

Holy Cross Retreat

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



21st February, 2025

Letter 263

Greetings everyone and welcome to our Letter 263. Most of the letter is written by Brian and I have added a few more news just to help bring it to 7 pages. Most of my additions are pictures.

Tri is back



On Tuesday morning Tri arrived back from Vietnam. This photo was taken because Brian was just about to check-in to go to Vietnam while Tri had just arrived at the airport. They got to at least say hello to each other for a second. John Aurum was also there, about to check-in for his flight to PNG. He had been here for the provincial council meeting. We enjoyed having John around and we wish him the very best with his ministries.



Tri shared with me about his holidays and how nice it was to catch up with his family. The family is much bigger than it is in the photo, but in this particular one, he was with his brother in the suit, in-laws, his sister in the light green jacket, and his maternal aunt wearing a veil. Both his sister and the aunt are nuns, in case you didn't pick that up about the aunt! Tri mentioned that his aunt is now 93 years old. This is another photo of him and just the aunt. Welcome back Tri, thank you for sharing with us some of the photos of your family.



Vietnam (Brian)

The [Province Formation Commission](#) is meeting today and tomorrow in Saigon. Sr Brigid, Lien Thai and Brian are attending. Brian will be back on Tuesday 26th February.

Jerome (Brian/Erick)



Jerome returned home last Friday but the discomfort has continued, although as usual he has remained positive and cheerful. We've not seen as much of him because both sitting and standing are uncomfortable. Jerome had another appointment on Wednesday as a follow up -there is nothing of great concern. We continue to pray for him.

Bread Day Service with guests:

I want to share this photo of us together with the provincial (Denis) and the first consultant (Chris) working on the bread machine while the rest of us were packaging the bread. This was taken a few weeks ago. It was wonderful to have a few extra hands from Pastor, Peter Truc and Denis because some of our community members were still on holidays. I think the smiles you see on Brian and Mike's faces tell you how much we all enjoy this simple communal ministry of service every Thursday. For some people like Chris, it's an everyday ministry to the birds. He gives them 'daily bread'.



Coffee Cart Sunday (Brian)



Last Sunday was a bit cool, but that was much better than a few days earlier and there was a very good turn out and plenty of cakes. Our thanks to the team who did the setting up and to our generous donor.



St Gabriel's festa (Brian)



This Sunday we will celebrate the St Gabriel's festa (Sunday February 23rd.) This will consist of Rosary (10.00am), Mass (10.30am) and Procession (11.30am). Stay for lunch and for the music. The bust and relic of St Gabriel will be available for veneration from Thursday 20th till Sunday 23rd, at Holy Cross.

Fundraiser (Brian)



You are invited to book a table for the Fundraiser event on **August 9th** Anyone who is able to recommend potential donors who might be willing to contribute to the auctions, please contact Tina. Music will be provided by Chris, Dominic and special guests, so bring your dancing shoes.

Come Away Day



The first **Come Away Day** for 2025 will be held at Holy Cross on **WEDNESDAY MARCH 5th – ASH WEDNESDAY.**, 9.30am for 10.00am start and finishing by 3.00pm. The theme of the day is '**LET GO ... LET GOD**'.

This is an opportunity to focus on the deeper meaning of our Lenten journey. The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, silent reflection and group interaction in the beautiful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. Just come as you are. BYO lunch. **Registration is from 9.30am.** For any further details contact Sr Brigid cp on bridget.m64@gmail.com . Brochures detailing the 2025 Program are available in the back porch of the Chapel.

Ash Wednesday (Brian)

Blessing with the ashes and Mass will be celebrated in the Holy Cross chapel at 9.30am on March 5th.

Free firewood



We have some free firewood on the property. If you would like to collect them, you will need to be fast in contacting our Holy Cross front office during office hours. We need to contact the office first so that we can make sure that there is nothing else happening at the centre -e.g. school kids running around the property. Thank you and enjoy free firewood for the upcoming winter, or let's say, winter is already here!

Humour (Brian)

- Q Why can't you trust duck doctors? A Because they are all quacks!
Q. What kind of tree fits into your hand? A. A palm tree!
Q What do you call a fish without eyes? A. Fsh
Q. What is the difference between a man and ET? A. ET phoned home!
Q Why can't your nose be 12 inches long? A. Because then it would be a foot!
Q. Why did the bicycle collapse? A. Because it was too tired!
Q What do you call a pig that does karate? A. A pork chop!
Q. Why do the French like to eat snails so much? A. They can't stand fast food.
Q. How did Benjamin Franklin feel when he discovered electricity? A. Shocked!
Q. What kind of shoes do private investigators wear? A. Sneak-ers.

Q. Why did the robber jump into the shower?
A. He wanted to make a clean getaway

Q. Why did the scarecrow win an award?
A. Because he was outstanding in his field!

A man confided to a friend: I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was Always!

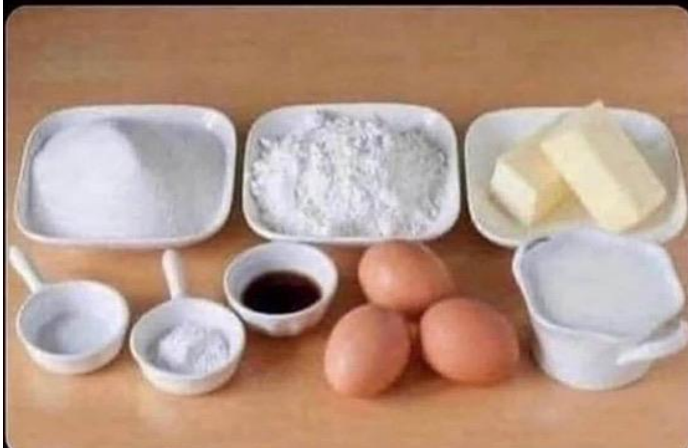
A police officer stopped a car and spoke to the driver.
"Your tail light is broken, your tyres need to be changed and your bumper bar is hanging halfway down. That will be \$300".
The driver said, "That's great, go ahead. They wanted twice as much as that, at the garage".

More humour from Tom McDonough:

Operator: 911, what's your emergency?
Man: A guy just got hit by a car, I need an ambulance.
Operator: What's your location?
Man: I'm on Eucalyptus street.
Operator: Can you spell that for me?
Man: (long awkward pause)
Operator: Sir? Are you there?
Man: I'm gonna drag him over to Pine street and call right back.



The manager at the local IKEA is retiring, so I sent him a cake.



due to inflation you can now eat food that has been on the floor for up to 7.3 seconds

This would be funny except there's no punch line...



NURSE CAME IN AND SAID DOC, THERE'S A MAN IN THE WAITING ROOM WHO THINKS HE'S INVISIBLE, WHAT SHOULD I TELL HIM? THE DOCTOR SAID TELL HIM I CAN'T SEE HIM TODAY.

Brain cells die, skin cells die, even hair cells die.

But FAT CELLS... must have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior because they seem to have eternal life.

MY WIFE ASKED ME WHY I SPOKE SO SOFTLY IN THE HOUSE. I SAID I WAS AFRAID MARK ZUCKERBERG WAS LISTENING! SHE LAUGHED. I LAUGHED. ALEXA LAUGHED. SIRI LAUGHED.

Prayers

We remember those who have died recently as well as those whose anniversaries occur around this time, and for those who grieve for them.

Mary Bortolotto, Catarina Fi Giovine, Amerigo Spinosa

Tony De Blasio, Stan Wells, George Bennett, Darcy Ready



We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell as well as all who care for them especially Bro Jerome, Denise Egan, Michael Beuger, Meeling Shu, Rod Gorfine, Noel Smyth, Bro Minh Toan CP, Peter Barry, Pam Gartland, Rex Cambry, Monica Sleeman, Desley Reynolds, Tony Brooks, Zoe Chung and her baby daughter Sophia, Carol Battistella, Gerry Bond, Alexander Lim, Paul Darbyshire, Doris Castro, Lorraine Gill, Michael O'Callaghan, Julia Cantone, Bronwyn Burke, Pam Storey, Adrian Woon, Luke Norden, Bernadette Owen, Peter Owen, Kaya Lenic, Greg Agosta, Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Caroline Meade, Patricia Keeghan, Anne Jenkins, Errol Lovett, and baby Alfred Theodore in London.

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

Enjoy the weekend

Brian, assisted by Erick.