

Holy Cross Retreat

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



31st January, 2025

Letter 260

Today we celebrate 260th letter!!! As an excuse to celebrate I thought I would look up a copy of the letter that was written 100 letters back and I found it. Below is an extract from Letter 160 front page written on 11th March, 2023 by Brian Traynor.



Jerome (and the lift)

Jerome was in the wars a week ago with a number of issues a couple of which meant walking was extremely painful. He was at the doctor when the ‘lift people’ remotely shut down the lift. He crawled up the stairs on his hands and knees. You can’t stop a man who has spent 42 years working in the wilds of PNG! With the help of medication he is now managing much better. We don’t know how long it will be before the lift is repaired.

Back to Letter 260:

Interestingly, Jerome has had catheter issues which has caused pain even after being rushed to hospital. He is back home waiting for two weeks before his specialist who is on holidays is available to look at what is wrong. In the meantime he has nurses visiting him often to make sure he is okay. No much can be disclosed but he is enduring a lot of pain especially when he has to sit. He has to eat while standing.



I took a photo of him and he said “as long as we don’t take a photo of the catheter.” Please keep him in your prayers and his sister Mary who is critically ill – Jerome’s situation means that he can’t

make the trip to see her. In the photo is also Br Martin Lusk CP, visiting us before returning to his community in Sydney. We enjoyed stories of them two as they worked together in PNG for a long time.

Happy Luna New Year!

On Wednesday we celebrated Luna New Year. It is more significant for Mike, in the photo below, in the tent. In Vietnam it is a public holiday as it is for many other countries in our Holy Cross wider connections. The tent was gifted to Mike by Chris. They stayed outside and camped overnight in separate tents early in the week. Below the tent photos is the A-team with Mike in it. Brian took it before catching his flight to PNG. We thank the A-team for making a comeback to 2025- even though they never had a proper holiday. They were still turning up for emergencies and other work over Christmas and New Years. Only God knows their generous hearts!

One of the A-team members referred to Mike as *Crocodile Dundee* because of his hat. From now on he has been baptised as not Mike but *Mick Dundee!* He wears the hat everyday of the week when going to ELSPM, Box Hill, because on his way back he has to walk under the sun for at least 20min to catch the bus back to Holy Cross.

Happy New Year to you Mike; to Tri and JD who are away with their families; and to all of you who celebrate Luna New Year. May this year bring you an abundance of blessings filled with grace and peace.



CRA Letter to the PM (Brian)



Open letter to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese
17 December 2024

The Hon Anthony Albanese M.P. Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra

ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister, Re: Migration Laws

This year has seen enormous challenges to the stability of the harmonious multicultural, multireligious society that is championed and lived by fair-minded Australians. Coming out of the COVID-19 Pandemic, experiencing financial challenges amidst a cost of living crisis, and the playing out of zealous political debate on global conflicts with resultant religious and racial stereotyping, scapegoating and physical attacks, have put enormous strain on the social cohesion of Australian communities. We know your government is attuned to this and has attempted to respond, through actions such as appointing a Special Envoy for Social Cohesion earlier in the year. However, Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) is deeply concerned that the recent passing of the trio of migration bills will only further weaken our societal fabric, impacting the stability and wellbeing of refugee, migrant and multicultural communities here in Australia.

CRA firmly opposes the provisions of these new laws that will allow for the reversal of refugees' protection findings, including recognised refugees with Australian citizen family members, facilitating their removal from Australia. These changes could see thousands of people, already well established in and contributing to Australian communities, detained, removed to third countries or returned to persecution in their country of origin. We also object to the allowal of the Australian Government to pay third countries to receive non-citizens, without any safeguards to prevent their harm, detention or further movement. These laws place individuals' lives and wellbeing at risk and threaten to tear apart families. Furthermore, the imposition of harsh visa conditions on some of those who stay, including ankle monitoring bracelets and curfews, is a degrading treatment of those human beings.

The fostering of multiculturalism and diversity is a great asset to Australia – to our economy, our social cohesion and our building of a nation that welcomes and cares for those in need, offering everyone a 'fair go.'

Although your government says that these measures are designed to protect the Australian community, we fear that they will only break up families and destabilise communities, with harmony, relationships, and levels of trust in neighbourhoods, and in the government, being eroded.

Christmas is fast approaching, and while it should be a time of joy, hope and the gathering together of loved ones, the passing of these laws at the end of the year has only brought the 80,000 refugees, asylum seekers and impacted migrants deep fear and uncertainty over their future. We firmly call for these laws to be re-visited and re-assessed in 2025. Australia can and must do better to provide a safehaven for those in need and forge stronger bonds in our communities, working urgently towards a more peaceful and harmonious new year.

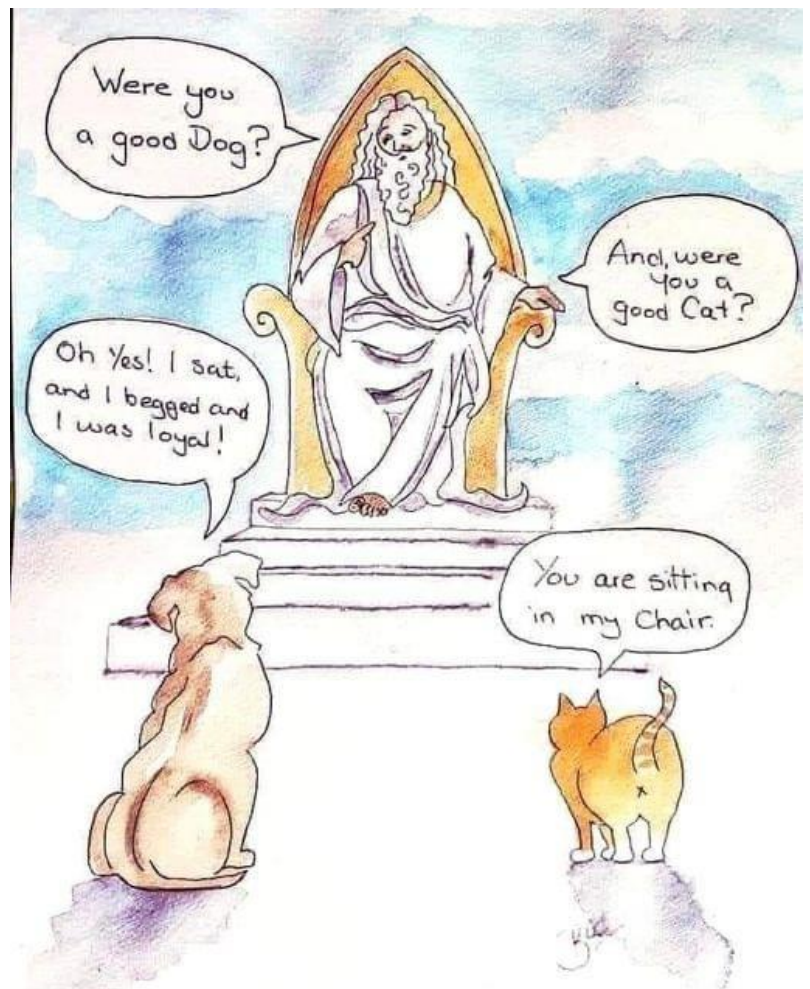
Yours faithfully,

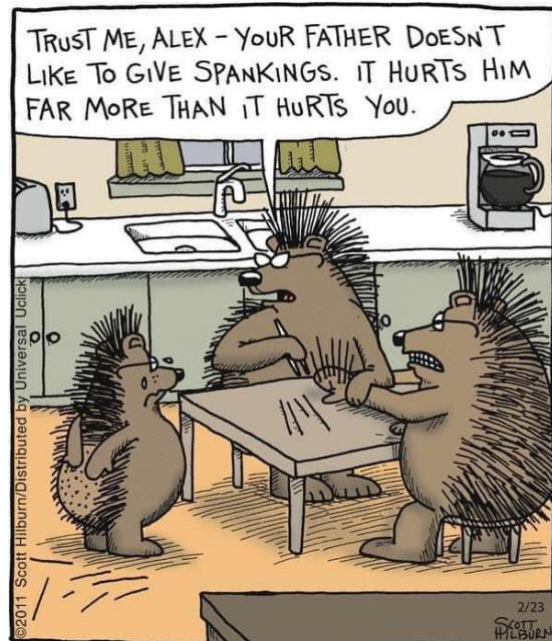
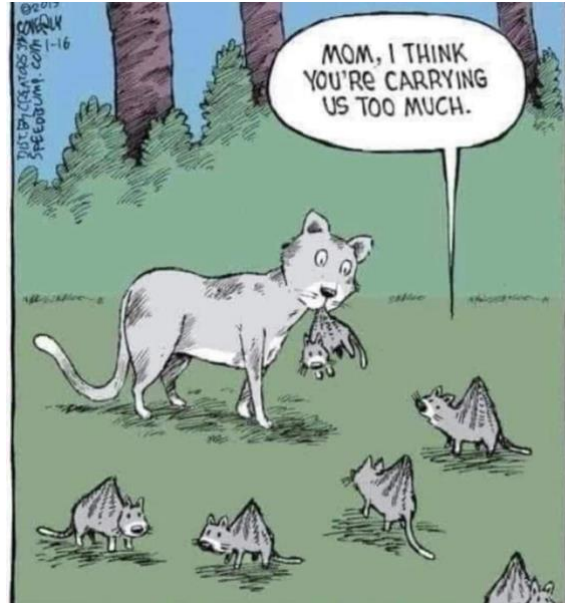
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Humour:





Dad Jokes
@Dadsaysjokes

What's the best present you can gift?

A broken drum.

Nobody can beat that.

Prayers



We have been praying for young [Alfred](#) in London (grandson of Deb and Peter Day) who was discovered to have a tumour while in the womb. We haven't heard the outcome of the surgery that was scheduled to take place on February 19th. This is a photo of Freddie sourced through Brian, for all of us to put a face to the name.

We remember those who have died recently [Peter Karlovic](#), as well as those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially [Helen Chai](#), [Michael Keeghan](#), [Kathleen Humphreys](#), [Mariano Della Riva](#), and those who grieve for them.



We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell as well as all who care for them especially [Elane Annette Rod Gorfine](#), [Bro Minh Toan CP](#), [Noel Smyth](#), [Peter Barry](#), [Rex Cambry](#), [Zoe Chung](#) and her baby daughter [Sophia](#), [Desley Reynolds](#), [Tony Brooks](#), [Monica Sleeman](#), [Carol Battistella](#), [Gerry Bond](#), [Sharon Williams](#), [Alexander Lim](#), [Paul Darbyshire](#), [Doris Castro](#), [Michael O'Callaghan](#), [Julia Cantone](#), [Pam Storey](#), [Lorraine Gill](#), [Adrian Woon](#), [Bronwyn Burke](#), [Luke Norden](#), [John Reardon](#), [Kaya Lenic](#), [Peter & Bernadette Owen](#), [Greg Agosta](#), [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

Erick