

Holy Cross Retreat

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



17th

January, 2025

Letter 258

Chris

Chris is having a very well deserved holiday, and he will record Sunday Mass this coming Saturday.

Tri

Tri left on Tuesday night for a holiday back home in a rural district of Nghe An province, 250 kilometres south of Hanoi. See the photo he took on Monday night at the top of Page 3.

New student

John Khouri arrived on Wednesday to begin his vocation as a Passionist. More about him next week.

Coffee Cart Sunday

This Sunday (January 19th)

After 10.00am Mass we have Ross again with his coffee cart. We invite you please to grab a name tag and a coffee and have a chat. If you wish to bring a small contribution to the cakes and biscuits, that would be welcomed. Thanks again to our donors and the generous team who will assist with setting up for the coffee cart.



Los Angeles Fires



Several of the buildings of the Passionist Mater Dolorosa Retreat Centre in Sierra Madre, Los Angeles has been badly damaged by the raging Eaton fires and water damage caused trying to save them. The Centre Director, Fabian Barose CP said that "seeing the area filled with smoke and dust was devastating and heart-breaking". "The garage, apartment, and hermitage are fully burned down. The Seven Sorrows Garden, Paul of the Cross

fountain, and Stations of the Cross have fire damage.

As we went into the main building, we found the De Loor Hall roof thoroughly shattered with water damage and several of the Center's offices have been completely ruined. About 60 people were at the centre at the time of the evacuation, and everyone made it out safely. There was too much smoke and dust to check out other building on the property, including the community residence".

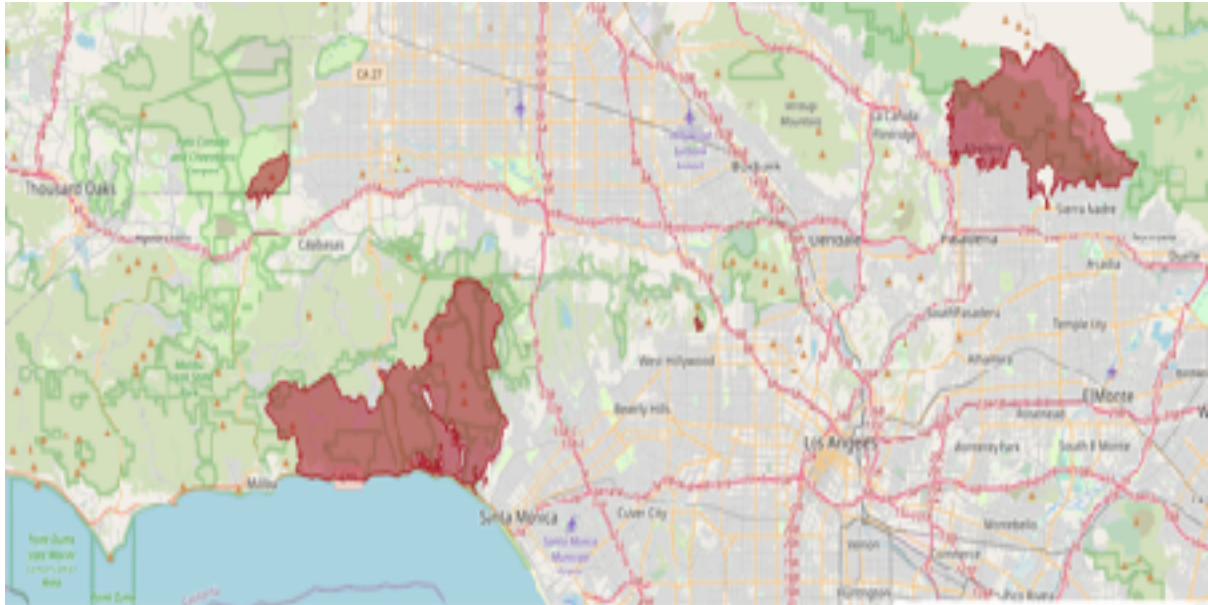


Mater Dolorosa has been operated by the Passionists since 1924. The 83-acre facility frequently



hosts parish and high school retreats, addiction and recovery programs, and special events. Located in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, the campus includes guest rooms, conference spaces, a chapel, gardens, an amphitheatre and its popular outdoor Stations of the Cross.

The Eaton Fire, has burned more than 14,000 acres so far and killed five people, while the Pacific Palisades Fire has torn through more than 24,000 acres. Father Fabian is unsure about what will happen next, "but we are pilgrims of hope as Pope Francis exhorted us this year. Hope will not disappoint us. We will recover and be back serving people again."



The wedding feast at Cana



A typical Jewish wedding often lasted 7 days. Eating preceded the wedding blessing, so the meal was important and so was good wine. It would have been a sign of poor hospitality not to have enough wine. We don't know who's wedding celebration at Cana was, but it may well have been a relative of Jesus' mother, given

her concern when the wine ran out and the fact that she instructed the servants what to do.

John's gospel begins the same as the book of Genesis does..."In the beginning' and the story of Cana at the beginning of the second Chapter beging, "On the third day', which in Genesis is the day life was created, and as we know, the third day is when John says Jesus was raised. All of this suggests some theological insights are implanted in the story of the wedding feast at Cana.



An example of this is the mention of the water that was stored in stone pots. This water allowed guests to purify themselves by washing before eating, a requirement of Jewish law. When the water was changed to wine there was no water left to fulfil this law! Not only that! This water had been used



by the guests, so it would have been become dirty. But it was changed into life giving wine. Jesus has replaced the Jewish law and offered new life. The 6 stone tablets each held between 540-675 litres which when filled to the brim as requested would have made over 6,000 bottles of high class wine! This was some feast! Jesus was

proclaiming a God of abundance, joy and festivity.

John tells us that Jesus asked the servants to fill the pots *to the brim*. We could imagine them saying 'you've got to be kidding!'. They had to fetch extra water from a well and carry it to the pots. They did not taste the wine. They just did what they were asked to do, and while everyone was surprised where this wine had come from, the servants knew.

7 SEVEN SIGNS



John tells us that this was the first of Jesus' signs. These were not tricks to impress. They were a gradual unfolding of who Jesus was and an announcement that a new era had begun. The first sign happened right in the middle of a party! There were seven (a special number) more.



1. The wine at Cana
2. A nobleman's son is cured
3. At Bethesda, man blind for 38 years, had his sight restored
4. A crowd of 5000 people were fed
5. Jesus walked on water
6. Another blind man gained his sight – gradually
7. Lazarus was raised back to life

These signs show that through Jesus, God liberates people from sickness, fear, blindness, sadness and death. It seems sad that abundance and joy have so often not been at the forefront of the way we have heard the good news. It is captured well in the Cana wedding scene from 'The Chosen': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3R0Mkx8rrc>

Passionist sisters visit from Adelaide



Our Adelaide sisters are having a week's holiday and visited Holy Cross for 10.00am Mass last Sunday. They shared a special Pho lunch prepared by Tri (who took this photo)

Tri also took this photo of the moon on Monday night



Pope Francis Award



President Joe Biden has awarded Pope Francis the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian honour. The award was presented to the pope during a phone call on Jan. 11th. The president had originally been scheduled to meet with Pope Francis at the Vatican, but was forced to cancel his trip to oversee the federal response to the California wildfires.

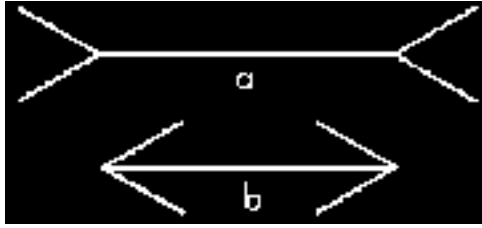
The honour was conferred upon the pope with distinction, the first time Biden has granted the award with the status. In the official White House citation, Biden praised Francis, the first pontiff from the Southern Hemisphere, as "unlike any who came before". The citation reads, "A loving pastor, he joyfully answers children's questions about God. A challenging teacher, he commands us to fight for peace and protect the planet. Above all, he is the People's Pope – a light of faith, hope, and love that shines brightly across the world."



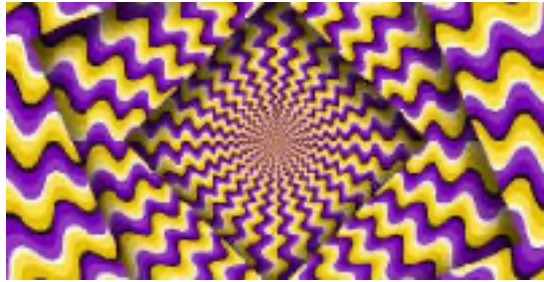
The Presidential Medal of Freedom, a tradition that dates back to 1963, is presented to individuals "who have made exemplary contributions to the prosperity, values, or security of the United States, world peace, or other significant societal, public or private endeavours."

In 2021, Biden praised Francis as "the most significant warrior for peace I've ever met."

Illusion



According to the dictionary, an illusion is a misleading image presented to the eye; the state or fact of being led to accept as true something unreal or imagined or a mistaken idea. A common example would be the suggestion that the line a in this image, is longer than the line b.



Physiological illusions occur when the brain's visual system becomes overstimulated and confused by light, movement, shapes, colours, positions, or contrast. In the example below, the colours, shapes, and patterns give the appearance of movement, even though the image is static. Visual illusions are more common than illusions from other senses and experiencing them can be fun.

experiencing them can be fun.



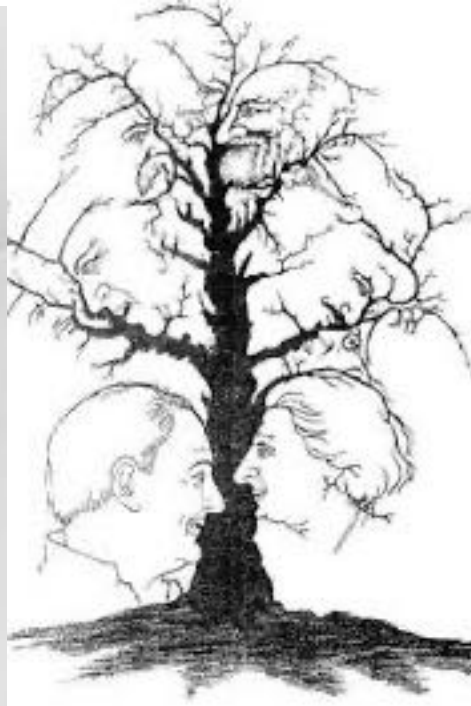


Old or young woman in these two images above?

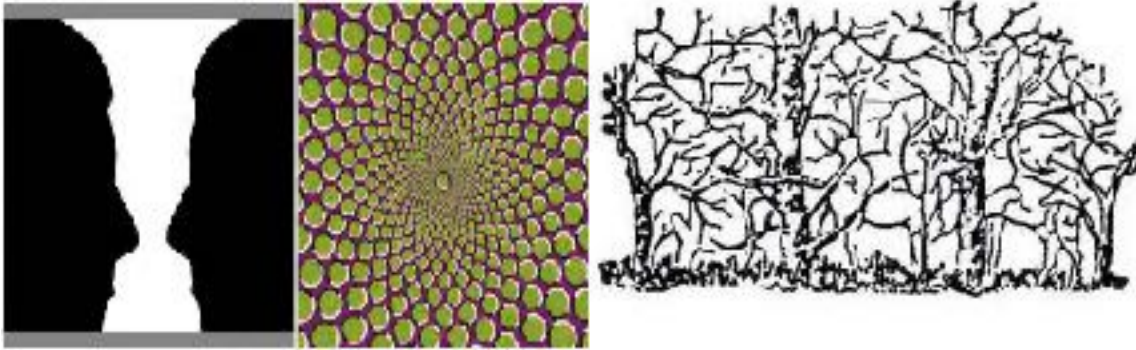


How many extra people?

It's good to get home



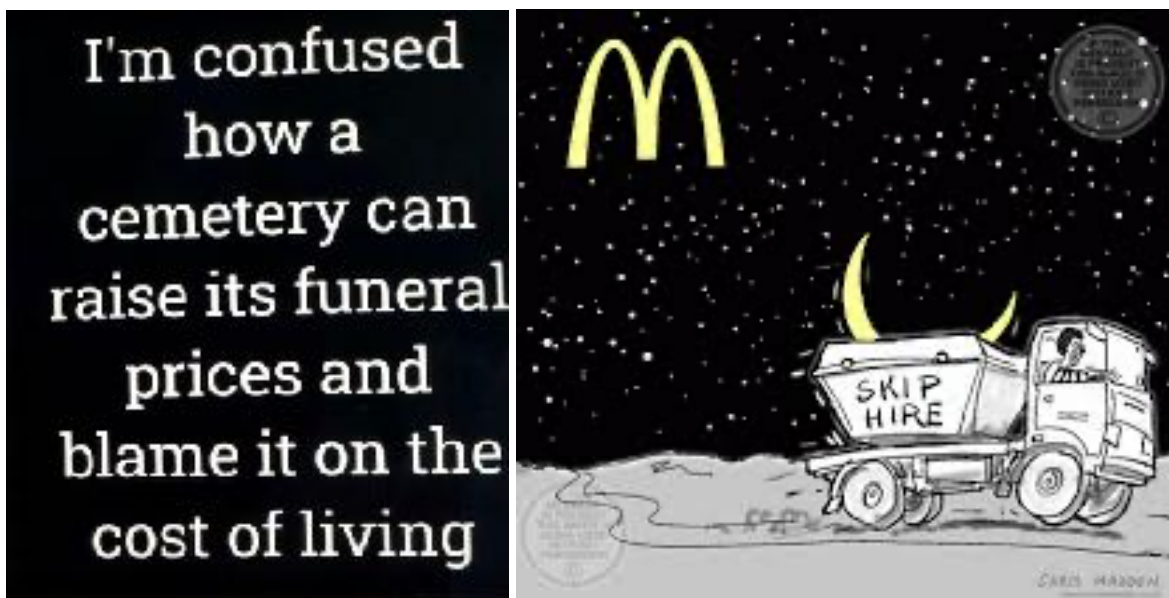
How many people in the tree?



Humour

A man was driving when he saw the flash of a traffic camera. He figured that his picture had been taken for exceeding the limit, even though he knew that he was not speeding. Just to be sure, he went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed. Now he began to think that this was quite funny, so he drove even slower as he passed the area again, but the traffic camera again flashed. He tried a fourth time with the same result. He did this a fifth time and was now laughing when the camera flashed as he rolled past, this time at a snail's pace.

Two weeks later, he got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt.



Q Have you heard about the Disney virus?

A. It makes everything on your computer go Goofy.

Q How do trees get on the internet? A. They log in.
Q What do computers like to eat? A. Chips
Q What do you call a space magician? A. A flying saucerer.
Q What is a computer's first sign of old age? A. Loss of memory.
Q What does a baby computer call his father? A. Instead of Da-da it says "Da-ta"
Q What happened when the computer fell on the floor? A. It slipped a brisk.
Q Why was there a bug in the computer? A. It was looking for a byte to eat.
Q What is a computer virus? A. A terminal illness.
Q What kind of doctor fixes broken websites? A. A URLologist.

Q What is an astronaut's favourite control on the computer keyboard?
A. The space bar.

Q How does a boy cell phone propose to his girlfriend?
A. He gives her a ring, of course.

Q What happened when a dragon breathed on several Macintosh computers?
A. He wound up with baked Apples!

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down

How do you organize a space party? You planet.

Which is faster, hot or cold? Hot, because you can catch a cold.

What did the photon say when asked if she needed to check a bag?
"No thanks, I'm traveling light!"

Did you know milk is the fastest liquid on earth?
It's pasteurized before you even see it.

What did one ocean say to the other ocean?
Nothing, they just waved.

Why did everyone enjoy being around the volcano?
It's just so lava-ble.

What kind of music do the planets listen to?
Nep-tunes!

What did the big flower say to the tiny flower?
"Hey there bud!"

The word 'car'



When you look down on the lift at Holy Cross there is a warning to not ride on the car. This got me thinking about the etymology of the word 'car' and I learned that it was derived from the Latin word *carrus* meaning a wheeled vehicle (wagon, a four-wheeled baggage cart, cartload or wagonload).

The etymology of *carrus* shows it is derived from the Gaulish *karros* and from Proto-Celtic *karros* meaning chariot or wagon. The Gaulish language is a branch of the Brythonic language and it also used the word *Karr*; the Brythonic language evolved into Welsh (and Gaelic) where 'Car llusg' (drag cart or sledge) and 'car rhyfel' (war chariot) are still relevant.

The English language has a lot of influence from Latin so many words have Latin origins. *Carrus* is an obsolete term meaning that the word is no longer in use but the thing it refers to still exists; namely car and automobiles. I think something similar could be said for the glove box in a car!



Happy 70th birthday to **Phena Hogan**

Congratulations to **Rex and Jan Cambry** on their 59th wedding anniversary on Wednesday 22nd January

Today, Friday 17th January, **Chris Mithen** celebrates his 74th profession and both Joachim Rego and Chris Monagan are 49 years professed.

Prayers

We remember those who have died recently, as well as those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially

Jim Molan, Agatina Monaco, Mary Bortolotto

Geoffrey Morgan, Carlo Valmorbidia, Viv Rabot

Marie Mears, Bernard Charnley and George Bennett.



We ask for prayers for retired **Dr Noel Smyth** a long time benefactor of Holy Cross community, servant doctor to so

many of our community and many who belong to Holy Cross and beyond, and attending doctor to many who have spent time at Donvale rehab. Noel has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of motor neurone disease.



We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell as well as all who care for them especially

Rod Gorfine, Bro Minh Toan CP, Peter Barry, Zoe Chung and her baby daughter Sophia, Rex Cambry, Desley Reynolds, Tony Brooks, Monica Sleeman, Carol Battistella, Gerry Bond, Sharon Williams, Alexander Lim, Paul Darbyshire, Michael O'Callaghan, Doris Castro, Julia Cantone, Pam Storey, Lorraine Gill, Adrian Woon, Bronwyn Burke, Luke

Norden, John Reardon, Kaya Lenic, Greg Agosta, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Caroline Meade, Mary Dunn, Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Pam Gartland, Anne Jenkins, Patricia Keeghan, Errol Lovett, Chris O'Toole, and baby Alfred Theodore in London.

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

Enjoy the weekend

Brian