

Holy Cross Retreat

Letter 181



3rd August, 2023

Greetings,

Joseph Liaia



Joseph arrived on Sunday night and it was great for us to see his smiling face again. Joseph had started a course in spiritual leadership while in Port Moresby, but the internet there is very unreliable and it became impossible to continue. His visa application took much longer than expected, but we hope he can rejoining the programme which is conducted by 'Heart of Life'.

Recovery

Our three postulants are fully recovered from the flu or whatever it was they had. It cost them two days of missed classes. You will see them back out the front of the chapel without masks on Sunday. Some people have asked for clarification of their names. You can see that they don't look the same.



Thắng

Cường

Hải

Feast of the Transfiguration – this Sunday



A friend of mine stopped along the Great Ocean Road and sat overlooking the ocean for quite some time. The sea was deep blue. Powerful waves were rolling in and covering the rocks below. The clouds were drifting across the sky. She was caught up in the wonder and beauty of it all. She heard a car door slam not far away and shortly afterwards a man asked her, ‘what’s the attraction here?’ S

She said, “I beg your pardon?” He repeated, “what’s the attraction?” She waved her hand at the magnificent scene, and said “All this”. “Huh”, he grunted, as he walked away, and she heard the man say to a woman, presumably his wife, “There’s nothing here; just the ocean!”

That man missed ‘the moment’! The disciples did not miss the moment of the transfiguration, but they had to come down the mountain and their profound experience and return to day to day living, changed but unsure of the real meaning of their experience. We cannot hold on to profound moments, yet they inspire us. Unless we provide ourselves with opportunities to be in God’s presence; to contemplate God’s wonders, our faith will only be a head exercise, and it will be challenged by all the events of daily life.



God is ‘unknowable’. In a way this is little different from our relationships with others. We can know facts and details about another person, we can feel strong emotions because of how we feel about them; we might even, after many years, understand a great deal about them, but we can never fully know them – not even a spouse or intimate friend. There is a deep part of each of us that is unknowable and sacred.

We can be seduced into thinking that knowing is the most important thing in our lives, but knowing shuts out mystery, and in shutting out mystery, we shut out God. It is right that we surrender to this ‘unknowing’ and express reverence and awe at what we do not know. This is what Adam and Eve failed to do. They wanted to be like God, rather than surrender to God.



The Passion of Jesus Is the greatest sign of God's overwhelming Love for all people

*Our YTU theological student, Tri, wrote a reflection last week for the weekly YTU newsletter. He is happy to share it in our Holy Cross newsletter. Tri celebrates his **31st birthday** this Saturday (August 5th)*

The Passion of Jesus is the greatest sign of God's overwhelming love for all people. Those words seem to contain a profound theological background. John himself stated in his Gospel that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Years ago I struggled to understand that profound theology. When I was a high school student, I was challenged by a teacher who was not Christian "Why did Jesus have to suffer?" he asked. "If Jesus is divine, he does not need to suffer and die in such a humiliating manner, no matter how much he loves people; there are many other ways to save people." What could I say to explain to the teacher that day? My logic could not provide an adequate explanation of the Passion of Jesus. Year after year, I kept reflecting in my mind, and then I found for me, an answer.



The answer I found in the love of a woman for her son. I visited one of my friends, who had an accident while he was a university student. He remained in a coma from that day for four years, before he died. Standing beside him, I tried to speak with him. He could not answer me with any words; just a smile. The one who suffered the most was not him, but his mother. When I spoke with her about my friend, from my first word she cried with many tears. She couldn't put anything into words, but her tears told me everything of her love for her son. She had loved him with the same care since he was in her womb, while he grew up and left home for university.

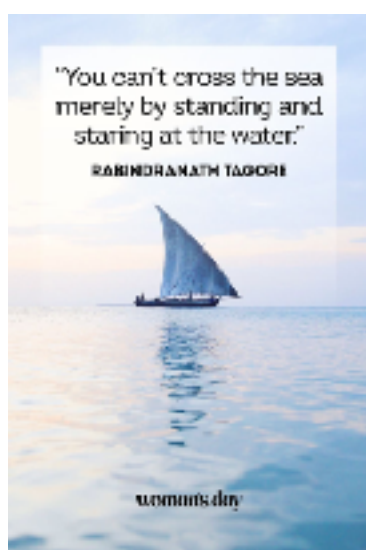


With her profound love that mother longed for the returning home of her son. However, when he returned home, that mother could not find her son as the one she loved. He was a comatose invalid. She cared for him, and anytime she saw her son on the bed, tears rolled down her cheeks. She loved him, so she bore his suffering. This is the answer for the Passion and death of Jesus; the One who loves, bears the suffering of the loved one.

Recently, I had a long conversation with one of my pastoral companions. We work together in a high school. He said that our era is witnessing a generation preaching a love of being kind to others and bringing comfort to people. However, a friendship may end whenever friends do something that creates trouble for them. They can delete a phone number or block a Facebook addresses. It is because they do not want to be open to any burden or suffering. He said: "The one who really loves may not need to suffer, but he or she should be open to suffering for the well-being of the loved one."

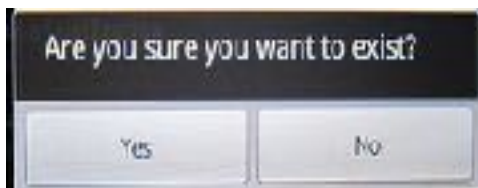
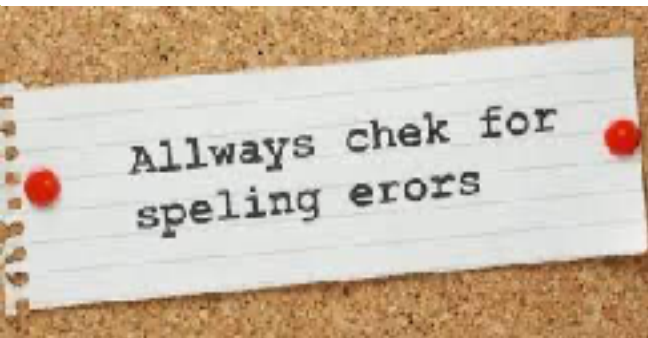


Jesus endured suffering and death, because of his love for all people. In our world today people are still suffering; many suffer from war, others suffer from climate change, the pollution of land, air, water, and noise, and many people suffer from physical and mental illness. Jesus is there to suffer with those who are suffering, to embrace people and share their burdens. He can do this in a more tangible way, when we who represent him act as he would! As disciples of Jesus, we are invited to proclaim to all people that God loves them; we do this by not being afraid of hardships and challenges, but by being willing to share the pain and the burden of others.



Humour

My teacher told me not to worry about spelling because in the future there will be autocorrect. And for that I am eternally grapefruit.



I wanted to learn how to play the organ, but it was only a pipe dream.

The piano in the aquarium needed attention, so they called in the piano tuna.

My teacher asked me why I was playing the piano with my head. I said, I'm playing by ear.

The squeeze box is the best instrument there is, accordion to the experts.

The person who invented the electric guitar must have been a livewire.

Some violinists are so highly strung they should bow out.

I dated a violinist once but I said no strings attached.

I started learning the violin but found it too fiddly.

Marvellous experience playing the bagpipes breathtaking!

I wanted to sign up for a sitar course but there were too many strings attached.

My music teacher was going to replace me from the school band. I asked, is that a fret?

My clarinet has a good pitch. I can hit someone in the audience at 20 metres.

All brass players I know seem really nice, except for one guy who can blow his own trumpet.

A clarinet tried to join a string-quartet but the others thought it was just a blow in.

**What is Beethoven doing
now?**
De-composing

How do you fix
a broken tuba?
With a tube glue.



 musicalnotes

Twiddle muffs



There was only a small response to the invitation to contribute to Jenny from U3A making twiddle muffs for the Alzheimers Association. Teresa Lim is supporting Jenny, so if anyone from Holy Cross has unwanted colourful wools, cottons, buttons, keys, laces, or anything that can be sewed on, this would save Jenny buying these items.

Please give items to Teresa or leave them in the table in the chapel foyer. Thank you.

Swimply Tennis



You may know someone who owns a tennis court but does not use it much. Swimply Tennis host offers such people a source of income for other people to use the courts within agreed rules and restrictions.

Information can be gained through Swimply.au/hosttennis

Phi – Final profession



Next Thursday in Saigon. **Phi** will take his final vows, together with Danh, Vinh and TJ who spent mid-year 2018 til mid-year 2019 at Holy Cross and ELSPM.

In the same ceremony, nine novices will take first vows. These men come from two classes (of three and six). Unfortunately, neither class was able to come to Australia for English language studies because of COVID restrictions.

On the next page you will see a photo of the three men who did come here, and who are making their final

profession of vows.



This is what they looked like four years ago.

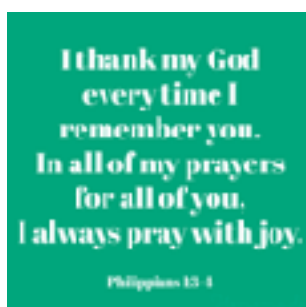
Car Park



For a short time, we have had to use a section of the lower carpark for Vince Celestino to store gravel he has acquired for us to rebuild the labyrinth. He has been waiting for a long time to source suitable material and already 15 truckloads that have been delivered. We are most grateful to Vince for this and for the work involved in spreading it.

Prayers

We remember those whose anniversaries are around this time and their families, especially Phyllis Vial (10th August) Fr Mark Nugent CP (11th August) and Jean O'Brien (12th August)



We also remember those in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially Marg Casey, John Lazzari, Alexander Lim, Maree Bartoli, Monica and Anthona Hennessy, Pam Storey,

Des Grisell, Gerry Bond, Lynda Chin, Michael O'Callaghan, Cathy Petrocco's sister Marissa, Peter Owen, Phil Drew, Maeve Reardon, Helen McLean, Errol Lovett, Greg Agosta, Angelo Vigilante, Jim Monaghan, Bronwyn Burke, Chris O'Toole, Pam Gartland, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Mary Hackett, Peter McNamara, Patricia Keeghan, Anne Jenkins. Mary and Kate Dunn, Brian Gleeson CP, Gerald Quinn CP

The [Mass link for this Sunday](#) will be sent by Chris.

God bless,

Brian