

Holy Cross Retreat

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



Letter 250

22nd

November, 2024

Greetings everyone,

We've hit the 250th edition!



I am acting as guest editor this week, since I am back home for 12 days! This coming Sunday afternoon after Mass, I am off to Sydney for an-service with the community leaders in our Province. This has been planned by Denis Travers (Provincial) for some time, and is an initiative recommended by the recent General Chapter.

Following the meeting I have some work to do before heading to New Zealand to meet with some of key PFGM people and participate in a meeting with the NZ Trustees of the Movement and my brother Paul. I will be back at Holy Cross on December 11th.

Erick has done a wonderful job, getting news together each week and meeting the publication deadline. As noted previously, we do an early edition for those without internet access, which is delivered in person by Teresa Lim each Thursday morning. JD delivers copies the same morning to Fr Chris Mithen and Fr Gerald Quinn at Nazareth House in Camberwell. Three other copies are posted. It was a different experience for me to open emails in Rome and read the newsletter there.

Speaking of Rome, it is easy to take sites there for granted. Below is the Circus Maximus, which is just a 5 minute walk from Sts John and Paul's



The stadium was built in the 6th century BCE and could accommodate 250,000 spectators. Many more people could watch from surrounding hilltops, but sadly, without binoculars! The primary use of the stadium was for chariot races. The track was 600 metres long and 150 metres wide. A normal race involved seven laps, making it twice the distance of the Melbourne Cup!. Most races involved four to six chariots, but some races involved twelve chariots. Chariots were pulled by a team of either two or four horses. It was a very dangerous sport and there were many fatalities. Like many modern stadiums, the Circus Maximus was used for other events, including gladiator fights and circuses. The original track is now six metres below the present surface.



Interestingly, the Roman era had its sports stars. Gaius Appuleius Diocles was born in Portugal and started his chariot racing career at age 18. He earned 5,863,120 sesterces in his career which included winning 1,462 of his 4,257 races and finishing second 861 times. Such details were kept meticulously. It is estimated that in today's currency, Diocles

earned US\$16 billion!

Meanwhile at Holy Cross

While I have been away, **Rafael** was awarded his visa and is now in PNG. **Joseph** completed his mission fund-raising and returned to Holy Cross, but is now back home in PNG following the death of his uncle Michael, his mother's only remaining brother. There are cultural mourning activities that Joey has participated in. **Mike Tuyen** has joined the community at Holy Cross. As you would have learned, Mike is a classmate of JD and he is seeking to improve his English before taking up a pastoral role in the Province.

Come Away Day

As advertised in recent weeks, the next 'Come Away Day' of the year will be held at Holy Cross on Wednesday, 4th September 9.30am-2.00pm. The theme of the day is "Journey In Hope".



Brochures are available in the back porch of the Chapel. Please put this date in your diary and consider inviting a friend to share the Come Away Day experience.

End of the liturgical year

Talk of Christmas reminds us that this coming Sunday (November 24th) we mark the end of the liturgical year with the feast of **Christ the King**. The following Sunday we start the joyful season of **Advent**, four weeks before Christmas. This will mark a change of the readings to Year C and the gospel readings from Luke. The commercialisation of Christmas has seen advertising for Christmas gift-giving for some weeks already, but if we can 'live' the Advent season, Christmas will be much more meaningful.

John Houry



It is great news that Marrickville parishioner, John Houry has applied to join the Passionists and has been accepted by the Provincial. John has been discerning his vocation over a number of years, much of that time under the guidance of Kevin Hennessy CP, and more recently, with Erick. John is 24 years of age and since leaving school, he has completed a diploma in social science psychology, and has been engaged as a high school counsellor.

John will join Holy Cross community in January next year.

Housekeeping staff



There are a number of young adults who are employed at Holy Cross looking after housekeeping duties. Some come and go sooner than others, and they are members of the Jesus Youth Movement. They are always warm and friendly and committed to helping Holy Cross be a welcoming and pleasing presence for guests.

It is pleasing to see people of their age committed to their faith which is encouraged by Mayrose who has served as Coordinator of Jesus Youth over many years.

In the photograph taken recently (left) are

Amal, Thejus, Praveen, Don, Mariya, Rani
Sandhra, Nimmy and Angel.

Passionist Institute

Last weekend, we had participants from a number of countries and locations within Australia and in New Zealand, PNG, Vietnam, and the Philippines who 'tuned in' to our sessions related to the Passionist Charism and the recent General Chapter. Thanks to Tri, the sessions were recorded and are available at: <https://vimeo.com/user/35774929/folder/22820526>

Christmas options

The community began discussing the important issue of the venue for Christmas Eve Mass and we need feedback from potential attendees. We have at least two main options and we know they both have advantages. Our dilemma has come about because last year we held the Mass and Carols inside the chapel (with a spill-over area watching on a screen). We did this because of the warning of an electrical storm.



The outdoor Mass and Carols appeals to many people. We used to have this in the more open space of the oval, with the altar on the back of a truck. One drawback of that position was the hot sun frying our musicians. We relocated 'under the trees' which offers better protection.

Both of these options require a lot of preparation – mowing, raking, cleaning, carrying and setting-up 200 chairs, an altar, lectern and the music gear (which we hire). We also have to print song sheets (with the words to the Carols). We usually have a few helpers to move things, but we have fewer students now than we have had in previous years. The musicians have the biggest task setting up what they need. Having said all that, there is a wonderful sense of freedom outside. People know by now to bring a rug if they wish, mosquito spray, and many bring their own chair. Some bring a picnic. The unknown is the weather. We have to hire and pay for the sound equipment more than a week ahead, before we know the weather forecast.

The second option is to do what we did last year. The chapel was crowded (250) and we had 130 people watching on a screen in the Corbett room 'next door'),



but many people appreciated the music being much more attractive, and having the screens allowed everyone to follow the words. We heard varied comments. Some loved it being inside, including some who said the rough ground under the trees is a test for them now. Other appreciated that we could hold it indoors, but definitely preferred it to have been outdoors. The musicians preferred it inside for a number of reasons, including the fact that it was far less work, and the sound was much better.

This is not as complex as Christmas in COVID in 2020 was, but we need to decide well in advance, what we intend to do. To help, we have a special choir this year to sing 'Silent Night' (<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/G7N6EHVJED>)

So, can you tell us what you think, please? Talk to someone and let us know what the major preference is, please. The options are

- a) Mass & Carols outside unless the weather is unsuitable
- b) Mass & Carols in the Holy Cross chapel

Works

Work around the carpark is continuing, and Vince is on the home stretch . We want to improve the space between the concrete path that we'll build from the carpark gate to the Shrine and the building. We think we can create a deck that will allow for a BBQ and table and chairs (under the windows of the La Velle room. That work will be done in January. Our wonderful 'A Team' is building a new ramp at 90 degrees to the current one which will allow retreat participants to exit the building via the red door and go directly to the Shrine. We hope



that will be finished before Christmas. That ramp will go from the second post in the photo up to the structure at the end of the wall.

We also hope work will begin next week on concreting the path from the community driveway to the main driveway. This will assist those using the second carpark and it is something many people have asked us to do if possible, to make their footing more secure.


Humour



**BEFORE WE WORK ON
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
WHY DQNT WE DO
SOMETHING ABOUT
NATURAL STUPIDITY ?**

I have a pencil that used to be owned by William Shakespeare.

But he chewed it a lot. Now I can't tell if it's 2B or not 2B.

<p>We think we're so much smarter these days, but 50 years ago the owners manual told you how to adjust the valves.</p>  <p>Today it tells you not to drink the contents of the battery.</p>	<p>Just as the graveside service finished, there was a distant lightning bolt accompanied by a tremendous burst of rumbling thunder. The little old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, "Well, she's there and it's His problem now."</p>
<p>I relabeled all of the jars in my wife's spice rack. I'm not in trouble yet....but the thyme is cumin.</p>	<p>Astronomers got tired of watching the moon go round the earth for 24 hours. So they decided to call it a day.</p>

Jack threw a dart at a map of the world and promised to go wherever it landed. He had a very quiet two weeks sitting next to the skirting board!

Q. How much does a chimney cost? A. Nothing, it's on the house.

A man told his wife she wouldn't eat cow's tongue because it came out of a cow's mouth. She gave him an egg!

There was a King who was only 12 inches tall. He was a terrible King but he made a great ruler.

Jack says he can communicate with vegetables. That's right... Jack and the beans talk.

I want to tell you about a girl who only eats plants. You probably have not heard of herbivore.

Six cows were smoking joints and playing poker. The steaks were pretty high.

Joe went to the paint store to get thinner. It didn't work.

Q How do you fix a cracked pumpkin? A. With a pumpkin patch.

Q What is a snake's favourite subject in school? A. Hissssssstory.

Q Why do magicians do so well in school? A. They're good at trick questions.

Q What kind of tea is hard to swallow? A. Reality.

Q How do you know carrots are good for your eyes?

A You never see a rabbit wearing glasses.

Christmas cards

Last year Maureen Barns created and sold some lovely Christmas cards. The proceeds were given to Holy Cross. Maureen has made 40 cards and they will be available at the front door for sale, after Mass this Sunday.

Birthdays

Bro Ed Braden is 83 on November 25th and **John Mignone** will be 96 on the same day (next Monday) Happy Birthday, Ed and John.

Len Watson was 71 on Wednesday

Prayers

We remember the recently deceased especially those whose anniversaries occur this week:

Helen Dennis, Damiano Facciolo, Marie Scott - 25/11

Paul Froot - 26/11; Yvonne Maher - 28/11

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

We also remember those in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially: Bro Minh Toan CP, Peter Barry, Monica Sleeman (Fr Kevin's sister), Desley Reynolds, Rex Cambry, Sharon Williams, Doris Castro, Julia Cantone, Caroline Meade, Sophia 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, John Reardon, Alexander Lim, 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

Brian

