



Coats and glasses

Just a word of thanks for the generosity in offering so many cats and glasses. As Erick commented in his homily too weeks ago, when the gospel reading was the 'Good Samaritan', we saw a practical living out of that over three weeks, through this gesture, and of course this expression of faith in action is obvious to us as a daily seeking to follow Jesus faithfully.

Who is doing what?

Erick returned for three days to attend our Formation Commission meeting. He has resumed his holiday but is going to return earlier than planned to prepare for the final semester of his Master in Counselling course.

Mike relocated on Wednesday to our community in Marrickville, Sydney for three weeks while two of the parish ministers are in Vietnam for holidays.

JD has been on a semester break from his academic studies, but will resume next week.

Chris returned on Tuesday from eight days of retreats, seminars and lectures with the Passionist priests, students, sisters and nuns in Indonesia. Unfortunately on Wednesday, his first day back at YTU his bike was stolen (the chain cut with a bolt cutter) from the YTU porch.

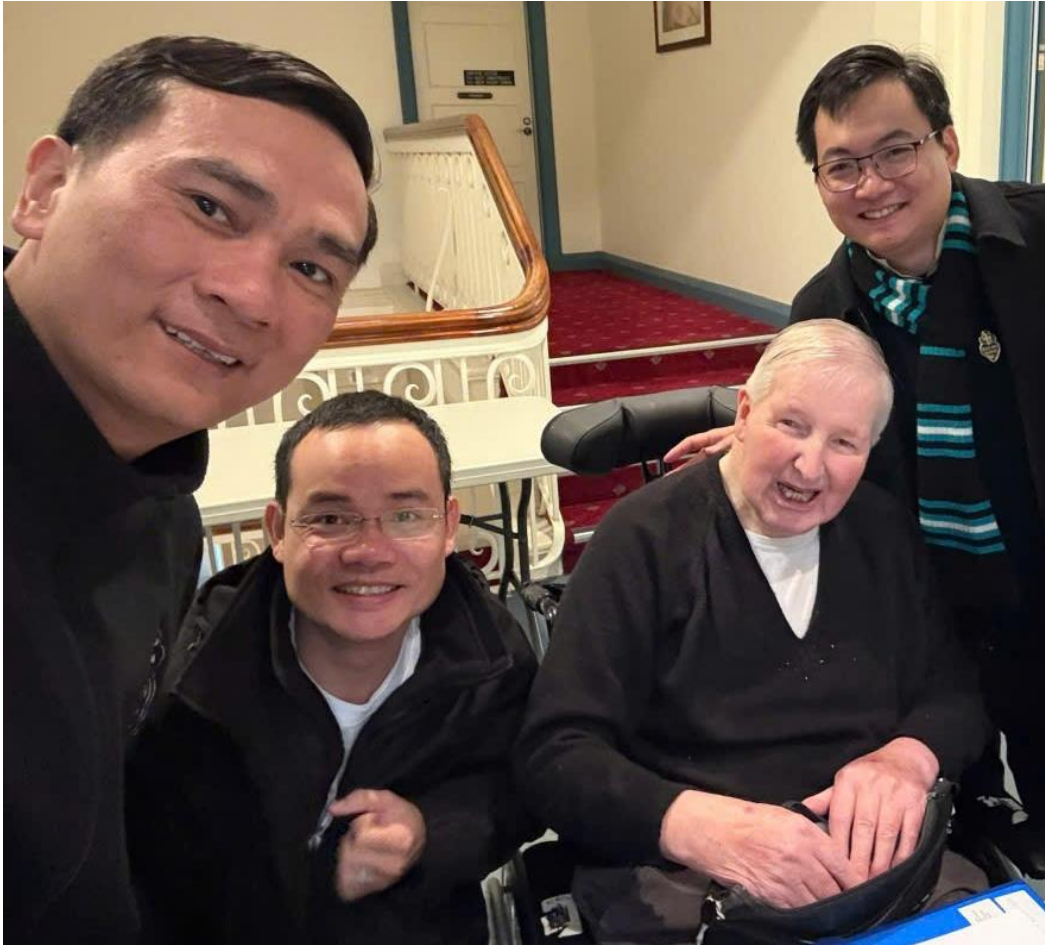
Jerome is continuing to adjust to a life of less activity and managing his health. He remains in good spirits.

Tri was kept busy last week with a number of chores related to our several visitors, including several trips to the airport. He was engaged too in some pastoral visits. We received a number of comments about his excellent homily last Sunday.

I will travel to Sydney on Friday to attending a meeting of our Community Leaders.

Visiting our brothers

Francis (FX) Paul Vuong and JD visiting Gerald Quinn – 87 last week



The same team visiting Chris Mithen – age 92 and 9 months



Formation Commission



It was interesting that the make-up of our meeting was three Vietnamese (two of whom are professed) two New Zealanders, one Irish, one Tanzanian, one Burundian and one Australian! As usual, we could have done with more time, but we covered a lot of issues and once again appreciated the complexity and challenge of responding to what is needed for our many Vietnamese brothers.

Pope appeals for end to Gaza 'barbarity'

By Joseph Tulloch



Speaking after the Sunday Angelus, Pope Leo mourns the three Gazans killed in an attack on the Holy Family Catholic parish in Gaza city, which he says is “just one” of the “continuous” attacks on Gaza’s people and holy sites. Pope Leo XIV has expressed his “deep sorrow” over the recent Israeli attack on the Catholic parish in

Gaza, and called for “an immediate halt to the barbarity” in the Strip. After the Holy Family church was struck on Thursday morning, three of the approximately 600 Gazans sheltering there were killed, and several others, including the parish priest Fr Gabriel Romanelli, were injured.

Speaking on Sunday after reciting the Angelus prayer at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, the Pope named the three victims – Saad Issa Kostandi Salameh, Foumia Issa Latif Ayyad, and Najwa Ibrahim Latif Abu Daoud – and said he was “close” to them and their families.

Pope Leo then stressed that the attack “is just one of the continuous military attacks against the civilian population and places of worship in Gaza”. The Pope appealed for “an immediate halt to the barbarity of the war” and for “a peaceful resolution of the conflict”. He urged the international community to observe humanitarian law and respect the obligation to protect civilians, “as well as the prohibition against collective punishment, indiscriminate use of force and forced displacement of the population”.



Pope Leo brought his appeal to a close with a message to “our beloved” Christian communities in the Middle East, saying he understood they felt they could “do little, in the face of this tragic situation”. “You are in the heart of the Pope and of the whole Church,” he said. “Thank you for your witness of faith.”

Earlier in the day, speaking to journalists as he returned from celebrating Mass in the nearby town of Albano, Pope Leo stressed the need to “pray for peace, and try to convince all parties to come to the table, to dialogue and to lay down their weapons”. “The world can’t take it any more”, the Pope said. “There is so much



conflict, so many wars”. Pope Leo was then asked about his phone conversation on Friday with Benjamin Netanyahu, during which he urged a "renewed push" for an end to the conflict, and lamented the "agonizing price" being paid by Gaza's civilians. “We insisted on the need to

protect the sacred places of all religions,” Pope Leo said, “and to respect people and sacred places and try to leave behind all the violence and the hatred”.

Cracked Pots

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on almost daily, with the water bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house.

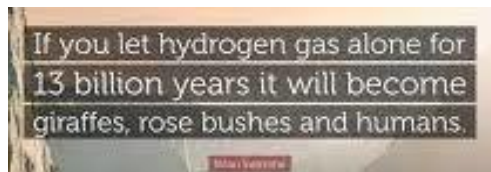
After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, the pot spoke to the water bearer. "I am ashamed of myself and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to only deliver half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value for your efforts." the pot said.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Moral: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots, but the cracks and flaws we each have make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.

Changing worldviews

Part 4 finished at the point where we noted that 'the' big discovery of modern science is not just that humans are inter-related, but that every species is related! If we observe mammals we can easily see that we share the same basic structure, though wings, arms and feet may be used for different purposes. Life is evolving. Creation is not finished. God is not just the creator, God is creating.



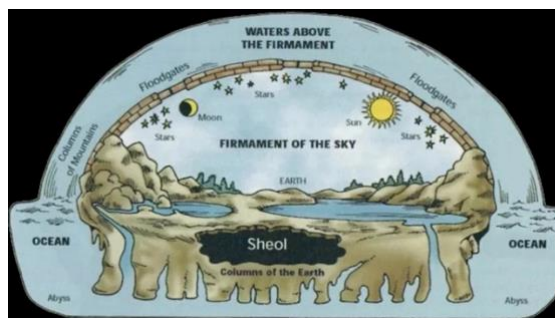
The universe is described by scientists, as self-organising. Galaxies formed the stars, and everything we know was formed from star dust. Our star (sun) formed earth, and earth

formed all life here. What was once molten rock has developed into trees, parrots, horses and humans who can sing, dance and create music!

Extinctions have led to new life forms. From a faith perspective, God is still 'everywhere' as the old catechism suggested. God is prompting, inviting, and calling. Therefore 'Life' knows where it is going. Death and destruction are woven into this process, and life triumphs. 'Life is changed, not ended.' We are called to alter our view of the world. Stars are not 'star' shaped as we draw them, and rather than twinkle, they are giant cosmic factories. The sun does not rise. Heaven is not up there! Things are not as they seem.



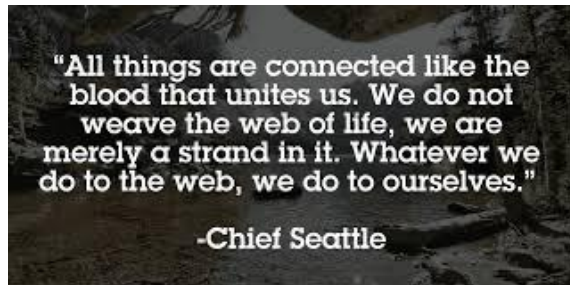
The sun is not the centre! Everything is! Earth moves around the sun, so earth rises. Earth is not sitting on a flat surface, otherwise if it is raining in Norway and New Zealand at the same time (top and bottom continents) it must be raining 'up' in one of those locations!



In 1999, Pope John Paul declared, "Heaven, or the happiness in which we will find ourselves, is neither an abstraction nor a physical place in the clouds, but a personal relation [with God].....This final condition can be anticipated in a certain sense now on earth". "Moreover", the Pope continued,

"the pictures of Hell given to us in Sacred Scripture must be correctly interpreted. They express the total frustration and emptiness of a life without God. More than a place, Hell is the state of the one who freely and finally removes him/herself from God, the source of life and joy".

We cannot have the same worldview as our parents, or of the Scriptures. We are being called to embrace this truth and to become **seekers of mystery**. We never have been able to comprehend God but we are starting to see more clearly that the everyday mysteries of life, death and rebirth are deeply imbedded in the circle of life. We must seek within ourselves a sense of awe and reverence for the divine creating presence within and around us – everywhere.



Life is a web. Everything is connected. As noted, Brian Swimme suggests, *"We are related in terms of energy, we are related in terms of genetics; we are all a kind of kin. It is overwhelming"* (Brian Swimme), It makes an incredible difference to start to see ourselves and all of life as connected,

rather than as separate. Then we start to recognise that it is not you and me, and an ant and a mountain and a river, but we are the one entity! Our solar system is huge, but it is 'one' not only with itself but with the universe.

We tend to comment on 'a paddock of sheep'. Although each sheep is separate, we see the flock. If we had a helicopter view we might refer to ten paddocks as one flock. One of the Apollo astronauts is said to have commented, *"it isn't important in which sea or lake you observe a slick of pollution, or in which country a fire breaks out, or in which continent a hurricane arises. You are standing guard over the whole of our Earth."*



Margaret Wheatley suggests that **"relationships is all there is"**. The more we explore the world of physics, biology and genetics, the more accurate this seems to be. Quantum physics has confirmed that observing a particle in one place immediately influences its partner, that is physically separated (as we understand physical separation) even by thousands of kilometres. It does this more quickly than the speed of light, the previously accepted maximum speed of 'travel'. The suggestion behind this reality is that once two particles are connected, they remain connected, despite their seeming physical separation. Many of us have experienced this in

our relationships with others, or with a sacred place, or with animals.

Scientists tell us that space is never empty or never 'nothing'; rather what is present cannot be seen. The major part of anything, is space. On present reckoning, dark energy and dark matter make up 94% of the universe and no one knows what it is! Because more than ninety-nine percent of atoms are in fact 'space', our bodies are ninety-five percent space! Our rational minds, find this difficult to accept.



Space, it seems is full of fields (including waves and rays) we cannot see, though we often feel their effects. Objects are drawn to earth (like the famous apple that hit Issac Newton on the head) because space-time (gravity) curves in response to matter. Gravity is a field, rather than a force. We know there are magnetic, electrical and radio fields.

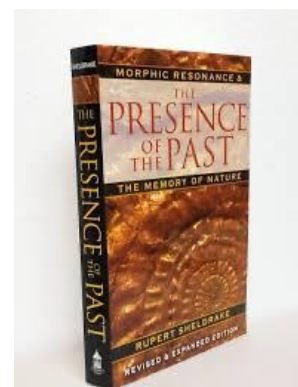
Birds use these fields to navigate huge distances. Humans cannot not 'see' them; we can only note their effects, such as when we use a magnet, switch on a light or turn on a transmitter. These various fields create connections and because birds are able to 'read' particular magnetic fields they can find their way in the dark, or find a nest thousands of kilometres away that their parents used. This clip is helpful.

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



There is in fact an '**everywhere presence**' and connections occur across this 'whole' even though we cannot always see them. Most of us have spoken with someone who has had psychic experiences that are difficult to explain, such as uncanny coincidences, 'sixth sense', déjà vu, phantom pains, telepathy. clairvoyance, memories of past lives etc. We also know that twins physically separated, frequently respond in the same way at the same time, to particular experiences.

Morphic resonance is a phenomenon, whereby seemingly unconnected species or even thoughts, seem to emerge at the same time. Great scientific discoveries, including that of Darwin, have often occurred when other people have been experimenting with the same ideas in a totally different location. Alfred Wallace was developing the theory of evolution at exactly the same time as Darwin.



Biologist Rupert Sheldrake suggests this happens because there are morphic fields. He says that sometimes unseen influences affect our behaviour and our thinking, and we are largely unaware of this. Does this give us an insight into the meaning and 'effect' of prayer?



During the 1920's in Britain, fresh milk began to be delivered to people's doorsteps. Blue Tits and other varieties of birds began to steal the cream by removing the caps and drinking from the tops of the bottles. Normally blue tits do not travel far from their nesting place, but there were reports of this behaviour from all over Britain.

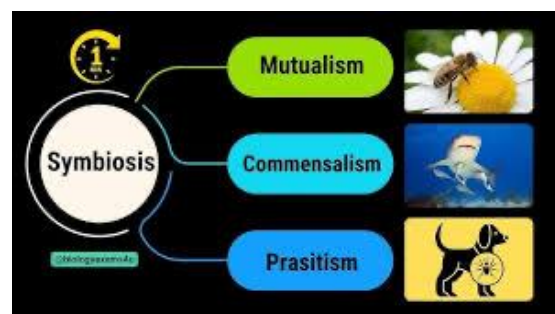
There were also reports from Sweden, Denmark and Holland. Milk deliveries stopped during the war, but when it began again in 1947, blue tits in Holland began their search for cream. Interestingly, what seems to have stopped this practice was the change to non-cream milk. The Tits were after the cream, not the milk!



The North America Monarch butterfly undertakes a massive migration in order to breed. It flies to Mexico, a journey of almost five thousand kilometres, and breeds in the same trees as previous generations! It has been documented that during tsunamis, many animals flee well in advance of the

big waves. Somehow they know not only that something is about to happen, but that they need to flee. When a period of drought is coming, kangaroos know not to breed. Experiments have shown that some breed of butterflies have learned to mimick the 'talk' of ants. While in their cocoon, they are able to 'tell' the ants outside, how and when to extract them. Such phenomena occurs all through the natural world.

Symbiosis is the enrichment of at least one of two interacting species. The sugar from fungi helps plants grow. Bees and flowers co-operate to produce honey. Often humans have not appreciated the effect of withdrawing (killing) a species within an ecosystem. However trees, insects, birds and animals have life-sustaining relationships.



Plants and animals will adapt to get what they need and they co-operate with one another. Whenever one part of the system is destroyed, great adaptation is required. Some species cannot survive the removal of others. Leaf cutter ants are at risk of death from parasite wasps. Their protection is a small ant which they carry on the leaves they collect. These ants eat the parasites and in this way, both ants benefit.



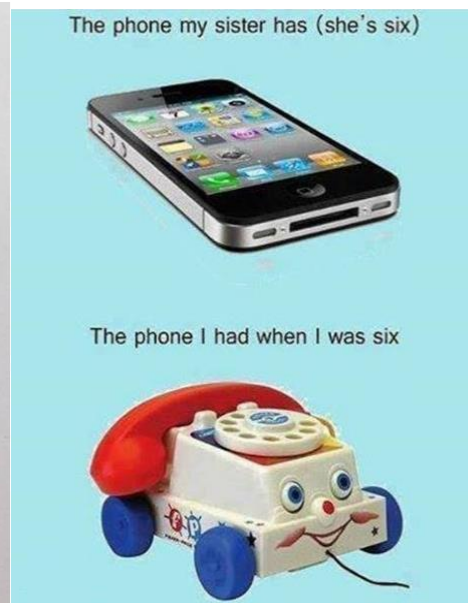
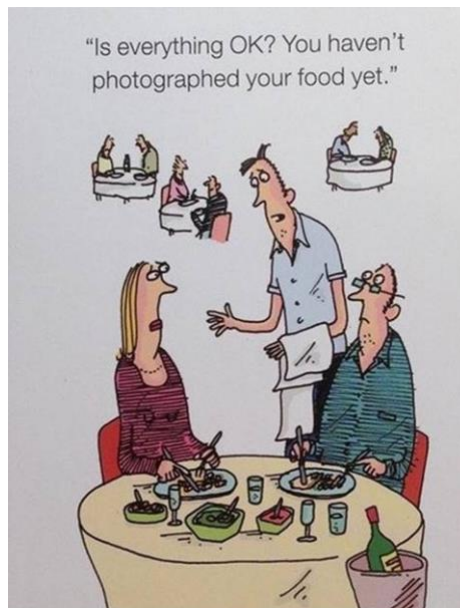
There is an incredible '**intelligence**' in plants. In the process of photosynthesis, plants capture 'packets' of light from the sun, travelling at 300 kilometres per second, and convert them into food. Plants can mimic insects. They can change shape and colour and adorn themselves to attract birds and insects. A climbing vine can tie knots than any of us would be proud to be able to duplicate.

Thomas Berry was an American Passionist who died in 2009. He co-wrote 'The Universe Story' with Brian Swimme and was renowned for referring to the **reinvention of the human** as 'the Great Work'. He suggested that "the greatest challenge of our time is to discover *the meaning of being human*".

To be continued

Humour

The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve. It was an apple, but with extremely limited memory. Just one byte, and then everything crashed!



The father of this little girl says he brought her a cat to forget about the phone, but this is what happened.



**YESTERDAY I SAW AN
AD THAT SAID 'RADIO
FOR SALE, \$1, VOLUME
STUCK ON FULL'**

**I THOUGHT, 'I CAN'T
TURN THAT DOWN'**

**WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN A POORLY-DRESSED
MAN ON A TRICYCLE
AND A WELL-DRESSED MAN
ON A BICYCLE?**

ATTIRE.

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**WHAT DO YOU
CALL A
BULLET PROOF
IRISHMAN
—
RICK O'SHEA**

**HAVE YOU EVER TRIED
EATING A CLOCK?**

**IT'S REALLY TIME CONSUMING,
ESPECIALLY IF YOU
GO FOR SECONDS.**

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**MY FRIEND WENT BALD
YEARS AGO BUT STILL
CARRIES AROUND AN
OLD COMB WITH HIM**

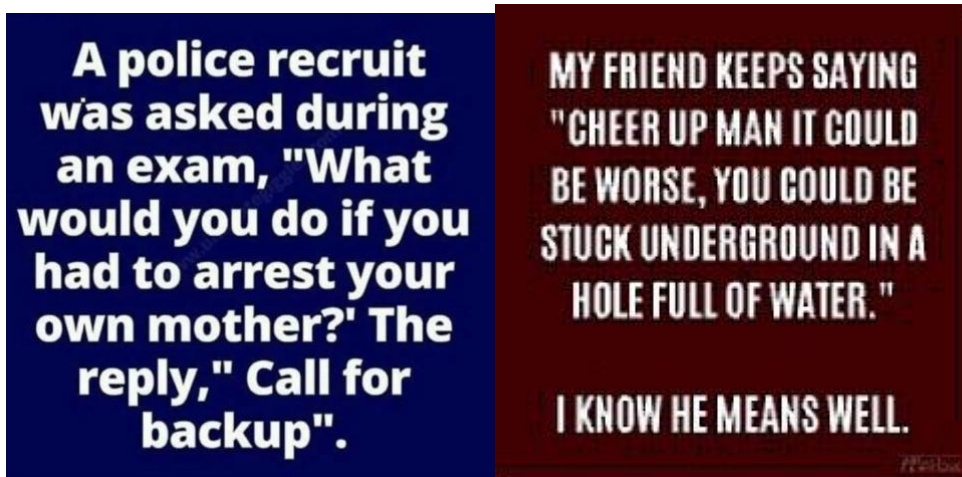
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**HE JUST CAN'T PART
WITH IT**

**THE INVENTION OF THE
SHOVEL WAS A GROUND
BREAKING DISCOVERY**

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**BUT THE INVENTION OF THE
BROOM WAS THE ONE THAT
TRULY SWEEPED THE NATION**



Prayers

We remember those who have died recently especially [John Mignone](#) and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially: [Tomasso Forlando](#), [Gerald Unicake](#), [Rosa Rao](#), and [Tony Biondo](#) that 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, Pat De'lore, Nello Campomizzi, Denise Egan, Peter Addicoat Gerry Bond, Dr Peter Heffernan (Dawn's son), Nancy Reynolds, Kata Lenic, Treenah Wadham, Caroline Hagedorn, Lesley Yang, Rex Cambry, Marilyn Cilmi, Jenny Wullings, Jeanelle Bergin, Peter Barry, Stephanie Snow, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Fr Brendan Lane, Alexander Lim, Graham Burke, Phil Drew Maureen Barns, Luke Norden, Carol Battistella, Zoe & Sophia Chung, Pam Gartland, Bronwyn Burke, Doris Castro, 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.

God bless,

Brian

John Mignone's funeral will be at St Greg's at 10.30am on Wednesday July 30th