

Holy Cross Retreat

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



10th

January, 2025

Letter 257

Joey

Joey left for Hobart on Thursday morning. The community was able to celebrate a farewell and express our appreciation of and affection for him. He will be missed, but our loss will be Hobart's gain.

Chris

Chris is on a very well deserved holiday, but he will continue to record Sunday Mass each Saturday.

Tri

Tri will leave for a well-deserved holiday next Tuesday. until February 17th. Returning home to his family will be most welcome, but meeting all the expectations of relatives and neighbours in a village, means it is more a time of reconnecting and less of a real holiday.

Funerals



Last Monday we celebrated two special funerals at Holy Cross. In the morning we farewelled **Maree Bartoli**, and in the afternoon it was **Peter McNamara**. There was a good representation of the Holy Cross family at both funerals (many attended both). Maree's was livestreamed. The link is: <https://www.vividstream.com.au/live/maree-bartoli>

Janusz Kedzior's funeral will be held on Friday January 10th. He led a quiet life in retirement and while he loved belonging to Holy Cross, he did not mix widely, so he was not as well known amongst us, as Maree and Peter.

Tim Horlock deserves special mention, not only for the expertise he brought to both funerals, but that he has been involved as celebrant or funeral director at eight funerals over nine days. People always are high in their praise for Tim's warmth, sensitivity, comfort and compassion at such a critical time.

There are many Holy Cross couples who are struggling to care either for one another or one for the other, and we greatly admire their love and devotion, as we do for

those already parted by death who continue to live with sorrow and the unique loneliness of living without a lifelong spouse.



Joseph was able to borrow one of our vehicles and travel on the 'Spirit of Tasmania' ferry taking all of his gear including guitar and bike. To take all of that by plane would have attracted a very large excess baggage fee.



Kevin Hennessy joined us for a community meal (Chris was away) where we could share with Joey our appreciation of him and wish him well for this next stage of his

Passionist journey. Tri took the photo so you can't miss him. Erick is far left, then Mile, Jerome, Joey, myself and Kevin (who was 54 years professed yesterday).



New student

John Khouri from Sydney will arrive next Wednesday (January 15th) to begin his vocation as a Passionist. John is 24 and has been working as a school counsellor. Erick will be his formator. We warmly welcome John to Holy Cross.

Feast of Baptism of Jesus...Sunday 12th January



I mentioned last week that in the Eastern church, the birth of Jesus, the Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus are celebrated as the one feast. This is to show the continuity between Jesus entering the world in Bethlehem, being recognized by all peoples through the Magi as the Messiah (Christ) and the initiation of Jesus into his ministry by being baptised in the Jordan river.

Jesus' baptism highlighted that he was a true member of the human family. He shared their longings for liberation. Perhaps one aspect of this feast we might reflect on, is that no one becomes a commissioned follower of Jesus without having to grow and develop in his or her understanding of what this vocation means. Growth in faith was real for Jesus too. Jesus did not sit up in the manager and recite his 'seven times' tables. He had to learn like everyone else.

He did not arrive with everything worked out. We can see from the events in the gospels that his ideas grew and he had his vision expanded by some of the people he met.



Jesus was baptised a disciple of John, but after John's death, Jesus took a different path. He began spreading good news about a way of living in which people could be liberated from religious oppression. His focus was not on the next life. Jesus began offering a way of living here and now. He became totally dedicated to 'the reign of God' and to the universal family that included the marginalized – this is mentioned 120 times in the Synoptic gospels (Mark, Matthew and Luke).

So Jesus' baptism was the beginning of a faith journey that like any of us was shaped by many events and encounters. Sometimes the worst events are our best teachers. Sometimes our greatest insights come from simple events or ordinary everyday experiences. Everything is a learning opportunity. John's death was a chance to restock and change direction.

Jesus set out to preach that everyone belonged to one family and no matter who we are, we are brothers and sisters. Then he met a Canaanite woman! She asked him to cure her daughter. But Jesus told her his message was only for the people of Israel. Like a typical desperate Mother, she said "that's alright, do that, but we outsiders should have anything that is left over' (*even puppies pick up the scraps that fall for their Master's table*).



Jesus praised her for her faith and promised healing for her daughter. The woman helped Jesus to expand his view. Now he knew that God wants to include everyone in his family. His baptismal vocation continued to grow in total openness to God. He took the path of faithfulness, and accepted where it took him.



As mentioned, twice this week already and again today, we have gathered at Holy Cross to farewell members of our community, and we have placed a pall over their coffin. We have acknowledged that they have completed their baptismal vocation, or as St Paul expressed, "they have run the good race, they have kept the faith".



Celebrating the feast of Jesus' baptism gives us the opportunity to acknowledge that he has shown us the way – the path of total faithfulness. It does not demand the same of every one of us, but we can each strive to imitate that example. It calls for us to be open to new understandings and new directions, such as the Magi took after they encountered Jesus. Above all, it calls for us to remember that we are baptised "into Christ". We are called to be one with

him. To think like him. To act like him; to love like him. That is what it means for us to be baptised.

Coffee Cart Sunday



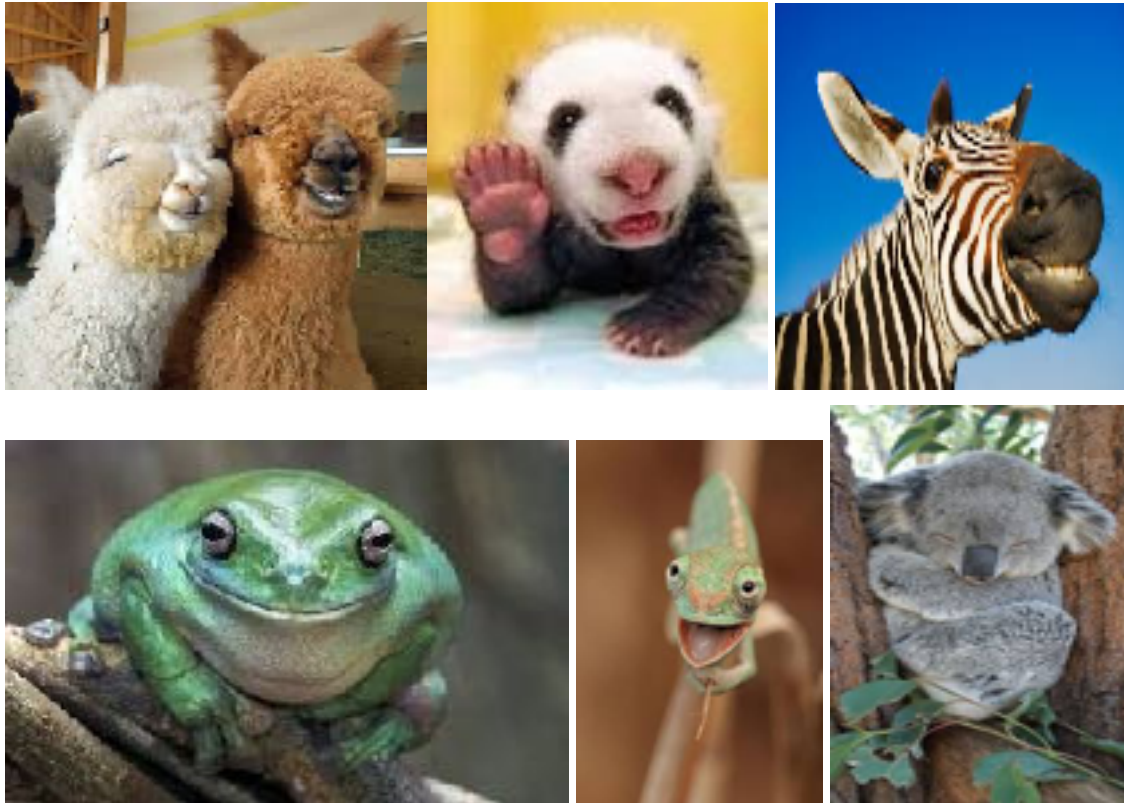
Next Sunday (January 19th) after 10.00am Mass we have Ross again with his coffee cart.

We invite you please to grab a name tag and a coffee and have a chat. If you wish to bring a small contribution to the cakes and biscuits, that would be welcomed.

Thanks again to our donor and the generous team who will assist with setting up for the coffee cart.

Bring a smile like you can see below.....





Emma



Emma is a 16 years old, Dutch singer. This video link has been viewed more than 80,000,000 times, so rather than explain who she is, what her health challenge is etc, I suggest you watch the video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kdlhq1tb8Co>

Humour - Famous retorts



The reported retorts published last week proved popular. They were provided to me by Tom McDonough. Here are a couple more I managed to dig up.

American lawyer and statesman Henry Clay once stated, "I would rather be right than be President," to which Thomas Reed retorted,

"The gentleman need not trouble himself. He'll never be either."

Winston Churchill fell asleep while a Member of the House of Commons was giving a speech. The MP noticed and asked Churchill, "Must you fall asleep when I am speaking?" Churchill replied, "No, it is purely voluntary."

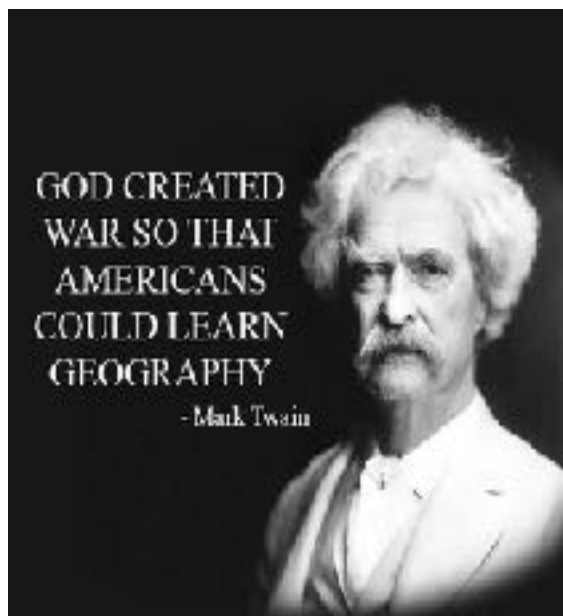
Humour

At a girl's college hostel, dates were permitted only on Saturday nights. One young man showed up on a Tuesday evening, explaining to an older woman in the lobby of the dorm that it was imperative he see a certain young lady immediately. "I want to surprise her. You see, I'm her brother." "Oh, she'll be surprised all right," said the woman. "But think of how surprised I am! I'm her mother!"




I showed the damaged remains of my luggage to my lawyer and said, "I want to sue the airline." "You don't have much of a case," he replied.

We're not going to make it, are we...



whoever lost a
bundle of 100\$ bills
tied up in a
rubber band....
I found the
rubber band



I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

Yesterday I wore something from 5 years ago and it fit!!! So proud of myself. It was a pair of socks, But still. Let's be positive here.

A woman approached a man sitting outside a café and said :

"Excuse me Sir I'm doing a little survey, can I ask you a question?"

The man said : "Yes of course"

Woman: "If you're travelling in a bus and a female gets on the bus and she's got no available seat, would you give up your seat for her?"

Man - "No. I wouldn't"

Woman: "What if the lady that got on the bus was pregnant would you give up your seat then?"

Man: "No."

Woman: "What if the lady got on the bus was a senior lady would you give your seat then?"

Man: "No."

Woman: "You seem to be a very selfish man, with no manners. Wouldn't you agree with that?"

Man: *No, I wouldn't agree. I am the Bus Driver"

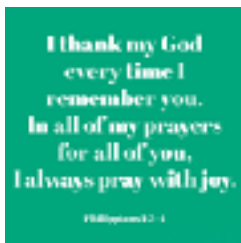
Christmas in Chvalčov

Ivan Koldarik sent these stunning images of the Christmas decorations and crib in St. Hostyn church, Chvalčov in the Czech Republic.

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipOBcStZxYbLoOAJqGzouROL25p_ifXPPls7UlsnzBqzt6puLp51OfRbKMJtk8NA?pli=1&key=UjBwa0ZmbTNPTVIEWIhzVkk0RmVoeW1Pck1iRDZR

Prayers

We remember [Sandra Street](#), [Maree Bartoli](#), [Peter McNamara](#) and [Janusz Kedzior](#) and We those twthose anniversaries occur around this time, especially [Max Horlock](#), [Barry Hanrahan](#), [Jim Molan](#), [Brian Kelly](#) and [Maureen Highby](#),



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, Zoe Chung and her baby daughter Sophia. Desley Reynolds, Tony Brooks, Monica Sleeman (Fr Kevin's sister), Carol Battistella, Gerry Bond, Sharon Williams, Alexander Lim, Paul Darbyshire, Michael O'Callaghan, Doris Castro, 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.

Please note that Tony Brooks (husband od Madelaine) had a bad fall and required surgery.

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

Enjoy the weekend

Brian