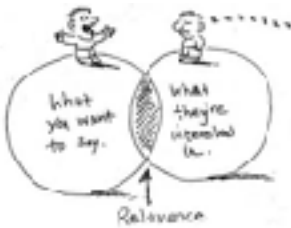


chant has been replaced by advertisements, whose aim is to make people feel unhappy with what they presently have!" He suggests that it is advertisements that give children their basic meaning in the world. "They learn that humans go to work to earn money to buy stuff and the Earth is what provides the stuff. If consumerism is the new religion, advertisements are the sermons".

It is important that we keep searching for a language that speaks more truly of the Christian experience in the light of what is being called 'The New Story'. Much of our Catholic ritual and prayer is expressed in atonement or redemptive language and this is becoming less relevant to people's experience. It cannot be a matter of either/or. The new story does not replace the old. It builds on it, and our language has to consider this, especially during a time of transition.



It could be said that the Passionist charism emerged almost fourteen billion years ago, in the initial second of the birth of the Universe. It was articulated in the eighteenth century by Paul Danei (St Paul of the Cross) in a particular form that spoke to the spirituality of his day. Now, it is as relevant as ever, but it needs new expression in the light of the different understanding we have of life, death and rebirth. Relevant language must consider this time of transition. It is a wonderful connection that Thomas Berry, who has contributed so much to the new way of seeing our place in the Universe story, was a Passionist.



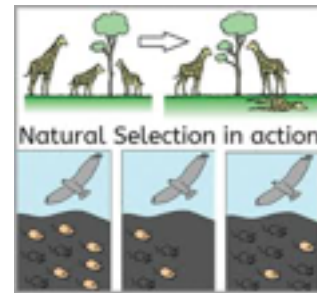
Modern cosmological discoveries shatter nearly everything upon which the modern age was built, because we have discovered that the Universe came into existence 13,750 billion years ago. It is biased toward complexity and communion. Is there a direction or purpose to this evolution? Some say 'no'.



However, looking into the development of species there does seem to be a direction. Some scientists think that the Universe has been aiming for a 'place' where it could reflect upon itself and this may give humans new insight into the meaning of their lives because we can self-reflect and humans, of all species have the capacity for awe. Can we comprehend that it has taken almost 13.8

billion years for us to be here alive at this time? Our amazement and awareness invites the question, *'What does it mean to be human?'*

Coral reefs constitute one per cent of ocean space but are home to twenty-five per cent of its fish. Today one third of the world's reefs have been destroyed, largely by the pollution from pesticides that have leaked into the sea. But reefs have not always been built by corals! Initially this was done by algae, next by sponges, then clams. Coral has taken over since the period referred to as the Cretaceous extinction, which saw the demise of the dinosaurs. In this same period, animals such as rhinoceros developed into a form with similarities to some of the dinosaurs, such as having a tank like protective body. Giraffes and camels stretched their necks as other forms of dinosaurs had done, to reach high vegetation.



Scientists can trace species that have evolved independently time and again, from land to sea and back, land to air and back, and note common developments in different species. These developments suggest that life is always searching for a way to be itself. It has a direction. Scientists suggest that life invented sight (eyes) forty separate times. There exists in different

animals and birds almost every type of eye, every way of seeing that is imaginable, from the eagle to the worm. It seems the universe was determined to find a way to see itself, just as it found a way to hear itself. Life on earth existed for three and a half million years without eyes. Then five hundred million years ago, a way was found to see. Of course, as non-sighted people know, there is another way of 'seeing'; and that is with 'the heart'.



To be continued.....

Humour





1. Q. Dad, are we pyromaniacs? A. Yes, we arson.
2. Q. What do you call a pig with laryngitis? A. Disgruntled.
3. Q. Why is 'dark' spelled with a k and not c? A. Because you can't see in the dark.
4. Q. Why is it unwise to share your secrets with a clock? A. Well, time will tell.
5. Q. Why do bees stay in their hives during winter? A. Swarm.
6. Q. How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A. A buccaneer.
7. Writing my name in cursive is my signature move.
8. If you're bad at haggling, you'll end up paying the price.
9. Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.
10. Just so everyone's clear, I'm going to put my glasses on.

Easy or nor?

1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the name of the third child?
2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop. He is five feet ten inches tall, and wears size 13 sneakers. What does he weigh?
4. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?
5. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?
6. What word in the English Language is always spelt incorrectly?
7. Along the Great Ocean Road, you can't take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?

8. If you were running a race, and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?

9. Which is correct to say, “the yolk of the egg are white” or “ the yolk of the egg is white”?

10. If a farmer has five haystacks in one field and four haystacks in the other field. How many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in another field?

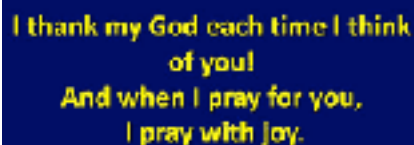
11. What was the name of the Prime Minister in 2000?

Answers next week

Prayers

We remember all the recently deceased especially **Maeve Reardon**, and those whose anniversaries occur this week, especially **Maree Metcalfe (19th)** **Marjorie Flew (19th July)**, **Simon Raffin (20th July)**, **Kathleen Coucher**, **Concetta Minichilli**, **Nola Bennett** and **Robert Johnston (23rd July)**

Please remember Fr Pastor’s mother, **Agnes Mumburi** who has multiple health issues, and Pastor is a long way from home (in Tanzania)



I thank my God each time I think
of you
And when I pray for you,
I pray with joy.

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

Lorraine Gill, Adrian Woon, Maree Bartoli,
Pam Storey, Margaret Enriquez, Ann Burke,
Tony Tome, Sandra Street, Paul Darbyshire,
Mary Dunn, Luke Norden, Carol Battistella, Monique

Hardinge, Robyn Burns,
John Reardon, Gerry Bond, Ann Burke, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Alexander Lim,
Greg Agosta, Michael O’Callaghan, Peter McNamara, Bronwyn Burke,
Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Anne Jenkins, Pam Gartland, Patricia Keeghan,
Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Errol Lovett, Shirley Barnes, Chris O’Toole and baby Alfred
Theodore in London.

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

Thank you

Brian



**Tri's family
watching
the
profession**



The flower arrangement was beautiful last Friday night