

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 186

8th September, 2023

Greetings,

Brian Gleeson CP



We received the sad news this morning that our brother Brian passed away peacefully this morning (September 7th) around 1.00am. He was 87 years old. Brian was professed in 1956 and ordained in 1961. Fr Denis has provide more information which is attached separately. It is not yet confirmed, but it is hoped that Brian's funeral will be at St Paul Apostle, Endeavour Hills on Friday morning Sept 15th. He will be buried at Rookwood cemetery in Sydney. May he rest in peace.

Erick - Congratulations



Last Sunday, Erick competed in the half-marathon and ran the 21.1 kilometres in 67 minutes and 23 seconds. That is an average of about 19kph! His previous best time for this distance was 69 minutes, so like a good wine, he is improving with age! There were 514 male competitors and he was placed 11th. Entry fees, running shoes etc are expensive so thank you to those of you who are financially supporting his running, and can share in his great results.

Peter Owen

Peter moved in to full-time care at Bupa, Serpells Road, Templestowe last Saturday. It is the kind of move we are witnessing more often these days, but it is very difficult to leave home and wife Bernadette after 58 years together.

YTU Cultural night

Last week the YTU and ELSPM students put on a cultural entertainment night. The Vietnamese showed their dancing skills. [https://youtu.be/M25w6tUrZPw?](https://youtu.be/M25w6tUrZPw?si=7tJ6EXkYeMfNGaH4)

[si=7tJ6EXkYeMfNGaH4](https://youtu.be/M25w6tUrZPw?si=7tJ6EXkYeMfNGaH4)

Coming up

Frank Burke writes: *"The first days of spring remind us that the world is a beautiful and wondrous place. In parks and gardens new life is emerging from the soil in a riot*

of colours and scents. We too experience the stirrings of new life and potential for growth in our lives.

*The theme of our next **Come Away Day, Wednesday, 13 September**- "Invitation to new beginnings"- enables us to explore these matters more deeply and consider what they might mean for us as people of faith.*

You are welcome to join us for a cuppa at 9.30am and then for a time of prayer, reflection and fellowship in the beautiful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross Retreat. The invitation is to come as you are. No prior knowledge is assumed. All relevant materials are provided. Tea and coffee are available. Please bring your own lunch. All are welcome. Why not consider bringing a friend? Registration is from 9.30am on 13th September at the Retreat Centre's main entrance.

Eucharist concludes our time together, with a departure time of 2.00pm. To assist in the planning of the day registration of interest in attending is desirable, preferably by Sunday, 10 September. Please contact Frank Burke for bookings or inquiries on 0407998781 or at burke.frank942@yahoo.com

We invite you to support us financially according to your means, using as a guide a suggested donation of \$25.00 per person. Our final Come Away Day for 2023 will be on Tuesday, 28 November. Further details will be advised closer to that date".

For your diary

Wednesday 13th September' Come Away Day' (see below)

To be confirmed: Rosary for Mario Minichilli (Holy Cross)

Thursday 14th September: **To be confirmed:** Funeral Mass for **Mario Minichilli**
at Our Lady of the Pines, Donvale 10.00am?

Friday 15th September: **To be confirmed:** Funeral Mass for **Brian Gleeson (E Hills)**
10.00am?

Sunday September 24th 10.00am Anointing Mass & Coffee

There will be an opportunity for 'anointing of the sick' during Mass, and a coffee cart has been ordered to allow us time to mingle and meet a few different people after Mass. You are invited to bring something on a plate to share. We will erect one or two small marquees for this.

Sunday September 24th 12.00pm Gnocchi lunch at Holy Cross

Tony D'Amico band; \$35 per person. BTO Drinks.

Bookings are open, so you are advised to gather a table of friends and make a booking asap, with: **Bruno: 0419 503300 Matt: 9842 6105 Eliza: 0409 177382**

Thurs October 19th 7.30pm Feast of Paul of the Cross

Please feel free to join us our Holy Cross and Endeavour Hills Passionist communities and Companions as well as our Passionist sisters for Mass and a shared supper.

Sun November 12th: 10.00am Mass for deceased relatives

This is our annual Mass to remember relatives and friends who have passed. If you have details that we may not have, including photos, please email Tim:

horlocktim1@gmail.com

Sat & Sun November 25th-26th: Passionist Institute

This weekend will reflect on contemporary aspects of the Passionist charism. Some people from interstate and NZ are intending to join us at Holy Cross, so please mark it in your diary either by Zoom, at home, with a local Passionist community and/or Companions, or in person at Holy Cross. More details to come.

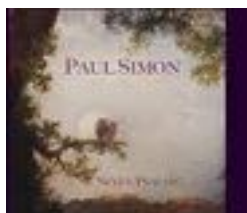
Saturday: 11.00am-2.45pm AEST (at Holy Cross or online)

Sunday: 1.30pm-5.30pm AEST (at Holy Cross or online)

Last week Art...this week, Paul

"Seven Psalms" by Paul Simon, is a meditative and luminous expression of his spirituality on a single, 33-minute track
(From 'La Croix', by Nathalie Lacube)

Paul Simon has been making American music history for sixty years, with or without Art Garfunkel, his alter ego from the early days: Mrs. Robinson, The Boxer, Bridge Over Troubled Water, Graceland and, at the pinnacle, The Sound of Silence... Indeed, Simon's compositions equal those of Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen.



The 81-year-old singer-songwriter has released a new album, Seven Psalms (Legacy/Sony). In this new work Simon delivers what could well be called a testament album. Seven Psalms is a single, 33-minute track broken into seven thematic segments. It is a folk symphony guided by the artist's inimitable voice and well-tempered acoustic instruments.

"I've been thinking about the great migration," he sings in the opening, and the thought of this "great departure" sets the stage for a calm, luminous musical meditation. "I am not a doctor or a preacher". "The Lord is my engineer," Simon sings in the opening segment called, The Lord, his deep and always vibrant voice launching into a spellbinding litany.

"The Lord is a virgin forest / The Lord is a forest ranger / The Lord is a meal for the poorest of the poor / A welcome door to the stranger," he sings as if praying. But the Lord is also "the Covid virus", "the ocean rising", a "terrible swift sword", and a "simple truth surviving".

"This whole piece is really an argument I'm having with myself about belief or not," he explains in the album's trailer. "I am not a doctor or a preacher," Paul Simon sings. "So all rise to the occasion / Or all sink into despair," he adds.



The artist celebrates love through his seven psalms. These evoke other great songs he's famous for – such as Slip Sliding Away, which muse on the passage of time – or Homeward Bound, a dream of returning home to a loved one. Modulation and guitar riffs reminiscent of the blues.

His modulation holds the thread of a refined folk composition and stands out above the instruments.



A guitar riff dominates and seals the unity of this resolutely folk track that borrows from the blues. Flutes here, backing vocals there and a xylophone all serve to support the rhythm.

In the segment Love Is Like a Braid, the author looks to his past. "I lived a life of pleasant sorrows / Until the real deal came / Broke me like a twig in a winter gale / Called me by my name..." In Wait, the last part of his secular psalms, Simon dreads the future and attempts a final negotiation with his creator. "Wait / I'm not ready / I'm just packing my gear / Wait / My hand's steady / My mind is still clear ..."



Paul Simon is not left alone to face his fears, and is joined on vocals by his wife Edie Brickell. "Heaven is beautiful / It's almost like home," she gently whispers, paving the way for the great passage looming on the horizon.

The 33 minute album: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANntuDslnk>

The trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiDc4DbFQZY>

Crocs



Authorities were alarmed that this man was casually fishing with a crocodile so close by. The man said he was unworried because he knows the crocodile and he has nothing to fear. Of the two attitudes, which do you think you'd take!



You may recognise this man on the left, in younger days, wrestling with a crocodile?

This photo was taken in Ossima, PNG, where Bro Jim Coucher had a crocodile farm with more than 500 crocodiles. It was amazing to see native boys jump into murky water amid hundreds of crocodiles, feel around and drag up one in each hand. Not surprisingly when Jim offered me the chance to try this, I declined.

I was not that clever or game. This crocodile I am wrestling with was already deceased!

Packy

This is a wonderful 25 minute teleketics video produced in 1979, that some of us used often on adult and youth retreats in the '80s and 90's. It's message is still spot on. It stars Bob Newhart and Jack Klugman. Packy Rowe is a theatrical agent with a low opinion of himself and he is not happy with the little God gave him to work with. He is in for a few surprises when he dies and meets God who thinks otherwise.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7RuLqbadXc>

Radio's power to reconnect people

Virginia Trioli

I thought this article captures some profound assessment of changes that have impacted each of us over these very recent years.



A radio community is a living, thriving, wriggling, combative, remarkable thing. You can have absolutely nothing in common with the person listening in with you on any given morning, yet you come together again and again, curious or dismayed by each other: pinned in the car with the groceries melting in the boot as a fellow listener shares a story; or shouting at the radio as a guest refuses to answer the question. Or as a presenter gets on your nerves ...

For just on four years now, I've risen at 4am, gone into the ABC Radio Melbourne studio and spent just short of three hours grappling with the greatest period of change to life as we have known it for generations.



It started in 2019 with fires that fundamentally changed our relationship to and understanding of our country and climate; morphed into a pandemic that became more unimaginable as the years ground on, and more recently has become the realisation that many of us have built our homes and lives on shifting sands, as revealed by the slow-moving devastation of floods in almost every state. Then a housing and cost-of-living crisis that has shaken truths that for generations we have considered fundamental to who we are: people who can save up and own a house, pay for a start in life for our children and who can afford to retire. In four short years it feels like everything has changed.

Some days it seems that all of Melbourne is on the couch and confessing their fears, angers and anxieties ... and I'm looking around wondering where the professionals are and when they're going to turn up and take over.. Anyone who has had a public-facing role over the past four years shares an experience of people and their anxieties, their pressures and their inarticulate fears that few others can understand: the person at the end of the phone, over the counter dealing with someone who is often at their lowest point, at their most fragile, at their most needy.





It's not for nothing that social media like TikTok and Instagram are full of sly recordings of consumers and customers and hapless, angry ordinary people in full meltdown: throwing things at the person behind the

counter, weeping uncontrollably as something doesn't go their way.

Perhaps we have always been this raw just below the skin, but the before-times allowed us to hide it a little better. But something has certainly changed: a sense of entitlement, or a sense of resentment and grievance that rises easily to the surface, or a feeling of a lack of control, perhaps even of financially drowning, that is so unsettling that it leads to behaviour that would surely shame someone once they managed to reach a calmer state.

The rules of engagement have changed too. The once unsayable is so easily said. The truly appalling is so easily expressed. The understanding that there is another human on the end of the acting out seems to be easily discounted.



But what hasn't changed is that persistent, powerful strand of human kindness and connection that binds all of us within the strange ecosystem of a radio community: the calls that celebrate a fellow listener, or aims to help them, employ them, support them, pay for them. I've had people call me on air and offer to employ a listener's struggling son or clean another's

home or fund a child's treatment. Generosity is unending, even while it's surprising every time.

I announced this week that after four years in this role, and after almost two decades of pre-dawn alarms, I am moving to an ABV TV role. And while I will not miss the early starts, I will not find the kind of conversations and direct connection to an audience that I have in radio more than anywhere else. It's a place all of its own – a real place to which people go each day, in search of company that delights and challenges. It's a rare privilege to sit in that chair.

The country and our footing within it has undoubtedly and fundamentally changed over that relatively brief time – audience shifts clearly show that; but more than other medium, I back radio's power to reconnect people more than any other kind. A city-wide conversation in real time. Never underestimate the power of that.



10 advantages of radio

1. Radio is immediate
2. Radio can reach everyone

3. Radio is adaptable
4. Radio is cost-effective
5. Radio can target a specific audience
6. Radio is local
7. Radio is interactive
8. Radio is trusted
9. Radio can be life-saving
10. Radio is 24/7

Worth seeing

Jack: A touching story told with imagination and talent

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=UDB1G4c3tao>

How does he do it?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0PHJdPjkWU>

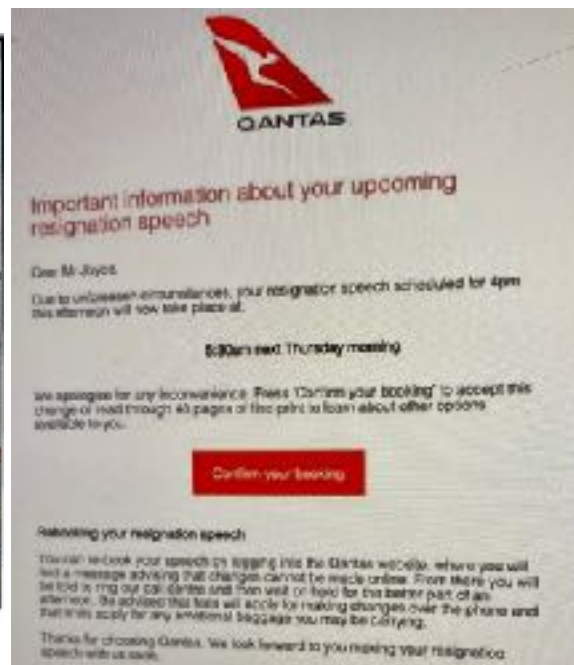
Humour

1. The other day Joe bought a thesaurus, but when Ihegot home and opened it, all the pages were blank...He have no words to describe how angry he was.
2. A friend said: "You have a BA, a Masters and a PhD, but you still act like an idiot..." It was a third degree burn.
3. A girlfriend said: "You act like a detective too much. I want to split up..." "Good idea," he replied. "That way we can cover more ground."
4. My grandpa warned people the Titanic would sink...No one listened, but he kept warning them until they got sick of him and kicked him out of the cinema.
5. A slice of apple pie is \$2.50 in Jamaica and \$3 in the Bahamas... There are the pie rates of the Caribbean
6. There are three guys on a boat, and they have four cigarettes, but nothing to light them with – what do they do? They throw one cigarette overboard, and the boat becomes a cigarette lighter.
7. How do parents lose their kids in a mall? Seriously, any tips are welcome...
8. "Hey dad, have you seen my sunglasses?" "No, have you seen my dad glasses?"
9. I met some chess players in the hotel lobby. They were bragging about how good they were...It was chess nuts boasting in an open foyer

10. To the person who stole my copy of Microsoft Office, I will find you...
You have my Word...
11. Imagine if Americans switched from pounds to kilograms overnight...
There would be mass confusion.
12. I bought shoes from a drug dealer once...I'm not sure what he laced them with,
but I was tripping all day.
13. The police just pulled me over, and the officer came up to my window and said
"papers?" I said "scissors, I win!" and drove off. He's been chasing me for 45
minutes now, I think he wants a rematch.
- 14 . My stoner friend used my daily planner to roll up a joint...He's now high on my
list of priorities.
15. I just found out my friend has a secret life as a priest...It's his altar ego.
16. Why can't T-Rexes clap their hands? Because they are extinct.
17. What has four letters, sometimes has nine letters, and never has five letters...
This is a fact, not a question or a riddle!



"OK, one more time. The FIRST 'Star Wars' movie was 'Star Wars: IV.' 'Star Wars: V' was the SECOND movie..."



Barber: What do you want?

Him: Just a plain cut

Barber: Say no more



**When people say
"enjoy them while they
are young" they're
talking about your
knees and hips not
your kids 🤪😏😭**

Prayers



We remember **Mario Minchili** who passed away on September 5th, and pray for him as well as for Maria, Tina, Mina and the other members of the family.

We remember **Brian Gleeson CP** who passed away on September 7th and pray for his relatives, Passionist family and friends.

We also remember those whose **anniversaries** are around this time and their families, especially:

Lauren Williams (Veronica's husband) who was incorrectly listed last week as Lauren Wright. His anniversary was September 5th.

Ray Zammit (8th Sept- son of Carmen & Vince)

Tony O'Brien (11th Sept)

Frank Tweedle (11th Sept)

John Gill (12th Sept – 1st anniversary)

Kumar Fernando (12th Sept)

Craig O'Shannassy (Sept 12th)

Abraham Lim (Grace Kho's brother – 16th September),



A lovely note received from London.

“We have received many emails from people in all parts of the Province to say they are praying for this unborn baby boy and his parents in London. The doctors have found a lesion in a lung that is very fast growing and is likely to press on the heart. In this specific case they have no option but to let the baby grow more and then try and deliver early to operate. It is a very long waiting game for another few weeks at the very least. All we can do is pray for now and we have felt very humbled by the response of the Passionist community. Thank you.

Peter & Debbie..... padess53@gmail.com



We remember all others in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially Peter Owen, Alexander Lim, Gerry Bond, Pam Storey, Maree Bartoli, Monica and Anthona Hennessy, Lynda Chin, Bronwyn Burke, Maeve Reardon, Des Grisell, Michael O’Callaghan, Bernadette Own, Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Greg Agosta, Angelo Vigilante, Mary Hackett, Peter McNamara, Pam Gartland, Sr Gen

Walsh RSC,

Patricia Keeghan, Errol Lovett, Anne Jenkins. Chris O’Toole, Mary and Kate Dunn, Gerald Quinn CP

The **Mass link** for this Sunday will be sent on Saturday by Chris.

Brian