

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 70

18th June, 2021

Murmurations

In preparing a session for the PFGM New Zealand national weekend, it occurred to use some of the learning about starling (and other bird) murmurations. The name comes from the sound made by the flapping wings of a large flock. How do hundreds or thousands of starlings manage to fly in such an amazingly coordinated way?

Scientific studies initially undertaken by George F. Young of Princeton University unlocked the secret. His collecting photographs of starlings in flight, which were then analysed using a mathematical model to understand the relationship between birds in a murmuration. Young learned that each bird does not concentrate on the entire flock, but on seven other birds! By each bird 'looking after' seven others, tens of thousands can fly in unison. In this way, the whole flock can be coordinated.

Young learned that interaction networks with six or seven 'neighbours' optimises the trade-off between group cohesion and individual effort. the optimal number of neighbours does not depend on the number of birds within a flock but on the shape or thickness, of the flock. Using this method groups are able to maintain cohesion and coherence even when every individual is subject to uncertain information about the behaviour of others (around seven) in the group that it can sense as well as unknown or uncertain disturbances from the environment.

in addition to remaining with the flock, each bird must watch for and avoid predators, seek food or a roosting site. To achieve this the flock must respond to external signals while remaining cohesive, and this requires that each individual use as little effort as possible.

Researchers have discovered that "Each bird in the flock moves independently, but must sense and react to the neighbouring birds". So the murmuration of birds provides a lesson for how manageable cooperation within a group enables the individuals to achieve their goal. If birds have learned to do this, why can't we?

There are many beautiful videos of Starling murmurations (see below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnRyK1T5444>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4f_1_r80RY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eakKfY5aHmY>

Nature has so much to teach us. This incredible photo of a murmuration itself looks like a giant bird.



QR Code



The QR code was invented in Japan in 1994 by a subsidiary company of Toyota. It was created to track vehicles and parts during the manufacturing process. As we know it is being used as an aid in the current pandemic.

Contact tracing is critical in connecting COVID-19 cases with their source. We are keen to assist this process by eliminating as many written confirmations of presence in the chapel or elsewhere at Holy Cross as possible, and using the QR Code instead. QR stands for 'quick response' and a quick response can save lives and perhaps reduce a lockdown. We appreciate QR cooperation.

Registrations for Mass

There has been a 50% increase (to 75) in the number allowed to attend Mass this week. Tim and Tina will continue to accept requests for registration for 10.30am Mass and they will take into consideration, people who tried last week and were unsuccessful. There is no need to register for the 9.00am Mass.

Tuesday Mass

9.15am Tuesday Mass will resume this coming Tuesday, June 22nd. There is no need to register for this Mass.

Other events

The [national New Zealand PFG weekend](#) will take place in Wellington this coming weekend as mentioned last week. It is a big disappointment not to be present, but I will give one presentation by Zoom and certainly I will be present 'in spirit'.

Unfortunately uncertainty still exists about **Luke Bulley** being able to get to Brisbane for his ordination on June 29th and for a few of us who had planned to be there. The Queensland government will not announce another update on their border restrictions for another week so we'll just have to wait and hope.

Uncertainty also exists about whether we in Melbourne (Kevin Hennessy and myself) are able to attend Justin **Durai-Raj's** profession as a Passionist. At least he is already on location in Hobart and Fr Tom (Provincial) should be able to travel to and from Hobart from Sydney to receive his vows.

Having booked to travel to New Zealand, Hobart and Brisbane, I may well miss out on all three important occasions. Lots of people have had similar experiences during the COVID lockdowns.



John Chubb

John Chubb's funeral will be celebrated and live-streamed from Holy Cross on Monday at 10.30am.

John would have had a large funeral, but unfortunately numbers are restricted to 75. There will be a vigil the previous evening. Both of these are fully booked.

For those who would like to follow the funeral liturgy, the streaming will begin at approximately 10.20am, with a 'holding' slide and music. After the funeral the stream will remain up so that it can be viewed later. The link for the stream is:

<https://vividstream.com.au/john-chubb/>

There is a guest book at this same address, where you can leave a message.

The burial will take place at Lilydale cemetery.

Food bank

Our bee-keeper also provides food for different flocks of birds each morning. Lorikeets mostly prefer to eat separately in their own outdoor dining space. Galahs are spasmodic in their attendance, while pigeons and corellas are daily attenders.

None of them use QR or wear masks and the corellas in particular ignore social distancing regulations.

We have been unsure whether they have travelled outside the 10 kilometre limit, but from tomorrow that limit will extend to 25 kilometres so they should be OK.

Last week we showed the machine and mentioned the operator, today we provide the evidence!

Humour

If the gospels were being written today, there might have to be a lot of adjustments made to the text to make sure no one is offended and everyone is included.

Church bulletin announcements

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00 pm. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7:00 pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Q. What did the cross-eyed teacher say?

A. I can't control my pupils!

I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes.... So she hugged me.

Q. Is Google male or female?

A. This is not known, except that sometimes it doesn't let you finish a sentence before making a suggestion and at other times it says nothing!

Weight Watchers will meet at 7:00 pm in the Church hall. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

Q. Why couldn't the math whiz add $10 + 5$ on a calculator?

A. He couldn't find the 10 button.

Maths teacher: "If I have 5 bottles in one hand and 6 in the other, what do I have?"

Student: A drinking problem."

What starts with E, ends with E, and has 1 letter in it? Envelope

My friend told me he had a body of a Greek god.

I had to explain to him that Buddha is not Greek.

Q How do trees access the internet?

A They log in

Q What kind of shoes do ninjas wear?

A Sneakers

Q Why is a river rich?

A It has banks on both sides

Q Where do you learn how to make ice cream?

A. Sundae School

Q Why did the one armed man cross the road?

A To get to the second hand shop

Q. Why do hummingbirds hum?

A. Because they don't know the words.

Ben: "Dad, there is a hole in my shoe."

Dad: "Yes, Ben, that's where you put your foot."

A magician was driving down the road then he turned into a driveway.

We remember

Bernadette Owen's sister, **Dorothy Leigh** is suffering from terminal cancer. Her husband Ron died of cancer as well when Dorothy was 61 over twenty years ago. Dorothy seems to have been an amazing woman. She had a baby daughter who died in-utero late in the pregnancy. Her Down Syndrome son died at age 18. She and Ron fostered a little girl Rosie, with Downs and profound deafness who was under a year old when they first got her. Dorothy continued to care for her care until 5 weeks ago.

She arranged for a younger woman with whom she has been sharing co-guardianship, to take over full time care of Rosie. Dorothy dedicated many years to advocating for people with intellectual disabilities and was the Chair of the Advocacy group VALID for 25 years. Dorothy certainly deserves our prayers and thanks!

We had **Graham Hille** on our prayer list for some time and he needs our prayers again. Graham is having radiation on his kidney. He has also had a hip replacement and a lesion on his spine close to his neck resulting in his spine collapsing. They have put in rods and pins and he wears a large collar which is so awkward that he cannot chew. Has the cancer spread or has the daily lying with his head down for the radiation affected him? Graham has bene in and out of hospital.

We have also been asked to pray for baby **Ava** who is in hospital suffering from a life threatening condition. Ava had sixty seizures over two days then went into 'status epilepticus' which can cause permanent brain damage or death.

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

Mass link

The link for Mass this Sunday (12th Week Year B) will be sent tomorrow afternoon

Small and innovative

You are likely to be amazed by this tiny Welsh cottage. It is an example of how clever some people can be. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_hMvpRfV0Q

Have a good weekend.

From all at Holy Cross (Jerome, Chris, Brigid, Pastor, John)

and....Brian