

# HOLY CROSS SEMINARY NEWSLETTER



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*"I proclaim to you news of great joy. A saviour has been born for you" (cf Lk 2: 10-11)*

Dear Friends of Holy Cross Seminary,

As life in the seminary community has come to the end of the academic year 2022, we are well into the season of Advent, Christmas preparations, the Year end of 2022, and certainly the holiday season. There is a growing expectation and joy in all these events. It is a time of great rejoicing and sharing, joy and laughter, meeting and building friendships, to mention a few.

It is also a time to celebrate and give thanks to God for the gift of the promised saviour, Jesus. As we handle the effects of the pandemic, as the world struggles with its devastating effects, wars and natural calamities, everyone is looking for good news. There is a felt need, a desire to be free and happy. This desire is also a manifestation of a greater desire coming from the depth of our hearts – to be in communion with God and with each other in this beautiful world.

Jesus, the Good News of great joy, proclaimed to the shepherd is the reason for our joy. Struggles and restrictions are bound to happen. However, we as the missionary disciples of Jesus, are able to look into our lives and recognise who we are in Jesus. We are God's beloved people, precious to our family, friends, church, community and to God.

Dear friends, from all of us here at the Holy Cross Seminary, I express our sentiments of gratitude to you for your support throughout this year 2022 and in the past.

We wish you a Holy Christmas and a Grace-filled New Year 2023. May the Babe of Bethlehem bring us blessings and many surprises. May this Christmas and the holidays be special as we attempt to make a paradigm shift by praying much, and by loving much and caring for one another.

God bless.

Fr. Mathew Vadakkevettuvazhiyil

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✝ Year One Seminarians arrive 08 February 2023 and returning Seminarians arrive 12 February 2023
- ✝ Start of Semester one on 13 February 2023
- ✝ Hikoi in Northland - 13-16 February 2023
- ✝ Blessings of the Remediated Seminary Buildings - 11 March 2023
- ✝ Founders Day Celebrations & Acolyte - 01 May 2023
- ✝ Annual Retreat - 18-23 June 2023



# Diocesan Vocations - looking to the future

*Fr David Dowling*

Vocations directors from around the country met for a day with formation staff at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland in August to discuss the formation of future diocesan priests in New Zealand.

The day began with prayer and reflection on the model of the Good Shepherd, remembering how Jesus met people in real-life situations. By caring and being present to them, he helped people to encounter the living God.

They noted how today's world is becoming more and more superficial and with so much information pushed into us, we seem to have less and less ability to think deeply and to reflect, to consider, to ponder.

Various challenges associated with vocational discernment and accompaniment were also discussed.

This included how to form good servant leaders, pastoral placement in parishes, supporting pre-seminary students from Vietnam, ways of developing a deeper prayer life, the struggles and challenges faced by those in formation and how to journey with them in an honest, encouraging, and supportive way.

The vocations directors and seminary staff are committed to ongoing collaboration in the formation of those discerning the call to priesthood, so that they may be well formed in 'helping people to encounter the living God in our time'.



Meeting to discuss formation for New Zealand's future diocesan priests.

(l-r): Fr Tien Cao, Christchurch; Fr Joe Stack, Hamilton; Fr Tony King-Archer, Auckland; Fr Trung Nguyen, Palmerston North; and Fr Andrew Kim, Wellington.

They met with Holy Cross Seminary formation staff – Fr Peter Murphy, spiritual formator; Fr David Dowling, Human Formator; Louisa Rani, Pastoral Formator; and Fr Mathew Vadakkevettuvazhiyil, Rector.

*Below and Right:*

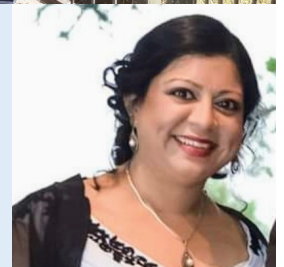
First year seminarians Vaka, Tang and Bob with Fr David in Taupo for extra-mural formation



## Office Manager

*Rochelle Pinto*

I joined Holy Cross Seminary as the Office Manager in September 2022. With a background in Business and Event Management, as well as past experience volunteering with Youth Ministry and Parish Ministry, I welcome the opportunity to serve the church in my role at the seminary.



# New Acolytes Installed

Mark Bond

It is a blessing to have reached this point in our formation, not least because our installation as acolytes is a visible sign of God's grace at work, both in us and in those who have helped form us. The journey to becoming acolytes involved training, prayer, and reflection, and out of all the pearls of wisdom we received along the way, I'd like to share two with you.

The first is a point that Fr Mathew shared with us: that a core tenet of serving at the altar is Jesus's exhortation in Luke 9:13, "You give them something to eat." As acolytes, we have the calling and the privilege to help feed others with food that truly satisfies—the Body and Blood of Christ.

The second is the advice of Bishop Steve at our installation Mass: to contemplate the Mystery of the Eucharist and allow it to transform our lives. Being an acolyte is not about dressing up or being one step closer to ordination; it is an invitation to deepen our sense of what it means to give of one's body, and to express in our words and actions the radical self-gift of Christ. This is easier said than done, so please pray for us as we continue our vocational journey!

We keep you all in prayer and look forward to serving you in the future.



Newly installed acolytes *Huong Dinh (Christchurch), Kinh Nguyen (Wellington) and Mark Bond (Auckland)* with *Bishop Steve Lowe, Deacon Suu Nguyen, Fr Mathew, Fr David, and Msgr Gerard Burns* from Wellington.



## Diaconate Ordination

03//09//2022

Sacred Heart Church,  
Ponsonby, Auckland

Bishop Michael Dooley  
Celebrant

*Pictured with Bishop Michael Dooley are Deacon Suu Nguyen, Deacon Joseph Long Nguyen and Deacon Peter Chadwick*

## Remediation Update

The shrink wrap and most of the scaffolding has come off the main block. There is still a bit of work to go before completion. We are all looking forward to moving back into the main block in 2023!

## Invitation | Blessing of the Remediated Seminary Buildings

This will be on Saturday, 11 March 2023 starting with Mass at 11:00 am. Cardinal John Dew has kindly accepted our invitation to preside over the celebrations. All are welcome!





## Ordination on 24/09/22, St Joseph's Church, Upper Hutt, Wellington

Fr Alfred Tong with Cardinal John Dew at his ordination Mass.  
With them are Deacon Joseph Long Nguyen and Deacon Suu Nguyen.

### Farewell

*Fr Peter Murphy*

Thank you to Fr Peter Murphy, who has served at Holy Cross Seminary as the Spiritual Director for the last two years. Fr Peter is leaving Holy Cross Seminary to enjoy his retirement! We wish you all the best Fr Peter and thank you for your dedication and ministry at the seminary.



*We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year 2023!*



*Thank you!*

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.  
If you require a receipt please contact us with your details at [office@holycross.org.nz](mailto:office@holycross.org.nz)

