

## Holy Cross Retreat

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



### Letter 253

13th December, 2024

Greetings everyone,

We welcome Brian back! Thank you everyone who has helped us get the newsletter going while he has been away. We look forward to having his input.

This week we begin with a brief explanation of the third Sunday of Advent.

Source: Father Hanly, <https://fatherhanly.com/journey-with-father/3rd-sunday-of-advent-year-c/>



*[Thirds Sunday of Advent] is "Gaudete" Sunday. The word means "rejoice." But it means more than just rejoice, it means to jump and dance, clapping your hands and stamping your feet with wild abandon.*

*"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!" so says St. Paul to his people, the people of Philippi. Why? Because the Lord is nigh, the Lord is near, he is at our very door... and so is Christmas, too.*

*... You also might have noticed that the pink coloured candle in the Advent wreath is all lit up. This custom goes back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century and it is telling us to get ready for "the coming of the Lord," the birth of the Child.*



*Why the colour "pink", why not silver or gold?*

*Because (listen carefully now) "pink" is the colour of the white clouds when struck by the rays of the morning sun, announcing the coming of dawn...the dawning of a new day, a new beginning, a new start, perhaps even a new life...it's a herald of hope for the future.*

*Advent means "the coming," the coming of the Lord. Advent for Christians everywhere is a season of hope and longing, and of joyful celebration. [Happy Joyful Sunday!]*

## The Passionist Youth Retreat Team

I was fascinated by Luke's sharing on how the Passionist Youth Retreat Team is growing rapidly. I asked him to write something for us which he has done below. Thank you Luke!



*"In 2024, the Passionist Youth Retreat Team formally expanded into Melbourne, and I was appointed the "Melbourne Coordinator". We welcomed Charlene Nheu and Tanis Normington (both from our parish in Endeavour Hills) to our Team in Melbourne. We've had an amazing year down here, with 17 schools, 23 retreats over 40 days throughout 2024, and when we tallied up our km's, we realised we've*

*travelled over 12,000km's together!*

*One thing I've been reflecting a lot on is the early experience of many of our Passionist men who've laid the groundwork for what we do today, travelling all around the country (albeit predominantly in a little car!!) leading retreats and missions. This "new generation" of missionaries has been growing from strength to strength in recent years. 2024 saw our biggest year, with a total (nationally) of 115 retreats in 5 states. We went to Tasmania for the first time, and have started growing a lot in Western Australia, too!*



*We recently had a Mass at Endeavour Hills to recognise Charlene and Tanis' work this year (the first picture), and the members in Brisbane did likewise (the second picture). Next is our End of Year retreat, where we will all gather*

*together in Brisbane to celebrate the year that's been, and look forward to 2025, which we hope will be our next "biggest year yet!" Luke Bulley CP.*



**ATTENTION, DATE CORRECTION: Eggs News (Ann)**



The last eggs day for this year is Monday, 16 December. After a short break, eggs will resume on Monday, 13 January (not 20 January) 2025.

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**New La Velle Ramp**

Cecilia has written a note to accompany the photos of the work on the ramp below. One photo shows Brian inspecting the ramp shortly after greeting Vince, who was still working on the car park past 8 p.m. Brian was eager to check the ramp immediately after arriving from the airport last Wednesday, even before unloading his bags from the car.

*Thank you to the A-Team, particularly John, Ed, Frank, Peter, Joey, Vince and Bruno, who have been industriously working on building the new ramp outside the La Velle Room entrance. The ramp is at right angles to the existing (maroon-coloured) ramp and will be a more direct access for guests to the new carpark that Vince has been creating over the last year or so. It is exciting to see these works take place. We are so grateful for the hard work being done, which is bringing the vision of many to fruition.*



## Holy Cross Rose Gardens (Cecilia)



The rose gardens at Holy Cross are spectacular in the summer months and they provide enjoyment for many. This includes our guests who hire the facilities – we often receive comments and enquiries about particular roses when they are in bloom. Some of the roses delight by their colour, some for their fragrance and some are blessed with both! For many years, Br Jerome developed and nurtured particularly the northern rose garden and there is a wide variety of colours and types there. We owe him a debt of gratitude for all his hard work, for which we are now reaping the benefits as we wander the grounds. The southern (front) rose garden is beautiful too, with its arc of colour that lines the circular driveway. Thank you to Peter Norman and others who continue Jerome’s green thumbs in tending to the rose gardens to keep them flourishing.

### Rose Fun Facts

- Roses are possibly one of the oldest flowers – there are rose fossils that date back 35 million years! The oldest living rose is 1,000 years old and it lives on the wall of the Cathedral of Hildesheim in Germany.
- All varieties of rose are edible – rose water is often added to jellies and used as a flavouring in Indian and Chinese foods. There are rose-flavoured teas and cocktails, and rose hips are packed with vitamin C.
- The rose fragrance is often used to create perfumes.
- The tallest rose bush recorded stands at 5.6 metres high.
- There are about 150 species of rose and many, many cultivars or hybrids. Cherries, apples, peaches, plums, pears, apricots and almonds are all relatives of the rose family, Rosaceae. Blackberries too!
- The rose scent comes from its microscopic glands – located on their lower petals.
- Ecuador is reported to be one of the largest suppliers of roses, with over 50% of its land devoted to roses.
- The Bible refers to three different flowers – roses, lilies and camphires.



## Enjoy Some Humour sourced through Peter Traynor

Signs from around the world:

At a Budapest zoo

Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.

Cocktail lounge in Norway

Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

Hotel in Acapulco

The manager has personally passed all the water served here.

Dry cleaner in Bangkok

Drop your trousers here for the best results.

In a Nairobi restaurant

Customers who find our waitresses rude ought to see the manager.

On the grounds of a private school

No trespassing without permission.

On an Athi river highway

Take note: when this sign is under water, this highway is impassable.

On a poster in Cancun

Are you an adult that cannot read? If so, we can help.

In a city restaurant

Open seven days a week and weekends.

Sign seen on an automatic restroom hand dryer

Do not activate with wet hands.

In a Pumwani maternity ward

No children allowed.

In a cemetery

Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves.

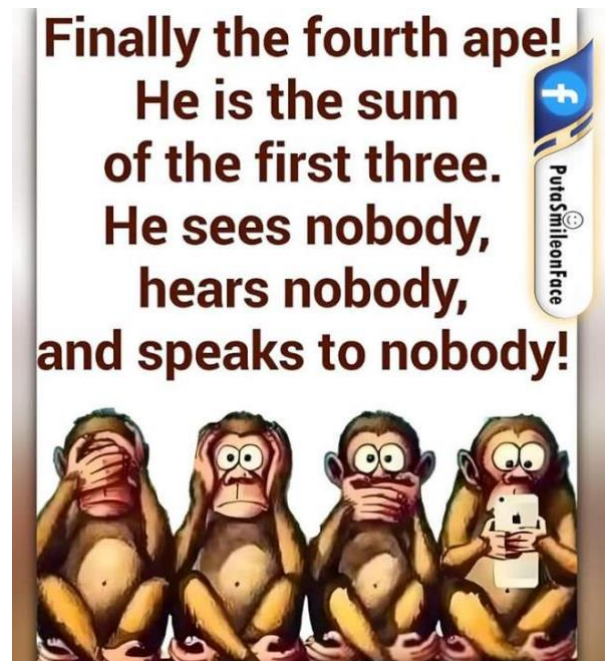
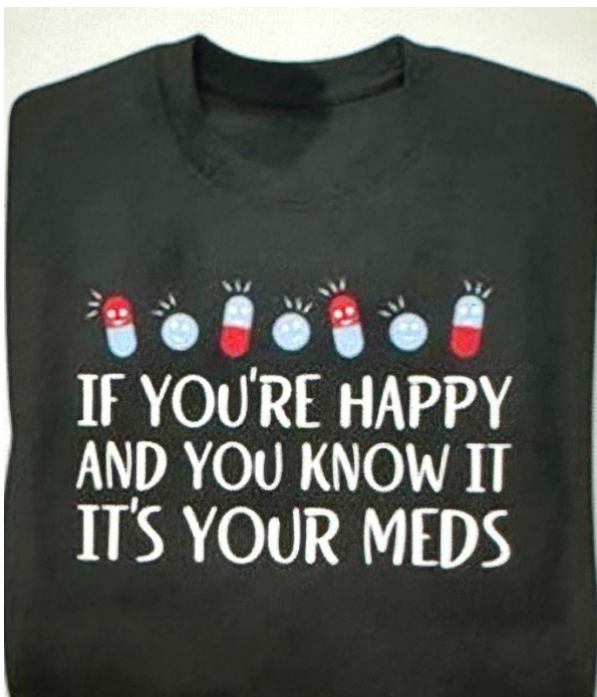
On the menu of a Swiss restaurant

Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.



Information booklet about using a hotel air conditioner, Japan  
Cooles and heates: if you want just condition of warm air in your room, please control yourself.

**A friend suggested horse manure on my strawberries. I am not doing that again. I am going back to whipped cream.**



## Prayers

We remember the recently deceased and those whose anniversaries occur this week especially:

David Fuller - 14/12, Maree Spinks - 15/12, Anne Tobin - 18/12, and William Finnigan - 20/12.

**I thank my God each time I think  
of you!  
And when I pray for you,  
I pray with joy.**

We also remember those in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially: Maree Bartoli, Rod Gorfine, Bro Minh Toan CP, Peter Barry, Monica Sleeman (Fr Kevin's sister), Desley Reynolds, Rex Cambry, Sharon Williams, Doris Castro, Julia

Cantone, Caroline Meade, Sophia Chung, Michael O'Callaghan, Peter McNamara, Pam Storey, Lorraine Gill, Adrian Woon, Sandra Street, Paul Darbyshire, Luke Norden, Carol Battistella, Monique Hardinge, Kaya Lenic, John Reardon, Alexander Lim, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Gerry Bond, Mary Dunn, Bronwyn Burke, Greg Agosta Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Anne Jenkins, Pam Gartland, Patricia Keeghan, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Errol Lovett, Chris O'Toole and baby Alfred Theodore in London.

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

Thank you

Erick



*Photo of the current advent wreath taken by Tri at Holy Cross Chapel. The wreath was kindly donated by Pam Storey.*