

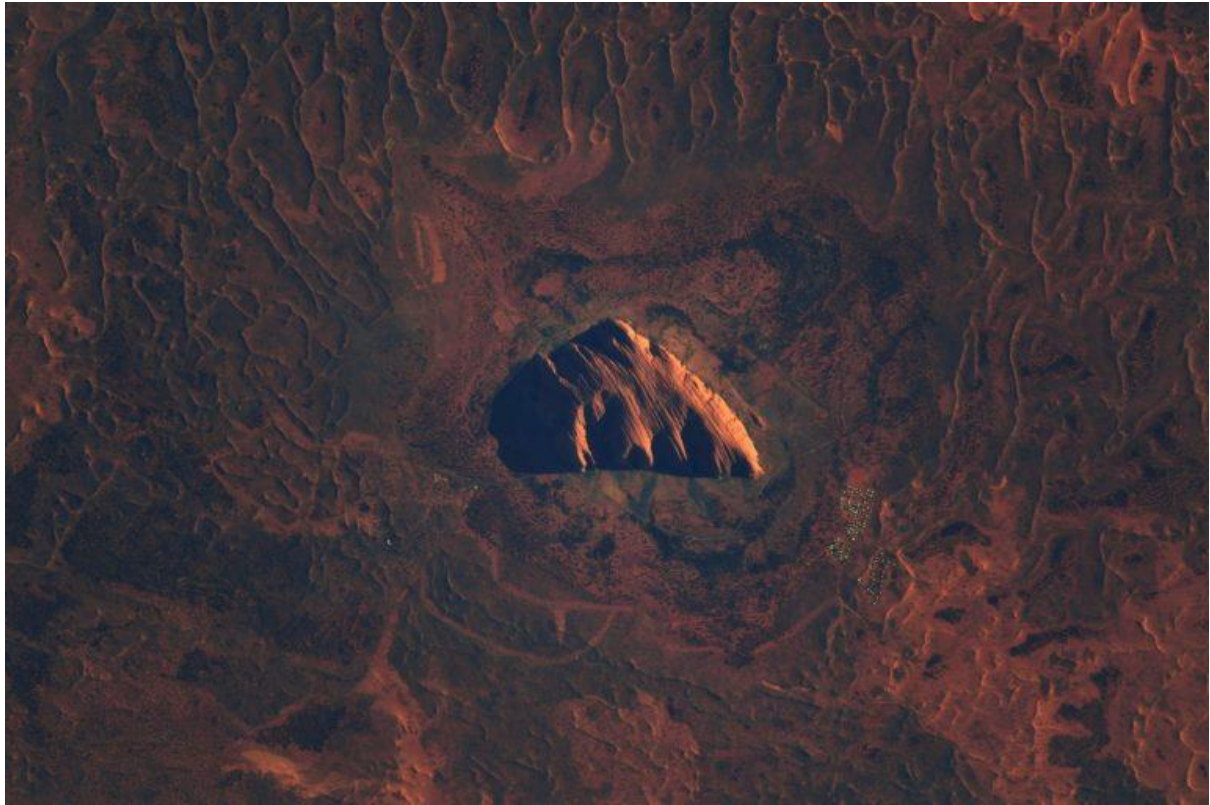
Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 69

11th June, 2021

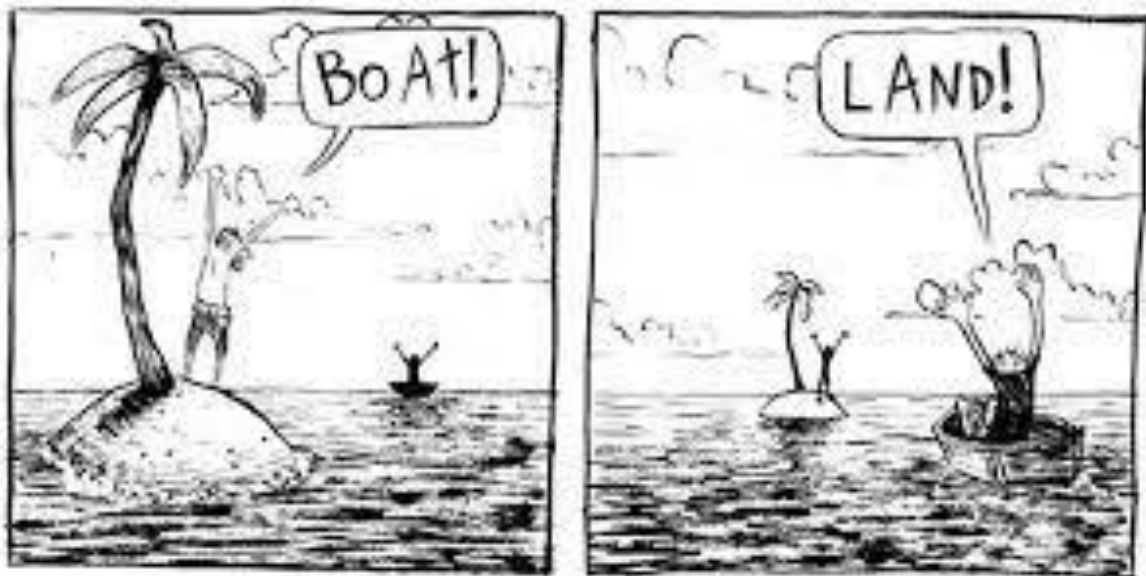
When you get a different perspective



Any conversation about COVID-19 and ‘Lockdowns in Victoria’ is likely to bring out different opinions. This is pretty much true about any subject today – such as to vaccinate or not.

Any one of us can think or argue that how we see things, is the correct or only way for them to be seen. Of course, when we do look at a situation from a different point of view or see it how someone else does, we recognise that most often there is more than one point of view.

The photo of Uluru above, is an example of this. At first look you might wonder what the image is, because most of us have ‘never’ seen a photo of Uluru from above. Because we’ve never seen it that way, it is unlikely to occur to us that it is Uluru. When you do know what it is, your appreciation of Uluru deepens as you marvel at this photograph and the surrounding landscape. It is so important for us to remember this perspective when dealing with so many modern-day issues.



Perspective...



This image is a well-known illusion. Some people instantly see an old woman in the picture while others see a young woman. Which do you see?

From a distance, a person might see a forest, but from a close up perspective the same person will see trees. Despite that, it is not always better to be 'close up' in order to 'get some perspective'. One effective way of cultivating a different perspective is to feel distant from a problem or a situation. Physically getting away from where we spend

most of our time or where we are caught in a situation, can allow us to view things in a more imaginative way. In every religious tradition a 'retreat' is a means of achieving a deeper or different perspective.

"If you always do what you've always done, you will always get what you've always got". Sometimes we need a change. If we always read a particular newspaper, listen to a particular radio station or go to a particular website because this it makes us feel comfortable to get what we want, it could be worth shaking ourselves up a bit and getting a broader and different experience even just for one day and ask ourselves, 'what do others look for or find, that I don't?' It is easy to become intolerant, close-minded, even arrogantly confident of our own view. Most things are not black and white and we'll understand why that is if we 'get some perspective!'

A few years ago I visited the National museum in Canberra. Among the things at the museum that impressed me was a satellite picture image of several parts of Australia that have also been captured (in the past) by aboriginal painters.

One aboriginal belief is that a painter can only capture a part of the landscape that he/she has experienced, because then this has now become a part of him/her.



Some of the images of outback landscapes were arranged in dual portraits. One of a Western Australian landscape was captured on canvas in the 1800's by an aboriginal painter. The other was a satellite image of that landscape. They were close to identical. It was as if (as one expert said) "the artist had a birds-eye view of the landscape". How could a person painting before aeroplanes were invented, capture a landscape scene almost as accurately as a satellite image

would later reveal? How could a person have such perspective?



Around the grounds

There has not been much news of late on the activity in the gardens and the grounds in general. **Jerome** was forced to take a break for two weeks following his surgery but he has gradually returned despite the cold weather. For a man who needs a heater on all night, an electric blanket and two doonas, getting outside in the cold windy weather is only possible because of his love of the gardens. It is very rare to see Jerome wearing shoes as he is doing in this photo!

Apart from pruning, Jerome is constructing a small raised garden around the back. We will supply a photo when he has done a little more work on it. You can tell that that this work plus the time he spends on his knees praying has resulted in white stains on the knees of his trousers!

Jerome is a coin collector. He is also not so much a stamp collector as a stamp collector's 'fixer'. Others, such as Leo and Charlie left stamp collections behind and every now and then Jerome finds more stamps

and sets about patiently rearranging them in folders. It is very time-consuming and boring work, but he sticks at it by the hour – and the day.

Meanwhile **Pastor** has continued to manage various garden areas, especially along the front of the house, raking, digging, trimming, carrying soil to various gardens for Jerome etc.

John, our student also spends considerable time when he can out in the gardens, mowing lawns, and cutting edges. Our volunteer grounds manager, **Peter Norman** very generously mows, regularly tidies up gardens, and of late he has done some heavy and strenuous digging.



You may remember that late last year we decided to cover and fill in our pool. In recent weeks our friend **Vince Celestino** has been gathering soil to complete the covering, and to reduce the depth of the slope from that area down to the labyrinth. He has begun some of the work and our local bee-keeper has even been allowed to spend some time on the bobcat! It is a great surprise to nobody that he has been able to

learn this skill rather quickly. Our only concern (for Vince's sake) is that Chris doesn't decide to take the bobcat down to dam!

Out of lockdown

There will be a great sigh of relief around Melbourne today with the very strict lockdown restrictions being eased. Obviously there is caution as many restrictions remain. A key question for many people is how much will other States be prepared to open their borders, under what conditions and when.

Sunday Mass

There are restrictions on Mass attendees and on funerals. The limit is 50 and a mask is required. Please register for 9.00am Mass if you wish to attend as 50 people have already registered for 10.30am Mass. Unfortunately, unless you have received confirmation of registration, attendance will not be possible.

You can register by contacting:

Tim on 0419319003 or at horlocktim1@gmail.com

Tina on 0439034116 or at tina.minichilli@tpg.com.au

Tuesday Mass

The Tuesday 9.15am Mass will not resume until June 22nd.

Tony Simbel

Unfortunately **Tony Simbel** will not be celebrating Mass at Holy Cross this Sunday. He was wary of getting stuck in Melbourne and being unable to travel on to Sydney for Mass at St Brigid's next weekend. We will set a new date.

Luke Bulley has been uncertain for some time about whether he could make it to Brisbane and comply with Brisbane restrictions (compulsory self-isolation for 14 days) His ordination is June 29th so it is going to be touch and go.

A few of us (e.g. **Tom McDonough, Kevin Hennessy and myself**) have booked flights to Hobart for Justin Durai-Raj's profession of vows on Sunday June 27th and from Hobart to Brisbane for Luke's ordination. We are unsure whether we will be able to attend either or both events.

Passionist Family Group Movement, New Zealand

I also have a ticket to travel to Wellington, New Zealand on Tuesday. Most people would be aware that I have travelled to New Zealand regularly and often since the PFGM was established there in 1988. Over those years the PFGM developed very strong lay leadership. Quite a number of them undertook an effective Leadership Course and generously gave their time to helping other parishes established PFG's, and then stayed in contact and supported them, as has happened in Australia.

The Movement has been incredibly well served first by Lynn and Rob Hill who exercised the role of Directors for twenty-six years. During that time they built and sustained very strong regional teams. After their retirement five years ago, Linda and Paul Darbyshire and Mary-Ellen and John Leen took up the role as a team and after some time began to refer to themselves as a National Coordinating Team. Two years ago they added by brother Paul, a former Passionist, to the team. Now there is another change as the Darbyshires and Leens step back from their role. Paul will become National Coordinator of the PFGM from July 1st. He inherits strong regional teams throughout Aoteroa and brings with him passion, experience and an array of gifts. Paul officially takes up the role and will be commissioned at the national weekend (June 19th-20th), so I was very much hoping to be there for this and to see the people I know so well and have worked with over many years. I learned last evening that the 'pause' on New Zealand accepting people from Melbourne has been extended a week

Apart from the commissioning, the weekend will be an opportunity time to acknowledge the many years of dedication so many people have contributed, including those who have served as Directors of dioceses, and the wonderful Trustees of the Movement who have a huge role to play because the PFGM is registered charitable trust in New Zealand.. We could never have expected what has unfolded in New Zealand when we began back in 1988, and an extensive team of professed Passionists including Paul, Tim Horlock and Pat McIndoe as well as others, and many generous and competent lay leaders, many of whom are non-professed Passionists.

It is a beautiful country: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2w0j_Elekl

Parenting

Any parent could relate to these situations

A patient mother has typical trouble getting all the kids to cooperate at the same time

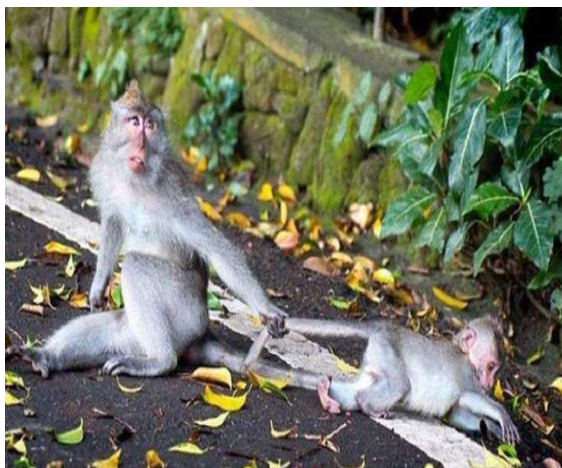
1. <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/mama-bear-tries-to-get-4-babies-across-road/>

They are not zebras, but Mum has to teach the kids to use a zebra crossing

2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJEUw9ZO868>

These kids have all learned to wait for the green light before crossing the road

3. <https://zhcn.facebook.com/ChinaGlobalTVNetwork/videos/2305259812848159/>



Come on...come on...come on!

Hey, that's enough. No more!

Humour for oldies....

Old age is coming at a really bad time

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I joined a group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet

If God had wanted me to touch my toes he'd have put them at the end of my knees.

Humour

Why do I have to 'Press 1' for English, when I always get transferred to someone I can't understand anyway?

Q. What's orange and sounds like a parrot?

A. A carrot.

Q. What do you call a guy with a rubber toe?

A. Roberto.

Q. Why did it take so long for pirates to learn the Alphabet?

A. They got stuck at C.

Q. How does Darth Vader like his toast?

A. On the dark side.



I don't want to brag but I finished a puzzle in under a week and it said 2-4 years on the box.

Parallel lines have so much in common. It's a shame they'll never meet.

My boss told me to have a good day....so I went home.

I know a lot of jokes about unemployed people but none of them work.

My wife told me to stop dancing like a flamingo. So I had to put my foot down.

My wife left me because of my obsession with horoscopes. It Taurus apart. My wife asked me to pass her lipstick the other night, but I accidentally passed her a glue stick. She still isn't talking to me.

I'm so good at sleeping. I can do it with my eyes closed.

Q. When will the little snake arrive? A. I don't know but it won't be long...

An inspiring letter

Last week the Archbishop of Munich, German Cardinal Richard Marx offered his resignation to Pope Francis as a gesture of recognition that as a Bishop he shares the blame for terrible crimes of sexual abuse, despite no personal wrong-doing and despite his fierce campaigns to ensure the mistakes of the past are not repeated. Pope Francis invited Marx to make his letter public and yesterday issued his own letter explaining why he will not accept his resignation.

To avoid this newsletter being another marathon effort like last week, if you are interested in reading Pope Francis' letter, you will find it on Pages 10 & 11, after the newsletter has been signed off.

3 sons

What language do we need to communicate? How is it that music inspires and speaks to us so profoundly. This clip is perhaps more inspiring because the three young men all had famous fathers. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zBLSUq8ywc>

We remember

Simon Kearney was buried on Monday. Sadly mourners were limited to 10, He was taken from the Holy Cross chapel to Templestowe by horse-drawn carriage. After caring for Symon through a prolonged illness, Jenny will appreciate our prayers.

John Chubb, our friend and member of the 'A Team' passed into eternal life on Tuesday afternoon after an incredibly long battle with cancer, including almost a year in hospital. John spent many of those months alone because of COVID lockdown which was a great cross to him, to his wife Carmel, their daughters and their partners. During the recent precious weeks John was able to spend at home, his family gave him total round the clock loving care. Sadly, John's funeral will be restricted to 50 mourners, but it will be live-streamed on Monday June 21st. There will also be a vigil the previous evening. More information will be provided next week.



We pray for Carmel, Daniele, Clare, Jennifer and Melissa, their spouses and partners, grandchildren and close friends.

We also remember Michael Smith who died on Monday His wife Pauline is Brian Gleeson's sister. Michael's funeral will be held at Holy at 1.30pm on Wednesday next week .

Please also remember Maree Bartoli, Ian Harris, Michael and Mardi Doyle, Jim Molan, Anne Jenkins, John Goold, Jan Mulally, Sergio Mattioli, Pam Grehan, Angelo Vigilante, Pam Gartland, Maeve and John Reardon, Peter Owen, Brian Tresseder, Jim Monaghan, Kate and Mary Dunn, Ray Sanchez CP and all who seek or need our prayers.

Mass link

The link for Mass this Sunday (11th Week Year B) will be sent tomorrow afternoon

It is a foggy morning here in Melbourne. I am just about to go for an hour's walk to deliver newsletters to those without email access. I can't quite understand why the revised restrictions still call for us to wear masks outside, when 50 people can be 'maskless' in a restaurant.

God bless,

Brian



Pope Francis rejects Cardinal Marx' resignation: 'Continue as Archbishop of Munich'

Pope Francis rejects the resignation of Cardinal Reinhard Marx as Archbishop of Munich. “Thank you for your Christian courage, which does not fear to be humbled before the reality of sin,” the Pope writes to the Cardinal. “Taking up the crisis, personally and communally, is the only fruitful path. If you are tempted to think that by confirming your mission and not accepting your resignation, this Bishop of Rome (your brother who loves you) does not understand you, think of what Peter felt before the Lord when, in his own way, he presented his resignation,” by presenting himself as a sinner, and received the answer, “Shepherd my sheep.” It is with this image that Pope Francis concludes his letter in which he rejects the resignation presented by Cardinal Reinhard Marx, Archbishop of Munich and Freising.

In a letter to the Pope dated 21 May – which was later published – the German Cardinal explained the reasons for his gesture. He said he had asked the Pope to step down from the leadership of the German diocese because of the abuse scandal in Germany and the response of the episcopate, which he considered insufficient. Pope Francis responded with his own letter, written in Spanish and published in Spanish and German by the Holy See Press Office on Thursday.

In it, the Pope thanks Cardinal Marx for the “Christian courage that does not fear the cross, that does not fear being humiliated before the tremendous reality of sin.” Francis recalls that “the whole Church is in crisis because of the abuse issue,” maintaining that “the Church today cannot take a step forward without addressing this crisis” because “the politics of the ostrich leads nowhere, and the crisis must be addressed by our Paschal faith. Sociologisms and psychologisms are useless.” Therefore, he adds, “taking up the crisis, personally and communally, is the only fruitful way, because we do not come out of a crisis alone but in community.”

Cardinal Marx submits resignation to Pope

The Pope agreed with the description of the crisis Cardinal Marx proposed in his letter: “I agree with you in describing the sad history of sexual abuse, and the way the Church has dealt with it until recently, as a catastrophe. To become aware of this hypocrisy in the way we live our faith is a grace, it is a first step we must take. We must take ownership of the history, both personally and as a community. We cannot remain indifferent to this crime. Taking it up means putting ourselves in crisis.”

It is true, Pope Francis continued, “that historical situations must be interpreted with the hermeneutics of the time in which they occurred, but this does not exempt us from taking ownership of them and taking them up as the history of ‘sin that besets us.’” Therefore, the Pope added, “in my opinion, every bishop of the Church must take it upon himself and ask himself: what must I do in the face of this catastrophe?”

The Pope recalls the “mea culpa” already repeated many times “in the face of so many historical errors of the past.” Today, he explains, “We are asked for a reform, which — in this case — does not consist in words but in attitudes that have the courage to face the crisis, to assume reality whatever the consequences may be. And every reform begins with oneself. The reform in the Church was made by men and women who were not afraid to enter into crisis and let themselves be reformed by the Lord.”

This, said the Bishop of Rome “is the only way, otherwise we will be nothing more than ‘ideologues of reform’ who do not put their own flesh on the line,” as Jesus did, “with His life, with His story, with His flesh on the cross.” And this, Francis acknowledged, “is the way, the way that you yourself, dear brother, have taken in presenting your renunciation,” because “burying the past gets us nowhere. Silence, omissions, giving too much weight to the prestige of institutions only leads to personal and historical failure.”

Pope Francis said it is “urgent” to allow “the Spirit to lead us to the desert of desolation, to the Cross and resurrection. It is the way of the Spirit that we must follow, and the starting point is the humble confession: We have erred, we have sinned.”

In his letter, the Pope insisted that; “Neither polls nor the power of institutions will save us. We will not be saved by the prestige of our Church, which tends to hide its sins; we will not be saved by the power of money or the opinion of the media (so often we are too dependent on them). We will be saved by opening the door to the only One who can [save us], and by confessing our nakedness: ‘I have sinned,’ ‘we have sinned...’ and by weeping, and stammering, as best we can, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinner,’ – the legacy that the first Pope left to the Popes and Bishops of the Church.”

In doing so, the Pope explained, “we will feel that healing shame that opens the doors to the compassion and tenderness of the Lord who is always close to us.” Francis also said that he appreciates the ending of Marx's letter and his willingness to continue “to be a priest and bishop of this Church,” committing himself to spiritual renewal. “And this is my answer, dear brother,” the Pope concluded. “Continue as you propose, but as Archbishop of Munich and Freising. Recalling that the Bishop of Rome, Successor of that Peter who had said to Jesus, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinner,’ can understand him well, and invites him to listen to the answer that the Nazarene gave to the Prince of the Apostles: “Tend my sheep.”

(Vatican News)