

Holy Cross Retreat

Letter 86

8th October, 2021



Greetings

Connections gone wrong

Another week has passed by and the big news has been Gladys's resignation and record COVID cases in Melbourne. We can sense that patience and even good-will, is wearing thin for a lot of people. It has been a very tough time. Apart from the huge emotional and financial strains on people, it is clear People are missing friends and loved ones. We were born to connect.

We have had ongoing problems with the internet and phone system at Holy Cross and that's been another kind of connection problem. The students have been very inventive in finding a way to study online without being able to access the site they need through wifi. Chris, Pastor and Brigid have used their phones for emails and Zoom meetings, and I have used a dongle. Jerome has not been able to use email. Vin Molloy very kindly has come up each day to arrange either Telstra or NBN to come out, and while a Telstra rep came out on two of those days, nothing has been resolved yet. We are still waiting with hope, and Vin has been incredibly patient.

Vaccination

The six students received their second jab on Tuesday, so everyone at Holy Cross is now doubly vaccinated. It is likely that this will be a requirement for attending Mass when we return.

'Come Away Day'

September 23rd was the first such day conducted by zoom conference. The theme was "Connectedness and Presence." The morning began with sharing how things have been in our faith journey during the extended lockdown. The sharing was related to how connectedness and presence are at work in our lives. A second more reflective session allowed a deeper sharing of how we have seen 'glimmers of hope in the darkness'. Music and ritual assisted this rich experience appreciated by all. The next Come Away Day will be on Thursday, 11 November.

Connecting

We had a nice sharing from 11.15am – 12.15pm last Sunday, by Zoom with a loosely organised chat with whoever was online. We will repeat the exercise, perhaps on October 24th.

Let's consider 'connecting' at a far deeper level....There is some technical detail in what I have written, but if you stick with it, I think it will be rewarding

Creation 6: RESONANCE....Part 2



Nearly twenty years ago, I spent a few hours with a friend at the national museum in Canberra. Among the many things at the museum that impressed me was a satellite pictorial image of some parts of Australia that were captured by aboriginal painters almost a century earlier. There is an aboriginal belief that a painter may only capture a part of the landscape that he/she has experienced,

because it has become a part of them. This display revealed that some of the images of the scenery taken from satellites that were painted a hundred years ago, are almost identical. This was long before helicopters or drones. It is as if (as one expert said) "the artist had a birds-eye view of the landscape before that was possible".



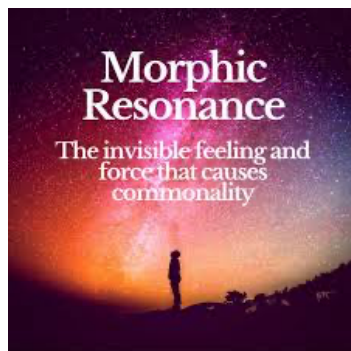
This led me to reflect that many 'connections' happen that we can't explain. I have heard many stories from Papua New Guinea, and from the Australian outback, and I've had such experiences myself. I prayed at the time that I might be open to recognise these connections that are sometimes disguised as coincidences, because I knew I was often unaware.

Three hours later I took a flight to Adelaide. Kevin Hennessy was living in Adelaide and he had arranged to meet me and we had agreed to share a pizza somewhere. The plane sat on the tarmac, twenty metres from the terminal for an hour before we could disembark, because of an electrical storm. There was some music played and then there was a period of silence during which I found myself humming a tune. I was searching for an explanation of what this tune was and why it had come into my mind. I couldn't finish the tune, although I knew it well. If I could have remembered the name of the song I might have known the words.



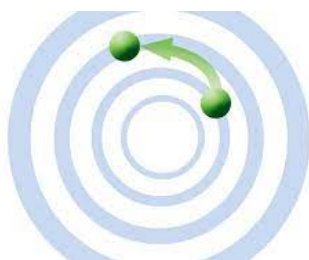
Eventually we disembarked. Once Kevin and I were in the car, I was surprised that we headed north of the city. We turned into the road that heads past the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. I noticed as we drove by, that they were advertising the John Farnham 'The Last Time' tour. I looked at him, and he said "With the help of some friends, I'm shouting you to John Farnham"! The concert was fantastic and finished with Farnham's signature song, 'You're the Voice'. After a lengthy standing ovation (it was now 11.15pm), I said to Kevin "Do you want to go; he probably won't come back for an encore"

We agreed to head down closer to the exit. Upon enquiry, Kevin was advised that Farnham would come back. He did return for three songs. Then he sang his finale, 'The Last Time'. *'This will be the last time, it may be the last time, I don't know'.....* It suddenly struck me that this was the tune I'd been humming on the plane and I'd been trying to remember the name and the lyrics! I had stood before those aboriginal portraits nine hours earlier and marvelled at the 'connections' that exist and prayed that I'd be more in tune with them. A few hours later I was humming a tune on a plane three hours before I heard it at the concert that I didn't know I would be attending!



Scientist Robert Scheldke has referred to some aspects of the human experience of 'coincidence' and wonder, as morphic resonance. To appreciate this, it is first necessary to appreciate just a little of the quantum world, bewildering as it is. From the very first second of life in the galaxies, the phenomenon of particles disappearing and reappearing in a different place has been occurring. Even where no atoms, elementary particles, protons, or no photons exist, suddenly from apparent nothingness, particles form into existence. Life, appearing out of nothingness, occurs throughout the universe. To appreciate such experiences, it is helpful to understand something of the subatomic world, in as much as that is possible.

The common image of an atom has been described as being similar to that of the solar system namely, of an electron orbiting a nucleus, but a better description is that of a spinning fan. As the blades rotate, they appear to be everywhere. In atoms, electrons are everywhere! It took some time for scientists to understand what was happening, until it was realised that different laws are at work in the microcosmos, from the macrocosmos.



Physicist Neil Bohr came to appreciate that electrons only appear in some, not all potential orbits and they disappear from one orbit and reappear in a different orbit, without visiting the space between them! This he referred to in 1913, as a 'quantum leap'. In the 1920's 'quantum mechanics' was devised to explain the fact that the orbit of an electron can be known or the actual place where it is, can be known, but both cannot be known, at the same time! An electron is everywhere and yet nowhere. Austrian physicist Wolfgang Pauli developed a principle that no two particles can occupy the same state. Each elementary particle resists efforts to reduce its presence.



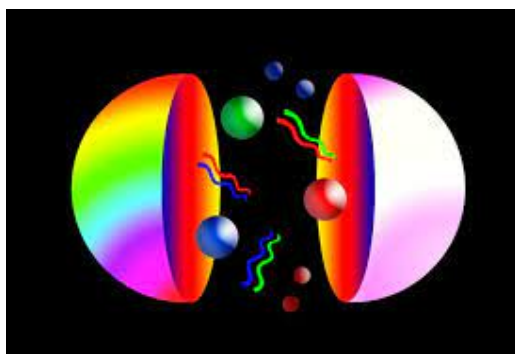
Each being has its own amount (quantum) of value.

Subatomic particles, when separated from each other, even at a considerable distance, have a way of 'knowing' what each other are doing. As mentioned last week, this echoes the experience of some human twins. Einstein pointed out that photons sometimes behave like particles, and sometimes like waves. highlighting that energy and matter are two forms of the same reality. This contradicted previous thought that energy was an activity, and matter was a thing. Einstein went on to claim that light is a mystery beyond our mind and imagination. Experiments have shown that if a particle is 'spun', its sister particle, no matter how far it is physically separated, will 'spin' in the opposite direction, at the same time. It has still not been explained how particles can influence each other in this way, at a speed greater than that of light and as far apart as opposite sides of the universe!

Einstein's theory of relativity explains how the macro-cosmos works, but quantum theory explains that the microcosmos is different. They are entirely different theories but both operate in patterns and relationships. Much of this echoes the activity in the first second of the 'Big Bang' 13.8 billion years ago.



Attempts have been made to recreate that experience through smashing or colliding particles into one another, in an attempt to discover and observe the quarks or sub-particles of hadrons. The CERN Large Hadron Collider confirmed the presence of the Higgs boson in July 2012, completing a 45-year hunt to explain how matter attains its mass. The Collider had its capacity increased greatly since then and has discovered 59 new hadrons.



Quarks are the basic building blocks of life. They develop to form a variety of hadrons. A hadron is a composite particle comprised of two or more quarks held together by the 'electricity' between them. Of significance is that when quarks appear, they always do so with an opposite partner. They seem not to be able to survive on their own. What lessons do quarks have for we humans, if they always

have an opposite and are never solitary? Some scientists have referred to the 'connection' of separated particles as 'translocation' and included it in 'super-string' theory. This theory proposes that sub particles such as quarks, are vibrating strands of energy that oscillate in a variety of dimensions, some of which are unknown.



We are familiar with three special dimensions, so it challenges us to try to imagine that there might be ten dimensions! Our current experiences of 3D visual movies are achieved by applying special

spectacles. Our experiences of depth when watching movies or television are an optical illusion. Theories such as super-string and M Theory, which speaks of a brane (membrane) world, and one extra dimension than string theory, are impossible for the layperson to understand or comprehend. We cannot see the wind, nor can we see gravity, but we do experience their effects. In reality, despite the different laws that apply, the micro world echoes the macro world in many respects. The fact that more than 90% of the known universe is 'dark matter' and is invisible to humans, seems to be paralleled in the micro-world. What looks to be empty, is not empty!



We are left with a sense of great mystery and that is the enticement of the spiritual dimension, in and around us. British playwright Tom Stoppard had a love of science. He wrote in the play Hapgood, "Make a fist, and if your fist is as big as the nucleus of an atom, then the atom is as big as London's St Paul's cathedral, and if it happens to be a hydrogen atom, then it has a single electron flitting about like a moth in an empty cathedral, now by the dome, now by the altar"

Scientists claim the mystery of translocation and morphic resonance is real. Some wondered what path certain fish took in order to breed into near identical species despite living at the opposite earth poles. They believe this development took place with physical independence. Species of marsupials developed similar characteristics, despite living on separate continents with no apparent mutual contact.

In 1920, William McDougall undertook an experiment with laboratory born rats placed in a specially constructed pool at Harvard University. The rats were given an electric shock if they tried to escape swimming via a path illuminated with bright lights. Though some rats took hundreds of shocks before they finally learned to take the non-illuminated exit, not one rat ever made the mistake again, once they had successfully learned it. The experiment was continued for fifteen years over thirty-two generations.



The same experiment was carried out by William Agar at Melbourne University with the same results. This indicated that each generation of rats bred from the original trained rats, leaned more quickly in subsequent generations.



Rupert Sheldrake describes that during the 1920's, fresh supplies of milk began to be delivered in Britain, to people's doorsteps. Blue tits and other varieties of birds began to steal the cream by removing the caps and drinking from the tops of the bottles. Despite the fact that blue tits do not travel far from their nesting place, after the initial reporting in Southampton, England, there were reports of blue tits engaging in identical activity from all over Britain.

There were also reports from Sweden, Denmark and Holland. In Holland, milk deliveries stopped during the war, but in 1947, blue tits began searching again for cream. Interestingly, what seems to have stopped this practice is the change to non-cream milk. The birds were after the cream, not the milk!

To be continued.....

This reflection was offered recently, from the Minister of Iowa City First Methodist Church, USA.

"Please, remember, we are still church even though we are not physically gathered, and that when we get together again, we will celebrate.

In the meantime, even though the world seems to have cancelled everything right now, as people of faith, let us remember.....

Caring will not be cancelled

Reading and study will not be cancelled

Love will not be cancelled

Acts of kindness will not be cancelled

Relationships will not be cancelled

Hope will not be cancelled

Music will not be cancelled

Self-care will not be cancelled

Faith will not be cancelled...

There are lots of other activities /actions that could be added

e.g. smiling/walking/phoning/emailing/texting/Zoom and so on....

Passionist spirituality

"Chase all gloominess from your heart, and, if even if you do something wrong, don't get upset, since that would do you even more harm than the wrongdoing.

Instead, humble yourself gently, ask God's pardon, decide that you will do better in the future and joyfully continue on your way" (Paul of the Cross)

Humour

They say it's true

Coca-Cola was originally green

It is impossible to lick your elbow

Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than for the U.S. Treasury

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone

The cost of purchasing and raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven is \$16,000

The first novel ever written on a typewriter was 'Tom Sawyer'

Each king in a deck of playing cards once represented a great king from history:
Spades – David; Hearts – Charlemagne; Clubs - Alexander the Great;
Diamonds; Caesar Augustus

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase... 'Goodnight , sleep tight'

$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

Q What season is it when you are on a trampoline?

A Spring time.

Q What happens when you talk to a cow?

A It goes in one ear and out the udder.

Q Why did the poor man stock up on yeast?

A To make some dough.

Q Why did the melon jump in the lake?

A It wanted to be a watermelon.

Q How do you get Pikachu on a bus?

A Poke him on.

Q What is the best part about living in Switzerland?

A I don't know, but their flag is a big plus.

Q What did one hat say to the other?

A You stay here. I'll go on ahead.

Q What do you call a cow with a twitch?

A Beef jerky.

Q How do monsters like their eggs?

A Terri- fried!

Q What do you call a herd of sheep tumbling down a hill?

A Lambslide.

Q What do you call a bee who is having a really bad hair day?

A Frisbee

Q What kind of bees do you find in a graveyard?

A Zom-bees.

The World Health Organisation announced that dogs cannot contract COVID-19. Dogs in quarantine can now be released. It is good to know finally WHO let the dogs out

Yesterday I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog — we laughed a lot.

Chances are you tried to lick your elbow!

Patrick Doyle sent through these photos.

This one is of Michael and Mardi yesterday, quietly celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary



This one is from their wedding day in 1971.



An inspiring story

What a simple and generous gesture can mean:

<https://www.wbur.org/kindworld/2015/10/09/holocaust-survivor-two-pieces-of-chocolate>

Exercise bike

If anyone has an exercise bike they could do without for two months could you please contact me (Brian). Thank you

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

Congratulations to **Anne Rabot** who celebrates her birthday on Wednesday 14th. Ann is a much appreciated volunteer in the Holy Cross office and has been suffering poor health recently made worse by the isolation of COVID-19.

Congratulations also to **Chris** who celebrates his 66th birthday on Friday 16th.

We remember.



We remember: Joan O'Callaghan, Michael O'Callaghan, Mary Hackett, Bronwyn Burke, Richard Gibbs, Maree Bartoli, Bill Davies, Peter Owen, Mary Coburn, Graham Hille, Jim Molan, Anne Jenkins, Angelo Vigilante, Pam Gartland, Pam Stretch, Patricia Keeghan, Pam Grehan, Maeve and John Reardon, Jim Monaghan, Michael and Mardi Doyle, Carmel King, 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