



Holy Cross Passionist Family

Newsletter

March 2016.

Volume 22, Issue 2.

Celebrating the Feast of Passionist Saint, St Gabriele at Holy Cross.

On Sunday February 21, the usual 10.30 Mass was celebrated in the Holy Cross Chapel by **Fr Jose Mathew CP**, while outside at the St Gabriele Chapel & Shrine, Mass in Italian was celebrated by **Padre Mario Madonna CP** to mark the **Feast of Passionist Saint Gabriele**.

Given the very large number of people attending the Mass outside at the Shrine, the Mass in the Chapel was very well attended. The Gospel of the day was from Saint Luke [9:28-36] in which Jesus goes up on the mountain to pray, along with Peter, John and James. In his homily, **Fr Jose CP** explained that 'Peter missed the point' when he talked about building three tents. The lesson for us is be attentive and listen to the Word of God, listen to what He may be telling us, as we heard in today's Gospel when God spoke to Peter, John and James: "This is my Son, Listen to Him".

Meanwhile, outside in the splendid gardens of Holy Cross, the Feast was celebrated with Mass in **Italian** at the **Saint Gabriele Chapel & Shrine**. Facing the Shrine, a huge marquee seated **800** people, and many more people were seated on their own picnic chairs, while others stood in and around the chapel and the marquee. Many others took shelter from the warm sun in the shade of the trees (no doubt taking advantage points in preparation for lunch!).

The Mass in Italian celebrated by **Padre Mario Madonna CP** (from San Gabriele Monastery, Isola Del Gransasso, Italy) was concelebrated with Holy Cross Community Leader **Fr Kevin Hennessy CP**, **Fr Denis Travers CP**, **Fr Chris Monaghan CP**, **Fr Priscus CP**, **Fr Jasmin CP** and **Fr Zaher**. Earlier, **Fr Chris CP** led the congregation in the recital of the Rosary.

The music for the liturgy was provided by members of the **St Anthony's Choir (Hawthorn)**; and as usual, **Matteo Vasarelli** was the Altar 'Boy', or officially, 'the one who carries the Cross', with Passionist Brothers **John, Tony, Joseph** and postulant **Luke Bulley** also assisting.

Beginning his homily, **Fr Mario CP**, observing all who had gathered to celebrate the Feast of **San Gabriele**, made this observation: Where am I? Australia? It seems like I am in Italy! He said that **Gabriele** was born into a rich family, and yet, he felt that something was missing in his life, until he responded to a call from God, abandoned his riches, and joined the Passionists to follow Jesus in the tradition of Saint Paul of the Cross.

Before the conclusion of the Mass, **Fr Kevin Hennessy CP** welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to join in this celebration of the Feast of the Passionist Saint, **Saint Gabriele**; he noted that today Italian migration to Australia was as strong as it was in the 1950s and thankfully, many like those present here, brought with them their Catholic faith and their devotion to St Gabriele. *"We the Passionist Community at Holy Cross are so grateful for your support and for the great work performed by the Italian community here, and the St Gabriele Committee that has helped us in so many ways."*

Following Fr Kevin's greeting, **Kevin Andrews MP** (Federal member for this electorate) added his own greeting and expressed his congratulations to all present, particularly to those who had organised this event, which he described as an impressive, multi-cultural celebration.

Once the two Mass celebrations were completed, everyone (well, just about everyone!) gathered in the lovely gardens of Holy Cross, preparing to enjoy lunch and a convivial glass (or two) of vino in such surroundings, a friendly environment, and perfect weather. It does not get better! In all, **more than 2000 people** enjoyed the day, ***in a manner typical of Feast Day celebrations in Italy.*** (*If you are Italian, or if you have been in Italy and attended a religious fiesta, you will relate to this!*). It was great to see that some made the occasion a **family day** – in some cases, three generations of family! The Gelati Van was there for the children (and the young at heart) – it was a very warm, sunny day!

The hard-working members of the St Gabriele Association are to be congratulated and thanked for their excellent organisation: **Bruno & Kathy Petrocco, Augusto & Lilliana Calvisi, Lidio Secatore** (President), **Rosa Secatore, Lina Secatore, Elisa & Tony Iacovitti, Matteo & Laura Vasarelli, Renato & Lucia Catena, Iolanda & Remo Giovambattista, Joe & Angela Senzo, Carlo & Fedora Vasarelli, Dominic Fraia** and their many helpers, too many to mention by name, whose efforts and continued support made an important contribution to the success of the day.

At 4pm, the formal part of the celebration concluded with a blessing by **Padre Mario CP** and a procession returning the Statue of Saint Gabriele to the Holy Cross Chapel. This final blessing was the conclusion to the formal celebrations but for some, it was not the end; they remained, relaxing, enjoying one another's company over a convivial glass of vino in the lovely grounds of Holy Cross until **about Sunset**. ***A great day was enjoyed by all.***

PASPAC meeting in Indonesia (January 2016) – by Fr Brian Traynor CP.

I was booked to fly from Jakarta to Malang, Java, but because of ash cloud, Malang airport was closed and Garuda put me (and 5 other Passionists) on a flight to Surabaya (no extra cost) - hence a lot more flying and about 15 hours in several terminals. From Surabaya, the 100 kilometre trip to Malang took 3 hours! I was told the trip has been known to take 6 hours. Surabaya has a population of 8 million. Speaking of millions, A\$10 is 100,000 rupiah so when I paid my visa fee (A\$55) it was just over half a million rupiah!

Malang has been a significant regional city since the 8th century. It was modernized under the Dutch and connected to the Java railroad network in 1879. It has a mild climate probably because of its high elevation, surrounded by a mountain range on three sides.

The Passionists have been here for 25 years; it was amazing to see the size and number of buildings over about 10 hectares. The first Passionists to work here were Dutch in 1946 and the Italians who joined them in 1978 were responsible for all the building that has taken place. The retreat house can accommodate just over 100 people (in dormitories) but 2 weeks ago, 250 stayed! The Vice-Province gave some land to the Passionists nuns who now live next door; there are also some Passionist sisters living and working in Malang.

There are 24 students here studying philosophy and 13 postulants (in their 2nd year). Add in the seniors, and the community has about 42 members. About an hour away in another community, there are 10 novices, and another group studying theology, about 20, a further hour and a half away.

This **PASPAC** meeting (Assembly) occurs every two years and involves the Major Superiors of each entity of PASPAC (**Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, India, Korea/China, Australia (including PNG, NZ and Vietnam)**) as well as members of the Formation and Finance Commissions of each entity. This year to this group was added the newly formed JPIC Commission.

The **Formation Commission**, of which I am a member, met with the Indonesian students for 2 hours giving them a brief profile of each of our entities and some reflections about their likely participation in PASPAC in the future, and especially the advantage of learning English. The Indonesian formation program takes 10-11 years before ordination. They do an introductory year in Sekadau where there is a minor seminary and where the **Passionists have 18 parishes!** Students then come to Malang for a year's postulancy and upon completion, they undertake their novitiate 40 kilometres away at Batu. They return after novitiate for 4 years study in Malang before progressing to theological studies at Pontianak in East Borneo and a year of pastoral experience. They have a one year diaconate placement before ordination to the priesthood.

We visited the five story **Malang Catholic University** where two of our Indonesian brothers (both have Doctorates) lecture. We were given an excellent tour by the Carmelite rector who is a New Testament scholar and lecturer; he has been Rector for twenty years. The university has recently been renovated with one benefactor donating 80% of the cost. The result is very impressive.

When **Fr Sabinus CP**, now on the General Council, was Provincial in Indonesia, he relocated our community to its present site, because the previous site was very noisy (close to a mosque and shops) and the Sisters of Mercy, Carmelites and SVD's were adjacent to each other and nearby to the university. He thought since the majority of the neighbours were Muslim, that it was too concentrated on Catholic religious. He said that some employees and volunteers are Muslim and have been associated with the Passionists for 20 years.

It was interesting to see the bright coloured dress of the Muslim women while driving past the many shops. The majority wear coloured hijabs and most also wear make-up. It was common to see people of all ages talking on mobile phones or texting. There are quite a few shop signs in English especially in some suburbs of Malang (population around 1,000,000) because it is a tourist destination. Some homes are very modern and you would probably say palatial by our standards. Others are attractively built and moderate. We didn't pass any slums or terribly run-down areas, but I did see one small section of very poor crowded housing.

After lunch with the novitiate community in Batu, we made our way to the **Buddhist Temple** where we were very warmly welcomed and given a 40 minute presentation on Buddhism. At a school attached to the temple for training future monks and priests, we observed a number of youths dressed in full white garb and thongs, doing mindfulness walking meditation. They practice this 8 hours a day for 3 weeks! They learn to reject any distractions and attend only to that moment and that action. One of the presenters explained that Buddhist meditation emphasizes mindfulness, so it is not always kneeling or sitting in one place; it can be done walking or working. Later that same day we had the lecture on Islam, we heard of a terrorist attack in Jakarta. **Fr Valentinus CP**, explained that there are **twenty ISIS cells** in Malang city and one of them comprising eight families is only one hundred metres from our gate!

We also had a very interesting session on Islam in SE Asia during our Assembly. It was an insight to see the percentages of Muslims in various countries, and the kind of Islam lived in different parts of those countries. It is believed that only 1% of Indonesians are Muslim radicals or fundamentalists, but 1% of the population is 2,500,000! The general opinion seems to be that you waste your time dialoguing with radicals, and doing so can annoy moderate Muslims who themselves avoid such dialogue.

We have the same experience in the church, and Pope Francis speaking about the last Synod meeting in Rome, said, **“the Synod had laid bare the closed hearts which frequently hide even behind the church's teachings and good intentions, in order to sit in the chair of Moses and judge, sometimes with superiority and superficiality, difficult cases and wounded families”**.

Fr Damianus CP and **Fr Basilius CP** who studied English four years ago in Melbourne and lived at **Holy Cross**, participated in the Assembly. Damianus CP is a member of the PASPAC Finance Commission, Basilius CP is a Director of students. The next Assembly will be held in Templestowe, in the latter half of November 2017.

Brian CP - 15th January, 2016

Holy Cross News.

Last month's Newsletter announced the arrival at Holy Cross on January 26th of **Fr Priscus Massawe CP** from **Tanzania** and on the following day, **Fr Paulus Jasmin PhD CP** arrived from Indonesia.

Fr Jasmin CP has come to Australia from West Kalimantan, Indonesia to study the English language at the English Language School for Pastoral Ministry (**ELSPM**) – although those who have met him at Holy Cross would say his conversation English is quite good.

Fr Jasmin has been an Assistant Parish Priest and a Parish Priest, and also graduated with a PhD in Anthropology. Subsequently, Fr Jasmin was posted to a Formation Centre in Vietnam, where he learned yet another language – Vietnamese!

He says he was thrilled to be invited to study English at ELSPM; he felt that by improving his English, he would be better able to spread the **Passionist** charism within his congregation back home, and when he returns to Vietnam.

His first month here at Holy Cross has already fulfilled his expectations in relation to his English studies, comprehension and grammar. He hopes to develop his ability to prepare better presentations, to improve his understanding and capability in conversational English and improve his writing skills so as to benefit his ministry in Vietnam.



Before coming to Australia, **Fr Priscus Massawe CP** held various positions in his home country of **Tanzania** – Rector, Vocation Director and Parish Priest – and he spent a year in Rome where he studied Human Resources Development and Management.

Since his arrival at Holy Cross, **Fr Priscus CP** has spent several days at **ELSPM** but even in his first week at the school, he was very impressed with the teaching he was receiving. The supportive, enriching style of the teachers and the structure and content of the curriculum have greatly assisted him in contextualising, understanding and analysing passages of scripture. In particular, the opportunity to apply the skills that have been covered in small groups has greatly enhanced his preaching.

Fr Priscus CP is studying English so that he can build his language confidence to be better able to manage major projects in education and development when he returns to Tanzania. He will also be teaching in English and stresses the importance of having clear, understandable English.

While Fr Priscus CP has studied in Europe, he finds the Australian experience a little different. He is particularly enjoying the multi-cultural community in which he now lives, something he hasn't experienced before; it has allowed him the opportunity to be open to other cultures, nations and people in a caring and nurturing environment.



Welcome to Holy Cross.

Soon it may well be a case of *'no room at the Inn'* as the number of residents at Holy Cross continues to grow! We now welcome two postulants from Papua New Guinea, **Dalset** and **Melchior**, as well as **Fr Johannes Rothärme CP** from Germany.

Fr Johannes CP will also be attending the English Language School, following which he will be working in the area of discernment and spirituality.

Voting for PASPAC Office Bearers.

Concluding the **PASPAC Assembly** in Malang, Indonesia in January (refer the report of Fr Brian page 2) an election of officials for the next two years was held. **Br Larry Finn CP** was returned as President, **Gwen Barde** from the **Philippines** was elected Vice-President and **Chris Akitan**, also from the Philippines but working with **Brother Larry** in Adelaide, was elected as Secretary.

Congratulations Brother Larry CP on your re-election as President, and to all elected.

Passionists' Birthdays in March:

Fr Ron Davoren CP - 2 March
Br James Coucher CP - 10 March.
Br Gary Clarke CP - 19 March.
Fr Jim Elmore CP - 27 March.
Fr Brendan Connell CP - 27 March.

Anniversaries:

Fr Jefferies Foale CP celebrates his **58th** anniversary of Ordination on March 8th.
Congratulations and best wishes **Fr Jeff. CP**.
(*That's a big number!*)

On February 28th, **Fr John Pearce CP** celebrated his **40th** anniversary of Ordination at St Brigid's, Marrickville. Members of Fr John's family, fellow Passionists and friends attended, including one of his former classmates, **Fr Kevin Hennessy CP**, who incidentally, celebrated his 40th anniversary on November 29th last year.

April Birthdays:

Fr Jefferies Foale CP - 16 April
Fr Ray Sanchez CP - 16 April
Br Charles Mercieca CP - 19 April
Fr Denis Travers CP - 20 April
Fr Gerald Mahony CP - 22 April

***LENT: what are you giving up?
– or have you just given up!***

The season of Lent is continuing; perhaps it is time to review our performance so far!

It may be something like making a New Year's Resolution – we decide to give up something, perhaps go on a diet, give up smoking, cut down on the grog – or as Fr Kevin Hennessy CP said at Mass recently: "one might give up the Sav Blanc!" Thankfully, he was referring to people under age 65!

However, Fr Kevin did not let 'us oldies' off the hook completely! He said that during this time of Lent, we have an opportunity to do something more positive than 'giving up something'; it is a time for personal renewal, perhaps review our performance, seek out those in need, *listen* to the word of God, for example by reading and reflecting upon the Gospel of the day, or Pope Francis' daily reflections.

But not everyone takes the same approach as Fr Kevin about those over age 65! The eldest daughter of one family came home from school and the conversation went like this:

Bernadette: "Mum, I have decided to give up a few things for Lent, chocolates, lollies ..."

Mum: "That's very good. We should all do acts of self-denial, especially at this time of Lent."

Bernadette: "and Mum, what are you giving up for Lent?"

Mum: "Yes, I am going to give up chocolates and lollies like you, and more."

Bernadette: (then turned to her younger sister Anne [aged 10], and said): "Anne, what are you going to give up for Lent?"

Anne thought about this for a little while, then said: "I think I'll leave it until next year!"

After giving the matter some further consideration, Anne said: "Ok, I am going to give up eating honey. I really love honey"

Alas, Anne had more to say:

"and what are Grandma and Grandad giving up?"

Stamps for this month's Newsletter kindly provided by:

Lynette Lee
(in loving memory of Kevin)

Last month, the stamps were kindly provided by
Joe & Anne Toscano

Holy Week Ceremonies at Holy Cross.

Holy Thursday March 24th 7.30pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper and Procession to the Altar of Repose. *Celebrant: Fr Jose Mathew CP*

Good Friday March 25th

Morning Stations of the Cross.

Led by Br Jerome CP and Passionist students.

Gathering times in the Chapel:

9.15am and 11am.

Good Friday March 25th 3pm:

Solemn Commemoration of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Eucharist. *Celebrant: Fr Brian Traynor CP*

Easter Sunday March 27th

'The Lord is Risen'

MASS in St Gabriele Shrine: 7am – Fr Kevin CP
- followed by breakfast in the Dining Room.

OR

MASS in the Chapel: 10.30am.

This Year, the End-of-the-Month
Passionist-Family Mass
(the 480th since 1968)

On March 27th at 10.30am
coincides with

Easter Sunday

and will be a special Celebration.

Celebrant: Fr Chris Monaghan CP

LENTEN PROGRAM AT HOLY CROSS

Mass and Reflection – Every Tuesday - 8.30am
(concludes at 9.05am)

On Tuesdays, during the season of Lent, the Holy Cross Chapel is opened at 8am for quiet reflection before the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

'Come Away Retreat Day'
Tuesday 21st March.

9.30am – 3pm.

Then: Note your diary with these dates:
April 20, May 23, June 16, July 25, August 24, September 15,
October 27 and Nov. 24.

THANK-YOU to all who, following last month's Newsletter, requested an electronic copy in order to save postage and other costs.