

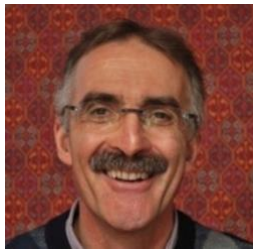
Holy Cross Retreat

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

Letter 276

23th May, 2025

Community activities: Chris' new book:



Christopher J Monaghan CP is a Passionist priest who studied at Yarra Theological Union (YTU) – a member college of the University of Divinity – and then undertook postgraduate studies at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and Jerusalem. He has taught both New and Old Testament at YTU since 1987, with a major focus on Matthew, Luke-Acts, and the letters of Paul. Chris has been the President of YTU since 2009.

Dr Chris Monaghan CP has released the second book in his series. The first book, *See with the Eyes of the Heart*, was well received, and his new release, titled *Perspective*, continues the journey. The book is available for purchase through Garratt Publishing, but Chris receives better financial benefit for the community if it is purchased directly from him. Last Sunday, many people picked up a copy, and it is available for just \$25.

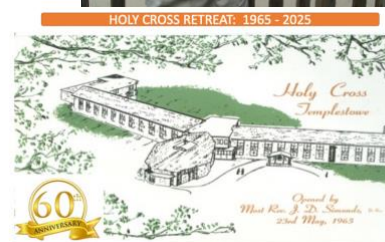
If you're interested, you can email Chris directly he'll set aside a copy for you to collect (chris.monaghan@passionists.com and).

I was fortunate to get a copy when Chris first announced the book's release. I'm grateful to him - it's a meaningful reflection on the beauty of everyday life and Scripture, and it's wonderful to support the work of one of our own.

Brian will be back sometime soon before the 60th Anniversary of Holy Cross this weekend. We look forward to welcome him back from his holiday, unless he needs another holiday to recover from holiday.

Talking about the 60th anniversary, I thought that **Pat McIndoe's** reply to the invitation was interesting and worth sharing in this space. It represents many other kind responses we received.

*"Dear Eric,
I would love to come but have to stay here at Boroko at present.
I shall keep you all in prayer that day. Just a note - the original picture/drawing of the Holy Cross as in your Invitation card I think was designed by Walter (Wally) McEntee who was one of the first group of students.*



I arrived at Holy Cross 2 years after it had opened, coming with 7/8 others from my class in 1967. Those in my class of '67 were as far as I can remember: Bill Grattan, John Etheridge, Lex Keys, Michael Bracks, Paul Barber, Michael Kingston, Michael Tunney, Anthony Cleary, Pat McIndoe. We had just completed two years of Philosophy at St Paul's Monastery in Glen Osmond SA.

I believe we came and had a holiday at St Gabriel's at Highton, Geelong in January, then travelled to Melbourne to Holy Cross to join the older students there in February '67. Fr Brendan Patterson CP (we called him 'Jacko') was the Rector then. He was a good man. I hope the celebrations go well!

*Kind regards,
Pat McIndoe"*

Holy Cross Retreat

Warmly invites you

to the Celebration of 60th-Jubilee of Opening



Sunday, 25th May 2025

10:00 AM - Mass - Followed by Coffee Cart

12:15 PM - BBQ Lunch in the Dining Hall

2:15 PM - Address by Fr Denis Traver CP (Provincial)

**Your presence will make it a more joyful occasion.
Please bring a plate of salad and sweets to share,
as well as a drink of your liking.**

Essay on Pope Francis by Tri:

From two weeks ago until this week we have been reading from Tri's essay on Pope Francis as we honour him. Thank you Tri for sharing your essay.

Pope Francis invites members of the Church to be merciful disciples of Jesus for the contemporary world. By Van Tri Cao.

Part Three of three parts - Final:

LEAVING COMFORT ZONE

Pope Francis invites Church's members to leave their comfort zone and go and seek out the least and the marginalized. He identifies an issue of our time in his apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, that Church's members want to stay in 'ease and comfort' instead of engaging in evangelizing the Gospels, in which God's mercy lies at the centre. The excessive concern for personal freedom and relaxation causes many pastoral workers, including consecrated men and women, to view their ministry as just a graft of life, not a part of their very identity. At the same time, spiritual exercises, even though they can offer some comfort, can discourage encounters with others and engagement with the world, which increases individualism, introduces a crisis of identity, and lessens enthusiasm for the pastoral task.¹

Francis speaks about a lack of missionary enthusiasm, as a result of an inferiority complex caused by the spread of scepticism in the media culture of our day among the Church's members. This makes them feel ashamed to express their identity. As a result, they lose the joy of the Gospel and feel forced into mission as 'task'. Moreover, "the grey pragmatism of the daily life of the Church," explains the Pope, focuses on the way and the outcome of the Gospel, making the mission boring.² In response to this reality, Pope Francis calls Church's members to leave the comforts zone and Jesus and his disciples did.

From the beginning of his mission, Jesus called his disciples to follow him. They left behind the normal, easy, and comfortable lives as fisherman or other trades to commit to a life of being disciples of Jesus. They could not predict what would happen to them (Matt 4:18-22). The Gospels tell us these committed disciples of Jesus would later take up the

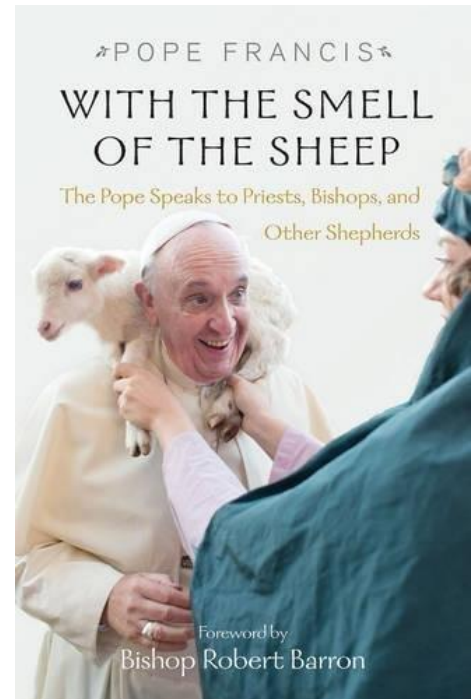


¹ Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Apostolic Exhortation (2013), n. 78.

² Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 79-83.

cross (Matt 16:24) and drink the cup of martyrdom (Matt 20:22). In his mission, Jesus himself risked dangers in order to express the merciful face of the Father. He healed on the Sabbath before the watchful eyes of the Pharisees (Lk14:1-5). In another incident, he was in danger when Pharisees wanted to trap him so they brought with them a woman who was caught in the act adultery (Jn 8:11). Later, Jesus was arrested and killed. Clearly Jesus and his disciples left their comfort zones to respond to people in need.

Pope Francis urges us to leave our comfort zone and search for those who are in need. He says in a powerful tone, “I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security.”³ A bruised Church because she walks with people who are suffering. A hurting Church because she protects the little ones and speaks on their behalf. A dirty Church because she does not mind embracing the homeless, disabled, marginalised, and rejected. Further, the Pope wishes the clergy of the Church “to be shepherds with the smell of the sheep.”⁴



Pope Francis urges Church members, “Let us never tire of also going out to the other son who stands outside, incapable of rejoicing.”⁵ Francis does not want Church’s members to remain satisfied while there are people who still need our help. He says, “we must not be content to remain in the enclosure of the ninety-nine sheep; we have to step outside, to search for the lost sheep.”⁶ In a letter to the Father Superior General of the Passionists, he calls the Passionists to meditate on the Crucifixion, through which Jesus reveals his loving mercy which exalts and sustains us. He says:

“As our Master and Saviour, Jesus is risen and no longer dies in his body – which mystically is the Church; but mysteriously he is also in every human being, to whom he is joined in a unique way in the incarnation, (cf. Past. Const. *Gaudium et Spes*, 22) – that he suffers and dies again. Do not tire of accentuating your commitment to the needs of humanity. This missionary calling is directed above all towards the crucified of our age – the poor,

³ Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 49.

⁴ Robin Gomes, "Pope to priests: Be shepherds with 'the smell of the sheep,'" Vatican News, accessed on 14th Nov 2023, <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-06/pope-francis-priests-students-church-louis-french.html>.

⁵ Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, n.17.

⁶ Alessandro Speciale, “Pope Francis Calls on Catholics to Leave Their Comfort Zone,” The Washington Post, accessed 14th Nov 2023, https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-faith/pope-francis-calls-on-catholics-to-leave-their-comfort-zone/2013/03/27/f4705570-9718-11e2-a976-7eb906f9ed9b_story.html.

the weak, the oppressed and those discarded by many forms of injustice.”⁷

This confirms that Pope Francis does not want us to stay with comfort or conformity. He urges us to go out and seek for people who are suffering. This is the way Jesus and his disciples have walked. So should we.

PARTICIPATING IN THE LITURGICAL CELEBRATION

Pope Francis says, “We are called to *celebrate* mercy.”⁸ He invites Church members to participate in the liturgical celebration of the Church. He believes that in the liturgical celebration of God’s merciful love, is not merely an idea but a reality carried throughout the history of salvation, and communicated to us. The pope says, “From the beginning to the end of the Eucharistic celebration, mercy constantly appears in the dialogue between the assembly at prayer and the heart of the Father, who rejoices in bestowing his merciful love.”⁹ This is so true. The Biblical readings in the Eucharist, narrate God’s tireless work of mercy expressed in the history of salvation.¹⁰ As we read the reading, God communicates to us the community as a whole what God had done.



Moreover, in the liturgy, the Church celebrates the life, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, who is the visible expression of the mercy of God. As discussed above, what Jesus did in his mission was an expression of his mercy. He felt compassion for the little ones. Jesus’ death on the cross is the self-giving death for the salvation of the world. In the Eucharist, we commemorate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Pope Francis says “The celebration of divine mercy culminates in the Eucharistic sacrifice, the memorial of Christ’s Paschal mystery, the source of salvation for every human being, for history and for the whole world.”¹¹

Mercy continues to be celebrated in the daily life of the Church, even after the liturgical celebration ends. Following the prayer after communion, the priest blesses the assembly with a Trinitarian blessing: “May almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” Then he dismisses the assembly, *te, missa est*, with the instruction that they are being sent.¹² This is a call for us to embody the life, passion,

⁷ Pope Francis, *Message to the Superior General of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ (Passionists) on the Occasion of the Third Centenary Jubilee Celebrations*, addressed on 15 October 2020, https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20201015_messaggio-passionisti.html.

⁸ Pope Francis, *Misericordia at misera*, n.5.

⁹ Pope Francis, *Misericordia at misera*, n.5.

¹⁰ Pope Francis, *Misericordia at misera*, n.6

¹¹ Pope Francis, *Misericordia at misera*, n.5.

¹² “Order of Mass,” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, accessed 15th Nov 2023, <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass>.

death and resurrection of Jesus in our life and to witness to it because it is the fullest vivid visible expression of the merciful love of the Father,

The Pope also mentions the two sacraments of healing, reconciliation and anointing of the sick. He says that each formula of the two sacraments is “references mercy.”¹³ It is worth repeating the word of Pope Francis that the liturgical celebration is a dialogue between God and humans about God’s mercy. For this reason, we are called to participate enthusiastically.



CONCLUSION

From all of this, it is clear that mercy is the main focus of the pontificate of Pope Francis. His theology of mercy is grounded in the biblical foundation and in the teaching of the Church. He understands that Mercy is God's nature, not merely an abstract idea, but a reality that has been carried out in his divine intervention in the history of salvation. The Pope discovers that Jesus, in his life, mission, death, and resurrection is a vivid expression of the mercy of God. However, Pope Francis finds out that the world today on one hand is wounded because there are so many people suffering so gravely. On the other hand the world does not know how to cure its wound nor does it believe in a chance to be cured.

People lack an of experience of mercy, therefore, the Pope calls the Church and her members to be witnesses, merciful disciples for the contemporary world. He wants the Church and her members to stay true to the message of the Gospel, being Christ-like; studying Jesus’ deeds and teachings in his mission, and in his self-giving death on the cross, He also urges the Church and her members to break the boundaries of their comfort zone and to seek out those who are in need. At the same time, he reminds the Church and her members not to forget the liturgical celebration of the Church, because liturgy is a dialogue about mercy between God and people.



What has been explored in this essay is the call of Pope Francis to all Church’s member. It is now our turn to respond to that call. In other words, we have received the mercy of God; it is our time to make known to all people that God loves them with a truly merciful love, God’s *hesed*.

¹³ Pope Francis, *Misericordia at misera*, n.5.



The Passionists of the Holy Spirit Province

Warmly invite you

to the Ordination to Diaconate of

Br. Cao Van Tri, CP

by Most Rev. Bishop Thinh Nguyen, DD.
Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Melbourne

June

Saturday 21 11:00 Am

2025

Holy Cross Retreat
207 Serpells road, Templestowe, VIC 3106

Refreshments to follow in the dining hall

RSVP for catering purposes by 15th June 2025



f.xcaovantri@gmail.com



0468865574

Come Away Day

The next **Come Away Day** for 2025 will be held at Holy Cross on **WEDNESDAY MAY 28th**. The theme of the day is **'WAITING IN HOPE'**. This is an opportunity to focus on the deeper meaning of our faith journey as we move through seasons of change in our church and all around us. The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, silent reflection and group interaction in the beautiful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. Just come as you are. BYO lunch. **Registration is from 9.30am**. The program concludes with a celebration of the Eucharist with a departure time of around **2.30pm - 3pm**. The suggested cost is \$30.00 or a donation according to your means. Registration is helpful for planning purposes. For any further details contact Sr Brigid cp on bridget.m64@gmail.com. Brochures about the 2025 Program are available in the Back Porch of the Chapel. Please put this Date in your Diary and consider inviting a friend along to share the Come Away Day experience.

Holy Cross... 60 years (Brian)

Over this month we have been providing some updated history related to the 60th jubilee of the opening of Holy Cross in 1965. The following is the final of four parts.

The Holy Cross Centre

A significant development began in 1991, with the establishment of the Holy Cross Centre, with Denis Travers as Director. The community agreed to move the eight students into the corridor that had always been reserved for the priests and brothers. This left the entire wings that had once been filled with students (46 bedrooms) for the use of retreatants.



The huge library was relocated from what is now the main Conference room of the HCC in the middle of the building. Many books were donated to theological libraries and a student library was retained in shelving along the walkway that had once housed four private altars.

The naming of Conference rooms and corridors was done in 1992 by Denis. The names of the rooms reflect particular Passionists from that era.



The room in the middle of the complex is the **Corbett** room (named after Charles Corbett who was Provincial of the Passionists at the time Holy Cross opened in 1965. As mentioned, this room had previously been the student library. The room immediately inside and to your left as the

enter (through the red door) the Holy Cross Centre off Smith's Road, is called the 'La Velle' Room. Malcolm **LaVelle** was an American Passionist who was General of the Passionists based in Rome in 1965 when Holy Cross opened)

The small meeting room closest to the dining room is called the **Morris** Room. Dominic Morris, was Director of students when Holy Cross opened.

The **Chapter** room is where official community meetings (Chapters) and assessment meetings of students were held. The two corridors in the HCC area are named after the first Passionist residents when Holy Cross opened: Fr Alphonsus **Foley** and Brother Gabriel **Preston**.

Denis approached his uncle, Gerald Wright who had recently retired, about helping with some of the maintenance issues. Gerald approached his friend Vin Molloy and they began, in 1992 to come up every Friday. The 'A Team' was born when soon after, Stan Wells joined.

Stan and Gerald have passed away and Vin retired three years ago, after looking after our finances for almost twenty years. He is retired and just turned 92, but still helping regularly.



Noel Spinks, Neville Hackett and Jack Brolly, all retired from the A Team late in their 80's. John Stretch, Graeme Newcomb and Ed Porad have been pleased to be joined in this past year by Peter Day, Des Rigby and Jose Senzo. The contribution the 'A Team' has made to Holy Cross is impossible to estimate. They have saved us hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Damian Byrne replaced Denis as HCC manager, but his health issues made the task very difficult for him. It was Gerald and Vin who convinced us of the need to employ a lay manager for the Centre. We had two generous volunteers, Corinna



Marasco and Mima Fedele, but on most days, the Office was unattended. We argued we could not afford to pay a manager. They responded, that we could not afford not to! We were fortunate to have Maree Butler, working with Damian initially, and then on her own, as HCC manager. When Maree retired in 2018, Mayrose

Abraham took up the task which had just begun to be more complex because of workplace and safeguarding regulations.





Although he was never part of the 'A Team' another person who contributed significantly to Holy Cross, is Dennis Cogle. He used his financial expertise to advise the community and the Province, and he contributed a monthly newsletter for many years. Peter Norman has contributed most generously to the upkeep of our gardens and grounds.



There are too many people to name, including the professed and student Passionists who have lived or assisted in our life and mission. Apart from some years living in Endeavour Hills community, and some years studying overseas, Chris Monaghan has been long associated with Holy Cross, and is of course, another person who has contributed in a significant way, to Holy Cross.

Passionist sisters

Another significant contribution has been made in recent years, by the Cross and Passion Sisters, particularly Sr Brigid CP, who coincidentally, celebrates her 60th



profession the day before our own Jubilee. Three Sisters (Brigid, Anne and Joan) came to Australia and took up a pastoral role in Endeavour Hills parish. After Joan and Anne returned to Ireland, Brigid and Karen took up temporary residence at Holy Cross – they thought! COVID 19 struck, and they stayed for two years.

This led to a more extensive involvement with Holy Cross than previously, especially through Brigid's involvement with our 'Come Away' days, begun by Denis Travers back in 2001 and with our local Passionist Companions. Despite being physically located quite some distance away, their presence is treasured by the professed members of Holy Cross and by our wider Passionist Family.

St Gabriele Committee



Passionist saint, Gabriel of our Lady of Sorrows is an international patron of youth, and renowned and celebrated in home in the Abruzzi district, one hundred and fifty kilometres east of Rome. A group of Catholic Italians living in the Manningham area, together with others from different suburbs of Melbourne, began to associate with Holy Cross and to seek opportunities

to celebrate Gabriel's feast, which they have done since 1997. They were particularly encouraged at that time by Fr Tiernan Doherty.



The Committee financed and built a Shrine and Chapel dedicated to Passionist Saint, Gabriele of Our Lady of Sorrows. The Shrine at the extreme northern end of the building was blessed in 2012, and this made it possible to celebrate Gabriel's feast (February 27th) in a more meaningful way, with crowds of around 2,000 people.

Over

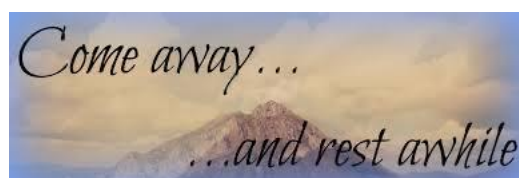
the years, with the help of a dynamic Committee, they have held many 'pasta nights or lunches' at Holy Cross which have contributed greatly to the sense of community, that is treasured so much by all of the Holy Cross family.

The St Gabriele Committee have been a tremendous support to the professed community at Holy Cross. At the heart of this Committee which was renewed with new and some younger members in 2024, is Bruno and Cathy Petrocco.



An associate of the committee is Vince Celestino who has been working for more than four years with his excavator and bobcat, to provide two carparks and a footpath from the smaller carpark to the front driveway and from there to the front door or the chapel. The main carpark has demanded hundreds of loads of fill, soil and asphalt, which he has carefully levelled. It is nearing completion and the hundreds of hours of work are greatly appreciated.

Come Away Days



Holy Cross have held 'Come Away' days for twenty-four years. They were established by Denis Travers and initially the days were offered for people dealing with grief or illness, and they have continued with that

focus, but expanded to be relevant for anyone seeking spiritual nourishment. The teams have consisted of religious and laity, and a professed Passionist. Great comfort has been offered to many people over the years, and the team has remained vibrant in offering inspiring and helpful days of reflection and spiritual growth. Sr Brigid leads the Come Away team. Pam Storey has been a long-time

member. We are most grateful for all the team members and for those who have come to share, inspired by Jesus' words, "Come Away and rest awhile'.

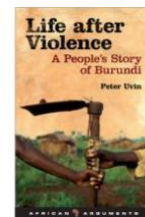
The students

There has never been a time since Holy Cross opened, that there has not been a student living in the community. Once the big numbers reduced, their presence was less, but always important, and always valued. Most men in the Province alive today, studies or have lived at Holy Cross.

The obvious feature has been the multi-cultural presence they have brought to



Holy Cross, with the presence of various students English language students, from PASPAC (Indonesia, China, Japan) and from Brazil and Tanzania, and from our own Province (PNG and Vietnam). Erick Niyiragira arrived at Holy Cross in 2010, as a student who had lived for twelve years



in a refugee camp, and he had to be encouraged to stand tall, because he had grown accustomed to cowering from guards in the refugee camp, and he almost always glided into a room apologetically and was almost totally compliant. To have him back at Holy Cross as a community member and formator is a great blessing.



The 60th jubilee is an appropriate time to acknowledge the contributions of so many people, professed members, students, employees, committee members, volunteers, fellow-worshippers: all those who make up the Passionist Family here at Holy Cross. Presumably, the next celebration will be 75th

jubilee, in 2040. Many of us will not be here for that occasion. Holy Cross was very different in 2010 to what it is now, so it will be different again. It cannot survive without the generous support and involvement of all sorts of people. We thank all those who have brought us to this time and this day.

Brian Traynor CP

Thank you:

A heartfelt thank you to **Brian** for his fascinating historical reflection this past four weeks. It greatly enriched the newsletter and came at just the right time.

Thank you also to **Tri** for sharing his brilliant essay on Pope Francis.

Wonderful news: Tri's parents have been granted visas to attend, after a previous refusal. We've been praying for this, and we're truly grateful.



Thank you, God. Thank you, Tri. Thank you, Brian.

Humour

1. A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet.

"My dog's cross-eyed, is there anything you can do for him? "
"Well," says the vet, "let's have a look at him"
So he picks the dog up and examines his eyes, then checks his teeth.
Finally, he says "I'm going to have to put him down."
"What? Because he's cross-eyed? "
"No, because he's really heavy."



2. Man, wife and Mary Ellen

A man is sitting reading his newspaper when his wife sneaks up behind him and whacks him on the head with a frying pan.
"What was that for?" he asks.
"That was for the piece of paper in your trouser pocket with the name 'Mary Ellen' written on it," she replies.
"Don't be silly," he says, "Two weeks ago when I went to the races. Mary Ellen was the name of one of the horses I bet on."
His wife seemed satisfied at this and apologized.
Three days later he's again sitting in his chair reading when she nails him with an even bigger frying pan, knocking him out cold.
When he comes around he asks, "What was that for?"
"Your horse phoned!"

3. Wife in labour

My wife was in labour when the nurse said it was time to push.
She gave it everything she had, until a fart, that from sound and stench, had obviously followed through. She was mortified.
"Don't worry," I said, patting her head. "I've heard this kind of thing is perfectly natural during birth. Isn't that right nurse?"
"Yes," said the nurse gagging, "But it's usually the mother not the father!"

4. The quickest way

Englishman with wife driving around the outskirts of Dublin lost trying to find the city centre pulls over and winds his window down to ask Murphy "Which is the quickest way to the city centre?"
and Murphy replies "Are you driving or are you walking?"
to which the Englishman replies "I'm driving!"
and Murphy nods his head and says
"Yes, that would be the quickest way then" and walks off!



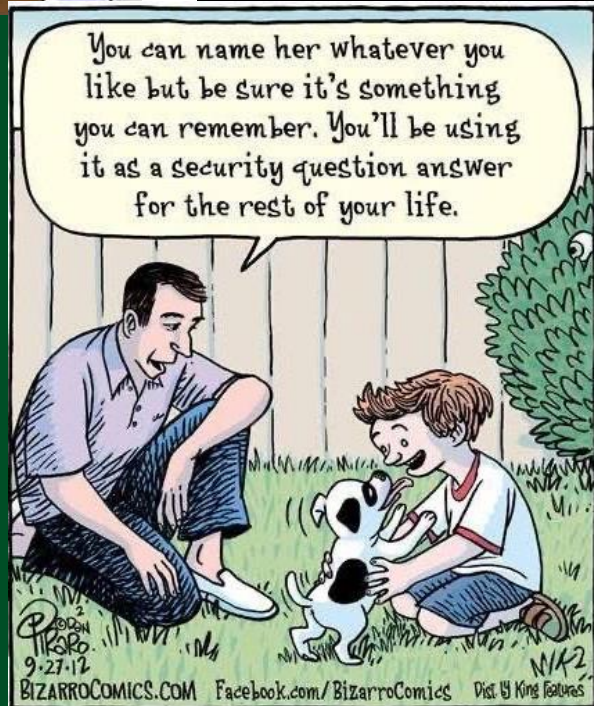


My doctor asked if anyone in my family was suffering from mental illness. I said; "no, we all seem to enjoy it"

An elderly patient gets hearing aids from a doctor. After short time, he meets the doctor again.

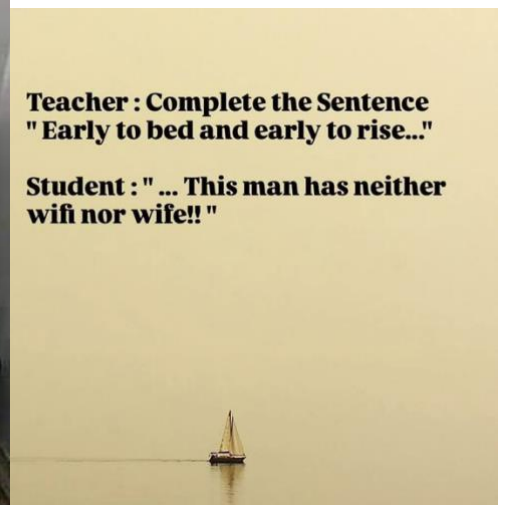
Doctor, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased."

Patient, "Oh, I am in a funny situation now. I haven't told my family yet. I just sit and listen to their conversations. In a month, I've changed my will three times!"



Teacher : Complete the Sentence "Early to bed and early to rise..."

Student : " ... This man has neither wif nor wife!! "



Prayers

We remember those who have died recently, [Ellen Concannon](#), [Fr Paul Garland](#) and we especially remember those whose anniversaries occur around this time: [Gerald Wright](#), [Maureen Whyte](#), [Kevin Flew](#), [Geoffrey Ward](#), and [Beverly O'Loughlin](#) and for those who grieve them.

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



Pam Storey, Noel Smyth, Peter Addicoat CP, Tom Von Selletrab, Kata Lenic, Nancy Reynolds, Caroline Hagedorn, Denise Egan, Treenah Wadham, Jenny Wullings, Stephanie Snow, Graham Burke, Fr Brendan Lane, Lesley Yang, Marilyn Climi, Gerry Bond, Peter Barry, Maureen Barns, Rex Cambry, Carol Battistella, Doris Castro, Alexander Lim, Julia Cantone, Zoe Chung and her daughter Sophia, Pam Gartland, Bronwyn Burke, Peter Owen, Bro Jerome, Rod Gorfine, Bernadette Owen, Luke Norden, Patricia Keeghan, Greg Agosta, Helen McLean, Caroline Meade, 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

Erick