

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 161

17th March, 2023

Greetings,



A man wanting to irritate an Irishman said, “Did you know that St Patrick was in fact and Englishman?”

“Is that so”, the Irishman responded calmly.

Not satisfied, another man continued, “Did you know St Patrick was an idiot?”

“Ah yes, your mate was just telling me that!”

St Paddy’s day is a special day. Patrick (Maewyn Succat) lived during the fifth century, and is the patron saint of Ireland. He was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at age sixteen. He escaped, but freely returned to Ireland as a priest and is credited with bringing Christianity to its people. Interestingly he was never formally canonised!

DJ

Following an earlier episode three weeks ago, DJ’s father (Joseph) has suffered another brain haemorrhage and stroke, with paralysis down his left side. He was put in induced coma from which he is now alert. DJ was very eager to see his Dad in case this episode was fatal, so he returned home on Monday afternoon. We will keep the family in our prayers.

Easter

Looking ahead, these are the dates and times for liturgical events

Palm Sunday (2nd April): **Passion Play** 1.30pm

Holy Thursday: (6th April): **Mass:** 7.30pm

Good Friday: (7th April): **Passion Play** 10.00am

Commemoration of the Passion: 3.00pm

Easter Sunday: (9th April): **Dawn Mass:** 6.00am

Sunday Mass: 10.00am

Note: **The Passion Play** will take place on the oval

The Friday afternoon liturgy will take place outside ‘among the trees’ if the weather permits.

The Samaritan woman



Last Monday a woman asked me a couple of questions about Sunday's gospel story of the Samaritan woman, so I thought I would share some of what I shared with her. The conversation between Jesus and the woman is the longest conversation recorded in the gospel, but we are never told the woman's name! A little history can

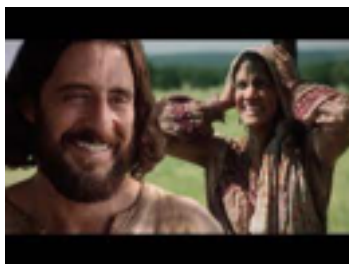
help us appreciate why this exchange between Jesus and the Samaritan woman was so amazing. Jacob's well outside the city of Sychar, where this event occurred, is in the district of Samaria, half way between Galilee in the north and Jerusalem in the south. It is about 50 kilometres from Jerusalem.



In 722BC, the Assyrian army attacked the Northern kingdom of Israel and deported many of the people from Samaria. They brought to Samaria, pagan peoples from different countries. In time, most of the Jewish people who remained, inter-married with the people from foreign nations. By doing this, they lost their racial purity and other Jews considered this the worst possible sin, so they treated Samaritans as outcasts.

In 596BC the southern kingdom was attacked, the temple was destroyed and many people were deported to Babylon. When they were allowed to return to Jerusalem the people set about rebuilding the temple. Some loyal Jewish Samaritans offered to help with the rebuilding, but their help was refused. As a result of this rejection, the Jewish Samaritans set up their own Temple at Mount Gerizim, already a revered Jewish site, overlooking Sychar and Jacob's well.

It was unusual for a woman to come to a well in the middle of the day. Women would normally come when it was cooler – in the morning or late afternoon. For Jesus, it



was very helpful she was there because, as she pointed out the well was (40 metres) deep and he had no rope or bucket. As soon as he requested a drink, the woman expressed surprise that he, a Jew, would be asking a Samaritan for a drink. It was taboo for a Jewish man to speak with a woman in public and even more he was suggesting that they might share water from the same bucket! Jesus' disciples were amazed to see him speaking

with this woman. Perhaps sometimes we too are surprised at how Jesus acted, and yet he calls us to follow him and to imitate him. Are we prepared to put compassion before some laws as he clearly did? '

So often, as Catholics we can think that the most important thing for us to do is to be faithful to all the Church rules and to live our lives of faith with safety and certainty. But we are followers of Jesus, and he was not like that, as this story shows us so clearly. But wait...there is more!



As the dialogue between them continued, the woman admitted that she has been married five times and that she was living with a man who was not her husband! Some Catholics would say that Jesus should have stopped the conversation then because he was talking with a 'serious' sinner. But we do not know the woman's circumstances. A woman at that time could not initiate divorce except in extremely rare circumstances. Maybe some or all of her husbands died. She may have been forced to marry the brothers of her first husband. She may well have been living with this (sixth) man for financial survival.

What we do know is that Jesus was not interested in probing these details. He did not refer to her as a sinner and did not tell her to 'go and sin no more', like he did with the woman caught in adultery. This woman was a faith seeker. She was the first person to whom Jesus revealed he was the Messiah! She was uplifted by talking with Jesus, and he was uplifted by talking with her. Although she did not fully understand what living water he was offering, she knew she wanted what he was offering!



Returning to the matter of the average Catholic, how would many Catholics hear Jesus' words if we paralleled them to issues we face today, such as our children not attending Mass on Sunday or communities that have no priest for Mass on Sundays or people living with one another but not married. Do we know what is important – what is of the heart and spirit? Do we have Jesus' freedom of spirit?



An amazing part of this story is that the woman left her bucket at the well and went into town and called the people there to come and listen to Jesus. The people did come and they asked Jesus to stay, which he did, for two days. That Samaritans actually had him stay with them would have been astounding!

This woman who was an outsider because she was a woman, a double outsider because she was a Samaritan, a triple outsider because she had five husbands and was living with another man, became a missionary, and led her townspeople to Jesus. This encounter is one of the most profound and beautiful stories in the gospel. Imagine if that opportunity had been missed?

This woman should not only inspire us, but open our hearts and minds to recognise that Jesus looks past externals to the heart, and so should we.



Some Vatican cardinals today who have little pastoral experience, complain that Pope Francis is providing opportunities for some people, in some circumstances, to receive communion. What would Jesus be teaching? What does this story tell you about pastoral openness and care for those who are seekers and strugglers.

Is that not every one of us?

Cardinal McElroy



In a similar spirit to what the encounter with the Samaritan woman might call us to, Cardinal McElroy, bishop of San Diego, wrote an article in January on inclusion in the Church. Because he received some fierce criticism accusing him of heresy and some strong support, he wrote again to address some of the criticisms. You can read this response here.

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2023/03/02/mcelroy-eucharist-sin-inclusion-response-244827>

Date claimer (2.00-3.30pm April 26th)



There are many ways in which Passionist spirituality is lived. Professed life (male and female) is one way. In our Province we have a semi-formal association known as Passionist Companions. One of these groups exists at Holy Cross. The San Gabriele Committee is another form of association, based around Passionist saint, Gabriel Possenti. Most people prefer an informal association that enables them to reflecting on the attraction they find in Passionist spirituality, which can provide a lens for them to assist the and supporte local community in practical ways, or more simply enjoy being a part of the regular worshipping community at Holy Cross.

The Passionist Companions have asked Tim Horlock if he would share with them (and anyone else who would like to participate), how the Passionist charism influences his work (or ministry) and the way he goes about it. As a former Passionist religious and priest and now a funeral director and celebrant, Tim's story will be of interest to many people. You are welcome to attend and stay for afternoon tea (please bring something small to share). In order to ensure we have a room with sufficient space, could you please email Lynn Hale if you wish to attend at: linlynhale@hotmail.com

Pope Francis



The 10th anniversary of Pope Francis pontificate occurred on March 13th.

1. "Some homeless people who die of cold on the streets is not news. In contrast, a ten point drop on the stock markets of some cities, is a tragedy. In this way people are disposed of, as if they were trash"

2. As Archbishop, Francis said to his priests, "In our region there are priests who don't baptize the children of single mothers because they weren't conceived in the sanctity of marriage, These are today's hypocrites. Those who clericalise the Church. Those who separate the people of God from salvation. And a poor girl who, rather than returning the child to sender, had the courage to carry it into the world, must wander from parish to parish so that the child is baptised!"

3. 'A Vatican-centric view neglects the world around us. I do not share this view and I'll do everything I can to change it. The people of God want pastors, not clergy acting like bureaucrats or government officials"

4. "A person once asked me, in a provocative manner, if I approved of homosexuality. I replied with another question: 'Tell me: when God looks at a gay person, does he endorse the existence of this person with love, or reject and condemn this person?' We must always consider the person. If a man is gay and he searches for the Lord and he has good will, who am I to judge?"

5. "The church's pastoral ministry cannot be obsessed with the transmission of a disjointed multitude of doctrines to be imposed insistently. The church should be a "home for all" and not a "small chapel" focused on doctrine, orthodoxy and a limited agenda of moral teachings".

6. “The thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and to ask about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds!”

7. “The Church is not a tollhouse; it is the Father’s house where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems”

8. “Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak. Frequently, we act as arbiters of grace rather than its facilitators.”

9. “We need a church capable of rediscovering the maternal womb of mercy. Without mercy we have little chance nowadays of becoming part of a world of 'wounded' persons in need of understanding, forgiveness, love. This church with which we should be thinking is the home of all, not a small chapel that can hold only a small group of selected people.”

10. “When religious people are too serious, something is not right There is no sadness in holiness. If you find a seminarian, priest, nun, with a long, sad face, if it seems as if in their life, someone threw a wet blanket over them, you should conclude "it's a psychiatric problem, they can go, 'buenos dias (good day!)!"

Provincial Council

Our five-member Council has been meeting since Wednesday this week, at Holy Cross. One of the main matters for attention now is guiding the process for the Provincial Chapter which will be held in July (10th-14th). Now that the three Assemblies have been held, the elected delegates to the Chapter need to be given opportunities to shape the agenda for that important meeting, by reflecting on issues that have been raised and listening to advice from members of the Passionist Family. This is the second last scheduled face-to-face meeting of this Council, which has had a challenging time over the last four years, because of COVID-19.

Safeguarding



In order to respond to ever-increasing demands for ways to ensure children and vulnerable adults are safe, community members and visitors are wearing ID 's with a lanyard when such people are on the premises. If you are asked to do this, it would be only on rare occasions, but we would appreciate your compliance. Thank you.

William Harvey and Davidson



William Harley and Arthur Davidson sold their first motorcycle in 1903. Walter and William Davidson had joined them by 1907 when Harley-Davidson was officially incorporated. Walter Davidson was the first president. Arthur Davidson was the first general sales manager and the secretary, and William Davidson was the first works manager. William Harley, became chief engineer and treasurer.

Since the original idea for the motorcycle came from William Harley, the Davidson brothers thought it was most fair to have his name first. As sales manager Arthur Davidson saw opportunity wherever he looked. By 1914 he had the US Postal Service using 4,800 bikes to deliver mail. Soon, the military was using Harley® motorcycles as well. By the 1950s, police departments nationwide were also using a Harley-Davidson® motorcycle.



Many motorcycle police would use boots, breeches, and saddlebags, which achieved a "Wild West" look which captured the imagination of young boys and the general public. Seeing a further opportunity, Walter Davidson started marketing the Harley-Davidson® brand using clothing and accessories. By 1920 Harley-Davidson was the largest motorcycle manufacturer in the world, with 28,189 machines produced and dealers in 67 countries

I was sent the photo of Harley and Davidson and it got me wondering what did they have to do with the famous bikes. So now I know, and if you didn't, so do you!

Spelling

Maybe you think you are a good speller. If someone asked you to spell 'speller' backwards, how long would it take you? What about delicatessen or deluded? Have a look at how some kids can do this easily.

https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/watch-genius-kids-spell-words-backwards-in-a-flash_uk_5c7e995fe4b06e0d4c2481a6

The Years 7-8 2022 national champion of the Prime Minister's Spelling Bee, Zachary Cheng, ticked off 30 words including astrakhan and psephology to score 28/30 in 1min 39s. For the record, astrakhan is the black or grey curly fur from the skins of lambs and psephology is the study of how people vote in elections!

Last week's riddles

1. What can you put in a bucket to make it weigh less? A. A hole
2. A cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed for three nights and rose out on Friday. How did he do it? A. His horse was named Friday
3. I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I? A. Seven (Remove the 'S')
4. If 2 and 3 is company, what is 3 & 4? A crowd
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? 9

More riddles

1. Q: Pronounced as 1 letter, And written with 3, 2 letters there are, and 2 only in me. I'm double, I'm single, I'm black blue, and gray, I'm read from both ends, and the same either way. What am I?
2. Q: Forward, I am heavy; backward, I am not. What am I?
3. Q. What has hands but cannot clap
4. Q: Who makes it, has no need of it. Who buys it, has no use for it. Who uses it can neither see nor feel it. What is it?
5. Q: They come out at night without being called, and are lost in the day without being stolen. What are they?

Humour

1. I never thought orthopaedic shoes would really work for me. But I stand corrected.
2. I wrote a book on how to fall down the stairs. It's a step by step guide.
3. My son was chewing on electric cords, so I had to ground him. it's ok though, he's doing better and conducting himself properly.
4. My friend claims that he accidentally glued himself to his autobiography, but I don't believe him. But that his story and he's sticking to it.
5. An armed man ran into a real estate and shouted. Nobody move.....
6. I asked the surgeon if I could administer my own anaesthetic. He said, sure. Go ahead! Knock yourself out!

7. I got into a fight today with 1,3,5,7 and 9. The odds were really against me.
8. Hello. Welcome to our psychiatric hotline.
 If you are obsessive-compulsive, press 1 repeatedly
 If you are co-dependent, ask someone to press 2
 If you have multiple personalities, press 3,4, 5 and 6
 If you are paranoid-delusional, we know who you are and what you want. Stay on the line and we'll trace your call
 If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and a soft voice will tell you the number to press
 If you are bi-polar, it doesn't matter what number you press. No one will answer
9. During WW2, Frank received his draft papers and told to report for a medical examination. Pretending to have bad eyesight, when told to read the eye-chart, he said, "which chart?" When the physician held up a broom handle and said :what is this?' Fred replied "a pencil". He was declared unsuitable for the army.
 That evening Fred went to see a movie, but when the lights came up he was horrified to see the optician sitting next to him. Leaning towards him, Fred asked, "Does this bus stop at Richmond?"
- 1 A self-opinionated golfer was preparing to tee off. He said "This calls for a good drive and a putt". After the swing, the ball moved only a few centimetres off the tee". His diplomatic caddy whispered, "Now for one hell of a putt!"



Prayers

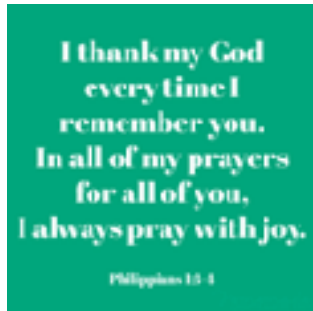


On Wednesday our New Zealand born brother, Peter Gaughan died peacefully at

7.30pm while Kevin Dance and Ron Davoren were praying with him.

On Monday when Fr Tom visited Peter shared how excited he was that he would soon see the Lord and fully understand what he had been looking forward to, in hope, these past 84 years. Peter lifted his glass to say goodbye as Tom left (see the photo).

I will share a story next week about Peter.



We pray with Peter and for [Brian Gleeson CP](#) who this week moved into Calvary Viewhills Manor in Endeavour Hills.

We pray for [Nick and Leah Darbyshire](#) who were so looking forward to the birth of their child here in Melbourne, but sadly their little boy was on Monday. Nick's parents are Paul and Linda Darbyshire, known to so many (March 26th) people.

We remember those celebrating anniversaries, especially [Margaret Excell](#) (today) [Richard Wall](#) (March 20th) [Matt Walsh](#) (March 22nd), [Winifred Burkett](#) (March 23rd) [Mary-Ellen Boulton](#) (March 24th) and [Peter Robson](#).

We also remember those in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially Pam Storey, Carol Battistella and Edward Atme who have recently undergone surgery. We also remember Maree Bartoli, Michael Doyle, Bronwyn Burke, Gerald & Margaret Wright, Joan and Michael O'Callaghan, Lynda Chin, Gerry Bond, Alexander Lim, Ted Hallam, Cathy Petrocco's sister, Marissa, Maeve Reardon, John Lazzari, Paul Darbyshire, Des Grisell, Peter Owen, Helen McLean, Greg Agosta, Errol Lovett, Peter DeMarzi, Chris O'Toole, Angelo Vigilante, Pam Gartland, Jim Monaghan, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Peter McNamara, Marg Casey, Mary Hackett, Patricia Keeghan, Anne Jenkins, Mary and Kate Dunn.

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

Brian