

## Holy Cross Retreat

### Letter 167



28th April, 2023

Greetings,

This week has been quieter – although the mower was taken away for repairs again there no major plumbing work needed, no cold room break down, the lift is working again and the sun shone.

Our students have continued their studies but are still processing Toan's sudden death. As mentioned last Sunday, we greatly appreciated the many comforting messages we received.

Erick returned from his retreat and will be 'on deck' this Sunday.



On Sunday May 6th, the PFGM celebrates 50 years since Passionist Family Groups began in St Anthony of the Field's parish, Terrey Hills. The Movement became one of the most significant ministries in which professed and lay Passionists shared significant leadership roles. The first 'Family Groups' were such a convincing model of community that despite being a small parish, 26 groups formed in Terrey Hills parish.

Groups included people of different ages, cultures and very often a spouse of different faith, who all found a very practical way of living the gospel – not through discussion but through practical care and support of one another. Interestingly, many people in the groups became involved in parish Committees or groups and wanted more understanding of the new level of faith they were living.

The logo that developed captures what a PFG is. It is based on the Passionist sign, except that the cross on the sign is placed on top of the heart to demonstrate that this is the greatest sign we have of God's love. In the PFG logo the cross is Inside the heart along with is a 'cross'-section of people to demonstrate that we carry each other's crosses. The heart encloses the people, highlighting that the



Movement is about love. The motto 'A Family For All' says it all.



It helped to have a dynamic leader and Peter McGrath CP was such a person. Having discovered a way to help people get to know each other and extend fellowship to others, Peter built an incredibly strong sense of connection within the Terrey Hills parish, building on faith formation sessions that allowed people to see the practical way they could live gospel values by creating extended fellowship.

It was nine years before another parish asked and was helped to establish Family Groups in their parish. A trickle more parishes followed and from 1985 there was rapid expansion for a decade followed by continued expansion, involving tens of thousands of people. All of that required oversight and structure to ensure the aims and goals were highlighted and that leadership of groups was seen as a genuine pastoral ministry.

Peter McGrath and his team began to cover many miles in the ensuing years. The photo here shows Peter at the front and behind him to the left his understated co-founder, Mary Ingham



By 1990 the first lay Directors of an area were appointed replacing professed men, and this trend continued until all regions were served by lay Passionists. It was a good model for church leadership. Tina Minchilli from Holy Cross is the current National Coordinator for Australia and Paul Traynor is the National Coordinator for New Zealand.



We have not introduced Passionist Family Groups specifically at Holy Cross, because Templestowe parish has PFG's and quite a number of the Holy Cross community belong to the parish PFG's. Cathy Hardinge is the parish coordinator. There are also people who attend Holy Cross regularly, who belong to a PFG in another parish. Anyone is welcome to join. This was the invitation Jesus

offered – the kingdom was open to everyone. If he was preaching among us today he might say, “The kingdom of God is like a Family for All!

I will attend the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration next week in Sydney along with Tina and Paul. Tim Horlock will also attend. Tim was involved in establishing and supporting PFG’s for

many years across Brisbane, Northern NSW, Victoria and New Zealand. In June I will attend the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first two New Zealand parishes to introduce the Movement in June 1988.

Because PFG’s have been so significant in our Province I will share over a few issues something of the spirituality behind PFG’s and a brief profile of the history.

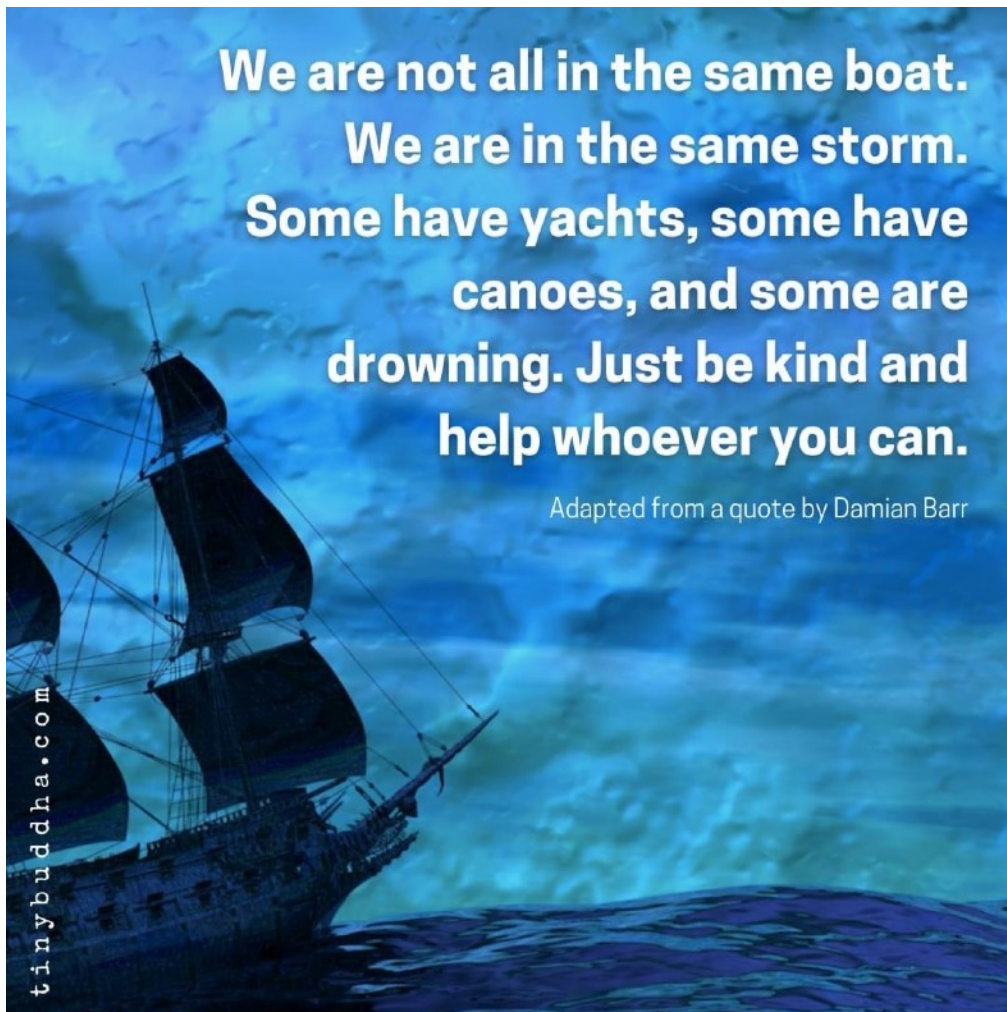
### Let's connect 2023

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Sunday **May 7<sup>th</sup>** – Terrey Hills, Sydney.

35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Saturday **June 10** Paeroa 6pm St Mary’s Church Paeroa – Potluck dinner to follow.

Saturday **June 17** East Coast Bays. St John’s Church 5pm followed by Potluck dinner.





## Humour



A smart looking man walked into offices of private bankers Coutts & Co in the Strand, London (Bankers to the Royal Family since 1820) and asked to speak to the Manager. He informed him that he was going abroad on business for two weeks and needed to borrow 5000 pounds. The Manager told him that Coutts & Co would meet his requirements but since he was not a client of the Bank, they would need some modest security for the loan. So the man took out the keys and documents of a brand new Ferrari parked in the front of the bank and handed them to the manager. He also produced the car's log book and after a phone call everything checked out fine. The Manager accepted the car as collateral for the loan; the cashier handed over 5000 pound while the bank's porter drove the Ferrari into the bank's underground garage for safekeeping.



Over lunch the Manager told his colleagues the amusing

little story of how this naive man secured a loan for 5000 pound offering a 120,000 Ferrari as collateral. They all enjoyed a good laugh. Two weeks later, the man returned, He repaid the 5000 pound. The Manager says 'Sir, we have been more than happy to have had your business and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are just a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are in fact a wealthy property investor. What puzzles us is why would you bother to borrow 5000 pound from us?'

The man replied: Where else in London can I park my Ferrari for two weeks for free and expect it to be still there when I return?'

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A blonde, a brunette and a redhead all died. To get into heaven though, they had to go up 100 steps, each containing a joke. The trick was that they must not laugh.

The brunette went first and laughed at the first step and was sent to hell. The redhead went next and made it to the seventh step before she laughed. Finally, it was the blonde's turn. She got all the way to the 99th step before she laughed.

God asked her, "You were so close, why did you laugh?" and she responded, "I just got the first joke!" (Apologies to the blondes)



## MEDICARE "PLAN G" - Nursing Home Plan

Say you are an older senior citizen and can no longer take care of yourself and the government says there is no Nursing Home care available for you.

So, what do you do? You opt for "Medicare Plan G".

The plan gives anyone 75 or older a gun (Plan G) and one bullet. You are allowed to shoot one worthless politician. This means you will be sent to prison for the rest of your life where you'll receive three meals a day, a roof over your head, central heating and air conditioning, cable TV, a library, and all the Health Care you need.

Need new teeth? No problem. Need glasses? That's great. Need a hearing aid, new hip, knees, kidney, lungs, sex change, or heart? They are all covered!

As an added bonus, your kids can come and visit you at least as often as they do now! Who will be paying for all of this? The same government that just told you they can't afford for you to go into a nursing home.

As an added bonus you will get rid of a useless politician while you are at it.

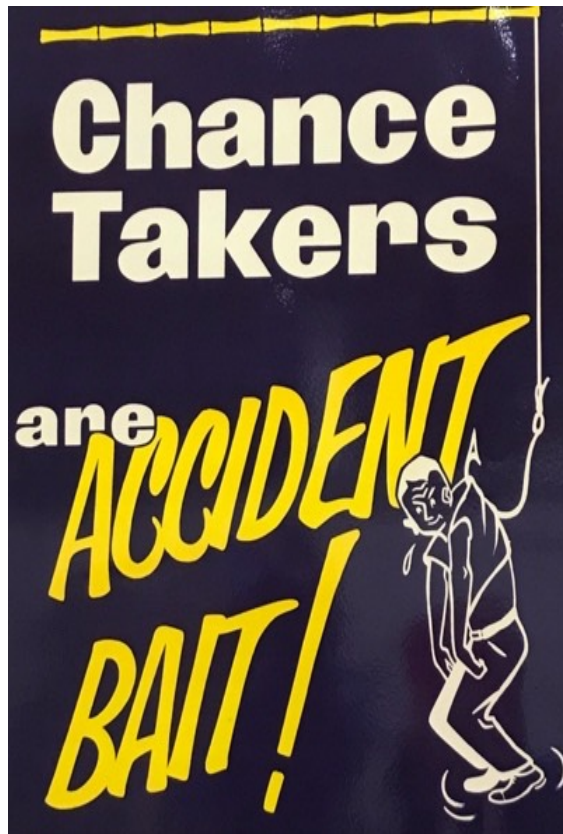
Now, because you are a prisoner, you don't have to pay any more income taxes!

Is this a great country or what?

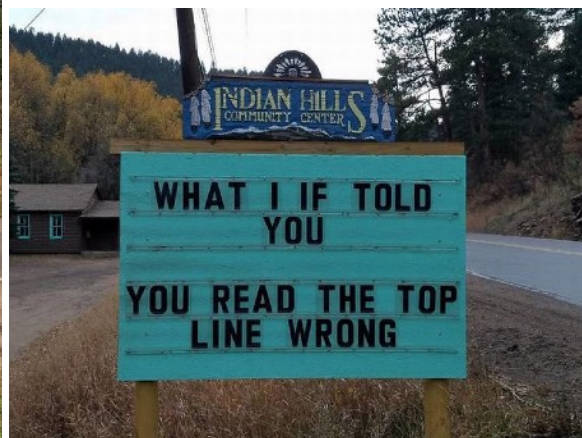
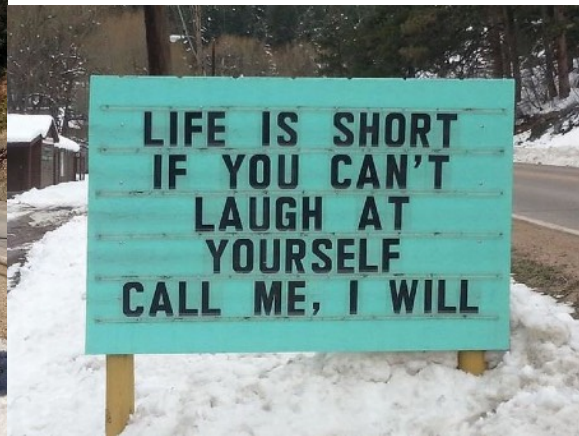
Now that I've solved your senior financial plan, enjoy the rest of your week!

## Alternate meanings for words

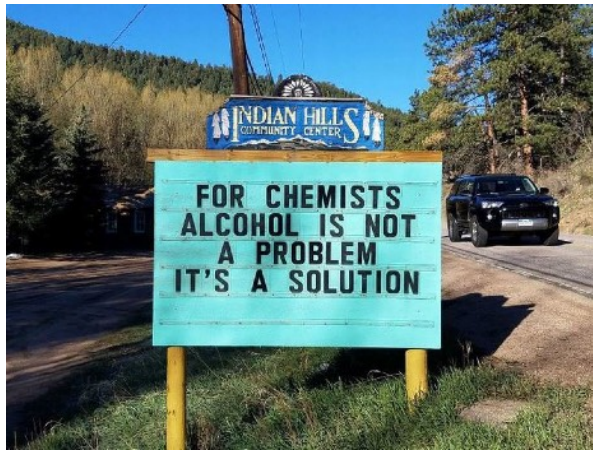
- Alaska - Consult my girlfriend
- Barbecue - A long line of dolls
- Buoyant - An ant which isn't a girl
- Delight - Make things go darker
- Gelatine - Device for beheading jelly babies
- Granary - Old folks' home
- Impeccable - Bird proof
- Intense - Camping
- Khaki - Device for starting a car











A man came to see his family doctor. The man told his doctor that he wasn't able to do all the things around the house that he used to do. When the examination was complete, he said:

"Now, Doc, I can take it. Tell me in plain English what is wrong with me."

"Well, in plain English," the doctor replied, "you're just lazy."

"Okay," said the man. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife."

### **Tina**

**Tina** Minchilli celebrates her birthday on Sunday. Get the vocal chords ready!

### **Tim**

On Wednesday, **Tim** shared his wonderful story of his life with many twists and turns, searching, discovering, love, ministry and the ever abiding Passionist charism through it all and an early childhood experience of his grandma that taught him not to fear death and has marked his ministry of those who have died for the past 23 years.

### **Phi**

A friend of **Phi's** (Chi) was due to fly to Melbourne today and she was going to stay the weekend in the Tavern. On Thursday morning she had a bad motorbike accident. She broke her leg in five places and is having that operated on today. She has severe facial lacerations and swelling of her brain. We will keep her in our prayers

Phi had a reminder notice from a dental clinic yesterday awarding him a new name. The message said Dear Philip, your appointment.....

### **John Qi**

There is no photo yet, but **John Qi** was ordained a deacon in China on Tuesday, with his parents present. This is great news.

### **Stephen Hackett MSC**

Fr Stephen Hackett MSC , son of **Neville and Mary**, has been elected Provincial of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Australia. He will conclude his time as general secretary of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in July. Neville was a much appreciated member of our 'A' Team, and Mary used to come each Thursday and clean everything meticulously, in the downstairs dining room

### **Special Godparents**

Sue Bardon who used to work in the parish office in Glen Osmond advised one day that he grandfather had two very special godparents. Julian Tennison Woods and Mary McKillop!

### **When it's overcooked**

Jerome made the comment on Thursday night that some Passionist brothers proved how holy they were. They either cooked burnt offering or a holy sacrifice!

### **Claire gave up her chance**

If this does not touch your heart and bring a tear.....?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=C6og0\\_ignhQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=C6og0_ignhQ)

### **Prayers**

We remember **Mary Maher's** anniversary on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and pray for her family. Her daughter **Julie** is a regular at Holy Cross Sunday Mass.

We have been remembering **Pam Storey** in our prayer. After surgery on March 1<sup>st</sup> and one week at home three weeks later, Pam remains in hospital dealing with complications from the surgery and constant pain and discomfort.

**Gerry Bond** is preparing for vascular surgery the week after next.

**John Stretch** had knee replacement surgery on Wednesday after weeks of intense pain.

**Jerome** has been soldiering on with several health challenges for a couple of months. Despite being restricted to very little 'garden time', he has continued in his normal 'no complaining' mode.

**I thank my God  
every time I  
remember you.  
In all of my prayers  
for all of you,  
I always pray with joy.**

**Philippians 1:3-4**

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

Jerome, Mary and Kate Dunn.

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

Brian