

Holy Cross Retreat

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

Letter 268

28th March 2025

Funerals: Paul Darbyshire and Michael O'Callaghan

Over the past week we have celebrated the funerals of two significant men, both of whom had great faith and a great sense of humour. Paul was aged 65 and Michael, 93. Paul and Linda met when he was 17 and she was 15, and they married four years later. Despite their young age they were married for nearly 45 years. Michael and Joan also met when they were young, and he was 26 and Joan (a bit younger!) when they married, just a little short of 65 years ago. We give thanks for such witness to life, love, laughter, family and faith.

Stations of the Cross



The community will pray the outside Stations of the Cross again at **8 .00am on Friday April 4th**. You are most welcome to join us. Meet at our carport, please.

Way of the Cross – Good Friday

As previously advised, we will return to our custom of holding Good Friday morning Stations in small groups, now that the Passion Play will not be held here. We will operate in

small groups every 10 minutes from 10.00am. (10.00am, 10.10; 10.20; 10.30; 10.40; 10.50; 11.00)

Way of the Cross 2

Former YTU president and lecturer, Fr Tony Kelly and former YTU lecturer Fr John Hill, both of whom are theologians and members of the Redemptorist Congregation, offer a reflection using aboriginal imagery and music, to modernise our reflection on the 'stations' of the cross. The reflection is 22 minutes long and can be viewed on YouTube at this address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBQQFAc00Zg>

'The Seven Last Words'

This reflection including the imagery and music was created by Sr Brigid CP and illustrated with music added by Sr Karen CP.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07nSsA5gtFw>

Passion Play

The Passion Play will be performed this year on Palm Sunday at 1.30pm and on Good Friday at 10.00am at: **Catholic Regional College - 380 Sydenham Road Sydenham.**

The spirit of Lent

Pope Francis has said that his most profound and shaping instruction occurred on the priest's side of the confessional screen, where he was long entrusted with litanies of suffering, failure, despair, and sin. "When I heard confessions, I always thought about myself, about my own sins, and about my need for mercy, and so I tried to forgive a great deal," he said. This was what he calls "the gift of confession," and it was transforming.

When he was a parish priest in Argentina a woman he knew "had to prostitute herself to provide her children with food." He made sure that she and her children received gifts at Christmas time, but when the woman came to thank him, it was not for that. Rather, she explained that she was grateful "because you never stopped calling me 'Señora.'"

Jerome

Jerome is being driven to Benalla on Sunday with his sister Monica, and staying overnight. This will be a time for a memorial wake for his deceased sister, Mary, which will be celebrated with his other sister Kate, who lives in care, in Benalla.

Vince



On Monday this week, Vince spent eight hours working, mostly on the excavator, smoothing new truckloads of fill and soil. That's just a few hours more than normal! He is keen to get the work finished, so that the non-parking area can be grassed, and the carpark surface made firm. We are waiting to create a concrete path to the St Gabriel's shrine and connect the new ramp to that path. We are greatly indebted to

Vince for these years of work, done with joy and amazing expertise.

Distressing

<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/03/18/world/israels-strikes-in-gaza-palestinian-children-traumatized/index.html>

40 fingers

40 Fingers is an Italian guitar quartet who reinterpret modern classics and movie soundtracks in a unique style. Here are two examples.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFpNZayG0VI>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=vOd6QAuK2YE>

Michael and Paul

Following the funerals of two wonderful men last week (Michael O'Callaghan and Paul Darbyshire) as well as Teresa Lim's fifty year old nephew, Adrian Woon, this poem below might be of some assistance for Joan, Linda, Teresa and all those who grieve loved ones.

Grief - You Don't Just Lose Someone Once (Donna Ashworth)

You don't just lose someone once.
You lose them when you close your eyes at night.
And as you open them each morning.
You lose them throughout the day.

An unused coffee cup.
An empty chair.
A pair of boots no longer there.
You lose them as the sun sets.
And darkness closes in.

You lose them as you wonder why.
Staring at a star lit sky.
You lose them on the big days.
Anniversaries, birthdays, graduations.
Holidays, weddings, and the regular days too.
You lose them in a song they used to sing.
The scent of their cologne.
A slice of their favourite pie.
You lose them in conversations you will never have.
And all the words unsaid.

You lose them in all the places they've been.
And all the places they longed to go.
You lose them in what could have been.
And all the dreams you shared.
You lose them as the seasons change.
The snow blows.
The flowers blossom.
The grass grows.
The leaves fall.
You lose them again and again.
Day after day.
Month after month.

Year after year.

You lose them as you pick up the broken pieces.

And begin your life anew.

You lose them when you realize.

This is your new reality.

They are never coming back.

No matter how much

You miss them or

Need them.

No matter how hard you pray.

They are gone.

And you must go on.

Alone.

Time marches on, carrying them further and further way.

You lose them as your hair whitens and your body bends with age.

Your memory fades.

And the details begin to blur.

Their face stares back at you from a faded photograph.

Someone you used to know.

You think you might have loved them once.

A long time ago.

Back then.

When you were whole.

You don't just lose someone once.

You lose them every day.

Over and over again.

For the rest of your life.

Coffee Cart Photos – despite the rain





The next Coffee Cart Sunday is April 13th

Humour

- Anagrams

Making something related to a word, using the same letters

LISTEN can be rearranged to read **SILENT**.



Dormitory - Dirty Room

Evangelist - Evil's Agent

The Morse Code - Here Come Dots

Slot Machines - Cash Lost in 'em

Animosity - Is No Amity

Mother-In-Law - Woman Hitler

Snooze Alarms - Alas! No More Z's

Alec Guinness- Genuine Class

Semolina - Is No Meal

The Public Art Galleries - Large Picture Halls, I Bet

A Decimal Point - I'm a Dot in Place

The Earthquakes - That Queer Shake

Eleven plus two - Twelve plus one

Contradiction - Accord not in it

Clint Eastwood – Old West Action

A senior's reflections

I was in the 'six items express lane' at the supermarket quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the check-out line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier asked the woman to come forward. She looked into the cart and asked sweetly, "So

which six items would you like to buy?" (Wouldn't it be great if that happened more often?)

Because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, my elderly neighbour and his wife were told there would be a 45 minute wait for a table. "Young man, we're both 90 years old," the husband said. "We may not have 45 minutes. "They were seated immediately.

The reason politicians try so hard to get re-elected is that they would "hate" to have to make a living under the laws they have just passed.

All eyes were on the radiant bride as her father escorted her down the aisle. They reached the altar and the waiting groom. The bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand. The guests in the front pews responded with ripples of laughter. Even the priest smiled broadly. As her father gave her away in marriage, the bride gave him back his credit card.

Three friends from the local parish were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?" Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man." Eugene commented, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives.." Al said, "I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving!'"

Smith climbed to the top of Mt. Sinai to get close enough to talk to God. Looking up, he asked the Lord. "God, what does a million years mean to you?" The Lord replied, "A minute." Smith asked, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?" The Lord replied, "A cent" Smith asked "Can I have a cent?" The Lord replied, "In a minute."

Betty was on her deathbed and gasped pitifully, "Give me one last request, dear," he said. "Of course, Betty," her husband John said softly. "Six months after I die, I want you to marry Sandra."" But I thought you hated Sandra," he said. With her last breath Betty said, "I do!"

A man went to see the Rabbi. "Rabbi, something terrible is happening and I have to talk to you about it." The Rabbi asked, "What's wrong?" The man replied, "My wife is going to poison me." The Rabbi, surprised by this, asked, "How can that be?" The man then pleaded, "I'm telling you, I'm certain she's going to poison me. What should I do?" The Rabbi then offered, "Tell you what. Let me talk to her, I'll see what I can find out and I'll let you know." A week later the Rabbi called the man and said, "I spoke to your wife on the phone for three hours. You want my advice?" The man said, "Yes". The Rabbi replied, "Take the poison!"

Women and cats will do as they please, so men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

I was buying mangoes at the junction. While waiting for my change, I saw a woman with a little child. The child was walking a bit faster than the woman and the woman shouted; "Degree! Wait For Me". I was amazed hearing that name, so to satisfy my curiosity, I walked closer to the woman and asked, "Mam, why do you call this child Degree"? The woman laughed and said, "I sent her mother to university, and this is what she brought home!"

Birthday

Tim Horlock will be singing a famous Beatle's song when he celebrates his birthday on Monday.

Prayers

We remember those who have died recently especially [Adrian Woon](#).

We also remember those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially [Terry Maher](#), [Luigi Spinosa](#), [Julia Anne Pallot](#), [Gina Aloj](#), [James Zammit](#), and [John Doherty](#), and for those who grieve for them.



We pray for Gerry Bond regularly. He was in the Austin hospital but now in Donvale rehab suffering a fractured sternum caused by over-stretching, not a fall. He is likely to be in Donvale for another week. We remember Gerry and all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell, as well as all who care for them, especially [Francis Lôc](#), [Bruno Petrocco](#), [Kata Lenic](#), [Fr Jeff Foale CP](#), [Bro Jim Couchier CP](#),

[Bro Jerome](#), [Robyn Burns](#), [Maureen Barns](#), [Rod Gorfine](#), [Pam Storey](#), [Noel Smyth](#), [Carol Battistella](#), [Peter Barry](#), [Zoe Chung](#) and her daughter [Sophia](#), [Rex Cambry](#), [Pam Gartland](#), [Monica Sleeman](#), [Alexander Lim](#), [Lorraine Gill](#), [Doris Castro](#), [Bro Minh Toan CP](#), [Julia Cantone](#), [Peter Owen](#), [Bernadette Owen](#), [Luke Norden](#), [Greg Agosta](#), [Bronwyn Burke](#), [Helen McLean](#), [Caroline Meade](#), [Patricia Keeghan](#), [Phil Drew](#), [Anne Jenkins](#), [Errol Lovett](#), and young [Alfred Theodore](#) in London.

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

Brian