

## Holy Cross Retreat



### Letter 84

24<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

Greetings. ...we survived an earthquake this week!

## World Migrant and Refugee Sunday

*Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ has written most of what appears below*



This Sunday we give thanks for the gift that people from different nations have been for both our church and our nation. We remember the Irish immigrants who were the heart of so many communities, whose churches and schools were built with the contributions of the poor. We remember the Chinese who came in the goldrush days and created a strong Asian presence.

We remember the European and Middle Eastern immigrants of early days and so many from European nations who came from a war-devastated Europe after WW2 - English, Greek, Italian, Dutch, Polish, and others, and the later refugees and migrants from Vietnam and other South-East Asian countries, Latin America, Lebanon, the Baltic nations, India and Africa. Both the Australian community and the Church have been blessed by the contribution they have made. Migration has shaped and reshaped the face of Australia, and has reminded us that we all have trespassed on a land first cared for by Indigenous people.

The clever 2017 beef advertisement made a feature of the line 'Aren't we all boat people'. Those who came by plane are included with all of the refugee and migrants who came to the shores inhabited for tens of thousands of years by our indigenous peoples. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGdj1TwBU1w>

As well as remembering the gift that migrants and refugees have been for us, we also remember the pain and dislocation that was part of their experience. For them it meant leaving their home, relatives, language, and landscape, to become a stranger in a new land. Many suffered through lack of language or because of their accent, and our laid-back informal culture was difficult for many to embrace. Many made the choice simply to seek a better life for their children. Their sacrifice and difficulties should be remembered this Sunday. For many who came as refugees, their path to citizenship and acceptance has been painful and lonely.

It makes a difference when you come to know these people, and we do know many who are a part of our Holy Cross community, including Erick Niyiragira from Burundi who was professed for our Province in 2012.

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

Australia's treatment of people who fled from persecution and arrived by sea, has become increasingly cruel. Mostly they have not been treated with respect or compassion, more like 'pass the parcel', hoping they would become someone else's problem; discarded, never delivered and never accepted as members of the Australian community. The political reality behind this situation is complex, but we need to pray for a better mind and heart. We pray on this Migrant and Refugee Sunday for those living behind barbed wire, having already waited for years to be welcomed. We pray especially for the people of Myanmar and Afghanistan and perhaps try to imagine what we would want, if we were in their shoes. But then, many of them do not even have shoes!

### **Come Away Day**

The 'Come Away Day' was conducted by zoom on Thursday. This was the first time it has been held by Zoom. The theme of the day was "[Connectedness and Presence.](#)" We thank the presenters and the preparation team for their time and effort.

### **Jerome Dunn CP**



Jerome turns 82 on Sunday. He is a 'Melbourne boy' (from Highett). He gained a few skills such as printing (his occupation after leaving school) plumbing, tailoring and cooking as a Passionist novice. He joined as a Brother candidate after having spent time in PNG as a lay-missionary. He returned there after completing his qualifications, and worked as a full time missionary for 45 years. Jerome also helped out for a time in India.

Jerome returned on a part-time basis when his medical issues suggested it was not wise to be away from the doctors for too long. Then COVID-19 came. He continues to be incredibly energetic in the garden and spends hours updating coin and stamp collections he has inherited. He is very grateful for the coins he has recently received. We extend warm birthday wishes to him.

### **Some inspirations**

#### **Martin Hurkens**

It is always uplifting when someone finally discovers and shares their potential. This is especially true if you have had to wait until you are 58! [Martin Hurkens](#) worked as a baker for 35 years. He had dreamed of being a professional opera singer, but had

insufficient the money to stay in music school. Instead, he sang while he baked (much to the delight of his customers). When Martin lost his job and had nothing to fall back on, he took to the streets, hoping for donations to be placed in his hat while he sang. In 2010, one of his daughters entered him in "Holland Has Talent". The 58-year-old won the competition!

<https://www.reshareworthy.com/martin-hurkens-sings-on-street/>

Martin returned to the streets that gave him the confidence to pursue his dreams and gave a surprised crowd a rendition of 'You Raise Me Up'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RojlDwD07I>

### **Paper art**

These brief videos speak for themselves and are amazing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mA9q6RlpMpc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UPbHq2GeWs>

### **'If'....Read by Michael Caine**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqOgyNfH11U>

### **Great ads from the past**

#### **Mire 10...NZ**

In 2008, a New Zealand award winning ad for Mitre 10 featured an opportunity to have a laugh at their cousins across the Tasman

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

### **Anyhow...have a Winfield**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OngDbS0QOaw>

### **Not happy Jan**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2akt3P8ltLM>

### **Great sports commentary.....**

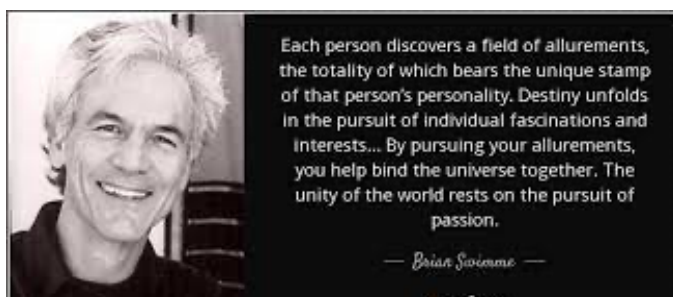
#### **'Better than Most'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAZpnl6HoC0>

### **Bergkamp**

<https://volcanocity.com/blog/top-ten-moments-in-sports-commentary/>

### **Creation 4: Attraction and Calling (Allurement) (continued)**



Some people have a capacity to doggedly continue to do things they hate or derive little satisfaction

from, which suggests their expectations are minimal or their circumstances do not allow them to risk change. This could lead to blocking out the voices calling them out of this entropy. Some people seem to lose the ability for awakening, for contemplation, for awe, for stillness, for listening, for being open and expectant. It is worth reflecting on what we do experience abundant energy for, and what our response to that experience is.

The nature of creativity is that this attraction or calling we respond to will be a 'new order', and will be nothing like what led to it. We have to step out with confidence and allow God's work to achieve what it is prompting us to 'see'. The early cells did not need the same incredible energy that had been used to create and sustain the initial forms of life. They learned and remembered a new way. In time the first cell's descendants multiplied, mutated and filled the oceans. They had abundant food from the chemically rich turbulence that had set life in motion. But as that activity slowed, so did the productions of compounds.

Danger existed for these cells and for the earth. If the food supply became exhausted, not only would the cells disappear, but the earth's ability to generate life could have disappeared. Mutations overcame this difficulty.

New forms emerged that could survive on the waste or body parts of other cells that had died. This created a circle of inter-connectedness. The decaying body of one cell created life for another, in exactly the same way as a supernova had led to the creation of earth. In an incredible act of creativity, perhaps a million years after the emergence of the first cell, cells developed a molecular 'net' that could capture packets of energy from the sun, travelling at three hundred thousand kilometres per second, and they converted these into structures for food (photosynthesis). This has to be one of the greatest miracles we know, and it assures us that the creativity of the universe is always prodding forward. Nature does not do or repeats!

In 1995 I participated in a Conference for people in leadership roles of religious Congregations, with the theme 'To Tangle or to Tango'. It was an opportunity to share experiences, given that some Congregations had been restructuring for a decade. Dioceses were doing it, and so were corporations. It was 'a thing' of our time. Restructuring was 'in the air'; part of the 'signs of the time'. We learned that there can be good and bad restructuring. Some approaches calculate the outcome of deliberate strategic planning. Others, following the chaos theory model, begin without seeking a particular outcome, choosing instead to focus on strategic thinking and 'playing', to see where it all leads. This latter approach requires an attentive awareness to what is going on and what is being prompted. Little signs appear here and there, but who is noticing? Who is blocking? What are trends saying to us? Are they connected with other messages? What needs to be prodded further?

This has all the elements of synodality. Resistance and caution can block this prodding of the spirit. While formal discussions should continue among appropriate authorities, we need to listen to and note what mood is already at work. Reading the signs of the times involves looking to the future. Every time we take a risk in response to what is attracting or prodding us, we open up further opportunities for the Spirit to prod us further. Who knows what this might lead to? Every time we can name it, point it out, acknowledge it, appreciate it, celebrate it and respond to it, our planning becomes clearer, provided the planning is based more on a dynamic belief that the seeds of our future are already present, and that we get there by getting there.

What helps, is trying things out; learning, adjusting and reflecting on what is happening. We need to have others share what they see is happening and call some people out of a path that looks like a dead end, to something more inviting and challenging. Then we can begin talking about how we are already 'getting there', and how what seemed blurred, has become clearer.

Throughout our life experience and within the story of the universe there are many times when we refer to chance or random experiences. For some, the belief that major events occur by chance is a proof of the meaningless of life and the absence of any God. For others, such experiences are often associated with thrill, excitement and discovery. Some who have experienced this, suggest this is proof that there is meaning and there is a God. Reflecting on the self-emerging universe, forever prodding, calling and attracting, we see that chance and random experiences are deeply related to the core of life.

I have always found it fascinating to listen to stories about how a married couple first met. So often, a chance meeting included an immediate experience of allurements. This is expressed by those who say "it was love at first sight". Others have a deep connecting experience that 'this is the right person'. Even when reflecting on major decisions that we have made, such as a choice of vocation or career, emigration or relocating our home or job, there are usually a number of threads that are jumping out at us. Even though we sometimes miss these cues, they connect us to what we later recognise was an obvious decision. We are born to be mystics, but modern life works against us developing the capacities that enrich our contemplation.

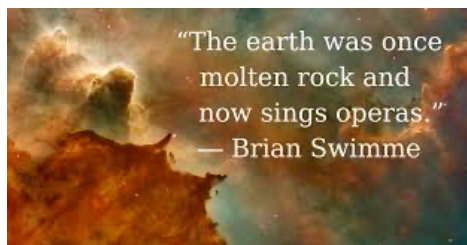


When we are locked into the rush of life with little time to contemplate or to place ourselves within the experience of the awesome, our inner being becomes dulled. This is a gift we need to rediscover personally, and as a culture. The story of the universe can help us achieve this, because it is filled with incredulous wonder. Often people are advised to take time to "smell the roses". What we need to do as well, is to take time to 'watch' the

roses! That can take a little longer and involves more of our senses than just appreciating odour!

There are so many astounding realities about the formation of life. The pressure in the centre of a star enables hydrogen to fuse and become helium, and that allows a star to burn until it uses up its hydrogen fuel. Then the star cannot resist its gravitational pressure and it starts to implode. In doing so, the temperature soars so high that the helium fuses. The temperature at the centre of a star that has ceased to burn helium is one billion degrees, and at that temperature, the helium can fuse into carbon. In contrast, the temperature at the centre of our sun is just ten million degrees! A star had to 'invent' carbon, which is the basis for all life.

Carbon could not appear until the required circumstances arose to allow that helium fusion to take place. The creation of carbon remains astonishing for scientists, but just as amazing, is that the universe is organised so that the required process can occur. Just as humans do, the self-emergent universe looks for environments where creativity is possible, sometimes in the most unlikely ways and often at critical times. Research shows that an inordinate percentage of highly creative people have been, or are, afflicted with bipolar disorder. One reason given for this is that while in a 'high' state, these people feel elation and a freedom from thought restrictions that might otherwise restrict creative possibilities. Humans have a sense that there is something more and we orient our lives around this hope. Such optimism is well founded when we consider the achievements of the universe from which our self-consciousness emerged.



The heat at earth's centre comes from radioactive elements which came from its birthing star. This heat generates the movement of magma at earth's core. This has allowed mountains and oceans to form and the first living cells emerged from this churning magma. What could be more amazing?

When reflecting on these wonders we could begin a litany of the creative acts, and at each point cry out "that would have been enough".

The Jewish Danyen prayer of Passover reflects this with its chorus of "it would have been enough" after **each** emphatic statement. *"If He had brought us out of Egypt; If He had executed justice upon the Egyptians; If He had executed justice upon their gods; If He had slain their first born. If He had given to us their health and wealth; If He had split the sea for us; If He had led us through on dry land; If He had drowned our oppressors; If He had provided for our needs in the wilderness for forty years; If He had fed us manna; If He had given us Shabbat; If He had led us to Mount Sinai; If He had given us the Torah; If He had brought us into the Land of Israel; if He built the Temple for us".*

It has been suggested that following the birth of life, and photosynthesis, perhaps the most creative act was the birth of the eukaryote (a cell with a nucleus). Life needed hydrogen, and it obtained this from water. In this process, oxygen was released and its presence over time became so powerful that it began to destroy cells, and therefore also early life. However, the cells found a way to engage with the oxygen and they created a way to live inside one another to achieve this in an ongoing way. It developed over perhaps ten million years, with no engineering plan, out of a situation that must have required much trial and error. Such creativity is the resolution of tension. Without tension, there is no need for anything new. Perhaps that is why many people sense if things seem to be going 'too well', they expect something to disrupt that state. It seems that is a good and necessary thing for creativity to forge something new!

### Called to be dangerous women



This four-session series ' is generously offered by YTU at no cost. Each session is one hour.

The women explored in **Week 1** were: **Judith, Mary of Magdala, Mary of Egypt.**

The link is: <https://vimeo.com/595863645>

The women explored in **Week 2** were: **Esther, the woman who anointed Jesus (in Mark and Matthew), Radekund** The link is: <https://vimeo.com/600568656>

The women explored in **Week 3** were: **Hannah, Mary and Elisabeth (visitation), Dorothy Day.** The link is: <https://vimeo.com/612252691>

**Week 4** (next week) will be: **Ruth, Phoebe, Teresa of Avila**

### Humour

**Below are edited reports from airline ticket agents. The countries and names were identified, but I altered a few things to leave that detail out.**

1. "I had a politician ask for an aisle seat so that her hair would not get messed up by being near the window!"
2. "I had a caller who asked, "Is it possible to see England from Canada?" When I told her 'No', she said, "but they look close on the map".
3. "A caller asked if he could rent a car for his boss at an airport on a brief stopover" I told him, you only have a sixty minute stop there". He said, "I heard it is a big airport so we need to drive to the gate to get there in time".

4. "A politician called to ask how his flight could arrive three minutes after departure. I explained time zones and daylight saving time but he could not understand. When I said, this particular plane flies very fast, he bought that!"

5. A young man phoned to confirm arrangements for his boss. He asked, "How do I know which plane to get on at the airport?" When I asked what he meant he said, "I have been given flight number 23, but none of the planes have numbers on them!"

6. A Senate member phoned and asked about the documents she needed in order to fly to China . After a lengthy discussion about passports, I reminded her that she needed a visa. "Oh, no I don't. I've been to China many times and never needed that" I double checked and assured her a visa was necessary. She replied, "Look, I've been to China four times and every time they have accepted my American Express!"

### Others

After dinner my wife asked me if I could clear the table. I needed a run up, but I made it.

Last night, I had a dream that I was a muffler. I woke up exhausted.

I wouldn't buy anything with Velcro. It's a total rip-off.  
I once ate a dictionary. It gave me the thesaurus throat I've ever had

I used to be addicted to the hokey pokey. But I turned myself around

A father in Iraq gave his daughter a new bag. She said, "Thanks for the Baghdad".

Q. Did you hear there is a new type of broom out?

A. It's sweeping the nation

Q. What do you call an alligator wearing a vest

A. An investigator

Q. Why is Australia such a dry nation?

A. We don't have a king to rein on it

Q What do you call a horse that moves around a lot?

A Unstable

Q How does a penguin build his house?

A Igloos it together.

Q Where do you learn how to make ice cream?

A At sundae school.

Q Who was the roundest knight at King Arthur's round table?

A Sir Cumference.

Q What are bald sea captains most worried about?

A Cap sizes.

Q What does a house wear?

A Address.

Q What do prisoners use to call each other?

A Cell phones.

### **Recent could have been quotes**

"There will be no more earthquakes if we reach 95% vaccination"

"You can have 3 people over from 4 households for 20 minutes. You must meet and stay outside, even if it is raining, but be home by 9pm. You must wear a mask even if drinking wine or eating, and you all must live no more than 7.5 kilometres from each other, but within a 10km limit".

### **Passionist spirituality**

Paul of the Cross was a sworn enemy of vagueness. His insistence that no Passionist should speak "in a lofty manner", together with his direct, simple and practical advice on spiritual matters has left a mark of 'down-to-earthness' on Passionists. Since the cross and suffering are part of ordinary life, the message of the Passion is related to day-to-day life in a totally practical way.

This link is to an episode in a series 'Stories of Saints for Kids' . The saint of this episode is Paul of the Cross. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K9kvuGev-yAHNs8wB3q7CaAnwGTGsgcK/view>

### **Passionist Companions**

The Holy Cross Companions are meeting by Zoom on Tuesday night this coming week

In the **Rugby Championship** the Wallabies had an excellent second win last week against the Springboks. The All Blacks (with eleven changes to their team) still

convincingly beat the Argentinan Jaguars last week. This week it is Australia v Argentina and New Zealand v South Africa. That is more Rugby news than you'll read in the Melbourne Herald-Sun.



To add to the sport this weekend, the **Ryder cup** is being held over three days with different match formats. Since 1979, Europe has won 11 times and the US 9 times. Home crowd is a big advantage and the cup is being played for this year in Wisconsin in the upper mid-west of the US.. The crowds get rowdy because unlike at other golf events. it is rare for the top players to compete in a team event.

### Thank you

To the anonymous donor who has left two contributions 'For the boys'; we are very grateful

### We remember

**Carmen and Vince Zammit** who celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Thursday, 30th September.

**Pam Story** celebrates her birthday on the same day, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Adrian Day**, a great member of the community, who passed away on September 26th 2008. His wife Pat lives in Airey's Inlet and received the newsletter each week.

**Sr Karen** our sole Kiwi Passionist sister, arrived safely at Holy Cross yesterday, after two weeks 'detention' (according to her certificate). It is quite an unusual way to overcome jetlag (travelling from Ireland)!

The '**Come Away Day**' was held successfully yesterday by Zoom, which is an important learning, if for no other reason than one participant would not have been able to attend in person, but could participate by Zoom.

**The link** for Sunday's recorded Mass will be sent on Saturday afternoon:



We remember: Michael O'Callaghan, Mary Hackett, Jan Mulally, Richard Gibbs, Maree Bartoli, Bronwyn Burke, Peter Owen, Mary Coburn, Graham Hille, Maria Robson,

Jim Molan, Anne Jenkins, Pam Grehan, Angelo Vigilante, Patricia Keeghan,  
Pam Gartland, Maeve and John Reardon, Jim Monaghan, Michael and Mardi Doyle,  
Carmel King, Kate and Mary Dunn, Rose Sanchez (Ray's mother) Ray Sanchez CP,  
Jim Coucher CP and all who seek or need our prayers.

May you have a good weekend

Brian