

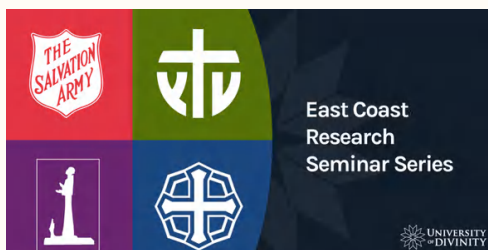


Welcome to Week 3!

We hope you had a wonderful weekend and are ready to embrace a brand new week. As we dive into it, let's stay connected and informed about the latest updates.

Housekeeping Matters To ensure a smooth flow of activities, we kindly request all students to use the parking space on the Albion Street side for their cars, rather than the parking area near the study centre. For evening class students, please assist in maintaining the common room's cleanliness and orderliness by clearing and cleaning all table surfaces after use.

eBook Information Session Our library staff across the colleges of the University of Divinity have put together a 30-minute presentation to help you grasp the basics and learn the tips and tricks you'll need to get the most out of your online reading experience. For registration and more information, please visit <https://vox.divinity.edu.au/event/ebook-information-session/>



East Coast Research Seminar Series Join us online for the East Coast Research Seminar Series, hosted by Yarra Theological Union on Thursday, 24 August, 2023. Mark your calendars for the insightful discussions in the seminar. More details can be found <https://vox.divinity.edu.au/event/east-coast-research-seminar-series-3/>

Prayer for our Beloved Dead - November Remembrance In November, we're dedicating time to remember and pray for our departed. Find details in Jill's message below on the last page.

In Memoriam: Remembering Chris Monaghan's father, Jim and Frank Smith, CSsR Our sincere condolences go out to Chris and his family for the loss of his father, Jim, who peacefully passed away last Monday. Additionally, we remember Frank Smith, CSsR, an early educator at YTU, who passed away on August 2. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone during this challenging time.

Top's Article of the Week: A heartfelt thank you to Top, CSsR for sharing the inspiring article "Eternally Yours" this week.

Thank you for being an integral part of the YTU community. We look forward to another enriching week ahead.

Every Blessing,
Hoa msc

Eternally Yours

“Would you know my name if I saw you in heaven?” I believe most of us are familiar with the lyrics from ‘Tears in Heaven’ by Eric Clapton. They reflect wishful thinking about the end of this life. Hope in the afterlife, as we know, is common among humanity. Where are we going after death? To hell, heaven, purgatory, lingering on earth, or are we reaching nirvana? For Eric Clapton, it seems he was pretty sure his son went to heaven. This is also the case with a classical myth of Orpheus, a talented musician, whose wife, Eurydice, died not long after they got married.



After the tragic death of Eurydice, Orpheus fell into sorrow and grief. However, everybody knows where Thanatos (Death) takes all souls to; it is the Underworld, the kingdom of the dead in Greek mythology. Orpheus ventured to meet Hades, the god of the dead, and succeeded in persuading him to let his wife return to the world of the living under one condition that Orpheus must not turn back to see his wife until they passed through the gate of the Underworld. It would not be a tragedy if it ended happily, would it? He wanted to make sure his wife was following him alright. Once he turned around, he witnessed his wife being hauled back into the realm of the dead. Why did he look around? The classic answer would be his only flaw - incapacity of faith, yet others may not interpret the story this way.

Marianne, a painter from a film called ‘Portrait of a Lady on Fire,’ said otherwise. She proposed that Orpheus made the choice. He preferred to ‘treasure the memories of her’ instead of having her back. Not to mention that Héloïse, the main protagonist, suggested Eurydice also wanted him to turn around even though she knew she would not see him again. She probably thought “who are these males bossing around? Why did I have to follow Orpheus? Why should we obey Hades?” Even if Marianne got the point, the legend says the opposite. Perhaps because Orpheus always holds his wife in his memories, he continues to grieve.

“Those who passed away still live on in our memories,” is often said at the funeral. Those memories keep reminding us of our beloveds who have gone before us. My dad always comes into my sight when I pass by the corner of the restaurants we visited. He is alive and well when he visits me in my dreamland (why not? Hypnos-Sleep-is a twin brother of Thanatos after all!). We often weep and mourn over a reminiscence repeating vividly in our mind.



Even a near perfect man like Jep (The Great Beauty) could not hold back his tears at the funeral of his first love, or Lee (Manchester by the Sea) who probably had to deal with the loss of his children for his whole life. They are the opposite from Miguel and his family (Coco), who seem happy to cherish beautiful memories of loss and loved ones. It might be because it is an animated movie aiming at families as its target audience, so it is supposed to be friendly for kids. Still, it hints at the hope of the afterlife. The stories of life after death are like a bright torch at the end of a dark tunnel. Maybe that is what the afterlife is about. Hope.



We hope in the resurrection of Christ that God will welcome us in eternity. That means what we hope, after all, is not life after death but eternity with God. Georg Bätzing, bishop of Limburg, believes that the next life is not “completely different” to our current life but the “perfection” of what we are living now as faithful apostles of Jesus. Our eternal life begins now! The kingdom of God is here!

The questions, then, are not whether we will know our family members, whose partners we married (supposed we canonical-lawfully married several times), or whether we can bring the dead back to life, rather what we are doing now as Christ's followers and what we are doing for our neighbours. I am certain that Fr. Frank Smith, a Redemptorist confrere, who went back to God two weeks ago, has lived his life as a true apostle of Jesus. His faith in Jesus can be seen in his love for the poor and abandoned. For us, he did not really leave us nor does he stay alive only in our memories, but he joins and is alive in God's eternity.

Sopon Jiaranaikul, CSsR (Top)



Jill's Message

Prayer for our Beloved Dead

The month of November has traditionally been a time to remember those who have died. As our classes have finished and students have scattered in November we propose to make some time in October a time to remember and pray for those who have gone before us.

To assist us in this task we would like to set up a loose-leaf book containing the names of our family members, friends and others who have died. As October is only a few weeks away all students, staff and friends of YTU are invited to prepare a page for insertion in Our Book of the Dead. Special A4 paper will be bought for this book which you can obtain from the chaplain's office. Or you may email your page to me and I will print it on 'the special paper', punch the holes and place it in the folder.

On your sheet you might like to put the names of the ones you wish to remember. Photos or any other appropriate markings are welcome including your own language and cultural expressions. Your A4 page may be decorated or unadorned. If anyone needs help please contact me. I have an assortment of images you might like to include on your page.

If you have any questions please contact me.

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