

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 78

20th August, 2021

Greetings

This week's newsletter has less content. I thought a break from talking about COVID-19 would be a good idea although things have got worse. In this past week, not just in various parts of Australia, but especially in poorer countries.

Lockdown

Masses at Holy Cross remain cancelled. At this stage, we plan to resume 9.00am and 10.30am Masses on Sunday September 5th. We will reschedule Luke's celebration of Mass.

The link for the recorded Mass will be sent tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon.

Below are some video links that may interest you.

Playing with the moon

These two sites have some clever and beautiful images of the moon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qja-iagDn4E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nt7msefHQno>

Up high

You may have seen the new Emirates Airline advertisement. If you haven't, so long as you can tolerate heights, have a look.

<https://mothership.sg/2021/08/emirates-highest-ad/>

An easy way to pay

This short Tiktok video may give you an idea for paying at the supermarket next week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJJao-A9S4g>

Try

It is hard to imagine how a profoundly deaf person can sing. This clip is inspiring.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKSWXzAnVe0>

Some reflections on silence



During COVID-19 lockdowns there are many opportunities for silence. Some people try to escape silence, some embrace it, others have no choice. Perhaps some of these reflections can help us appreciate the value of silence.

Everywhere you look these days, you see people watching television: in homes, in airport lobbies, in restaurants. If they're not watching television, they're driving their cars listening to their radios or talking on cell phones. By filling up their hours and minutes with chatter, they further distance themselves from the spiritual world.
(Anam Cara)

"You talk when you cease to be at peace with your thoughts; And when you can no longer dwell in the solitude of your heart you live in your lips, and sound is a diversion and a pastime. And in much of your talking, thinking is half murdered. For thought is a bird of space, that in a cage of words many indeed unfold its wings but cannot fly.
(Kahlil Gibran)

Any disturbing noise can be as helpful as silence. How? By dropping your inner resistance to the noise, by allowing it to be as it is, this acceptance also takes you into the realm of inner peace that is stillness. Whenever you deeply accept this moment as it is – no matter what form it takes – you are still, you are at peace. (Eckhart Tolle)

"The secret to my music is the silence between the notes" (Wolfgang Mozart)

"Do you need more knowledge? Is more information going to save the world, or faster computers, more scientific or intellectual analysis? Is it not wisdom that humanity needs most at this time? But what is wisdom and where is it to be found? Wisdom comes with the ability to stand still. Just look and just listen. No more is needed. Being still, looking and listening, activates the non-conceptual intelligence within you. Let stillness direct your words and actions" (Eckhart Tolle)

"Give yourself the rest you need. When you are walking alone, listen to the sermon preached to you by the flowers, the trees, the shrubs, the sky, the sun and whole world. Notice how they preach to you a sermon of love, of praise of God, and how they invite you to proclaim the greatness of the One who has given them being" (Paul of the Cross)

"One who does not know how to be silent will not know how to speak". (Ausonius)

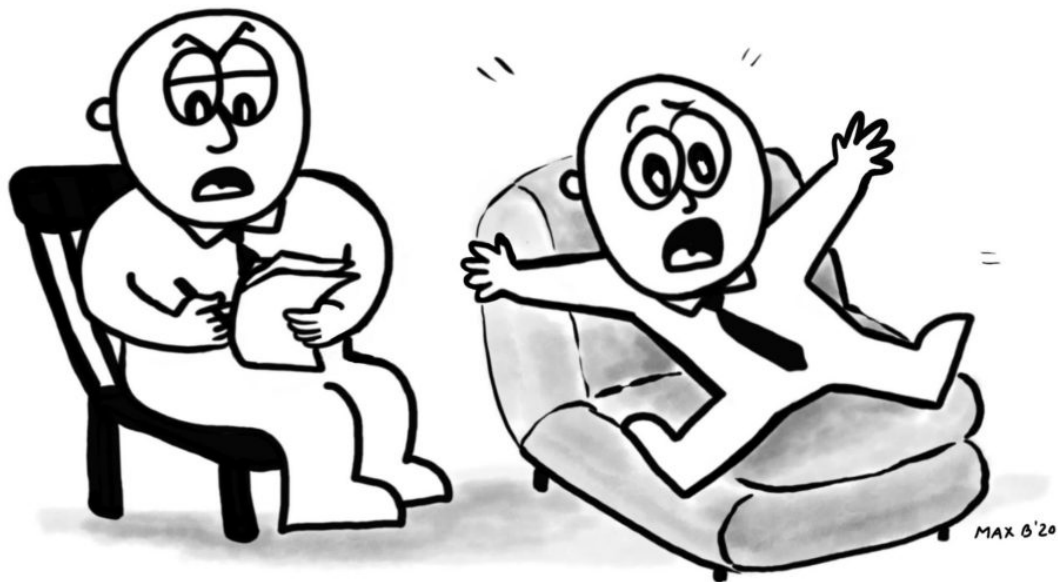
"Do not speak unless you can improve the silence". (Jorge Luis Borges)

“There is a time to be silent and a time to speak (Eccl 3: 7b)

Humour

1. Dad, are we pyromaniacs? Yes, we arson.
2. What do you call a pig with laryngitis? Disgruntled.
3. Writing my name in cursive is my signature move.
4. Why do bees stay in their hives during winter? Swarm.
5. If you're bad at haggling, you'll end up paying the price.
6. Just so everyone's clear, I'm going to put my glasses on.
7. A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone around.
8. I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene.
9. Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.
10. How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A buccaneer.
11. I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by. I kneaded the dough.
12. My friends and I have named our band 'Duvet'. It's a cover band.
13. I lost my girlfriend's audiobook, and now I'll never hear the end of it.
14. Why is 'dark' spelled with a k and not c? Because you can't see in the dark.
15. Why is it unwise to share your secrets with a clock? Well, time will tell.
16. I told my contractor I didn't want carpeted steps. He gave me a blank stare.
17. Bono and The Edge walked into a Dublin bar and the bartender says, "Oh no, not U2 again."
18. Prison is just one word to you, but for some people, it's a whole sentence.
19. Scientists got together to study the effects of alcohol on a person's walk, and the result was staggering.
20. I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.

Kids returning to school after Corona.



- Enough about the pandemic,
just tell me about your mother...



Beauty from simplicity

Local news

Jerome has spent long hours pruning in the rose garden over the last week. He spent eight hours on Monday. His sisters generously donated a significant amount of mulch for the rose garden around the back so he has been busily spreading that around.



To display how much praying Jerome does in the garden, he was overheard on Monday talking to three roses. "Right! Three years and no flowers. One more year like that and you're out – OUT – out".

How similar this is to a gospel story. "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' " "Sir," the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'" (Luke 13:6-9)

Spring is in the air

Officially, spring is 11 days away, but the welcome signs are everywhere, as trees and shrubs blossom and the variety of flowers show themselves again. Our local apiarist has been hard at work preparing for a new burst of energy from the bees. It is an uplifting time of the year, and one which we welcome amid the challenges we are living with.

We remember

The people of Afghanistan and Haiti and their relatives and friends.

We remember those affected by COVID-19 which has claimed nearly 4.5 million confirmed deaths globally. Many continue to be physically, emotionally or

financially affected by extended COVID lockdowns throughout Australia and the rest of the world.

Last week the Filipino Provincial of the Redemptorists died from COVID. The Filipino Provincial of the Passionists, Edwin Flor CP, has recovered after a long battle with COVID but is still fatigued. The number of cases has risen sharply in Vietnam and there are very sad stories we are hearing about families and individuals there. The lockdown in Saigon is far more severe than any lockdown we have experienced in Australia.

**I thank my God
every time I
remember you.
In all of my prayers
for all of you,
I always pray with joy.**

Philippians 1:3-4

Please also remember in your prayers,
Carmel King, Ursula Corcoran, Richard Gibbs, Peter Owen,
Jan Mulally, Graham Hille, Maree Bartoli, Maria Robson,
Jim Molan, Anne Jenkins, Pam Grehan, Angelo Vigilante,
Pam Gartland, Patricia Keeghan, Brian Tresseder, Maeve
and John Reardon, Michael O'Callaghan, Michael and
Mardi Doyle, Jim Monaghan, Kate and Mary Dunn,
Ray Sanchez CP, Jim Coucher CP and all who seek or need

our prayers.

May you have a good weekend

Brian