Southern Sentinel

Regnavit a Ligno Deus

Holy Cross Parish

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Dear Friends and Benefactors, 1 November 2026

With a view to sharing the important work which continues at Holy Cross, I am wishing to revive the Southern Sentinel, albeit with a slight change in format, and commencing the numbering from where it left off. Five years ago, Fr. MacPherson wrote to you concerning a significant change in the life of Holy Cross. As a result of the closure of international borders, the community had shrunk to a size where it was no longer possible to keep our dear seminary open in Australia. However with one chapter closing, another was beginning. Holy Cross is very much alive today and is a house where young men from our parishes may come to experience life in a religious community before transitioning to one of our seminaries or novitiates. It remains the main retreat house of the District and is well utilized in this regard. It is also used for important meetings across the District and for days of formation for youth, and married couples. Below is a picture of our Superior General when he was visiting here for the priest's meeting. Again this summer it will host the boys' annual summer camp. As a priory and parish of the District there is daily Mass, and the priests here continue to serve our growing community at Our Lady of Fatima's in Albury, as well as other regional centres in country New South Wales, in particular Dubbo.



Featured in the 144th edition of the Southern Sentinel were the priests, brothers and seminarians of the Seminary just before they were sent to the four corners of the earth to complete their formation. By the grace of God, every candidate in that photo was ordained a priest or has made his vows in religion, *or very soon will, as is the case of Rev. Mr. Rey who is to be ordained on 19 Dec 2026 in Argentina—please remember him in your prayers.*

A not too uncommon question faithful will ask is what is the District doing with Holy Cross now that it is no longer operating as a full fledged seminary? Many of you will already know the answer to this question, having visited here yourselves, but for those who have not, I would like to bring you up to date.

Over the past five years we have had young men discern their vocations through an initial visit to Holy Cross and then go on to continue their formation in one of the Society's seminaries or novitiates overseas. As at today's date there are two candidates in La Reja, and one to commence there in March 2027. In the United States we have one brother at the Novitiate and three young men in the early years of formation for the priesthood. Please do continue to pray for many more generous young men from our District to hear God's invitation to enter into His vineyard, for the harvest is great but the labourers few.

This past August Holy Cross said good bye to Fr. Curtis who had been a professor at the seminary for

more than a decade, and who had taken care of Holy Cross Parish for the past five years. Father is now the Prior in Brisbane and we wish him well in the vast Apostolate there.

One of the great highlights for this year was the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Sr. Mary Michael's profession as a religious of the Sisters of the Society of St. Pius X which took place on 29th September, Feast of St. Michael. Making it extra special was the presence of Fr. Pagliarani, along with all the Society priests, brothers and sisters of the District. It was the occasion to celebrate this important milestone for Sister, but also for the Congregation of the Sisters of the Society, considering Sr. Mary Michael was the First Sister of their congregation.



Immediately following the priests' meeting, Holy Cross hosted an Ora et Labora weekend which the faithful of Goulburn Parish generously attended along with some of the men from Sydney. It was the occasion to tidy the property in preparation for the ladies' October Ignatian retreat as well as to make inroads in to some of the projects that we seldom get the chance to sink our teeth into. It was a real boost to the community to see the beautiful spirit with which each person entered into the work. It also provided the men from afar an opportunity to experience life within the walls of a religious community as they accompanied us for community prayer and meals. The men were able to accomplish paint preparation, hedge trimming, lawn mowing, electrical work, gutter cleaning, and a whole host of not insignificant tasks. It was an enjoyable couple of days and something we intend to do more of. On this note, if one or a number of men wish to visit and help out with various tasks, they are most welcome to contact Holy Cross to find out a suitable time. Very recently, one man was able to make kneelers for some larger pews we wish to put in the front section of the church while spending a week in community with us—such assistance is most welcome.





As a parish we celebrated the Feast of Christ the King with a procession around the grounds and concluded with the renewal of the consecration of the human race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in which we prayed that the good Lord might grant to the Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; peace and order to all nations, and to make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise to the Divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to It be glory and Honour forever. Amen. We are very blessed to have in recent years acquired a tapestry of Christ the King which was bought from a second hand dealer. It had been gifted to the Catholics of Australia in 1928, three years after the proclamation of the Feast of Christ the King in the encyclical of Pius XI, Quas

Primas. It is a real treasure and hangs in our foyer continually reminding us of the sovereignty of Christ the King over our hearts, our homes and all Creation.

All Saints' Day saw many of the children from the parish dressing up as their favorite saints. It was a great joy to see the enthusiasm with which they recounted the lives of the saints in all simplicity. Fr. Cranshaw had the task of judging them and is pictured below in our refectory which is now used as the parish hall.

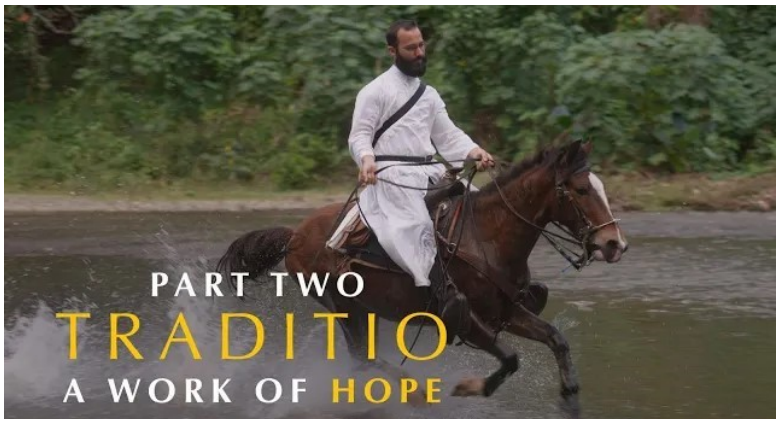


In other news, we continue our efforts to gain council approval for the extension of the cemetery here at Holy Cross. Currently we are in discussions with the council and contractors concerning the necessary works to widen the entrance to Holy Cross. While we do not expect much of a variation in the number of vehicles entering the property to visit the cemetery, this is a concern for council. Outside our gates the speed limit is 100 kilometers an hour and were there to be many cars in funeral procession, the council believes there is a risk of an accident. Below is a diagram of the variations that will be necessary for our entrance. We continue to work through the other items pertaining to the development application and have been very touched by your generosity with respect to these works. We will keep you informed of the progress and assure you of our continual prayers for you and your intentions especially at the daily rosary which is offered for our friends and benefactors. Once approval is granted we will again be able to sell the new cemetery plots. Thank you for your patience.



In recent months the Society of St. Pius X produced TRADITIO, a three-part documentary series that presents the life and apostolic work of the priests of the Society of Saint Pius X throughout the world. It is done out of spirit of love for the Church and was produced over a period of two years by two young students from Switzerland and Germany in collaboration with the General House of the SSPX. It is highly recommended for you and your family and friends. It gives the viewer an insight into the varied work of the Society of St. Pius X across different continents. Simply search these titles and you will find the videos.







Below are some of our upcoming events which we will update in each edition of this publication.
Yours sincerely in Christ the King,

Rev. Fr. McNamara

Upcoming Events

21-22 Nov 2026	Marriage weekend
15-17 Dec 2026	Teachers' meeting
27-30 Dec 2026	Youth event
02-09 Jan 2027	Boys' camp
18-23 Jan 2027	Mens' Ignatian retreat

If you wish to donate to Holy Cross Parish

Account Name	BSB	Acc Number
Holy Cross Seminary *(for general donations)*	062545	10028417
Holy Cross Seminary Building Fund	062545	10028425

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