

## Holy Cross Retreat

<https://holycrosscentre.com/community/>



2<sup>nd</sup>

February, 2024

### Letter 207

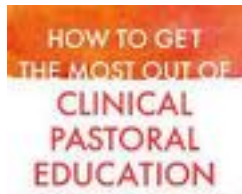
Greetings and welcome to February!

We have had a number of comings and goings. **Joseph** has gone to Endeavour Hills to help out there. **Joseph Dominic (JD)** has gone to Hobart for a retreat, and **Tri** has gone for a ten day holiday. We also have had three Passionist visitors.

The **Holy Cross Centre** began a very busy month yesterday which will keep **Mayrose** on her toes. **Rose** is slowly recovering from hip surgery and is scheduled to return next week.

The **'A' Team** is returning to work today

**Bernard and Maree Metcalfe** were married on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1974 and I was fortunate to be the celebrant. It is terribly sad that Maree died suddenly last July, so close to the anniversary. Bernard will join us for 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross this Sunday, and hopefully some of their children.



As mentioned last week, both **Phi** and **Tri** completed their 10 week Clinical Pastoral Education Course, which gave them much valuable experience in hospital visitation, and supervised skills in relating to various patients. Some of their stories were very touching and impressive. Next week **Phi** has some classes related to diaconate ministry, and then he'll be done with classes for the foreseeable future.

**Hai** celebrated his 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday yesterday.

The annual **Passion Play** is holding its first rehearsal this Sunday afternoon, for the 2024 production on Palm Sunday and Good Friday.



Next Sunday will be **Coffee Cart** Sunday (Coffee after Mass)

## Pope takes the "heresy hunters" to task

Robert Mickens



The mainline Churches in the northern hemisphere have just concluded the 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. And by many of the comments that appeared on social media during the January 18-25 commemoration, it would seem that at least some English speakers who describe themselves as "traditional" or "loyal" Catholics saw this annual ecumenical event as a propitious time to remind Christians who are not in communion with the Church of Rome that they are heretic!

Some of these "staunch" Catholics were particularly steamed that Pope Francis allowed the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Justin Welby, and his fellow Anglicans to celebrate the Eucharist at St. Bartholomew's on the (Tiber) Island in Rome. This is the 10th century church that John Paul II designated during Jubilee 2000 to be a shrine to the "new" Christian martyrs of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The Catholic loyalists were quick to point out, sometimes in vulgar and insulting terms, that "Mr. Welby" (as most of them called him) and the other Anglican bishops and priests were not validly ordained. "A reminder that, per Leo XIII's *Apostolicae curae* of 1896, Anglican orders are 'absolutely null and utterly void'," said a post on X (formerly Twitter) that was replicated in many variations, most of which are just too nasty and uncharitable to repeat here. The words "heretic" and "heresy" were also hurled mercilessly at non-Catholics over and over again -- and they were aimed at the current pope, as well, sometimes quite explicitly.



We can confidently, and thankfully, say that the vast majority of the world's Catholics do not share these views. And neither does Pope Francis, obviously. Just like Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI before him, he gathered with prelates and



pastors of the mainline Christian denominations on January 25 -- the Fest of the Conversion of St. Paul -- for ecumenical Vespers in the Papal Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls. And "my brother, Archbishop Justin", as the pope called him, was among them and even preached after Francis delivered a homily on Luke 10:25-37.

We're familiar with this passage. It's one of those numerous occasions in the Gospels when the "doctors of the law" try to lay a trap for Jesus. In this episode, one of them asks him, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

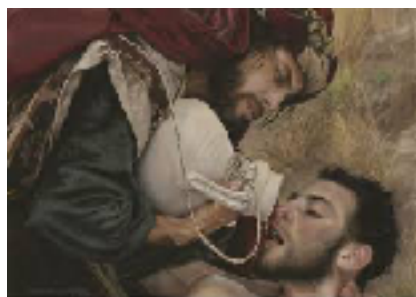


And Jesus turns it back on this "canon lawyer", and asks him what the law has to say on the matter. "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself," the lawyer says. Jesus congratulates him. But the man wants to "justify" himself and asks a further question: "And who is my neighbour?" Again, it's aimed at tripping up

Jesus. And at this point Jesus responds by narrating the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The pope's homily is marvellous and it's worth carefully reading and meditating upon.

What can I get, and how can I divide? Francis points out that the doctor of the law doesn't want to "learn anything from Jesus". He only wants "to test him". The pope says this religious authority's "greater insincerity" is asking what he can "get" or "possess" from God. "These are the signs of a distorted religiosity based on getting rather than giving, in which God becomes a means to obtaining what I want, rather than an end to be loved with all our heart," the pope says.

This religious scholar then answers Jesus' question about what the law says, and then presses Jesus to explain who is one's "neighbour". The pope's exegesis is poignant. "If the first question risked reducing God to our own needs, this question attempts to divide: to separate people into those we should love and those we should shun. This kind of division is never from God; it is from the devil, who divides," he says.



The parable, of course, is about a poor fellow who gets robbed and beaten up and is left for dead at the side of the road. A priest and another pious person go to lengths to ignore him, while a Samaritan, someone these two devoutly religious men detest precisely because he is not religious, is the one who helps the beaten up man.

"The people who failed to do good, who proved callous,



were the priest and the Levite, who were more concerned with respecting their religious traditions than with coming to the aid of a suffering person," the pope said. "The one who demonstrates what it means to be a 'neighbour' is instead a heretic, a Samaritan," he added.

And what does this "heretic" do? "He draws near, he feels compassion, he bends down and gently tends the wounds of that brother. He is concerned for him, regardless of his past and his failings, and he puts himself wholly at his service," said Francis.



Hearing these words, one cannot but wonder if the pope was addressing them to those in his own Church -- the "staunch", "traditional", "loyal", and "practicing" Catholics -- who have criticized him for showing compassion and openness and hospitality to people who are non-believers; for treating non-Catholics as if they are a part us -- not divided from us -- and allowing them to worship according to their own customs in our church buildings.

"The right question is not: 'Who is my neighbour?' but 'Do I act like a neighbour?'," the pope said. And this is a key question for our efforts to reconstitute the unity of the one, but fractured Church of Jesus Christ. "Only a love that becomes gratuitous service, only the love that Jesus taught and embodied, will bring separated Christians closer to one another," Francis said. Christian unity and the "symphony of humanity"



Again, one asks, what kind of love in concrete terms? The pope responded with these words: "Only that love, which does not appeal to the past in order to remain aloof or to point a finger, only that love which in God's name puts our brothers and sisters before the ironclad defence of our own religious structures, only that love will unite us. First our brothers and sisters, then the structure"

PEOPLE  
first



In 'Fratelli Tutti,' his encyclical "on human fraternity", Francis spells



out the dire consequences the world faces if we refuse to see ourselves and live more responsibly and charitably as one big human family. During ecumenical Vespers at St. Paul's Outside the Wall, he pointed out (if tacitly) that Christians must be a model and example of this. Here is what he said:

"For each baptized person is a member of the one Body of Christ; what is more, everyone in this world is my brother or my sister, and all together we compose that "symphony of humanity" of which Christ is the Firstborn and Redeemer.



As Saint Irenaeus, whom I had the joy of proclaiming the "Doctor of Unity", observed: "One who seeks the truth should not concentrate on the differences between one note and another, thinking as if each was created separately and apart from the others; instead, he should realize that one and the same person composed the entire melody" (Adv. Haer., II, 25, 2). Pope Francis' challenge to the "heresy hunters" in any denomination -- and to all of us -- is to seriously ask ourselves this question: "Do I, and then my community, my Church, my spirituality, act like a neighbour?"

Pope Francis connects via Zoom with the Holy Family Catholic Parish in Gaza every day to speak to them. There are 600 people sheltering in the parish compound and Francis says they are "living their lives looking death in the face every day" This is a profound example of his pastoral ministry

### **The strangeness of English**

- Your house can burn up as it burns down
- You fill in a form by filling it out
- An alarm goes off by going on
- The human race is not a race at all!
- Ship by truck and send cargo by ship?
- We have noses that run and feet that smell?
- Would you really not hurt a fly?

There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger. There is no apple nor pine in pineapple.

English muffins were not invented in England nor were French fries invented in France.

Quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig!

Why is it that writers write but fingers but don't fing; grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If vegetarians eat vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? If you wrote a letter, did you bote your tongue?

If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, two geese; So one moose, two meese? One index, 2 indices?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend, that you comb through annals of history but you don't comb through a single annal?

If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

How can overlook and oversee be opposite, while quite a few and quite a lot are alike?

When the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

When I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up an essay, I end it.

What really is a spring chicken?

### **The importance of punctuation**

*(No difference in the words, just the punctuation!)*

1. I want a man who knows what love is all about. You are generous, kind and thoughtful. People who are not like you admit to being useless and inferior.

2. I want a man who knows what love is. All about you are generous, kind and thoughtful people who are not like you. Admit to being useless and inferior.

### **Humour**



For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting nutritional studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

**The conclusion** seems to be that you should eat and drink what you like. Apparently it is speaking English that kills you.

I've been asked if I have any jokes about unemployment. The fact is, yes, I do, but none of them work.

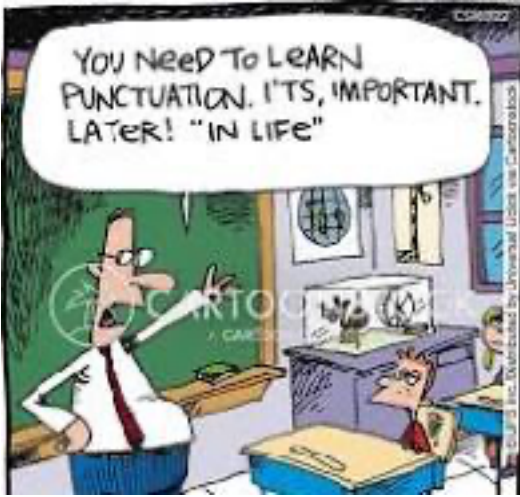
Pastor is well known to us at Holy Cross, and soon he will be well known in Hobart. He is from Tanzania and shared this joke.

Centuries ago, God came down, went to the Congolese and said to them, "I have Commandments that will help you live better lives."  
The Congolese asked, "what are commandments?"  
God replied, "Rules for living."  
'Can you give us an example?' they asked.  
God said, "Thou shalt not kill."  
'Not kill? We're not interested' they responded

God then went to the Kenyans and said, "I have Commandments...."  
The Kenyans wanted an example, so God said, "Thou shalt not steal."  
'Not steal? We're not interested' they responded

God then went to the Tanzanians and said, "I have Commandments....."  
'Commandments,' said the Tanzanians, 'how much are they?'  
"They're free" God said.  
The immediate response was, 'Fair enough, we'll take 10.!!!!'

What do the African nations Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, and Swaziland have in common?  
A lot of da Z's.



"What do you think—capitalize 'Me'? Or use 'me'?"





I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.



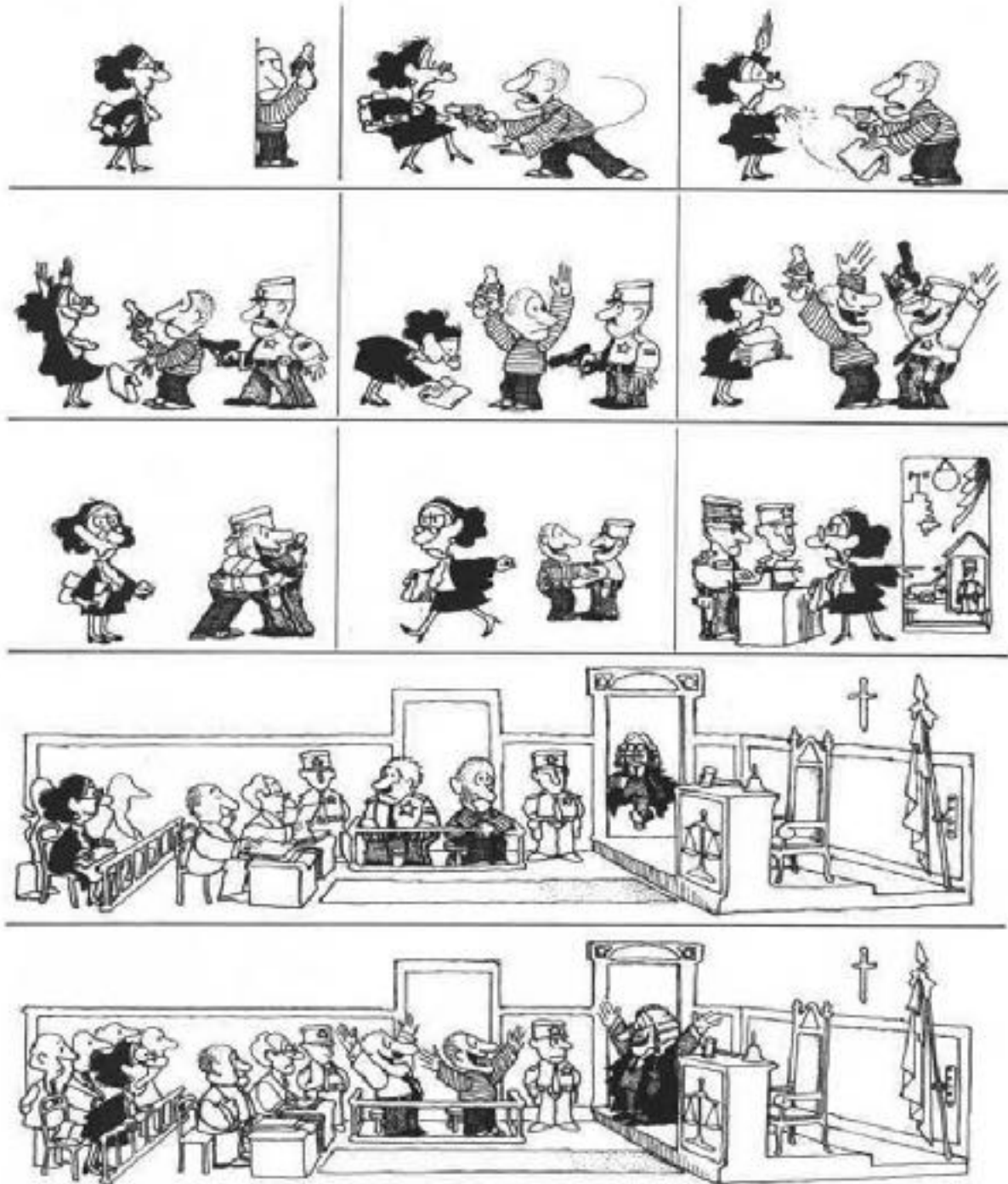
This is Wilson. He is now working from home 😊



I'm watching this Show for like, 10 minutes and the Lady is Listing all these really Great things to do. Then I realize it's the Religious Channel and she was listing Sins.

**I don't understand why people have to "get ready" for bed. I'm always ready for bed.**





Important to have friends . . .

## Prayers

We remember those who have passed away recently and those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially

**Helen Chai** (Grace Kho's mother) Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Michael Keeghan** (Patricia's husband) Feb 5<sup>th</sup>

**Kathleen Humphreys** (Barbara Ward's mother) (Feb 6<sup>th</sup>

**Mariano Della Riva** (Adele's husband) (Feb 6<sup>th</sup>)

**Fr Greg Manly CP** (Feb 9<sup>th</sup>)

We remember all others in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially.



Maree Bartoli, Pam Storey, Paul Geoghegan, Tony Tome, Carol Battistella, Peter McNamara, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Alexander Lim, Michael O'Callaghan Dawn Heffernan, Maeve & John Reardon, Shirley Barnes, Bronwyn Burke, Gerry Bond, Monique Hardinge, Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Mary Hackett, Pam Gartland, Patricia Keeghan, Errol Lovett, Greg Agosta, , Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Anne Jenkins, Kate & Mary Dunn,

Chris O'Toole, Gary Perritt CP, Jeff Foale CP Gerald Quinn CP and baby Alfred Theodore in London.

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

Brian