

ST PAUL'S POST

St Paul's Province Weekly Newsletter: 295

21 November 2022



On Thursday the 24th November it is Thanksgiving day in the USA. On behalf **of us all in St Paul's Province** I want to extend our best wishes to our Sisters in the US. *Happy Thanksgiving Day.*

Hope everyone keeps safe as you cope with the very heavy snow falls. [Savio CP](#)



This is a photo of the stained glass window of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple, in the Presentation Retreat Centre in Killenarden, County Laois.





PRAY TOGETHER

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS**

Relatives/friends of Sisters:-

Marguerita's brother, **Pat**;

Eily May's brother, **Tade**,
and her sister, **Mary Philomena White**;

Kay Doran's niece-in-law, **Kerry**,
and her nephew, **Kieran Fitzpatrick**;

Rita McStay's niece-in-law, **Michelle Reid**;

East Holme Nurse, **June**;

Carmel Comerford's sister, **Clare**;

Marcella Roe's sister, **Eileen**;

Noeleen Bermingham;

Eithne's nephew, **Bernard Donoghue**;

Sr Anne's sister, **Barbara**;

Francine's sister, **Rita**;

Vy's brother, **Joseph Tran The Day**.

P R A Y E R

Prayer Updates – helping us to pray more effectively

Please continue to pray for **Sr Rosie (Rosaleen)** who is recovering from Dengue Fever.

Thank you to all the members of the Vietnam community, who have shown a remarkable level of care and concern for Rosie. **Brigid**



Many thanks for the Vietnam article which accompanied the newsletter last week. I was really touched by the sense of "**togetherness**" which shone through it.

Rosie got no end of TLC and that in itself must have helped to carry her through her illness.

Karen is also now in our prayers and hopefully will have a speedy recovery.

God bless the oceans of love blossoming in this whole episode and may it energise all those involved. A million thanks for sharing it all, Bridget.

Love galore, Eily May CP

Leeds Trinity University

Sisters Moya, Christine, Anne and Susan attended Leeds Trinity University Patronal Feastday on 1st November. Ed Anderson, the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, had a great welcome for Moya and Christine as they had served with him on the Boards of both St Gemma's and Leeds Trinity.

The Sisters received a great welcome from the Vice Chancellor Professor Charles Egbu. Here they are together with Sue Rix, who represents the Sisters on Leeds Trinity Board.

Anne



Professor Peter Belfield completed his time as Chair of the Board of St Gemma's last week. He writes:

A quick message to thank you and the Sisters so much for my card and extremely kind gift. Working with you personally and with all your colleagues has made the last decade that bit more special. Thank you for the invitation for lunch. Your ongoing love and concern for the Hospice will help ensure it continues from strength to strength.

With kind regards,

Peter Belfield, Chair St Gemma's Hospice



St Gemma's Hospice

Peter Belfield with the new Chair,
Phil Corrigan.

Service of Remembrance in Ikley Cemetery

On the afternoon of 3rd November 2022, Sisters from Elmleigh and The Briery gathered in Ikley cemetery for a short service of remembrance. We had planned to have it on the 2nd, but it rained that day all afternoon. Anne had produced a liturgy which began with the Ven Elizabeth Prout hymn, *'Tell the World of God's Great Compassion'*, and we remembered our Sisters who, throughout their lives, had showed the people to whom they ministered God's great compassion.

We remembered in particular Sister Anthony Mary, who died at the beginning of Covid, March 2020 and, due to government restrictions, was unable to have a funeral Mass. We remembered also Sister Marie Bolton, another victim of Covid, who spent the last few weeks of her life in East Holme, Lytham and is buried there. We prayed the De Profundis, said some prayers of intercession, walked around the graves reflecting on our Sisters, Brothers - particularly Fr David Williams who died in June - relatives and parish priest who are buried in the same area and we ended with the Salve Regina just as the rain began to fall.

Robert, Elmleigh's caretaker, and Rameen, a senior carer, accompanied us. Rameen went around counting the number of graves and told us that there were 106 Sisters' graves. Two of the gravestones have recently had their lettering very expertly redone by James Sutherland, son of our friend Lindsay. The Cross on the long set of graves has been reset too as it was falling over.

It was a lovely peaceful afternoon in a very beautiful setting and one that we will repeat.

Anne



We will remember them.

The 170th Anniversary of the first Clothing Ceremony in our Congregation on
21 November 1852:

the Feast of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple

This date, 21 November, has always had special significance in the history of the Passionist Congregation and in ours too, for it was on that date in 1852 that Venerable Elizabeth Prout and her first companions received the *Religious Habit* from Father Gaudentius Rossi CP, their Passionist co-founder. Since he had no authority to give them the title, **Sisters of the Cross and Passion**, however, he called them **Sisters of the Holy Family**, which was also a devotion of St Paul of the Cross. In 1852 Elizabeth Prout was thirty-two years of age. Two years later, she and other Sisters professed their vows of *Poverty, Chastity and Obedience* and our Congregation was born.

The final title and the charism of our Congregation were defined in the revised Rule, which Venerable Mother Mary Joseph and Venerable Father Ignatius Spencer CP produced as a truly Passionist Rule in 1862 at the request of the Holy See. Our Congregation was canonically established by her friend, Bishop William Turner of Salford, on 17 August 1863 with the approbation of the Holy See, and on 23 October 1863 Venerable Mother Mary Joseph was canonically and unanimously elected as the **First Superioress General of our Congregation**. On 21 November 1863 she and the most senior Sisters in the Congregation made their Final Vows.

The aggregation of our Congregation to the Passionist Congregation, initiated by the Passionist Father General on his first visit to England shortly after her death in 1864 and completed in 1875 when each Sister received the full Passionist Sign, was simply the fulfilment of the work she had begun, with the approval and co-operation of Father Ignatius Spencer, of the Passionist Provincial, Father Ignatius Paoli and of Bishop William Turner of Salford. Ultimately it was that Passionist identity that made Venerable Elizabeth's order acceptable to the Manchester clergy and gave it its unique position amongst the Religious Congregations of the Catholic Church. That is our inheritance today.



Sister Dominic Savio CP, 21 November 2022

MOTHER MARY JOSEPH OF JESUS

On 21 November 1854, she and five other Sisters
made their vows before Bishop Turner in

St Mary's Church, Levenshulme.

Nature: Our First Ancestor

Once we know that the entire physical world around us, all of creation, is both the hiding place and the revelation place for God, this world becomes home, safe, enchanted, offering grace to any who look deeply. —**Richard Rohr, *The Universal Christ***

Patty Krawec, an Anishinaabe and Ukrainian writer and activist, invites us to consider the land itself as our original ancestor:

I want us to consider our relationship with land. . . . To think of ourselves as a part of creation rather than apart from it. What if the land is a being in its own right? That concept is not as foreign as you might think. And what if the land and all that grows from it and on it and in it are sentient beings in their own right? . . .

When I say that the land is my ancestor, that is a scientific statement: I want to reflect again on this claim by Dr Keolu Fox, a Kānaka Maoli anthropologist and genomic researcher. The land itself and the conditions of that land, like altitude and climate, impact our genome just as our human ancestors do. We are born on it, die on it; we come from it and return to it. The land and the waters, oceans and rivers, are part of us, relatives and ancestors in a very real way. . . .

Our emotions have a physical response. We feel sadness, and our body responds by crying. In the ancient Middle East, drought was often connected with mourning as ***the land's*** physical response to an emotional state. Just as a Hebrew mourner would fast and pour dust over their head and body, so, too, the land expresses her grief by fasting and covering herself in dust. **“Human action has caused desolation and destruction,”** Mari Joerstad writes. **“Further proof of human perfidy is their inattentiveness to the suffering of other creatures. The earth is left with no option but to cry directly to YHWH.”** [1] . . .

The land mourns, but it also responds with joy. The same prophets who describe a land fasting and covering herself with dust in response to human wrongdoing and harm also describe beautiful scenes of rejoicing and jubilation upon the return of the people. **“The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom,”** the prophet Isaiah says [Isaiah 35:1].

Krawec tells her readers of an ancient Anishinaabe prophecy that envisioned a choice between two paths for the future: one scorched and barren, the other green and fertile:

Remember the two paths of the Seventh Fire—one parched and blackened and the other green and lush. How we prepare now will determine what comes next: either a healing fire that brings wild strawberries and lush pathways or a charred landscape that cuts our feet. For Indigenous people, that means holding on to the knowledge of our ancestors. For the light-skinned people, that means making the right choices about how to live.

Therese



On Friday last I had a treat; a few hours off. Sr Eithne took me to see the **Laudato Si Centre** at Wardley Hall ~ Bishop John Arnold's dream in response to Pope Francis's vision, ***Care of our Common Home.***

It was a cold and wintry day and my guide Steve and I had to take shelter from the rain while Steve explained the vision.

He explained that they wanted to transform the unused space into a centre of excellence. On display will be achievable and affordable practical actions that schools, groups and individuals can take away and develop in their own communities. We want to educate, inform engage and inspire people to begin the journey of ecological conversion in their own lives and in the communities in which they live and work.

I took a few photos:

- * A wall built with Plastic bottles packed tight with other plastic bits;
- * In the class room are desks and seating made with recycled Plastic;
- * And willows molded into archways dividing different rooms.



I intend going back when the sun is shining and the flowers are displaying their best colours and the bees are buzzing and gathering nectar and making honey.

Savio