



St Paul Apostle Community

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Endeavour Hills, 6 June, 2020

News on the Passionist Community of Saint Gabriel's Endeavour Hills

In the last couple of weeks those who have taken advantage of our live streaming Masses would have seen the welcome appearance of Fr Kevin Hennessy. While those of you who are involved in the Passionist companions would know Kevin, there are many others who were wondering if he is to be the new assistant priest. Given the enquiries I thought it opportune to update you on the current community situation and what we may look like in the coming six months.

Fr Brian Gleeson. Fr Brian celebrated his 84th birthday just over a week ago and I am happy to report that he is in good form both physically and mentally. He has coped well with his isolation and has managed to keep busy by writing his weekly reflection, as well as preparing the Sunday parish prayer book. Fr Brian is also continuing to keep the community fed by cooking once or twice a week. I know he looks forward to returning to the parish community to celebrate Mass at least once a week and then after Mass, join some of our parishioners for a cuppa and a cake at the shopping centre.

Fr Kevin: Fr Kevin Hennessy originally hails from Geelong and has been involved in Passionist leadership for many years. While he will be based at Endeavour Hills his ministry will see him travel on a regular basis. Kevin is the congregation's vocations coordinator as well as serving on the newly formed Passionist Heart Foundation. Kevin is also sought after for facilitation, retreats and spiritual direction. Kevin was instrumental in establishing the language centre (ELSPM) which is now situated at Yarra Theological Union in Box Hill. This educational facility, of which Kevin is the Principle Executive Officer, provides English language qualifications for men and women preparing for pastoral ministry in the Church. The current lockdowns have severely curtailed Kevin's ministry but we have been able to take advantage of that here in the parish. When at home Kevin is only too willing to join in the life of the parish.

Br Luke Bulley: Br Luke has come to us from South Africa, via Queensland. He joined the community for what at first was going to be a 6-8 month term but we are working hard to extend his stay. Luke will be making his final profession in the not too distant future and will be looking at ordination in approximately 18 months. He has been instrumental in organizing our live streaming and continues to offer advice as to what we may wish to do in the future. Luke is still committed to his studies but we hope to see more of him in the parish as the restrictions begin to ease.

Fr John Auram: As was originally reported, Fr John was appointed to the Parish while he was finishing a course in the USA. John was to have returned to PNG sometime around May and then make his way here in July. John is still in the USA and as different countries have travelling restrictions it is impossible to determine when John will arrive. I will keep you updated as information comes to hand.

Fr Brendan Connell: I was appointed as Parish Priest and Community Leader beginning February 2020 for a four-year term. Clearly things have not turned out as planned, but I wish to express my gratitude to the parish staff and the wider community for your wonderful support. While restrictions are easing and we will be able to restart some parish activities, albeit on a lesser scale, I look forward to getting to know you all when we can engage in all the rituals and ministries that give our community its identity and life.

Blessings
Brendan PP CP