



4th March, 2022

Welcome to autumn.

Sunday Mass

Mass each Sunday at Holy Cross is at **10.00am**.

On the move



My 2 weeks is up!

Two years ago today we moved to Holy Cross as an interim arrangement. Sr Joan went home to Ireland accompanied by Sr Karen who remained in Dublin to study. I was to stay two weeks and then go to Vietnam but Covid 19 changed that plan so I have been blessed to be part of the community at Holy Cross all this time.

Karen returned in Sept having completed a Master's in Spirituality. She is now in ministry at Sacred Heart Mission at St Kilda. It is a considerable journey from here so we have accepted an invitation to move into the Parish house at Elwood which has been vacant for some time! We will move on Sunday 6th. However it is not goodbye as we will still have connections with Holy Cross.

It has been our privilege to be part of Holy Cross community and we would like to thank you for your welcome and support. A big thank you to our brothers Brian, Chris, Jerome, John, Tri, Erick and Pastor for your hospitality, love and sharing not to mention the fun times!

Brigid CP

On behalf of the community I want to extend our appreciation to Brigid and Karen for the accommodating way they have made community with us possible. It has been a wonderful and most enriching time. That Brigid, at her youthful age is still open to ministering in Vietnam is inspiring, and that Karen is already in the thick of things at

Sacred Heart mission is equally inspiring. Faced with serious eyesight difficulties, very early morning starts and long travel time each day, the last weeks have been very demanding for her. We wish them well, and assure them it is not 'goodbye'. Brian

Drivers

Thank you. We have a volunteer to drive Greta Smith to Holy Cross for Mass on Sundays, and we have a volunteer to take Tri to YTU (Box Hill) on Wednesday mornings. We could now do with a driver on **Thursday mornings** please, if possible – 9.00am departure for YTU Box Hill (for John until he secures his licence). As mentioned previously, Peter Norman and Joe Senso have spent extensive hours teaching John Qi to drive for which we are very grateful. John has more work to do, and Tri will start soon.

Jerome

Jerome has soldiered on in the past few weeks and continued his work in the garden. This week he will go into hospital to have minor surgery that he hopes will reduce pain and discomfort.



Passionist Family Groups

This weekend the National Australian Team of the PFGM will be meeting at Holy Cross. During the past five years the team has been looking at how a revised structure can best serve the Movement going forward. A similar process in New Zealand where they have a Board of Trustees, led to the appointment of my brother Paul, as the full-time National Coordinator. In Australia a different model is needed because of the size of the country.

Three regional teams will carry out a pastoral role across Queensland, NSW, ACT, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia. One representative from the North, Central and Southern regions will form the National team with a National Coordinator. This National role will be responsible for coordinating the various regions, but it will not be full-time. Advertising for that position will commence in the near future. We are deeply grateful for the committed members at the national, regional and local parish level who continue to keep the Movement alive. In particular we acknowledge Dennis Morris from Canberra who has been Coordinator of the National Team since July 2017. He will retire in June.

Here or there

Have you ever seen something and said to yourself, "How did they do that?" or "That's unbelievable? Try this: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=GTmnhhDpqIY>

Quotes:

“The hardest misfortunes to bear are those that never come”
“If it doesn’t challenge you, it doesn’t change you”.

God and Religion: Part 4: The Bible

Language and its limitations

I love my friends. They're so cool!

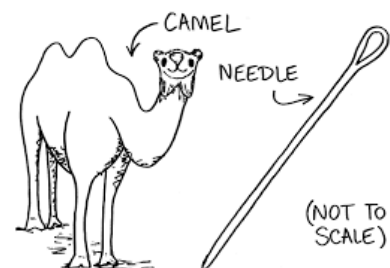
Words develop new meanings over time. The word ‘nice’ comes from the Latin word ‘nescious’ which means ignorant. We only have to think of words like pot, smack, grass and weed to know they have developed an association that is very different from fifty years ago. Gay has such a different meaning that hardly anyone uses it now in its original sense. Young people often use words like ‘sick’ or wicked’ to mean good, or they use cool when they mean ‘hot!

All language is like that. It is open to interpretation. People in Biblical times did not have as extensive a vocabulary as we have today, and their images and symbols were different from ours. The Bible we read, has been translated from Hebrew to Greek, from Greek to Latin and from Latin to English, and there are many different English translations. This means that some words or phrases can have different meanings at each point of translation, that we might not readily see. We commonly use a phrase such as ‘he missed by a mile”. In using that phrase, no one who understands the expression, takes this distance literally – and in Australia we don’t officially use ‘miles’ as a term of measure, anymore.

Words that we read in English, such as ‘fear’, and ‘hate’ have quite different meanings in everyday language to how they are expressed in Biblical writing. For example, Proverbs 1:7 says ‘The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and understanding”. This ‘fear’ refers to sacred respect.

We are familiar with the saying of Jesus, “it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven”. There have been a variety of explanations for this saying, but increasingly, scholars suggest that a mistake was made in translating the Greek word ‘kamilos’ (rope) as ‘kamelos’ (camel). In describing the needle, Matthew and Mark use the Greek word

‘rafic’ while Luke uses ‘belone’. The former word is used in sewing and the latter more in surgical procedures such as we know as stitching. Perhaps then, the saying meant that it is easier for a rope to go through a needle. Though this would still be



difficult to achieve, it would seem to make more sense. Mistranslations are easily possible if one letter is not written clearly. We have to keep this in mind.

LEARN ENGLISH WITH HARRY

English Idioms

NEW START

- clear the decks**
to make sure nothing gets in your way so that you are ready for action
Let's clear the decks and start again.
www.englishlessonsviaskype.com
- new/fresh blood**
someone who joins an organisation with new exciting ideas or ways of doing things
Although the institute has made some important progress recently, it needs new blood to speed up its development.
www.englishlessonsviaskype.com
- clean slate/sheet**
an opportunity for a fresh start, forgetting past mistakes
Often when a new manager is appointed to a football team he tells the players, 'You all start with a clean slate.'
www.englishlessonsviaskype.com
- new kid on the block**
a newcomer, someone new in a place, group etc.
They had all worked together often, but I was the new kid on the block.
www.englishlessonsviaskype.com

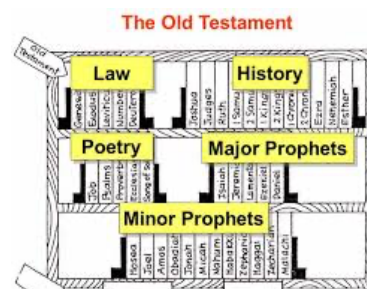
WWW.ENGLISHLESSONSVIASKYPE.COM

The Global Language Monitor estimates there are more than one million words in English language today. William Shakespeare alone is credited with adding 1,700 words to the English language, and 2,000 new words were added from French after William the Conqueror became ruler of Britain. So, we have far more words today to describe events, experiences and feelings than people had in Biblical times. We also have local idiom, and this was true of Biblical times.

These realities highlight that there are many layers of meaning that we are likely to miss when we read the Bible, so we need to be careful, and we need to educate ourselves to read the Bible properly. Then it can come alive with much deeper meaning. There are 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament, so the Bible has many authors and it contains many literary forms.

The Bible as a library; it's people shaped it

If we looked at our home library and counted seventy-three books, we would probably find novels, poetry, biographies, 'new age', DIY books and many more. This is what it is like opening the Bible. To understand the Bible, we need to appreciate its setting. The whole Bible was not written at the same time or by the same authors, and it covers a long period of history, very different from our own.



So far, we have only considered the events covered in the Hebrew Scriptures. During that history, the experiences of people coloured their understanding of everything around them. It influenced their idea of themselves as a people and how they should treat each other.

Sometimes their neighbours attacked and defeated them, and over some neighbours, they themselves were victorious. All of this influenced their thinking and religious imagery including those of animals of the time such as sheep, lions, donkeys and eagles. Food and water supplies, as well as the events of the natural world and the landscape around them. Influenced what they wrote about.



These people could not travel as extensively as we can and they came to

believe that the land they inherited had been promised to them by God.

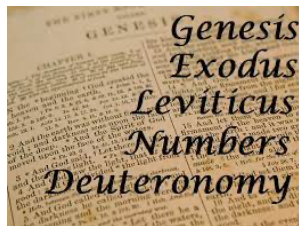
Some of their descendants still do!



They did not have our modern forms of communication. Most of them could not read or write and at times they lived in very harsh surroundings on the edge of the desert. Life expectancy was short (perhaps 45 years of age). They could be easily overrun by powerful nations

and because part of their land was extremely fertile, they needed methods of ensuring their own safety as protection from invaders. Gradually, like other peoples, they sought answers to questions such as why are we here? how did we get here? why do we suffer? why is there evil in the world? why are other nations different? what happens when we die, and so on. Their attitudes and writings reflect their changing understanding about these questions.

The Pentateuch



The faith story of the Hebrew people is told in the Old Testament (or Hebrew scriptures) which can be divided into four sections. The first three sections are contained in the Torah or Pentateuch, and they make up the first five (Penta) books of the Bible.

1. The story of creation and the fall. This includes the creation of the universe, the sun, moon and stars, earth, animals, vegetation and humans. It describes how evil entered the world; it tells of Adam, Eve, Cain, the restoration and promise (through Noah) and the dispersion of people and their diverse languages (Tower of Babel).

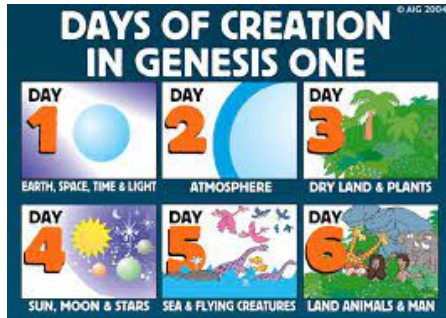
2. The Formation of a People (of God). This covers the 'call' of Abraham around **1850 BCE** to the time of the people living in Egypt.

3. The Exodus and the Covenant. This covers the period of Moses (**around 1250 BCE**, the Exodus from Egypt to Canaan and the 10 commandments).

4. The experiences of the People of God. This covers the success of Joshua in overrunning Palestine, the establishment of the Kingdom (**David 1000 BCE**), the division of the Kingdoms, the deportation to Babylon (**587 BCE**), the rise of the prophets, the capture of Jerusalem, the return from Exile (**538 BCE**) periods of oppression including under Alexander the Great (**330 BCE**) and the capture of Jerusalem by Rome (**63 BCE**)



The first stories of Genesis



The first stories are concerned with pre-salvation history and they explain why humans needed to be 'saved'.

They include the story of Adam and Eve ignoring God's command and foregoing God's promise, by seeking to make themselves equal to God. There is the story of Cain's jealousy and the murder of his brother Abel. This story explained (but not in a literal way) why peoples were separated from each other and how they separated themselves from God in this action. This eventually led to the destruction of all the people in a flood. Only Noah and his family were saved because they were 'upright' people. The story of the tower of Babel explained how people became divided among themselves and spoke different languages and lived in distant places. The writers knew these external facts so they wrote stories to explain them.

For this reason, we need to read them as they were written, appreciating the truth behind their message rather than with a focus on facts. They were written long before there was a scientific explanation for things, and being a story telling culture, they were concerned with the message or the truth in the story rather than its details.



We know today that some of the stories are not accurate in our sense of literal accuracy. However, we have been able to learn through various sciences (archaeology, literature, culture etc.) that what the Hebrews wrote was consistent with what others wrote and believed at the time. We know something about the 'big' nations of the time in the Middle-East (Egypt, Babylon, Assyria etc.) and we know there were events in that part of the world, such as the Bible describes. There were huge and devastating floods and huge tower-like temples (ziggurats) were built. Some of these experiences are recorded in the stories of other cultures.



Asking the right questions

It is the wrong question to ask 'Did these events really occur?' or 'Did these people really exist?' The stories were not written to satisfy a mind that asks such questions. They were written to express beliefs explaining God's action and how humans responded. There were never two people who sat in a garden and ate an apple! The tree was not an apple tree!

To be continued.....

Humour

Q Why are basketball courts always wet?

A Because the players dribble.

Q What did the limestone say to the geologist?

A Don't take me for granite.

Q What do you call a tired bull?

A A bulldozer.

Q What kind of water cannot freeze?

A Hot water

Q Why did the peanut get into a rocket?

A He wanted to be an Astro-nut!

Q What do you call cheese that belongs to someone else?

A Nacho cheese!

Q What did the ghost call his Mum and Dad?

A His transparents.

Q What do you call an old snowman?

A A glass of water.

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into an hotel. They were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament successes. After a while the manager asked them to disperse. They protested, "But why?"
"Because" he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer!"

When you are not teaching or bee keeping, what about using some earth moving equipment?



And in the recent flooding near Gympie (below)



ISS

After the Sun and the Moon, what is the brightest thing in the night sky?
The International Space Station. It circles the earth sixteen times a day travelling at 28.000 kph. Often it is too low on the horizon to see but this Sunday 6th March, it

'rises' at 8.17pm and provided there is not blanket cloud cover, it should be clearly visible for 2-5 minutes.

The link for **Mass** for **1st Sunday of the Lent Year C** will be sent on Saturday.

We remember Tony Brooks, Jacki Tomm, Maree Bartoli, Peter Owen, Barry Wong, Errol Lovett, Anne Jenkins, Brenda Rodrigues, Pam Grehan, Margaret Titteringcom, Mary Corcoran, Mary Coburn, Mary Hackett, Graham Hille, Bronwyn Burke, Patricia Keeghan, Peter McNamara, Michael & Mardi Doyle, Pam Gartland, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Angelo Vigilante, Maeve and John Reardon, Jim Monaghan. Pam Stretch, (NZ), Dominic Isgro, Carmel King, Gerry Bond, Kate and Mary Dunn, Ray Sanchez CP, Antoinette, and all who seek or need our prayers.



Please note that once each month we will not read out all these names for the Recorded Mass or for Sunday Mass. It does not mean we cease praying for them (and many others who could be added to the list and are on our community list).

God bless and have a good weekend

Brian