

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY NEWSLETTER



THIS ISSUE

April 2024

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Fr David Dowling, New Rector of Holy Cross Seminary

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Visiting Motuti

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✠ New First Years

Joshua Brodie, Max Copley, Peter Tuong, Nhat Cao, Matthew Clark, Zecharia Mathew

✠ Good Shepherd Sunday

✠ Thank you

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✠ 06 May 2024 | Founder's Day Celebrations
- ✠ 25 May 2024 | Ordination to Diaconate | Mark Bond St Joseph's, Takapuna

Dear friends of Holy Cross Seminary,

A few years ago I read the following reflection on the Resurrection:

"The death of Jesus was not the end of his power and presence, for he was raised up by the power of God. Nor did it mark the end of the disciples' union with him. After Jesus had appeared to them, and when they received the gift of the Spirit, they became apostles of the good news to the ends of the earth. In the face of poverty and persecution they transformed lives and formed communities which became signs of the power and presence of God. Sharing in the same resurrection faith, contemporary followers of Christ can face the struggles and challenges that await those who bring the gospel vision to bear on our complex economic and social world."

If our Easter celebrations are as important for us as they were to our ancestors in faith, we will not be put off by the struggles and challenges that await us. We will respond by plunging ourselves more deeply into the mysteries of our Christian faith.

The Seminary Year began with a hikoi in mid-February to the North in association with Te Kupenga – Catholic Theological College. Most seminarians are enrolled in a Maori Pastoral Care course this semester and the hikoi is part of the course programme. Six first-year seminarians have begun their formation at Holy Cross. You can see their photo in this newsletter. Just before Holy Week we farewelled Interim Rector Bishop Colin Campbell. Both staff and seminarians are grateful for Bishop Colin's wise guidance and support over the past year.

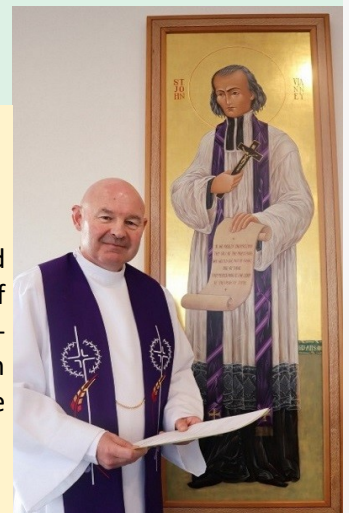
Please remember the Seminary Community in your prayers and may the blessings of the Risen Christ be with you and your families this Easter season.

Fr David Dowling
Rector of Holy Cross Seminary



Congratulations! Fr David Dowling

On 12 March 2024, Fr David Dowling received his Decree of Appointment after solemnly professing the Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity under the witness of Bishop Steve Lowe.





Te Kupenga Staff, Holy Cross Seminary Staff and Seminarians outside St Mary's church at Motuti. The place of the reinterment of the first Catholic Bishop of Aotearoa New Zealand, Jean Baptiste François Pompallier (1802-1871). A place of pilgrimage, visited by many each year, both national and international visitors.



Farewell Bishop Emeritus Colin Campbell

In late March 2024, we bid farewell to Bishop Emeritus Colin Campbell, who has been our Interim Rector since May, 2023. This past year, Bishop Colin's guidance, wisdom, energy, and unwavering dedication have left an indelible mark on our seminary community. It was an emotional farewell from everyone at Holy Cross Seminary. We wish the Bishop a Very Happy Retirement back in the mainland, and many blessings in the years to come.



Welcome - New Staff for 2024

FR THANH TRAN (*Human Formator*)

Fr Thanh Tran was born and raised in a Catholic village in Vietnam. After completing high school, he moved to Saigon for university, later coming to New Zealand to pursue the Priesthood. Upon his arrival he spent time learning English and getting familiar with the culture in Christchurch before coming to Auckland to study Philosophy and Theology at Holy Cross Seminary and Good Shepherd College. Following his ordination, he returned to his incardinated Diocese of Christchurch to serve as a Priest. We are grateful to have Fr Thanh at the Seminary.



FR MICHAEL SMITH, SJ (*Spiritual Formator*)

Fr Michael Smith, SJ, a Jesuit priest, born and raised in Eltham, Taranaki, has been a priest for 40 years. Most of that time, he has been involved in the Ignatian spirituality apostolate — both giving the Spiritual Exercises and forming others to be spiritual directors. He worked as the International Education Officer for Jesuit Refugee Service in Rome. Currently the Ignatian Coordinator at St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College in Drury, South Auckland, he is engaged in staff and parent formation. We are privileged to have him as the Spiritual Formator on staff to encourage and support the seminarians as they deepen their intimacy with Christ.



FR RON BENNETT (*Senior Priest in Residence*)

Fr Ron Bennett has been a priest for 52 years, working in the Wellington and Palmerston Dioceses and has enjoyed every moment of that time. He has always worked in parish ministry, but alongside that has also been involved in hospital, prison, and military chaplaincy, as well as on the North Taranaki Māori apostolate. We are blessed to have him at Holy Cross Seminary this year, where he hopes to share the experiences he has had and the blessings he has received with the staff and seminarians.



BR PETER RYAN, FSC (*Dean of Studies*)

Br Peter, FSC, is a De La Salle Brother, born and raised in Australia. He has been a Brother for 40 years and for most of that time has been involved in Catholic education and formation in New Zealand, Australia and overseas. As well as being a lecturer in theology and spirituality at Te Kupenga-Catholic Theological College, this year he joins us at Holy Cross Seminary as the Dean of Studies. It is our privilege to have him walk beside, encourage and support the seminarians in their academic journey.



ANNA DEMEER (*Chef*)

Originally from the Philippines, for the last 27 years Anna has lived happily in New Zealand. Her passions are all about food and cooking and she always puts 100% into everything she does. We are blessed and thankful to have Anna with us at Holy Cross Seminary.



Welcome - First Year Seminarians for 2024

Our First Year Seminarians joined Holy Cross Seminary in February 2024. We are grateful for their willingness and generosity to answer the call to deepen their faith and knowledge, and for choosing to dedicate themselves to the service of others. Please pray for them and all our seminarians, that their time here be filled with learning, growth, and spiritual enrichment.

From left to right: Joshua Brodie (Auckland), Max Copley (Wellington), Peter Tuong (Christchurch), Nhat Cao (Hamilton), Matthew Clark (Christchurch), Zecharia Mathew (Auckland)

Photo Credit: NZ Catholic

Good Shepherd Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Easter (21 April) is a special Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray for our seminarians and those who are discerning the call to priesthood.

Could someone you know become tomorrow's priest?

Pray for this person.

Invite him to consider priesthood.

Affirm his gifts and qualities.

Encourage him to be open to the possibility of priesthood.



In his message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis summarises Christian Vocations in this way: *'Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace, wherever we find ourselves.'*

NZ Diocesan Vocations Directors:

Auckland – Fr Marchellino Park aucklandpriests@gmail.com

Hamilton – Msgr Joe Stack vocations@cdh.org.nz

Palmerston North – Fr Trung Nguyen vocations@pndiocese.org.nz

Wellington – Fr Andrew Kim wellingtonpriests@gmail.com

Christchurch – Fr Tien Cao vocations.chch@gmail.com

Dunedin – Fr Mark Chamberlain machamberlain61@gmail.com



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.

