




# St Francis' Newsletter

Blessed Sacrament Congregation

August 2018

## August Calendar

<b>Thur 2 August</b>	<b>St Peter Julian Eymard, priest</b>	
<b>Sun 5 August</b>	Tertiary Students' Mass & Youth Choir	6:00pm
<b>Mon 6 August</b>	<i>The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	Feast
<b>Wed 8 August</b>	<i>St MARY OF THE CROSS, virgin</i>	Solemnity
<b>Fri 10 August</b>	<i>St Lawrence, deacon, martyr</i>	Feast
<b>Sun 12 August</b>	Mass Signed for the Deaf	1:30pm
<b>Sun 12 August</b>	Filipino Community Eucharist	2:30pm
<b>Tues 14 August</b>	People Living with HIV/AIDS	5.30pm
<b>Wed 15 August</b>	<i>THE ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	Solemnity
<b>Sun 19 August</b>	Indonesian Family Mass	2:30pm
<b>Fri 24 August</b>	<i>St Bartholomew, apostle</i>	Feast
<b>Sun 26 August</b>	Eucharistic Associates	2:00-4:00pm

### MASS TIMES

#### Sunday

6:00pm Sat. (Vigil)  
7:00am, 8:00am, 9:30am,  
11:00am (Choral),  
12:30pm, 1:30pm, 4:30pm,  
6:00pm

#### Monday-Thursday

7:30am, 11:00am, 12:05pm,  
1:05pm, 5:30pm

#### Friday

7:30am, 11:00am, 12:00pm,  
1:05pm, 5:30pm

#### Saturday

8:00am, 11:00am, 12:05pm

#### Public Holidays

8:00am, 11:00am, 12:05pm,  
5:30pm



### RECONCILIATION

#### Tuesday-Thursday

11:30am-2:00pm  
4:00pm – 5:15pm

#### Friday

7:30am - 8:30am  
11:30am– 2:00pm  
4:00pm - 5:15pm

#### Saturday

10:30am-12:15pm  
4:00pm - 5:15pm

No Confessions on  
Sundays, Mondays and Public  
Holidays

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A priest is usually  
available for  
consultation Tuesday to  
Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm at  
the Pastoral Centre except  
on Holy Days and Public  
Holidays.

## CONGRATULATIONS

to **Ignatius Vu Hoang Anh Tuan SSS** and **Anthony Nguyen The Nhan SSS**  
on their Ordination to the Diaconate.



Photo: Philip Chan

**Morning Prayer of the Church**  
(Sung)

Monday-Friday  
at 8:00am

**Evening Prayer of the Church**  
(Sung)

Mon-Fri at 6:00pm  
Sundays at 5:30pm

**Novena to Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help and  
Eucharistic  
Benediction**

Fridays at 12:30pm

## BREAKING THE DROUGHT - Fr Tony McSweeney SSS

The morning was bright with sunshine and an unexpected mildness was in the air. It was like an early intimation of spring. For us here at St Francis' it beautifully matched the events of that same morning of July 14<sup>th</sup> this year. For our two gifted and dedicated Vietnamese brothers, Ignatius Vu Hoang Anh Tuan and Anthony Nguyen The Nhan, were ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Terry Curtin on that day.



Photo: Philip Chan

After the Ordination Prayer, the two mothers rose to assist their newly-ordained sons don the diaconal vestments. Always a touching moment, it had special poignancy on that day for Ignatius and his family, who had so recently seen his father succumb to cancer. However sure we were that he was still with us, though now in a new way, the sadness of loss was surely no less real for them.



Photo: Philip Chan

Yet there was also so much to be grateful for – to the two families who had inspired and nourished our brothers' faith and supported their calling; to our Vietnamese Province which is generously helping us in this time of our penury of membership; to our own community and our collaborators who have made them warmly welcome and supported them in these years of preparation; and, notably, to Fr Graeme Duro who has accompanied them with such skilful dedication in their seminary formation.

Nor must we forget the generosity and commitment of the two men themselves! Attentive to the divine call, they have chosen to consecrate themselves and their youthful energies to the Lord in the mission of fostering the growth of Christians in our country, rather than in the pursuit of the professional careers for which they are both highly qualified.

From the very beginning, ministry in the Church has been called *diakonia* – a term denoting "service" and, especially, that of waiting at table. If, for Ignatius and Anthony, the next and final stage of their preparation is priesthood, that does not mean leaving behind them this *diaconal* identity and mindset. On the contrary!

As Bishop Curtin aptly reminded us in his homily, Pope Francis has made this point in a subtle way when washing the feet of prisoners and poor people on Holy Thursdays. He rearranges his priestly stole diagonally across his shoulders – just as a deacon wears it!



Photo: Sharma Saunders

The sign is important since we are here at the very centre of Jesus' teaching. Indeed, the whole of Christian ministry in every form can be captured in the image of table-service:

at the table at which the poor, the lost and the sick are welcomed and nourished.

at the table at which the lonely and abandoned are invited into the fellowship-creating conversation initiated and sustained by God's own infinite Word-of-love-made-Flesh – the term "homily," by the way, originally meant conversation!

at the table at which we are made one, sharing in the very life of the Trinity Itself by incorporation ever more deeply into Christ's body and vivification by his self-sacrificing blood.

If by baptism we become – all of us, singly and collectively – a holy and priestly people, Christianity must constantly struggle to resist infection by the



virus of misuse of power, including antique forms of the sacred that would create a class of “holy” persons apart from and above the people. For Jesus, leaders had to see themselves not as lords but as servants, performing the humblest of tasks for others.

It is striking how the first Christians sought deliberately to inoculate themselves against such toxins by having recourse, for example, to secular rather than sacred terms to designate their ministers – *diakonos* (“servant, waiting-man”), *presbyter* (“elder”), and *episkopos* (“overseer, guardian”).

We are all susceptible to infection here – whether we be ministers, parents or anyone else exercising authority. None are exempt. That is why the Bishop prays in the Prayer of Ordination:

“May there abound in them every Gospel virtue: unfeigned love, concern for the sick and poor, unassuming authority, the purity of innocence, and the observance of spiritual discipline.

“May your commandments shine forth in their conduct, so that by the example of their way of life they may inspire the imitation of your holy people.”

That is surely a tall order for any of us! We cannot hope to move towards such a goal without God’s continuous grace but also without the support of others. If ministry is a divine gift it is also a two-way one – to be exercised in mutuality.

As Bishop Curtin reminded our new deacons towards the close of his homily, “You cannot live in this life without the support of the priestly People of God who gather round you now in faith and hope and love.”



Photo: Philip Chan

The real and deep joy of any kind of ministry lies, in fact, both in fostering and sharing with our sisters and brothers a constant growth in awareness of our common dignity in Christ and a passion to live it to the full for the sake of the whole of humankind!

As the famous English Dominican preacher, Vincent McNabb, once put it in his inimitable way, ‘If you don’t love [your people], don’t preach to

them — preach to yourself!’

We are living, I believe, in what for many is the second great Axial Age (as renowned philosopher Karl Jaspers has called it), a process of change so vast and profound that we lack the perspective to fully understand it. Its impact on religion, especially in what we know as the Western World, has been profoundly destabilising. Central to responding to its challenge is (in my view) the fostering of genuine face-to-face communities of faith. But that is a long story . . .

The field of ordained ministry has suffered, for us in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament as for others, from long decades of drought. Now, in these last few years, we have experienced a fruitful rainy season and the joy of seeing some new shoots of life emerging from what has seemed an increasingly gnarled and drying trunk!

Besides Ignatius and Anthony, we have Father Ben Ho, ordained to priesthood in November last year and now active in ministry; Brother Luke Thorp too has recently renewed his religious vows and is on the way towards diaconate and eventual priesthood.

But will the rainclouds come again?

I am reminded of Elijah on Mount Carmel, bowed down upon the earth his face between his knees, while his servant gazes day after day towards the sea, scanning the horizon for signs of a cloud coming from across the waters to signal the rain that will end the drought. After seven days a little cloud appeared and the rains followed (cf. 1 Kings 18, 42-44).

Did the Lord not ask us too to look out for the “signs of the times”?

Let our prayers rise up, like Elijah’s – for our Church, for the Blessed Sacrament Congregation, and for our newly-ordained brothers, Iggy and Ant!



Photo: Sharma Saunders

## THE WHAT AND WHY OF LITURGY - *Praying the Mass* - by Br Luke Thorp SSS

Prayer is a conversation with God, but more importantly it is lifting our hearts and minds to God. We may speak quite a lot to God in the form of words but seldom listen. The Church teaches there are two kinds of prayer, liturgical prayer, which is the prayer of the Church and private prayer which is devotional, such as the rosary.

Devotional prayer grew out of a number of historical circumstances. Perhaps the main one, was that the Mass was celebrated by the priest, largely removed from the people and in a language people did not necessarily understand. It's easy to see how people wanted to nourish their own prayer life. The rosary for example, became a substitute for the Divine Office, the one hundred and fifty Hail Marys replacing the one hundred and fifty psalms. Devotional prayer has its place and is important in the life of the Church and the believer, but when it becomes a substitute for liturgical prayer, there is something amiss.

The liturgy is *the* priestly prayer of Jesus Christ. It is worship of the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. When we pray the liturgy, we make intercession with Jesus our High Priest. There is no greater act of prayer. Devotional prayer is generally aimed at personal intimacy with God; whether it be meditation, the rosary or simply praying for others. Its aim is really to listen to the voice of God but we often fail to hear that voice because we are so noisy making repetitious prayers. The danger in this is that we are open to the same criticism that Jesus leveled at the Pharisees.

What kind of prayer are we entering into when we pray? All the baptized share in the common priesthood of Christ. It is important then to do what

Christ did and there is no greater act than that of offering the Mass. The Mass, indeed any liturgical action, is for the whole world. The Church and the liturgy exist to glorify God, to sustain us on our journey to the Father drawing us into salvation.



The Second Vatican Council was clear that "active participation" in the liturgy was one of the main reasons for reform. This didn't simply mean praying the responses aloud but praying the liturgy with Christ. Understanding this is important for the way we live our lives. When we come to pray the Mass then, we should surrender our own personal devotions and pray with Christ, for the world. If we really understood the liturgy, would people continue to immerse themselves in prayer books while Christ himself offered us the opportunity to pray with him? To confuse devotional prayer and liturgical prayer risks doing both badly and can often lead to people giving up prayer altogether. For St. Peter Julian Eymard, there could be no greater prayer than the Eucharist itself. In this sense, he truly is the Apostle of the Eucharist.

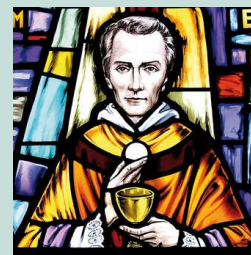


### ADULT FAITH FORMATION @ ST FRANCIS'

Currently, there are about 20 Adults being formed in the Catholic faith through the **Adult Faith Formation @ St Francis'** program.

After a short winter break they resumed their weekly meetings on Sunday 29 July and are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation to be held on **Saturday 22 September at the 6pm Mass.**

Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to discern their faith journey.



### FEAST OF ST PETER JULIAN EYMARD

**Thursday 2 August 2018**

Free Tea and Coffee will be served in the Pastoral Centre between 8:00am and 7:00pm for those attending Mass to celebrate the feast on this day.

The ordination of Bros Ignatius (Iggy) Vu and Anthony (Ant) Nguyen SSS as deacons took place at St Francis' on 14 July, Bastille Day, France's national day. No mention was made of this coincidence, but it's one that prompts reflection.

The Blessed Sacrament Congregation was born in Paris, one of many religious communities that sprang up providentially in the aftermath of the French Revolution. Peter Julian Eymard may have been a native of France but he had no sympathy for the rebels. He lamented the execution of King Louis XVI, guillotined on 21 January 1893 at the age of 38, and his wife Marie Antoinette, beheaded nine months later at the age of 37.

This is what he wrote to his sisters on 5 February 1849 after returning to Lyons from Paris:

"What can I tell you about this trip? There would be too much to say: I can't forget the feelings I experienced January 21, on the anniversary of the death of Saint Louis XVI, on the very square where he was guillotined by his children. There is still great sadness on that day, especially in Paris. I also visited Versailles and the apartments of Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette. Alas! What sad memories!" Later on in the letter he made his views even plainer: "I believe you know that Providence has outwitted all the bloodthirsty and revolting plans of the Red Republicans."

Eymard's biographer, André Guitton, puts Eymard's anti-republicanism in perspective: "These memories were made vivid by contemporary events, namely the revolution of 1848, which started as a celebration, but ended in blood."<sup>i</sup> Eymard's radicalism was sacramental and spiritual rather than political.

In the same letter Eymard also wrote: "But what made me very happy was to be able to visit and venerate the Sainte-Chapelle, built by St Louis [IX], where the precious relics of the Sacred Crown of Thorns and a large part of the True Cross were kept until the Revolution. . . And yet, my good sisters, when we have seen all these beautiful royal palaces, all that is richest on earth, we still say to ourselves: Everything is vanity, everything passes, heaven is worth more."

In a postscript he adds: "I'm not forgetting that this is the feast of St Agatha, my Baptismal day, when you brought me to the church. I will repay you for it by saying Mass."

A second reflection arises from the nationality of the two ordinands. The year 1859 was significant for both Eymard and Vietnam. On 6 January 1859 Pope Pius IX gave his official approval for Eymard's new religious community. Two months later three pioneering members made their first (and perpetual) profession: Eymard, his original companion

Raymond de Cuers, and Armand Champion. Soon after, the house of Marseilles was opened. Eymard's eucharistic dream was starting to take shape at last.



*St Peter Julian Eymard (right) and his original companion, Raymond de Cuers.*

At the very same time French forces were advancing upon Saigon, having begun their invasion of Vietnam in 1858. Perhaps it was from Marseilles that the military expedition set out. Certainly the French gradually took possession of more and more of the country until in 1887 the three districts – Cochinchina, Annam and Tonkin – formally became the colony of French Indochina. And so it remained until the bloody transition from colony to communist nation began in earnest in 1954 with the defeat of French forces in the battle of Dien Bien Phu. Bastille Day is not a public holiday in Vietnam!

Historians are sure to debate the legacy of French colonial rule for years to come. There's no doubt the seeds of faith sown by early Christian missionaries benefited from a favourable climate under French protection. Tragically, the fall of Saigon in 1975 isolated the church from the renewal engendered by Vatican II, though communist repression may have paradoxically resulted in a stronger and more resilient Catholic identity. The heroic story of how one extraordinary priest – Dominic Hien – established and nurtured a clandestine cell of Blessed Sacrament aspirants is a tale for another day. But the ordination of Ant and Iggy is testament to his tenacious faith.

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<sup>i</sup> André Guitton. *Peter Julian Eymard: Apostle of the Eucharist*. Ponteranic: Centro Eucaristico, 1996, p.69.



## NOTICES

### ST FRANCIS' YOUTH CHOIR



During July St Francis' Youth Choir, with a few St Francis' Choir friends, were honoured to sing at the Diaconate Ordination Mass of Anthony and Ignatius. We were conducted by Tony Way and accompanied by our organist Dr Andrew Mariotti.

As part of our performance of *A Little Jazz Mass* by Bob Chilcott we were also blessed to have the St Francis' Youth Choir band, consisting of piano, drums and bass guitar. The choir gave a good rendition of the music, and it seemed to go down well with those present. We congratulate Deacons Iggy and Ant on their Ordination!

### **BBI - TAITE (14th National eConference)**

St Francis' Pastoral Centre will once again be a streaming site for the **National eConference** to be held on **Wednesday 8 August**.

The theme this year is **SYNODALITY IN PRACTICE: Listening to the Spirit and Leading Change**. Speakers at this event are Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Mrs Lana Turvey-Collins, Professor Massimo Faggioli, Professor Richard Lennan, Dr Gemma Cruz.

Live streaming will begin at 10am and conclude at 5pm. To help with catering and venue setup, please register your interest at [SFMelbEvents@gmail.com](mailto:SFMelbEvents@gmail.com) by 1 August 2018.

*Tea and Coffee will be supplied at this event - gold coin donations will be appreciated. Please bring your own lunch.*

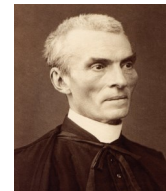
### **CONGRATULATIONS Fr Philip Watkins SSS**



Fr Philip Watkins SSS, currently Community Leader at St Peter Julian's Church in Sydney and member of the Provincial Leadership Team, celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination on 31 July.

**CONGRATULATIONS Fr Philip, we wish you all the best for the next 25 years!**

### **St Peter Julian Eymard**



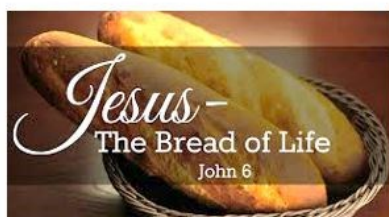
#### ***Eymard's Legacy and Literature***

- Discover St Peter Julian Eymard through Fr Anthony McSweeney's essay, *The Eymard Legacy and its Transmission*, which traces the complex story of the publication of St Peter Julian's writings and the story of the saint's evolving personality, spirituality and understanding of the mystery of the Eucharist.
- See what scholars and critics have said about St Peter Julian in over a century of scholarly literature represented in over 2,000 books, articles and reviews, many in print and electronic formats.
- Keep up to date with ongoing commentary about St Peter Julian through the regularly updated "What's New" feature.

Translate this site into over thirty languages ..... Chinese, French, Filipino, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese.

Available FREE Online at [stpeterjulianeymard.com](http://stpeterjulianeymard.com)

## NOTICES

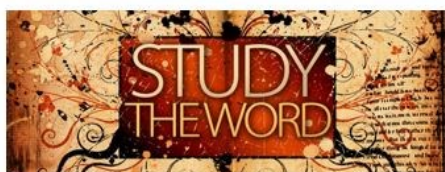


Wednesdays  
25 July-22 August

2018

Five sessions on the Sunday Mass  
readings from John 6 on  
Jesus the Bread of Life

### Bible Reflection



Place: St Francis' Pastoral Centre

Time: Wednesdays only: 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm  
led by Fr Tony McSweeney, SSS

... begins on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of July

All Welcome!

BLESSED SACRAMENT  
CONGREGATION  
Province of the Holy Spirit



### PRAYER FOR VOCATION

*The vines are ripe; people holding fire;  
so send us, Lord, to harvest the crops  
and tread the vintage, now ready,  
for divine baking and bottling, that grain  
and grape become bread and wine  
to feed human hearts hungry for love  
and liberty as your rich Word in Christ  
becomes true eucharist, the torch  
Saint Eymard flung to all four  
compass points afire with the Spirit  
and blazing bright for no end life times.*

## ST FRANCIS' YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUTH

Fr Ben & his team would like to welcome back all students to the new semester. We hope you had a good break and used the time to refresh yourselves.

Just a reminder, the monthly **Tertiary Student Mass** continues throughout the year on the **first Sunday of each month at the 6pm Mass.**

A special congratulations to *Br Ignatius* and *Br Anthony* on their recent Diaconate Ordination.

Being the Year of Youth (marking the 10th Anniversary of World Youth Day in Sydney), we ask that you continue to pray for vocations to the church - especially to the Religious Life with the Blessed Sacrament Congregation.

We are always on a lookout for new ideas for activities. Checkout our Facebook page for more information. Feel free to contact Fr Ben if you would like to get involved.



### WELCOME TO

**Deacon Peter TONG Duy Thinh SSS** and  
**Deacon Joseph LE Tran Minh Dang SSS,**  
two students currently in Melbourne from Vietnam to continue their studies in English.

Both are staying with the St Francis' community until mid September.



## NOTICES

### MONDAY PRAYER GROUP



This is a spiritual family that helps each other overcome adversity through prayer and fellowship.

Join the Group each Monday evening in the Pastoral Centre to pray for your intentions and those of others.

Prayer commences at 6.30pm.

### ST FRANCIS' CHURCH PASTORAL CENTRE HOSPITALITY



**OPEN**

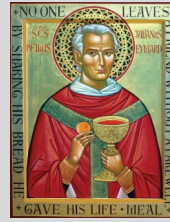
**Wednesday and Friday  
10:00am to 2:00pm  
&  
Sunday 10.00am to 3:00pm**



### HELP SAVE A TREE!

How? By having the Newsletter emailed to you.  
Go to our website: [www.st.francismelbourne.com](http://www.st.francismelbourne.com).  
Find **News**, and follow the prompts.  
The Newsletter will arrive in your Inbox on the second day of each month.

### EUCCHARISTIC ASSOCIATES



**Next Meeting**  
**Sunday 26 August @ 2:00pm**  
St Francis' Pastoral Centre  
Contact Barbara Shea 0431 012 890  
or Reception 9663 2495



### ST FRANCIS' APP

**Get the app today on your  
android device.**

**Keep up with news, events, Mass times and  
more. Go to:**



### A RETREAT IN EVERYDAY LIFE.



We invite you to retreat at home! To go into your "inner room" for a short time daily to ponder the experiences of your ordinary everyday life – your joys, struggles, unexpected events, work, your relationships, griefs, enjoyment of nature, etc. and to discover God there. Then once a week, on Mondays 1.15 – 2.15 pm, to share your experience with a prayer companion at the Heart of Life Centre.

Five weeks, beginning July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please register your interest by July 16<sup>th</sup> - contact Heart of Life, 96 Albion Road, Box Hill, ph. 9890 1101, or email [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com)

No cost – a small donation would be welcome.



## Fluidity

Paintings and digital prints  
By Anne Hastie

### EXHIBITION DATES

31 July to 11 September 2018

**Art at St Francis**  
326 Lonsdale St,  
Cnr Elizabeth St  
Melbourne 3000

Gallery hours: 9am—5pm,  
Sun 9am—3pm or appointment  
Phone (03) 9663 2495  
Contact: [bwremmen@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bwremmen@bigpond.net.au)



### CONTACT US:

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