

Holy Cross Retreat

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



3rd

January, 2025

Letter 256

New Year

The Holy Cross community extends warm greetings and best wishes for 2025.

Joey

Joseph Liaia will celebrate 10.00am Mass this Sunday, which will be a farewell, since he will leave to take up his new appointment in for Hobart early on Thursday January 9th.

JD left for a holiday with his family in Vietnam, on Wednesday

3 deaths

Holy Cross lost three of our family at various times on the same day – Sunday December 29th. **Janus Kedzior** is less well known than **Peter McNamara** and **Maree Bartoli**. Maree and Peter will both be buried next Monday, January 6th. Janus' funeral will be held a week later.



Maree Bartoli and her husband Frank lived in Templestowe for many years and were regular Mass attenders at Holy Cross. After Maree was diagnosed with motor neurone disease, they moved to Doreen, closer to their three daughters. Maree's father James Zammit, lived with them and all three continued to attend Mass. at Holy Cross until James died at age 97 in April 2021. Despite suffering blindness, Frank became Maree's main carer until her more serious decline over the past twelve months and since that time he has been amazingly assisted by their three daughters and their families.. Maree died on Sunday morning December 29th. There will be a **6pm rosary at Holy Cross on Sunday January 5th and her funeral will be on Monday January 6th at 9.30am.**



Many would remember over recent years, **Peter McNamara** making his way to and from communion, pushing his walker. He fought a long battle with cancer very bravely, and he remained bright and positive. When it was recommended that he enter hospital on Christmas Eve, Peter said "It will do me more good to go to Mass and Christmas carols at Holy Cross. That's what he did!"

Peter died on Sunday morning December 29th and his [funeral Mass will be at Holy Cross on Monday January 6th at 2.30pm.](#)

Janusz Kedzior also died on Sunday. His funeral will possibly be held on January 10th. There will be more details later. Janus would not be so well known to many who belong to Holy Cross. Known commonly as John, he retired as a physician and psychiatrist with an MD and PhD, having dedicated his career to advancing the fields of general and forensic psychiatry. He mentored countless students and professionals, fostering a new generation of psychiatrists equipped with the latest knowledge and skills in mental health treatment. As a forensic psychiatrist, he played a pivotal role in legal settings, providing expert evaluations that informed judicial decisions. In retirement, Janusz continued to share his insights through writing and speaking engagements, advocating for advancements in mental health care and the importance of integrating scientific research with clinical practice.

Do it Now...Berton Braley

If with pleasure you are viewing
any work a man is doing,
If you like him or you love him, tell him now;
Don't withhold your approbation
till the parson makes oration
and he lies with snowy lilies on his brow;
No matter how you shout it
he won't really care about it;
He won't know how many teardrops you have shed;
If you think some praise is due him
now's the time to slip it to him,
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.

More than fame and more than money
is the comment kind and sunny
And the hearty, warm approval of a friend.
For it gives to life a savour,
and it makes you stronger, braver,
And it gives you heart and spirit to the end;
If he earns your praise – bestow it,
if you like him let him know it,
Let the words of true encouragement be said;
Do not wait till life is over
and he's underneath the clover,
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.

Feast of Epiphany



The Greek word *επιφάνεια* means 'manifestation'. The feast of Epiphany on January 6th, was originally anticipated by a time of preparation (Advent) to before celebrating the visit of the wise men from the East. They are likely to have been astrologers and they found Jesus by using their own tradition – following a star. This is a bit sobering when we think how difficult it is for us to truly 'find' Jesus. The visit of the 'wise

men' or Magi is only recorded in Matthew's gospel so we won't hear the story this year (in Year C when we hear from Luke).

Epiphany celebrated the manifestation of Jesus as universal Lord. The men from the East signified that people from 'east and west' had come to pay homage to Jesus, the ultimate revealer of God's love and fellowship. So the period of advent began on December 17th and it was a festival period of prayers and activities celebrating Jesus' arrival, rather than as it has become, a time of preparation while we wait for Jesus to arrive (at Christmas).



In 274CE the Emperor Aurelian inaugurated the Roman feast of the 'Unconquered Sun', which celebrated the beginning of the sun's return at the Winter Solstice. December 25th became the day to celebrate this feast, and in 336CE we know that Christians chose this date to celebrate the birth of 'unconquered Son', Christ. Over time, December 25th became the day to celebrate Jesus' birth, and Advent became a four-week season of preparation for the feast.

Christmas was a celebration of hope; when the promise of peace and justice would come about.

Christmas in the Middle Ages became more sentimental and focused on the birth of Jesus. In the 13th century, St Francis introduced the crib, and Christmas became associated with Bethlehem, the stable, the star, shepherds, angels, the wise men from the East etc. Christmas took over priority from Epiphany, and St Nicholas, who cared for the poor, became Santa Claus the gift giver.



The Eastern church has celebrated, Jesus' birth, the revelation to the Magi and Jesus baptism, as one feast. The Western church has separated them as three separate feasts. This Sunday the magi will arrive at our crib, and we will celebrate God's promise manifested to people of all lands and cultures.

The Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

By Anna Artymiak



On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door to begin a Jubilee Year in 2025, giving every generation a chance to experience a special time of grace and mercy in their life. Francis wants the coming Jubilee Year 2025 to be lived as a “year of hope,” very symbolic in times when the world's wars seem to be unending and multiplying.

Catholic tradition refers back to the Jewish tradition of the “jubilees” present in the Bible (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13), although in Rome it was started simply for pilgrims. The term “Jubilee” comes from the name of an instrument, the yobel, the ram's horn, used by Jews in Biblical times to proclaim the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur).



Numerous pilgrims coming from both the West and East of the Christian world insisted that Pope Boniface VIII (1294-1303) give them a special blessing and responded positively to the pilgrims' request with a jubilee in 1300. Since that time the jubilee year has become a Catholic tradition, originally intended to be celebrated every one hundred years.

Even though Boniface had intended that a jubilee should only occur every hundred years, he could not have anticipated how the crises of the fourteenth century would change that. Devastating amounts of rain in the spring of 1315 led to the Great Famine (1315–1317), which plunged Europe into an agricultural and financial crisis. Shortly after, the Black Death (1347–1350) ravaged Europe, killing between one third and one half of the population, while the Hundred Years' War between England and France (1337–1453) had just begun. The Catholic Church itself was also in crisis, as the papacy had moved from Rome to Avignon, France.

These global crises led Pope Clement VI to issue a papal bull in 1343 that called for another jubilee year to be celebrated in 1350 and for the gap between Jubilees to be every 50 years. The rule to celebrate it every 25 years was established with the Holy Year of 1470 under Pope Paul II.

The coming Jubilee Year of 2025 will be the second under the pontificate of Francis: the extraordinary Jubilee, the Year of Mercy, was celebrated in 2016. This time, Pope Francis invites the faithful to live the holy year as “Pilgrims in Hope” — which is the motto of the jubilee of 2025. The jubilee logo, designed by Italian

artist Giacomo Trivisani, shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples.



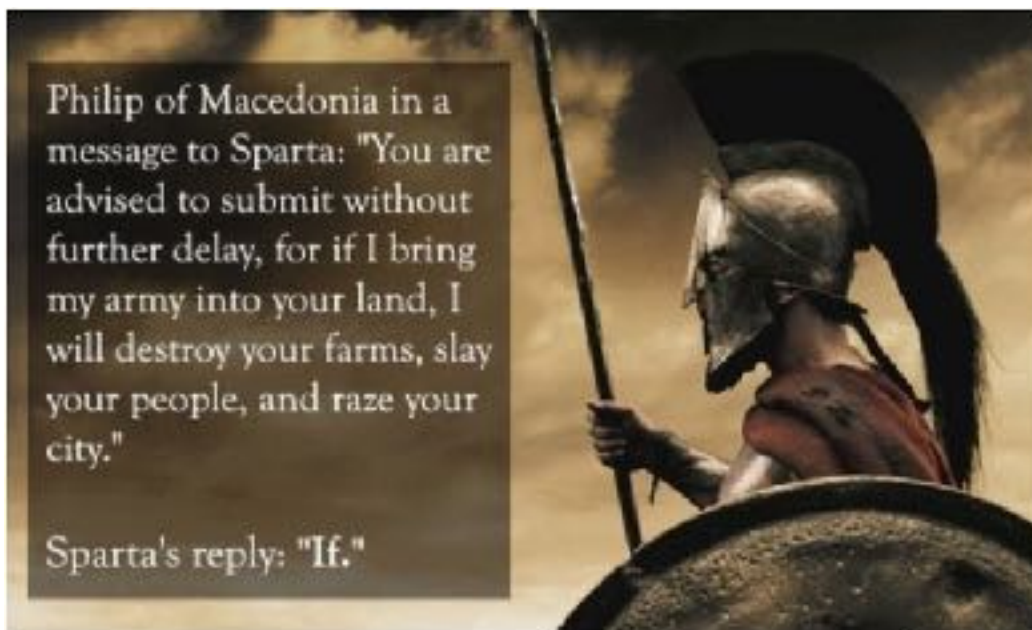
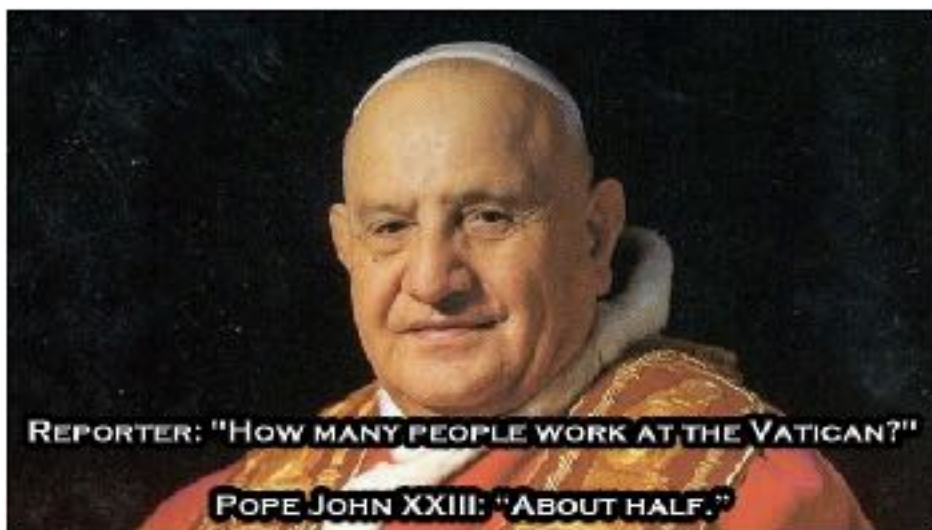
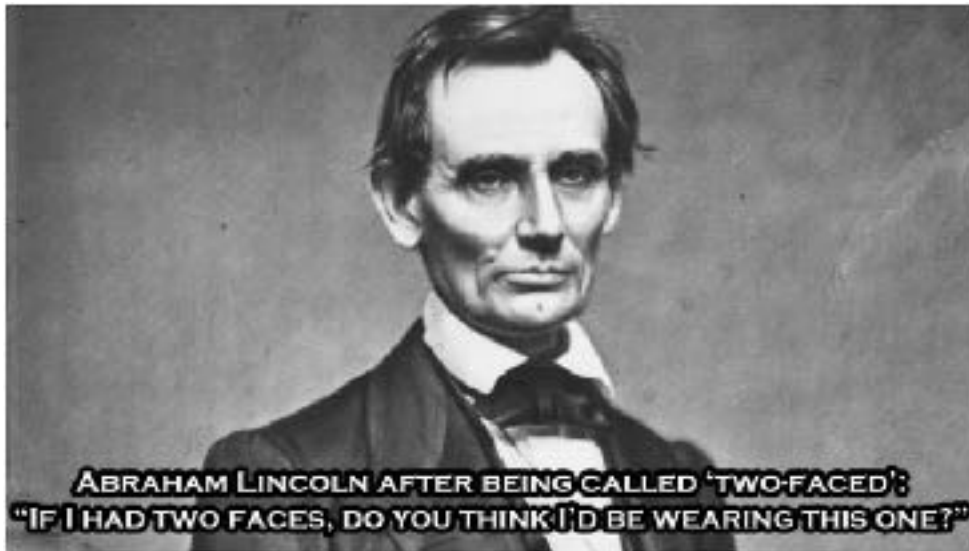
The rough waves under the figures symbolize the fact that life’s pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. The anchor is a symbol of hope. The dynamic cross of Christ bends down towards humanity, not leaving us all alone, but stretching out to us to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope.

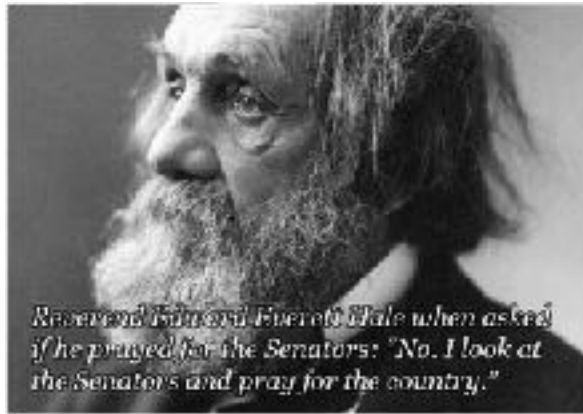
The Dicastery of Evangelization has already published the calendar of main events with the Holy Father for different groups, beginning on **January 24-26** with the celebration of the Jubilee of the **World of Communications**, and concluding on December 14 with the last jubilee, the Jubilee of Prisoners, to whom Pope Francis pays special attention.

Throughout the year, individual jubilees are scheduled for teenagers, children, and parents and grandparents; musicians, health care workers, and policemen and military personnel; deacons, bishops and the Eastern Churches; Marian spirituality, consecrated life and Missionaries of Mercy. In addition there will be a Penitential liturgy celebrated on March 28th in St. Peter’s Basilica.

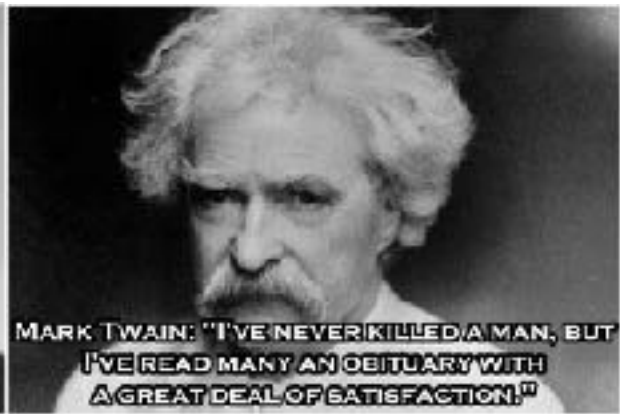


Humour - Famous retorts





Reverend Edward Everett Hale when asked if he prayed for the Senators: "No. I look at the Senators and pray for the country."

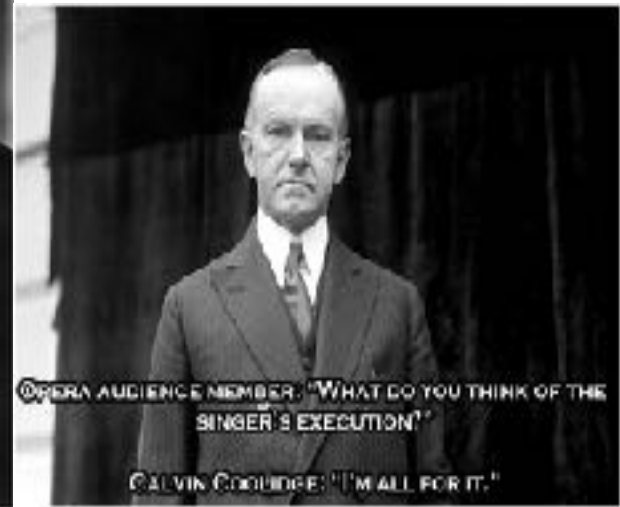


MARK TWAIN: "I'VE NEVER KILLED A MAN, BUT I'VE READ MANY AN OBITUARY WITH A GREAT DEAL OF SATISFACTION!"



Shaw: Have reserved two tickets for opening night. Come and bring a friend, if you have one.

Churchill: Impossible to come to first night. Will come to second night, if you have one.



OPERA AUDIENCE MEMBER: "WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SINGER'S EXECUTION?"

CALVIN COOLIDGE: "I'M ALL FOR IT."



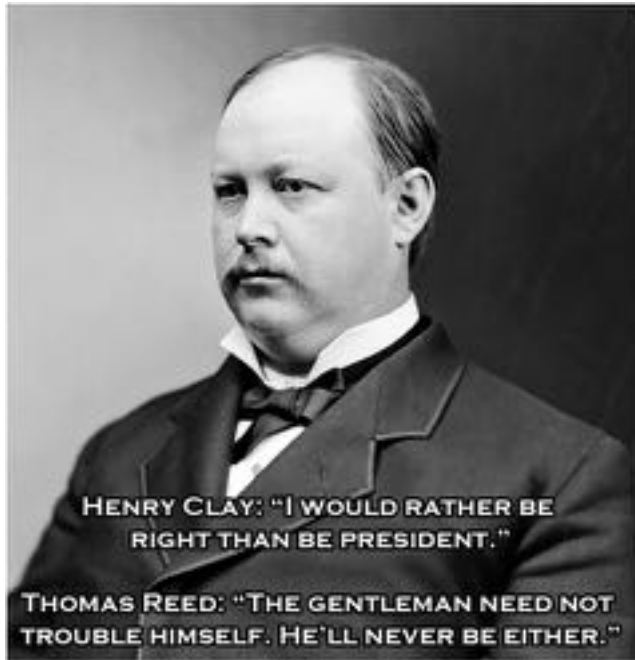
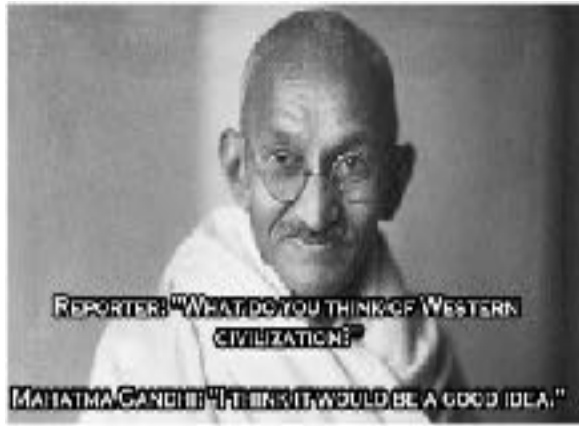
DRUNK MAN: "I CAN'T BEER FUDGE."

DOROTHY PARKER: "APPARENTLY YOUR MOTHER COULD."



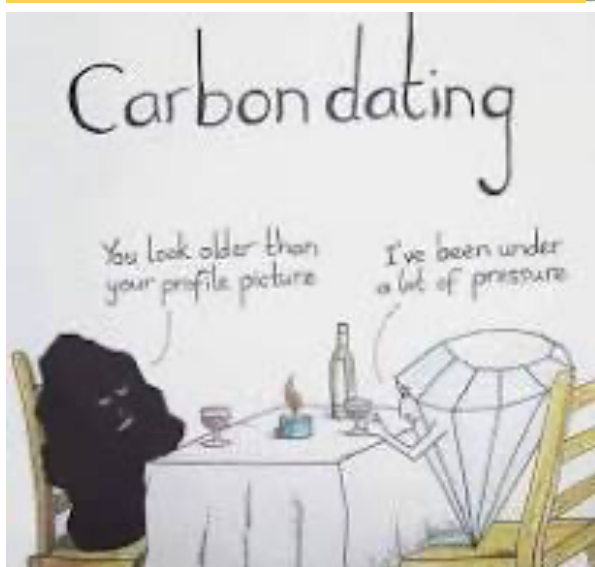
ACTRESS: "I ENJOYED READING YOUR BOOK, WHO WROTE IT FOR YOU?"

AUTHOR IKA CHASE: "DARLING, I'M SO GLAD THAT YOU LIKED IT. WHO READ IT TO YOU?"



Humour





Q What exactly is a “New Years resolution”?

A It’s a “to do” list for the first week of January.

Q What did the ghost say on January 1?

A Happy Boo Year

An iPhone and a firework were arrested on New Years Eve.
One was charged and the other was let off.

This year I’m going to stay up late on New Year’s Eve.
Not to see the new year in, but to make sure this one leaves.

Alcohol does not make you FAT, it makes you lean..... against tables, chairs, floors and walls.

2024 went by so fast Harry didn't get a chance to lose weight.

Wife: I hope you can live up to your New Year resolutions that I've made for you.

Hopefully on New Year's Eve you made sure you have your left foot in the air, so you could start the New Year on the right foot.

Prayers



Listed among these we are praying for is Zoe Chung and her baby daughter Sophia. Just after giving birth to Sophia twelve months ago, Zoe was diagnosed with breast cancer. She has undergone a lumpectomy and started chemotherapy treatment early last month (December 2024). Sophia is suffering from congenital myasthenic syndrome, a genetic defect causing a neuro transmission delay between the nerve and muscle. She is on a BPap ventilator 24/7 at Monash Children's Hospital. This machine helps breathing by pushing air into the lungs in a non-invasive manner. A mask or nasal plugs are connected to the ventilator and it supplies pressurized air into the airways. The whole Chung family are being trained in Sophia's tracheostomy care, for the time when she is able to come home.

Frank and Ann Burke have a long history with the Chung family, which began with them sponsoring Sun and Ngim and their daughter Sien for resettlement in Australia in the mid 1970's following the end of the Vietnam war and the collapse of the murderous Pol Pot regime in Cambodia. Sun and Ngim had a son (Ken) born in Australia. Ken married Zoe. And is in the photo above with Zoe and Sophia. Frank and Anne's long commitment of over 50 years to this family, is amazing and we can only guess what it means to them to have support from the Holy Cross family during this time.



This photo of Sophie shows something of what she is dealing with. We will place a photo in the foyer at the rear of the chapel as a reminder to keep this family and the Burkes and their supporters in our prayers. The family photograph shows Ken, Zoe and Sophia and there is a beautiful one of Sophia on her own.

Prayers

We remember **Maree Bartoli** who died on Sunday after her long battle with motor neurone disease. We also remember **Peter McNamara and Janusz Kedzior** who also died earlier on Sunday morning. We remember those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially **Mary Anne Parnis (Carmen Zammit's mother), Maureen Matthews and Michele Salerno.**



We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell as well as all who care for them especially

Rod Gorfine, Bro Minh Toan CP, Peter Barry, Rex Cambry, Monica Sleeman (Fr Kevin's sister), Desley Reynolds, Gerry Bond, Sharon Williams, Carol Battistella, Alexander Lim, Doris Castro, Zoe and Sophia Chung, Paul Darbyshire, Michael O'Callaghan, Julia Cantone, Pam Storey, Lorraine Gill, Adrian Woon, Bronwyn Burke, Luke Norden, John Reardon, Kaya Lenic, Greg Agosta, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Caroline Meade, Mary Dunn, Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Pam Gartland, Anne Jenkins, Patricia Keeghan, Errol Lovett, Chris O'Toole, and baby Alfred Theodore in London.

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

God bless

Brian