

THE COMMON ROOM

A SEMI-OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER
FROM THE CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
2024 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Spring 2024, No.1



Friday 13th September, 2024

To hope and act with creation

Welcome to the third edition of our Catholic Theological College (CTC) Student Representative Council (SRC) newsletter for this academic year. Through this form of communication, we hope to highlight and celebrate aspects of our shared life at CTC. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this edition and we welcome anyone who would like to contribute to future editions.

We are well into Semester 2 and the end is in sight! Special thanks to Mr Cameron Ryan (Corpus Christi College) and Sr Stephanie Sullivan (Missionaries of God's Love Sister) for filling the vacant positions of our SRC Secretary and Academic Board Representative for the remainder of our SRC term (until the Annual General Meeting in 2025). We are very grateful for your support. As always, we welcome any current CTC students who would like to join our SRC and contribute to the life of our College in this way.

We hope your assessment tasks for this semester are progressing well. It has been great to see students availing themselves of the opportunity to attend the free Academic Writing sessions, on campus and on Zoom, to refine their skills in approaching and understanding the assessment task, researching and note-taking, referencing and avoiding plagiarism, using Turnitin and checking similarity reports, and editing and revising. Thank you to Dr Maureen Saclot, Mr Andrew Hateley-Browne and Tharindi Fernando for providing these sessions. The recordings and resources from these can be found in the CTC Student Resources section on ARK.

All members of our CTC community are invited to join us at these upcoming events, which will be opportunities to gather for theological reflection, prayer, conversation and celebration:

- Annual Knox Public Lecture (more details to follow)
- Memorial for Dr Christopher Morris: Week 10 / week beginning 14 October (more details to follow)
- End of Semester Pizza Party: Wednesday, 30 October from 1pm in Student Common Room
- End of Year Mass and Refreshments: Friday, 8 November from 5.30pm in Knox Lecture Room

We are currently in the Season of Creation, which commenced on 1 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) and will conclude on 4 October (Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi). It is a time in which all Christian denominations and people of good will are invited to join together in prayer and action for the care of our common home. This year's theme is "To hope and act with Creation," which is inspired by St. Paul's image of the Earth as a Mother, groaning in childbirth, in his letter to the Romans (cf. Rom 8:19-25). The Season of Creation website (<https://seasonofcreation.org>) offers this reflection: "To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles. Just as in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life springs forth."

May we be people of hope and action in the peaks and troughs of everyday life, and may we show care and concern for all of God's creation. You might like to use the attached 2024 Season of Creation prayer at this time. Best wishes with your studies, and enjoy the mid-semester break (Monday, 23 September – Friday, 4 October) and hopefully some finer weather.

Every blessing,
Sr Emma Llewellyn RSM
President of the CTC SRC



Emma Llewellyn RSM is a Sister of Mercy, Master of Education and Theology/Graduate Certificate in Research Methodology student, and President of the CTC SRC. Her academic areas of interest include Religious Education, Church history, missiology and systematic theology. Emma's experiences have been in Catholic secondary school leadership and teaching roles in the areas of mission, liturgy, English and Religious Education. Her hobbies include watching movies, attending live theatre, supporting the Essendon Bombers (AFL) and spending time with her goddaughter.

We acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, study and pray—the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, and their elders past and present.

Live from Rome with bishop-elect of Cairns, Fr Joe Caddy

During a recent visit to Rome, our Vice President Gerry Vytilingam was privileged with the opportunity to interview Fr Joe Caddy (CTC Alumnus) prior to his ordination as Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cairns in Australia on August 15th 2024. Overlooking the breathtaking views of St Peter's Basilica in June at the EWTN Summer Academy, she gained insight into his reflections, hopes and dreams for this new stage in his episcopal journey.



What was your reaction when you got asked by Pope Francis to be Bishop of Cairns?

Well, it doesn't happen directly from Pope Francis. I'd like to think he's got my mobile number in his phone. But, probably not. It happens through the Papal Nuncio, his representative of the Vatican in Australia. He rang me one morning on WhatsApp with the camera on. He announced to me that Pope Francis would like to appoint me as Bishop of Cairns. It came totally out of the blue — and you could've knocked me over.

The Catholic Diocese of Cairns has had a vacant seat without a formal bishop for two years. That's a unique environment to be stepping into as a ministry context. What are some of the challenges and strengths of being appointed into the Cairns diocese?

As you say, the seat has been vacant for two years but there's been a wonderful group of priests up there and the Administrator of the Diocese, Fr Kerry Crowley, who's done a really great job. I'm coming into a place that's been in good hands, so I don't have any fears about that. I do have challenges of course, because I'm not a Far North Queenslander. So I'm going to have to be a man in that spirit of synodality, that Pope Francis so often speaks of, and that's our way of doing business now as the Church. I am going to be somebody who has to go in and really listen: deep listening to the people and where they are. There will be lots of challenges in that, but lots of opportunities and lots of growth.

Do you have a rugby union team that you support so far?

No, I am a rusted on AFL [Richmond] Tigers fan. So, I'm going to have to do something about that. I have no doubt that in State of Origin, I'll be all Maroons. But, it might be the Cowboys. I don't know.



Scan the QR code to watch the recorded livestream of Bishop Joe Caddy's ordination and installation to the Catholic Diocese of Cairns

The Catholic Diocese of Cairns is a broad and diverse region, spreading across 377,000 square kilometers and serving people in 23 parishes and 30 schools. There's about 3500–5000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics in the Cairns diocese. Often the “inclusion” of Aboriginal peoples has been quite tokenistic at times in the Church of Australia. How will you actively serve this demographic of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics as bishop?

I think [for] the First Nations people of Far North Queensland, it's such an immediate issue. They're quite a visible group of people. I think the very fact that this diocese does [include] the Torres Strait Islands is very unique. I have had one initial meeting in the diocese, and I managed to meet a group of First Nations Elders and other members of the First Nations peoples who are working through Catholic education in the diocese. And again, listening to their stories, to the stories of the impact of climate change already on some of the low lying islands in the Torres Strait. But, the determination of the people to stay on their land and I think there's, again, an area of huge learning for me and listening. And if the First Nations people of Far North Queensland are gracious enough to welcome me onto their lands, I certainly want to go and sit with them there, and listen.

How did your experience at Catholic Theological College and the Melbourne College of Divinity shape you and form you spiritually to where you are today?

I think that I was absolutely blessed with the quality of the teaching at Catholic Theological College when I went there (1984–1990). The opening up of the scriptures, the understanding of philosophy, the application of philosophy— these have all become bedrock now. That's part of my spirituality and it can't be separated [as] head and heart. That's the beauty of the wonderful disciplines that we study in theology. So they are knowledge, but it's not just knowledge accessed only in the head. So much of your heart comes to the story, and I think that my early training at Catholic Theological College and the quality of the teaching has really stood me in good stead.

What is your advice for young people undertaking theological studies in Australia?

I really want to encourage people to do it, because they are really worthwhile disciplines. But, I do think we have an issue in the Church as well in providing quality career paths for people who have studied theology. So I think that's back on us as a whole Church to really promote the discipline but to also promote careers that can come out of studying theology, because it's well worthwhile and I think lay women and men have a huge amount to offer through theological reflection and the church in Australia today.

Can you give us a few details on the plans for your upcoming ordination, and what we can look forward to?

Well, we're working on the program at the moment and it's very exciting, I've got to say. August the 15th at 6pm will be the ceremony. There will be most likely an earlier ceremony during the day as some of the Elders from the various First Nations peoples provide a bit of a Welcome to Country. They were gracious enough to agree to do that. I'm looking forward to it. I think it will be a great celebration. I've got family and friends coming up, and the church of Cairns has been eagerly awaiting a bishop. I hope I can meet their expectations.



Geraldine (Gerry) Vytilingam is Vice President of the CTC SRC and Editor of The Common Room newsletter. She is completing her Master of Theological Studies, with a minor thesis on liturgical inculturation in the Missa Terra Spiritus Sancti. Gerry has worked in music ministry, Catholic education and social justice advocacy for over seven years across rural, regional and metropolitan areas. She currently facilitates staff faith formation for Catholic schools. In her spare time, she enjoys perfecting her recipe for cream cheese frosting and making melodies with her guitar.

TRIPLE C

Night



13 September, 2024 | Begins at 7:00 PM

Corpus Christi College

180 Drummond Street, Carlton VIC 3053

Come join us for a night of entertainment.
Bring your own drinks. Finger food provided. \$10 per ticket.
Book your tickets using the QR code or link below.
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1273638>.



Vespa's Recipe for a Classic Vanilla Panna Cotta



John Vespa is a Master of Theological Studies student and a sixth year seminarian at Corpus Christi College, Carlton. Before entering seminary, he worked as a chef in Melbourne, London, and Italy. He enjoys trying new foods and values meals prepared with love.

Panna cotta is a classic Italian dessert made from cream, sugar, and milk, thickened with gelatin. The name means "cooked cream" in Italian. It comes in various flavours and spices, and is typically set in ramekins before being turned out for serving.

Ingredients

- 2 cups of thickened cream
- 1 cup of whole milk
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 1 vanilla bean (or 2 teaspoons vanilla extract)
- 1 sachet (about 2 1/4 teaspoons) of unflavoured gelatine
- 3 tablespoons of water (to melt/dissolve the gelatine)

Method

1. Prepare the gelatine

In a small bowl, sprinkle the gelatine over the 3 tablespoons of warm water. Let it sit for about 5 minutes to soften.

2. Heat the cream mixture

In a medium saucepan, combine the cream, whole milk, and sugar. If using a vanilla bean, split it lengthwise and scrape the seeds into the saucepan, then add the bean pod as well. Heat the mixture over a medium heat, stirring occasionally, until the sugar is fully dissolved and the mixture is hot but not boiling. If using vanilla extract, add it after removing from heat.

3. Add gelatine

Remove the vanilla bean pod if used. Stir the softened gelatine into the hot cream mixture until fully dissolved.

4. Pour and chill

Pour the mixture into individual ramekins or molds. Let them cool to room temperature, then cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours, or until set.

5. Serve

To unmold, dip the bottom of each ramekin briefly in hot water, then invert onto a plate. Alternatively, you can serve the panna cotta directly from the ramekins.

Optional:

Serve with fresh berries, a berry sauce, or a drizzle of caramel for added flavour. This recipe creates a silky, smooth panna cotta with a subtle vanilla flavour that is both elegant and easy to make. Enjoy!



Inspired by Vespa's kitchen? Submit your best attempt at making a panna cotta to src@ctc.edu.au to go in the running for a FREE KEEP CUP !



Join the CTC Outreach Team



The Missionaries of Charity are looking for volunteers (students and staff) to assist in their soup kitchen for men in Fitzroy on Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays. If you can spare an hour or two in the mornings to prepare the food or in the evenings (4:00 PM–6:00 PM) to serve the food, please email src@ctc.edu.au or chat to Gerry to join our outreach team.



YOU ARE INVITED!!!

YTU

Cultural Night

6:00 pm

Friday, 20th September @YTU Study Centre

*Bring your friends and family along to
share and celebrate your culture*



[Scan or click
for more info](#)



Bring a dish from
your culture to share



Perform a song, dance or
skit to showcase your
culture



Donate an item or
buy something at the
silent auction



Attending to Ordinary Time

Over the last few months, we've been making our way slowly through the longest season of the church year: Ordinary Time. Made up of thirty-three weeks, Ordinary Time is divided into two parts: one short, and the other very long. We're now in the long period, the part of Ordinary Time that stretches from Pentecost (way back on May 19), all the way to the beginning of Advent (December 1). That's more than half of the year; seven months of Ordinary Time. That's a lot of green!

The word ordinary has meant a lot of things over time. Today, ordinary is not a good word! At best, ordinary means average, commonplace, neither good nor bad. At worst, ordinary has negative connotations: calling someone an ordinary friend is not exactly a compliment. You don't want to be labelled an ordinary student, particularly if your classmates have been called extraordinary students.

In its liturgical context, ordinary takes on a different significance. The word's etymology traces back to a medieval concept of "order" – a system of parts that followed an established structure, or particular proportions. So describing our liturgical time as ordinary isn't meant to imply dullness. Rather, we are describing its regularity and predictability. Ordinary Time is a constant. It provides a steady backdrop that allows us to shift our focus away from the more dramatic events on the church calendar to concentrate on the gradual, often imperceptible process of spiritual growth.

The idea of "order" pops up in other parts of church life too. Religious men and women, monks and nuns, belong to religious *orders*. These aren't about cloistered convents or matching robes. At their core, religious orders are a community of people who are committed to a shared "rule" of life. This rule shapes everything from where they live to what they wear, creating a regularity and orderliness that allows them to focus more on God, and perhaps less on life's unexpected distractions.

I think this way of understanding the word "order" can teach us something about navigating Ordinary Time in the church calendar. During Advent and Lent, those seasons of preparation, we can get caught up in a whirlwind of busyness, worrying about whether we've done enough to prepare our hearts and minds for Christ. And, during the seasons of Christmastide and the Great Fifty Days of Easter, it's easy to look back and wonder if we did enough to celebrate Jesus' birth and resurrection.

But in Ordinary Time, we can set those worries aside. Coming down from the glory of Pentecost, we can start worrying less about the extraordinary work of the Spirit and more about the everyday job of the Spirit within us. For this reason, Ordinary Time is often described as the long, growing season.

Like the liturgical calendar, our lives are a mix of exceptional events with long periods of regularity. Ordinary Time invites us to focus on the unexceptional everyday: our daily prayers and scripture reading, our regular interactions with friends and neighbours, small acts of kindness and justice as the opportunities arise.

Ordinary Time reminds us that discipleship, the daily taking up of our cross and running after our Lord, happens in the predictable "now" of our life. God works in us, shaping us and using us, when we attend classes, wash dishes or walk the dog. Even when we lose our keys, or miss the bus. The trick is to slow down enough to pay attention.

In this slow, green season of Ordinary Time, as you watch and wait, perhaps you'll discover that the only habit you need is the one that Dietrich Bonhoeffer spoke about: "of throwing ourselves completely into the arms of God." How? Bonhoeffer says it's only by fully inhabiting the life God has given you. He spoke of "living unreservedly in life's duties, problems, successes and failures, experiences and perplexities," and that when we do, our incarnate God will meet us there. Our ordinary days are laden with God. Enter into them.



Bei-En is studying a Master of Theological Studies and is the current CTC SRC Treasurer. She was nurtured in the Protestant tradition and serves as a licensed lay reader/preacher in the Anglican Church. She is curious and delighted by Catholic theology. Her interests include eating dumplings, watching British comedy and drawing (sometimes all at the same time).

Communicating Monasticism

A conference, hosted by the Benedictine Union of Australia & New Zealand marking the 100th issue of *Tjurunga*, an Australasian Benedictine Review, will explore the variety of ways in which monastic commitment has been and can be communicated across time and place.

University of Divinity, 90 Albion Rd, Box Hill ♦ 11-12 October 2024



Friday

11 October 6.30pm

Welcome & Refreshments

Conversation with
Charlotte Wood author of
Stone Yard Devotional
Sarah Glover

Dr Carmel Posa sgs &
Bernard Redden ocso

Conclude with Compline
St Paschal Chapel



Saturday

12 October 9.30am

Keynote speaker:
Dr Michael Casey
Monk of Tarrawarra



Conference Speakers

11am-4pm

Dr Gavin Brown
Kym Harris osb
Prof Katharine Massam
Prof John McDowell
Bernard McGrath osb
Jill O'Brien sgs
Dr Claire Renkin

Conclude with
5.30pm Vespers
St Paschal Chapel

- All refreshments provided
Cost: \$42.85 per person

- To Register and Pay: [Communicating Monasticism | Humanitix](https://www.cistercian.org.au/tjurunga/news)
Program details: <https://www.cistercian.org.au/tjurunga/news>

- For further information contact Jill O'Brien on 0429 666 711



Annual Mass and Awards



On 6 June 2024 the CTC community gathered at the Sacred Heart Church in Carlton for our Annual Mass, celebrated by Most Rev. Peter A. Comensoli, Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne. Most Rev. Paul Bird, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat delivered a homily on Mark 12:28–34. We were very blessed to have the Brothers and Sisters of the Missionaries of God's Love lead the music for us. I don't think I will ever grow weary of the gracious beauty of the Mass!

Afterwards, CTC Master, Very Rev Dr Kevin Lenehan, hosted canapés, drinks and dinner served by the seminarians at Corpus Christi College in the Cluny Dining Room. It was wonderful to come together at the end of another semester, to celebrate the achievements of our fellow students, some recently graduated, and to recognise those whose dedication to their studies saw them awarded with CTC's academic prizes. Congratulations to the following recipients of this year's prizes:

Master's Prize: Ms Donna Mihos

The Archbishop of Melbourne Prize: Ms Bei-En Zou

The Archbishop Coleridge Prize: Br Michael Last MGL

The Austin Cooper Prize: Mr Caleb Bowles

The Baronius Prize: Sr Emma Llewellyn RSM

The Erasmus Prize: Mr Karl Zelesco

The Francis de Sales Prize: Ms Rhonda Soans (Rhonda's essay is being published in the *Homiletic and Pastoral Review*)

The Gerald O'Collins Prize: Mr Karlo Jelincic

The John Maher Prize: Mr Xavier Ryan

The Leslie Tomlinson Prize: Mr Joshua McDermid

The Rod Doyle Prize: Mr Nicolas Calandra

The Salesian Prize: Dcn Xuan Cay Trinh

We were heartened by Fr Kevin's words of encouragement and solidarity in his speech before the awards; that while we were a community coming together in celebration, we were also still a community in grief. Our cherished teacher, colleague and friend, the late Dr Chris Morris, was with us in Christ as many of us shared stories of the wisdom and humour he brought to life at CTC. It was an evening of friendship and new connections, filled with joy, a sense of vulnerability, and that edgy hope that dreams beyond final exams and major essays submitted in the nick of time.

I think I can speak on behalf of everyone at CTC to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to Fr Kevin, Catherine, Maureen, Vi, Martin and the SRC for their brilliant work in bringing our community together again for another fabulous event!



Jessica Parsons is a Bachelor of Theology student. Drawn to theological studies by the desire to deepen her relationship with Christ, she has found them to be as fascinating as they are transformative. Jessica's area of academic interest is the interaction between theology, Christian spirituality and trauma theory, particularly for its pastoral implications. She delights in raising her two feisty, courageous teenage daughters, Elizabeth and Camilla, and watching them grow in wisdom and wholeness.

Engaging Your Faith Online Series



Choose from 13 sessions in October 2024

Engaging Your Faith is a series of short, online presentations that invite participants to reflect on what it means to be people of faith in the contemporary world.

Experienced lecturers from Catholic Theological College present on a variety of topics such as Religion and Ethics, Philosophy, Gospel of Luke, Interculturality, Meditation, Science and Religion, Synodality, AI, Education, And Violence in the Scriptures.

Cost

- \$25 per session: General audience
- \$40 per session: Teachers applying for Catholic School accreditation

See the next page for the list of topics and presenters.

These sessions are eligible for maintaining accreditation in Catholic schools in all Victorian and Queensland dioceses. In other dioceses, teachers should check with their education office.



[To book scan the QR code or visit our website for a full description of the sessions and to register.](#)

Email ctc@ctc.edu.au for further information
+61 3 9412 3333 | 278 Victoria Parade East Melbourne | ctc.edu.au

A reflection from Donna Mihos, Master's Prize recipient 2024



Donna Mihos, a wife, mother and dedicated leader in Catholic education, graduated from the Master of Education and Theology degree in 2024. She is currently working as Faith Enrichment Leader at Salesian College Sunbury.

Being awarded the Master's Prize is a profound honour that reflects my academic achievements in my Master of Education and Theology, as well as a deeply rewarding 15 year journey in Catholic education.

The prize represents more than academic achievement; it signifies the integration of my studies with practical, impactful work in Catholic schools. The knowledge and skills I gained through my capstone unit enabled me to develop a project aimed at enhancing Religious Education Teachers' capacity as Witness, Specialist, and Moderator. While serving as Head of Religious Education at Penola Catholic College Glenroy, I sought to honour the charism of St. Mary Mackillop and capture the essence of the World Youth Day experience through the project. I titled the Capstone paper "We Are But Travellers Here," framing it as a pilgrimage of professional development.

One of the most impactful experiences during my 15 years of working in Catholic Education was my role as a pilgrimage small group leader at World Youth Day Lisbon in 2023. Whilst the pilgrimage was a personally transformative experience, I also had the privilege of witnessing the profound impact it had on the youth I accompanied. It was a blessing to encounter the global dimension of the Catholic tradition, to see a unified Church of diverse culture, and to experience the vibrant energy of thousands of young people coming together in a shared mission of faith and service.

As a pilgrim moving on to new pastures, I seek to continue applying all that I have gained from my studies in my new role as Faith Enrichment Leader at Salesian College Sunbury. I feel inspired to carry the Josephite charism with me whilst embracing wholeheartedly Don Bosco's educational philosophy of joyful learning, and a profound commitment to the holistic development of young people through reason, religion, and loving kindness.

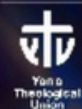
Receiving this award serves as a testament to the collaborative efforts of the many individuals who have supported me throughout this journey. This achievement would most certainly not have been possible without the grace of God, the companionship of Christ and the unwavering support of my professors, mentors, friends, and family. I am deeply grateful to everyone who has been an integral part of my journey, particularly my patient husband Gianni and our sons Xavier and Alessio.

I will be forever grateful for this honour, which further fuels my passion to continue faithfully serving Catholic education in the communities I am privileged to work with.



THE DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THE
SVD ANNUAL

MISSION DAY 2024



WITNESSING TO THE LIGHT

FROM EVERYWHERE FOR EVERYONE

Saturday, 12th October 2024

TIMES

3:00 PM - MISSION DAY SEMINAR
6:00 PM - MISSION DAY EUCHARIST
7:00 PM - MULTI-CULTURAL MEAL

WHERE?

YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION
98 ALBION ROAD,
BOX HILL, VIC. 3128

MORE DETAILS TO COME

Called to serve and not to be served

My name is Benjamin Kombo, a religious member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI). This past July, I was ordained to the Order of the Diaconate. I derive great joy to share my experience grounded on the positive impacts of my religious, academic and integral human formation throughout my numerous years of discernment with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and more precisely now at Catholic Theological College (CTC).

To begin, I would like to give thanks to God for His goodness. I acknowledge the fruitfulness of my human, spiritual and academic formation since I took freely the decision to answer God's call in the Church. As I meditate over the years spent in discernment in regard to my religious life, I can only be thankful to God for helping me to find good friendship, family and support wherever he called me to be present.

My journey as an Oblate seminarian began in 2014 in Nigeria after high school. A big decision I had to take was to leave my university studies to join the Oblates. I can only be grateful to God for sustaining in me the zeal to serve my sisters and brothers in Christ through religious life. The practical example of God's love in my life is manifested and revealed in the many persons I have encountered who have prayed and supported me in all positive ramifications on my vocational pathway.

After completing my Bachelor studies in Philosophy, I was sent as a missionary religious to Australia for a new societal context and Church mission. As a missionary, the challenge to leave family and friends in one's own cultural space is not an easy thing. Hopeful, with God and His divine providence, I confidently accepted the missionary task to fly 25 hours from Nigeria to Melbourne.

On my arrival after the COVID-19 pandemic, I was fraternally welcomed by the Oblates in Australia where I have benefited from a very positive community life both in the Oblate Scholasticate (seminary) and here at CTC. Also, there is great need for me to say, CTC is not just an academic institution, but a community which goes beyond that. CTC and its Alma Mater also engenders an enabling environment for spiritual growth and human development in many aspects of life.

Finally, the conducive atmosphere for learning at CTC portrays the high standard that is set for the inclusive learning and formation of both lay people and seminarians at our prestigious College. Above all, the hospitable nature of our dear CTC gives me reason to feel gratitude to all the good people of our College who in one way or another contribute to my religious, social and spiritual formation. The positive fruitful-bearing of my time at CTC is felt concretely in the inner peace I feel to associate myself to this great College of ours. As a religious and a student, I am sent to the people of God in our contemporary Australian context and Church to be the reflection of God's abundant love amongst His people through service to those I encounter. Here, as a deacon, I am called to "serve and not to be served" (Mk. 10:45).



Benjamin Kombo OMI is a Deacon with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He is a Bachelor of Theology student, and a General Member of the CTC SRC. His academic areas of interest include theology of the human person, Christology and synoptics. In his spare time, he enjoys singing, piano, soccer and table tennis.

Notices for Students

Suggest the most obscure biblical/religious name for Annalise Reeves' baby

Have a knack for baby names? Come into Mannix Library to submit the most obscure baby name you could think for Annalise Reeve (Interim Library Manager) by Wednesday 23rd September. Suggestions must be submitted to the box located at the front of the library, with your full name, baby name suggestion and email. Annalise will pick a winner, with the prize being an assortment of sweet treats.*

***Please note, the winning name suggested will most likely not be selected as the baby's actual name.**

Survey for Online Students

Thank you so much to all the students who completed our online student survey! The results of the survey will assist our SRC to better the experience of student life for our online community.

Please keep our Common Room tidy!

A kind reminder to clean up after yourself in the Common Room. There has been noticeable crumbs, rubbish and spillages left in recent weeks, which disrupts the cleanliness of the shared area. Please use the paper towels and cloths provided to clean up and wipe around the areas you have used.

Contributions to the next edition of 'The Common Room'

If you would like to contribute to our Spring 2024, No.2 edition of 'The Common Room' then please chat to a member of the SRC in the Student Common Room or send us an email: src@ctc.edu.au. We are also open to suggestions of theologically punny (and appropriate) memes.

A meme for good measure



2024

SEASON OF CREATION PRAYER



Triune God, Creator of all,

We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the firstfruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



SEASON OF
CREATION