

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 160

10th March, 2023

Greetings,

Province Assembly Number 3

The three Assemblies (Melbourne, Saigon and Sydney) are now complete. Some analysis of the main issues will provide a focus for ongoing discussions and consultations leading to our Province Chapter which will be held July 10th-14th. Our Provincial Council will meet next week.

Jerome (and the lift)



Jerome was in the wars a week ago with a number of issues a couple of which meant walking was extremely painful. He was at the doctor when the 'lift people' remotely shut down the lift. He crawled up the stairs on his hands and knees. You can't stop a man who has spent 42 years working in the wilds of PNG! With the help of medication he is now managing much better. We don't know how long it will be before the lift is repaired.

Paul Kien CP



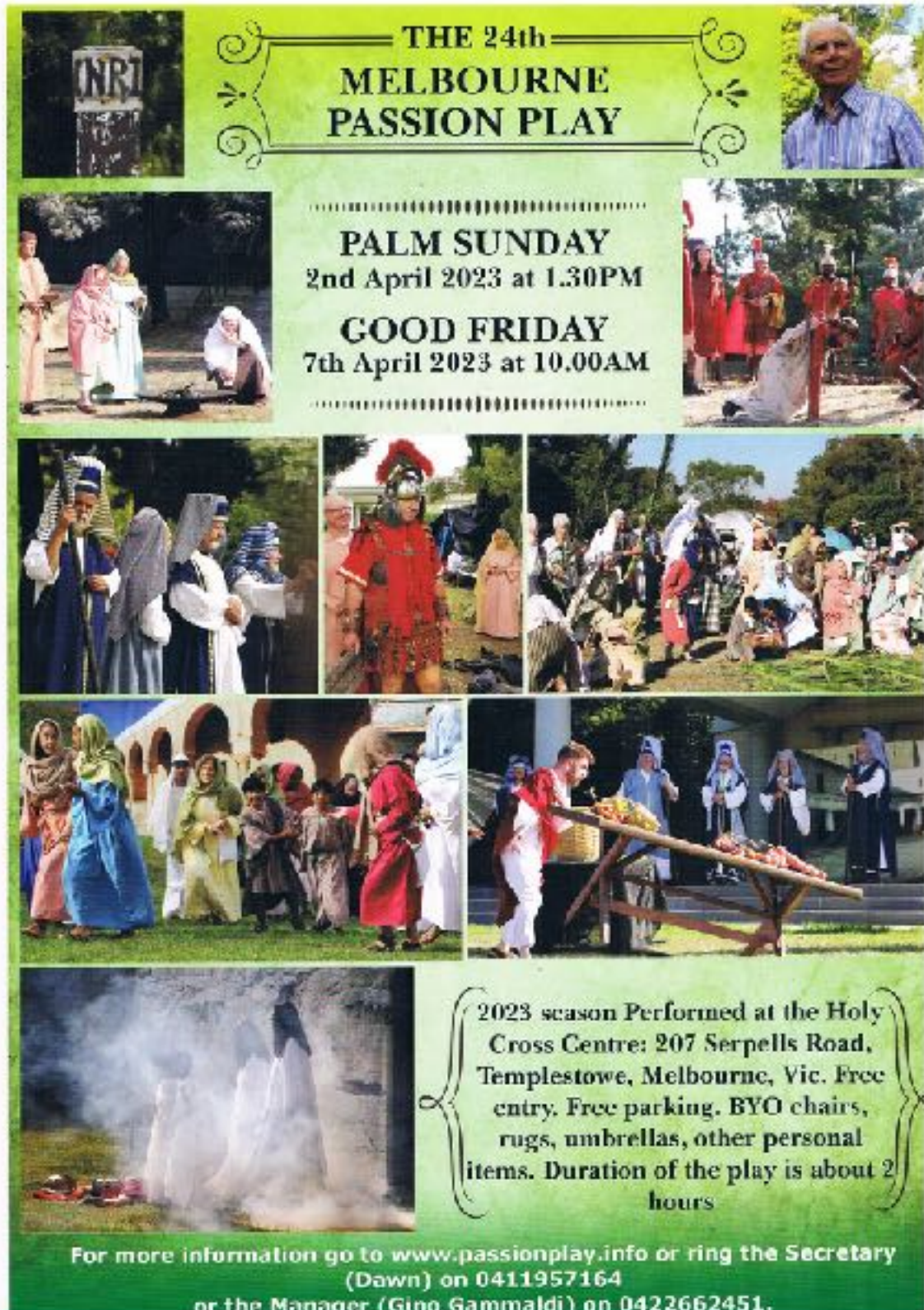
Paul was here for just over a month to study for and undertake an IELTS exam. This is necessary for the visa he needs to work (minister) in Australia. He arrived a day or so after Tony Simbel completed the same task and he did very well in his exam securing an overall mark of 6. Paul has now returned to Marrickville where he will take up duties assisting in St Brigid's parish. Down the track we hope he will undertake further studies. He has a strong interest in moral philosophy.

General

There is little to report this week about local activities. The Centre has been quiet since last Saturday afternoon. The YTU students have settled into their routine which means Monday to Thursday some or several are not home for the evening meal. The postulants are continuing their English language studies and JD and Phi are continuing driving lessons with Peter Norman and Joe Senso.

Congratulations to **Angela and Joe Senzo** who are celebrating 35 years of marriage.

The Passion play participants have been rehearsing on Sundays (see next page) and that includes Erick and some of the students.



THE 24th
MELBOURNE
PASSION PLAY

PALM SUNDAY
2nd April 2023 at 1.30PM

GOOD FRIDAY
7th April 2023 at 10.00AM

2023 season Performed at the Holy Cross Centre: 207 Serpells Road, Templestowe, Melbourne, Vic. Free entry. Free parking. BYO chairs, rugs, umbrellas, other personal items. Duration of the play is about 2 hours

For more information go to www.passionplay.info or ring the Secretary (Dawn) on 0411957164 or the Manager (Gino Gammaldi) on 0422662451.

Please let the details of this event be widely known

Pope Francis



The 10th anniversary of Pope Francis pontificate is approaching (March 13th). Here are some quotes from those years.

1. "The Eucharist is "not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak."

2. A teenage boy told the pope that he was trying hard to believe in God and be faithful, but that he often struggled with doubt. "What can you say to help me and others like me?" he asked the pope.

The life of faith is a journey, Francis answered. *"Journeying is an art because if we're always in a hurry, we get tired and don't arrive at our journey's goal," he said. "If we stop, we don't go forward and we also miss the goal. Journeying is precisely the art of looking toward the horizon, thinking where I want to go but also enduring the fatigue of the journey, which is sometimes difficult. ... There are dark days, even days when we fail, even days when we fall ... but always think of this: Don't be afraid of failures. Don't be afraid of falling. What matters in the art of journeying isn't not falling but not staying down. Get up right away and continue going forward. This is what's beautiful: This is working every day, this is journeying as humans. But also, it's bad walking alone: It's bad and boring. Walking in community, with friends, with those who love us, that helps us. It helps us to arrive precisely at that goal, that 'there where' we're supposed to arrive."*

3. "Depicting the Pope to be a sort of superman, a type of star, seems offensive to me. The Pope is a man who laughs, cries, sleeps calmly and has friends like everyone. A normal person".

4. "Unless we train ministers capable of warming people's hearts, of walking with them in the night, of dialoguing with their hopes and disappointments, of mending their brokenness, what hope can we have for our present and future journey?"

5. "Without mercy we have little chance nowadays of becoming part of a world of 'wounded' persons in need of understanding, forgiveness, love."

6. "The church should be a home for all and not a small chapel focused on doctrine, orthodoxy and a limited agenda of moral teachings".

7. "All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

8. "I want to tell you something. I want a mess. I want trouble in the dioceses. I want to see the church get closer to the people. I want to get rid of clericalism, the mundane, this closing ourselves off within ourselves, in our parishes, schools or structures. Because these need to get out!"

9. "The church is not a museum of saint but a hospital of sinners"

10. "Perfect families do not exist. This must not discourage us. Quite the opposite. Love is something we learn; love is something we live; love grows as it is 'forged' by the concrete situations which each particular family experiences. Love is born and constantly develops amid lights and shadows. Love can flourish in men and women who try not to make conflict the last word, but rather a new opportunity. We know that mistakes, problems and conflicts are an opportunity to draw closer to others, to draw closer to God."

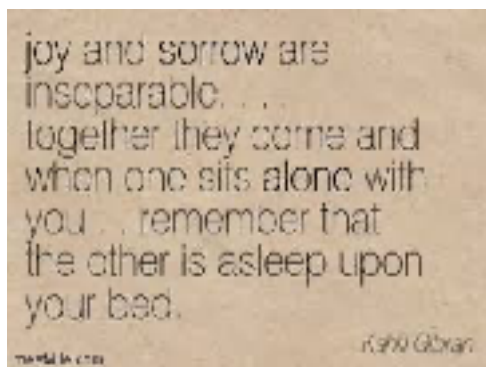
A joke Francis likes to tell is:

Q. "What is the most difficult language to speak in heaven?"

A. Hungarian. It takes an eternity to learn!

Life's Harmonies

Let no one pray that they know not sorrow,
Let no soul ask to be free from pain,
For the gall of to-day is the sweet of to-morrow,
And the moment's loss is the lifetime's gain.



Through want of a thing does its worth redouble,
Through hunger's pangs does the feast content,
And only the heart that has harbored trouble,
Can fully rejoice when joy is sent.

Let no one shrink from the bitter tonics
Of grief, and yearning, and need, and strife,
For the rarest chords in the soul's harmonies.
Are found in the minor strains of life.

Poems of Power by Ella

Wheeler Wilcox
Chicago : W. B. Conkey, 1902.

WHAT A MOANER



I first met him shearing sheep in outback Queensland. He was fleecing a four-year old sheep. I said “Giddy mate; how would you be?”

He didn’t answer immediately. He waited ‘til he’d finished shearing that sheep. Then he dropped the sheep which darted off, spat on the ground and looked at me fiercely. “How would I be? How would I be? How would you expect me to be?”

“Have a look mate. I’m covered in flies and sweat, swallowing dirt with every breath I take; shearing sheep what should have been done a year ago, with shears that are blunt, working for the lousiest t meanest guy in Australia, but my wife insists we stay up here in all this heat and hard work. How would I be> He snorted – How do you think I would I be!

The next time I saw him was in Sydney. He’d just joined the Air Force. He was struggling to get his belt on and nearly exploding with frustration. “How would you be”, I asked? He almost choked. “How would I be? Take a look mate! Get a load of this stupid outfit they gave me. Me hat is size 9.5 and I take 7. The shoes too are the wrong size, and rub at the back. Take a look at the trousers – you could hide a brewery horse in the seat of them with still room for me. And get a look at the shirt; the buttons are too big for the holes. How would I be? How do you think I’d be?”



I next saw him we were both on the edge of a battlefield. He was now in the army and he seated on an upturned box with a helmet over one eye and a cigarette hanging from his bottom lip. A rifle was hanging against his knee and he was trying to clean his nails with the blade of his bayonet. I should have known better, but I called out, “How would you be?” He nearly swallowed his cigarette and looked at me with a tone of anger. “How would I be? How would I be? How would you expect me to be. Six bloody months in this place being shot at; eating sand with every meal; flies in my hair and eyes; frightened to sleep; expecting to die any minute – and that’s the best part of it. How would I be? How would you expect I would be?”

I next saw him in Paradise. I couldn't help but ask him "How would you be?"
Typically he replied, "How would I be?"



Get a look at this gown. It's the wrong size and shape and an awful colour – I've seen too much kahiki! I trip over it twenty times a day and have to lift it up to scratch my shin. Look at my right wing. There are feathers missing. Is that the best they could do? It looks like I'm moulting. And get a look at this halo. It's only my ears that keep it from falling off, and it's got dents in it. How would I be? Look at this harp? Four strings are missing. And I'm supposed to play in the orchestra in five minutes.

How would I be? How would you expect me to be?

Lesson: No one enjoys a moaner!

Last week's riddles

1. A murderer had to choose between three rooms: one full of raging fires, another was full of assassins with loaded guns, and the third was full of lions that hadn't eaten in 3 years. The safest room? How would those lions have survived?
2. A woman shot her husband, then held him under water for over 5 minutes and she hung him. Then they both went out to dinner. How? She took and developed a photo
3. The paragraph? The letter 'e' did not appear even once. I
4. Q. What can run but not walk? A. A river
5. The more you take, the more you leave behind? A. Footsteps
6. David's father has three sons, Snap, Crackle and _____? David!

More riddles

1. What can you put in a bucket to make it weigh less?
2. A cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed for three nights and rose out on Friday. How did he do it?
3. I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I?
4. If 2 and 3 is company, what is 3 & 4?

5. Joe buys 10 tomatoes at Coles. Unfortunately on the way home, all but one of them is ruined. How many tomatoes are left in good condition?

Humour

1. "Don't worry" a patient told his psychiatrist, I will repay you every cent or my name is not Alexander the Great".

2. A psychiatrist was interviewing a first time patient. "You say you are here because your family is worried about your taste in socks?"

The man replied, "Yes. I like woolen socks".

"That's perfectly normal" the doctor replied. Many people prefer wool socks to cotton socks or acrylic. In fact I like wool socks myself".

"Really", the man replied, "with oil and vinegar or just a touch of lemon?"

3. Bill completed a course of analysis and commented,

"I always thought I was indecisive". His friend asked "And now?"

Bill answered, "Now I'm not so sure"

4. The doctor asked "Why can't you sleep, Matt?"

"Because I am always trying to solve all the world's problems" Matt answered

"Do you ever solve them?" the doctor asked.

"Almost every time", Matt replied

"So why can't you sleep?" that doctor asked

"The celebration parties keep me awake for hours" he answered

5. Three women were boasting about their sons.

Mary said, "My son held a wonderful party for me last year. He paid for everything including all the friends I wanted to invite".

Tricia said, "Last January my son gave me a first class all expenses ticket to tour the Greek Islands".

Betty said, My son has been seeing a psychiatrist three days a week for five years and he says all he ever talks about is me!"



"I don't mind talking with a telemarketer. But I'm a psychiatrist, so talking to me will cost you \$150 an hour!"



"Ever since my girlfriend moved to Alaska, she seems cold and distant."



"I get in touch with my inner child. He keeps asking me for money."



"Put my best foot forward? That's easy for you to say!"



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"You lost your job, you wrecked your car, the bank took your house and your wife left you. But you can't let one bad day ruin your whole week!"

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



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Danscartoons.com



"When did you stop believing in yourself?" "Visualize yourself not falling off the wall."

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"I mean, sure, instead of an ugly duckling I grew up to be a beautiful swan, but it still hurts."



"If your life happened to someone else, you'd think it was hilarious."

It has been suggested that a psychotic builds castles in the air, a neurotic lives in them, and the psychiatrist collects the rent!

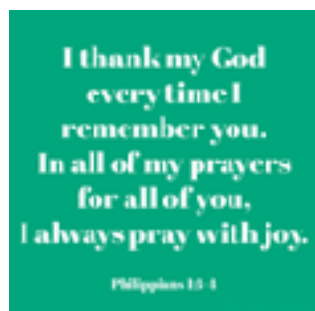
Thanks

Wednesday was International Women's Day. It is a perfect occasion to pause and give thanks to the wonderful women who have shaped or shared our lives and given of themselves so generously.

It is very sad to see and read that domestic violence against women is so prevalent as is the denigrating of women because they may look less perfect than a false model. It is time for women to be loved and accepted for who they are and how they are, so that they can be themselves. The saints of this generation are all around us, and I think most of them are women!

Prayers

We pray for Mary Cahill, mother of John, who passed away on Sunday morning..



We pray for our Passionist brothers who are unwell, especially Peter Gaughan CP and Brian Gleeson CP.

We also remember those in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially Pam Storey (recovering), Edward Atme (recovering), Michael Doyle, Maree Bartoli, George Clarke, Bronwyn Burke, Carol Battistella, Gerald & Margaret Wright, Joan and Michael O'Callaghan, Ted Hallam, Maeve Reardon, John Lazzari, Cathy Petrocco's sister, Marissa, Dominic Isgro,

Lynda Chin,

Gerry Bond, Alexander Lim, Des Grisell, Peter Owen, Helen McLean, Greg Agosta, Errol Lovett, Peter DeMarzi, Chris O'Toole, Angelo Vigilante, Pam Gartland, Paul Darbyshire, Jim Monaghan, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Peter McNamara, Marg Casey, Mary Hackett, Patricia Keeghan, Anne Jenkins, Mary and Kate Dunn.

With regards to the names of those above and many others who could be added, during his recent visit to South Sudan, Pope Francis said, " Look into the eyes of your brother or sister that is suffering and remember the words of the Good Samaritan (to the innkeeper): "Look after him!"

In that face it is Jesus who is looking back at you. There are many illnesses and much suffering in our world -- and not only of the physical sort. How many of us try to face them alone or only with our most intimate loved ones or particular tribe, clique or co-religionists? How many of us are afraid of being vulnerable to others, forgetting that "we are all in the same boat" and that "if one of us suffers we all suffer"

The **Mass link** will be sent on Saturday, by Chris.

Brian