

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 195

10th November, 2023

Greetings,

Mass for all deceased relatives and friends of Holy Cross

During Mass on Sunday **November 19th** we will remember the relatives who belonged to the Holy Cross family who have died. In a post-communion tribute we will display each name and include a photograph if we have one. If you have a photograph you would like included, please contact Tim: horlocktim1@gmail.com

St Gabrielle BBQ



You are invited to attend the St Gabriel BBQ at Holy Cross on **Sunday November 19th**. Bookings can be made through Bruno (

Cards – Maureen Barns



Maureen offered her 'home-made' cards again last Sunday and she is donating the proceeds to Holy Cross community. Maureen is willing to bring cards regularly and offer them. The next time will be on Sunday 19th November

Birthdays coming up

November 16th: Both Frank Burke and his wife Ann celebrate their birthdays
(is there another couple who shares a birthday?)

November 17th: Graeme Brennan's birthday

November 19th: Chris Mithen CP's birthday

Event coming up

November 25th First day of Passionist Institute (10.50am-2.45pm)
Holy Cross chapel or on Zoom

November 26th Coffee cart following 10.00am Mass
Second day of Passionist Institute (1.25pm-5.30pm)
Holy Cross chapel or on Zoom (BBQ & Drinks to follow)

Christians In the Holy Land

By Marie-Armelle Beaulieu (in Jerusalem) Editor of Terre Sainte Magazin.
November 7, 2023



The Holy Land is at war. Israel and the Palestinian Territories – (a fifth of the size of Victoria), are home to roughly 15 million people. There is an equal number of Jews and Muslims, while there are only 350,000 Christians. Half are natives of this land, the other half are migrants. Many of us have been reduced to silence in the face of violence, in the face of the hatred that hardens hearts and slyly comes knocking at our doors to draw us into its madness.

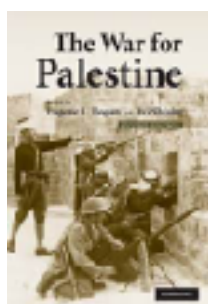
The Christian community is not uniform. Hebrew-speaking Christians include Israelis. They react like their Jewish compatriots, suffering in their flesh the massacres that could have been theirs. Four Christian migrants died in the villages bordering the Gaza Strip.

The native Christians of this land are Palestinians, whatever their nationality, their mother tongue is Arabic and the history of Palestine is their own. While the West fears that the conflict will be exported to its shores, many feel that it is the West that has imported its civilizational struggles here. By invoking Israel's right to defend itself, the West is giving its people a license to kill their co-religionists and allowing them to toy with the idea of driving them out of the land where they are the guardians of the Christian faith.



People here are infuriated by the West for the way it is instrumentalizing their plight, while claiming to defend them. In the end, this pushes them to leave their homeland. It's not politically correct to say so, but the Christians who are natives of the Holy Land fear those Jews who believe the land is exclusively theirs.

Taybeh, the last entirely Christian village in the West Bank, has been attacked by Jewish settlers three times in one week. Its residents are caught in a vice. Like the other Christians in the West Bank, they do not fear Islam, but Hamas, which claims to be the sole bearer of Palestinian nationalism, and whose line you have to toe if you don't want to be considered a traitor.



In Israel, the October 7th massacres have reinforced the Israeli identity of some Christians, while others are reliving the dark hours of 1948. Before the Jews, all feel they must hide in the shadows and bow their heads, accused of being Arabs.

I have collected testimonies for the magazine I edit. Here is an extract from Sister Camelia of the Sisters of Nazareth:

We are tired of the darkness of ideologies in a land where the Lord illuminated the world with his glorious Resurrection, tired of discrimination in a land where Christ came to unite the children of Abraham. Are we still capable of throwing off our cloaks, running to Jesus and hearing him say to us: "What do you want me to do for you?"



Anything is possible: when I extend my hand in greeting and say a word of hope and life. When I join my Muslim neighbour who asks me to pray with him and beg Allah to save us from this catastrophe. When I listen to a Jewish technician rebel against hasty



decisions that lead to death. When my heart weeps for the victims, whatever their background. When, instead of hiding behind the veil of fear, I use it to wipe the disfigured face of humanity. The Christian way is a narrow one. It wants to resolutely bring hope to all believers, together.

The humdrum of daily murder in America

Warwick McFadyen



A gun massacre in the United States is unexceptional news. It is a calculus now of the humdrum of daily murder. The sheer weight of numbers, not so much of death, but of incidents, has negated its impact when it reaches our shores. This year alone so far, gun-related deaths in the US total 35,400 of which 15,617 are homicide and 19,000 are suicide. The number injured is 30,000. The number of mass shootings (classified as four or more dead) is 567. The number of children killed is 248, injured (up to 11 years of age), 549 and 1166 teenagers killed and 3285 injured.

The worst gun massacre was in Las Vegas in 2017 when 58 died from a lone sniper and more than 500 were injured, followed by the Orlando nightclub slaughter when 49 died the year before. Of course, gun massacres have occurred in other parts of the world, Christchurch, Port Arthur, Dunblane, Norway. But America is without peer.



Their population of 331 million is only 4 per cent of the world's, yet they own nearly half the globe's supply of civilian arms. There are more guns than people, indeed the per capita ratio is 120 guns per 100 people.

Speaking about the Maine massacre, the new Speaker of the House, Republican Mike Johnson, reacted this way: 'At the end of the day, the problem is the human heart. It's not guns, it's not the weapons. At the end of the day, we have to protect the right of the citizens to protect themselves, and that's the Second Amendment. That's why our party stands so strongly for that.'

This is in line with the pro-gun advocates' argument that it is a mental health problem not a gun problem besieging America. There is a perverse logic at work here. Of course, anyone who shoots to kill another human has a mental health problem. The counterargument — that without a gun, innocent lives would be spared — seems not to occur to them. Or if it does, it is secondary.



The argument also that carrying a gun in self-defence negates the likelihood of being shot is not proven from recent studies. Shoot-outs of civilian against civilian to stop a slaughter don't occur. And yet it is almost open season for citizens being allowed what is called 'open carry'. Going to the shops, to work, for a walk, sure we can just strap on a firearm.



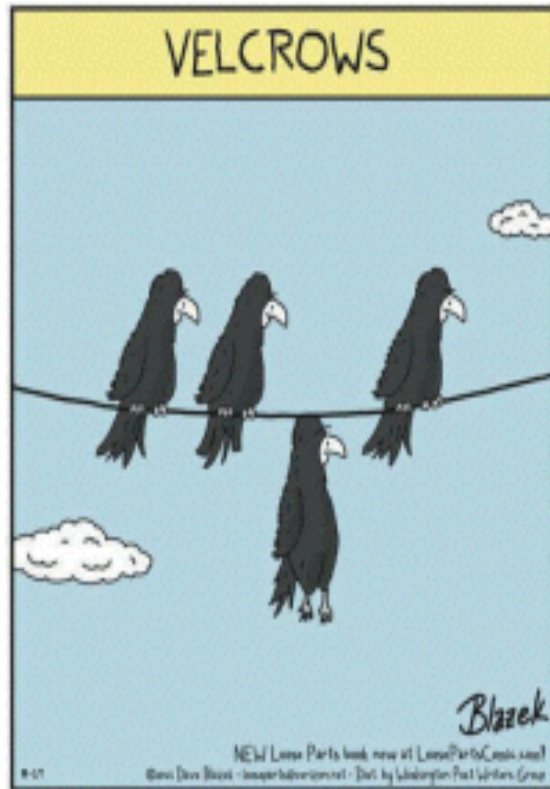
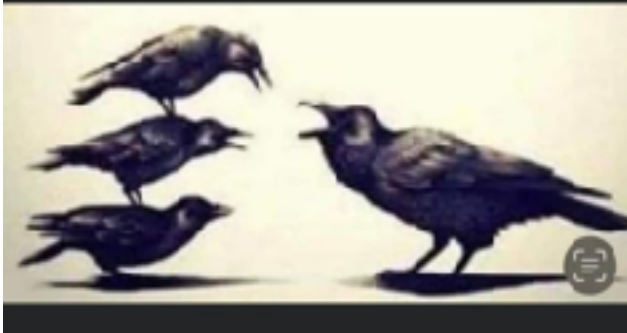
It's no wonder schools now have drills on what to do if a shooter enters the playground. The website 'Everytown for Gun Safety' has noted that between August 2021 and June 2022 there had been 193 shootings in school grounds, and guns are the leading cause of death among American children and teens!

The end of childhood should be by becoming an adult, not another gun statistic. The Governor of Maine, Janet Mills, in announcing the murderer was dead, said, 'Like many people, I am breathing a sigh of relief tonight, knowing that Robert Card is no longer a threat to anyone. Now is the time to heal.'

Until the next time, which surely will come.

Humour

Scientifically, a Raven has 17 primary wing feathers, being the big ones at the end of the wing. They are called pinion feathers. A Crow has 16. So, the difference between a Raven and a Crow is a matter of a pinion!



For the sake of accuracy, both crows and ravens have 10 pinion feathers but they appear different in flight. Ravens have four evident finger feathers when flying, while crows have five.



"I can tell you one thing. Being rich beyond one's wildest dreams doesn't go as far as it once did."





A new medical building containing 100 offices had just been completed. Mark was hired to paint the numbers 1 to 100 on the doors. How many times will Mark have to paint the number nine?

Answer: Riddles.com/372

Some signs you may have seen!

- A SIGN ON A BLINDS AND CURTAIN TRUCK:** "Blind man driving."
- SIGN OVER A GYNECOLOGIST'S OFFICE:** "Dr. Jones, at your cervix."
- IN A PODIATRIST'S OFFICE:** "Time wounds all heels."
- AT A TIRE SHOP:** "Invite us to your next blowout."
- ON AN ELECTRICIAN'S TRUCK:** "Let us remove your shorts."
- ON A PLUMBER'S TRUCK:** "We repair what your husband fixed."
- ON ANOTHER PLUMBER'S TRUCK:** "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."
- ON A MATERNITY ROOM DOOR:** "Push. Push. Push."
- IN A VETERINARIAN'S WAITING ROOM:** "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"
- IN THE FRONT YARD OF A FUNERAL HOME:** "Drive carefully. We'll wait."
- AT AN OPTOMETRIST'S OFFICE:**
"If you don't see what you're looking for, You've come to the right place."
- IN A NON-SMOKING AREA:**
"If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and will take appropriate action."

AT A CAR DEALERSHIP:

"The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

OUTSIDE A MUFFLER SHOP:

"No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

IN A SHOE REPAIR STORE

We will heel you

We will save your sole

We will even dye for you.

AT THE ELECTRIC COMPANY:

"We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time. However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted."

IN A RESTAURANT WINDOW:

"Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up."

AT A PROPANE FILLING STATION:

"Thank Heaven for little grills."

ON A SEPTIC TANK TRUCK:

Yesterday's Meals on Wheels

ON THE BACK OF ANOTHER SEPTIC TANK TRUCK:

"Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises"

Answer to the riddle above (How many 9's were painted?)

The answer is 20! 9, 19, 29, 39, 49, 59, 69, 79, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99

A group of any nine things is called an **ennead**.

The chemical element with the atomic number nine is **fluorine**

In French, **neuf** is used for both nine and new. **Neun** means nine in German, while **neu** means new; in Spanish, **nueve** means nine while **nuevo** means new.

A palindrome is something such as a word, number, or phrase that reads the same backward as it does forwards. The longest single-word palindrome in the English language is "redivider," which has **nine** letters

Nine is the sum of the first three consecutive odd numbers (1 + 3 + 5)

Prayers

We remember [Joses Turunuku](#) (husband of Mary-Louise O'Callaghan) who died on November 2nd and [Angelo Vigilante](#) (Celeste's brother who died on November 4th

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

Nancy De Pietro	11 th Nov	(Francesca Spinosa's Sister)
Shirley Ann Fitzsimons	11 th Nov	(Tony's wife)
Frank Gagliardi	14 th Nov	
Dorothy Smith	15 th Nov	(Rod's mother)
James Monaghan	16 th Nov	(Chris' brother)
Peter Norden	17 th Nov	(Mary's husband)
Ray Milton	17 th Nov	(Judy's husband)
Judy Milton	18 th Nov	(Ray's husband)

We remember all others in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially Pam Storey, Peter McNamara, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Alexander Lim,



Maree Bartoli, Monica and Anthona Hennessy, Gerry Bond, Maeve Reardon Lynda Chin, Bronwyn Burke, Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Des Grisell, Michael O'Callaghan, Greg Agosta, Mary Hackett, Pam Gartland, Errol Lovett, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Patricia Keeghan, Anne Jenkins, Chris O'Toole Mary and Kate Dunn, Jeff Foale CP, Gerald Quinn CP

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

Brian