



CHRISTIAN BROTHERS
OCEANIA PROVINCE

OCEANIA PROVINCE WEEKLY NEWS

VOL 4 | ISSUE 29

We Acknowledge the Traditional custodians who have walked and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

Perpetual Profession of Brother Moses Kashokela

Dear Brothers and Friends of the Christian Brothers

Greetings from Keating House in Lusaka!

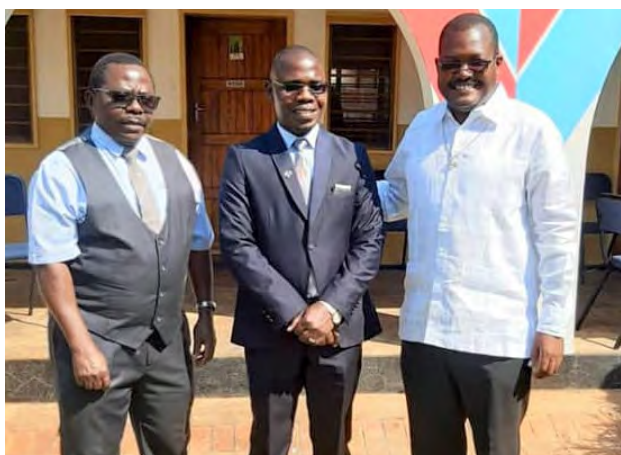
On Saturday 15 August, Br Moses Chibanje Kashokela made his Perpetual Profession at the International Spirituality Centre in Lusaka. Care was taken to maintain social distancing during the ceremony.



Please join me in wishing Br Moses every blessing for the remainder of his Religious Life.

Pictured below with Br Moses are Br Clement Sindazi (Deputy Province Leader) and Br Alfred Banda (South Central District Leader).

Mick Podbury cfc

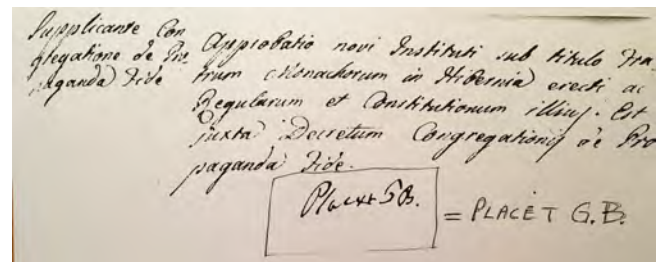


Vatican Brief 1820

“Pope Says Yes!”

It was on August 24, 200 years ago this year, that Pope Pius VII signed a note. The Pope had just given his approval to issue the founding document of a small Congregation of men in Ireland.

In fact, on that day he wrote “Placet” and added his initials – GB – which signalled that Papal approval was given for a Brief to be prepared by the Secretary of Briefs.



The Pope’s signature, signifying his approval - “Placet”.

This process was soon completed. The Secretary of Briefs, Cardinal Ercole Consalvi, signed the document on September 5, 1820- thus beginning the history of our Congregation as it is today.

To commemorate this 200th Anniversary, each Brother will receive three documents: a copy of the Brief itself; a translation; and a prayer ritual.

The ritual may be used by communities or as a personal reflection. It would also be suitable to ponder it as we welcome a new Oceania Leadership Team a few days after our 200th birthday.

Michael Dredge cfc



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An Evening with The Trees

On Wednesday, 12 August, Brothers were invited by the Edmund Rice Volunteer Camp Committee to join them for dinner which they generously prepared. Fourteen Brothers attended along with many of the volunteers as well as Board Members of Edmund Rice Camps. It was a wonderful evening.

The following day, Kevin Knapp placed a beautiful [reflection](#) he had written on my desk, detailing his thoughts on the evening. I think it is really beautiful; and his appreciation of the Brothers, along with his insight into the evolving Edmund Rice Movement, I think worth sharing. I asked Kevin if he minded me circulating his reflection and he replied in the affirmative. I share it with you and hope that you get as much from it as I did. We are indeed fortunate to have Kevin as the inspirational leader of ER Camps here in the West.

Terry Cant cfc Cluster Team WA

Dots and Mandalas

At the start of the year a group of adults from various backgrounds came together to start the Mt Atkinson Art group. A social and welcoming group that meets every second Monday to learn new art techniques in the peaceful surroundings of Mt Atkinson. The idea was that these gatherings would support individual's wellbeing via a common interest.

2020 had a different plan for us. We stopped the program, started it up again and then stopped our face to face events once more. But the need was still there, perhaps even more so. After discussing ideas with some of the art group participants, on Friday the 7th we launched the first "Lockdown ART" group gathering online for the Monday following.

Br Gerard Bennett and a small group from the greater Melton region joined us to learn the relaxing and history rich practice of Mandala art. I set my laptop camera up to capture the fire pit and trees of my backyard, we could hear birds chirping and the breeze blowing, while learning the techniques of Mandalas. Simran, a Mt Atkinson art group member gave us a brief history on Mandalas and then a step by step lesson so we could create our own. On the Monday just gone we explored the rendering technique of "Stippling". After a brief but informative introduction we all went dotty, stippling away at our drawings. A meditative art form because of its very repetitive nature.

What I have been enjoying, and know to be beneficial to our wellbeing, is the safe space we have created. We come together online, chat for a little and learn something new. Then we become immersed in our art, mostly without talking, but still feeling very connected and conscious that others are with us, enjoying a common interest. It's like sitting around the campfire, where the silence between the talking is an important part of the conversation.

As the stage 4 lockdown continues on, we have the challenge to find art applications that are fun and engaging but can be resourced from items found at home. It's through challenges that we find and identify new possibilities. I look forward to what we will discover.

Michael Naismith Mt Atkinson



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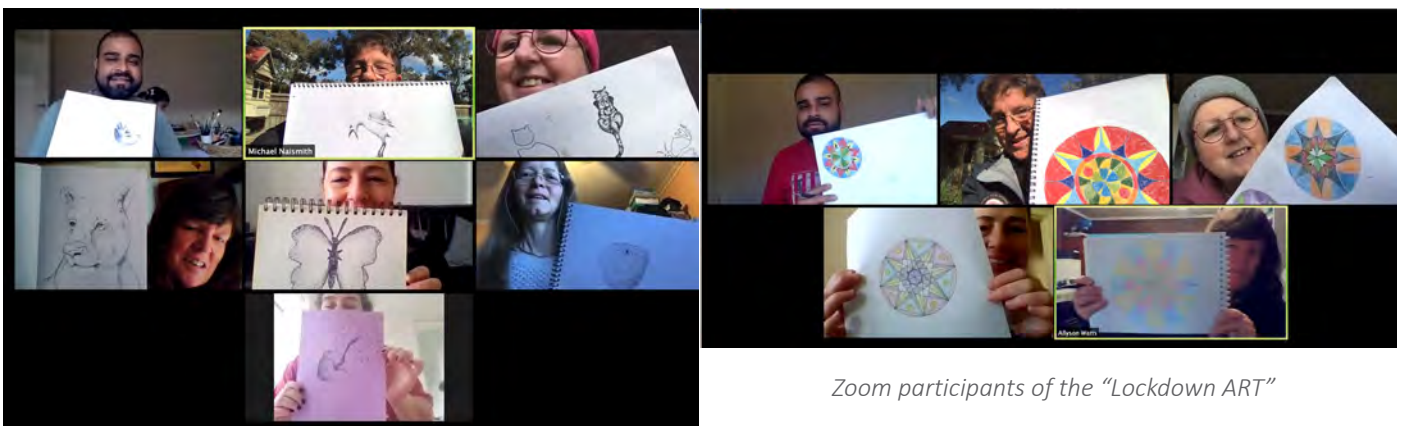
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Michael Naismith
Mt Atkinson



Zoom participants of the "Lockdown ART"



An evening with the trees

Edmund Rice (The Giant Redwood)



Christian Brothers (The Might Oaks)



Edmund Rice Camps Board Members (The Vibrant Maples)



Edmund Rice Camps Volunteer Leader Committee Members (The Poplar Army)



The origin of important religious developments in the history of the Church may ordinarily be traced to the charism of one individual. The “mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field is the smallest of seeds, but when it is grown is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree” (MT 13 :24). It was the achievement of Edmund Rice that the seed, sown by him in poverty and almost in secrecy, became a tree whose roots struck deep, whose branches spread through many climes, and whose fruits are still enjoyed far and wide. (Taken from A Tree is Planted by M.C.Normoyle)

Last night I shared a meal with 14 Christian Brothers, 3 Board Members of Edmund Rice Camps WA and 10 Edmund Rice Leaders and members of the Volunteer Leader Committee. It struck me that I was in a veritable Edmund Rice Forest. Stories were shared during the evening, but in a closing thank you Brother Terry Cant noted that collectively the Brothers in the room represented over 1000 years of service to Ministry but that their greatest legacy was the nurturing of the next generation of Eddie Ricers in the room, namely the young volunteer leaders. Perhaps as the mighty oak starts to lose some of its leaves it allows more sunlight to penetrate to the foliage below and allow the smaller trees to grow?

Edmund Rice, perhaps the mightiest tree of them all, was insightful enough to grow tall but with a narrow canopy that allowed sun to get to the trees below and all around. This (shall we call it Charism) inspired thousands of Brothers who have in turn inspired tens of thousands of others.

If you ever stand alone in a dense forest, you cannot but feel both an immense sense of peace and power (or is it empowerment)

Last night I spent an evening with the trees!