

Holy Cross Retreat

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



Letter 286

1st August, 2025

Who is doing what?

Erick returned home early from his holiday. On Monday he will resume his Master of Counselling studies. This will be his final semester.

Mike is not forgotten while he is helping out in St Brigid's Marrickville.

JD resumed his research work more seriously this week, a necessary project to undertake a doctorate. He received good news that his (study) visa has been extended by a further two years.



Chris

When Chris travelled back from Indonesia a week ago, he learned that Didi Karkas, our parish secretary in Endeavour Hills and her daughter Tara, were on the same flight. Don't ask what the writing on Chris' tee shirt says...somehow in the transfer of the photo to me, the image was reversed.

Jerome continues in good spirits despite a much more restricted lifestyle, and foregoing (mostly) tasty sugary snacks.

Tri is spending his week with different duties, including one day of pastoral visiting. He is never short of things to do.

I attended a meeting of our Community Leaders in Sydney early in the week, at Mary Mackillop Place, North Sydney, 2.5 kilometres from my childhood home in Wollstonecraft. It was a very profitable and enjoyable meeting, thanks in no small part to the great facilitation of Bro David Leary OFM.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly...July 27th

In his message for World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, Pope Leo XIV called on every parish and church group or association to become part of a "revolution" of care and gratitude by regularly visiting older people. Source: CNS. "Christian hope always urges us to be more daring, to think big, to be dissatisfied with things the way they are. "It urges us to work for a change that can restore the esteem and affection to which the elderly are entitled," he wrote. The theme chosen for this year's world day, is "*Blessed are those who have not lost hope*". (Sirach 14:2b)

Pope Leo said the Jubilee Year, which is a time of liberation from injustice and inequality, is an appropriate time for all the faithful to help older people “experience liberation, especially from loneliness and abandonment”.



“Our societies, everywhere in the world, are growing far too accustomed to letting this significant and enriching part of their life be marginalised and forgotten,” Pope Leo wrote, speaking of the elderly. “Given this situation, a change of pace is needed that would be readily seen in an assumption of responsibility on the part of the whole Church.

“Every parish, association and ecclesial group is called to become a protagonist in a ‘revolution’ of gratitude and care, to be brought about by regular visits to the elderly, the creation of networks of support and prayer for them and with them, and the forging of relationships that can restore hope and dignity to those who feel forgotten.”

Holy Cross Fundraising Event Update



The Holy Cross community and fundraising committee extend our thanks to everyone who has contributed so generously — your support is instrumental in making this event a wonderful success!

We’re thrilled to announce the event is now at full capacity, with an exciting selection of silent and live auction items ready for bidding.

Event Details Date: Saturday, 9 August 2025

Time: Arrival at 6:00 PM for a 6:30 PM start

Venue: Veneto Club Bulleen

Dietary Requirements: If you haven’t yet advised us of any dietary needs, please contact Tina at **0439 034 116** or via email at tina.minichilli@pfgm.org.

Auction Preview: A flyer detailing our live auction items is on the next page. If you’d like to place a bid ahead of the event, we’d love to hear from you!

Holy Cross Fundraiser 9th August 2025

Live Auction Items for Bid

Team up with friends and family to make sure you have the best shot to secure these special live auction items!



ITEM 1. GASMATE PORTOFINO 16" GAS PIZZA OVEN

Elevate Your Pizza Game with the Gasmate Portofino 16" Gas Pizza Oven! Your outdoor cooking essential. Featuring powerful high heat output, this oven ensures perfectly cooked pizzas in just 90 seconds – delivering restaurant quality results every time.

VALUE: \$600

DONATED BY: SITRO GROUP AUSTRALIA



ITEM 2. STIHL CHAINSAW, CARRY CASE AND HELMET

Stihl MS251 chainsaw is a sturdy, compact, high performance petrol chainsaw, well-suited for both domestic and professional applications. It's easy to guide and has great handling. Includes Woodsman Chainsaw Carry Case for safe transportation and protected storage of your chainsaw, and the Stihl helmet with ear protection, face protection and a sturdy helmet shell.

TOTAL VALUE: \$1,084

DONATED BY: Anonymous



ITEM 3. KIESER (MONT ALBERT) 6MTH MEMBERSHIP

Unlike traditional gyms, Kieser gyms concentrate on "health-focused" programs and use specialized Swiss engineered strength-training machines. They differentiate themselves by incorporating physiotherapy and exercise physiology into their services benefiting those wanting to manage chronic pain, recovering from injuries, wanting to improve sports performance or just wanting to enhance their overall health and well-being.

VALUE: \$1,623

DONATED BY: KIESER MONT ALBERT



ITEM 4. ESTATE PLANNING GIFT VOUCHER

Gift voucher entitles both the holder and any other individual of the holder's choosing (whether they be a spouse, sibling or friend), to a consultation with one of the experienced Estates and Succession Law Solicitors at Costanzo Lawyers, to obtain legal advice and discuss their Estate Planning. It includes the drafting and execution of two professionally drawn Wills and 4 Enduring Powers of Attorney ie. 2 each... being a Medical Power of Attorney and a combined "Financial and Personal" Power of Attorney per person.

TOTAL VALUE: \$2,750

DONATED BY: COSTANZO LAWYERS



Changing worldviews

Part 5 finished at the point where we noted that Thomas Berry, an American Passionist o-wrote 'The Universe Story' with Brian Swimme in 1992. He referred to the **reinvention of the human** as 'the Great Work' of our times. He suggested that "our greatest challenge is to discover *the meaning of being human*".

Hominoids are a sub-group of primates (Great Apes) and include humans, chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, and gibbons. They have been living on earth for 7 million years having branched off to form the primate family. Humans have lived



here for at least 2 million years and various species lived evolved and died out, intermingling and sometimes interbreeding along the way. As time went on, their bodies changed, as did their brains and their ability to think. It is suggested a species like the one in the photograph appeared 500,000 years ago, about two hundred thousand

years before Homo Sapiens.

The first homo sapiens were **Hunter gatherers**. They lived in family groups (15-40 people) which is interesting when we consider that the modern day Passionist Family Groups have functioned on gathering groups of 8-13 families.



These early humans moved about for food, warmth and shelter. The very few who remain today are the Hadza people of Tanzania, the Bushmen of Southern Africa, some of the Pygmies of central Africa, and the Spinifex people of western Australia. Most hunter-gatherer communities are expected to disappear by 2030!



The second group were **Agricultural people**, who began to live a largely settled life in villages. Many people still live like this today, but those who made the shift into this way of life around 10,000 BCE, introduced what has been referred to as the Neolithic age (or new Stone Age). These people learned to domesticate crops and animals and

because they did not need to hunt as much, and they learned to sew and attend to their crops and live in tribes, often with people of other cultures. They often forcibly recruited slaves to assist with the labour.

With their superior sense of smell and loyalty, dogs became helpful for hunting and companionship.



Sheep, goats, pigs and cattle were domesticated for food and skins and horses, camels and oxen were domesticated for work. Rice, wheat, barley, beans, corn, potato and other crops were grown and women learned to make baskets and water pots. Having more workers produced more food, so larger families became desirable and possible.



Trading between villages led to an improved lifestyle as different villages began to specialise in crafts. Their kinship, a close relationship with nature and equality among people were strong values. Because there was such an emphasis on fertility, deity's were usually feminine. Small villages had harmonious lifestyles. Larger and more prosperous cultures needed to protect their stored goods from others and began to create boundaries.

Many people would remember the movie 'The 'Gods Must be Crazy'. Until the Coca Cola bottle was introduced to the village, everyone was satisfied. Suddenly everyone wanted this new product. One can easily imagine this happening in early village life.



The third era was that of **Classic Civilizations**, beginning around 5000BCE and often referred to as the Bronze Age. One of the early cities was Sumer (in modern



Southern Iraq). The city has 10,000 workers, including many slaves who were kept busy with the irrigation system, repairing canals, channels and reservoirs after the regular and massive floods from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Sumerian technology included the wheel and the potters wheel, writing, the calendar, astronomy, arithmetic, geometry, irrigation, boats featuring waterproofing, bitumen, axes, hammers, chisels, saws, knives, swords, daggers, pins, rings, glue, boots, sandals, waterskins, war chariots, arrows and quivers.

Together with Egypt, Sumer contributed our earliest cosmological thinking, mathematics, recorded writing and metallurgy!

Administrative process, legal codes and schooling developed, and the city state idea was taken up and modified by the Greeks. When we note the rapid advancement in technology in our day, we can appreciate that Sumerian culture while not developing so quickly, was one of marked intellectual development. The city of Sumer was divided into 12 city states. Each had its own ziggurats or temple built to the gods. We can note the changed worldview all of this represents from primitive hunter-gather and agricultural life.





By around 3000BCE a number of significant kingdoms and cities had arisen including Babylon (85 kilometres south of modern-day Baghdad) 2100-612BCE, and Egypt (3150BCE-30BCE). Also Mohenjodaro Sindh, Indus Valley (modern day Southern Afghanistan) 3300-1300BCE. It is estimated that around this time there were 5,000,000-10,000,000 humans on earth, but only 3% lived in large cities. This large percentage of people living outside large cities remained the case until the 20th century.

Kings and Emperors became common, as were local governors and administrators. Warfare became a characteristic of this era as some civilizations sought to capture what others had and others were forced to defend themselves. Deities in this era became warriors and some kings and elders came to be worshipped as gods and we can note another changing worldview.

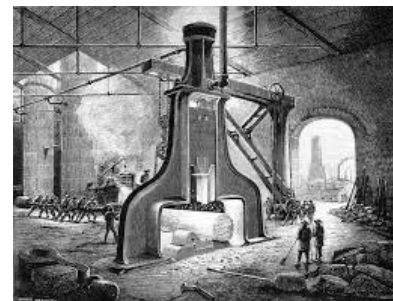


Western society has been greatly influenced by Greek (philosophy, art, and democracy) and Roman (legal system, engineering and vast conquering) civilization.



The worship of Gods and religion, entertainment, sports, military warfare, and the government of a far flung empire were all features of this age. Christianity originated with Jewish traditions but was greatly influenced by the culture and philosophical landscape of Greco-Roman culture.

The fourth era is the **Industrial/Scientific** era from around the 1700's until now. This period saw the rise of mass production. More than ever before, Earth came to be seen as a resource to be plundered – by and for humans. Machines made this more possible. People took what they wanted from the earth with no understanding or care for ecosystems. If they could not acquire what they wanted locally, it was taken by force from elsewhere. Indigenous peoples were slaughtered and exterminated; People were transported from their way of life and even from their own country for forced work as slaves. Forests were destroyed. Species like the dodo bird were made extinct by humans.

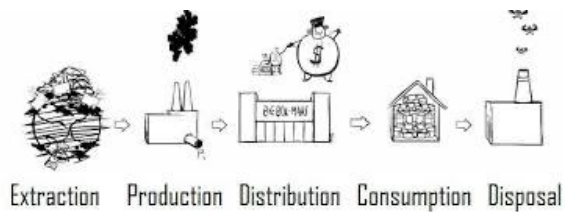


The rise of mechanistic science, was considered evidence by many that there was no need for God.

Beauty and the inter-relationship of species was replaced by 'usefulness'. Even people, became like cogs in a machine often working in mass production lines. Child labour was common. Land animals and indigenous peoples were removed to create human settlements and 'progress'. Humans saw their task as dominating and controlling nature. Super economies and consumerism paid no attention to the destruction they caused. Humans did not understand that wildness (chaos) is an integral to creativity. We are only now learning how life in the galaxies and life on earth was created, and that violent eruptions and earthquakes were a part of this creative process.



The 'dominance' of nature was justified at times by the command in Genesis for humans to 'subdue the earth'. In 1955 American retail analyst Victor Le Bow proposed that *"Our enormously productive economy demands that we make*



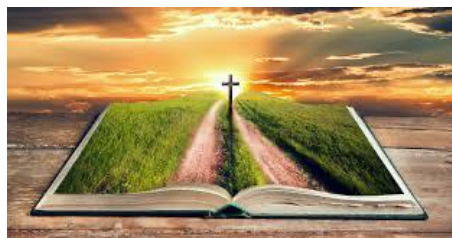
consumption our way of life, that we convert the buying and selling of goods into rituals, that we seek our spiritual satisfaction, our ego satisfaction in consumption. We need things consumed, burned up, replaced and discarded at an

ever accelerating rate." This thinking has led to mass production, over supply, reckless dumping and an acceleration of consumerism.

Thomas Berry reminded us that the universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects. He said, *"We live in a world of concrete and steel, of wheels and wires, shopping centres and work. We no longer see the stars at night. Even in the day we do not experience the sun in any immediate or meaningful manner. Summer and winter are the same inside the mall. We read books but we no longer read the book of the universe."*



Berry suggested that the Church had encouraged reading the book of Scriptures but not the book of life, yet the book of life is the primary revealer of God. He suggested that this fourth era is coming to an end. Planet earth is being destroyed! He declared that Earth can live without humans, but we cannot live without Earth. Berry suggested, *"Hand in hand with the physical (ecological) loss, is the degradation of the interior world of the human. To lose "the wonder and majesty, the poetry, music, and spiritual exaltation of the deep mysteries of existence is a tragedy."*



[Final instalment next week.....](#)

Humour

TEACHER: Sally, why are you late?

STUDENT: Because class started before I got here, Miss

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your matsh multiplication on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables, Sir.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: It might be wrong Sir, but you asked me how I spell it!

TEACHER: Tony, what is the chemical formula for water?

TONY: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

TONY: We got told that water is H to O

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree. He also admitted it. Louie, why didn't his father punish him?

LOUIE: Because George still had the axe in his hand!

TEACHER: Simon , do you say prayers before eating a meal?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to. My Mum is a good cook

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE : No, Miss. We have the same dog.

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher, Sir?

Bert and Marie were married for a long time. Neighbours often heard them arguing and especially they would hear Bert threaten, "When I die, I will dig my way out of the grave and come back to haunt you". He eventually died at age 98 and some of Marie's neighbours were concerned for her.

One friend asked her after the funeral, "Aren't you worried about his threat?"

"No" Marie said, "I arranged that he was buried upside down. He can dig as much as he likes because I know he will never ask anyone for directions!"

THERE'S ONE IN EVERY CROWD!



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

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

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

ATTIRE.

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

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

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

LOKMAN PUBLISHED 02310

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

**I ONCE DATED A GIRL
WITH A LAZY EYE**

LOKMAN PUBLISHED 02017

**I ALWAYS THOUGHT
SHE WAS SEEING
SOMEONE ON THE SIDE**

Anointing of the sick

We will celebrate a communal anointing at 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross, on Sunday August 17th

Prayers

We remember those who have died especially **Pat De Leo** (close friend of Len Watson), **Ron McAuliffe** (who with his wife Margaret served for 40 years in key leadership roles in Koorinal parish, Wagga with the Passionist Family Groups) and Anthony Cheevers (Bro Jim Coucher's brother-in-law). We also remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially: **Jim Monahan (Chris' dad)**, **Marg Casey**, **Don Bertram** **Tony Biondo**, **Anne Weir**, and **Vianney Carey CP**. We pray 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, Gerry Bond, Nello Campomizzi, Denise Egan, Peter Addicoat Dr Peter Heffernan, (Dawn's son), Nancy Reynolds, Kata Lenic, Treenah Wadham, Marilyn Cilmi, Caroline Hagedorn, Lesley Yang, Rex Cambry, Jenny Wullings, Jeanelle Bergin, Peter Barry, Stephanie Snow, Maureen Barns, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Fr Brendan Lane, Alexander Lim, Carol Battistella, Graham Burke, Phil Drew, Luke Norden, Zoe & Sophia Chung, Pam Gartland, Bronwyn Burke, Doris Castro, Patricia Keeghan, Julia Cantone, Caroline Meade, Rod Gorfine, Greg Agosta, Helen McLean, Bro Jerome, Anne Jenkins and Errol Lovett.

Mass on line

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

Paul's Camino Journey Reflection 2025

PS. As part of his role and work with Passionist Family Groups in New Zealand, my brother Paul on his 73rd birthday (on Wednesday) shared a reflection on his recent Camino pilgrimage. I thought it good to share too in this newsletter.

On 1 June 2025, my son Sam and I arrived in St Jean Pied de Port in France to start our shared Camino journey. There was so much we did not know. Could we continuously walk around 25 kms per day for 32 days straight? Could we support one another whilst allowing for our differences? Could we be understood? Our thirteen-year dream after watching the film, 'The Way' was now a reality.

We had read books, watched 'The Way' again and I had seen the more recent film 'The Way – My Way' so, in one sense I knew it was not going to be a 'walk in the park.' (No pun intended.) I wrote a daily journal of how we fared. This however is my reflection on our Camino experience. As I walked, I sort to be open, to learn, to change aspects of me, to share, and as the days rolled into weeks all this came to pass.

I learnt that months of preparation can fall short when you must get up very early every day – day after day and walk 25+ kms. There were doubts, trying moments, a pack that was too heavy, the pain of blistered feet faltering, and the realisation this would be something I could not do on my own.

I slowly had to let go – let others in; listen to them and *their* pain, *their* struggles, *their* past and present stories. I was a pilgrim wanting to travel with love, forgiveness, change and challenge. For me God was very much in this! I always knew I could rely on Sam as he could on me but as time marched on and we met so many fantastic people, we also started to rely on them for support, along the way. Occasionally, for me it might be physical support (those uneven, rocky downhills) but it was support through verbal encouragement, accepting the suggestion of letting my pack be transported to our daily destination, accepting advice on blister recovery, admitting it was tough going in the very hot temperatures we were walking in. In a matter of days, I quickly understood anew the value and importance of Connection with a capital C.

Many other pilgrims came in and out of our days as we walked. Some just passed by calling out, "Buen Camino." Some walked alongside for a few hours, some a few days and nights where we might share our meals, ideas, histories, certainly stories but every one of them left us with our hearts filled with the warmth of human kindness. There's no simpler way to say it other than people walking the Camino just bloody care about each other. I was reminded of the Emmaus story from Luke's gospel, Chapter 24.

In the last 2-3 weeks of our pilgrimage our sense of 'family' became stronger than ever as the fellow pilgrims who shared our days and nights solidified. France, Hungary, Australia, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, the USA, and Germany were some of the nationalities in our 'family.'

We forged lifelong bonds with ordinary men and women with whom we now share extraordinary memories. I really felt God in the down-to-earth interaction of our laughter, tears, getting to know and accepting each other through trust, respect and sharing so much. Similar to many discussions and experiences in the forty years I have been involved with Passionist Family Groups both in New Zealand and Australia, we were 'living community'!

I want to thank the WhatsApp and other social media platform creators. How wonderfully easy it is to stay in touch with these dear 'new' friends.

So, what did I learn or affirm about myself when encountering others on the road? I believe time to 'be', 'to listen', 'to wait', 'to acknowledge and empathise', to extend care and concern when possible and appropriate, to hear what is said through spoken words but also non-verbal gestures, and to allow others to help, encourage and humbly affirm me.

I believe I am a more fulfilled person because of the encounters (fleeting and close) with these amazing people. After all, the point of living life is to *be* for others not hold onto to what we have, but to reach out and share when and where we can. It's an act of service in and through loving kindness.

The effect of 'my' Camino will be with me forever. Heartfelt and loving thanks to Clare who kept the home fires burning while I realised this 'dream' and to Sam who was my constant companion on the road; always checking on me, caring for me, encouraging me. He was as thoughtful, kind, generous and compassionate with me as he was with our fellow pilgrims, especially those who became our Camino 'family.'

To say I was proud of him as my son and as a man would be an understatement.

Buen Camino

Paul Traynor July 2025

