

## Holy Cross Retreat

### Letter 154



27<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

Greetings,

### The Cat and the Rabbit



There is quite some strong feeling among various Vietnamese, that this new year, is not as the Chinese celebrate, the year of the rabbit, but, rather, the year of the Cat! The Chinese zodiac, cycles through one sign per year, over twelve years. The animal signs follow the same order every dozen years: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat (also translated as Ram and Sheep), Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

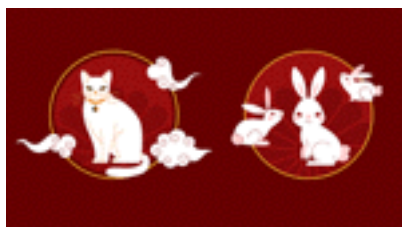


Vietnamese people, despite being inspired by the Chinese lunar calendar, actually have a Cat in place of the Rabbit. The reason for this is impossible to discover, since there are vastly different opinions. Both cultures have mythic stories of a race and the place-getters are different in the traditions.

One opinion as to why 'cat' rather than 'rabbit, is that Vietnamese people consider rabbits as "animals used for food whereas the cat is considered as a "friend living in their house."



Pronunciation differences is another explanation put forward. In old Chinese, there is a little-used word



connected to the sign of the rabbit (卯) that is pronounced like mao. The pronunciation is similar to mèo, the Vietnamese word for cat. Still another reason given is that rice is a huge part of Vietnam's agriculture, but with the threat of many rats in the fields, the cats which hunt them are a popular animal for the Vietnamese.

Most Asian people follow the Chinese Zodiac so this is the year of the rabbit, but try to tell that to the Vietnamese guys at Holy Cross!

## The Chosen – Little James



Last Sunday at 10.00am Mass, I spoke about this information below, and we watched the brief clip: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoZ\\_Qe1nQWY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoZ_Qe1nQWY)



The series 'The Chosen' on the life of Jesus, is the largest crowd-funded entertainment project of all time. Seven series are planned, and each series has seven or eight episodes. Each episode is 50-65 minutes. The producer wanted to put a strong focus on the people who encountered Jesus, so the viewer could gain a view of Jesus "through the eyes of those who met him".

Most encounters we read or hear in the gospels do not outline how the disciples or other characters interacted with Jesus, and those that do (e.g. Zacchaeus, blind man), have only brief descriptions, so it is good how to appreciate the characters being given time to develop and interact.



Series one and two have been completed and are available to view. The third series has just become available. It is possible to watch every episode free. <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen>

'The Chosen' has been translated into six hundred languages and has been watched by over 400 million people. The estimated cost to produce one series is more than US\$1,000,000.



The second episode of Series 3 deals with Jesus sending out the disciples in pairs. *"Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and he gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics..."*

This episode shows the disciples discussing with Jesus how they will manage if they 'take nothing' with them, and they ask how they will heal people.



The episode ends with a non-gospel scene involving the disciple James the Less. The actor who plays the part is disabled and James is portrayed in a similar way. The Director thought this was a great opportunity to deal with the question asked by so many people. Why are some people healed and others not?

I mentioned on Sunday that Passionist scripture scholar Donald Senior told us that he suddenly became curious about how disabled people listening to homilies, responded to stories of cures that they heard read and preached about. One Sunday after Mass he asked a blind lady, what it was like to hear a story of Jesus curing a blind man, and not to have been cured herself. Her first words were, “Father, I am not blind; I just can’t see”!



The question of people not being healed is related to how and why we respond to suffering and sorrow, and the unanswerable questions regarding evil such as “why do good persons suffer?” If we heard Jesus respond to such questions, what might we expect him to say?

Last Saturday was Frank Bartoli’s birthday. Frank lost his sight and amazingly now he is helping care for his beautiful wife, Maree who is suffering from MND (motor neurone disease). Frank has said this losing his sight has been a great blessing. He says, “I never met an angel when I went somewhere, but since I lost my sight, every day I go out I meet an angel”.

If you watch this six minute extract (see the link above), you will find yourself reflecting on profound questions and having valuable insight into how Jesus might have answered them.

You might then want to watch all of the episodes.

**I think you are in my spot**

Sometimes you can’t argue when your spot is wanted

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

## Sand artwork



Andoni Bastarrikas is a self-taught artist from the Basque region of Spain. He began building sand sculptures in 2010 to entertain children on the beach. As people's appreciation grew, he extended his work to different beaches.

Andoni mostly uses his own hands to shape sand sculptures, mostly crafting large animals. When it comes to fine details, he uses simple tools like a brush, small sticks and toothpicks.



To add another layer of realism, the artist sometimes uses various accessories, like the horns and hooves on his now famous bull sculpture.

He is now teaching other potential artists.

<https://countrymusicnation.com/man-creates-lifelike-animal-sculptures-out-of-sand>



## An English conversation

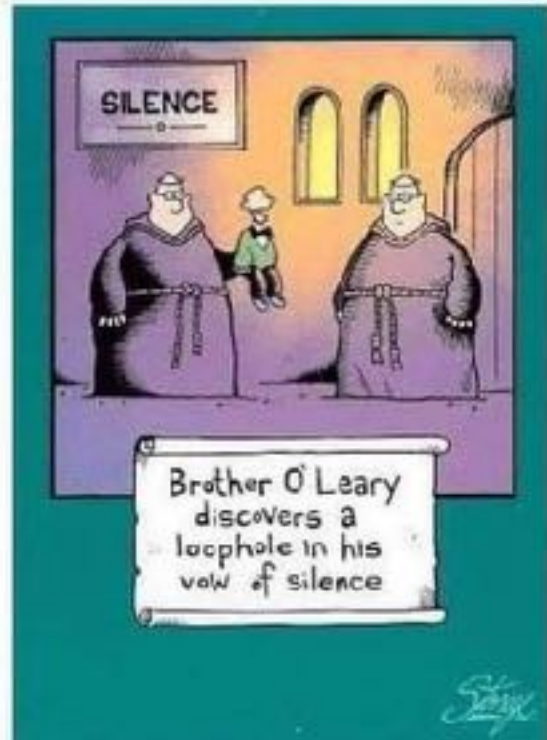
Our three Vietnamese postulants would appreciate it if anyone was free to spend one hour talking with them individually on a Friday afternoon (preferably 4.30pm-5.30pm). This would be an aid to them in conversations and understanding

English better. So we need three volunteers please. If you can help, could you contact Erick please on: 0448251016

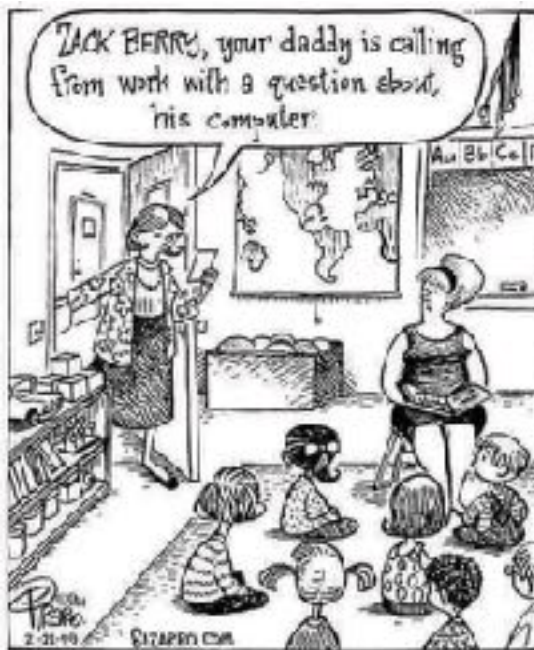
## Humour

### The Duke of Sussex pub in West London

An absolute classic from the Duke of Sussex pub in Chiswick. They have renamed their house ale...



**A friend suggested putting horse manure on my strawberries... I'm never doing that again, I'm going back to whipped cream.**



"Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road of life is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision."  
 -Unknown-

BASED ON "I'M NOT BUILT" IN THE WILD.COM

THANKS FOR TEACHING ME THE MEANING OF -PLETHORA-  
 IT MEANS A LOT



What is  
a rabbit's  
favorite  
dance style?



*Hip-Hop!*

A few years ago, I asked the girl in  
the pet grooming shop out to dinner.  
She couldn't make it though, she was  
washing her hare.



IT AIN'T EASY  
BEING PURR-FECT



AT THE WORLD

RSPCA

**DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE CAT  
WHO SWALLOWED A BALL OF WOOL?  
SHE HAD MITTENS!**



**They can be friends.....**



1. On a first aid course, the instructor asked, "What would you do if your child swallowed the front door key?"  
An enthusiastic student said, "I'd climb through the window"

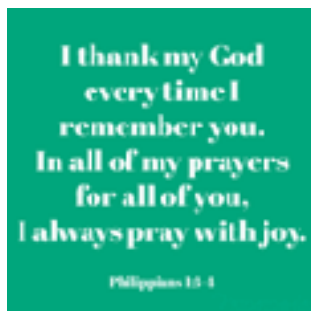
2. Historians uncovered the headstone of the world's longest living man, apart from people mentioned in the Bible. His name was Myles and he was 193.

### **Congratulations**

**Maree Bartoli** celebrated her 71<sup>st</sup> birthday yesterday, January 26th

### **Sadness**

We were sad to hear the passing of **Bernard Charnley**, after a short illness. We remember his wife Maureen and their children, at this time. Bernard's funeral will be 11.00am on February 1<sup>st</sup>, at Holy Cross.



As well as Bernard, we remember all those who have died, and those whose anniversaries are in this coming week, especially Helen Chai

Fr Brian Gleeson has been transferred to the Valley hospital and Fr Chris Mithen has had to extend his stay in Box Hill hospital for another week. Please keep them in your prayers.



We pray also for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell especially DJ's father Joseph Phuong who suffered a stroke on Tuesday . He ruptured a blood vessel in his brain, has lost the ability to speak and has paralysis down part of his left side.

When your father is suffering like that and you are in Australia, do far away it is very difficult.

We also pray for Maree Bartoli, Michael Doyle, Maeve Reardon, Paul Darbyshire, John Lazzari, Jenny Wullings, Lynda Chin, Alexander Lim, Des Grisell, Gerry Bond, Helen McLean, Peter Owen, Greg Agosta, Dominic Isgro, Errol Lovett, Cathy Petrocco's sister, Marissa, Peter DeMarzi, Norm Heyhorn, Chris O'Toole, Angelo Vigilante, Pam Gartland, Jim Monaghan, Anne Jenkins, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Peter McNamara, Marg Casey, Patricia Keeghan, Mary Hackett, Margaret Wright, Mary and Kate Dunn.

The **Mass link** will be sent by Chris from wee Scotland.





Brian