



Community numbers

Jerome underwent close observation at Knox hospital and returned home early on Tuesday afternoon. Chris is his Power of Attorney' and he has been to no end of trouble and time, to visit Jerome, collect appropriate information, speak with doctors, arrange medication supplies etc etc. Jerome from now will be on daily doses of insulin and a daily visit from a nurse. He will rely on us to assist with monitoring meals etc. He has some short memory loss, so all of this support is important and necessary to assist with what he needs.

Erick



Erick headed away for holidays on Tuesday (his birthday), and he'll especially enjoy the first part, catching up with his family. We had a simple celebration, which included our tradition of 'a tee short for your birthday'. For this birthday, we gave him a shirt he'll wear very proudly (see the photo).

You wonder with the choice of knife to cut the cake, whether Erick in a past life was a member of a youth gang!

Tri headed to Brisbane on Wednesday. He is participating in the mid-year Passionist Retreat Team retreat over this weekend, and he'll stay on for a rest, until Thursday. It was wonderful for him to have his parents here, and wonderful for them. They became more and more comfortable and 'at home', and we shared with them from our Passionist Rule No 36, *"The parents of our religious are the community's greatest benefactors. They should be treated with honour and warm-hearted consideration, and visited as circumstances permit and the rules of the Congregation allow"*.

Tri's parents have never had a holiday, never had a honeymoon, never travelled via plane before this trip, never been to a zoo, and never visited a city where they had to ask, "Where are all the people?"

His Dad was really taken with the giraffes at the zoo.



They recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, so during Mass on Monday, Tri gave them a 'wedding blessing' which we all thought was very special. Unfortunately, Jerome was not present, as he was in hospital and Erick is not in the photo below, because he took the photo.





On their final night here, the community celebrated with Erick, and thanked Hu'o'ng and Hue for their time here. They, in turn expressed their gratitude and shared that they had felt at home while they were here.

It was obvious they are pleased to know that Tri is in good hands and belongs to another family.

When applying to come for Tri's final profession, their visa was denied, so this was a special time for Tri and his parents to spend such time together.



We learned that Hu'o'ng and Hue's flight home was diverted because of a medical emergency which led to the entire flight taking 24 hours. After landing in Hanoi they then faced a five hour bus journey home, and they are safely there now.

Tri created this 'card' for the special occasion.



Old coats



We have already had a great response to an appeal for warm coats for homeless people.

If you have a surplus coat, could you leave it on the large table in the chapel foyer, please or drop it in to front foyer of office.

Thank you to those who have already donated. This is greatly appreciated

Reading glasses



If you have any old reading glasses that you no longer need, we can get them up to Papua New Guinea where they can help some very poor women and men be able to see and/or read better. If you can help, there will be a box on the table at the back of the chapel for the next two weeks. If

you prefer, like the coats, you could drop the glasses into the office Monday-Friday between 10am-3pm.

Sundays

We have now ended the period of 'Special Sunday' feasts, until September. This weekend is Week 14 Year C. We will continue the cycle in the coming months.

Waiting...Patience....Emptiness



For many people, It is hard to sit and do nothing. Watching people on a bus or train, walking across the street or sitting at the airport terminal, few it seems, are comfortable 'doing nothing'. Most commonly, the phone is a rescue from this opportunity to just 'be'. It seems almost impossible for so many people and young people in particular, to just observe, to just listen, to just watch or to just do nothing!

The proverb "Good things come to those who wait" has long been praised. Why would someone have coined that phrase? Maybe because often it takes time for things to settle, and for us get a fuller picture. If we are unable to reflect or to avoid external distractions, how can we get that fuller picture? It is good to sit still and ask yourself "Why do I find it hard to do nothing?" Sometimes those around us can be challenged by us 'doing nothing' and there seems to be an expectation that if we are not busy, something is wrong. Poor Herman was not able to sit and enjoy doing nothing!

*Good things come to
those who wait!*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1U97nGbTaU>



One common reason people give as to why they find it hard to do nothing is that they don't like the silence inside them. There are little conversations going on inside us and all sorts of questions, and it is easy to block them out by keeping ourselves busy. Maybe it would be good, even if it is uncomfortable to sit for a while and let the questions come to us. Of course this can lead to true prayer.

We are called to grow and develop. One way to do this is to practice waiting. I do that, because I have a lot of opportunities (especially at airports). Sometimes I still

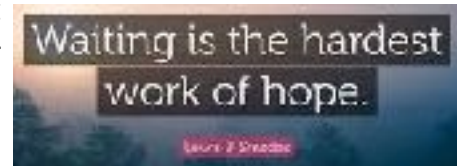


get impatient, but I can turn my mind around to just being 'here in this moment'. Instead of getting annoyed, I remind myself to use my time thinking, relaxing or calming down (a few slow deep breaths does wonders)! The song 'Slow Down' by Chuck Girard is sung slowly, and it enables the listener to live the song.

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We learn from waiting. It can be painful learning, but pain and emptiness produce growth. It can clarify for us what is most important for us. It can make us more compassionate to others. We can become more aware of all the people who are waiting - grieving after having lost a relative or friend; waiting to be reunited with a loved one; preparing for surgery or cancer test results; anticipating exam results; concerned for news about whether someone is alive or dead; frustrated that a war will not end, etc. If we listen closely to the stories in the news we will appreciate that everyone has to wait, everyone has to suffer, everyone has times of emptiness. The blessing comes from not letting this frustrate us. Instead we can "learn from it" and welcome it.



Few things are as they first seem, so it's a sign of maturity for any of us to start to recognise that we don't have all the answers and we can't control all the things we want to. We can't hurry some things enough or fix them up. Often we just have to wait. That is a useful experience in learning our place in this universe.

Our changing worldviews....Part 1)



The 'Flammarion woodcut' is an anonymous engraving that appeared in a book of illustrations by Camille Flammarion in 1888. It depicts medieval cosmology. A man, dressed as a pilgrim and carrying a pilgrim's staff, has found a point where the sky and earth do not touch. He is able to peer through the sky as if it were a curtain to look at the hidden workings of the universe. One of the elements of the cosmic machinery bears a strong resemblance to traditional

pictorial representations of the "wheel in the middle of a wheel" described in the visions of Ezekiel.

This is a good image to consider the question, 'what or who has shaped your view of the world?' The answer can be found in how we once answered *four particular questions and how we would answer them right now. Who am I? How did I get here? Why am I here? Where am I going?*



Traditional Western worldview came to us as a story (e.g. through interpretation of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures). The Eastern worldview has been shaped by different philosophical, religious and cultural teachings like Confucianism, Buddhism and

Hinduism.

For each of us, our worldview has also been shaped by our family stories, our cultural background, our religious interpretations, our friends and our surrounding society. Different events affect our family and all these influences come into play to shape our personal story. This influences our worldview.

Susan was sixty years of age, and she presented herself at the Social Security desk to make arrangements for receiving her pension entitlements. During the ensuing conversation with the social worker, she was advised that some of her personal details did not match those in her official government file.



As the conversation emerged, she was advised that the man she had always believed was her father was not in fact her birth father. Faced with the reality that there was no one alive who could explain this to her or correct the information, she became distraught. She screamed out, *"Well who the hell am I?"*



It is not difficult to imagine Susan's pain and confusion, nor her subsequent feelings. Disbelief, confusion, a sense of dislocation, anger and a deep questioning, would be very normal in such a circumstance.

Every culture has a story to explain how the world came to be. From this story particular cultural attitudes and customs develop. These sacred stories relate events from the remote past and are known as myths. While the details will be described, it is the meaning or message that is critical or 'true'. A myth seeks to convey a profound spiritual truth. It tells how the group began, how and why it developed its values and customs, and how they impact on the present-day group.



Myth, together with ritual, creates a religious experience and gives ultimate meaning and purpose to the participants. An example of this can be seen when the Babylonians destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem and led most of the population into exile.

The Jewish people retained their identity and purpose through remembering the mythical story of the Exodus, through which they had come to understand that God had led their people in earlier times out of slavery in Egypt via a crossing of the Red sea, to freedom in Canaan. The exiles in Babylon and their descendants came to see their suffering through the focus of

that myth.

Obviously during that time, some people would have questioned the validity of the myth. Some would have become disbelievers, unable to connect their present life with the story that had been handed on. The Hebrew scriptures reflect this challenge. Traditions retell their myths so long as those hearing it are disposed to understand that the myth is not a claim to literal accuracy, but to 'meaning making'.

If something like what happened to Susan, happened to you, it would be natural to feel confused, bewildered, angry, disconnected, or questioning of your identity. If you already had some suspicion that some aspects of your story were not right, you might be relieved that you had had discovered some of the truth.



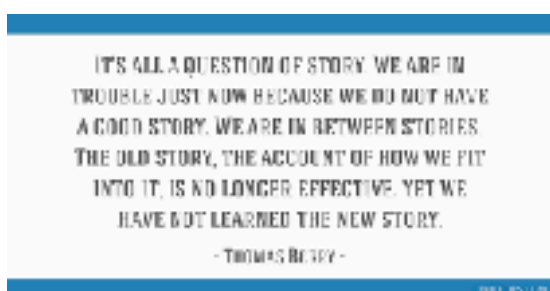
Issues of identity occur at critical periods of our lives. It can occur during adolescence, mid-life, retirement and the onset of old age, after marriage, after a tragedy or loss, or after a profound experience that leaves us with a sense of disbelief or awe.

At such times, new questions about God are normal as we seek to adjust to a new sense of ourselves and our world. Our worldview can change as a result of questioning, or after study or research. Most often we don't choose this change, rather, it 'happens' to us'.

When John Lennon took his sabbatical from music in 1975-1980, many people were critical that he was wasting his talent and even his opportunity to make money. In an interview at the end of those five years, he revealed that what he had quickly learned was that he was more than a songwriter. He said "I am John Lennon. I do write songs, but that is not who I am".



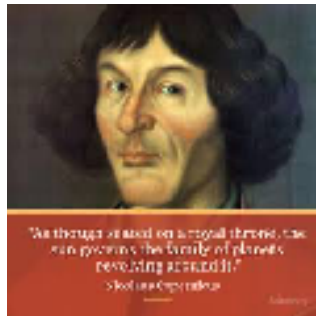
We are always trying to make sense of our story. Sometimes we don't feel we can tell everyone or maybe not anyone, about our uncertainties. Sometimes even the closest of friends do not share such experiences with each other.



Our Worldview (story) is developed from many sources. As we grow, we learn that some of the sources are inadequate or wrong! Since our relationships, values and faith are affected by how we answer the

big questions, abandoning a worldview can have huge consequences. Some are too afraid to search or to change, even though they know the old story doesn't 'work' any more.

Who am I? How did I get here? Why am I here? Where am I going?



As the 'Flammarion woodcut' engraving suggests, looking 'outside' can reveal a totally different 'world' and it is worth reflecting on what might happen or has happened when someone's world view is shattered? Polish Astronomer Nicolas Copernicus (1473-1543) claimed, *"I swept man out of his proud position as the central figure and end of the universe, and made him a tiny speck on a third-rate planet revolving about a tenth-rate sun drifting in an endless*

cosmic ocean."

A sense of the challenge this new thinking offered, is expressed by German philosopher and scientist, Johann Goethe (1749-1832).

"Of all discoveries and opinions, none may have exerted a greater effect on the human spirit than the doctrine of Copernicus. The world had scarcely become known as round and complete in itself when it was asked to waive the tremendous privilege of being the centre of the universe. Never, perhaps, was a greater demand made on mankind - for by this admission so many things vanished in mist and smoke!"



What became of our Eden, our world of innocence, piety and poetry; the testimony of the senses; the conviction of a poetic - religious faith? No wonder his contemporaries did not wish to let all this go and offered every possible resistance to a doctrine which in its converts authorized and demanded a freedom of view and greatness of thought so far unknown, indeed not even dreamed of."



Not for the first time was a discovery of this a correction for it's time, but it was not actually correct, even in terms of our solar system! Galileo observed with his telescope that the earth, Venus and Jupiter each orbited the sun. This did not 'fit' with biblical passages that declared the earth to be immovable. He was silenced by the Vatican. Initially, these positions of Copernicus and Galileo were difficult for scientists and church people to accept

because it demanded an entirely new worldview. We can refer to Susan's feelings,

to understand these reactions.

Although it had sometimes been questioned, until 1919, the common scientific worldview was that there was one galaxy, and the universe was eternal. That changed with the observations of astronomer Edwin Hubble who, with the aid of his telescope, estimated that there were 'thousands' of galaxies. Later, with a larger telescope, he confirmed that the galaxies were moving away from the Milky Way galaxy, and the further away they were, the faster they were travelling.



Hubble concluded that the universe must be expanding and therefore it must have had a beginning point. This meant 'things' was not fixed and static!

To be continued.....

Humour

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Q. Why did the socks break up? | A. They weren't a good match. |
| Q. Why did the photo go to jail? | A. It was framed. |
| Q. Why are elevator jokes so good? | A. They're funny on many levels. |
| Q. What do lawyers wear under their pants? | A. Briefs. |
| Q. Why do sweaters stick together? | A. Because they're close-knit. |
| Q. Why is the ocean so clean? | A. It has mer-maids. |
| Q. Why did the king go to the dentist? | A. He needed a crown. |
| Q. How did Noah sail his ark at night? | A. He used floodlights. |
| Q. Where do cows get their clothes? | A. From cattle-logs. |
| Q. Why didn't the chef season the chicken? | A. He didn't have thyme. |
| Q. What do you call a cow with only two legs? | A. Lean beef. |

- Q. What's the best way to learn how to make ice cream?
A. Go to sundae school.

- Q. Why did the financial planner quit his job?
A. He was losing interest.

- Q. What kind of socks should you buy a bear?
A. None. They prefer to go barefoot.

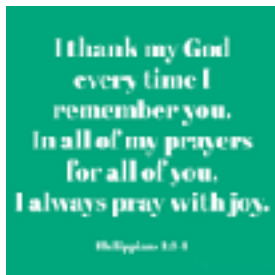
- Q. What happened to the cat that ate a ball of yarn?
A. She had mittens.

Prayers

12



George Barnes (Shirley's husband) **Gilbert Lim** (Grace Ko's father), and **Dima Moscattini**, that they have found joy in God's eternal presence.



We pray for members of our Holy Cross family who are coping with illness and all who care for them, especially

Pam Storey, Noel Smyth, Nello Campomizzi, Denise Egan, Peter Addicoat CP, Caroline Hagedorn, Nancy Reynolds, Kata Lenic, Treenah Wadham, Lesley Yang, Jenny Wullings, Peter Barry, Jeanelle Bergin, Stephanie Snow, Rex Cambry, Peter Owen, Fr Brendan Lane, Graham Burke, Marilyn Cilmi, Luke Norden, Maureen Barns, Zoe Chung and her daughter

Sophia, Pam Gartland, Bronwyn Burke, Carol Battistella, Alexander Lim, Doris Castro, Bernadette Owen, Phil Drew, Rod Smith, Patricia Keeghan, Julia Cantone, Rod Gorfine, Greg Agosta, Helen McLean, Bro Jerome, Caroline Meade, Anne Jenkins and Errol Lovett.

Mass on line

Chris will send the link for Sunday Mass, on Saturday afternoon.

Camino

PS. Last week, we shared a great photo of Luke Bulley CP and Tom Warren (Leader of the Passionist Youth Team, with Phi. Luke sent me a similar photo taken this time, with Passionist sister Shiji, in Adelaide. See on the next two pages

Then, my brother Paul, and his son Sam completed the Camino (780 kms) on Thursday. This is something they long spoke about doing together. Paul said arriving in Santiago was very emotional and that the experience far exceeded their expectations. After a few days they will fly from DMadrid to Rome and spend a week at St John and Paul's, the Passionist community in Rome. The photo on the next page is one that Sam posted.

God bless...

Brian



And, the long and short of it.....



