

Holy Cross Retreat

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



26th

April, 2024

Letter 220

St Gabriele's Pasta lunch



May 4th

Bring your friends.

Please contact Bruno on
\$35 per head. BYOW

Anzac Day



Lest We Forget

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them

We will remember them.

Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam (*the four countries that make up our Province*) have all been formed and shaped by the tragedy of war. They have also been blessed by those willing to defend freedom with bravery, fidelity, resourcefulness, comradeship and endurance, even if it cost some their lives.



At Anzac Cove these words of Kemal Ataturk written about the Anzac soldiers are remembered on a plaque. Ataturk commanded the Turkish Division at Gallipoli, and was the First President of Turkey:

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives.

You are now living in the soil of a friendly country

therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between

the Johnnies and the Mehmet's to us, where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.



The song “In A Field in France” sung by Kevin Johnson, is played at the Canberra memorial every Anzac Day. It is the story of a father and the words he would like to say to his son who he learns has been killed. The faces that appear in the video (see below) are all young Aussies who died in WW1.

The song was written by Gary Paige who was moved when he heard that the remains of an Australian soldier were discovered in 1998 by a farmer was ploughing his field, ‘in a field in France’. Later, Gary learned that this soldier was his great uncle Russell Bosisto, who died in combat in France in 1916 during WW1.

“In A field in France” (Gary Paige & John Vallins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvtHFL1UJg4>

Coffee Cart Sunday

The coffee cart was very popular again on Sunday with a good number of people staying around, meeting and chatting to each other. Special thanks to Tina, Tim, Graeme and John for the setting up and putting away of marquee and other equipment; those who brought along food to share and those who financed it.









Grief



You Don't Just Lose Someone Once (Donna Ashworth)

You don't just lose someone once.

**You lose them when you close your eyes at night.
And as you open them each morning.
You lose them throughout the day.**

**An unused coffee cup.
An empty chair.
A pair of boots no longer there.
You lose them as the sun sets.
And darkness closes in.**

**You lose them as you wonder why.
Staring at a star lit sky.
You lose them on the big days.
Anniversaries, birthdays, graduations.
Holidays, weddings, and the regular days too.
You lose them in a song they used to sing.
The scent of their cologne.
A slice of their favorite pie.
You lose them in conversations you will never have.
And all the words unsaid.**

**You lose them in all the places they've been.
And all the places they longed to go.
You lose them in what could have been.
And all the dreams you shared.
You lose them as the seasons change.
The snow blows.
The flowers blossom.
The grass grows.
The leaves fall.
You lose them again and again.
Day after day.
Month after month.
Year after year.**

**You lose them as you pick up the broken pieces.
And begin your life anew.
You lose them when you realize.
This is your new reality.
They are never coming back.
No matter how much
You miss them or
Need them.
No matter how hard you pray.**

**They are gone.
And you must go on.
Alone.**

**Time marches on, carrying them further and further way.
You lose them as your hair whitens and your body bends with age.
Your memory fades.
And the details begin to blur.
Their face stares back at you from a faded photograph.
Someone you used to know.
You think you might have loved them once.
A long time ago.
Back then.
When you were whole.**

**You don't just lose someone once.
You lose them every day.
Over and over again.
For the rest of your life.**

Performances

Victor Borge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtDX1VI-Jxk>

From South Korea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=DzcH9eNFVto>

Photo



Adding another photo of our community members, above is Budi and Rafael. Budi's first name is Franciskus, but he 'goes by' Budi. Both **Rafael** and **Budi** are from Flores, Indonesia.

Holiday



My sincere thanks again to all those who emailed or offered personal good wishes after my recent hospitalisation. The constant request well-wishes have made is 'take a rest'. As it turns out, I was due for holidays, which I will begin on Friday morning. During my time away please refer matters regarding Holy Cross to Erick. He will do an abbreviated newsletter while I am away while continuing his university studies for his Masters in Counselling.

Passionist Family Group Houses and Jesus' Visits

Written in April 2024 as a reflection for PFG members



In the early days of Passionist Family Groups and for many years, people shared outdoor picnics. Restaurant meals were rare as we emphasised 'low cost or no cost'. PFG members gathered in each other's homes, either as part of an entire 'Family Group' function or as subgroups of friends. Since COVID and also affected by the ageing of group members, home gatherings or invitations are happening far less, which is unfortunate.

I was thinking about this a few weeks ago both in the light of Jesus sharing meals 'in the open', and by the sea (like Passionist Family Groups do) especially in people's homes. In particular, I reflected on Jesus



visiting a house in the pagan city of Tyre where, we are told, he went into a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. (Mk 7:24) He must have been well known to the house owners, that he could apparently let himself in, yet he was 80 kilometres from home!

I began thinking about the houses we know that Jesus visited. Of course we don't know them all, but we know some of them, and the circumstances of his visits:



- When Jesus' family and his disciples were invited to a wedding party in Cana, Jesus restored the happiness of the occasion after they had run out of wine.



- Upon leaving the synagogue one sabbath, Jesus visited Peter's house in Capernaum, when he heard that Peter's mother-in-law was unwell. She recovered and began to serve the guests.

- Jesus accepted an invitation to visit another house in Capernaum and, while he was there, some men lowered their friend through the roof and asked Jesus to cure him which, of course, Jesus did.

- Jesus accepted an invitation from Matthew to visit his house,

This aroused the anger of some Pharisees because Matthew was a tax-collector. Jesus addressed these religious leaders by saying he had not come to call the righteous to repentance, but sinners! Matthew became a disciple.



- Jesus visited the house of Simon, where a woman arrived and washed Jesus' feet and dried them with her hair. Only a prostitute would let down her hair in the culture of the time. Jesus famously said: *Those who are forgiven much, love much.*

- Jairus, the synagogue official, invited Jesus to go to his house to cure his unwell daughter. In fact, the young girl had died, but while in the house, Jesus raised her and asked the people to give her some food.



- It seems Jesus visited the house of Martha and Mary



frequently. It is likely that their brother Lazarus lived with them. The Gospels record three times that Jesus 'loved the family'. On the best-known occasion recorded in the Gospel, Jesus praised Mary for listening like a disciple, unlike her sister Martha who was distracted and worried by entertaining.

- Zacchaeus was another tax-collector who invited Jesus to visit



his house. This was a gesture of solidarity with a public outsider. Many in the crowd criticised Jesus for his poor judgment but that visit turned Zacchaeus' life around.



- The visit to the house of Caiaphas was quite different to other house visits. This was an involuntary visit, forced on Jesus. In this house, Jesus was judged and condemned. Houses are sometimes the source of tension and even violence; maybe even a potential visitor is shut out, but never, we hope, is Jesus rejected (as stranger, family or friend).

- Jesus gathered his disciples for a farewell meal at the Cenacle in Jerusalem. We don't know whose house this was, but since Jesus' instructions were, "Tell him the master needs it, scholars suggest it belonged to a Jerusalem based disciple. During this meal, Jesus washed his disciples' feet as a slave would have done and gave those present his bread as a communion of remembrance.



- Two downcast disciples who left Jerusalem after Jesus' death, encountered the risen Jesus on their journey and when they came to a house in Emmaus, presumably belonging to one of them, they pressed Jesus to stay.

They shared a meal, and during that meal Jesus took the bread, blessed and broke it, and then their eyes were opened to his presence.

- After Jesus' death some of the disciples gathered in a house in Jerusalem with the doors shut! It was here that Jesus appeared and assured the disciples that his Spirit was within and among them.

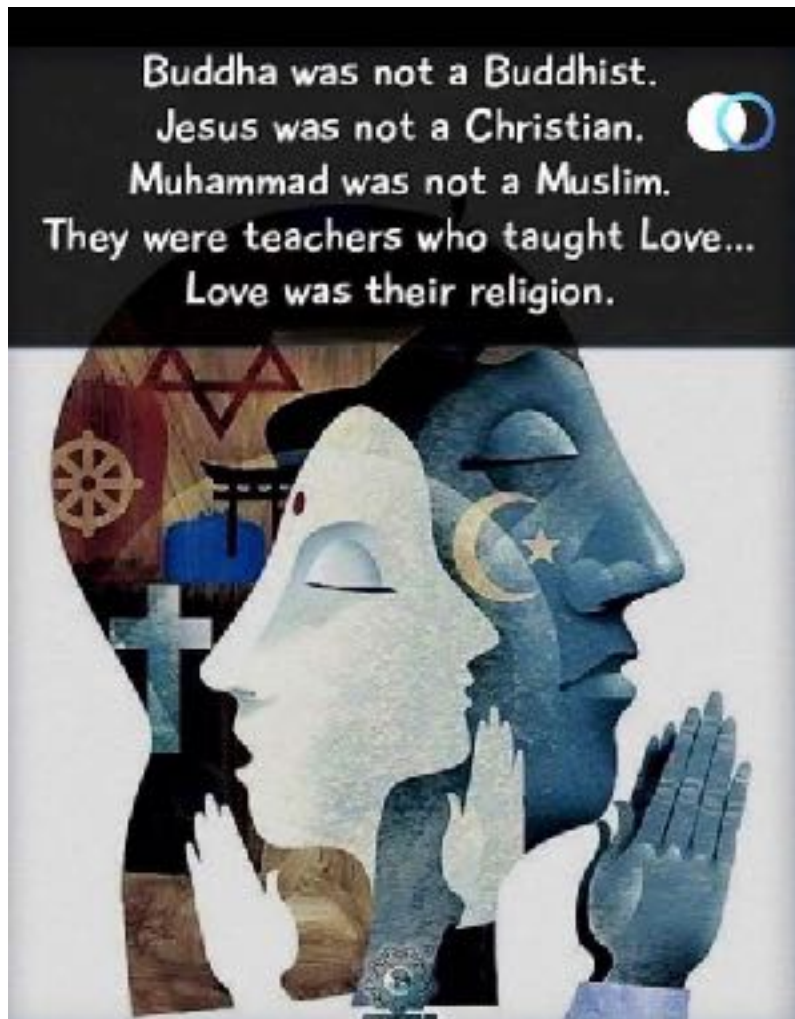


So these visits to houses were always strong acts of fellowship and often they involved healing. Outsiders were visited, as were friends.



Maybe some reflection on who is, or is not invited, to our house (as an individual or as a group) can be an occasion for rethinking.

Maybe Jesus is knocking on the door or waiting to be invited in.



Vin Molloy -91

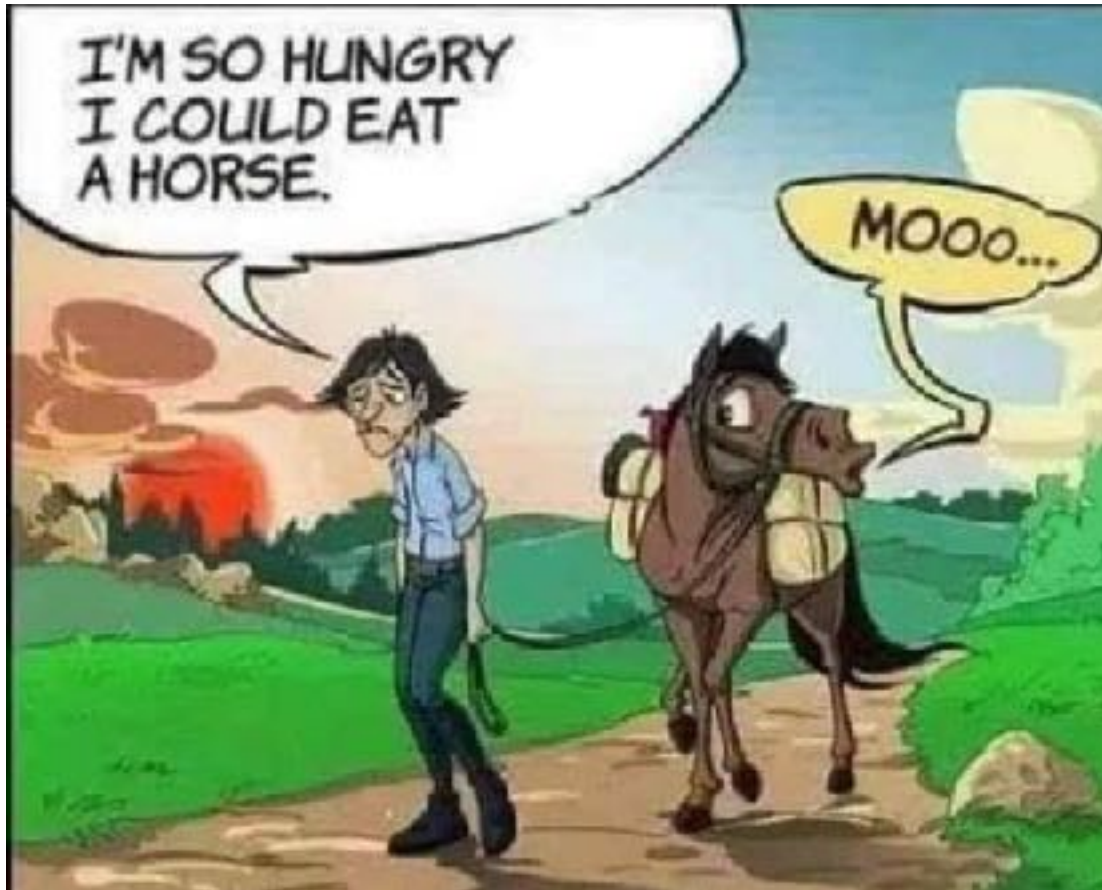


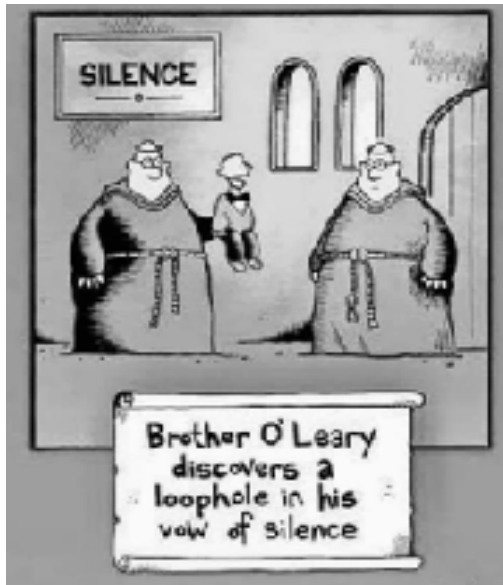
Congratulations to **Vin Molloy** who turned 91 yesterday (Anzac Day). Vin has been assisting us for 25 years, first as a member of the 'A' Team and then with our finances as well as computer/IT issues. Although he retired, he has twice come back to assist with transitions and been an enormous help to us.

No long ago, another former 'A' team member, **Jack Brolly** also turned 91. He and Anne were travelling to Hobart a few days ago and they came across fellow Scot, **Bro Martin Lusk CP**. Martin, a carpenter, was travelling to Hobart to assist our community there with some maintenance issues. In true Scottish fashion Jack and Martin shared a beer on this happy occasion.



Humour





Police came round last night and told me my dogs were chasing people on bikes.

My dogs don't even have bikes.



I visited a monastery and as I walked past the kitchen I saw a man frying chips. I asked him "Are you the friar?" He replied "No, I'm the chip monk..."



Petrol



For those who may not be aware of it, the Metro service station in Tunstall Square always has cheaper petrol than elsewhere. This week it has been \$1.88 per litre.

Prayers

We remember those celebrating memories of loved ones, especially

Toan Bao Nguyen who died on April 28th last year.

Merleine Gagliardi (1st May) wife of Frank RIP

Mary Maher (2nd May) Julie's Hoskin's mother

John Ryan (5th May) (Diane Baker's brother)

We remember all others in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially.



Margaret Enriquez, Maree Bartoli, Tony Tome, Carol Battistella, Peter Barns, John & Maeve Reardon, Pam Storey, Gerry Bond Peter McNamara, Alexander Lim, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Michael O'Callaghan, , Shirley Barnes, Bronwyn Burke, Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Monique Hardinge, Mary Hackett, Pam Gartland, Greg Agosta, Patricia Keeghan, Anne Jenkins, Errol Lovett, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Mary Dunn, Chris O'Toole, Gerald

Quinn CP, and baby Alfred Theodore in London.

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

Brian