

**Holy Cross Retreat**

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



**Letter 249**

15<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

Greetings everyone

**San Gabrielle's Fundraising Lunch**



On Sunday, the San Gabrielle's Fundraising Lunch was filled with delicious food, drinks, laughter and dance, not to mention the warm company. Thanks to the committee that worked hard to make it happen.



## Passionist Institute (Brian)



You may have baulked at the heading above and thought 'that's not for me'. But please keep reading. If you are associated with the Passionists, we are keen to enrich your belonging and have you help us better understand and share our unique spirituality. What is it about Passionist spirituality that you appreciate? To the extent that you can answer that, it is likely that you already share in that spirituality, and have been attracted to it in the same way any of the professed Passionists have been.



Our weekend Institute is an opportunity to explore some of the major themes from our recent General Chapter. The major one, universally recognised and agreed to by all the Passionists who were present, is that we have no future without 'Passionist laity'.

There are many levels of Passionists partnership and association and each of them is important. Our founder was a 'no-nonsense' down-to-earth, practical spiritual guide and preacher. That characteristic appeals to ordinary people, and it is not difficult to recognise that added to those characteristics of his, hope, compassion, mercy and the recognition of God's overwhelming love, are gifts worth contemplating on and sharing with others.

There is great emphasis today on discerning God's will. Paul of the Cross did not focus on this. His (Passionist) spirituality called for us not to be inquisitive about what God is doing or what God wants, but to abandon or surrender ourselves to God's will, in the same way as Jesus abandoned himself in embracing the cross.

The Institute will operate by Zoom, and is spread over two half-days. There are some brief input or sharing sessions, and opportunities for discussion. The aim is to explore



further, the relevance of our charism not only for professed Passionists but for laity who associate with us in whatever way they do and who are attracted to (maybe called by) our spirituality. Often, we find Passionist laity reflect back to us, richer insights of our charism than we have recognised. Please consider joining us for this event.

**The time table is:** Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>: 11.00am-2.45pm  
Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>: 1.30pm-5.30pm

**The Zoom link for both days is:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86089355952?pwd=xla1HsxrH4MvIK7RLNxavF5N8B4VmV.1> Meeting ID: 860 8935 5952. Passcode: 03011694

# 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**

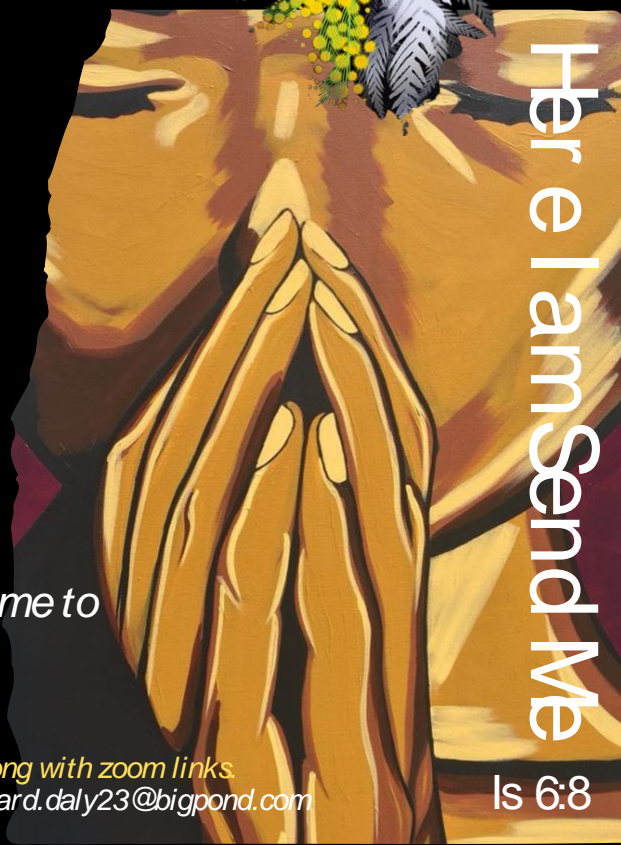
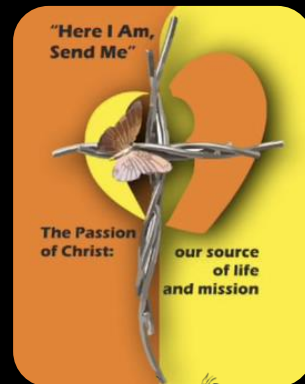
**Reflection  
Vietnam**

**Ritual & Blessings  
Cp Sisters**

*Those at Templestowe welcome to  
join the Sunday BBQ*

### **FURTHER DETAILS TO COME**

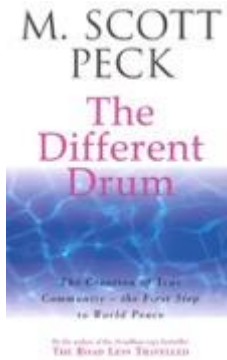
*Including a detailed schedule for both days, along with zoom links.  
Any questions or concerns contact Gerard - [gerard.daly23@bigpond.com](mailto:gerard.daly23@bigpond.com)*



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 stage four, the final stage.

### 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 IV: Mystical-Communal

This stage corresponds to Fowler's stage 5 (Conjunctive Faith). This is predominately the domain of what I sometimes call kardia-gnosticism (a heart-based search for knowledge).

This is a mysterious and paradoxical stage of spiritual development. The binary view of the world of Good vs. Evil, Right or Wrong, begins to dissolve into the realisation that between the world of Black and White is a startling spectrum of subtle Greys! Truth and Fact begin to be understood as belonging to different paradigms. It is not that one is Right and the other Wrong, but rather, they each have their own sphere of effect and meaningful application.

Community becomes increasingly important in this stage, and along side this, a sense of acceptance for others. Life and our roles and interactions with others all begins to be seen from a different perspective. The beauty, mystery, and deep interconnectiveness of the natural world is seen and appreciated. One begins to adopt what some call Unity Consciousness.



While one retains a degree of healthy skepticism in this stage, one is increasingly aware of an apprehension of an underlying reality deeper than mere comprehension. The role of one's intellect is increasingly informed by the apprehension of one's heart. Forgiveness, mercy, compassion, and love form the lenses through which others are viewed. Judgement of other's transgressions and the desire to inflict punishment on others is set aside. The sense of separation between Other and Self soften.



In this stage one loves others as oneself. Attachment to one's own ego loosens. Forgiving one's enemies becomes more natural as one fails to see others as potential enemies. Those residing in Stage IV are often called Mystics.

---

### Carer's Day (Brigid)

We had a small group join us for a very relaxed easy morning at Holy Cross. Blessed with lovely weather they were able to enjoy time in the garden and also deep personal sharing in a safe setting. All expressed appreciation for time out. Perhaps this is something we can grow in the future. Watch this space.



Thanks to Karen Rolfe, recently retired from being a Pastoral Care Manager at St John of God Hospitals.

## Come Away Day

The last **Come Away Day** for 2024 will be held at Holy Cross on **TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

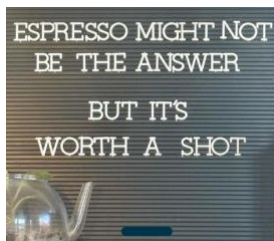
---

## Four 90's Birthdays in a Week

Graeme Brennan (17/11), Fr Christopher Mithen CP (19/11), John Barns (21/11) and John Mignone (24/11) all celebrate their 90's birthdays within a week of each other. Happy Birthday to them! We pray in thanksgiving, a blessings on them and we congratulate everyone whose birthday is at around this time.

---

## Coffee Cart this Sunday



This Sunday we will have our most loved coffee cart after the 10am mass. Coffee will be free as usual. If anyone would like to bring something to share with the coffee that would be greatly appreciated.

---

## Humour from Tom

*This week our Jokes have come from Tom McDonough. Thank you for the jokes.*

Keep on smiling even if you have to fake it a little.

We'll Be Friends  
'Til We're Old & Senile  
...Then We'll Be  
New Friends!

My wife said when I pass she would go the extra mile to give me the burial I deserve...



I simply couldn't LIVE without my music with me everywhere! Thanks, Philco, for your new PORT-O-SOUND CART!

A vintage advertisement for a Philco portable record player. A woman in a kitchen is standing next to a record player on a metal cart. The Philco logo is at the bottom.

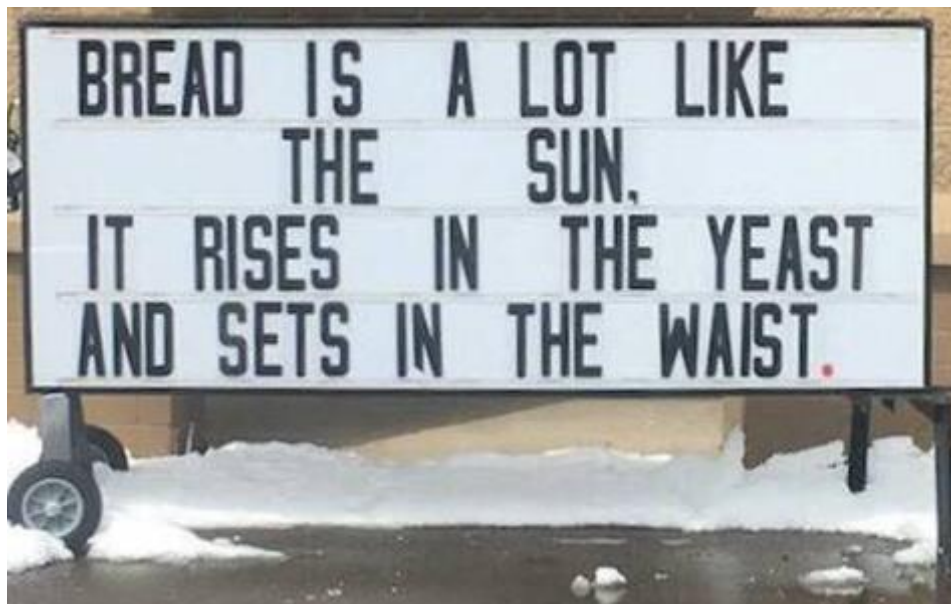
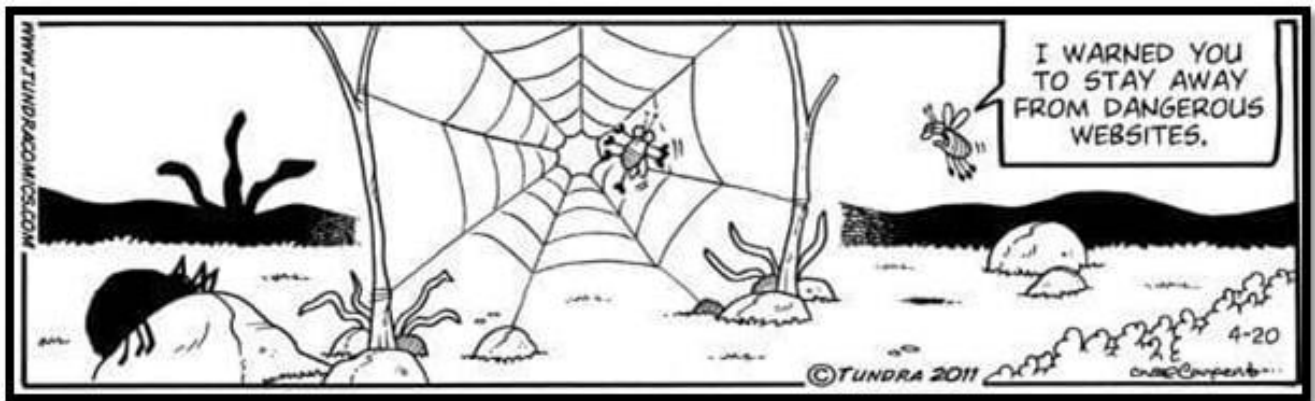
**PHILCO**

PHILCO, INC. 10 Eisenhower Way, Ossining, NY





A pastor giving a children's sermon on vestments asked:  
"Why do you think I wear this collar?"  
One kid answered:  
"Because it kills ticks and fleas up to 30 days?"





## Prayers

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

Dorothy Smith - 15/11

James Monaghan - 16/11

Maria Vigilante - 16/11

Peter Norden - 17/11

Ray Milton - 17/11

Judy Milton - 18/11

Robert isgro - 18/11

Bev Barry - 19/11

**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.

**Minh Toan Nguyen (Tri's group), 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.