

Holy Cross Retreat

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



Letter 265

7th March 2025

Bruno Petrocco

There has been an outpouring of concern and prayers for Bruno. Tomorrow will mark two weeks since the accident in our 'Chair shed', where some stacked tables fell on Bruno and among the injuries he suffered (four broken ribs) and bleeding from the brain. Bruno returned home on Monday afternoon, and his fitness will be a huge help in his recovery from the broken ribs. He cannot stay comfortable in bed, so he is sleeping in an upright position in a lounge chair. He will need weeks to fully recover. Perhaps like Pope Francis (or is Francis like Bruno?) he will direct some of the activities of the St Gabriele Committee during his convalescence. Cathy has been through a lot and they both appreciate our ongoing prayers.

Commemoration of the Passion

On the Friday before Ash Wednesday, Passionists celebrate the feast of the Commemoration of the Passion. Paul of the Cross was able to get Pope Pius 6th to agree to this feast, which Paul wanted in order to reflection the joy and hope of the cross and passion, before Lent began, rather than the usual focus on suffering and pain, highlighted especially on Good Friday.

We were delighted to have [Joachim Rego](#) join us for a special Chris Monaghan dinner include Bombe Alaska! Joachim completed two terms as General of the Passionist Congregation last October and is now living in Marrickville. We also welcomed good friends [Sandra and George Johnson](#), and our brothers from Donvale, [Kevin Hennessy](#) and [Luke Bully](#).

Erick took the photo above, so he is not 'in the picture'.



Come Away Day – Let Go and Let Gd



The first 'Come Away' day for 2025 was held on Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) with 25 participants, including eight new persons. There will be a short write up next week on a much appreciation day of reflection and sharing.

Ash Wednesday

(This is the reflection Tri shared at Mass on Wednesday)

The distribution of ashes today, draws us to the mystery of God's salvation not only for humanity but for all creation. In the tradition of the Church, the Lenten season, beginning with Ash Wednesday, is observed as a time of penance by fasting, almsgiving and prayer (giving more than the usual time to religious exercises).

Today, we hear in the Gospel about Jesus' teaching on these three acts of piety – fasting, giving donations and attention to prayer, which were critical aspects of Jewish religious life in Jesus' time. In his teaching, Jesus did not criticize the public exercises of these pieties. Rather, He criticized the public display of private pieties.

Just as what had been said by Joel in the first reading: "rend your hearts, not your clothing" (Joel 2:13), Jesus' teaching on acts of piety is an invitation for his disciples, as well as for us, to return to God in the heart of our life; in the heart of creation, where we can see God's work of Salvation carried in the entire life of Jesus, his incarnation, death, resurrection and ascension.

Yes, Jesus is the word of God. This reflects God's creative mind. St John tells us, "*All things came into being through this word, and without this word not one thing came into being.*" (John 1:3). In this way, Jesus is essential to Creation. In his incarnation, Jesus entered not only into humanity, but into the heart of creation, into the most basic and real thing of creation. Ashes distributed on us today remind us of the first created matter.

When living creatures appeared on the Earth, matter was alive. We know now that matter and energy are two forms of the same thing. The appearance of humankind marked the time when matter became conscious. The death of Jesus, the death of the only fully human, is when matter turned into a new and different form of matter, in order to be transformed at the resurrection of Jesus. The event of Jesus' ascension was the first time any matter returned to God.

The distribution of ashes, therefore, recalls a truth that God has done the work of salvation for me, for you, and for the whole of creation.

What do we learn from this? The reality of war in our time, particularly the war between Russia and Ukraine has caused so many deaths and so much suffering. Environmental pollution and global warming, threaten us more than ever. This reflects the disharmony between and among humans themselves; humans with the ecological environment; humans and the Cosmos. The message for today and the Lenten season is to search for reconciliation of any and every kind. How it can be found is up to each of us, depending on the circumstances of our daily life. Amen



Phi - Tuesday Mass

This coming Saturday afternoon (8th March) our brother [Cao Anh Phi](#) will be ordained a priest in Glen Osmond parish, Adelaide. Phi will celebrate Mass at Holy Cross on Tuesday at 7.30pm. A light supper will follow.

Coins



As many of you know, Jerome is a keen coin collector. His recent health battles and the restrictions he now has (e.g. not working in the garden) has led him to say he is getting bored and looking for something to do. If you have some old coins laying around that you don't need, he would be very grateful for some collecting time.

Coffee Cart



Next Sunday Ross will be back with his coffee cart. It was wonderful on our last CC day, that so many people brought cakes and biscuits and most grabbed a name tag and wore it, which helps us 'meet' one another. There are no requirements, but wearing a name tag helps our community become more friendly and that is the purpose of these Sundays. One again we thank our special donor and all those who help set up or contribute in other ways.

A humble Scot

It's a great spectacle to see someone completely surprise others, and even better when he or she is so humble about it.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=w_1MSjk5Lss

From North East India

Only eight years old, confident and brilliant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3hOhcAdKNE>

Peanuts

The Peanuts cartoons began in 1950 and ceased when their creator, Charles Schultz died in 2000. People came to understand or identify with Linus' knowledge of Scripture and his attachment to his security blanket; Charlie Brown's heartache over the Little Red-Haired Girl and things seemingly always going wrong for him; Schroeder's devotion to Beethoven, Peppermint Patty's prowess in sports and failure in the classroom, and Lucy's knowledge of ... everything! Then came Snoopy and his friend Woodstock. More about Peanuts next week.....





This photo shows Fr Rafael who lived with us last year, happily gathered with a group of young boys in Vanimo, PNG. His brother Budi returned home for a while following the death of his father, Antonius Nonci.

Lao-Tze

In his homily last Sunday, Chris referred to some noteworthy wisdom from Chinese philosopher Lao-Tze

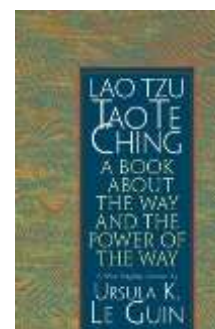
"Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

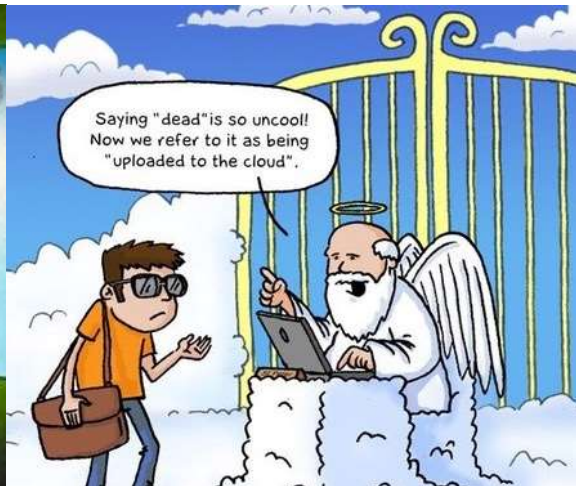
Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny."



Interestingly, it is thought by some experts, that Lao-Tze many sayings may belong to a collection of philosophers, rather than to one person. Historian Will Durant wrote that "Lao-Tze, was the greatest of the pre-Confucian philosophers. He knew the wisdom of silence, and lived, we may be sure, to a ripe old age –If in fact he lived at all!"

Humour



Two enterprising teenagers asked Fr O'Reilly if they could do any paid work. The friendly priest offered them a spade each and said I can get you to dig me a hole if you can answer a question for me. Then he took Billy aside and asked him, "Who were the first man and woman on earth?". Billy replied quickly, "Adam and Eve."

Just then Fr O'Reilly's phone rang, and he asked the boys to give him a minute. While he was speaking, Johnny asked, "what question did he ask you?" Billy said, he asked me who were the first two people on the earth".

Johnny said, "How would I know that?"

Billy said, I'll write in on the back of your spade".

Fr O'Reilly returned and said "Right now Johnny, can you tell me who were the first man and woman on earth?" Johnny took a quick look at the back of his spade and said, "Spear and Jackson".

Given that it is the Lenten season....



Graeme, the painter, had learned his painting lessons from his friends, John, Ed, Peter, Ed, Des and Co, so often he would thin his paint so it would go further. So when the community decided to do some deferred maintenance, Graeme was able to convince the brothers that he was the man for the job, but he waited until the boss was away, to begin his work. As usual, he thinned the paint way down with turpentine.

One Friday while he was up on a ladder, he heard a horrendous clap of thunder, and the sky opened. The downpour washed the thinned paint off the outside gutters and would have knocked Graeme off his ladder, except that he was a diligent Safeguarding Officer and had made sure he was secure. Even so, he realised there was a message in this quick and thunderous message.

He got down on his knees and said to Erick: "Forgive me! What should I do?"

Being compassionate as always, Erick said, "It's OK Graeme, but you must repaint, and thin no more".



Eggs

Next Monday March 10th is a public holiday, so the next delivery of eggs will be the following day, Tuesday March 11th.

Amazing news

Fr Jeff Foale is in hospital for pain treatment. I was asked after the news in last week's newsletter, "Is Jeff taking his head with him for his appointment at the pain clinic?" I was puzzled until advised that I had written....."Jeff has severed neck pain". The pain of a severed neck is hard to imagine. Of course it was supposed to read 'severe' pain. The news this week, is that Jeff's neck was not severed, and to not make light of it, Jeff is receiving treatment for a very serious issue, and intense pain.

Prayers

We remember those who have died recently as well as those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially Gavan Francis, Tony Fitzsimons and Alexander Lavery, and for those 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 Bruno & Cathy Petrocco, Kata Lenic, Fr Jeff Foale CP, Bro Jerome, Maureen Barns, Michael Beuger, Rod Gorfine, Pam Storey, Noel Smyth, Bro Minh Toan CP, Peter Barry, Pam Gartland, Rex Cambry, Paul Darbyshire, Zoe Chung and her baby daughter Sophia, Desley Reynolds, Gerry Bond, Carol Battistella, Alexander Lim, , Lorraine Gill, Michael O'Callaghan, Doris Castro, Julia Cantone, Bronwyn Burke, Adrian Woon, Luke Norden, Bernadette Owen, Peter Owen, Greg Agosta, Helen McLean, Monica Sleeman, Caroline Meade, Patricia Keeghan, Phil Drew, Anne Jenkins, Errol Lovett, and baby Alfred Theodore in London.

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

Enjoy the weekend

Brian