

## Holy Cross Retreat

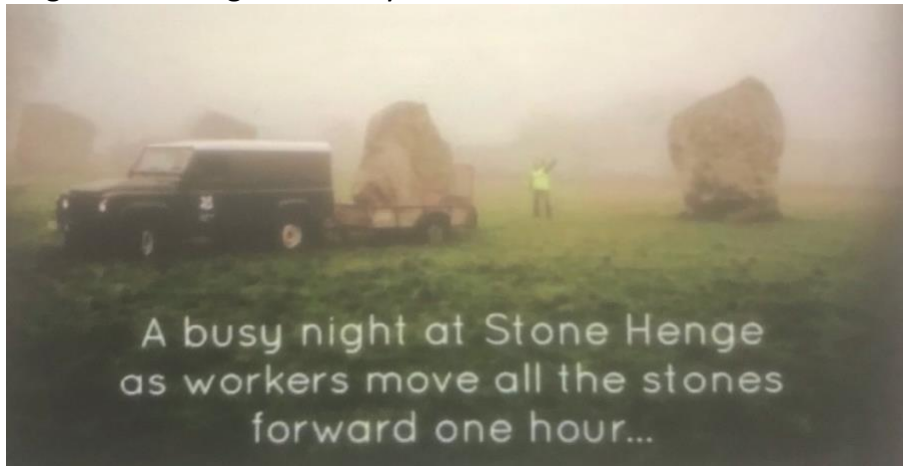
<https://holycrosscentre.com/community/>

## Letter 270

11<sup>th</sup> April, 2025

## Daylight Saving

Everything seemed to go smoothly last weekend.



## Holy Week liturgies

Please note these days and times:

**Palm (Passion Sunday)** April 13<sup>th</sup>: Mass at **10.00am**

**Please gather in the chapel, not outside.**

The **Coffee Cart** will be here after Mass.

**Holy Thursday:** April 17<sup>th</sup>: Mass at **7.30pm**

**Good Friday** April 18<sup>th</sup>: **Way of the Cross** (small groups)  
(10.00am, 10.10; 10.20; 10.30; 10.40; 10.50; 11.00)

You are welcome to pray the Stations at any time. There are copies of prayers in a plastic box in front of the first garage door.

Solemn Commemoration of the Passion at **3.00pm**  
(This will be held in the chapel, so please come early)

**The 3.00pm liturgy will be live-streamed. The link will be provided next week**

**Easter Sunday** April 20<sup>th</sup>: **Dawn Mass 6.30am** in the St Gabriel shrine  
This will be followed by breakfast in the dining room  
(A donation towards breakfast is requested please)  
Feel free to park on the oval.  
**Mass at 10.00am**

## Mike in Hobart

Mike has been in Hobart this past week, helping out a Vietnamese community with Mass and Reconciliation. He will go back for three weeks at the end of this month.

## Oh, Oh, Oh, OBrien



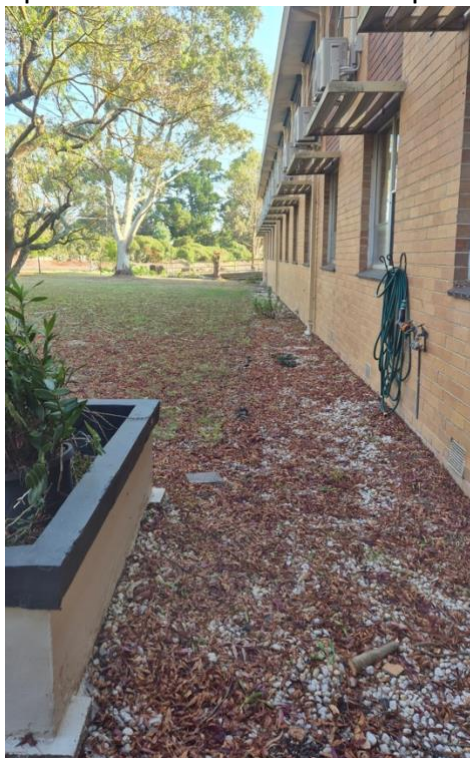
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOkLPTFurfY>

OBrien Chanda is a Zambian Passionist who will take up an appointment in Endeavour Hills on April 29<sup>th</sup>. He came to Holy Cross on Tuesday this week and will be here until he goes to our St Gabriel's community in Endeavour Hills. Peter Norman will offer Obrien some help in securing a Victorian licence.

## Clean up



After the tree pruning had been done on either side of the carpark, there were a lot of branches and leaves so Last Friday, the 'A' Team did a wonderful job cleaning up the area between the chapel and the ramp that leads to the Holy Cross Centre.



The 'A' Team took four trailer loads to our ever-increasing pile of vegetation and timber that unfortunately we can never get clear before Good Friday. We will get Council permission to burn it next month.

Peter Norman, our grounds maintenance manager has been suggesting for some time that the brilliant home-made 12 centimetre high fence running along the length of the building, needed to go, because it had lost its attractiveness. It was decayed, damaged and beyond repair. Pastor built the 'fence' very patiently and creatively out of carpet and small blocks of wood and before the decay it was very attractive. The next challenge will be to remove the small stones.



Tri continued the clean-up and carted away three more trailer loads, pruned from our Smiths Road neighbour's fence



## 220 Serpells Road



This property is directly opposite the community driveway. In July 2011 it sold for \$1,850,000. The new owners renovated the house in Japanese style and in July 2022 it was sold for \$3,480,000. On March 11th 2023 an application was made to Manningham Council for a

child care centre to operate on the site. Last Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> work began to demolish the house, with the help of an excavator. It was a very sad sight.







## Holy Cross 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee



In the weeks leading up to the Jubilee, we will share via instalments in the weekly newsletter, some updated historical news of Templestowe district and of the Passionist founding of Holy Cross. Margaret Mangan passed away last year. She was one of the few people we know who was present at the opening in May 1965.

Perhaps Marlene Walsh was too? Further details will be provided closer to the occasion concerning the celebration of the day on May 25<sup>th</sup> this year.

## The Afternoon of Christianity: The courage to change by Tomáš Halík,

*A review of the book by Dr John Saxbee (Retired Anglican bishop of Lincoln)*



“‘We have empty hands and empty nets, we worked all night and caught nothing,’ said the tired and frustrated Galilean fishermen to the wandering preacher standing on the shore. Many Christians in a large part of our western world have similar feelings at this time. Churches are being emptied, and tens of

thousands are leaving the Church.

The Christian faith no longer confronts militant atheism or harsh persecution, which might awaken and mobilise believers, but instead there is a far greater danger — indifference.”

Tomáš Halík, a Czech Roman Catholic priest and psychotherapist, might be seen as just another purveyor of a long list of woes, forecasting, the terminal decline of religious belief and practice. But Halík’s challenge to organised religion, in general, and the Roman Catholic Church, in particular, is gilded with hope for the future of faith predicated on affirming, and fanning into a flame, a hunger for spirituality seemingly at odds with the siren voices of secularism.

This will entail “the transcending of Christianity in its traditional ecclesiastical form”. It will be more about faith as trust than faith as belief. He describes himself as having the faith of “a non-dogmatic believer”, and sees this as essential to positive engagement with the cultural context of what his hero, Pope Francis, describes as “epochal change”.

Faith is not belief  
without proof, but trust  
without reservation.

Halík book’s catchy title captures an account of Christian history from its dawn, and the emergence of the Church as arbiter of cultural identity, until in the “darkness at noon” the Renaissance, Reformation, and Enlightenment eclipsed ecclesiastical authority, culminating in an epoch of atheism, apathy, or some undeveloped forms of “belonging without believing”. So, now the afternoon beckons with the prospect of Christ-centred spirituality re-energising Christian

As the evening beckons with the  
promise of tomorrow... may your  
gratitude rise up and with strength  
answer, "yes."

faith if only top-down, ring-fenced, institutional Christianity has “the courage to change”. Note that in the biblical concept of time, a new day begins at evening!

An opening chapter seeks to allay fears that the author is advocating a form of spiritual anarchy: there is still a part for ecclesiastical authority to play, “to declare certain expressions of faith authentic and mandatory”, but not at the expense of an individual’s personal spiritual engagement with divine mystery. This gives early warning of Halík’s determination to stay on the right side of the magisterium while re-fashioning evangelisation to accord with what the next chapter describes as “signs of the times”. These signs point towards “a non-religious faith” informed by the writings of Kierkegaard, Bonhoeffer, and Teilhard de Chardin.



But, again, Halík tempers such radicalism with the hope that faith can still be religious — but it is religion that must be more spiritually experienced than theologically dogmatic: “the Church is founded upon a rock, but it must not be petrified.”

Insightful chapters on the recent history of Roman Catholicism, New Atheism, and the phenomenology of faith lead us towards his keynote account of spirituality as “the passion of faith”.

Spirituality today may be corrupted by commercial exploitation, pseudo-psychology, and banality, but it has real potential when it comes to turning the tide of faith. Halík is negotiating a theological and ecclesiastical tightrope in this cry

Faith is the highest passion in a  
human being. Many in every  
generation may not come that  
far, but none comes further.

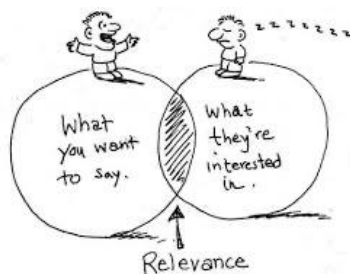
from the heart, as his repeated references to the words of Pope Francis in support of his position tend to affirm. But his passion, perspicacity, and, above all, positive hope for the future are insistently infectious. His book will be warmly welcomed by those who believe that organised

Christianity needs to undergo a detox process to purge it of beliefs, policies, and practices that have contributed to its decline in the modern world.

A Church that is both Catholic and reformed can model a reformed Catholicism if, again, there is evidence of “the courage to change”.

In a separate review of the same book, former Jesuit Paul Lakeland comments, “Like any self-respecting sociologist, Halík begins with data related to the reality that in most Western countries, religious practice and traditional belief are on the decline. Churches are empty and often closed, and parishes are combined to cater to ever-smaller congregations with declining numbers of ordained ministers.

Halík suggests that the Church has passed through its “morning,” when it grew into a vast cultural institution, and its “noonday,” when it underwent the crisis of declining



membership, the painful process of addressing its involvement in the abuse of minors, and perhaps most important of all, though less obviously serious, a change in “the link between the language used in expressing the faith and the way it is lived.” The Church proclaims things in its own way, but the ideas and opinions of the faithful are increasingly out of sync with that kind of language. This, thinks Halík, is a moment of

opportunity, ushering in the “afternoon of Christianity,” in which radical changes must occur if the Gospel is to continue to be heard in a dramatically different world.

The evangelization that is so central in Francis’s papacy is about carrying the active love of God to what he has called “the existential periphery.” All baptized Christians are meant to be missionary disciples, turned outward to the world. Church structures must change to make this kind of evangelization possible. In Halík’s imagination, the future of a vibrant Church does not lie with a revived parish or diocese but in learning to respond to “the hunger for spirituality” that has largely replaced any interest in traditional religious practice. A “newly conceived Christian spirituality can make a significant contribution to the spiritual culture of humanity today, even far outside the bounds of the churches.”

### **The extraordinary hummingbird**

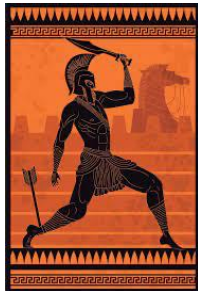
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/FPRswRWZ23Q>

### **Teaching children to read the clock – Dave Allen**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5puzYBgaXM>

## Achilles heel

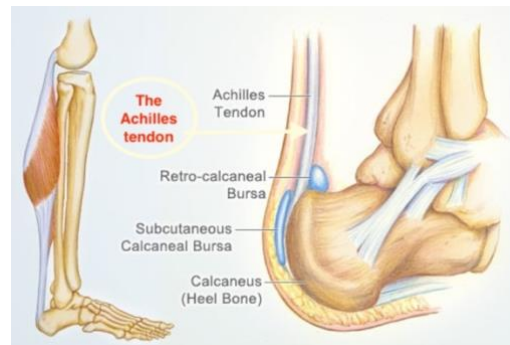
We are often explaining sayings and idiom to our men who are learning English. One example is “that is his ‘Achilles heel’ “. What does that mean?



Most of us know that in one Greek myth, Achilles was a man of war and considered to be invincible – (he was not vulnerable). He believed the reason he had survived many battles was because when he was a baby, his mother had washed him in river believed to have magical powers. However she held him in the water by his heel and that part did not touch the water. One day, a poisonous arrow was shot at him and struck him in his heel and he died soon afterwards.

This myth highlighted the weakness of the tendon that connects the heel with the calf muscle in our lower leg. It has become known as ‘the Achilles heel’. This tendon is the largest and strongest tendon in a human body. If we bend or stretch our calf muscle, the Achilles tendon pulls on the heel. This movement allows us to stand on our toes when we walk, run or jump.

Although it is strong, the Achilles tendon is also vulnerable to injury, due to its limited blood supply and the high pressure caused by stretching and when it is injured we experience great pain and we are unable to walk. I remember one of our men rupturing his achilles playing squash and it sounded like a gunshot.



This achilles tendon is a good image for human vulnerability, because a person may have many gifts, or a lot of money, but a small weakness in his or her personality may mean they are not able to achieve their goals. It is common to hear people say, “He’s very gifted, but his Achilles heel is....” By that they mean, “he is very gifted, but one particular fault brings him undone”.

This last week of Lent may be a good time to identify and reflect on ‘my’ Achilles heel.

## English language

- The bandage was wound around the wound.
- The farm was used to produce produce.
- The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- We must polish the Polish furniture.
- He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert..
- There is no time like the present, he decided to present the present.



- A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- I did not object to the object.
- The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- They were too close to the door to close it.
- The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- The wind was too strong to wind the sail
- After a number of injections my jaw got number.
- Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

## Humour

Joe was at the bar staring at his drink when a great huge, trouble-making biker stepped up next to him, grabbed his drink and gulped it down in one swig. "Well, whatcha' gonna do about that?" he said, menacingly, as Joe burst into tears. "Come on, man," the bikie said, "I can't stand to see a man crying."

"This is the worst day of my life," Joe said to the bikie. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the car park, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the taxi I took home. I found my wife with another man and then my dog bit me. So I came to this pub to work up the courage to put an end to it all. I bought a drink, dropped a capsule in and I was sitting here watching the poison dissolve and then you showed up and drank the whole thing! But enough about me, how's your day going?"

A man said to his doctor, "Doc, I can't stop singing the 'Green Green Grass of Home'" The doctor replied, ' that sounds like Tom Jones syndrome '.

"Is it common?" the man asked.

The doctor replied, "It's not unusual"

Two hunters were out in the woods when one of them collapsed. He didn't seem to be breathing and his eyes were glazed. The other guy whipped out his phone and called the emergency services. He gasped, "my friend is dead! What can I do?" The operator says "calm down. I can help. First, let's make sure he's dead." There was a brief silence; then a shot was heard. Back on the phone, the guy said "Ok, now what?"



Harold had got himself into debt and became increasingly depressed. One day he drove out along the pier to the edge of a steep drop into the ocean. People gathered around him to ask why he had done this. He said, "I own \$750 and I can't repay it, so I might as well end it all". Amazingly with a quick whip-around, the money was raised. When his brother was asked "how did those people raise all that money so quickly?" Harold's brother said, "they were all passengers on the bus!"

Henry bought a dog from a blacksmith today. As soon as I got it home it made a bolt for the door.

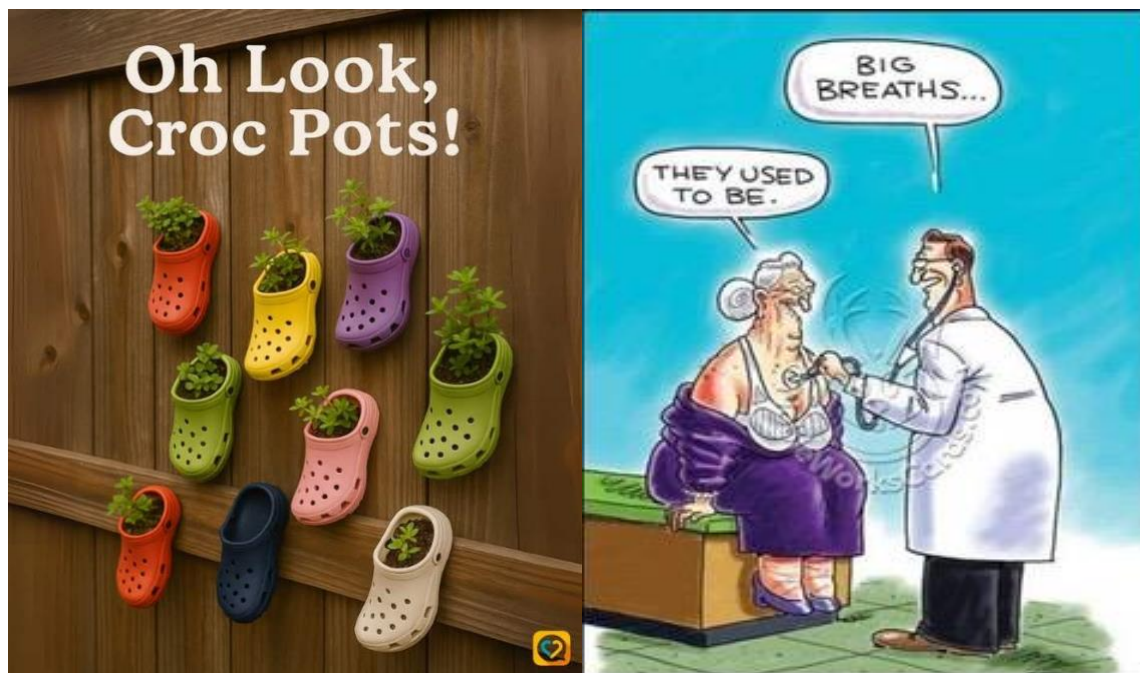
A man showed up for a duel, armed only with a pencil and paper. He then proceeded to draw his weapon.

Thanks for explaining the word "many" to me. It means a lot.

Susan told Billy she was leaving me because he kept pretending to be a Transformer.

Billy said, "No wait! I can change."

What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo?  
Ones really heavy, the others a little lighter.

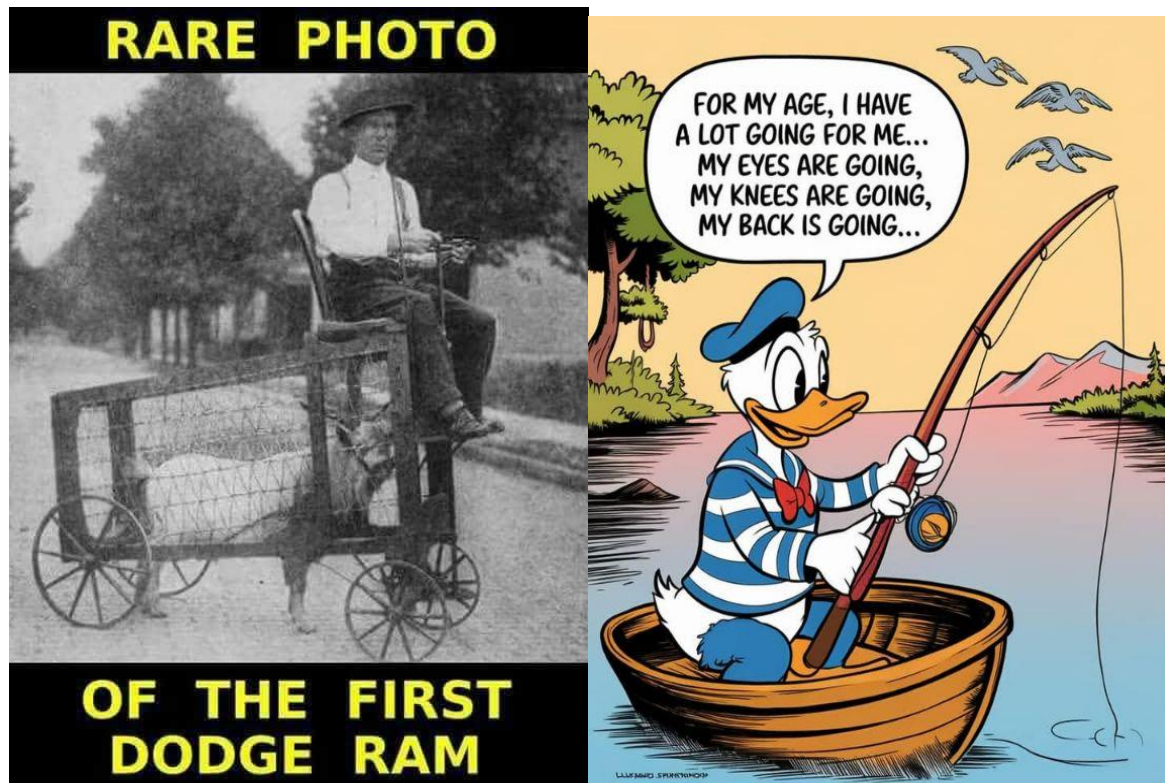




"It's another sympathy card. Our anniversary is next week."







## Prayers

We remember those who have died recently and we especially remember those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially **Mardi Doyle, Kathleen Jordan, Dominic O'Brien, Ann McGuigan**, and for those who grieve them.

We remember all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell, and all who care of them, especially.....



Kata Lenic, Fr Jeff Foale CP, Noel Smyth, Graham Burke, Fr Brendan Lane (Jenny Gill's first cousin), Pam Storey, Lesley Yang, Marilyn Climi, Bro Jerome, Peter Barry, Gerry Bond, Maureen Barns, Rex Cambry, Carol Battistella, Bruno Petrocco, Zoe Chung and her daughter Sophia, Pam Gartland, Monica Sleeman, Alexander Lim, Lorraine Gill, Doris Castro, Bro Minh Toan CP, Julia Cantone, Peter Owen, Rod Gorfine, Bernadette Owen, Luke Norden, Greg Agosta, Bronwyn Burke, Helen McLean, Caroline Meade, Patricia Keeghan, Phil Drew, Anne Jenkins, Rod Smith, Errol Lovett, and young Alfred Theodore in London.

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

Brian



