



Letter 47 (January 15th 2021)

Warm greetings. It is surprising that it is already the middle of January!

Chris

Chris is due back this afternoon. He and Frank had to endure some very hot weather, but the rewards for the trip include scenes like this taken on Tuesday near Tallangatta on Lake Hume, about 40 kilometres from Wodonga.



Kevin Hennessy

Last Sunday the maximum allowed crowd of 14 (minus one) gathered at St Gabriel's Retreat, Endeavour Hills to celebrate Kevin's 50th anniversary of profession. A highlight was to have Kevin's two sisters (from Geelong) and his brother Frank (from Apollo Bay) present (see the photo below) Frank will celebrate his 60th profession as a Christian Brother on February 6th.

As we advertised last week, Kevin will celebrate the 9.00am and 10.30am Masses this Sunday, January 17th with us. He is looking forward to this very much. At both Masses we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick. We will celebrate this in a COVID safe way.

*Anointing of
the Sick*



Chris Mithen

Chris will celebrate his 70th anniversary of profession this Sunday. Chris was born in Melbourne and grew up in Preston. As a Passionist, he specialised in retreats of various kinds especially with religious sisters. He served as a formator of students including as novice master when I was a novice. He has worked in a number of parishes and was parish priest in Hobart. He served as a community leader, as Provincial Council member and as Provincial. He took up work with refugees and learned Spanish to help him in this ministry. In 2020 health issues made it advisable that he move into aged care and he is celebrating this milestone at Nazareth house. He has some family members who live close by. Chris spent a number of years at Holy Cross before moving to Endeavour Hills.

50 years ordained

Lex Keys will celebrate his 50th anniversary of priesthood tomorrow, in Sydney (Jan 16th). Unfortunately, Lex has been in hospital this past week with pneumonia. Lex came from Narrabri, in NSW. At the time he joined the Passionists, Lex had been working as a qualified motor mechanic. He played district Rugby League and was a drummer in a band. Those who remember the early folk masses in the late 60's will remember Lex playing the drums. He was a key member of the Brothers Rugby Club (Passionist and MSC's at first and then the OFM's joined us).

Since ordination, Lex has had two main ministries. For many years he was living at St Ives in Sydney and was chaplain at a girls high school and he specialised in offering school camps for high school students. Being very organised, everything ran like clockwork. In time he acquired his own truck, which was set up for these regular exercises in out of the way places.

Lex moved to Marrickville and before long he 'specialised' in celebrating marriages and baptisms of former students. He has continued this ministry for many years. It was not unknown for him to celebrate four or five marriages over a weekend, at a time when many couples struggled to find a priest willing or able to marry them. This has been a wonderful gift to so many couples and Lex has taken the preparation of the marriage and of the wedding, very seriously. Of course, his marriage ministry led to more baptisms (of children from these marriages). Lex has cut back a bit, but is still celebrating these events. He is a few days short of his 81st birthday. Lex developed a woodwork hobby several years ago and has spent a lot of time making and fixing things. His celebration will be somewhat subdued because of his state of health but for those of us who know Lex, that will suit Lex perfectly!

Others events in January

Paul Mercieca turned 80 on Wednesday January 13th

Tom McDonough celebrates his 72nd birthday next Thursday, January 21st

Pat McIndoe will celebrate his 50th anniversary of priesthood on Jan 23rd.

Luke Bulley was to have returned from two week's holiday last Tuesday, but he has been prevented from returning to Victoria because of the revised restrictions. Given his ordination to the diaconate is planned for January 30th there is concern about him getting back from Brisbane out of quarantine in time. Tom has suggested we just have the ceremony without him!

Given the anniversary occasions - some humour related to such events

A man asked his wife if she'd like a new diamond ring for their anniversary. "Nothing would make me happier!" She said. So he got her nothing.



A man was asked, How do you remember your wedding anniversary? That's easy, he replied, "I forgot it once".

A woman told her friends, "It's our wedding anniversary today. My husband and I have been happily married for two years - 1995 and 2009".

A man said his was in a band, and for their anniversary he bought her a new drum kit. It was a cymbal of his love!

Some English language humour

Last night I dreamt I wrote 'The Lord of the Rings'. Then I realized I was just Tolkien in my sleep.

Why does Sweden have barcodes on all of its ships? So they can Scan-di-navy-in.

Q. What pencil did Shakespeare write with? A. 2B.

Q. Who's the King of the classroom? A. The ruler

I'm close friends with 25 letters of the alphabet... I don't know Y.

Last night my classroom was broken into and all of the dictionaries were stolen. I'm lost for words.

I've never met a three, but I have... metaphor.

You can throw an envelope as far as you want, but it'll still be stationary.

I've been working on a Scandinavian joke. But it's not quite Finnish.

What do you call a belt made from watches? A waist of time.

Why can't you run in a camp site but only ran? Because it passed tents.

"I'd like to start this lesson by showing you a small clip" *pulls out a bulldog clip from pocket* "Here it is!"

Why did the scarecrow win a Nobel Prize? For being "out standing" in his field.

What do you call a Frenchman in sandals? Philippe Philoppe.

How do you get Pikachu on a bus? You poke him on.

A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but you mean your mother.

How many eggs do French folk have for breakfast? One. Because one egg is un œuf.

Student: I don't think I deserved zero on this test!

Teacher: I agree, but that's the lowest mark I could give you.

Q. What did the ghost teacher say to the class?

A. "Look at the board and I will go through it again."



Mass this Sunday



We farewell Dalset, Solanus and Wilfred and thank them for their time with us at Holy Cross. They will leave us early on Friday morning for Port Moresby.

One challenge we are going to have after this weekend, is the projection of slides during Mass for both Masses (9.00am and 10.30am). If there is someone who is willing to do this regularly it would help us.



Hopefully there are a few people with the 'know-how' and the availability, so that the task could be rostered. If you are able to assist in this way, please contact Mayrose at hcc@passionists.com and advise which Mass would suit you, and how often you would be available. Thankyou

Hogmanay 2020



Hogmanay is Scottish for the 'last day of the year' and there is a very long history of celebrations accompanying this event spanning the new year. Because of COVID, a number of changes were made this year and the principal event was titled 'Farewell'.

One hundred and fifty drones joined to present the largest swarm drone show ever seen in the UK with iconic images and words set to beautiful original poetry and music. The filming was in the Scottish Highlands and that footage was placed into shots separately filmed around Edinburgh, using leading edge technology. The drones are programmed to depict a series of words, symbols, animals and shapes in the sky, including a stag, an eagle, a mythical selkie (mythical seal/human creature), and the St Andrew's cross, to recognise the hardships and sacrifices of 2020 while expressing the hopes of a new year.



Gail Robins-Browne recommend this to me, and I highly endorse her suggestion. There are three separate videos of just over 4 minutes each and an 8 minute video explaining the background to the event and how it was done. You can view them at this link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nV4jNWZlmEU>

Mass link

The link for Sunday's Mass (Second Sunday of Year B) will be sent tomorrow



We remember members of our Holy Cross family who are unwell

We especially remember:

Maree Bartoli, John Chubb, Peter Owen, Ron Baker, John Goold, Sergio Mattioli, Michael O'Callaghan and his son-in-law Joses, Michael Doyle, Maureen Higby, Anne Jenkins, Peter Church, Mary Hackett, Teresa Lim,

Pam Gartland, Kathleen Jordan, Maeve and John Reardon, Jim Monaghan, Carmel and Merv King, Kate and Mary Dunn, Maria Coburn, Bronwyn Burke and all who seek or need our prayers.

Thank you. Have a very good weekend

Brian

