

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY NEWSLETTER



THIS ISSUE April 2023

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✝ Mark Bond

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3rd Year Seminarian*

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✝ Fr David Dowling *Pastoral Visit - Vietnam*

✝ Thank you

Dear Friends of Holy Cross Seminary,

I send you greetings and the peace of the Risen Lord from Holy Cross Seminary, Auckland.

Many things have taken place since our previous newsletter in December last year. The joy and blessings of the New Year, the unexpected sudden floods in Auckland and the massive destruction caused by cyclone Gabrielle. For us in the seminary, the Blessing of the Remediated Seminary Buildings; and for all Christians the Holy Week leading to the glorious feast of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Easter. We recognise in all these that there is change, suffering, destruction, and death leading to growth and new life. The season of Lent is a favourable time of grace; to come closer to God.

The Bible tells us many stories which are dreams of God, for God's own people. In spite of the many calamities that affected the chosen people, say, deportation and captivity, God promises them a joyful return, of home-coming. God gradually leads them to understand how steadfast God's love for them is by sending His only son, so that all who believe him might not perish but might have eternal life (cf John 3:16). This gives us hope. Our hope helps us to believe that the life that Jesus promises us, can only be obtained trusting in God's mercy and bounty. The only reason for our hope and the foundation of our hope as Christians, is the infinite love of God, a love that will never be overcome by our sins, no matter how great.

Happy Easter. Jesus is risen. Alleluia.

Fr. Mathew Vadakkevettuvazhiyil
Rector

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✝ Founders Day Celebrations & Acolyte - 01 May 2023
- ✝ Annual Retreat - 18-23 June 2023
- ✝ Vocations Directors Meeting at Seminary on 18 July 2023
- ✝ Start of Semester Two on 03 July 2023

ORDINATIONS

- ✝ Suu Nguyen and Joseph Van Long Nguyen - Dunedin Diocese - 24th of June - St Theresa of Lisieux Church, Invercargill



Ignatius Tran - 3rd Year Seminarian

Interviewed by: Mark Bond

As the second youngest of three sisters and five brothers, Ignatius has come from a “large and devout” Vietnamese Catholic family. After high school, he studied languages at a university in the city of Hue; he chose English as his major, since his goal was to become either an English teacher, or a successful businessman “who could travel around the world.” This goal shifted, however, when at the end of his second year, he received an invitation to come to New Zealand to study for priesthood. Ignatius admitted that along with discernment, it was his tendency to “take risks” that compelled him to say yes, and thus he became a seminarian for the Diocese of Christchurch. His “yes” appeared to be tested almost immediately after he arrived in Aotearoa: “food seemed to be a huge problem,” he said. “And now that I’m in the middle of seminary life, time has become a new challenge. Perhaps it’s because my time-management skills need work!” In fairness, Ignatius has taken on a number of roles this year, serving as both student president and music liaison at Holy Cross Seminary, and as a student representative at Te Kupenga - Catholic Theological College. When not engaged in these roles, he likes reading, contemplative walking, music, and making artificial bonsai. Ignatius said that “although those hobbies cost me a great deal of time, they really help me to relax. When I walk, I like going under the Harbour Bridge, where I can sit on the park bench and enjoy the sunset.”

Ignatius was asked what Catholic saint he would invite to lunch, and he at first jokingly replied that he would bring along “my favourite and patron saint, Ignatius of Antioch...but he might bring some lions with him, and that’s not a good idea!” More realistically, Ignatius said he would invite “St. Pope John Paul II because of his knowledge, his virtuous life, and the way he inspired millions of people. Maybe during lunch, I could convince him to visit my country. Having come from Poland, he would understand the situation in Vietnam, where enjoying freedom and human rights still seems unreachable for many people, due to the political situation.”



Ignatius is now in his third year at Holy Cross Seminary, and as he continues his studies and discernment, he asks for your prayers, and assures you of his own.

Pictured: Ignatius with fellow Seminarian, Mark Bond (interviewer and author of this article)

Introducing - New Staff at the Seminary for 2023

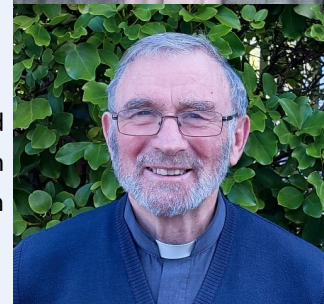
Fr Pat Breeze SM (Spiritual Formator)

Tena koutou katoa. My name is Fr. Pat Breeze SM and I am a Marist priest, born and raised in Timaru. I have been a priest for about 30 years and for most of that time I have been involved in secondary school, youth and seminary formation ministries, both in New Zealand and overseas. As well as being the rector of the Marist Seminary, I am this year the spiritual director at Holy Cross Seminary. It is my privilege to be able to encourage and support the seminarians as they grow in their spiritual lives through God’s grace.



Fr Peter Costello (Priest in Residence)

As a late vocation to Priesthood for the Diocese of Christchurch, I have survived and enjoyed 20 years of ministry. For over half this time, I have served the West Coast Region. God works in mysterious ways, and I have appreciated the opportunity to move to the Seminary in 2023 in support of the seminarians and staff. My interests include films and occasional running.

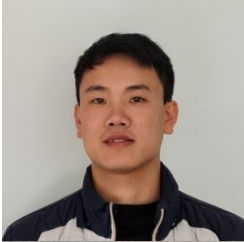


Lisette Demeer (Chef)

A trained chef from Belgium, Lisette has been in New Zealand for 38 years. Of those 38 years, Lisette has worked at Holy Cross Seminary for 21-years, taking a break while remediation works took place. She has very graciously agreed to come back to work and train up a new chef, until she retires. We welcome her back to Holy Cross Seminary and we are blessed to have her!



Introducing - 1st Year Seminarians



Kia Ora! I am Dung Phan from Vietnam originally. I am a seminarian for the Diocese of Palmerston North and studying at the Catholic Theological College in Auckland. I am happy to join Holy Cross Seminary for priestly formation and training. I like to socialize with new people. Thank you for your prayerful support. God bless you.



Hi, my name is Peter Jang, a South Korean by ethnicity but a Kiwi at heart. I came to NZ in 2001 and have lived here ever since. It's been a real pleasure these past years (praise God!) and I am delighted to have been called to discern this special vocation. I have moments when I can be a little shy, so please come and say hello and I will be very thankful. My hobbies at the moment are playing table tennis and reading books (favorite novel is the LOTR series). I'm looking forward to this year and the many years to come. And, I hope to see you as well. God bless.



Hi, My name is Peter Gallagher. I come from the Dunedin diocese as a new seminarian for 2023. I enjoy hiking and music and have worked as a Production Potter and Ceramic Artist; I have a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. Over the past few years I have been discerning a strong call to priesthood and look forward to this year of formation.

Blessing of the Remediated Seminary Buildings



We were privileged to have Cardinal John Dew preside over the Blessing of the Remediated Seminary Buildings. Also in attendance were Bishops Patrick Dunn and Michael Dooley, as well as several priests from the Diocese. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone involved in bringing this project to completion. Thank you also to all who attended this celebration in person and to all those who couldn't attend, but were here in spirit.

Photos: Courtesy of NZ Catholic



Fr David Dowling - Pastoral Visit to Vietnam

Fr David Dowling was in Vietnam in January for pastoral visitation and a cultural immersion experience.

He met with some families of our Vietnamese seminarians and stayed in their homes.

He gained a greater understanding of Vietnamese culture and the needs of Vietnamese students for the priesthood in New Zealand.

Fr David was very grateful for the warm welcome and hospitality that he received.

This experience of family, church and community life in Vietnam has given Fr David a greater appreciation of the challenges that our Vietnamese seminarians face during their seminary formation in New Zealand.

He is now better equipped to respond to their formation needs.



everyone
leads

HOW TO REVITALIZE
the CATHOLIC CHURCH

Chris Lowney



An e-book suggestion from Holy Cross Seminary Te Kupenga library, for inspirational reading after Easter.

Everyone leads proposes an EASTER strategy of five transformational principles:

be Entrepreneurial, be Accountable, Serve, Transform and Reach out.

Chris Lowney shares real-life stories of Catholics making a difference, to inspire and to strengthen the church.



To all those who support Holy Cross Seminary, through prayer, supporting students in their pastoral placements and for those who support us financially. With your support we can train seminarians to be the future priests of New Zealand. We remember you all, in our prayers for all benefactors.

Individual Donations

Individual donations made directly to Holy Cross Seminary greatly aid necessary funding for staffing and student education, formation, accommodation, teaching and administration needs and costs. Such donations are very appreciated and gratefully received.

Online Donations to:

Holy Cross Seminary Ponsonby

Bank Account - 06 0199 0093928 00

Please include 'Donation' as reference and your name and send us an email so we can send you a receipt.

If you require a receipt please contact us with your details at office@holycross.org.nz

