

TAU May 2023

The Province of the Pacific, Third Order Society of St Francis



Contents

IPTOC Reflections	2, 3
Exciting News	4
Christopher Diggle's Poem	5
Formation Director	6
A Leader for our Times	7
Brother Ass	8, 9
Caring and Humble	10
God Bless your Little Life	12
Convocation Call	13
Merle Stead	14, 15
Area Reports	16 - 21
Christopher John SSF	22
Companions' Corner	23
Ascension	23
Franciscans International Meeting	24
For your diary	24

Tau's next issue due out end of August 2023

Articles, reviews, reports on Areas welcome **by Friday 19 August 2023**

Contact: Penny Kennett penelope.kennett@gmail.com

3 Farm Road, Wellington 6012, mobile 021 0222 7355

.....

Website - tssf.org.nz

Please check the website for updated Intercession and Address lists.

Contact: Janice Thorne janicethorne@gmail.com

Our Minister General, John Hebenton, provides this reflection

In September this year, three representatives from each of the five provinces within TSSF worldwide will gather in England for the Inter-Provincial Third Order chapter – IPTOC. This is held every six years and is one of the ways we hold together as a worldwide order. One of the roles of IPTOC is to discern where the Spirit is leading us as an order. Another is to elect the new Minister General. My six-year term will come to an end as this year's IPTOC finishes.

At the last IPTOC in 2017, there was a real sense of the Spirit of God inviting us to be more than we are because the world has a real need for the way of Francis and Clare. Considering that, we identified the following as priorities for us as an order. Part of this year's work will be to review these priorities.

Walking the talk for the benefit of the church and wider society. This is an ongoing issue for us and will be on into the future. But during that IPTOC I think we found ways that would encourage us to live out our charism in a more intentional way. As we face climate change, it is clear that the church and our world needs the voice of those seeking to live the gospel in that way of Francis and Clare more than ever.

As part of that we set as a priority **Renewing local groups including by distance.** We saw the local groups, however we name that, as central to developing our life as an order and living out our charism. In essence, to be more we need our local groups to be more than they have been in the past. A small working group has been on zoom trying to help us to resource this within each province. Part of the work of that group was to supply **ways to listen to each other especially at the local level**, including paying attention to the language and checking that what people are hearing or reading is actually what is meant.

A lot of our conflict comes from not hearing what is being said, but what we think is being said and reacting to that. Or being frustrated that people are not agreeing with what we think we have said when in fact we would not agree with what they have heard.

To respond to the lead of the Spirit to be more, we need to first hear that voice in each other.

Part of this responding to the Spirit's invitation to be more was the invitation to **trial a new way of writing our Rule of life**, using the daily principles as our base rather than the traditional headings found in the constitution. Our Province has taken to this and have found it life-giving. Others not so much.

We were also invited to pay much more attention to **Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC)**. The IPCC report of 2018 has certainly given that an edge and the ministers have looked to respond. As have many of the Provinces.

Finally, we were also invited to listen to young people. Not attract young people into the order. But listen to young people in their hopes and fears and to offer the way of Francis and Clare to them. Some may join us. But many will be inspired to live in different ways without being part of our order. How are we willing to share the way of Francis and Clare with young people?

One of the joys of this six yearly gathering is that we meet with the Joint First Order Chapter of the SSF brothers and CSF sisters. This year the three Ministers General have been working on a morning programme looking at three big themes:

Theme 1. Listening to the Sources - What do the Franciscan sources and Principles say to us?

Theme 2: Listening to the World - Listening in the light of our sources. The needs of the world, like environment, justice, racism.

Theme 3: Sharing our Good News - How do we engage with the world in our response to Themes 1 and 2?

This will be an important time for us as an order, and I hope deeply formational for those of us privileged to attend. Please hold us in your prayers and take the time to wonder how what we work on in England might impact our life as an order here in the Pacific.

John Hebenton, Minister General

VERY Exciting News

Our Minister Provincial, Blair Matheson, has just been appointed to the position of Executive Director of Franciscans International, (FI).

This is an incredible achievement; Blair is the first ever Anglican Franciscan to be appointed to this role. It speaks to the respect in which Blair is held that this has been approved by the Conference of the Franciscan Family and for an Anglican to have this position.

Blair's appointment will allow wider exposure for Anglican Franciscans on a global basis. Importantly, it will mean opportunities for FI to advocate for issues we believe are important in Anglican areas and in particular, in the Province of the Pacific.

The process to find a new Executive Director began in January and has involved a lot of work and extensive interviews with many people. There were three candidates from three different Franciscan Orders who were being discerned for this role.

Blair has been on the Board of FI for the last two years. He takes up his new position on 1 January 2024 and will be based in Geneva. He will conclude his term as our Minister Provincial at Chapter in August this year.

This is a hugely exciting time for Blair and his family. Please pray for Blair as he begins this new journey. We are so proud of him and he goes with all our love and blessings.

To find out about the work of Franciscans International:
franciscansinternational.org

Pip Colgan, Assistant Minister Provincial



Franciscans International, Assisi

Yet always, it feels able to be done,
for Christ, who linked His arm in yours,
is nearer, beckoning, calling, "Come on!"
"Courage, postulant - I AM here - and I have won!"

From necessary to possible,
step by step, onward, in trust
- catching glimpses -
of what seems impossible.

Just trudging along
the path you strode:
from Damiano to Rome
then on, up Jerusalem's road.

Hello Francesco, what do you know!?
I've come to seek your way to grow!

FINDING CHRIST In FRANCIS' FOOTSTEPS

Joy
Love
Humility
Ask for graces of
Work
Study
Pray
Live simply
Spread the spirit of love and harmony
Make our Lord known
and loved everywhere
Surrender to Christ

Image and poem by Christopher Diggle, Southern Area

Welcome! – and Notes about our Rule of Life

Welcome: It has been a pleasure to have four new Postulants this year: Bobbi Laing (Southern), Claire Russell, (Gubbio), Graeme Sykes (King's Companions) and Kit Willett (Juniper Forest). Please pray for these Postulants as they journey on in the discernment process.

I have been reminded again this year how very different we all are. This is important to remember when it comes to approving an individual Rule of Life. There are guidelines, and there are some things which are required to be included, but within those guidelines there is wiggle room.

Generally, we are encouraged to think in broad terms under each heading, so that we do not have to rewrite our Rule each year, or when we have finished reading a particular book. However, some individuals find it works better for them if their Rule is specific and want to write an updated one each year. That works too.

Please remember, if you are a Postulant, Novice or in the first year professed, any updated or rewritten Rule needs to be discussed with your Novice Counsellor and sent to the Formation Director (FD) for signing. The FD may sometimes ask for changes before signing.

I wonder how many of those of us who are Professed remember that we are asked to give a copy of any changed Rule to our Area Chaplain? (Whoops for me!)

Thank you to all Novice Counsellors who remember to email me and the Area Chaplain to advise us when their novice has reported. It really helps, when times of decision come, to have a clear record of this over the years.

Next Quarterly Reports due 1 June.

Are you able to be a Novice Counsellor? Please read the last Tau again and see what a blessing it can be. We need more NCs, especially in Juniper Forest and Gubbio. Do contact me to chat about it – I will not pressure you. Promise. Or you may encourage another member in your Area to pray about this.

Ngā mihi nui **Marion Fairbrass, Formation Director**

A Leader for our Times

Dr Emily Colgan tssf has been appointed as the next Manukura for St John's Theological College. This means that she is the leader of the theological college for the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia.

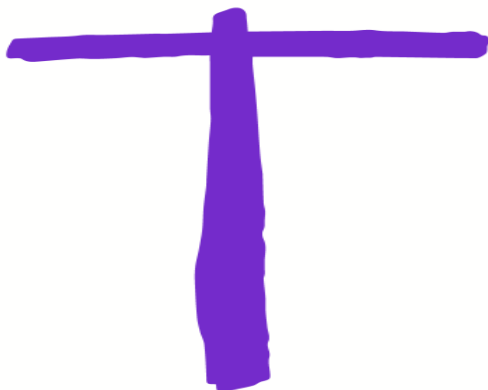
As fellow Franciscans, we have come to know the excellence of Emily's scholarship and teaching from Convocations and retreats as well as through reading her books and articles. She has led us in studies on eco-theology as well as the inspired reflection on the Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon at Convocation last year. We know the gifts of wisdom, prayerfulness and compassion that she will bring to St John's College.

Emily has been Senior Lecturer and Academic Dean at Trinity Methodist College and brings significant experience of leading a tertiary theological college to this role. She is a member of the Juniper Forest tssf area, involved at St Luke's, Mt Albert and well-connected within international academic and ecclesial networks.

The College

St John's is a place of significance for many in the Church, particularly clergy who have studied there. It has been a place of high academic and vocational rigour over the years. It has also known its share of troubles, with an "Independent Review of the Culture of St John's Theological College" published in 2021. The review identified challenges the college was facing and pointed to the need for change within the college.

Peter Bargh, Provincial Secretary
continues on page 11



Brother Ass

I included James K. Baxter's poem *Song to the Holy Spirit* (p157 NZPB) in the Liturgy when Tony and I recently celebrated a service themed **Open to the Spirit**. This reminded me of an early encounter with the poet's work.

I was sixteen at the time and my boyfriend's English teacher had threatened him with Dire Consequences if he didn't produce an acceptable piece of analysis on Baxter's Sonnet 36. To save him from his teacher's wrath, I wrote the homework, and I have loved this poem ever since. In my own defence, I was only sixteen at the time, and I interpreted it as the poet addressing himself.

This is correct, as far as it goes, but when, many years later, I learnt that Francis referred to his own body as Brother Ass, whole new layers of meaning opened up. I hope you find something in this sonnet that touches you.

From Jerusalem Sonnets, Sonnet 36

Brother Ass, Brother Ass, you are full of fancies,

You want this and that - a woman, a thistle,

A poem, a coffee break, a white bed, no crabs;

And now you complain of the weight of the Rider

Who will set you free to gallop in the light of the sun!

*Ah well, kick Him off then, and see how you go
Lame-footed in the brambles; your disconsolate bray
Is ugly in my ears - long ago, long ago,
The battle was fought and the issue decided
As to who would be King - go on, little donkey
Saddled and bridled by the Master of the world,
Be glad you can distinguish not an inch of the track,
That the stones are sharp, that your hide can itch,
That His true weight is heavy on your back.*

As I look back, I marvel at all the encounters I had with Francis, long before I could recognise him, or had even heard of the Third Order.

Yes, Gary the boyfriend got a good mark for 'his' homework. Phew.

Bronwyn Emson tssf, Juniper Forest: North

*Desmond Tutu: 'My humanity is bound up
in yours, for we can only be human together'.*

Caring and Humble

People may wonder why I pick up rubbish!

I was inspired to become a third order Franciscan, i.e. a follower of St. Francis. One of his examples was to be humble.

I am able to carry out my vocation by caring for creation. This helps to keep our beach and ocean cleaner for the creatures who live in it and those who swim in it!



A Simple Prayer

Lord make me an instrument of
your peace
Where there is hatred...let me
sow love.
Where there is injury....pardon.
Where there is discord.....unity
Where there is doubtfaith
Where there is error.....truth.
Where there is despair...hope.
Where there is sadness.....joy.
Where there is darkness...light.
O Divine Master, grant that
I may not so much seek
To be consoled.....as to console.
To be understood as understand.
To be lovedas love
For
It is in giving.....that we receive.
It is in pardoning, that we are
pardoned.
It is in dying...that we are born.
to eternal life.

- St. Francis -

Peter continues-

Emily's appointment to this role comes at a time of challenge, but also opportunity, to shape the future of the Church.

Te Kaunihera – the college's governors – write that "St John's College...[is] facing unprecedented challenge, but with this appointment, we have every confidence that the College can be a centre of flourishing and renewal for the Church, a model of contextual theology in an international context, and a place of welcome and embrace for all who visit."

Prayer ahead

As fellow Tertiaries, we already pray for one another daily in our Community Obedience. Day 16 of the Principles reminds us: "Those of us who have much time at our disposal give prayer a large part in our daily lives. Those of us with less time must not fail to see the importance of prayer and to guard the time we have allotted to it from interruption."

May we be particularly mindful of upholding Emily in prayer through this coming season as she begins this new role, conscious of her important work forming the next generation of clergy and lay leaders within our Church. May it be a role which is rewarding and enriching for Emily, her whānau and the Church.

Author's Comment:

The news of this appointment fills me with excitement and hope for future of the College and the Church. I am grateful to Emily for taking on this challenge. Likewise, I am delighted for her having the opportunity to use her gifts more fully to offer a life-giving vision for the future of the College and Church. I look forward to joining with you – my fellow Franciscans – in prayerfully supporting all that lies ahead for Emily as Manukura...and all that will flow forth from this space to bless the Church and the world!

Peter Bargh, Provincial Secretary

God Bless Your Little Life

About a year ago, Bronwyn (tssf Juniper Forest) began working as a volunteer for a local cat rescue organisation. Recently I joined her as an unofficial helper, as there never seem to be enough volunteers to reliably cover the seven-day roster.

Always there are cats and kittens galore to cuddle, but the real work is mostly smelly and physically demanding - food bowls to clean and refill, poop trays to empty, clean and refill, bedding to wash and dry, and surfaces to wash and mop after innumerable 'accidents'.

It can be emotionally demanding too - especially when one of the too-many kittens during the 'kitten season' is found dead in one of the enclosures.

Of course, the rescue centre has procedures for dealing with such unhappy events, and these are always dealt with - one hopes - sensitively.

But I was recently left with the feeling that 'something more' might be needed at the time to deal with the discovery of a recently-dead kitten.

So Bronwyn and I came up with the following as a prayer, a blessing, that we intend using in future.

Prayer For a Kitten Found Dead

(With the sign of the Cross, if appropriate)

God bless your little life,
no more or less precious in the sight of God
than that of any sovereign or saint.
Rest safely forever in God's loving arms, little one.
Amen

Tony Stroobant, Juniper Forest

Convocation Call

3 - 6 October 2024

Pip Colgan reports that planning is underway for our next Convocation which will be held at Vaughan Park over Francistide 2024. A group of tertiaries who had participated in the study group which was held at St Isaac's Retreat Centre two years ago were invited by Blair to gather again at St Isaac's over the last week of May, to discern the shape and content of Convocation. An excellent start was made and we are planning to finalise the theme and the programme in time to send out to everyone by Francistide 2023.

We are very grateful to Maranu Gasgoine tssf, the Warden / Kaitiaki of St Isaac's, for her generous hospitality (and participation), enabling us to meet as a group in this very special place.

Blair Matheson notes that Convocation is a community gathering, not a retreat and requests that **Areas start working on their banners** as they will be an important part of the start and end of Convocation. It would also be great if areas can come up with a wonderful creative way to lead their banner into the opening Eucharist. This may be a song, poem, waiata or whatever introduction suits your group.

If booking flights, plan to arrive at Auckland Airport between 1pm and 2pm so we can organise you to get to Vaughan Park in time and to book a return flight departing no earlier than 3.30pm.

If you are making other travel plans, please plan to arrive on the Thursday after 1pm but before 3.30pm.

More details and remarks, requests and information will be posted here.

Remembering Merle Stead

It was with sadness that we (the Christchurch group) learned that Merle had died when we were notified that her copy of *Tau* had been returned, marked "Deceased". She had passed away at her daughter's home on December 31 2022.

Merle was professed in 2000 after her introduction to the Third Order by her friend, Shirley Livingston. They often spent lunch-times together, going for a walk in the city and calling into the lunch time service in the cathedral from time to time. They both worshipped at St Paul's Church in Papanui. Merle is remembered as a quiet, self effacing person, someone who liked to listen and yet when she spoke it was often to simplify our discussions with her gentle wisdom and strong faith. She loved her garden and, with her husband Arthur, would spend hours working in it. It was always a delight to walk around it with her. Walking was one of the things she enjoyed, sometimes walking into the city to work when it would take over an hour, frequently walking around the reserve at the end of her street or, if she was house and animal sitting for her daughter, making the circular walk around the estuary and along South Brighton beach.

At the Convocation held in Christchurch in 2009, Merle decided that she wanted to be there, but in the kitchen working. She and Arthur looked after the food and kept the tea and coffees coming. Serving others came naturally to Merle and after retiring she was involved in hosting for Age Concern when a group of people would be brought to her home for afternoon tea.

After a fall and a broken bone she decided it was time to sell her home. Merle moved into an apartment in a Retirement Village where she enjoyed the company of other retirees and the entertainments that were offered. Her interest in TSSF never faltered, and when anyone visited her she always asked after members and showed an interest in whatever we were studying.

Rest in peace, Merle, we miss you but know you are safe, pain-free and enjoying eternal life.

Pam Barrett, Southern



Photo taken of this lovely group and a patient black Labrador, circa 2005/6, at Smith's Farm in Hororata. That's Merle on the right.



Area Reports, starting from the South, and moving North

Southern Area to Meet Regularly in St Francis Hall

We are very happy to have found a new home, a lovely little Portiuncula, in the shape of St Francis Hall at Holy Trinity Church, Avonside, in Christchurch.

We will be meeting there monthly for the foreseeable future and will also have our Southern Area retreat there in October.

On a lovely sunny autumnal Sunday afternoon we were also very pleased to be able to welcome Christopher Diggle and Richard Roberts to our meeting this month, and we enjoyed their energy and stories of their transits to the South. We promise our Gubbio group that we will look after them as well as we are able!

Our discussion time was very full, as we had our last look at Jeff Golliher's *Reflections*, with some lovely input from Maggie, who sent us her thoughts and reflections from Oamaru.

We had lots of ideas about what to study next – so many that we decided to have a roster of discussion leaders from the group, each choosing their own material. The selection will likely include excerpts from the *Comprehensive Course on the Franciscan Missionary Charism*, Richard Rohr, Murray Bodo, Jesus and Islam and the writings of Anne Salmond (*Tears of Rangi*).

So we are set for an interesting rest of the year.

Next month we hope to meet our Franciscan Secular Sisters and Brothers and it is our turn to host them.

We are continuing our monthly Sunday evening Zoom meetings, which enable our members from Southland and the Nelson Area to meet up with some of us in Christchurch. This Zoom group has provided a much needed connection and fellowship between us and has developed a longer-term focus on Franciscan prayer needs.

Ian Lothian, Southern Area Chaplain

Nelson Area

Nelson continues to meet on the first Saturday of each month, usually in people's homes but last meeting we met at Nelson Cathedral.

It was a real blessing to share Eucharist in the small chapel and then to have our cuppa and study in the meeting room.

One of our members is now in a rest home but continues to support us all in prayer.

We have five Professed members, two Companions and very soon we hope to have a new Postulant.

Several of us also try to join the South Island zoom meetings on the last Sunday of the month and we are looking forward to joining the South Island retreat in October.

Yvonne Maclean, Nelson Area Chaplain

The Gentle Art of Blessings Pierre Pradervand

'On meeting and talking to people, bless them in their health, their work, their joy, their relationships to God, themselves and others. Bless them in their abundance, their needs, bless them in every conceivable way, for such blessings not only sow seeds of healing but one day will spring forth as flowers of joy in the waste places of our own lives.

Bless Jesus in his vitality and joy: for the material senses present but the inverted image of the ultimate splendour and perfection which only the inner eye beholds. It is impossible to bless and to judge at the same time. So, hold constantly as a deep, hallowed, intoned thought that desire to bless, for truly then shall you become a peacemaker, and one day you shall, everywhere, behold the very face of God in others around you.'

Gubbio

Gubbio have met twice so far this year.

For our first meeting we met at Robin's lovely Waikanae home, the second at the beautiful and peaceful St Ronan's in Eastbourne, the church of Reg Weeks who presided at Communion.

We were 17 people on both occasions including two enquirers, a different two each time.

Our chosen study has been from Helen Julian's *Franciscan Footprints*. The first chapter's study was on aspects of Francis and Clare's lives and the second, on the usefulness of failure. Both times we formed small groups to share experiences and reflect, then feeding back our insights into the main group.

Gubbio next meet on Saturday, 24 June at St Aidan's in Miramar, where in addition to Communion and lunch and fellowship we will be studying Chapter 3 of *Franciscan Footsteps*.

Penny Kennett, Gubbio

Be strong and courageous
Do not be afraid
The Lord your God goes with you
He will never leave you
nor forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31 v 6

King's Companions

King's Companions have been beaver away in their own patches, some have been dealing with health issues, others moving houses, working, creating videos for fun.

We have a new Postulant, Graeme Sykes— Welcome to the Third Order Franciscans.

Titia ran a retreat last week on Hildegarde and will be running more throughout this year on saintly and progressive women.

Jill is holding a book review on Richard Rohr's *The Universal Christ* which has been challenging and creative with three T.O. members attending and re-reading!

We have a zoom meeting Andrew McKean set up the Zoom on 27 May.

We have a Postulant awaiting his Novicing.

One member is overseas enjoying England.

The road slips and works have meant Waikato and Taranaki have not met in the flesh for a while! In part also because I am working and helping at two parishes so have had few free weekends. Apart from Rohr, I have been reading *The Aramaic Jesus* which is a wonderful revelation — Aramaic has no word for sin — it is tangled knots. Rather like the idea we all have tangled knots that need untangling!

All in all, trust God is working in our lives, guiding, guarding and growing us to be more and more reliant on his Love, presence and hope! I hope we are all living in trust, hope and grace.

Ascension is upon us and soon Pentecost, the birth of the Church. May we question our understanding, our love and our Franciscan journey everyday!

Blessings, Hélène Young, Chaplain

Juniper Forest *Round Table* Meeting

On April 1 Juniper Forest met with an unusually small number of the group present mainly due to some folk being at another significant event.

Seven of us met at the round table as we engaged in a thoughtful and productive discussion on the topic of Modern Slavery, one of the four Chapter-endorsed themes.

Our discussion was based on our readings of two documents circulated to members by Margaret:

- 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report: New Zealand and
- Submission on new law to address Modern Slavery and Worker Exploitation.

We focused on two questions:

- 1) What is it that is so repugnant about the concept of slavery – of slavery of another person/human being, or even a people, especially for a Christian?
- 2) Do you know of any situation in Aotearoa which is akin to enslavement? What might we do about it, individually or as an order?

The second provided an opportunity for lively discussion of many local examples of exploitation.

Liz continues on the next page

The group decided to prepare two questions for those who wished to raise them with their local MPs. (These questions are still to be finalised! and it seems a good idea to defer them in order to reflect upon the Budget recently announced. MAB)

Two areas where we were most engaged are the treatment of migrant/seasonal workers - and possibly refugees and asylum seekers; and conditions in our own labour market, be it home care workers or those in other precarious 'casual' work situations of which we had several examples. We acknowledged that slavery is not all in the past and that there are more slaves globally now than at any time in the past. People in the group were able to give examples of exploitative and unjust employment practices that they have heard about. Some of them involved family members. Other suggestions for outcomes of our discussions included:

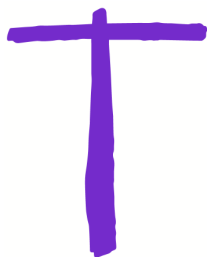
- We can approach people standing for election with questions around their party's policies concerning human trafficking and employment policies. We could also, as an order, bring action together by writing submissions per Marion Fairbrass's suggestions at our last meeting.

Our discussion whetted our appetite in several ways as we continued to mull over our topic over lunch at the *Round Table*!

Liz Ferrands, Juniper Forest Chaplain



Juniper Forest round the table at the Selwyn Library, Photograph Hazel Hipkins



SOCIETY OF
SAINT FRANCIS

Christopher John SSF

Minister General

First Order Brothers

6 May 2023

Greetings from San Francisco!

I'm here for a visit to the brothers at San Damiano and for the provincial chapter. The chapter will be held "in-house", so we don't need to travel anywhere else, and our senior brothers are able to participate.

Before San Francisco, I was in Korea for a few weeks—my first visit since the Covid-related travel restrictions eased recently. Cyril and Lawrence are at the friary at Gangchon and running the retreat house for Seoul Diocese. Guests are again coming to the retreat house, although mainly in smaller groups than before.

In March I was in Solomons and PNG for quite a brief visit to each, mainly to help with some current concerns.

It was great that my visit to PNG was in company with the Rev'd Mandy Wheatley who is Minister Provincial of the TSSF Asia-Pacific Province. It was her first visit to PNG and I was able to guide her through some of the inevitable surprises of anything in PNG!

I also had a visit to Newton Theological College which is upgrading its facilities and staff. The college is now preparing to become a wider purpose tertiary college by possibly taking over the teaching of nursing from St Margaret's College.

Wishing you Peace and All Good

Christopher John SSF

Companion's Corner – an Invitation

Nau mai, Haere mai to all Companions!

Your stories, observations and insights are welcome here.

Send them to the Editor, or any member, for inclusion in the next issue

An Amazing Gift

Ascension is an amazing gift however so often side-lined in the crucifixion and resurrection journey. Just imagine Jesus has conquered death through and with God. Has spent seven weeks with his disciples teaching, eating, praying. Risen yet still on earth, imagine risen but often not recognised... Mary, and the Emmaus Road. Able to bilocate, walk through walls.

He could have stayed as he had conquered death yet he chooses to ascend to return to the Father so we may have eternal life in his life.

Without Ascension the Holy Spirit would not have been given, we would have missed out on eternal life as the gift of Christ returning to the reality of eternity for our benefit!

Rohr and others believe, as John tells us, in the beginning was the Word and everything was made and nothing was made without him. He was before time and space, came into the world with a personality and in Ascension returned to the Reality of eternity and the cosmic dance of love and life and gifted the Spirit and the presence of God with us God in us.

What a gift, what a Grace.

Our task is to love one another, to rely on God and to listen to the Holy Spirit within to see Christ in all and to read, mark and inwardly digest the Words of scripture as we seek Christ's presence and meaning and guidance in our lives.

Ascension leads to Pentecost, the birth of Christianity and God with us in our day-to-day life. Amen thanks be to God.

Helene Young, King's Companions Chaplain

Franciscans International Meeting

Our Minister Provincial, Blair Matheson, has been visiting Rome and Assisi and meeting with Third Order members from throughout the globe. Below is one initiative, an inspiration from Franciscans International.

Learn from African Activists and Theologians

CAPA (Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa /Anglican Environmental Network of Africa) invites you to an [online eco-theology course](#) to consider key environmental challenges facing the continent from both a theological, biblical, and practical perspective

For Your Diary

Next Chapter 25 - 27 August 2023 Vaughan Park, Auckland

Area Retreats Please let us know as other members may wish to join you

Chapter 2024 -
1 - 3 October Vaughan Park

Convocation 2024 - 3-6 October Vaughan Park

See Convocation Call, page 13, for details

National Retreat 2025 or 2026 to be discussed at Chapter 2024