

Holy Cross Retreat

<https://holycrosscentre.com/community/>



24th January, 2025

Letter 259

Jerome



Jerome has had increased health challenges over the past three weeks and that resulted in him being hospitalised on Tuesday night. Chris drove Jerome to Knox hospital late afternoon after an uncomfortable day. Chris collected him again on Thursday morning and he was looking and sounding much better.

Holidays

Chris has completed his holiday, which he partly enjoyed at home. He even slept in his tent out the back one night.

JD is holidaying in Vietnam and a week ago he celebrated Mass for the 40th anniversary of his parents.

Tri is at home with his family, and no doubt adjusting to daily 4.30am morning Mass!

ELSPM

Mike has been here for two and a half months and he has been making a special contribution to the grounds through his hard work. Since Jerome is not able to continue the incredible work he did for so many years, Mike's contribution is really appreciated. He is at Holy Cross to assist in improving his English so that he can take up a pastoral appointment. He resumed studies for 2025 at our English language school (ELSPM) at Box Hill on Monday.

A Team

The A Team turned up in force last Friday to resume their maintenance tasks, and were met with a page long list of items prepared by Mayrose. That helped them feel needed, in case there was any doubt. They plan today (Friday) to paint the two ramps that lead to the Holy Cross Centre main entrance.

PNG

I will be visiting our community in Boroko, Port Moresby to conduct some sessions with our students in this coming week. I am leaving today and will return late on Saturday February 1st.

Phi



Phi will be ordained a Priest on Saturday 8th March 2025 at 4.00 p.m. at our parish church, St Paul's, Glen Osmond in Adelaide and he will offer a Thanksgiving Mass the following morning at 10:30am. You are welcome to attend. Accommodation can be arranged with Donna Cooper donna@themonastery.net.au

Phil will celebrate a Mass at Holy Cross the following Tuesday, March 11th at 7.30pm. This will be followed by light refreshments.

John Khouri



Our new student, John arrived on Wednesday last week, and has some time to settle in and become accustomed to things before YTU studies begin. Orientation day is February 21st and classes begin on Monday February 24th.

John is a mature aged candidate (25 years) with university and work experience. He has been a member of our St Brigid's parish community in Marrickville. Among his talents and interests, John is a keen musician. He plays piano and guitar and is learning the harp.

He was helping out from Day 1. Below on the left he is helping Mike dismantle the Christmas lights that Mike had expertly arranged, and below right, John is cleaning one of the showers!

He has been out mowing (with Erick) which was much needed.



He was sent to bring good news....(3rd Sunday Year C)



There is a story told about a stranger who arrived in a village. He asked the chief if he could share with his people the good news about Jesus. Neither the chief nor the people had heard of this person Jesus, so they invited him to stay. Unfortunately soon afterwards the man fell seriously ill. He had barely shared anything about this good news before he died in the village.

Among his belongings, the villagers found a small book and one of them, a young and wise man named Kuma could read English. He read the title, “The Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ”. They knew that this book must contain the news the man had wanted to share.

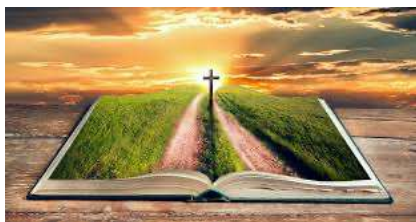
As they listened to the stories from the book, they became excited by the stories of compassion, mercy, forgiveness, justice and concern for the sick, the weak and the vulnerable.



They asked, where might we find another follower of this person Jesus? Could we invite someone else to come to find out more about the message. The villagers delegated Kuma to find out what he could, so he set off. He went to many places and talked with different individuals and communities. He attended

Masses and other liturgies. Finally, he decided he had gathered enough information so he headed home to his village.

When he sat down with the village elders including the women, they wanted to know one question. Do Christians really follow the teachings of Jesus? Do they love and care for one another? ‘Do they live in peace with one another?’ ‘Do they reach out and share what they have with those in need?’ ‘Are they happy?’



One woman asked, ‘Do they live according to that Book?’ She quoted the text of today’s gospel which Jesus had read to the people: that God had anointed him, and sent him to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom to captives; to restore sight to

those that were blind; to free those who were oppressed and to proclaim the new era of God’s promises. “Do the people truly believe all this happened?” She asked.

Kuba said, I actually found five different kinds of Christians. First, I found some who call themselves Christians. They have been initiated – what they call baptism, but they do not keep the observances and have no commitment to be like Jesus, their founder.

AN OUTWARD OBSERVANCE WITHOUT ANY
REAL INWARD MEANING IS ONLY A
CEREMONY.
- ALFRED EDERSHEIM -

Second, I found some who are committed to the outward observances but it does not seem to effect the way they live. In fact some things they do seem the opposite of what is in the book.

Third, I found some who are very sincere. They are engaged in good works. However, the characteristics of compassion, mercy, forgiveness and care for one another do not seem to be so evident in them.



Fourth, I found some who really do believe in what is in the book, and they suffer rejection and hardship from critics and these Christians refuse to deny their beliefs. They are real.

Fifth, I met some beautiful people. Love shines out from them. By being with them, I felt I was meeting Jesus himself and that was certainly good news. I knew then why the book is called 'good news'.



Kuma said, "I think the man who came first to tell us about the good news, was telling the truth. Jesus brings good news because he is full of love. He shows the way for people to live together as a family that includes everyone. He would tell us that in our village no one should feel like they don't belong"

Kuma asked, "Could we do what he did? Do we want to do it? If we do, we should decide which of the five types we don't want to be".

St Gabriel's festa

This year the St Gabriel's feast day celebration will be held on Sunday February 23rd. This will consist of Rosary (10.00am), Mass (10.30am) and Procession (11.30am). The bust and relic of t Gabriel will be available for veneration from Thursday til Sunday at Holy Cross.

Come Away Day

The first Come Away Day' for 2025 will be on **Wednesday March 5th**.

Eggs

A notice for those who collect eggs each fortnight. The next collection day is **Tuesday** January 28th.

Coffee Cart last Sunday





Humour

A young man decided to join an enclosed monastic Order where it was only allowed to say two words every ten years. After ten years had passed in the monastery the abbot summoned him and said 'You've been with us for 10 years. What two words would you like to say.'

The now monk replied 'I'm hungry', so the abbot organised for an extra ration be given to him each day.

After twenty years the abbot called him in again and asked 'What two words would you like to say?' The monk replied with 'Too cold', so the abbot organised for him to get another blanket.

After 30 years the abbot called him in and said 'What two words would you like to say'. The monk replied with 'I'm leaving'.

The abbot said 'I'm not surprised. You've done nothing but complain ever since you've been here'.

(The first morning John was here his shower was cold, but he has not mentioned hunger yet!)



Q. What did the vendor say when the monk asked for change for his twenty-dollar bill?

A: Change comes from within.

The graduate with a Science degree asked, "Why does it work?"

The graduate with an Engineering degree asked, "How does it work?"

The graduate with a Commerce degree asked, "How much will it cost?"

The graduate with an Arts degree asked, "Do you want fries with that?"

An elderly woman told her doctor that she felt like a deck of cards. The doctor said, "Could you sit over there please, and I'll deal with you later."

An elderly man told his doctor that she had ringing in her ears and asked what he should do. The doctor advised: "Don't answer it."

Many years ago Joe went to the doctor and said urgently, "Doctor - my son just swallowed a roll of film!" The doctor calmly replied, "Let's just wait and see what develops."

New Year message

<https://www.youtubenocookie.com/embed/Rtajxo8d7js?rel=0&controls=0&showinfo=0>

Next Friday 29th January, **Erick** celebrates his 13th profession. How time flies.

We have been praying for young **Alfred** in London (grandson of Deb and Peter Day) who was discovered to have a tumour while in the womb. The surgery that was first considered at that time, has been postponed but will now take place on February 19th.

Prayers

We remember those who have died recently, as well as those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially **Bernard Charnley**, and those such as **Maureen**, who grieve for them.



We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell as well as all who care for them especially Elane Annette Rod Gorfine,

Bro Minh Toan CP, Noel Smyth, Peter Barry, Rex Cambry

Zoe Chung and her baby daughter Sophia, Desley Reynolds,

Tony Brooks, Monica Sleeman, Carol Battistella, Gerry Bond,

Sharon Williams, Alexander Lim, Paul Darbyshire, Doris Castro,

Michael O'Callaghan, Julia Cantone, Pam Storey, Lorraine Gill, Adrian Woon,

Bronwyn Burke, Luke Norden, John Reardon, Kaya Lenic, Peter & Bernadette Owen,

Greg Agosta, Caroline Meade, Mary Dunn, Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Pam Gartland,

Anne Jenkins, Patricia Keeghan, Errol Lovett, Chris O'Toole, and baby Alfred

Theodore in London.

The **Mass link** for this Sunday will be sent on Saturday by Chris

Enjoy the weekend

Brian