



All aboard!

No. 28, Summer, 2021-22

All us Catholics on board together

A quarterly Newsletter of encouragement for all Catholics in the Parish of St. Pius X, Heidelberg West.

FRONT & BACK of the one medallion

It has been said that each of us is like a medallion. One side is ME as I **AM**; and the reverse side is ME as I **COULD BE** ... or, maybe, as God would like me to be. It's an image that might make us think that we **COULD** be a bit different to the way we are now. That the potential is there. That the image of what we could be is there ... we just have to turn it around and realise it!



AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

From 1820 to 1864 he never took a drink!

When most of the people in the early colony (that became Australia) were CONVICTS and life was pretty miserable for them, the first priest to become a permanent CHAPLAIN to the Catholics was **Father John Joseph Therry**.

The portrait at the left shows him as a young man when he arrived, and the other portrait shows him in his old age.

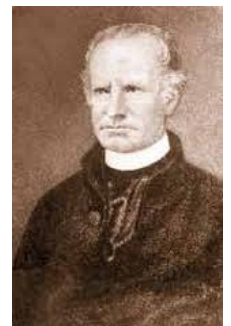
Father J. J. Therry in one real sense is the FOUNDER OF CATHOLICISM in Australia. His early time was the time of Governor Lachlan Macquarie and he invited Governor Macquarie to lay

the foundation stone for St. Mary's Church (later Cathedral) in Sydney. He argued strongly with Governor Macquarie about the rights of Catholics. They were both very strong-willed men.

Father Therry rode everywhere on horseback; sometimes going to Newcastle, for example, to be with some poor unfortunate who was to be hanged. Then he might return to be told so-and-so was dying and wanted him to come. Some of his journeys required three or four changes of horse.

And on Sunday he would say one Mass early and then ride off for more than an hour to be able to celebrate another Mass. He was IRISH, and probably would have liked a drink ... **BUT HE NEVER DRANK!** Whichever family he visited he was probably offered a drink; and many of the Catholic families – to get some escape from the hardships – would have had the occasional (and maybe too many) drinks. But he never joined them.

As time went on more priests came and then a BISHOP was appointed and eventually Father Therry, growing older, was no longer important. He finished up as Parish Priest of Balmain, an inner suburb of Sydney. **A VERY GREAT MAN! A much fuller account of his remarkable life of dedication and self-sacrifice can, of course, be read on the net.**



PLEASE HOLD ON ... unexpected breaking may be necessary

This is a sign familiar to anyone travelling on Melbourne busses or trams. And it is good advice for life, also. And it brings to mind another snippet of homely advice: **"Get a grip!"** We also hear of someone **"getting a jolt"** by some unexpected turn of events. And occasionally the tram *does* lurch to a sudden stop to avoid a pedestrian or an unanticipated car zooming in front. In a quiet moment we each might reflect on some sudden stops or lurches in our life. (.....**PAUSE** HERE TO REFLECT) and how we, too, must heed the advice to **HOLD ON!** And these are times when **prayer** is an encouragement!



Jesus sets some critics straight!

“One Sabbath day he was teaching in one of the synagogues, and there before him was a woman who for eighteen years had been possessed by a spirit that crippled her; she was bent double and quite unable to stand upright. When Jesus saw her he called her over and said, ‘Woman, you are freed from your disability,’ and he laid his hands on her. And at once she straightened up, and she glorified God. But the president of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, and he addressed all those present saying, ‘There are six days when work is to be done. Come and be healed on one of those days and not on the Sabbath.’ But the Lord answered him and

said, ‘Hypocrites! Is there one of you who does not untie his ox or his donkey from the manger on the Sabbath and take it out for watering? And this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan has held bound these eighteen years -- was it not right to untie this bond on the Sabbath day?’ When he said this, all his adversaries were covered with confusion, and all the people were overjoyed at all the wonders he worked.” (From St. Luke, Ch.13)



What do people at the end of their lives **REGRET?**

A researcher, Bronnie Ware, who spent a lot of time with people who were dying put together a list of the top 5 main things they regretted now that they had come to the end of their lives in her book, “The top five regrets of the dying”. The **fourth** was:



I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.

The fuller explanation was: “Often they would not truly realize the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks, and it was not always possible to track them down. Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships slip by over the years. There were many deep regrets about not giving friendships the time and effort that they deserved. Everyone misses their friends when they are dying.”

(Keep posted for the explanation of the fifth and last of the REGRETS)



“If all the misery of the world were collected and divided equally among all persons, I’m sure I would ask for my original share back.” – Greek philosopher Socrates (died 499 BC)



A PARABLE OF MODERN LIFE

The animals met in assembly and began to complain that humans were taking things away from them.

“They take my milk,” said the cow.

“They take my eggs,” said the hen.

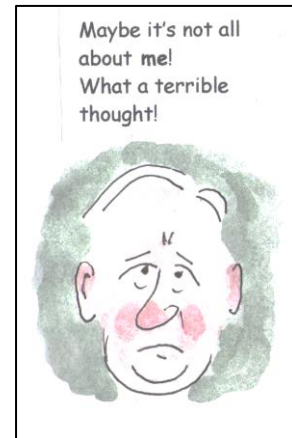
“They take my flesh for bacon,” said the pig.

“They hunt me for my oil,” said the whale. ... and so on.

Finally, the SNAIL spoke: “I have they would like to have more than else. Something they would certainly take away from me if they could --- I have



something
anything
TIME.



What? Me a bridge?

There are times in life when we are called to be bridges, not great monuments spanning a distance and carrying loads of heavy traffic, but a simple bridge to help one person from here to there, over some difficulty such as pain, grief, fear, loneliness; a bridge which opens the way for ongoing journey.

When I become a bridge for another, I bring upon myself a blessing, for I escape from the small prison of self and exist for a wider world, breaking out to be a larger being who can enter another’s pain and rejoice in another’s triumph. I know of only one greater blessing in this life, and that is, to allow someone else to be a bridge for me.

Don't rob kids!

The accompanying piece was written with GIRLS in mind; but it's easy to apply it to BOYS also. The heading above means DON'T ROB KIDS OF CHILDHOOD!

Wouldn't it be great if kids could grow up with fantasy and innocence and not too soon come to hear of the hurt adults can do to each other! And allow them a time when self-image is not controlled by advertisers who only want to make money. How great if kids can be themselves and do kids' things and not be adults too soon. There will be time enough for that!



[From an article in the Herald sun by Michelle Pountney referring to books by Sharon Witt]

LETTING KIDS BE KIDS

- Don't bow to pressure and buy all the latest trends – steer her toward just being who she is.
- Moderate what they watch on television.
- Set standards and stick to them – children need boundaries and they are in place for a reason.
- Have your house as a place where girls feel comfortable bringing their friends home, and get to know their friends.
- Keep lines of communication open – take the opportunity to chat in the car.
- Have a time when you turn off all digital devices and have time where you allow your kids to talk to you without distraction.
- Make time to spend together such as a regular mother/daughter date or find an activity to enjoy together, such as a craft.
- Encourage good male role models among family and friends.
- When you comment or praise your daughter, make sure you don't always comment on her looks. Focus on things she is good at and her abilities, not just her looks.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Help of Christians

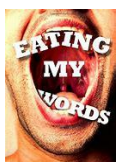
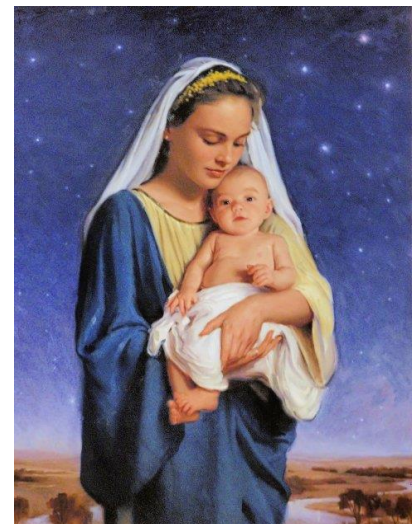
This beautiful painting of the patroness of Australia now hangs in St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. It's the work of artist Paul Newton and was commissioned for the World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008.

Although the painting is of Mary, she is focused completely on the child Jesus who is the centre of this work, and the centre of our focus – our saviour. Also included in this painting are typical Australian symbols -- the Southern Cross in the night sky, a garland of wattles and Australian landscape as a background which has been inspired by the works of Australian artists such as Arthur Streeton and Tom Roberts.

Part of Paul's explanation includes: "The wattle was an obvious symbol of Australia as the golden wattle is the national emblem of Australia, and I gave her this garland instead of giving her a halo or crown, the thing that you traditionally would see Mary wearing.

"The landscape was again meant to be symbolic on a number of levels. The water flowing through in that meandering river was symbolic of the Holy Spirit, as well as in more literal ways suggesting the Australian outback with the scattered gums trees and a barren landscape.

"It's a twilight sky so I could show both the landscape and the suggestion of the Southern Cross. "The stars in the sky, in addition to the Southern Cross, are as accurately as I could paint them, in their correct positions in the southern sky." - Taken from *The Catholic Weekly*, August 2008, found on the net.



I choose my words carefully; I keep them short and sweet
I never know from day to day, ... which ones I'll have to eat.

What is the TINY HOUSE Movement, and does it say anything to me?



And, as with everything these days, you can find all about it on the net. Some people have decided to “downsize” their homes to the incredibly small size as in the illustration. You’ll notice that this one is on wheels. And that might be a reminder that some people in Australia CHOOSE to live in a caravan in a caravan park. In some Caravan Parks

you can see little gardens outside the caravan! So, everything those people have is in the caravan. Showering and laundry is done in the communal facilities in the park!

Now while very few of us will go that far, it might be a thought-provoking concept that makes us think of what we really need in a house ... and what we have that we don’t regularly use. **Maybe worth a thought!**

Patron Saint of those suffering STRESS in the workplace!

... **Saint Walter of Pontoise**

The Catholic Church has had a long tradition of “appointing” or “suggesting” different saints as **PATRON SAINTS** for various things. Here is an interesting one! [The material is taken from the net]:

Well educated in general, and a professor of philosophy and rhetoric. Joined the Benedictines at Rebais-en-Brie to escape the world and the temptations presented by success in his field. Against his will he was made abbot of Pontoise Abbey by King Philip I; Walter reminded the king that it was by God’s will that he did such a thing, not the crown’s. He fled the house several times to escape the position, the last time to Rome, Italy where he gave Pope Gregory VII his written resignation; the pope told him to return to his house, assume his responsibilities as abbot, and never leave again. He obeyed. Worked against simony, lax discipline, and dissolute lives of some of his clergy. He was opposed by the corrupt and the corrupters that he fought, and they finally resorted to imprisoning and beating him. On his release, he resumed his work, often spending the whole night in chapel, praying for strength and wisdom. His dates are 1030-1099.



He’s also considered **PATRON of prisoners and prisoners of war.**

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Mass times: **Saturday evening Vigil** – 7.00pm; **Sunday:** 9.00am & 11.00am

Weekdays: 9.00am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday;

Confessions and Rosary: After 9.00am Mass Saturday mornings

Church open for prayer: 8.30am – 4.00pm on school days only

Taize Prayer – Last Friday of each month, 6.00pm – 7.00pm.

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