

Holy Cross Retreat

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



Letter 248

8th November, 2024

Greetings everyone

Mixed feelings for Joey – death & birthday



On Sunday, Joey had family friends visiting, partly because his mother's only brother, Michael Diel Kaptaria, was critically ill. On Tuesday morning, Michael passed away. This was devastating news for the family, especially for Joey's mother. Since Joey lost his father, Michael had been a father figure to him and his siblings, providing strong support for Joey's widowed mother. Joey left yesterday for the funeral. This loss will likely bring back difficult memories of his father's passing and other losses. Joey shared how Michael loved horses and betting on them, and noted that God calling him home on Melbourne Cup Day was especially meaningful to him. We pray for Michael's soul and for comfort for the family, especially Joey's mother, during this difficult time.

The day after Michael's passing, we celebrated Joey's birthday, which falls on Sunday the 10th. In the photo he's trying on his birthday gift a jumper in Passionist colour –significant in this time of mourning. It was a bittersweet occasion, as you can imagine, but Joey has managed to stay strong. Happy Birthday, Joey! We give thanks to your parents, whether living or departed, for blessing the Passionists with your presence among us.

May the Passion of Jesus always be in our minds and hearts.



Cardinals say Synod has given new life to 'being Church'



Published on 29 October 2024

Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, left, and Cardinal Mario Grech at a Synod news conference on Saturday (CNS/Lola Gomez).

Members of the Synod of Bishops experienced a new way of being Church and are committing to sharing it, said the two cardinals who guided its work. *Source: Catholic Review.*

Speaking on Saturday after Synod members passed their final document and Pope Francis approved it, Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the Synod said, "For me, personally, this document is important, but there is a document that was not written, which is the experience" of synodality by all those who took part in the global process since its beginning in 2021.

"The experience during this year has been beautiful," he told reporters at the Synod's final news conference on Saturday. And now the final document will help support local churches as they "try to take on this style of synodality". "We have walked together and now we know that we have to (keep walking) together in the future. And that's, I think, the great lesson we could experience," Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, relator general of the Synod said on Saturday.

"We not only have to teach the document, but we also have tried to give people the experience in order to become a real synodal Church on mission. Let's not forget" that sharing the Gospel is the ultimate goal of the multiyear process, he said. "We have not gathered just to look (at) structures of the Church; we have not gathered to make a battle between conservatives and liberals. "We have gathered to have a synodal church for all the baptised, a Church which fulfills, which listens to the mission it has received from Christ and tries to do that in everyday life," Cardinal Hollerich said.

The second session ended on Saturday with everybody "full of joy", Cardinal Hollerich said, and there was no visible sense of people lamenting that their position had not been taken into consideration.

FULL STORY: [Synod gave life to new way of being church, members say](#) or <https://catholicreview.org/synod-gave-life-to-new-way-of-being-church-members-say/> (By Carol Glatz, CNS via *Catholic Review*)

Reminder

PASSIONIST INSTITUTE 2024

**SATURDAY 16TH NOV
11AM - 2.45PM**

**Passionist Laity
Denis Travers cp**

**Reflections Younger CP
Luke Bulley cp**

**What do our companions
think???**

**SUNDAY 17TH NOV
1.25 - 5.30PM**

**Inner Life
Chris Monaghan cp**

**Belonging
Brian Traynor cp**

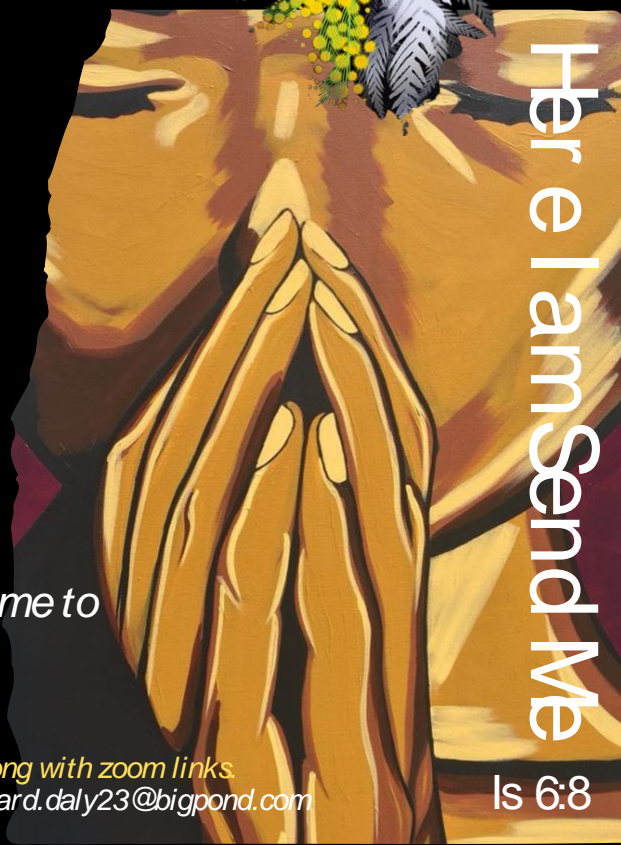
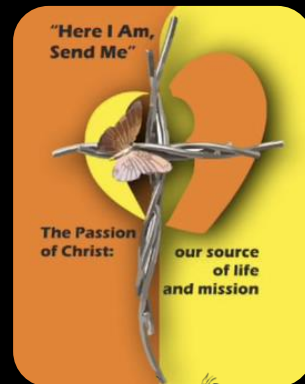
**Reflection
Vietnam**

**Ritual & Blessings
Cp Sisters**

*Those at Templestowe welcome to
join the Sunday BBQ*

FURTHER DETAILS TO COME

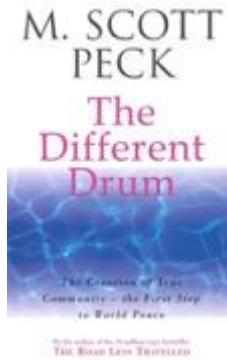
*Including a detailed schedule for both days, along with zoom links.
Any questions or concerns contact Gerard - gerard.daly23@bigpond.com*



Here I am Send Me

Is 6:8

Troubling Thoughts & Spiritual Growth: Stages of Faith



Most people are familiar with James Fowler's six stages of faith. Similarly, M. Scott Peck introduced four stages of faith in his book *The Different Drum: Community Making and Peace*. He is the same author of the 10 million bestseller book *The Road Less Travelled*. If you are not already aware of the four stages, I'd like to share a brief introduction. The four stages offer insight into why, despite sharing the same beliefs, we sometimes misunderstand one another's perspectives. The following summary, provided by a website focused on troubling thoughts and spiritual growth, highlights these stages. As we read through the stages it is advisable to think about at which stage of faith each of us might be and why. The images are my addition. This week's newsletter will cover stages three.

Introduction to M. Scott Peck's Four Stages of Faith of Spiritual Development

Source: <https://eriksholisticcornucopia.wordpress.com/2013/05/04/stages-of-faith-intro-to-m-scott-peck/>

M. Scott Peck offers a four-fold model outlining the development of one's spirituality. This system is loosely based upon our psychological development from children into adulthood. As with most, if not all of these systems, it provides a means of charting individual social-psychological development from an I-centric world, to a We-centric world, and for some into an Us-centric view of the world.

Stage III: Skeptic-Individual

This stage roughly corresponds to Fowler's stage 4 (Individuative-Reflective). This is predominately the domain of what I sometimes call nous-gnosticism (a search of knowledge ruled by the logical mind and intellect).



A strong sense of self-reliance may help one transition from the previous stage, and in my view this is largely a healthy transition. Among the hall marks of Stage III is the serious questioning of all that one has learned to this point in one's life. This includes sources of authority and information. Part of this process includes the critical evaluation of one's religious system.

Agnosticism, and even atheism, are common philosophical beliefs while in this stage. It is common to become "non-religious" in this stage, and some persons remain so for the rest of their life. And some even fall prey to an overwhelming sense of apathy and cynicism.

Stage III is also dominated by the processes of the intellect. In our modern world, this is the stage of scientific skepticism and reliance upon the empirical method, in place of reliance upon authority figures and dogmas presented to us by others.



Spirituality will encounter a great pressure to change in this stage. Persons unable to free their mind of the limitations of the slide rule may well lose their sense of spirituality altogether. Those who retain a sense of spiritual beliefs and observances will be driven to find new ways of understanding old doctrines and dogmas. Simple, literal interpretations of religious dogma must first give way to a more subtle understanding of one's religious mythos, and then a means of integrating this with one's scientific understanding of our cosmos must be found.



My personal view is the seeking imperative of this stage, ultimately drives one to either begin transitioning into the next stage (Mystical-Communal) or to succumb to a sense of being lost and isolated in a cold, dark and uncaring universe. In this sense, this can be a very dangerous stage of spiritual development, for it may lead to opening doors to untold mystery and wonder, or it may close our hearts for the rest of our lives.

Come Away Day

The last **Come Away Day** for 2024 will be held at Holy Cross on **TUESDAY 26th November**. The theme of the day is **"BRING FORTH LIGHT"**. At the end of this year and beginning the Season of ADVENT, this is an opportunity to focus on the deeper meanings of Advent and to rest and breathe gently in preparation and anticipation of the celebrations to come. 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 9.30am. The program concludes with a celebration of the Eucharist with a departure time of around 2.15pm. 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 .

Brochures about the 2024 Program are still available in the Back Porch of the Chapel. Please put this Date in your Diary and consider inviting a friend along to share the Come Away Day experience.

Humour from Peter Traynor

This week our Jokes have come from Peter Traynor. Thank you for the jokes.

Check in

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your luggage without your knowledge? To which I replied, if it was without my knowledge, how would I know? He smiled knowingly and nodded, that's why we ask. Happened in Melbourne.

Car dealerships

When my husband and I arrived at a car dealers to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. Hey, I announced to the mechanic, it's open! His reply, I know - I've already done that side!

Food service

My daughter went to a local McDonalds and ordered a Burger.. She asked the person behind the counter for minimal lettuce. He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce... Yep, happened in Surfers Paradise!!!

Oh Dear!!

I am a medical student currently doing a rotation in toxicology at the poison control centre. Today, a woman phoned and was very upset because she caught her little daughter eating ants. I quickly reassured her that the ants are not harmful and there would be no need to bring her daughter into the

hospital. She calmed down and at the end of the conversation happened to mention that she gave her daughter some ant poison to eat to kill the ants! I told her she better bring her daughter into the emergency rooms at the hospital right away.



Prayers

We remember all the recently deceased, and those whose anniversaries occur this week, especially

Lawrence Brolly - 8/11

Nell Donohue - 8/11

Jan Emilianowicz - 10/11

Fr. Leo Fitzpatrick CP - 10/11

Shirley Fitzsimons - 10/11

Fr. Pat Cooper CP - 11/11

Lydia Chin - 13/11

Frank Gagliardi - 13/11

Pat Bowen - 13/11

Nancy Di Pietro - 14/11

**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.

Peter Barry, Monica Sleeman, Desley Reynolds, Rex Cambry, Sharon Williams, Doris Castro, Julia Cantone, Caroline Meade, Sophia Chung, Zoe

Chung, Michael O'Callaghan, Peter McNamara, Pam Storey, Lorraine Gill, Adrian Woon, Maree Bartoli, Sandra Street, Paul Darbyshire, Luke Norden, Carol Battistella, Monique Hardinge, Kaya Lenic, Robyn Burns, John Reardon, Alexander Lim, Agnes Mumburi, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Gerry Bond, Mary Dunn, Bronwyn Burke, Greg Agosta Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Anne Jenkins, Pam Gartland, Patricia Keeghan, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Errol Lovett, 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
Erick.