



17th March, 2022

Happy St Patrick's Day

Sunday Mass

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

Jerome



Jerome shas continued to adjust to difficulties following his surgical procedure, but typically he has remained in good spirits. In this photo he is overseeing the celebration last Friday of John's 33rd birthday. Tri is adjusting the candle on the cake.

Pasta Night

On Saturday April 2nd there will be a pasta night held at Holy Cross. During the heights of COVID, these popular nights were cancelled or reduced in size. You are most welcome to book a seat or a table to enjoy a nice meal in a very friendly atmosphere. Please contact Mayrose on 0423804555 (Mon-Friday 10am-3pm)

Trees

Mention was made last week of the need to attend to a number of trees to make Holy Cross safe. This work was set down for Friday and Saturday this week but it is now postponed. We are hoping a few 'younger' people might come to help us for a couple of hours either morning or afternoon with the mulching that will be done. We will advertise when this will go ahead. Thank you

Behold, it was very **GOOD**

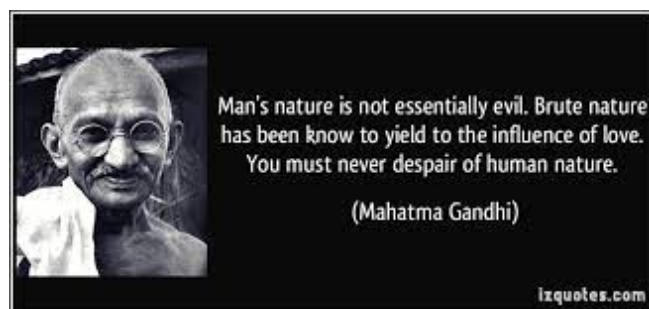
Genesis 1:34

Another significant theme of Genesis, is the 'fall' of creation. The original goodness of creation is seen to have been corrupted by the sinfulness of humanity (Adam and Eve). Some people today suggest that we should abandon this idea because we know that a perfect paradise never existed in any literal sense before or after the 'arrival' of humanity. The story of cosmic and biological evolution teaches us that the universe emerged from a flaring of light ("big bang") 13.8 billion years ago, and expanded and developed into the present world. Death has always been a part of that expansion and development. Earth formed from a star that died!



The church has a dogma of original sin, but some suggest the idea can be better viewed not as a fall from some primordial perfection (in Eden) but as a recognition that humans are still developing, still evolving; that we have not yet achieved what God is inviting us to become either individually or as a species. We have failed to rise to the heights of which we are capable.

We have failed to actualise the potential provided for goodness, justice, and love. We have achieved much good, but rather than reduce evil as we might have done, 'we' have introduced massive evils and deep suffering into history and spoiled our natural environment by ruthless and reckless



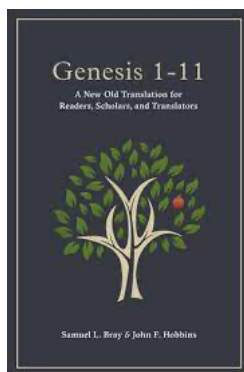
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Increasingly, Catholics familiar with evolution, are uneasy with the message of atonement implied in the doctrine of original sin which is repeated continually in liturgies and homilies and fails to proclaim the Biblical description that God saw what God made and saw that “it was good”. The creation stories of Genesis, as previously mentioned, were probably written in the post-exile period, but drew on ancient near-



east traditions, and together with the stories that follow, they reflect the issues that the people of Israel had been and were experiencing. These Old Testament writings provided an answer for the people of Israel, to the question that if God is good and loving, how is it that disasters, wars, death and ongoing suffering, was their lot?

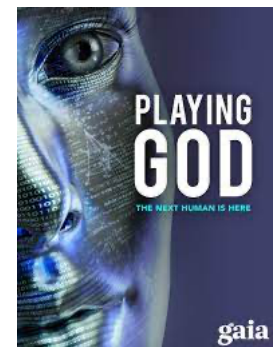
The explanation given is related to ‘the sin of Adam’ which resulted in humans losing God’s trust and being punished. Christian theology came to be describe this as ‘the Fall’, although Scripture experts claim it is not expressed as ‘a fall’ in Genesis.



The first eleven chapters of Genesis provide the background for the whole Biblical story. They contain four main stories (Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood and the Tower of Babel. Each has a common theme that begins with human sin and is followed by negative consequences that lead to *God’s* grace. Adam and Eve together violated God’s command not to eat from the tree of knowledge. Cain assumed to himself power over life and killed his brother Abel. The generation of the flood became lawless and unjust, and the people of Shinar (in Babylon) sought to build a tower

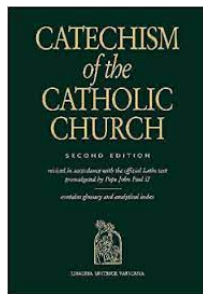
to heaven where God resides. The common sin is identified by the serpent: humans rejected being an image of God and wanted instead, to be God

In each of these stories, humans attempted to reach beyond themselves and ‘play at’ being God. Not only are humans punished, but so is the serpent, and even the earth is cursed. Adam and Eve’s punishment is a life of toil to be followed by death. Cain is forced to wander alone over the earth. The sinful generation and all living things are destroyed in the flood, except for Noah and the occupants of his ark. At the tower of Babel, the people are scattered, and their languages confused. They are now unable to communicate with each other.



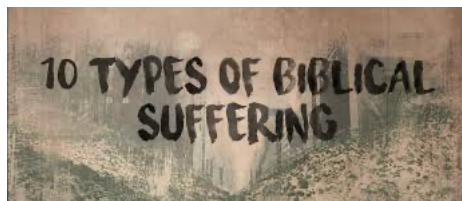
The introduction of death in each story includes the breakdown or the death of relationships with all life forms and this clearly had not been God’s original purpose. Despite the sentence of death that Genesis announces, in

each of the four stories there is also a blessing. Eve was named the mother of all the living and she and Adam were given clothing. To prevent Cain being killed, God put a mark on him so he would be protected. Noah, his family and some animals survived the flood and became the source of new life on the earth, and God promised not to destroy the earth again. The separation following the tower of Babel episode is followed by the call of Abraham who is told, *“In you Abraham, all nations of the earth will be blessed”* (Gen 12:3).



The 1992 Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches *“In order to discover the sacred authors’ intention, the reader must take into account the conditions of their time and culture, the literary genres in use at that time, and the modes of feeling, speaking and narrating then current”* (CC 110). Scripture scholars have been reconsidering these four Genesis stories focusing on their message of sinfulness rather than on any factual events. These stories speak about the origin of sin and its effects. They describe how if we attempt to play God, there will be a breakdown in relationships that effects every life form.

Every generation can identify this same inclination. This was well known by the Biblical writers and their explanation was not that human sinfulness was passed on through sexual intercourse, as Augustine was later to teach, but simply through the human condition. The imperfection it described could also be seen in other life forms.



The Biblical narrative recounts many disasters such as the great flood, the ten plagues in Egypt, the destruction of Sodom, defeats in battle and other sufferings that resulted in huge loss of life. It also tells of various punishments inflicted on the people, culminating in the ultimate punishment, the exile in Babylon. These events required an explanation. How was it, that a good and beautiful creation looked after by a loving creator, included all these realities, all this suffering? Such a question is little different from what has been asked throughout human history, and is still asked today. Why is their suffering, especially if God is a loving God?



During the Black Death in the fourteenth century, preachers continually reminded people that the plague was the result of their sins. It is estimated that at least 25,000,000 people died from that plague. Some questioned ‘is this the end of the world?’ Modern day fundamentalists often preach that AIDS or disasters such as COVID, are a punishment sent from God for people’s sins. Biblical literature records a similar explanation for people’s suffering and the state of the world, but punishment was always followed by blessing. There was an ongoing struggle in Israelite history for people to overcome their own sins so as to return to God’s favour, and more particularly, when in exile, so they could

return to Jerusalem.

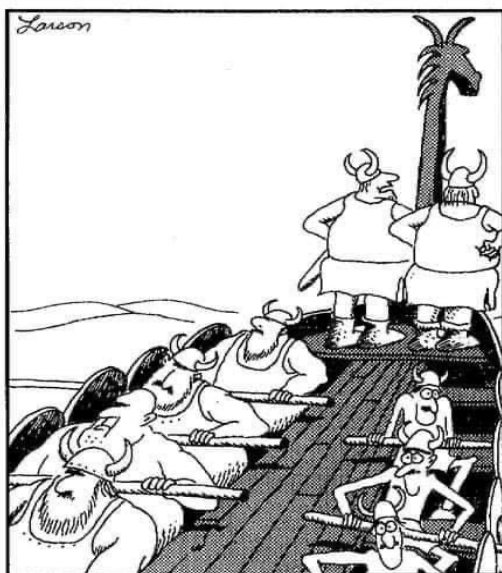


The explanation for the state of the world, for a great deal of human suffering, extinction and death, when looking at life through the lens of evolution, is entirely different. These elements are interwoven with the unfolding of life through billions of years. Whereas in traditional Christianity, death has been considered a penalty for sin, in evolution, death is a biological necessity and leads to transformation. New forms of order, such as the formation of stars from supernova explosions or such as emerged following the demise of the dinosaurs, including the emergence of mammals and humans, can only come about when death gives way to a new form of life.

When considered this way, many people question today how unsuitable is the notion that Jesus came among us to atone or compensate for our sins or to open the gates of heaven that had been closed when Adam sinned. There is no scriptural evidence for this claim concerning heaven. Theologian John Haught claims that “for many Christians, original sin is the most difficult religious teaching to square with Darwinian evolution” In the light of new considerations, it is necessary to ask, why did Jesus come and how does his life fit in with the story of evolution?

To be continued

Humour



Food and diet advice you may not have heard

Q: Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?*

A: The heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it... Don't waste time on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up the heart will not make you live longer; it's like saying you extend the life of a car by driving faster. If you want to live longer, take a nap.

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?*

A: Oh no. Wine is made from fruit. Fruit is very good. Brandy is distilled wine; that means they take water out of the fruity bit so you get even more of goodness that way. Beer is also made of grain. Grain is good too. Enjoy!

Q: *What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?*

A: I can't think of one, sorry. Remember No pain is good!

Q: *Aren't fried foods bad for you?*

A: Food fried in vegetable oil! How can getting more vegetables be bad?

Q: *Is chocolate bad for me?*

A: Cocoa bean! Another vegetable! It is the best feel-good food around!

Q: *Is swimming good for your figure?*

A: If it is explain the whale to me!

Q: *Is getting in shape important for my lifestyle?*

A: Round' is also a shape!

Maybe that has cleared up any misconceptions you may have had.

A tough course

David and his dad, Bert agreed to a round of golf at quite a difficult course. The night before, Bert had a very big night and he arrived at the Course worse for wear. David urged Bert to come and hit some practice shots, but despite David's warning "this is a tough course," Bert was adamant. Instead he headed to the bar. He arrived at the first tee after a couple of pints and a rum and coke. David and another playing partner hit off. Bert's practice shot was a bit shaky, just like himself. He then set himself and swung a full blooded driver. It hit 15 centimetres behind the ball which did not move off the tee.

"I see what you mean, son", Bert said, "this is a tough course"!

A dwarf who was a mystic escaped from jail. The call went out that there was a small medium at large!

Q What did the fisherman say to the magician?

A Pick a cod, any cod.

The Future language

Debates have gone on about whether English or German should be the official language of the EU rather than German which was the other possibility. As part of negotiations, it was conceded in Britain that English spelling had some room for improvement. A five year phase-in plan known as "Euro-English" has been recommended.

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of the "k". This should klear up konfusion and keyboards kan have 1 less letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f". This will make words like "fotograf" 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be ekspekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkorage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes of the silent "e"s in the language is disgraseful, and they should go away.

By the fourth year, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v". During ze fifz year, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters.

After zis fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi to understand ech ozer. Ze drem vil finali kum tru! And zen ve vil tak over ze world!

Elderly stories

A couple in their nineties were both having problems remembering things. During a check-up, the doctor told them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember. Later that night, while watching TV, the old man got up from his chair 'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asked. 'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?' she asked. 'Sure', he replied. 'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asked. 'No' he said, 'I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?' He said, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asked. Irritated, he said, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream – I've got it, for goodness sake!'

Then he toddled off into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, he returned from the kitchen and handed his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stared at the plate for a

moment and asked, 'Where's my toast?'

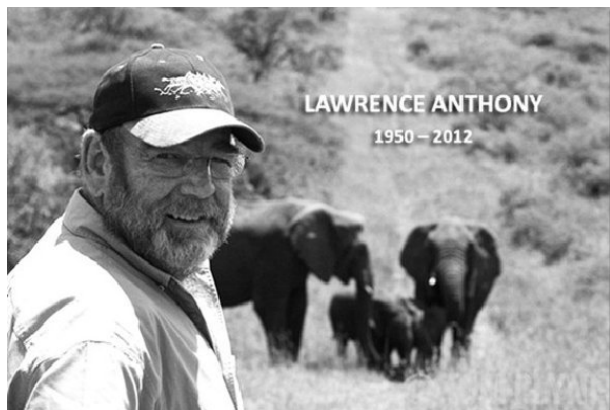
An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after the meal, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great I would recommend it very highly.' The other man said, 'What is the name of the restaurant?' The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What's the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that's red and has thorns.' The other man replied, 'Do you mean a rose?' 'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

Quotes

- Every day may not be good but something good happens for you every day
- Today's struggle is your strength for tomorrow

Elephants

HOW DID THEY KNOW?



South African Lawrence Anthony, known as '**The Elephant Whisperer**' bravely rescued and rehabilitated wild and rogue elephants all over the globe from human atrocities. He died of a heart attack on March 7 2012, Two days after his death, two groups of wild elephants he had rehabilitated showed up at his home led by two large matriarchs.

Thirty-one elephants had walked for over twelve hours to get to his house. They made their way in a solemn one-by-one queue from their habitat to his house. Lawrence's wife Francoise said that the elephants had not been to his house for eighteen months. They stayed for two full days without eating anything. Then one morning, they left, making their long journey back home.



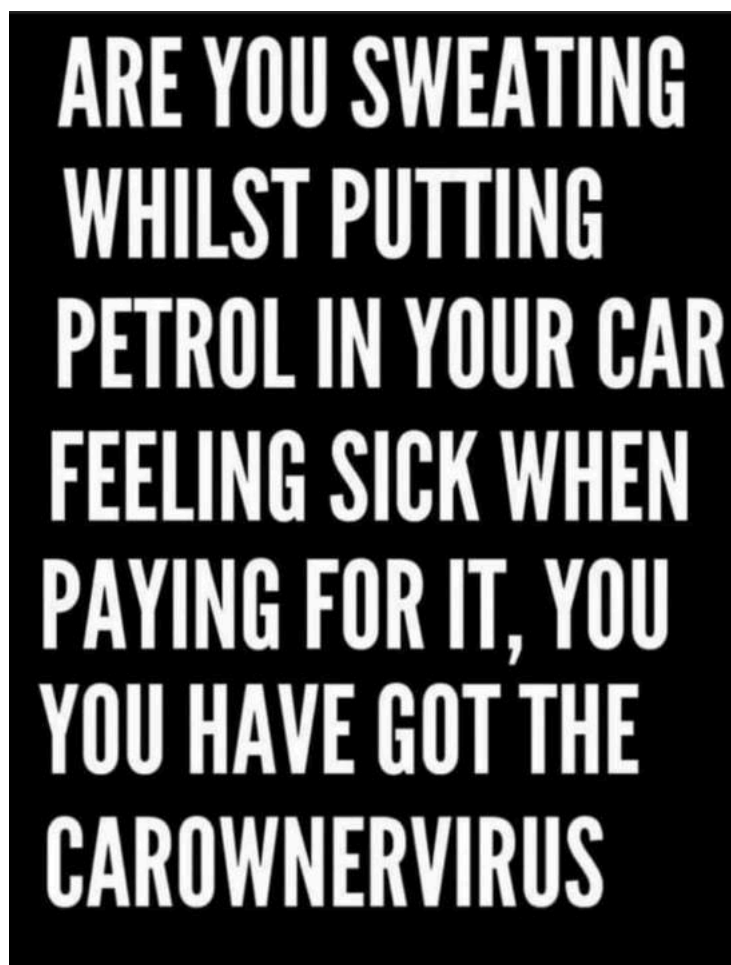
How did those elephants know Lawrence had died when they were so far away any human contact at the time of his passing?

How amazing is it, that they came to express their appreciation in the way they did!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Yap6r7pSGU

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=PFpMPc-LL44>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=LGQVn8nsvN0>



Two years

This Saturday (March 19th) marks two years since the first newsletter of this series was distributed. Melbourne Archdiocese had announced that there were to be no religious services, so we prepared for what was to become a full and extensive lockdown.

The link for **Mass** for **3rd Sunday of the Lent Year C** will be sent on Saturday

We remember Antoinette a young mother aged 52, a close friend of Rose Cincotta, our business manager who died on Saturday. Antoinette had battled cancer for three years but her final condition worsened very quickly.

We remember Diane, Marlene and Geoff, as we recall the anniversaries of their spouses Richard Wall (March 20th) Matt Walsh (March 22nd) and Mary-Ellen Boulton (March 24th)

We remember Olive Murphy (sister-in-law of Sr Brigid, Tony Mazzei, Rex Cambry, Tony Brooks, Jacki Tomm, Maree Bartoli, Peter Owen, Barry Wong, Errol Lovett, Anne Jenkins, Brenda Rodrigues, Pam Grehan, Margaret Titterton, 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, and all who seek or need our prayers.



God bless and have a good weekend

Brian