



COMMUNITY OF THE HOLY NAME

Serving God through prayer and ministry since 1888

Newsletter June 2016

THERE'S MOVEMENT AT THE STATION

There was movement at the convent, for the word was getting round that the council of Kingston have given the green light. On 2nd May, work actually began!

Trenches have been dug , plumbing work has commenced and, in the next few days, the builders will begin to lay the concrete slab. It is estimated that it will take 60 weeks to complete this major building project.



Thankfully, the noise level and disruption has reduced and it has now become an intriguing development for us to watch as progress is made.

RETURN OF SISTERS MAREE AND HILARY

Sr. Maree has moved back to the Community House in Cheltenham in December, following the death of her dear little dog, Muffy. Muffy was her constant companion and even attended church on Sundays with Sr. Maree, "on her own little space on the pew beside me".

Sr. Hilary sustained a serious fracture to her pelvis and is currently unable to drive. So she moved here from her house in Footscray, during her time of respite and rehabilitation. Her doggy, Zach, has joined us for a while also. He is a canny little Australian Terrier who loves wandering the grounds and keeping a look-out for 'strangers'.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Kirisuto-kyō
- Diary Dates
- Living simply for God
- 'Yes', a poem by Sr. Avrill

KIRISUTO-KYŌ

The root of the Japanese word for Christianity

Kirisuto-kyō

キリスト教 comes from

the Japanese katakana transcription of the word

Cristo キリト,

the Portuguese and Spanish word for Christ, and

the Sino-Japanese word for

doctrine **kyō** 教

which means a teaching or

precept, from Middle

Chinese **kāew** 教.

Source: Wikipedia

CHRISTIANITY IN JAPAN

Japan is one of our closest neighbours, with a population of over 126 million people. Freedom of religion is guaranteed to all by the constitution. Over 70 percent of Japanese claim no personal religion, but the majority follow the demands of idolatrous and ancestor-venerating Buddhism, and rituals of polytheistic Shintoism.

Historically, Japanese identity is deeply tied to Shintoism, and formal dissociation from this connection is extremely difficult in a land where conformity rules. Christianity in Japan is among the nation's minority religions. Fewer than one percent of the population claims Christian belief or affiliation.

Christian missionaries find Japan a tough nut to crack. They always have, ever since the first of them, St. Francis Xavier, landed in Kyushu in 1549. His first impression, based on an initially friendly reception, was, "In my opinion no people superior to the Japanese will be found among the unbelievers." Two years later, he left disheartened, calling Japanese Buddhism "an invention of the devil."

Missionaries today use different language but express similar frustration. The Japanese have so eagerly embraced everything Western — from fads to philosophies, baseball to scientific method. Why not Christianity?

Let us pray for the spread of Jesus' Good News in Japan today.

ANGLICAN COMMUNITY IN JAPAN

The Community of Nazareth is an Anglican religious order for women, founded in 1936. It was established in Tokyo, under the guidance of the Community of the Epiphany, from England. It is now under the jurisdiction of the Anglican Church in Japan, the **Nippon Sei Ko Kai**, and operates a daughter house on the island of Okinawa.

Their chapel, residential compound and retreat centre, in Mitaka, Tokyo, are a noted design by Japanese architect **Shōzō Uchii**.

The Community is dedicated to the Incarnate Lord Jesus Christ, especially in devotion to the hidden life which he lived in Nazareth.

In addition to the Holy Eucharist, which is the centre and focus of their community life, the Sisters recite a sixfold Divine Office.

They run a Retreat house and make wafers and vestments.



OUR JAPANESE VISITOR

Sr. Mana, from the Community of Nazareth, in Japan, came to stay with us. She arrived on 21 April, to stay for 4 weeks, for us to get to know her and her, us. The next step being considered is for her to return to us for a 2-year period of experience.

Sr. Mana lives in the Community with 2 elderly Sisters and a novice in her forties. She looks after the elderly Sisters. Another 3 sisters are in residential care.

Having completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Oxford, she is well travelled and has good English. She settled in easily with us. She is a caring person, always wanting to be helpful, her presence was delightful and she seemed to enjoy every experience, saying she “loved it all”.

Sr. Mana worked alongside Sr. Valmai, in the guest wing, helping to iron sheets, make beds and anything else she could. She even learnt how to make beds ‘Aussie style’, that is with hospital corners.

We also enjoyed a day trip with her to Bendigo, to visit Sr. Lyn.

Our connection with the Japanese community goes back to World War II, when English sisters stranded in Japan came here, to Community House. One of the Sisters, an expert in calligraphy, made a beautiful Memorial Book which is still kept here. Over the years, we have seen several other Japanese visitors. Sr. Valmai fondly recalls the visit of Sr. Chio who stayed with us for a year during the fifties.

Sr. Mana created beautiful origami Praying Sisters for us. One is illustrated here.



“The Australian Sisters are very friendly. I learnt interesting ideas to share with our Community back home.”
Sister Mana, Community of Nazareth, Japan

NEW INFORMATION LEAFLETS

We have recently produced some new leaflets, with information about connecting with the Community by becoming an Associate, an Oblate or an Alongsider.

Every person is invited by God to share in His life and love and each of us has our own personal path in this world as we journey into fullness of life with Him.

Our path, or vocation, has its own character, demands, responsibilities and

blessings. A vocation to the religious life involves a total personal commitment to God within the Community to which He calls them.

We hope that this leaflet may help those people who are considering the religious life.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive a leaflet, please contact us on 03 9583 2087.

CONNECTING WITH THE
COMMUNITY OF THE HOLY NAME



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VISIT TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Srs. Carol and Avrill flew to PNG on Friday 27th May to be with the Sisters of the Visitation of Our Lady, for their Festival on Sunday 29th May.

They were thrilled to also be there for the admission of four young women as Postulants, on the Saturday. The Community now consists of 7 professed Sisters, 2 Novices and 4 Postulants.

The Festival day was a great occasion with bishops and clergy from many villages attending for the service and festivities, along with representatives from Popondota Diocese, Newton College, Marty's School, ex-Sisters and ex-Holy Name girls. Former Archbishop Jo Kopapa celebrated the Mass.

They were pleased to see how well the CV sisters are supported and respected.

Sr. Beverly was elected as Guardian on 10th June: she replaces Sr. Edna.



Sr. Beverly

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

DIARY DATES

7 July	Prayer Day
4 Aug	Prayer Day
7 Aug	Holy Name Day
8-10 Aug	Sisters' Retreat (House closed)
1 Sept	Prayer Day
10 Sept	Associates' Quiet Day
11 Sept	Mother Foundress Day
15-18 Sept	Oblates' Retreat & AGM
6 Oct	Prayer Day
7-9 Oct	Annual Chapter (House closed)
3 Nov	Prayer Day
3 Dec	Oblates' Quiet Day

“I CAME, I SAW, GOD CONQUERED.”

At 11 years of age, young Joan's prayer manual revealed that God has a purpose for everybody. As she grew up and left school, she went on to further studies and then to teach Infants' classes for over 5 years. But, still she wondered about the religious life.

She knew the sisters of the Church, from her time in Sydney. Father Ernie King, then in Broken Hill, encouraged her to visit the Community of the Holy Name (CHN). She went along to find out more and was interviewed by Sr. Grace Mary (as Sr. Faith was unwell).

“I came, I saw, God conquered.” At last, she had found her true calling, with the Community. She changed her name to ‘Felicity’ which means ‘happiness or blessing’. Sr. Felicity certainly has brought much happiness and been a blessing to many, in particular during her time as Chaplain to the Royal Children's Hospital in the 1980s. This was during a time of unimagined change, both politically and socially, when the CHN Sisters had to shift their ministry emphasis away from the Mission to the Street and Lanes to more individual types of ministry.

Hospital chaplains provide a service of “active” listening, prayerful presence and practical advice and counselling for the young patients, their families and the staff, during what can often be stressful and traumatic experiences. Research conducted at the hospital, of over 300 clinical staff, identified several reasons why they value hospital chaplains (‘AUS.CUR’: 1992-94). Indeed, ‘the links between religion and healthcare are...significant enough for health care practitioners to encourage a holistic practice that includes the spiritual/religious dimensions of a patient's/client's healing needs.’ (Carey, 1993)





Srs. Felicity and Maree, at morning tea

KITTY AND SR. MAREE SAVE THE DAY

One fateful day, Sr. Maree was woken up by Simon, a stray cat who secretly frequented her room. He yowled and yowled loudly until she got up and went to investigate. On exploring the corridor, she found smoke billowing through the House. She quickly rose the alarm and many lives were saved. Interviewed on the television, she was asked what reward Simon would get and answered, "A big tin of Kitekat." Kitekat was so delighted with the good news, they sent CHN several large boxes of cat food, so many they had to give much of them away.

Sister Maree's religious life has been somewhat diverse. She was brought up in a Christian home, with a devout mother and a brother who became a priest. As a young woman, she worked for the Sisters at their hostel in Adelaide, caring for teenage girls from the country who were studying or working in the city. She felt a real sense of belonging with CHN and joined the Community, starting with the Mission House in Spring Street.

Sr. Maree found life as a Novitiate hard and lonely at first. She had to give up much of what she liked doing. A naturally sociable person, she struggled with the restrictive practices of the 1950s when Professed Sisters were not supposed to speak with Novices, unless they were their spiritual mentors. However, she chatted away to the cleaner Gertie Fuller and they became good friends. Gertie later became a 'Mission Hall Mum'.

She was involved in arranging camps for as many as 50 children, taking them to places such as Frankston, Point Lonsdale and Daylesford. This work was exhausting but very worthwhile.



She has a natural talent for church embroidery, even learning the intricate 'goldwork', sewing with real gold thread. She has produced many beautiful vestments and icons. Inset shows her work on a chasuble, the outer vestment worn by a priest.

LIVING SIMPLY FOR GOD

The way the Amish people live expresses a simplicity, where God is the centre of their lives. This simplicity is shown by their dress, transport, farming methods, even food preparation. They share their food and help each other. Most do not use the internet, mobile phones, computers or even television!

We cannot stop progress but, with it, how can we still live simply? It is a challenge, especially with the temptations placed before us with advertising. God gave us a brain, to be used and this is indeed the source of our new technology. So we have this contradiction of using our God given gifts, but also living a simple life. What often gets in the way is desire for power and control.

Jesus is the best example that we have of living a simple life. He was born of simple people, lived as a refugee and then as a carpenter. In his years of ministry, he was dependent on others to care for him. He lived his life simply, completely for God. He was about his father's business and did not give in to any of the worldly temptations of the devil.

Let us look at our lives and ask,

Do I live a simple life?

How could I make my life simpler?

(When I go shopping, do I ask myself, "Do I need it or do I want it?")

What place does God have in my life to make it simpler?

And perhaps the most important question is

Do I live my life simply for God?.

Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6 how to live simply for God, not storing up treasures on earth, serving only God and not money and how to pray the Lord's Prayer.

Colossians, especially 3:1-17, gives a clear picture of how our new life in Christ is a life lived simply for God.

*Sr. Carol,
Day of Prayer and Reflection,
5th May 2016*



R.I.P SISTER PHILIPPA

Irene Emma Pickering came to test her vocation in 1944 at the age of 23, taking the name of Philippa as we already had our Sister Irene. She was professed as a Sister on St. Catherine's Day, April 30 1947, and so began a full and fruitful life in which her devotion to God and faithfulness to her calling were lived out.

She served at the Mission House for 5 years and much of her time was spent at Camp Pell, at Royal Park. After the war, this former military camp became temporary housing for about 3,000 people. Families lived in Nissan huts, with no footpaths to protect them from the mud. Sisters ministered to many of the women, some of whom joined the Mission Hall Mothers, and many children from the Camp were baptized at St. Mary's in North Melbourne.

Later, Sr. Philippa did Court and Probation work, going to the Magistrates' Court to seek out any women before the court and, if it seemed appropriate, speaking in their support during the hearing. Much time was spent helping those women who were either sent to prison or put on probation, as well as the younger people from the Children's Court.

In 1974, she was appointed as Sister in charge of the Retreat House, holding this office for six years. She ensured that it fulfilled its purpose of providing a happy environment for conferences and retreats, as well as a peaceful place for private guests coming for retreat or rest.

In 1983, Sr. Philippa was appointed Conventual at the Community House. Here, her management and organisational skills were used to the full, particularly when we undertook major alterations and refurbishment. It could have been a time of utter chaos but she managed the emptying of the rooms and temporary relocation of the offices and bedrooms with a minimum of upheaval. Her unflappable presence contributed much in that difficult time.

She will probably be remembered most for her compassion, patience and care for the women who frequented the Mission House—some were alcoholics, some could be termed 'derelict', but they were never hopeless in her eyes. When she moved to Lorne in 1993, she set aside her Saturday evenings, for any of the women who wanted to maintain contact with her by telephone.

At the end of 10 years as Conventual, she was able to fulfil a desire which she believed was from God, to go and live at Lorne in the small cottage which had been left to the Community. At the rear of the cottage was a small bungalow where a guest could stay. "My ministry from the cottage is mainly a 'listening and upholding one' both for guests or others, and particularly through telephone or letters." Through her participation in the worship at the parish church she also ministered to the local people, among whom she came to be much loved. After 17 years, she suffered a stroke. It was fitting that she chose to spend her last years in the surroundings which had come to mean so much to her. The care she received at the Lorne Nursing Home was outstanding.

Sister Philippa died on Saturday morning, 28th May 2016, aged 95, in her 69th year of profession. During her long life, she was at all times faithful to her calling to prayer and the service of God's people within this Community to which He had called her.

May she rest in peace.

Elizabeth Gwen, CHN

YES

God of my life,

No part of life lies outside
of you.

You are *all*, my all,

And you are beyond my
understanding,

Your love too deep for me
to fathom.

I can never come to the end
of the wonder of You.

There are so many facets to
your Being.

Help me to respond to
them all with an eager YES!

*Sister Avrill, from the
book, 'Discoveries'*